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# THE PRICE OF PRIVILEGE.

- Rianna Lingjel Irom, X

To talk of privilege is a delicate thing, especially since the walls we live within often distort our perception of it. What would we know of privilege, other than the pretentious words we put in our speeches? Our “cognizance” is a pretence, an outfit we wear as we step onto the podium to play pretend — although, this is admittedly only true for a certain portion of us, since much of the student body remains somewhat blissfully unaware and unconcerned about the concept of privilege.

The weight of privilege is a heavy one, and yet it seems to be handed out so freely. Is it right for those who did no labour to be awarded with any fruit? When certain benefits can be enjoyed only by a specific portion of people, should these benefits not be enjoyed by those who have made some contribution to school life? It could be argued that perhaps, we should already be used to a particular part of the population having prerogatives we do not; after

all, such is how the world works. Still, if we do not argue, we lose the art of thought. Which is exactly why it is important to examine how, at times, liberty is handed out so freely on a silver platter to some. Of course, those who receive ‘said’ liberties will argue that their efforts are unrecognised, that they are entirely deserving of what they have reaped (from the seeds that they have not sown).

To relish in the benefits you are granted, you must also take care of the responsibilities it comes with, much like how Fundamental Rights come with Fundamental Duties. To have power and privilege, one must first take care of their obligations i.e. people should be awarded with privilege only after they have done their duty and yet, it has become a common occurrence to witness the opposite.

Quite obviously, those who receive such rewards will insist that the

responsibilities they shoulder are burdensome and tiring but can such a statement be recognised as the truth when many cannot even accomplish the most basic task that their peers have? (For example, in a student body, such a task is to pass in all of our subjects. Of course, one must aim to achieve higher than such a mediocre goal.) So if one is sitting in Remedials, should one have the privilege of enjoying the spoils of ‘war’ that they have not fought nor have contributed towards in any form or fashion?

To drive the point in further, it is necessary to state that one does not need a position of authority or power to carry responsibilities and be awarded for them. That is to say, one does not need an official post to deserve privilege. What one needs is consistent proof of the obligations they have fulfilled and to do such a thing, you do not need to carry a badge. This is the price of privilege.

# Remembering October 7th.

- Aanya Paul Sarkar, XI

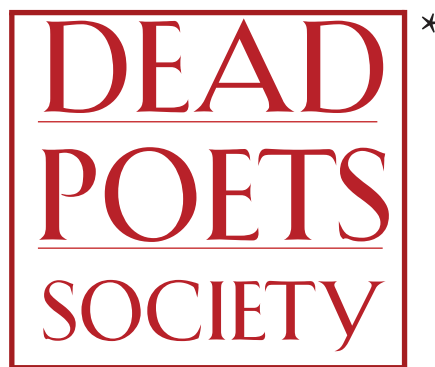
On October 7th, 2024, the people of Israel woke up to a nightmare. The brutal and barbaric attack orchestrated by the terrorist group, Hamas, left the nation in shock and grief, as the unthinkable unfolded before their eyes. Homes were ravaged, civilians slaughtered, and families torn apart in an act of senseless violence. The sky above was filled with rockets aimed not at soldiers, but at children playing in their yards, parents heading to work, and grandparents sitting in the quiet safety of their homes. The attacks didn't discriminate.

Israel, a country that has always had to defend its very right to exist, faced one of its darkest hours. The resilience of this nation is remarkable, but no amount of strength can shield the heart from breaking when innocent lives are lost. The grief that enveloped the nation on that fateful day was not just the loss of individuals, but the shared pain of an entire nation. Every mother, father, brother, and sister who watched their loved ones perish felt the heavy weight of what it means to be Israeli—to live in a land surrounded by threats, yet fueled by hope.

The events of the last year that began on the 7th of

October saw the world torn asunder divided in their support one way or the other. The ensuing deaths at Gaza is tragic but when millions of dollars of aid money are used to dig out tunnels in order to execute a massacre like Israel was subjected to, there will be a price to pay.

