MELIORA



AND MUCH MORE!

COVER BY MADHURA BAKSHI







ince I joined Podar almost 2 decades ago and then later took up the deanship in 2014, the enormous talents, capabilities, achievements and potentials of our senior leadership team, faculty, staff, students and alumni have never stopped to amaze me. Our teaching faculties are leading scholars, best teachers and experts in their respective subjects. Our students are among the brightest in Podar and our alumni are some of the most influential in their own profession.

Podar has always been highly regarded and consistently ranked as the country's top educational institution since its foundation in 1927. Podar is committed to excellence in the delivery of education and providing students to access highest quality teaching, learning and recreation services.

Ensuring Podar remains at the leading edge; in 2017 our new education building was completed in Mumbai at our Santacruz campus. The largest redevelopment projects in the Mumbai city in recent years, this 155000 sq. ft. facility with basement plus ground plus 7 floors will transform the delivery of interdisciplinary teaching in Mumbai.

Podar is wholly focused in developing future leaders who make a difference worldwide. We take pride in providing rigorously evaluated programme which is globally recognised and respected qualification from the University of London. The University of London International Programme offers undergraduate degrees in economics, management finance and the social sciences to students worldwide. Academic direction for these courses is provided by London School of Economics and Political Science.

Our curricula put together the strengths of global excellence with regional relevance and a focus on India. Innovative content, market-oriented enrichment programmes, international exchanges, internships, mentorship programme, active student organisations and a highly globalised student base nurture communication and leadership, on top of the pursuit of academic excellence.

You are sincerely invited to get to know more about us and our undergraduate programmes. I look forward to the opportunity of welcoming you to join our family – where successful leaders of the future are nurtured.

Dean,

Podar World College

Dr. Mrs. Vardara Lulla.

Editor's Note

Welcome to Meliora Vol. 2! As most of you dedicated readers know, the magazine is named after continuously bettering oneself and I assure you, Volume 2 will further help you grow as a person.

To us, the magazine is much more than just editing and publishing works. As the generation of the future we each have a lot of things to say, and Meliora is our way of self expression. Personally, I look forward to seeing how each of us perceives the world and different people's takes on a range of topics.

And while on the surface Meliora teaches us to better our knowledge, it'll teaches us to be tolerant and understanding of other's views. Meliora has a variety of content spanning from Economics to Art to just about everything else, so make sure you check out all the sections. You may even discover a new interest!!

With that said, I hope you enjoy Issue 2.1 of Meliora!!

Avanti Morarka

This is an accepting and open community, so let's be respectful of all authors and producers of the amazing entries in this magazine. The views expressed are not endorsed by college but are their own.











Welcome to the Vol.2 issue 1 of Meliora, where we are in continuous pursuit of the betterment of knowledge and growth. This magazine is for the students, by the students of Podar World College!

This volume has a whole new look, and we're hoping to keep readers engaged with it! It features RCPCs event highlights from July which were held by Finance, Professional Development and our Editorial avenue. As we always say, Meliora is a place to share your opinions, talents, and everything that you want to share, we continue to pursue that with additions of new sections in our magazine, such as recipes and checklists. This issue covers articles about dark academia to feminism and women empowerment to finance related topics. The artworks of this issue show off our students' talents and are very visually appealing!

From multiple Google Meets about layout, plans, editing with a lot of diversions, this magazine has materialised before you in its entirety. This issue has something for everyone and we hope you like it and continue to enthusiastically participate for the future issues!

- Team editorial



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AM I STILL ALLOWED TO ADMIRE JK ROWLING?

was twelve when I first read Harry Potter. It captured my imagination like nothing else ever had. I was blown away by the magic, the friendship, the love, the ghosts, the centaurs all of it. Those books made me feel seen. They told me it was okay to be a bit bossy, a bit scared, a bit... insane. I felt a strange attachment to all the characters and also a sense of admiration for the creator of it all: JK Rowling.

Every "who is your role model?" essay I have ever written has been about this woman. A woman who went from writing the first drafts of Harry Potter on paper napkins in her sister's restaurant to becoming the first person to become a billionaire by writing books. Rowling and her characters showed me that girls can be anything. I saw an old interview of Rowling where she spoke about Mrs. Weasley and how her being a housewife didn't make her any less powerful. She spoke about Professor McGonagall not having children and how that doesn't make her any less of a woman. Our society would do well in honouring women's choices.

In Hogwarts your gender didn't matter, your magical abilities did. These books introduced me to feminism. Rowling taught me that feminism is about giving women a choice.

However, over the last year or so Rowling has said some questionable things. She has spoken out against trans rights. One of the comments she made implied that only cis gender women get periods leaving out the trans community. She also supported a tax specialist who was fired over transphobic tweets. By targeting transgender women she made me wonder if I have been admiring the wrong person. I know there are many people like me who look up to her; a large percentage of them being children. How are we supposed to feel when the person who taught us that "love is the most powerful thing in the world" can't even show basic compassion to one of the most marginalized sections of society?

Rowling's statements make me feel outraged and betrayed. When I re-read Harry Potter, I not only saw it as a story of triumph, love and friendship but I also found myself deriving unwelcome and distasteful interpretations of Rowling's intentions. I am a cis woman, so my feelings are not the point right now. To be a strong ally, I have to consider the damage Rowling has done to trans, nonbinary and gender non conforming people. I am still trying to figure out if I can separate the story from the author, I really want to.

Can I still admire JK Rowling? No, I don't think so.

Charmistha Mookerjee



THANKSGIVING

e woke up early today, and popped in his anti depressant pills. For the first time, to Kayla's surprise, he went for a walk.

"Do you want to eat some toast for breakfast?" she asked him once he returned home. "There are more interesting things to eat, Mom. Let me help you with the bacon."

Kayla had helped him so much this past year, he'd literally kill for her, he loved her so much. He had made up his mind; he was done with what he had been going through and was finally going to make things right. Or so he thought he was.

High school had been difficult, he was the target of shameless bullying and jokes. But as he began to feel better, he started to make peace with everyone. He laughed and joked around with his friends and bullies alike, about how silly they were. But no one knew what was coming, because although it seemed like he was recovering, they couldn't tell what was actually running through his mind, and what he was turning into.

"I think I like you more like this. I finally feel like I can trust you," his best friend, Max, said to him as he was leaving for home that day. He hugged Max tightly, almost crushing his bones. "Thank you," he whispered in Max's ear, and in an instant, stuck a pocket knife through his back.

Dinner was a quiet affair, his mom enthusiastically made him a steak, which to her delight, he ate two portions of.

"Thanksgiving is coming soon honey, I would love to call over people this year. Just your aunt and uncle, and maybe um.. your dad?" Kayla asked hesitantly, not knowing what reaction to expect.

