

Tales from the Hills -
TAPTA



Recently, during a conversation, someone remarked, “Don’t tell her, she’ll argue.” Initially, it felt like a slight, but I now see it as recognition. People expect me to voice my opinions—and I do. At school, I’ve been labelled a “debater” or an “orator.” While it’s easy to feel confined by such labels, I’ve never shied away from expressing my thoughts. The question is—why should I? We are wired for thought, our minds constantly churning with ideas and beliefs. Yet, too many hesitate to voice them, missing an opportunity for both personal growth and meaningful discourse.

Some embrace self-expression, while others treat their thoughts as too precious—or too dangerous—to share. In a time when most arguments unfold in comment threads and social media debates, real, face-to-face discussions stand out. Reactions vary—some find them annoying; others see them as intelligent. The irony is, engaging in reasoned discourse should be the norm, not the exception.

I believe in standing my ground, in holding firm until proven wrong. Some call it stubbornness or ego; I call it critical thinking. Questioning is fundamental—asking “why,” “how,” “where,” and “when” leads to clarity and deeper understanding. Debating changed me. It was not just

more clearly than ever that arguing is essential. Representing the student body requires advocating for change, pushing for needs and demands, and ensuring voices are heard. Without the will to challenge and discuss, progress is impossible. But being argumentative also comes with responsibility.

One cannot speak confidently on matters they know nothing about. The ability to choose a side, once instilled in us as children, seems to fade in a world increasingly tolerant of ignorance and indifference.

In a school that fosters dialogue through spaces like

THE ARGUMENTATIVE AVIATOR

- Zaheen Rafia Shah, Debating Captain, XII

about winning or losing but about refining my ability to question, analyse, and engage. It gave me a structured platform to test ideas and challenge assumptions. Being argumentative isn’t about arguing for its own sake; it’s about seeking truth, refusing to accept things at face value, and having the courage to speak one’s mind.

Now, in a leadership position, I see

the Athenaeum, we must nurture individuals who are unafraid to question, to speak up, and to demand to be heard. The ability to argue—thoughtfully and informedly—is not just a skill but a necessity. To be an ‘Argumentative Aviator’ is to embrace the responsibility of critical thought, fearless discourse, and informed advocacy. It is not just about debating—it is about shaping the world around us.



THE PRINCE

A book review

- Khichu Kath, Associate Editor, XII

The Prince by Niccolò Machiavelli is a well-known political treatise written in the early 16th century. It offers practical advice to rulers on gaining and maintaining power, even if it means using unethical tactics. Machiavelli argues that a ruler's primary goal should be to maintain control, which sometimes requires deception, manipulation, or cruelty. This has led to the term "Machiavellian" being used to describe clever but unscrupulous political behaviour. The book emphasizes that rulers need to understand human nature, which Machiavelli views as selfish and unpredictable. He

suggests that successful leaders must be adaptable and able to use people's weaknesses to their advantage. He draws on historical examples to support his points, showing how different rulers succeeded or failed based on their ability to navigate complex political environments. A key concept of the Prince is a leader's ability to shape their fate through skill and decisiveness. Machiavelli also acknowledges that luck or "fortune" can influence a ruler's success, but he believes that wise leaders can control their circumstances with the right actions. Though very brief in length,

the prince is dense with wisdom inviting readers to think deeply about leadership and power. It pushes readers to think critically about the complexities of leadership, and how leaders often make decisions that are confusing or unclear of morals. While some of Machiavelli's advice may seem harsh or morally questionable, the book provides an interesting and realistic look at the nature of political power. The Prince is short but packed with insight, making it an essential read for anyone interested in politics or leadership, even if they don't agree with all of its conclusions.

A mother's despair

- Tenzin Norphel, VI

As her heart echoed, "My child, where have you gone?" her lifeless eyes lost more hope with every plea. The deaf mother desperately searched for her child—but did she know? Her so-called beloved was locked away, suffocated, and long dead languishing in the depths of the box room of Tihu Subansiri. Every full moon at midnight, she returns, clinging to the hope of finding her child, only to fail once more. The soft chime of her golden anklets (payal) accompanies her weary steps as she mourns, longing for an embrace that will never come. She searches each room, her

hollow gaze falling upon those who dare to stir. Yet, she never realized—the game she sought to win had already played her. Now, she was nothing more than a tragic tale. Dead, broken, and drenched in despair. Her once-lovely purple kurta was soaked in deep red blood, her beautiful brown hair tangled in sorrow. In her trembling hand, a kitchen knife dripped crimson. But in her haunted eyes remained a final, twisted promise of love—one that had driven her to take both her life and her own child's.