For years, Israel has pursued peace, often walking a tightrope between defending its citizens and responding to international calls for restraint. Yet, the events of October 7th forced the world to confront a stark truth: Israel, like any sovereign nation, has the right and obligation to protect its people. Hamas' attack was an act of terror; it was an assault on humanity itself. It was a declaration that hatred will stop at nothing, not even at the lives of the innocent. But Israel's spirit is unbreakable. Through the tears and devastation, the nation stands united, resolute in its right to defend itself. The world must see this for what it is—not just a tragedy for Israel, but a test for humanity. In standing with Israel, we stand with life, with hope, and with the unwavering belief that no people should ever have to live in fear of annihilation. Today we remember. For this day will not be forgotten. Never again.



- Kanyaka Tamuli, XI

Theatre, that ancient art form where actors tread the boards and conjure worlds from words, has a certain magic that's hard to beat. It's a place where reality takes a backseat, and for a few hours, the only limits are the ones set by imagination and stagecraft. If there's one film that captures this spirit—it's Dead Poets Society.

Picture this: a dimly lit theatre, the smell of musty curtains, the rustle of programs. The audience holds its breath as the lights dim, and in the silence that follows, a world springs to life. It's a kind of magic that happens every night in theatres around the world, and it's not so different from what the Dead Poets Society evokes in its celebration of literature and poetry. The film is pure theatre- a group of young men hungry for meaning,

a charismatic teacher with a flair for drama, and the inevitable clash between tradition and rebellion. If that's not the stuff of great theatre, I don't know what is.

Mr. Keating, played with a twinkle in the eye by Robin Williams, is the kind of teacher who might have been a frustrated actor in another life. He doesn't just teach poetry—he performs it, drawing his students into a world where words aren't just ink on a page but living, breathing entities.

And what about the Dead Poets Society itself? It's theatre in its purest form—a secret society where words are spoken not for an audience but for the sheer joy of expression. It's not about perfection or polish; it's about

★ Inspiration Taken from "Dead Poets Society" by Tom Schulman

passion. It's about standing on a desk because, as Mr. Keating says, "You must constantly look at things in a different way." It's about daring to be heard, even when the world wants you to sit down and be quiet.

In the end, we must remember that life is short, and the moments that matter are the ones where we dare

to step out of the shadows and into the light. Whether on a stage or in the back of a cave, what counts is the courage to speak, to perform, and to live fully. So, seize the day, because as Mr. Keating would agree, "The powerful play goes on, and you may contribute a verse." The real question is: what will your verse be?

## Tales From The Hills XV:

# Mawnguid Birew

- Carlynda Bahun P. Lyngdoh, XI

In the heart of the rolling hills, in the state of Meghalaya, lay the village of Mawbeh, known for an infamous legend—the Mawnguid Birew. It all started when one day, a mother took her two children to the fields and settled them on a boulder with fruits. Their laughter filled the air creating a cheerful atmosphere until, suddenly, the boulder began to stir, a grotesque transformation unfolding. The older child tried to cry out for help shouting, "Une u maw u lah nguid noh ia i hep jong nga!": "This rock has swallowed my brother!" But the mother, busy with her work, could not hear his desperate pleas for help, unaware about the horror unravelling behind her on the boulder. Eventually, the rock slowly consumed both children, and the cheerful atmosphere turned grim and silent. When

the mother returned, she found the boulder marked with mysterious handprints—marks of her children reaching for help, now trapped forever. A chill ran through her as realization struck. Panicking, she raced back to the village, her cries breaking the morning calm: "My children are gone!" The villagers gathered in confusion, determined to uncover the dark mystery that had taken the innocent children from their mother. They searched days and nights covering every inch of the village and the neighbouring forest but no signs of the little children were to be found. To this day, no one knows what happened to them. The only evidence left behind are the handprints on the boulder, assumed to belong to the children, forever trapped inside, leaving an unsettling mystery that lingers over Mawbeh.

