

THE ORTUS

TIMELESS • VOLUME 2 ISSUE 4



THE ORTUS

JULY 2022
VOLUME 2, ISSUE 4

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The Ortus newsletter is a quarterly publication of Suncity School International Academia. We publish a variety of original works that range from articles to reviews. The Ortus hopes to help students engage in well thought out dialogue and provoke critical thinking. All works of writing are freely chosen, written and edited by the students of International Academia. If you wish to submit a piece of work, which you feel fits the ethos of the Ortus, please contact the Ortus Editors.

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THE ORTUS



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FROM THE

EDITOR'S DESK

Change is oftentimes inevitable, but throughout most of history, despite change there is almost always a group of rare items that remain timeless. Timelessness does not mean that they exist forever, or attain a similar popularity throughout all its existence, it means that it remains relevant by some metric of society. Relevance is the keyword when it comes to determining whether an item is timeless, not its popularity.

This relevance is what is interesting because it seems almost impossible to imagine that literature or any other work of art can encapsulate relevant thoughts and ideas for a long period of time. Yet despite such a challenge, many works attain the title of being timeless by encapsulating issues, problems or ideas that are still relevant and have been relevant for a long time in one avatar or the other. It speaks to a universality in some issues faced by humans, issues that have and will continue to dominate discourse regardless of time period. After understanding this, one might ask, is change really inevitable if topics like these exist?

That is a completely different conversation in itself, however one thing that is surely changing, is the newsletter.

Each volume of the newsletter has four separate issues with this being the final issue in the second volume. The second volume surely had its ups and downs, but we would like to believe that we did great work and redefined *The Ortus* to our personal standards.

It was an extremely exciting experience for all of us as we learnt various concepts and ideas we had no understanding of before. Designing it itself was a thrill, which allowed our creativity to unleash itself. The repeated back and forth brainstorming of covers, the hundreds of drafts till we find the perfect one, was a challenging experience but a welcome one. The multiple redrafts, while stressful would surely help us in the future.

We learnt a lot along the way and are grateful for everyone that gave us the opportunity to do the same. We hope that our juniors share our experiences and produce a newsletter that surpasses our rendition of it.



(Vedaant Yadav)

Chief Editor, The Ortus



THE BULLETIN

THE **INS** AND **OUTS** OF INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIA

By **AARNAV DIXIT**

IA CAS Trip

The IA curriculum took us to Dhauj Camp Wild set in the Aravali Valley for a Creativity, Activity and Service trip. They participated in various activities and social services. During this 2-day and 1-night trip, all students participated in bonding games, trekking and many other such activities. As part of the trek, they cleaned up several areas of the mountain while scaling upwards and down to keep the environment neat, preventing pollution. IA came closer together as a team of learners.



DP23 TOK Exhibition

IBDP Batch of 2023, as part of their Theory of Knowledge curriculum, organized an exhibition portraying several objects in connection to a prompt. This prompt questioned their given reason for choosing an object and what it represents in connection to the real world and knowledge as a whole. This exhibition was presented in front of the entire IA curriculum, students and teachers, including the Director. It was a raving success with a plethora of questions arising from the audience.





'I AM TWENTY'

DISCUSSING **PROGRESS AND CHANGE** 75 YEARS AFTER **INDEPENDENCE**.

By VEDAANT YADAV

Sometimes as one traverses through the 'series of tubes' we lovingly call the internet, we find something interesting. Something unique, a piece of content that you simply cannot stop thinking about and more than once catch yourself watching again and again at 2 AM on a Sunday morning. For me, this was a remaster of an Indian Films Division documentary from 1967 with the quaint title 'I am 20'.

Directed by S.N.S. Sastry, this is likely one of the few works made by a propaganda-dominated Films Division that still manages to appeal to a crowd that doesn't consist of arthouse fanatics and people doing degrees in film studies. The movie follows Sastry as he interviews 20-year-olds who were born on August 15th, 1947 all across India from every possible background and asks them a series of simple questions. What they think of the country, how the country has treated them and their ambitions and ideas for the future. Already a phenomenal premise, but nothing could prepare me for the video itself.

After watching the video, the first thing I did was to watch it again. I felt like I was watching modern discourse, things my friends say, things that people say on Twitter, coming out in a more articulate British-Indian accent so common in the first 40 years of our country. I simply could not believe how interviews conducted in 1967 could be so relevant to my country today. It brought upon a wave of scepticism, if they talk about India the same way as I do now, does that mean we are stuck in an endless loop of collective optimism? I'm sure a lot has changed, but if so much is still similar, what does it say about our modern post-colonial society? In another 60 years, will someone stumble upon the same video I did, and have similar thoughts?