"Shay's coming too?" he looked up disbelievingly.

"Uh, yes, if you want him t-"

"Yes." The response came immediately.

"But you're okay with that?"

"Yeah, why not?" he responded.

Kayla smiled and ruffled his hair, much to his annoyance. To be honest, she wasn't happy with it herself, but was willing to do anything to keep him happy.

As the night approached, Kayla needed to convince her ex-husband to show up.

"Shay please, show up for him. He misses you."

"I've said this before Kayla, no more family events."

"Just for him, you're his father. Please," she whispered. "Just this one last time."

With a reluctant grunt, he cut the line. She could fall asleep peacefully knowing he'd be there for her son.

Time passed, and the day arrived like a quick punch in the face that no one expected. As the family started to pour in, he quietly peeked through his room to see his father perched on the couch with his legs on the table, waiting for the others to arrive.

He went to meet his mother in the kitchen. "Mom, do you need any help with the turkey?"

"Oh, Aunt Betty just told me she's allergic, so now we're doing ham instead. Speaking of, could you get some from the store?" Kayla asked.

"Sure Mom, anything for you." He turned on his heel and stepped out.

His father joined him. Shay chuckled as he followed him down the street. "It's funny, right? You and I being normal with each other? I could never do it with your mother."

He glared at Shay. "It's also funny to call a literal psychopath my Dad, and why would she talk to you, you pushed her in front of a car. Just because the brain damage caused her to forget, doesn't mean you insult her this way."

Shay grabbed him by the collar.

"You don't know my reasons kid, don't question things you don't need to know yet," he said, unflinchingly.

Silence ensued as they both walked to the grocery store, where ham was nowhere to be found. "Your mom can do without the ham. Let's go, we have better things to do." Shay said "We do." He smiled at Shay, as he hugged him tightly. So tight, he couldn't breathe.

After some rummaging around in the poultry section, he managed to find a sharp knife and get two red, juicy cuts of ham from the huge piece of meat.

With every cut he made, Shay shuddered.

Back home, Aunt Betty immediately busied herself by helping her out in the kitchen. "I'm so sorry you and Shay separated. I'm sure it's been hard on our boy." She told Kayla.

"As long as he trusts Shay, I really don't know what to say. I hate that man, but he seems to make him happy."

"Mom, I'm home! I got the freshest ham for the prettiest woman ever!" He waltzed into the kitchen with a packet of foul smelling meat.

"Aw baby, thank you so much! It smells a bit weird though-"

"I got it specially for you," He grinned wickedly.

She smiled shyly and asked "Let's all make it together, shall we? Where's Shay?" Kayla asked.

"He's right here, see!" he pointed to the table.

Hritvi Rupesh Acharya



CHANGE

Why is this world so full of hatred,
Filled with so much anger and envy,
Nobody seems to be trustworthy anymore.
Everybody has become selfish and greedy,
You judge me and I judge you,
Isn't this how it works for me and you?

Why is there no love left?

No encouragement, care or support,

Everybody wants to seek revenge,

There is no space for love.

In the noise of the world,

There is no peace among us.

But is it too late for a change?

If we are calm and patient,

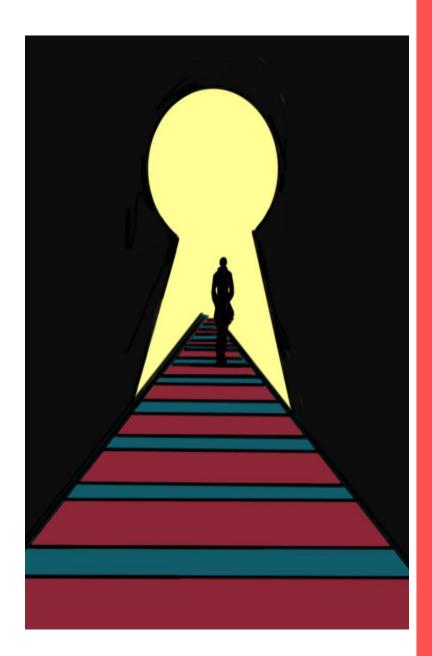
We will definitely start loving again.

There will be care and support,

And people will surely help each other,

Leaving behind no space for hatred.

Parinita Pandit



Art by: Drishti Mehta



he policy's popularity is not something that surprises several economists. Milton Freidman says, "Some workers who already receive wages well above the legal minimum will benefit—because they will face less competition from the unskilled. That is why many unions are strong supporters of higher minimum-wage rates. Some employers and employees in places where wages are already high will benefit because they will face less competition from businessmen who might otherwise invest capital in areas that have large pools of unskilled labor."

History is something that has a tremendous capacity to teach the present in some way or another and in this case it is no different.

Here is an excerpt from an article called the "Racist Roots Of Minimum Wage" published on the Libertarian Institute: "Economist Thomas Sowell points out how the minimum wage has been used to keep minorities and immigrants from accessing jobs in several nations across the world for generations. In 1925, a minimum wage law was passed in the Canadian province of British Columbia, with the intent and effect of pricing Japanese immigrants out of jobs in the lumbering industry."

A policy which was once used to discriminate is now used for the opposite purpose. One must truly wonder whether the laws of economics change so much.

I would conclude everything seems hunky dory to those on the inside looking out who have lower competition and higher wages, it's at the expense of those who have been unemployed. Two economists, in 2006, from national bureau of economic research reviewing dozens of studies in various countries concluded that minimum wages reduced unemployment among the low skilled. The success of Singapore, Switzerland, Hong Kong (when it was a British colony) and others have immensely benefitted from staying away from the minimum wage in terms of low unemployment. To quote Thomas Sowell, "In

MINIMUM WAGES AND MAXIMAL DAMAGES

short no one is employable or unemployable absolutely, but only to a relative pay scale."

"Minimum wages" is an interesting phrase considering the strong reaction it manages to arouse. It's aim (as claimed by its proponents) is to drive down wealth and income inequalities and make the world a better place, but has it really managed to do any of it?

To begin with, minimum wages (put simply) is a wage flooring below which an employee cannot sell his labor for.

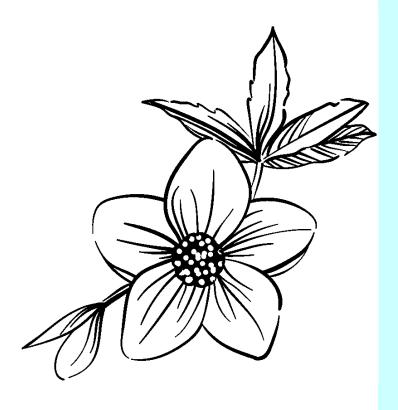
Milton Freidman says, "One of the great mistakes is to judge policies and programs by their intentions rather than results." Raising prices of dishes in a menu does not guarantee increased restaurant sales right? Similarly putting a wage flooring does nothing to make an employee more productive. Therefore if wages rise with no corresponding rise in productivity, then the lower skilled employees will be unemployed.