## Paradox

- Tanveer Choudury, XI

I read a book that said, parents can detect fake friends, while children can detect fake relatives, and dogs can sniff out people with questionable intentions. Perhaps that is why we are told to choose quality over quantity. They say we must learn to forgive ourselves for all the versions we couldn't become, for all the wrong things said, and for giving into the greed that still haunts us. But how does one do all that if it has changed the very foundations, we stand on, crumbling to dust everything we have held dear and precious. Perhaps the trick is to neither forgive nor forget. Perhaps the skill is to live on and

strive despite it all. Love will not save you. But it will hold your hand while you save yourself. And in a world that sometimes seems devoid of goodness, in a world that sometimes feels too heavy to bear, I think that is all we are really searching for. Someone by our side. Someone who grounds us. Someone who will quietly hug us for twenty minutes straight while we figure it all out. I think that is all anyone really needs. Someone who sees them. Someone who stays. Our teen years are paradoxical. We like to be happy but we think about sad things all the time. We do not really like ourselves but we profess to love the

person we have become. We say we do not care but we seem to have an opinion on everything and everyone. We crave for attention yet we shy away from any that comes our way. We obsess over broken hearts and healing yet we turn away from opportunities that could bring in a real human connect. We love to listen but very rarely share because putting words to emotions need a skill most of us seem bereft of. Teen years seem to be such an age of contradictions. And that's where we are and it promises to be every bit as exciting as it will be excruciating.

# Campus Caricature



## Ex-Potential.

*Illustrated by Mashunsing Keishing, X*

# CAMPUS NEWS

## SSL TRIP TO GOLHAGAT



The Social Service League of The Assam Valley school and 19 students of Class 12 and 2 teachers visited the LP Elementary school on the 21st of September. The team interacted with the students and conducted games and activities, spending quality time with them. AVS presented the school with a globe, 2 world maps, and fruits for the young children. The team visited an old age home that sheltered victims of domestic

abuse. The students served lunch to the elders and the school presented them with a month's groceries. The elders blessed the team with prayers and a gift for each student. The SSL also visited a children's home and conducted a drawing Session on the topic 'biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste'. The team provided the children with refreshments and fruits. It was a very fulfilling and an educational trip.

# AFS NEWS: THE EGYPTIAN CHAPTER

- Aira Thoudam, XII

As I sit here, cosy in my bed at school, the memories of Egypt feel distant and yet, they remain a part of me. In all honesty, it was but a twist of destiny that led me to embark on a solo journey to Egypt. It all began when Ma'am Raya Mukhopadhyay brought to my knowledge a fully sponsored STEM scholarship offered by AFS and the University of Pennsylvania. After a quick research and a series of essays and interviews, I was one of the lucky 150 out of 7000 candidates to be selected for this programme.

sustainability projects, learning all about different kinds of energy sources and building robotic cars.



Cultural immersion was another standout aspect. I interacted with locals in the market, spoke a little Egyptian and learned about their culture from a locals perspective. I made sure to explore the vibrant streets of Old Cairo, savouring local dishes like falafel and koshari and ate the sweetest mangoes I've ever had. The iconic Nile River and the Pyramids took my breath away, and some of my favourite moments included learning Egyptian Arabic and earning a certificate for it, working on a climate aid project with people from different parts of the world and ziplining for the first time! We even performed the Bahry Folk dance wearing the Egyptian costume which was an amazing experience.



The program consisted of 12 weeks of online sessions during which we were to make a "Capstone Project" which is supposed to be a prototype that would satisfy at least one SDG. For my project I made a magazine for the children of Manipur which satisfied SDGs 4, 10 and 16. After this came the exciting part of the program- a one month long exchange program in a foreign country! I was assigned to Egypt and things just started getting more interesting from then onwards.



From day one, Egypt was a whirlwind of amazing experiences. My host family welcomed me with open arms and made me feel like a part of their family. During the day, we focused heavily on

This adventure taught me to be more confident, think creatively, and always consider the impact of my actions on the future. It taught me to step out of my comfort zone and make the most of opportunitie



# BEST PHOTOGRAPHER AWARD

ISC Batch of 2023 alumni Rayyan H. Hazarika, won the award of 'Best Photographer' and secured the 1st position at the 15th University Day Awards of O. P. Jindal Global University held on September 30, 2024.

AVS congratulates him for this achievement and making us proud of him!

## AFS REGIONAL MEET

The Assam Valley School actively participated in the AFS East Zone Regional Meet jointly hosted by The Royal Global School and The Maria Public School from October 4th to October 6th, 2024. This Regional Meet centered on the theme of 'Culture and Sustainability': United for a Better World.' The following are accounts of the students who attended it, Alphonsa Elishaba Pakyntein and Ahona Chowdury.