One of the first interviewees, a young lady, begins with a rather potent statement "I think of India when I see the long queues, people waiting patiently for buses, ration. I think of India when I see people hanging from their local trains." One can very well argue that this is still very much the case. If this idea of India has not changed since 1967, who are we to say that it will ever change? Certainly, the quality of life is higher, extreme poverty is eradicated, and urban and rural electrification are no longer goals that seem ridiculous. Technology has changed too, in the documentary, an air force officer stands proud in front of his Marut, an iconic Indian-made fighter, his aspirations are daring, to become a test pilot and fly the fastest and newest aircraft. What would he think of the

other Indian-made fighter, the Tejas, that flew at almost twice the speed of the Marut? The people in the video couldn't even have thought it possible to start their own company in India, much less innovate, but for my generation, it is a privilege taken for granted. But then why does the idea of India, as explained by the young lady, somehow remain the same?



The Air Force pilot standing in front of his HAL Marut

The answer to my question is presented to me in the form of a quip by an arrogant but erudite young man studying at IIT, "Progress, of course, we have made progress, but after all a child would grow even if it doesn't have sufficient nutrition." According to a follow-up video by the same channel that uploaded the remaster, India in Pixels, this young man was Victor Menezes. In the documentary, he goes on to describe his aspirations to join the IAS, to be a simple "cog in the machine", and for some odd reason, to marry his boss's daughter. None of this came true. After graduating from IIT Bombay with a degree in electrical engineering, he did an MBA from MIT and became the CFO of Citibank. He retired and

became the chairman of the AIF and sits on the boards of MIT, Citicorp India and IIT Bombay. And no, he did not marry his boss's daughter, but instead a Miss India. There is no doubt that he was a highly capable and talented man, but one can't help but wonder, would he have done better work being a cog in the machine. Could he have been the one to progress faster, to change the idea of India? This question can be asked of the millions that leave this country every year, often some of our most talented. Is the idea also remaining constant, because of this destructive loop?



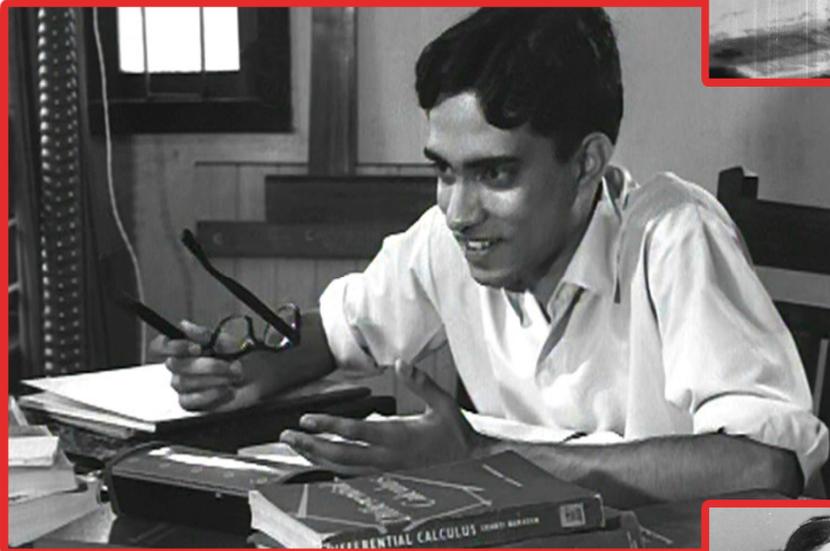
Victor Menezes giving his interview in the halls of IIT Bombay

This striking question burns hotter with the next interviewee, by far my favourite. One could say that this is the primary interviewee in this documentary, he is given the most screen time and the exclusive honour of introducing himself, T.N Subramaniam. With a subtle smile, large glasses, impeccable English and boundless conviction, he talks about his optimistic idea of India. I could not help but relate to the man in every aspect, except for his undying love of Mathematics. He says something extremely interesting, "I

would say our achievement is that we have a hopeful tomorrow, but our failure is that we have a precarious today." We still hear this phrase, although framed far less eloquently, in fact, you have probably heard this reasoning in the past week. If Subramaniam and Victor's collective generation missed this hopeful tomorrow and remained in the "precarious today". Will the wider population of my generation never reach tomorrow as well? Subramaniam continued "but if a country can industrialise itself so well in 15 years, I'm sure we can fix agriculture in the next 15." How can any member of my generation think that we can fix agriculture if a person from 1967 thought it would be fixed in the next 15 years. Is my optimism in my country so severely misplaced? The answer is evident, why not see what Subramaniam did. The documentary ends with Subramaniam leaving us on a high note "Let me put it this way, if all the people in this country who didn't fancy their prospects were allowed to quit, I think I'll stay because it's a huge experiment and I'd like to be a part of it."

If you ask any classmate of mine, they will tell you that I have echoed similar sentiments. The documentary portrays Subramaniam as the ultimate patriot, the outline of a man who can change his country and is deeply devoted to it. In reality, he went and became a Professor of mathematics at Oakland University in Michigan and then joined a company that makes software to help with car loans in America.