If we look further into detail, lower skills are a general feature of the poor, young and other minorities, so the policy unintentionally punishes those who it seeks to help.

In 1966 an OP-ED article by Milton Freidman, one that particularly catches my attention is the aftereffects of a minimum wage rise on Black teens. In those times Black teens had fewer skills than white teens. Before 1956, unemployment among black and white teens (aged 14-19) was between the 8-11% range; within two years of a minimum wage hike from 75 cents to \$1, unemployment among black teens shot up to 24%. And among the white teens? 14%. The sad consequence of this is idleness. One of the ways the unskilled could've gained skills and earned higher is through work and experience, however that very same way becomes denied to them, not to mention the pay they would be receiving if they were working.

Another thing is that minimum wage is advocated in such a way that it's a must receive income for a family of four to live by, but that is where the flaw is. In USA in 2012, among 3.6 million who received minimum wages, half were aged 16-24 and 64% were part time workers. Most of these were not the sole breadwinner of a family. On the contrary, 42% were supported by a family (whose household income exceeded the minimum wage). Out of all, only 15% were independent and earning for someone.





CHESS AND FINANCE: ARE THEY SYNONYMOUS

relationship with chess. There are many financial lessons the game of kings teaches us. Let's look at some of these and enhance both our financial expertise and chess skills.

The first thing I'd like to highlight is the presence of numerous favourable opportunities which are hard to recognize. You must have the knack and the ability to spot and exploit them for maximum benefits. To hold a good position on the 'Board of 64 Squares' or on your trading portfolio you need to constantly revise your strategies according to new developments. Failure to adapt to such crucial events may result in major catastrophes.

Take calculated risks as per your appetite and ability. Don't shy away from risk or put everything at stake. Knowing your Strengths and weaknesses will only help you perform better on the chess board and in financial markets. Talking about risks, can we make riskless profits? Is there free lunch? Well, who wouldn't like that? There can be opportunities when your opponent miscalculates and leaves a piece hanging. The potential to spot them quickly and correctly may lead to enormous advantages. It's all you need to avail your free lunch, but does this happen as often as we'd want it to? You can draw a parallel in financial markets as well, exploiting arbitrage will result in handsome profits but it is impossible to do this consistently (at least in relatively efficient markets).

A major concept of chess is gambit and this seems to have a lot of financial relevance as well. You might have to make small sacrifices for larger gains. Letting go of some good opportunities may pave your way to some extraordinary ones when you're constrained to limited funds. Another way to look at this is that bearing an insignificant amount of loss may save you from bleeding losses. A widely held perception among those unaware about financial markets is that one can make money only when trends are bullish. I understand optimism, but you can earn handsome profits in bearish markets as well, provided you implement the right strategies. Choose your long and short positions

wisely. Move forwards and backwards as per the game's requirements. One of the biggest and most important takeaways is fairly simple: the more you play, the better you get at chess and the same holds for your trading skills.

You'll learn, (and trust me, you'll learn faster when your money is at stake), avoid mistakes and get better at the monetary game. Being consistent can prove to be very fruitful. The lowest ranked pawn promotes to a mighty queen when it consistently moves ahead and reaches the other end on the board. Hope to see each one of you getting promoted to strong and influential traders in near future.

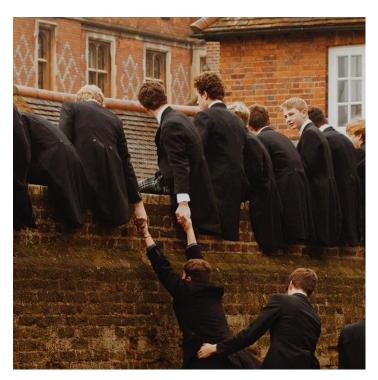


Art by: Drishti Mehta

Dark Academia: A Measured Response

ark academia is an extremely popular aesthetic that revolves around classic literature, the pursuit of self-discovery, and a general passion for knowledge and learning. Earth tones, black, brown, tan, and an analogue lifestyle, it promotes poetry, literature, and an adoration for the days of the Olde. Not to be confused with Victorian or Classic Academia, it is very much stemming from a desire for a liberal education, a world where ancient Greek and English literature can be higher education, not the utilitarian approach that universities now provide. Majoring in the arts or English is now a distant dream. However, the "dark" is not only in terms of the color palette. Themes of criminality, danger, and mystery, secret societies, cults, murders... all of these are an integral part of the aesthetic.

It's now easy to see why this trend took off during 2020. Due to the lockdowns, students have been shoved indoors and crammed into their rooms, which lead to many students missing their dorms and colleges. "The newer the campus was," writes John Thelin, "the *older* it appeared to be." Universities are now designed to look like they up and walked right out of Cambridge. Further fanning the flames are the easy and light color palette that (unlike fashion trends and the Y2K aesthetic) suits *almost every skin tone*



and body type. Finally, the well-liked books 'The Secret History' and 'We Keep The Dead Close' fed into this fantasy.

As fun as it may seem, it's far from the best type of academia. Unlike light academia (the joys of student lives, friendships, positivity and gratitude), dark academia celebrates pretentiousness. The mystery and constant distrust breeds an aura of loneliness as evervone looks their shoulders. over The romanticization of the coffee and studying lifestyle, as well as flirting with darker themes such as alcoholism, leads to a very unhealthy life, and causes burnouts which negates the point of the aesthetic. It also makes light of the elitism and classism that places like Eton and Harvard have had for decades, and still bleeds into the system today. It should be noted that people are now pushing for the inclusion of non-European inspiration: No longer human by Osamu Dazai being a staple of the aesthetic, and the number of POC models of light academia proving this point. However, English Literature remains an important part of dark academia.

The question must also consider this: what is the overall impact of aesthetics in general? Fast fashion is killing the planet. Fashion trends are killing mother nature. It takes approximately 3,000 liters of water for one cotton shirt. Furthermore, textile dyeing requires toxic chemicals that subsequently end up in our oceans. Approximately 20% of the wastewater worldwide is attributed to this process, which accumulates over time. But wait, it gets worse! The extremely short trend cycles overconsumption and unsold inventory, because who wants to buy that weird dress from house of sun now that it's not cool to own one?

Zara puts out 24 collections per year, while H&M offers between 12 and 16. People want to buy trendy clothes, and throw the ones that fall out of style, or give it away. 57% of all discarded clothing ends up in landfill.