TAPTA

Tales from the Hills -

- Bhavni Kshetrimayum, XII

It was a stormy night in the quiet village. Rain poured down heavily, thunder rolled across the sky, and the muddy roads gleamed under flashes of lightning. But amid the howling winds, one sound dominated the night— a child crying his heart out . His mother had tried everything to calm him. She had sung lullabies, rocked him, even offered him sweets. Nothing worked. Frustrated, she tried an old trick—scaring him into silence.

“If you don’t stop crying, the dog will come and bite you!” she warned. He kept crying. “The snake will slither in and take you away!” The boy continued bawling. “The wolf from the forest will grab you!” Not a single hiccup of fear.

Outside, lurking near the stable, a tiger had sneaked into the village. It was hungry and had its eyes on the fattest horse in the stable. The rain had provided perfect cover, and it had just slinked closer to the wooden fence when—
Another visitor arrived.

A notorious horse thief, had also chosen this night to strike. He had been scouting the village for days, looking for the fattest, healthiest horse to steal. He slipped into the stable, running his hands along the horses to find the perfect one. “Too skinny... too old... too small...” he muttered, moving from one horse to another. Finally, his hands landed on something thick, muscular, and sturdy. “Ah-ha! Now this is a healthy horse!” he thought excitedly, patting its leg. The “horse” let out a deep, growling exhale.

Outside the house, the exhausted mother, having failed with all her usual tricks, blurted out the first thing that popped into her head—
“If you don’t stop crying... TAPTA will come and eat you!” The child instantly stopped crying; eyes wide in terror.

The thief and the tiger, both listening, also froze. “Tapta?” the tiger thought. “What is Tapta?!” The thief, still gripping what he thought was a horse, frowned. “Tapta? What kind of scary thing is that? Who cares, let me get my horse and leave!” Just as he

was about to mount the “horse,” a bolt of lightning flashed across the sky— And he saw stripes. Not brown. Not white. But BLACK STRIPES. He looked up. Two glowing, terrified yellow eyes stared back at him. For a second, the rain drops seemed to fall in utter silence until thunder struck startling the thief and tiger at the same time. The tiger, convinced that the thief was Tapta, panicked and took off running. Unfortunately for the thief, he was still sitting on its back. “WOAH!” the thief flailed, clutching onto the tiger’s fur as it sprinted out of the stable at full speed. Mud splattered everywhere as the thief rode the tiger straight

through the village.
“WHAT



Illustrated by Austin Nameirakpam, VI

KIND OF HORSE IS THIS?!" he shrieked, gripping onto dear life. The thief,

confused, finally dared to look down and saw four giant paws with razor sharp claws digging into the mud and a thick tail swinging wildly behind him. The creature he was riding gave a very

non-horse-like roar. The thief's face went pale. "AH! THIS ISN'T A HORSE! IT'S A TIGER! STOPPPP!" The tiger did not stop. It dashed through the village, leaping over fences, scattering chickens, and knocking over baskets of vegetables.