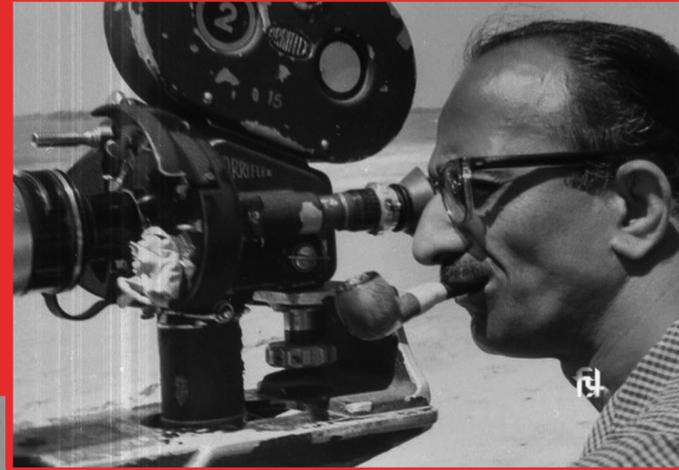
A reporter with the Economist, by the name of Samanth Subramanian, felt very similar to what I felt when I first learnt of this. He finally tracked down his namesake only to discover that he suffered a stroke, and was not fit to talk to the reporter. Samnath called week after week only to meet a similar response, ultimately giving up. Was it out of regret for a lost life or shame over abandoning the country?



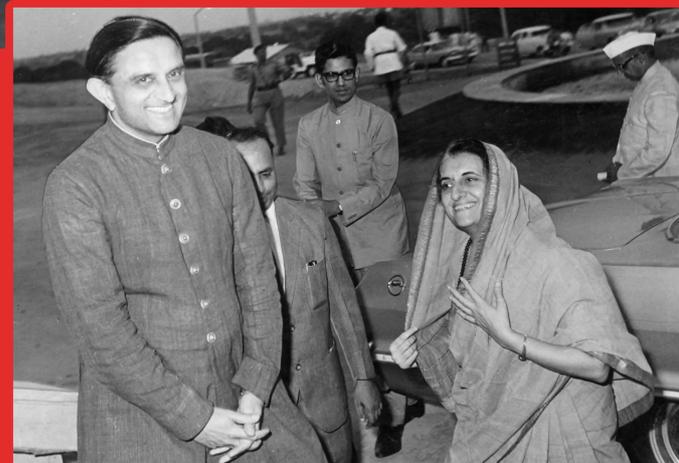
T.N Subramaniam in the library talking to Sastry

I doubt we will ever find out what led to Subramaniam losing his optimism and abandoning the huge experiment he never became a part of. I could not help but wonder if a similar fate awaited me as well.

The original documentary and remaster can be found on YouTube. The original is under the title "I am 20" and was uploaded by the Films Division, and the remaster is under the title "Indians from 1967 talk about the future" and was uploaded by "India In Pixels." They are very much worth the watch.



Director S.N.S Sastry taping a short film



Former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi meeting Dr. Vikram Sarabhai at the Experiment Satellite Communication Earth Station at Abemdhabad in 1967.

This station would help broadcast the first TV program in India the same year, Krisbhi Darshan. The program is broadcasted to this day, along with millions of others to millions of homes in India, a feat deemed impossible in 1967.



IS ANYTHING ACTUALLY TIMELESS?

IF CHANGE IS INEVITABLE, IS ANYTHING REALLY TIMELESS?

By ARNAV ARORA

"No man ever steps in the same river twice, for it's not the same river and he's not the same man." "The only thing constant in life is change." These are famous words by Greek philosopher Heraclitus, and they seemingly counter the theme of this issue. In fact, according to numerous philosophers, change is inevitable. The question is, do these claims really hold up? Is anything actually timeless, or is everything bound to change or be replaced at one point or another?

Just twenty years ago, there were 1.7 billion people less. Televisions were a luxury. We had to physically walk out of our homes to talk to other people. We didn't get updates from our Prime Minister via Twitter. We didn't have information at our fingertips. We didn't have the internet. It is undeniable that our world is ever-evolving, whether it be for the better or worse. Cultures change, people change, and the objects around us change as well. Try to imagine your life ten years ago. Things are most probably extremely different today. Now, try to imagine your life ten years later... according to the trends humanity has observed in the past, your life will likely be radically different. In fact, many people have theorized that change is accelerating. Essentially, the rate the world is changing at is increasing each year.



According to Gordon Moore, the co-founder of Intel, the number of transistors in a dense integrated circuit doubles every two years. He presented this “law” to the world in 1975, and it is known as Moore’s law today. While this goes to show how the speeds of our computers are increasing at an unfathomable rate, the law can also be applied to other aspects of our world.

The amount of data in the world, economic growth and social change are among the few things that are also closely related to Moore’s law. It is fascinating that even after almost 50 years, Moore’s law is applicable and the rate of change is continuing to increase.

The evolution of technology has been the catalyst for a significant amount of change we all experience. The fundamentals of working, studying, communication and entertainment are all different. Our parents led a life we can’t even imagine living, mostly thanks to the technology we have today at our disposal. A recent example of how technology is a major reason for the world’s evolution is the COVID-19 lockdown. In the last three years, we have gone through a greater and more impactful shift from in-person activities to activities over the internet compared to the shift prior to the pandemic. Even after the seeming cooldown of COVID-19, things have not completely gone back to the way they were, and they most probably never will. Humanity has accepted the change in lifestyle to a large extent, and people like to conduct more interactions online.