What comes after reduce and reuse? That's right! Recycle! Aesthetics and Youtubers have started the trend of upcycling-- a trend that will actually help the environment. By sticking to aesthetics people can

reuse their outfits, and because most of them have a set color palette, the consumer can easily shuffle their outfits and have enough combinations to have a new outfit for a month. I must thus conclude, that yes. Dark academia is the best thing to come out of the plague of 2020, because it paved the way for future fashions and aesthetics to help make fashion more sustainable, and move the focus from chasing trends and showing off to what it always was: about expressing yourself. A small simple life in the woods (cottagecore), a way to deal with trauma (traumacore), finding beauty in things that everyone else thinks is disgusting (goblin core) or the endless daydream that is romantic academia. And please, vintage clothes, not values.





SUPER- 'OVERLY' -STITIOUS

Por almost all my quotidian life, I have had my grandmother instill the phrase 'right foot before left' into the lazy wiring of my brain, and since I have a mechanical impulse to make sure my right foot opens the doorways of karmic fortune and prosperity (not each time because at moments that Chinese cookie flipped my luck). The point is: everything from starting a business to travelling to your name (yes, I know some saint derived your first letter), or even merely sneezing has some superstition attached to it. But why is it that people everywhere across the globe seem to mindlessly follow superstitions, regardless of them believing it or not?

Superstitions are defined as a belief in supernatural forces-- generally infinite in the magnitude of irrationality and has no explanatory basis in science. With that said, a significant percentage of superstitions stem from various cultures and religions. For instance, the ill-fated number thirteen has a link to the Last Supper: when Jesus Christ dined with his twelve disciples, later to be arrested and crucified. Not uncommon knowledge, this number was overshadowed in numerous hotels in the world. Not only since it is a superstition and has a yawn effect, but because of the phobia of the number thirteen ('triskaidekaphobia').

Besides religion and the singularity of all cultures, minor groups believe in multiple superstitions pertaining to their historical traditions that are a mix of odd, uncertain and not quite. An example could be 'not spraying perfume at night' since the fragrance attracts the devil (honestly, who cares about the devil when we look like the devil reincarnated every morning?). Another could be your 'left eye twitching,' which unwarranted, is a forewarning to loss of money.

Sometimes superstitions are misunderstood. Notably: 'A woman should not enter the temple when on her period' is not because her body is impure. It is a fallacy. Guilty, but I did resent this superstition more than my acne, only till I figured that contextually, a female's menstruating body is deemed so 'pure' that it could drain out the energy from a 'murti,' making it lifeless.

Religion is not the mother of all superstitions; many are just sheer coincidences. In Hangul the



pronunciation of the number 'four' is similar to the pronunciation of the word 'death' in Cantonese. Would it be the cherry on top of the cake that the number fourteen in Hangul translates to 'must die'? That's too many numbers for architects to neglect!

Besides these examples, a handful of superstitions really make sense. Roman soldiers many times received salt rations as a reward. The word 'salary' comes from the Latin word 'salt' hence, explaining the expression 'worth your salt' and why this superstition lives on!

Undeniably, we might not have enough memory or evidence about the backstory of every superstition to give hypothetical reasoning. Nonetheless, when it comes to our monotonous habits of routinely following them, we do not live in a blur of cultural beliefs and coincidences. Most of the time, it is our family - or even society - who teaches us to 'prohibit shaking your leg' or 'refrain us from drinking milk after eating fish.' We are trained in our early years to resist the temptation of violating superstitions.

Not only that, but imagine having a lucky charm, like a bracelet. True serendipity for you! Maybe each time you wore that bracelet, you aced your tests and achieved a number of triumphs in competitions. You are less likely to remember those moments where you scored an average wearing the same bracelet since it bewitches you into thinking that you can gain control over possible future events and rewrite your destiny. This illusionary belief can make superstitions appear less superstitious and exude an aura of natural confidence within you.

Research even portrays that people tend to believe superstitions during periods of emotional stress and moments when anxiety reaches its peak. We, as humans, are vulnerable; seeking methods to steer clear of bad vibes and the living paradigms of tragedy. During trying times, we rely on hopeful signs and optimism to help positivity and mental stability flourish. Namely, Rafael Nadal has an array of rituals that he performs each time he plays: the way he places his water bottles, wears his socks and takes cold showers. He supposes these practices help him find 'focus, flow and perform well.'

Albeit, maybe you disagree, but do you not accept that you still say 'God bless you' after someone sneezes? Is it an inkling of the telltale feeble human mind? Yes. Would it harm you? That is certainly not the case, no. Logically, abiding by superstitions or not, does not affect you. However, unlike dandruff, you can't simply rub it off your shoulders, considering your reflexes knowingly sensitize to superstitions. For real, the black cat would not be bad luck, yet there is no wrong in carrying forward our unexplained beliefs. So while superstitions (may not be true) latch to our soul like gorilla glue, it is better to not step on 'Nimbu Mirchi' than to attract the apparent trilogy of Shani, Rahu and Ketu subway-surfing through your life.







9 servings

Brownies:

- •1 cup good-quality dark chocolate, semi-sweet
- •3/4 cup tablespoons butter, melted
- •1 ½ cups sugar (250 g)
- •2 eggs
- •2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- •3/4 cup all-purpose flour (95 g)
- •1/4 cup cocoa powder (30 g)
- •1 teaspoon salt (optional while using salted butter)

Caramel sauce:

- •1 cup (200g) granulated sugar
- •6 Tablespoons (90g) salted butter, room temperature cut up into 6 pieces
- •1/2 cup (120ml) heavy cream, at room temperature
- •1 teaspoon salt

Assembly: Cut the brownies into 6 or 9 pieces. Spread cooled caramel onto the brownies and sprinkle sea salt on top. Enjoy!!!

Instructions for brownies

- 1. Preheat the oven to 350°F (180°C). Line an 8-inch (20 cm) square baking dish with parchment paper.
- 2. In a large bowl, mix the butter and sugar with an electric hand mixer, then beat in the eggs and vanilla for 1-2

CARAMEL FUDGE BROWNIES

minutes, until the mixture becomes fluffy and light in color.

- 3. Whisk in the melted chocolate (make sure it's not too hot or else the eggs will cook), then sift in the flour, cocoa powder, and salt. Fold to incorporate the dry ingredients, being careful not to overmix as this will cause the brownies to be more cake-like in texture.
- 4. Fold in the chocolate chunks, then transfer the batter to the prepared baking dish.
- 5. Bake for 20-25 minutes, depending on how fudgy you like your brownies, then cool completely.