### Alphonsa Elishaba Pakyntein;

My first AFS regional experience was an incredible success. During my time there, I formed lasting friendships, especially with my roommates. The two days we spent together were filled with fun and unforgettable memories.



The theme, "Culture and Sustainability: United for a Better World," allowed us to explore the interconnectedness of these two vital aspects of our lives. We gained valuable insights into how culture and sustainability can coexist harmoniously. I am truly grateful for the knowledge and experiences I gained during this trip. I am confident that the bonds I've formed will only grow stronger over time. A heartfelt thank you to AFS and Ma'am Raya Mukhophanday for providing me with this wonderful opportunity!

### Ahona Chowdury;

This was my first experience with an AFS program, and I absolutely loved it! AFS opened my eyes

to new perspectives, helped me forge meaningful friendships, and deepened my understanding of the theme "culture and sustainability."



The core mission of AFS is to connect people from around the globe, fostering a deeper sense of community and understanding. It was inspiring to witness how different cultures can coexist harmoniously. On



the second day we visited the Akshar Foundation which is a school for underprivileged children. It was amazing to see how the school prioritised education alongside sustainability. They also provide vocational training which teaches the students to be self-reliant. At the Akshar Foundation, plastics are collected

instead of fees from which they make various recyclable things. The students take full ownership of their environment, from cleaning the school to organizing events. They earn points for their contributions, which they can then use to “purchase” items. This approach not only fosters independence but also cultivates an entrepreneurial mindset among the children. We wrapped up our day with a memorable cruise named

“Kohuwa Bon” on the Brahmaputra It was a fantastic experience filled with laughter and fun. We danced, enjoyed cultural performances from the schools hosting us, and concluded the evening with a delicious dinner. It was a perfect way to celebrate the connections we had made throughout the program! Overall the experience was wonderful and I would love to do it all over again!

## INTERHOUSE SWIMMING 2024

Inter-House Swimming competition was held on September 29, 2024. More than hundred students participated in this competition representing their houses. Results are as follows;

**1st Position-** Subansiri-Namdang

**2nd Position-** Jinari-Manas

**3rd Position-** Kopili-Dhansiri

Heartiest congratulations to the winning house!



Photo Credit: Mr. B. Matharu

## IPSC ARCHERY

- Sherlyn Hazarika, VI

I am super excited to participate in my first IPSC Archery Competition for Under 12. It's taking place next month in Rajasthan and I can hardly wait. I have been practicing a lot and I really want to win this match. The thought of the competition makes my heart race! I know this will be a fantastic experience and I am determined to give it my all. My father always supports and encourages me which

boosts my confidence. He believes in me and helps me improve my skills everyday. I also want to thank my coach who puts such effort in teaching me. My friends will also be coming to the competition—Navya, Amyra and Samriddhi. I am certain we will get a gold medal. I am super excited for the upcoming trip.

## THE OUTPOST

The Middle-east continues to smoulder with both the present Ayatollah, Seyyed Ali Hosseini Khamenei calling for the Iranian population to brace themselves while PM Netanyahu has called for regime change in Iran. Amid fanatic global diplomacy to maintain international order, EAM Jaishanker visits Pakistan after 9 years not for any dialogue with the Pakistani government but to attend the SCO meeting. The Maldivian President Muizzu visits India amidst an economic crunch that threatens to engulf the island nation. India pays homage to Padma Vibhushan Ratan Tata, the country's beloved industrialist who passed away aged 86.



Illustrated by Tanveer Ahmed, XI

## Ripple #237

- Aliden Jahzara Ovung, XI

*I woke up to hear her cries,  
Wailing and screaming.  
Asking for someone to help her.  
She still lives in my head;  
Attached to my head.  
Born with one, joined by one.*

## Tongue Of Slip!!

1. "Go to the Airplort." - Vania Singh, XI (*What time is your fight?*)
2. "My water is trying to be hot." - Shambhavi Jindal, XI (*Your water sounds insecure.*)
3. "I've sent you campus newsses." - Ms. SPS (*Thank youses.*)
4. "I woked up." - Arnab Lodh, XI (*Lets wake your brain up.*)
5. "Why coconut didn't fell on Newton's head." - Mr. Umesh Singh (*Interesting physics Sir?*)

## Keep It Reel!

*Midnight Glow.*



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