While technology is constantly evolving, what about the things that we like to call “timeless”? Surely things such as Shakespearean drama, Michael Jackson’s music or your favorite foods aren’t going to become irrelevant in some time? While the complete disappearance of some of the most popular things in the world isn’t likely, we can be assured that there will eventually be a decrease in relevance, or an alteration in the object itself. Take pizza, for example. Invented by the Italians, the pizza has been a go-to dish for the entire world for quite a while now. While the pizza is still relevant, since its inception, there have been multiple variations: to the crust, to the sauces, to the style of cooking and to the toppings, among other things. It has even taken different shapes: calzones and pockets come to mind. While pizza is probably here to stay, it has undergone developments that resonate with the varying preferences, culture, norms and habits of the people.

Regardless of what you believe about change, it is important to realize that Heraclitus had a motive for the quote. He wanted to teach people to embrace and cope with change. We all know that change also introduces challenges and difficulties, and we often find ourselves wanting to go back to how things were. However, it is best that we accept this change and live alongside it instead of against. Whether certain things remain timeless or not, we can be assured that most of the world will constantly evolve, and we need to be mentally and physically prepared for it.

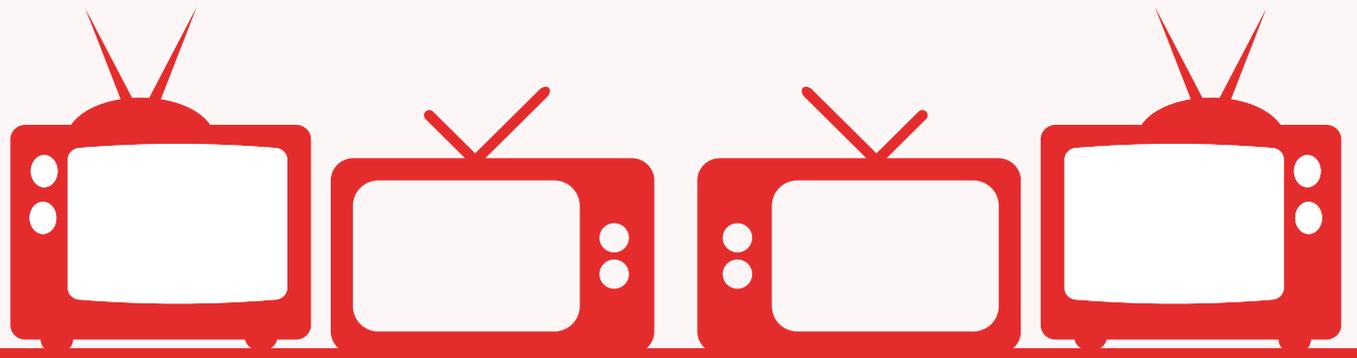


SHOWS THAT WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN

TIMELESSNESS IN TELEVISION

By SWARAJ TOLANI

Television and shows have been a part of human history for as long as one can remember. And as technology has evolved in recent years, the consumption of television shows has slowly transitioned from cable television to streaming platforms such as Netflix and Amazon Prime Video. As times have changed, the creative process of making such shows has also changed. In the 90s, people had a different definition of what was entertaining and that definition is quite different from what the current generation deems entertaining. This is a result of changes in trends, social norms, and increased globalisation. A good example of this is the show “F.R.I.E.N.D.S”. Although it has been termed a hit show of its time, it is heavily criticised by today’s generation due to its crass and aged jokes. Such a show cannot be classified as timeless. However, some shows truly are timeless and have withstood the test of time. In this article, we explore why.



The first show, “Breaking Bad” is one of the most acclaimed shows of the 21st century. With an extremely high rating of 9.5/10 on IMDB, it is the highest-rated show or any piece of visual media produced. The show is about an overqualified high school teacher named “Walter White” who gets diagnosed with cancer and starts producing drugs with the help of a dropout student he had named “Jesse Pinkman.”

Throughout the show, Walter loses touch with his humanity and becomes apathetic. So much so that despite being a man “doing this for his family”, he ends up poisoning a child for his own personal gain. His psyche and struggles with disease and failure will be forever analysed due to the variety of interpretations that surround it and is, therefore, one of the reasons why the show is timeless. Along with Walter’s character, Jesse Pinkman’s character is also one that remains relatable across generations. Jesse Pinkman is a high school dropout who fell into a life of both; drug consumption and production.

This battle against drug consumption, addiction and distribution has, and will always be prevalent in human society in some way or the other. This is why I feel the show Breaking bad will forever be timeless, the actions committed by its characters will always be deemed as evil in some regard and the depth of the characters to be forever analysed and interpreted in a multitude of ways. Contrary to popular opinion, Breaking Bad isn’t really about paying for cancer

treatment or selling meth. It has a deeper meaning. It’s about confronting mortality, being brought down by pride and a sense of entitlement, and the idea that each person’s actions affect their neighbours in a myriad of ways. People will always be able to relate to these topics, even if healthcare becomes free worldwide and meth is legalised.