Instructions for caramel

- 1. Heat granulated sugar in a medium heavy-duty saucepan over medium heat, stirring constantly with a high heat resistant rubber spatula or wooden spoon. Sugar will form clumps and eventually melt into a thick brown, amber-colored liquid as you continue to stir. Be careful not to burn.
- 2. Once sugar is completely melted, immediately stir in the butter until melted and combined. Be careful in this step because the caramel will bubble rapidly when the butter is added. If you notice the butter separating or if the sugar clumps up, remove from heat and vigorously whisk to combine it again. (If you're nervous for splatter, wear kitchen gloves. Keep whisking until it comes back together, even if it takes 3-4 minutes. It will eventually—just keep whisking. Return to heat when it's combined again.)
- 3. After the butter has melted and combined with the caramelized sugar, cook for 1 minute without stirring.
- 4. Very slowly stir in 1/2 cup of heavy cream. Since the heavy cream is colder than the hot caramel, the mixture will rapidly bubble when added. After all the heavy cream has been added, stop stirring and allow to boil for 1 minute. It will rise in the pan as it boils.
- 5. Remove from heat and stir in the salt. Allow to slightly cool down before using. Caramel thickens as it cools.
- 6. Cover tightly and store for up to 1 month in the refrigerator. Caramel solidifies in the refrigerator. Reheat in the microwave or on the stove to desired consistency.

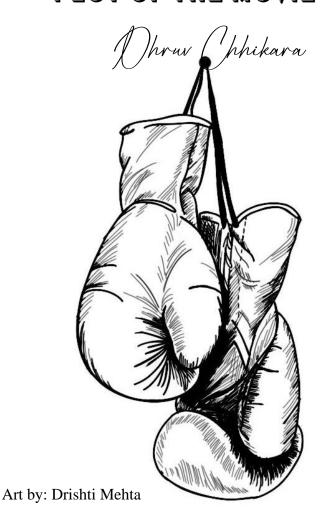
Araya Nagarkar

Movie Review: Toofan

The actors include Farhan Akhtar, Mrunal Thakur, Paresh Rawal and Dharshan Kumar, among others. The acting and dedication shown by Farhan is beyond commendable, especially as he had to train long hours for boxing and keeping himself fit. The movie focuses on the journey of the local man becoming a star of the country, with the help of the motivation given by lead actress Mrunal, who is playing the role of Ananya. She believes that a person can become whoever they want to, no matter where they come from, as long as they make their decision and stick to it. The movie also focuses on the issues relating to Hindu-Muslim bitterness, as Paresh Rawl's character thinks that all Muslims are the same, and want to destroy other families. However, he sees the determination shown by Aziz Ali, the character played by Farhan Akhtar, and agrees to coach him.

Love makes it difficult for Aziz to continue following his dream. Due to unfortunate circumstances, Aziz falls back, but due to the love and encouragement shown by Ananya, he fights back. The story shows that no matter how many times you fall, if you have the will, grit, and determination, you can bounce back. The songs of the movie are motivational as well as emotional. Aziz's progress is rapid, but a secret known only to Ananya explodes on Aziz's face, causing many setbacks on his way, which makes it even more lengthy. In the end, it is the love and passion that drives Aziz back into the ring and win it all at last.

7/10. Great acting by the actors, loved the plot of the movie



Feminism is the answer

Feminism essentially entails uplifting women. Feminism aims at equality, something women have been deprived of. Feminism promotes the divinity of women not in an attempt to suppress men, just to empower women themselves.

Unfortunately, the word has become synonymous with "suppressing men", "men-bashing" and my personal favourite "women just want to take over the world." I mean, yes, we do want to take over the world, but that's just because waxing, sanitary napkins and makeup would be much cheaper then.

The world hasn't seen the full potential of women because previous generations have denied them the right to vote, study or have any opinion at all. The world can't progress, when one gender is left behind. Historically, a women's position has been that of a subordinate; this resulted in little girls growing up, not seeing women as doctors but as nurses. Stem programmes still have the fewest number of females. This was never due to a lack of intellect, it has always been the lack of role models and rampant discouragement.

The movement recognises and shuns the misuse of feminism for personal gain. Feminism shouldn't be a tool to harm men, nor should it be the threatening sword. But when people use the misuse as an example to disband feminism, all they're looking for is an excuse to deny women their rights. The existence of ISIS doesn't justify Islamophobia.

When men feel the weight of the family is on their shoulders, when men can not show their emotions because they will be considered weak, when women can not speak out because dominating is a "male characteristic". For all those moments that men and women feel alone and misunderstood, remember:

Feminism is the answer.

Phea Cahajwari



Art by: Drishti Mehta

UNCUSTOMISE THE CUSTOMISED FEAR

ear is an emotion all of us experience, even the best of us. There are so many times in a day I feel hopeless and unproductive. I fear that I won't ever truly understand the value of time and continue to while it away like I have for the past year and a half. But you may not fear the same thing. Because your own fear is smart enough to scare you in a way that'll affect you the most. Basically, all our fears are tailored-made to fit only us, which makes it all the more difficult to see the light at the end of the dark tunnel, when you're all alone in the tunnel.

But when it comes to the age and phase we are in our lives, we can share some common fears and help each other out. For example, I feel like there is just so much to do everyday and that I haven't been doing enough. And I feel hopeless. Like I want to pursue something to the ends of the earth, pursue the hell out of it and yet be able to enjoy the journey. I want to do it all, but am I even on the right track? Is this hopelessness part of that journey I should be enjoying? Or is this hopelessness because I'm just doing all of it wrong? I'm sure most of you have similar dilemmas, and the answer to these questions even I don't know, but what I know is that whatever it is that we're doing, it's so very important to convert idle thoughts into action.

To wonder less and act more. Because even if you fail, you still got the experience to back you.

And I'm writing this to tell you that you aren't the only one overthinking, and you *definitely* aren't an idiot for doing so. In fact, it's a great thing that we even wonder whether we're doing enough or doing the right thing and saying the right things. It means we care enough to overthink, and caring is always golden. All we need to do is open about it more, share what we're feeling, because chances are that the people around you are going through the same.

So let's all learn to uncustomise our customised fears and face them together!

Kalyari Neshpande



why are women not allowed to increase india's wealth?

ur society has some unsaid rules about getting married after reaching a certain age. It is the same for men because by this age you start earning and the next logical step is to start a family. For that, you have to get married. And once you're married, who holds the household responsibilities? It is your wife. It is always the women in the family who have to make all kinds of adjustments and sacrifices. There are no two ways about it. Men have always been considered the head of the family. So, if an individual has a certain opinion as a woman, the man will always feel insecure about it. They don't want to follow your lead, they want you to follow theirs.