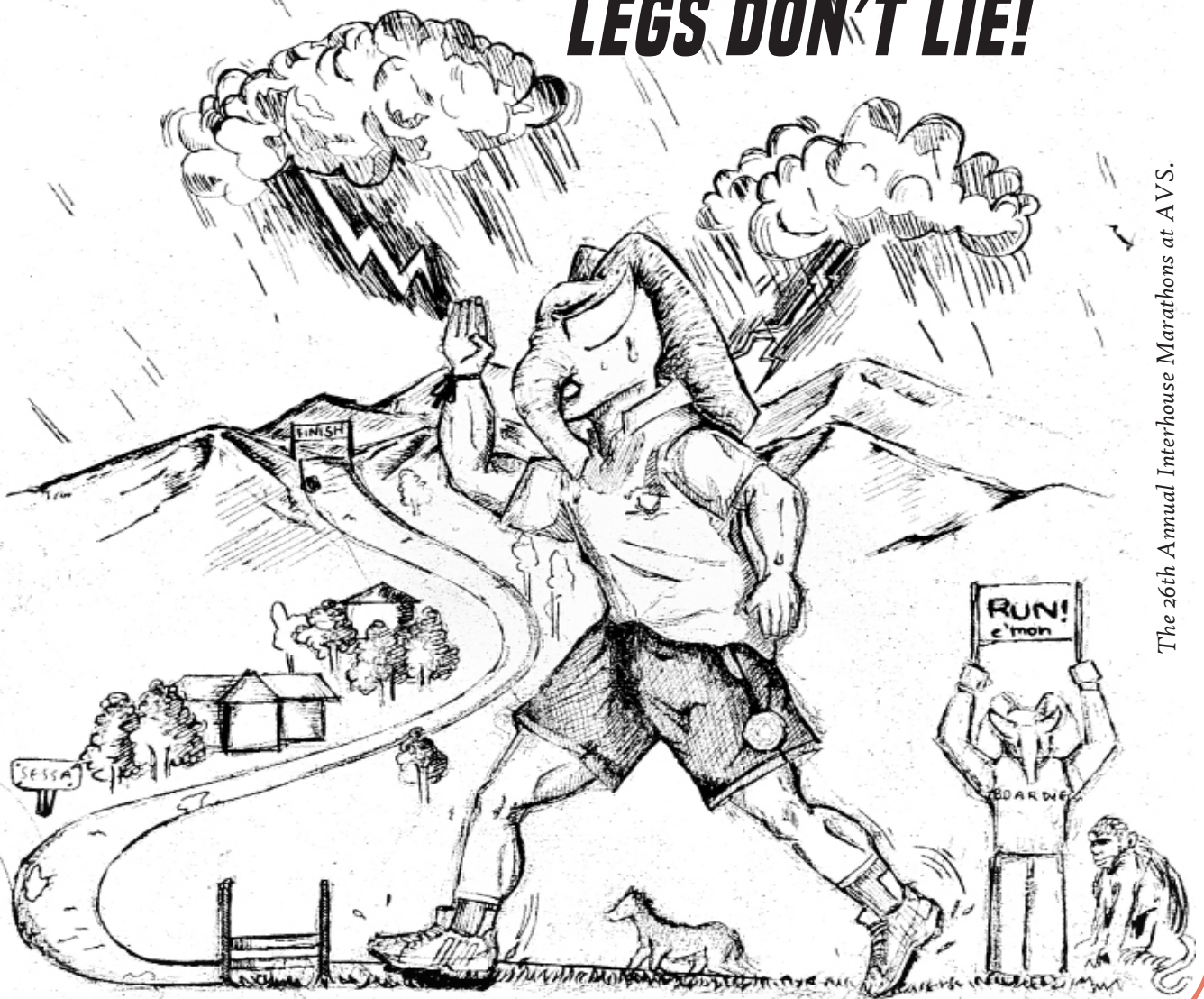
At last, it reached the edge of the forest. With a final burst of speed, it launched the thief off its back and disappeared into the darkness. The thief crashed into a muddy ditch, covered in leaves, horse manure, and sheer regret. The thief decides immediately that he would never steal horses again.

As for the tiger he was never returning to the village because nothing was scarier than Tapta, the creature he had on his back!

Campus Caricature

Illustrated by Bhaibhav Dutta, VII

LEGS DON'T LIE!



The 26th Annual Inter-house Marathons at AVS.

CAMPUS NEWS

CRICKET AT AVS

Reinforcing the importance of cricket, a specialised Cricket coaching session was organised for Aviators by Mr. Lance Roudenko, cricket coach from The Wanderers (Q) Club Inc., Brisbane, Australia. Mr. Roudenko emphasized catching drills, fielding, fitness dynamics, batting and fast bowling. They were also taught the skills to build batting prowess

and running drills, bearing in mind the pace at which the game is played nowadays. We thank our former student, Mr. Pankaj Bujarborua an ex-Assam Ranji player, Mr Rajkumar Mrityunjoy Gohain for making this session possible for the budding cricketers at The Assam Valley School.



LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

The Leadership Workshop for the Prefectorial Body 2025-26 was a transformative and enriching experience, packed with insightful sessions and interactive activities aimed at nurturing future leaders. The session commenced with Mr. Mosses and Mr. Huidrom, who introduced the program with its focus on team-building within the Prefectorial Body. Their approach was highly interactive, fostering student engagement and

stimulating discussions. Throughout the workshop, case studies, pictorial descriptions, and real-life leadership scenarios were discussed, making the content relatable and engaging. The first session was followed by a refreshing break with light refreshments, allowing participants to network and exchange ideas informally. The highlight of the workshop was the involvement of distinguished Guest Speakers from the 4 Corps

and the 77 Mountain Division: Lt. Col. Mayank known for his remarkable achievements as an international skydiver, Lt. Col. Mayank shared thrilling experiences and videos of over 400 dives across the USA, Turkey, and Malaysia. His stories inspired and captivated the attendees, and spoke of the essence of courage and adventure.

Major Rakesh and Captain Amandeep: These officers delved into various leadership styles, illustrated with practical examples from their experiences in the Army. They emphasized traits like self-discipline, commitment, bravery, and respect. Their discussions on core values in the Army provided valuable insights applicable to any organization, stressing the importance of adapting these values to everyday life.

The day's sessions, came to end with required meticulous planning and collaboration to achieve common goals.



CDT AND ART WORKSHOP

On March 8th, 2025, Ms Samiksha Chopra from SCAD, Atlanta, took a workshop for Art and CDT students and shared updates about available courses. She also shared scholarship opportunities and informed us about available summer internship programmes.



CONGRATULATIONS!

We are thrilled to announce that Alphonsa Elishaba Pakyntein of Class 12 at The Assam Valley School has successfully completed a one-month Social Media Marketing Internship with Blunt, in collaboration with YouVah! Throughout her internship, Alphonsa exhibited outstanding dedication, commitment, and proficiency in her tasks, while actively contributing to several exciting projects. Her passion and skills truly shone through, making this an incredible learning experience!



SCIENCE FESTIVAL

On National Science Day, February 28, Tezpur University organized its Science Festival, 2025. 'Curiosity: To decode the wonders of reality through science' was the theme of this fest where several students from The Assam Valley School participated. Garv Agarwal of Class 9 secured 2nd position in Chess-E-Mathic, an event that exhibited his power of scientific thinking and innovation. Shabhat Ansari of class 10 secured 2nd position in Envirovate debates at this exhibition-cum-festival.



WOMEN'S DAY

The Assam Valley School, under the leadership of Dr. Dimple Baruah, Dr. Hemashree Deka and Mrs. Debjani Sarma Bora, celebrated with great gusto, the International Women's Day on the 8th of March, 2025. The trio, who have spearheaded the event for a decade, organized a special lunch and felicitation ceremony for the support staff,

recognizing their invaluable role in the school's daily operations. The evening featured entertainment, games, and celebrations for female teachers and spouses, set against a beautifully decorated backdrop. While this day highlights gratitude for the women of the school, their contributions remain cherished and celebrated year-round.



Photographs by Dr. Dimple Baruah

Ripple #245

-Rianna Irom, X

“They say it’s a Hound that’s
killing,”
Says the Man as he takes out a
bag and a bowl.
“They say it’s there, starin’ at
the windows,
Waitin’ for its next meal.”
His dog drools in silence and
waits
For the carcass of the
neighbour—
“You are patient even when
you’re hungry.”

Tongue Of Slip!!

1. “My bag is a open.”- Donnel Mayanglambam, XII (With your level of English, it’s probably empty too.)
2. “I sent you in the internet.”- SPS (Well, you just killed the internet.)
3. “Why are you onning the fan?”- Khumreingam D. Ramungao, XII (Why are you offing your brain?)
4. “My legs are giving me cramps.” - Marvel Hulang Anal (Your language is giving us cramps too.)
5. “He teached me.” - Khichu Kath, XII (Clearly not English.)”



Keep It Reel!

Howzat?

-Mr. Rajender Chauhan



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