The next show is called “The Sopranos.” It surrounds the life of Tony Soprano and the mafia family he runs in New Jersey and has been acclaimed for its depiction of male psychology. In the earlier seasons of the show, Tony Soprano struggles with issues due to being raised by an insensitive mother within a patriarchal environment. Consequently, he invalidates his own problems and develops depression due to his upbringing. As the show progresses, the viewers realise his mother is the root and the cause of his depression and this effect of patriarchy and a troubled childhood can be recognised in any era of the future, past, and even present. Additionally, due to the extreme prominence of patriarchal themes throughout the show, the women who are oppressed do not realise they are being oppressed. The manipulation and exploitation of women in the show depict an older society and as time changes, these depictions allow watchers to reflect upon it.

The concepts, plots and themes in each of these shows are highlighted in such a way it can be used for learning about the mistakes humans committed in history.



SHELL SHOCK'S DAMAGE

A SLIGHT CHANGE FROM THE PAST

By AARNAV DIXIT

Shell shock is certainly an intimidating term. With the influence of soft language, however, it is now known as PTSD, a stress disorder caused by past trauma. PTSD is famously understood by a large number of people as stress caused by the remembrance of a deeply disturbing experience. Reality isn't so far away from this perception. Shell-shock was a term coined in 1915 by British soldiers. It was spread by Charles Myers as a status to dysfunctional soldiers who involuntarily were shivering, crying, fearful, and had constant intrusions of memory. Just like Shell-shock and PTSD, many other mental diseases constantly evolve with time. They continue to change in diagnosis, symptoms and names. Origin, however, always starts from one point in time.

Shell-shock reveals a lot more than it seems on the surface. The naming itself gives rise to a serious issue, an equally serious and intimidating name. Over the years, PTSD, due to perhaps stigmatisation or atrocious perception, has often been reduced to something you can shrug off. It is appropriate to say that human influence over time has shifted our understanding of how important certain things are at that moment in time. Ever since humans went to war, every person, primarily males,



suffered physical and psychological wounds. Physical wounds were of the foremost concern. Observable damages took priority. Psychological wounds became only of understanding, a scar that can't be seen yet only observed.

Years ago, psychological issues were associated with hysterical women, especially shell shock. It was thought to be a physical brain injury, but eventually became a sign of weakness, a fatal flaw in a battalion that could cause the side to lose. This disorder was seen as a cost to the British army. The concern was the cost of labour and treatment, not the security and well-being of the soldiers. Pressure crumpled soldiers, none wanted to retire from the battle and lose any position they could garner for themselves. Charles Myers hypothesised that these symptoms stemmed from repetitive exposure to concussive blasts causing brain injury. The very shockwave of those shells firing caused this consistent and strange behaviour, hence the naming, shell-shock. Charles Myer initially assisted the British with the treatment of this pressing matter, however, he defected to the French after he reapplied to help in the British army but was denied a position.

Myer's seemingly brilliant idea earned him his reward, his earnest desire to study shell-shock. Along with another psychologist with a medical background, William McDougall, Myers argued that shell shock could be cured through cognitive and effective reintegration.

Simply said, Myers believed that soldiers suppressed or cut off their traumatic events. Their shivering, crying plus all the other symptoms was the unconscious mind's way of disassociating with that event. The only way to cure it was to incite or revive that fallen memory to cure the soldier of their shell shock. Myers came down to three essentials in treatment: "promptness of action, suitable environment and psychotherapeutic measures," though these measures were marked right up to encouragement. The French army took his advice, providing him a clinic where he would treat patients. Unfortunately, Myers was criticised for his work. Many claimed that shell-shock was simply cowardice or malingering.

Demoralised, Myers left his post, attempting to defect back to the United Kingdom. The War Office in London had an emergency conference regarding shell shock. Myers had convinced them of his treatment practices, getting the United kingdom to set up multiple courses in its treatment. After the war, Myers left his post at Cambridge to set up the National Institute of Industrial Psychology to facilitate the application of psychological research in the workplace. In 1922, the War office created a committee dedicated to shell shock but Myers refused to give evidence. Only in 1940 did he write detailed accounts about shell shock and its treatment. They were only well received by the Royal Medical Corps of the British army because of the many criticisms that were

received as unpatriotic. In truth, they revealed the inability of a hierarchical organisation struggling to understand a severe mental disorder.

Myer's principles of psychiatry later came into practice en masse. His proper treatment was widely adopted by the U.S. and U.K. armies during World War II, and they continue to be practised in some parts of the world like by Western armed forces today in Afghanistan and Iraq. The struggle and life's efforts that Myer's put into his work certainly lingered in our world for years to come. The very perception of mental disorders has changed today, it's being seen from a compassionate point of view instead of a financial one. Myers created a wave in the field of trauma, and the very effect is seen today. Though shell shock has dwindled in seriousness by the influence of soft language, the gravity of the issue has remained for a long period, perhaps even grown. Many other such mental issues have evolved with time, but have remained at their very core, the same.