India has almost doubled the size of its economy, becoming one of the fastest growing nations in the world over the last decade. However, over 19.6 million Indian women have left their jobs over the same period. The employment rate of women has fallen from 35% in 2005 to only 26% in 2019. That's a 9% drop! If all of these women were to be put together as a city, it would be the third most populated city in the world. With the talk of women empowerment and the enrolment rate of girls in higher education at all time high, this comes as a surprise. So where are these women going? 48% of Indian women quit their jobs mid-career owing to marriage and added household responsibilities. Workforce participation amongst graduate women fell by almost 8% and 4% in rural and urban India between 1993 & 2012 respectively. As per a survey, 84% of Indians agree that men have more of a right to work than women. Even if women are allowed to work by their male family members, they are constrained to certain types of jobs and industries, those that are considered suitable for women. The fastest growing sectors such as telecom, banking and the core sectors are all dominated by men. And whenever a woman tries to enter these sectors, she is either not recruited or is bombarded with questions about her capabilities. Even if they do manage to overcome these hurdles and acquire jobs of their choice, the work environment is not conducive to their growth.

Why should we care? I could give you all the lectures about basic human rights but here's something that you might actually care about: if all those women had to participate in the labour market as men. India's GDP could increase by 60% by 2025, making India richer by 27 per cent.

Although the lives and work of most people were negatively impacted by the pandemic, my analysis shows that, overall, women's jobs and livelihoods were more vulnerable to this. Job loss rates for women, 5.7%, as a result are about 1.8 times higher than that for men, 3.1%, globally. In India, women accounted for 20% of the labour force prior to the pandemic; their share of job losses attributable to the industry combination alone is estimated at 17%. However, the unemployment surveys suggest that they actually account for 23% of total job losses. Women are on the front lines here, doing an average of 75% of unpaid work around the world, including child care, elder care, cooking, and cleaning. In some regions, like South Asia and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), women account for 80-90% unpaid work. As COVID-19 has disproportionately increased women's time spent on family responsibilities by approximately 30% in India. Attitudes also influence the way in which women suffer the economic consequences of a crisis compared to men. These are not new beliefs, but rather traditional societal attitudes. They can be reflected in current decisions, at the organizational level or even within the family, about who can keep their job. The regressive labour market outcomes described above would assume that women are disproportionately affected by job losses during the pandemic.

This would slightly reduce the participation rate of women in the male labour force from 0.63 prior to COVID-19 to 0.61 in 2020. It is predicted that no new measures would be taken to improve gender equality by 2030, and the participation rate of women and men in the labour market would remain frozen at 0.61. In this scenario, the world GDP in 2030 would be \$1 trillion lower than it would be, if COVID-19 had an equal effect on men and women in their respective fields of employment. Compared to this Reference Case, 33 million fewer women would be employed in this regressive gender scenario by 2030. Thus, these scenarios are not predictive, but rather represent potential paths for the next normal of countries after this pandemic. What is clear is that doing nothing to maintain and promote equality between men and women could have a negative influence on the economic and social life for women, as well as overall economic growth. On the other hand, investing in women and girls for recovery is an important opportunity to enhance gender equality and foster inclusive economic growth. Actions to address this problem include: better recognition of unpaid work, a reduction in the volume of unpaid work, and a rebalance between men and women.





The lesser-known type of pollution

t is said that the average person has approximately 70,000 thoughts per day, 80% of which, is negative. Quite daunting, isn't it? This simply attests to the negativity bias phenomenon. We humans are hardwired to react more and mull over negative stimulants for longer than positive ones. This has links to the evolution theory, wherein, only the ones most receptive to negative perils are likely to survive. Naturally, this trait has been inherited from our ancestors and manifests itself in today's world in the form of thought pollution.

When unbidden thoughts infiltrate our minds, they work their way gradually through our bodies like a poison, disrupting our entire body system. A quick illustration: It is appraisal time in the office. The manager recognises all your good attributes and lauds you for the same. However, he does point out certain areas for improvement. And that's it. That one negative feedback is enough to set off a vortex of pessimistic thoughts in your head. Your mind becomes contaminated by brooding over these negative thoughts and leaves you in a frenzy. As a result, your peace of mind gets disturbed; you cannot concentrate on any task. In extreme cases, mental health deteriorates, resulting in depression and eliciting suicidal feelings. Therefore, it's all linked together in a vicious cycle.

Just like the common cold, when one allows room for polluted thoughts, they quickly spread it to others.

In such cases, the mind almost acts like a fully permeable membrane that entertains only pessimistic thoughts. People become more cynical and fail to appreciate all the good happening around them; the good deeds are obscured by the veil of negativity one is surrounded by. This can yield unpleasant ramifications, as social relations might be hampered.

Here's a first-hand account of an incident in our team project: there was one member who would always respond negatively to every suggestion made by others. This obviously impacted team spirit and everyone avoided her. Upon explaining this to her, she was completely unaware that she was spewing negativity because that's how she knew to think and act.

Thought pollution is a dangerous whirlpool to steer clear of, lest you get sucked into its trap. A positive attitude is capable of surviving even the biggest quagmire, but developing an optimistic perspective is no Herculean task. Maintaining a gratefulness journal and doing relaxing activities like yoga can go a long way in cleansing your mind of impurities.

Life's like a game of snakes and ladders. Ladders are the positive thoughts which will lift you up in life and the snakes, the polluted thoughts known to snatch away success. If you constantly think that you're going to land on the snake, you will surely land on one, pulling you down. However, positive thinking will automatically clear all the snakes from your path to success. And there you go. You now know the secret to winning at any game of snakes and ladders!

Meghra Girisharka



Art by: Drishti Mehta

THE MIND MATTERS

It is said our minds are our greatest assets, but how often do we check up on it? Do we pay as much attention to our mind as we do to our physical bodies? The answer to both the questions is typically a 'NO'. Every asset faces depreciation, and so does our mind and we know that it isn't the best sign.

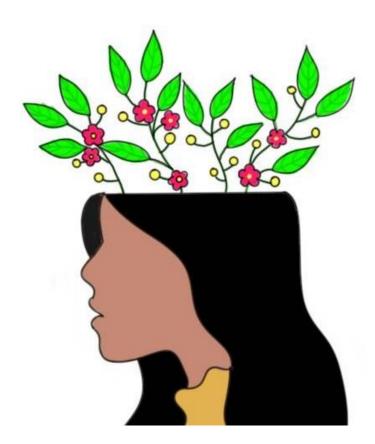
Hence the question arises, what can one do to show the mind that it does matter? It's pretty simple, just like you check up on people as a gesture of concern, check up on yourself! Self-evaluation and self-realization walk hand in hand and are best done yourself. This is the beginning of your mental health journey, one full of speed breakers and bewildering hair pin bends. The test is to drive steady through. After all its rightly said, "Mental Health is not a destination but a process. It's about how you drive, not where you're going." - Noam Shpancer

Until we all take this step for ourselves, mental health will always be a growing concern and a topic that is shunned in society. Health not only encompasses physical health but also mental and emotional health. Symptoms such as personality changes are often passed off as a 'mood,' when in reality, it is a sign of mental health degradation. At times your mind just wants to unload the pressure it has been bearing, which calls for the act of opening up. It might be as simple as talking to a friend, journaling your feelings or maybe even visiting a professional.