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ICONIC MOMENTS IN SPORTS

EXPLORING UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS IN THE HISTORY OF SPORTS

By HARMAN KHURANA

The claim that art and literature from the 1900s is timeless is often heard. What is essentially said is that it's just as great now as it was back then. The same applies to sports, the earliest evidence of which was found in the Lascaux caves in France showing ancient humans wrestling as far back as 15,300 years ago.

Sports are too, like many other things, timeless in nature. This is because they are still played with the same passion, happiness, and excitement. Throughout the generations of sports, there have occurred moments to be forever remembered by everyone. This article will discuss some iconic moments from various sports.

Kawhi Leonard's bouncing buzzer-beater

With the match score at 90-90, 3 seconds on the clock and all expectations for an overtime showdown, Kawhi Leonard, the star player for the Toronto Raptors, dribbled to the corner and attempted a fadeaway shot almost completely contested by Philadelphia 76ers star

player Joel Embiid. The Toronto fans watched in anxious anticipation as the ball bounced 4 times on the rim before falling into the basket. This unanticipated shot ultimately led the raptors to their first ever NBA title and the image of Kawhi crouching right after taking the shot became timeless in the hearts of the people of Toronto and also won the photographer Mark Blinch an award as well.



Didier Drogba's crucial last minute header

In the 2012 Champions League final, Chelsea faced Bayern Munich, and all bets were on Bayern. Chelsea had no champions league titles, and having lost their last final in 2008, were considered the underdogs in that match. The whole match was jam packed with action but the best part started in the last quarter of the 90 minutes. In the 83rd minute, Thomas Müller gave Bayern Munich the lead by scoring a header over Petr Čech, the Chelsea keeper, making the score 1-0. Tension built up between the players and fans alike, making Chelsea go all-out attack with a glimmer of hope that they might score. In the 89th minute Chelsea was provided with a corner

kick which was taken by Juan Mata. It was executed perfectly and the ball dropped right



in front of Didier Drogba's head who scored a last minute equalizer, leading the match to extra time that lasted 30 more minutes. The extra time did not lead to any result, so it was succeeded by penalties. Unsurprisingly, the winning penalty was scored by Didier Drogba, undoubtedly the biggest big game player. The goal provided Chelsea with its first and biggest success of all time, the champions league trophy.

Yuvraj Singh's Six 6s in an over

On September 19, 2007, India faced England in a group stage match of the first ever T20 World cup hosted by South Africa. The Indian all-rounder Yuvraj Singh walked in to bat after Chris Tremlett dismissed Robin Uthappa. Yuvraj Singh entered into an altercation with England all-rounder Andrew Flintoff which apparently enraged Yuvraj so much that in the next over (bowled by Stuart Broad), Yuvraj hit six 6s in a row which led him to the achievement of the fastest half-century in just 12 balls and also secured the win for India over England.

Ronaldo's return to Manchester United

Cristiano Ronaldo joined Manchester United as an 18-year-old boy in 2003 and left for Real Madrid as a young man at the age of 24 in 2009, where he built his own legacy, becoming one of the best football players of our generation, winning 5 champions league titles, becoming real Madrid's all-time top scorer with 451 goals and securing many more accolades along the way. Even after his uncountable achievements, Cristiano wanted to challenge himself, so he transferred to Italian side Juventus where he faced a rough patch even whilst winning the top goal scorer award in his last season.

An unexpected transfer appeared during the transfer window of 2021 which led to all the childhood fans of my generation being shocked as Ronaldo took a surprising turn of events and returned back to Manchester United. Not only did this transfer have an emotional motive, it also had a strategic one. As he himself is a brand (popularly known as CR7), he brings a large fan following wherever he goes with him. As soon as Ronaldo was announced as a Manchester United player, people started ordering jerseys with his name on the back online and started forming queues outside retailers. Between him joining on 27th August and 10th September, Manchester United's shirt sales hit a ridiculous 187 million Euros in revenue which helped them and Ronaldo grow together and build a bond that will remain forever.

Mike Tyson's revenge for Muhammed Ali

Mike Tyson makes it no secret that he looked up to Muhammed Ali growing up in New York. So, when 14-year-old Tyson watched his hero be beaten in his second to final battle, he became so upset that he vowed to take revenge on the man who had beaten his idol. The amazing thing about this whole story is that he was able to stay true to his words, with Ali present during the event to see it in front of his eyes. After seeing Ali lose Tyson explained "I was offended by how bad he beat up Ali. When we drove home to Catskill, nobody in the car said a word, we were all so upset.



The next morning, Cus was on the phone with Muhammad Ali after taking this shellacking from Holmes. He said to Ali, "I have this young black kid who is going to be a heavyweight champion someday and I want you to talk to him." So Tyson got on the phone and made his hero, Ali, a promise "When I grow up, I'll fight Holmes and I'll get him back for you." Mike not only won but won by a knockout punch getting revenge for his idol which will be remembered by everyone.