"Secure yourself and then assist others," is an instruction not only applicable to passengers on a flight but also to each one of us harnessing our minds. When we do move on to help others, we must remember to not react but instead, respond. The choice between reacting and responding when someone opens up to you is entirely in your control. Give the same response you would like to receive.

It isn't necessary to have to go through something revolutionary to ask for, or, offer help. Mental health issues might make you feel like you are on the edge of an abyss, but what is not known is that conversation, candour and acceptance is the rope that can pull you out. Be the one to break the stigma and show your mind that it matters.

Friga Bharda



art-fluencial: social media's impact on artists

ocial media has had an undeniable effect on the way artists share their work. Ever since the outbreak of the pandemic, concert halls, art

exhibition halls and theatre venues have been forced to empty out, leading to a majority of creators shifting their gears to online platforms such as Instagram, Tumblr, DeviantArt more. As consumers, we get easy access to viewing and appreciating artwork online, but how has this shift impacted the artists themselves? Two artists, @nruposh and @sarass70art on Instagram, gave interviews offering their perspectives on the way social media influenced the art they produce.

@sarass70art

Firstly, there is a gateway provided by online networking sites to post work for a large audience. This opens up a new world where essentially anyone can stumble upon an artist's virtual portfolio. User @nruposh stated that uploading her work to social media 'allowed the freedom to reach a lot more people with common interests,' attracting a large following of people captivated by her watercolour paintings and coloured pencil pieces.

A popular trend surrounding the online artist community involves embarking monthly thematic challenges, such as Inktober. A set of prompts for the month are left open for anyone to attempt. During such periods there is a visible surge in art content. flourishing with creativity.

Participating in these challenges propels one's artistry. User @sarass70 revealed, "Doing a month of #flowertober helped me improve my skills," in her preferred media, watercolour and gouache painting.

Within a community of innumerable art accounts, various sources of inspiration exist. One might even deem it negatively as a *susceptibility to plagiarism*.

Nonetheless, being surrounded by creators in the same field is a perfect stimulus for growth.

When asked about any noticeable changes in her art after seeing other artists on the online platform, @sarass70art mentioned that she 'started doing more florals after watching artists [on social media]'. Further, @nruposh commented, "I tend to reference the artists whose work I've studied...but the piece is my own."

Although it is certain that social media platforms cultivate spaces for artists to flourish, the algorithm constantly updates itself to maximise user activity. In the

case of Instagram, it promotes accounts that garner mass engagement and post frequently, both of which *suppress* those with fewer followers. On this topic, @nruposh remarked, "The algorithm is something to be aware about, but it should not be your boss...it's important to understand the kind of audience you want and the quality/quantity of content you find sustainable to create." Overcoming this pressure can be a task in itself, especially to those pursuing art as a career, but once one finds the

balance, an audience will *surely* gather in support.

Online platforms have allowed so many people to kick-start passions related to their hobbies. There are palpable downsides to social media, however, setting a distance from the specificities and statistics can keep the fire alive. The extraordinary impact of the social media industry and an artist's personal flair exist on two sides of a screen, giving us the

opportunity to witness the beautiful collision of it all.



YOURART







Madhura Bakshi



Avanti Moranka

Paririta Pardit





Hrgaman Ber





Kushboo Luriya

Hearti Morarka

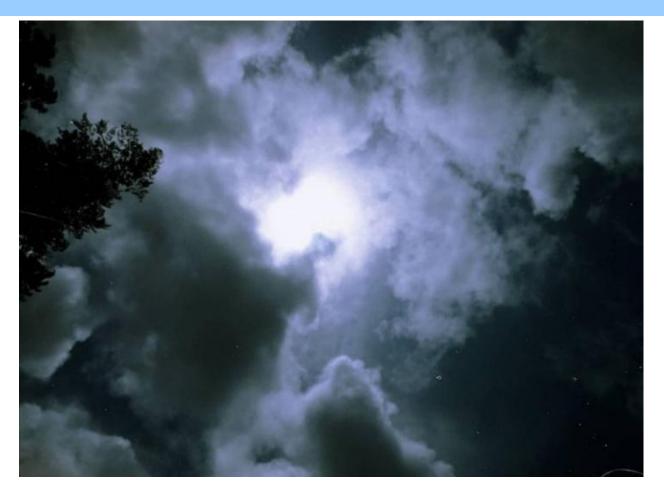




Auli. Uttarakhand-Friga Bharda



Avanti Moranka



Reflecting on this photograph which I had taken, I feel, there is motivation and empowerment radiating...

Despite being shrouded by the clouds of doubt, confusion or darkness these days - we still shine, bright. A clear reminder that no matter which cloud, and how many clouds, one thing is certain: no cloud can ever overshadow our brightness. Be it behind the clouds or in the open, we still shine at our brightest.

There are some people who will notice your bright resilience behind the clouds, and they will appreciate you for everything that you are.

Irrespective of the clouds, we shine the brightest and we radiate brightness.

Ryan D'Gilva

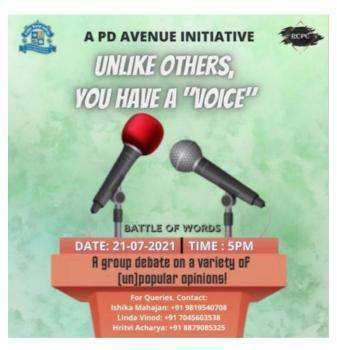
EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Battle of MINDs

On 21st July 2021, **Professional Development** kicked off their year with a classic debate event 'Battle of Minds'. Four teams were given controversial topics to present their views on, in a series of three rounds, to ultimately get the crown of the 'Master Debater'.

We had a decent amount of participants with the final round lasting for about an hour. An impromptu topic was given in this round - 'Are motivational speakers really motivational?' Both teams were extremely eloquent and verbose, making it very difficult to decide a winner. However, Team 1 ended up winning the title of 'Master Debater'.

This event's aim was to make participants comfortable in unfamiliar crowds and teams for a collective goal. It also helped participants push their boundaries and fight for an opinion they might not necessarily agree with. Extensive research was conducted by all teams that allowed them to hear out the other side without any biases, while also finding evidence to support their own. The Professional Development Avenue believes in maintaining these values of growth, along with some light-hearted fun for future events as well



LETTERS TO CANCER PATIENTS

The Editorial avenue started off the year with the event, 'Letters to Cancer Patients' in collaboration with The White Sparrow, a student-led non-profit. The aim was to spread awareness about cancer whilst also giving back to them. There were many tear jerking responses and it undoubtedly made a lot of students sympathize with the patients, and an air of hope took over.



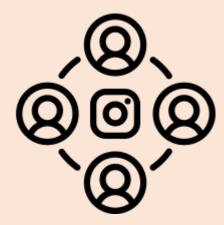
lights, camera, budget!

With personal finance becoming more important in our daily lives, what better way to learn than by making your own movie. Everyone is an artist. We harnessed our creative side while learning how to make money. I'd like to thank all the people who participated in the event. I hope to see you'll for all future **Finance Avenue** events eager to learn.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Follow our events here!



- @podarworldcollege_pwc
- @rcpodar
- @socialresponsibilitypwc
- @entrepreneurshipclubpwc
- @culturalclubpwc



Gee you there!

"To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often." – Winston Churchill

Although we hope the 1st volume of Meliora has touched your heart, we are so proud of the 1st issue of volume 2, with all the changes we had in store for you. We can't wait to give you more issues as we continue to change and develop the magazine into what we envision it to be!

"Many ideas grow better when transplanted into another mind than the one where they sprang up." – Oliver Wendell Holmes

As we worked with a new team, there were many new ideas and opinions that may have clashed, but we surprisingly managed to work cohesively as a team in such a short span of time. These unique ideas and opinions is what really made this issue of Meliora a success. Opinions are always useful, even if they are not implemented, which is why we welcome you to give us feedback!

Signing off,

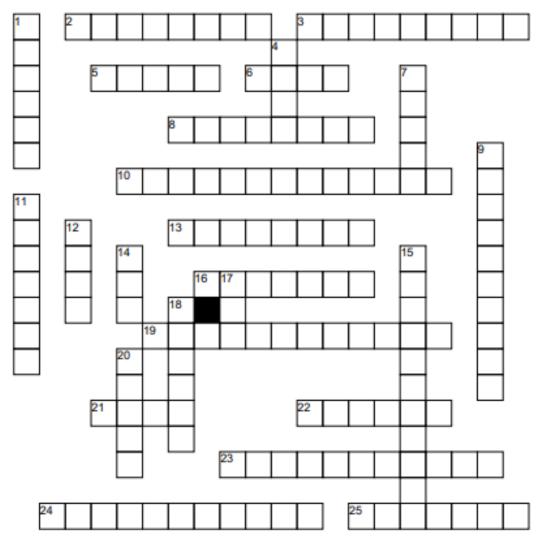
Team Editorial







Stranger Things



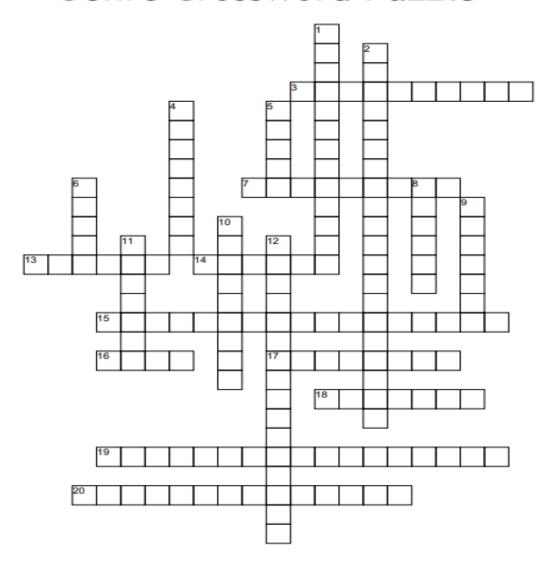
Across

- 2. The street where Will goes missing
- 3. The director who created the films which inspired ST
- 5. eleven's favourite food
- 6. Eleven's real name
- 8. The dance which Mike promises to attend with Eleven
- 10. Fill in the blank for this Dustin quote: "your total _____ blows my mind"
- 13. Eleven crushes this type of can during a test
- 16. _____ don't lie
- 19. The actor that plays Mike Wheeler
- Dustin's pet demadog
- 22. The name of the first episode in season two
- 23. Eleven's power
- 24. The actor that plays Joyce Byers.
- 25. What the show was going to be named

Down

- 1. Will's dads name
- Nancy's best friend
- 7. The boys get around by riding on their ____
- 9. The alternate dimension where Will gets lost in
- 11. Where Eleven goes to find her sister
- 12. ST season one premiered which month?
- 14. The name of Joyce's boyfriend in season 2
- 15. Eleven is put into a sensory _____ tank, in the Hawkins
- 17. Will tells Joyce in episode 3 (S1) to _____
- 18. Joyce talks with Will through the _
- 20. the bang who sang "Should I Stay Or Should I Go" is The

Genre Crossword Puzzle



Across

- A book about the life of penguins that is true is an example of what genre
- 7. A genre containing magical creatures
- 13. A form of writing that has a meter and rhythm with every lines and syllables
- Genre that focus's on humorous effect
- A genre ment to change someones opinion is...
- A traditional story usually concerning a hero or event
- 17. What is a genre with larger than life or greatly exaggerated characters?
- A witch doing magic on an undiscovered world is an example of...
- 19. A genre where the plot takes place in the past
- A sub-genre of fiction involving futuristic ideas

Down

- 1. Story of someones life written by that person
- Provide's facts on a variety of topics
- A genre that is passed down through generations including traditional beliefs
- A genre that is written for play, theater, or radio
- A genre that might contain talking animals and convoy a moral is...
- 8. A semi-true story passed from generations with important meaning or symbolism from the culture it came from
- Un-true literature including short stories and novels
- Story if someones life written by another person
- A drama showing weakness and unfavorible circumstances
- 12. A sub-genre that could happen but has not



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The Rolling Stones

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TUMBLING DICE
BRIAN JONES
PAINT IT BLACK
BIANCA JAGGER
DEAD FLOWERS
PLAY WITH FIRE
SATISFACTION
MOONLIGHT MILE
ONLY ROCKN'ROLL
MISS YOU
NO EXPECTATIONS
MICK JAGGER
BILL WHYMAN
SHE'S A RAINBOW

WORDSEARGH

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SIDOMIA

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SIDOXIB

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6	3	5	7	8	1	4	9	2
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8	9	1	4	5	2	3	6	7

Stranger Things