REVIEW: TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

WHY I THINK IT IS A TIMELESS PIECE

By LINI DHINGRA

You would probably be familiar with the book, “To Kill a Mockingbird”, unless you have been living under a rock. It has been crucial for me to include it in most conversations. I was always reminded of this book because of how “iconic” it is, a must-read in fact. I can agree with what many people claimed having read it later myself. As one of my beloved books, and of many others, I believe that “To kill a mockingbird” is a book that will remain popular for generations to come.

Scout Finch, originally known as Jean Louise Finch, lives with her older brother, Jem and widowed father, Atticus Finch. The family lives in the town of Maycomb, Alabama. The kids describe the town as “old, tired and suffocating.” Atticus was a respected person in this grey town. He was influential until he decided to defend ‘Tom Robinson’- A black man who was accused of sexually assaulting a white girl in court. The story revolves around this trial and talks about how Maycomb, as a community, changed before and after this trial.

From social inequality to Prejudice, “To Kill A Mockingbird” explores a number of themes, each making the book more enticing and relevant. I don’t only like to explore themes of law and justice but also how Scout experiences issues with stereotypical gender roles. There have been



multiple times where Scout has been told to “dress more like a lady” and where she has responded negatively. She feels so repelled by the idea of being a woman in Maycomb that she calls herself Scout instead of Jean Louise (her birth name). However, through the course of “*To Kill a Mockingbird*” and “*Go Set a Watchman*” (the sequel), we see Scout mature into a woman, not necessarily by the way she dresses but by the way she acts. She comes to realise that race, gender or image does not form the person that is inside. This shows us how she matures through her heart and shows us how the Tom Robinson trial impacts Maycomb and the Finch children.

“*To Kill a Mockingbird*” portrays evil in an antithetical manner as neither always good nor always bad in the 1960s. Evil is always seen as a compilation of both. Scout learns that justice is a privilege, not a right. We learn about the different hierarchical systems present in Maycomb and how respected the Finch were before the trial, we learn about how many issues the kids and Atticus faced by moving forward and defending a black man. We learn about how Scout still had hope in humans and how they could change and how her brother thought differently. We get to explore the kind of hatred Jem bottled up on a day-to-day basis. We learn about Atticus’s opinion about law and justice, and how he believes the legal system is flawed but continues to believe in the legal procedures. We see Scout learn about how there is not one good or one evil and how Maycomb is made of a mixture of both. We learn about

flawed perception, not only racially with Tom Robinson but with Boo Radley (the Finch’s neighbour). We notice how Scout is privileged, and educated but learns to be considerate and grows into a young woman. Atticus explains to us that mockingbirds are innocent, their only purpose is to sing songs for us, that they are innocent creatures and it is a sin to kill an innocent creature. So why is this book so impactful? Why has the book inspired so many people across the world?

If you believe you are similar to Boo, you’re identifying that autistic people are “scary”, and “out of place”. If you identify as Tom or if you have an African American background or even experienced racism yourself, you’re identifying the idea of being less than everyone. If you are Scout or Atticus, you are learning about how it is to grow and how different issues are for everyone regardless of what race, sex, gender, or sexuality you connect with. This book is relatable, regardless of where you come from and what you go through, you will be able to relate to a character in this book, it’s not only relatable to young adults but it is still relevant to this day and age, many young kids going through puberty feel like Boo Radley, realising how wild the real world can be at a young age like Jem. Fight for what’s right regardless of what your family and a large amount of the public think like Atticus. “*To Kill a Mockingbird*” is a wonderfully intertwined story of development, recognition and relevant issues.



REVIEW: SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION

WHAT MAKES A MOVIE TRULY ICONIC

By **ESH GUPTA**

When you think of movies that are set in prison, the one movie that would come to your mind is “The Shawshank Redemption”. This movie is all about the ferocity of hope and the benevolence it brings. Some state that excessive hope can destroy a person but the method through which the story unravels including the strong cast makes this movie memorable for a large number of people, millions around the world. Another major theme that this movie portrays is the power of friendship.

This movie tells us a story of a banker, Andy Dufresne (Tim Robbins) who is sentenced to two consecutive life terms in the Shawshank State Penitentiary for the brutal murders of his wife and her lover. However, only Andy knew that he was wrongfully convicted, and he hadn’t committed the crimes. During his time in the prison, Andy forms a friendship with another inmate, Ellis “Red” Redding (Morgan Freeman), a prison contraband smuggler who was also serving a life sentence. Red procures a rock hammer for Andy, an instrument he claims is necessary for his hobby of rock collecting and sculpting. Red believed Andy intended to use the rock hammer to engineer his escape from the prison in the future but puts the thought aside eventually. Although other inmates thought Andy to be “a really cold fish”, Red saw something in Andy. While their stay at Shawshank, Andy was bullied by many other inmates, but he used his wits to survive and finally escaped the prison. Throughout Andy’s stay at the Shawshank State Penitentiary, Red has been shown as a man with perseverance and being a



genuine friend to Andy. He helped Andy through all of it including his escape from the prison with the risk of being caught. At the end, Red, too finally gets out of prison after serving 40 years in the State Penitentiary.

Is the movie only about hope and friendship? Does it not portray any other theme? Well, “The Shawshank Redemption” is not only about hope and the power of friendship, but it also portrays the pain and suffering of all the inmates. Especially for Andy, someone who was wrongfully convicted for crimes he never committed. Inmates like Andy were bullied and harassed by other inmates who had more acquaintances and authority over others. I mean, let’s face it. Any story that would be set in a prison would inevitably explore the suffering inside the prison in some way or another. In “Rita Hayworth and the Shawshank Redemption”, the Stephen King novella from which the movie was inspired has too shown a lot of brutality in prison. It shows the guards harassing other prisoners like rapists and thieves and even guys like Elwood Blatch, a prisoner who couldn’t even see. Also trying to mess up Andy’s life. The movie also stresses on mental and emotional suffering too. The kind of suffering you don’t see, but it still leaves a mark on you. Apart from all the negativity, the movie also reflects on themes like freedom, time, and patience. Andy could have escaped the penitentiary way sooner than he actually did. But, due to him being patient and being calm despite of all the torture he underwent, he waited for the right opportunity to use the rock hammer to dig a hole in his cell wall and use the Rita Hayworth poster he asked for before.

The movie also explores the themes like loyalty and justice. Although every inmate thought of Red to be a cold fish, he turned out to be a really loyal and genuine friend to Andy and finally helped him to escape the State Penitentiary. All these themes collectively make this movie a movie to be cherished for many more years making it an iconic piece of work.

So, what makes this movie so relatable to millions of people? And how has this movie made a major impact in so many people’s hearts? “The Shawshank Redemption” hit US cinemas 28 years ago and still remains an all-time favourite. It has held first place on IMDb’s Top 250 for more than the past decade, even beating “The Godfather”. So, what exactly makes this movie so beloved? One thing that makes “The Shawshank Redemption” even be loved till this day is the emotions it delivered to all it’s viewers. The movie really does a good job in making you feel the feelings and the emotions the characters are going through, and that is one of the most prominent factors leading the movie to be a timeless classic. Some fans even say that “The Shawshank Redemption” changed their lives. The analogy of the movie, which is as rainy as it seems, the sun will eventually break through. One more thing that kept fans left with long after credits was the last scene in “The Shawshank Redemption”, which is the scene where Andy is shown topless in the pouring rain, arms outspread in victory. Although, for others, the favourite scene is the final image of the movie during the credits when Andy and Red are reunited by the sea, hugging.

RECIPE

By Aarnav Dixit

French toast is one of the most popular dishes around the world that can be served as breakfast and dessert.

Ingredients- 2 large eggs (4 small), 1/3 cup milk, 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract, 4 slices of bread (preferably white), 1/4 tbsp sugar, 2 tablespoons of butter, pinch of salt. *Optional ingredients-* 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract, 1/2 teaspoon of ground cinnamon, 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg

Instructions:

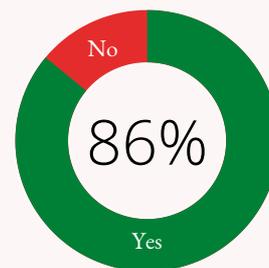
1. First, in a shallow bowl, whisk together your eggs, milk, sugar and salt. Add your optional ingredients here, vanilla, cinnamon or nutmeg. Make sure the egg is fully mixed.
2. In a medium or large sized pan, add a tablespoon of butter to the cold pan. Turn on the flame keeping it at medium low.
3. Take 1 slice of bread, dip it in the mixture, flipping it once. Keep it in the mixture for just a few seconds. If you keep it in there too long, the bread breaks apart.
4. Take the soaked bread and put it on the pan. Do the previous step with another slice and put it on the same pan. Essentially, you'll have 2 pieces cooking simultaneously.
5. After the bottom of the bread starts to brown, flip it over and turn the heat up to high.
6. Remove the 2 pieces onto a new plate. Clean the pan carefully with a paper towel to remove the excess butter. Repeat from step 2 for the other 2 slices.
7. After cooking the 2 remaining slices, plate all the slices up by stacking them on top of each other and serve! You can add any toppings you like, honey, syrup or even a fruit compote.



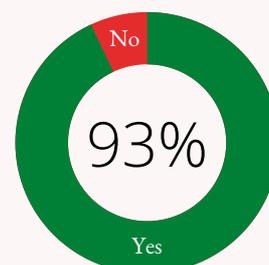
POLLS

We asked our readers some interesting questions. Here is how they responded:

Do you think certain things will never go out of fashion?



Do you think you will hold on to something you own 20 years from now?



Quiz

Starry Nights is a painting that is considered to be a timeless work of art by many. Who is the creator of this painting?

- a) Leonardo Di Vinci
- b) Claude Monet
- c) Vincent Van Gogh
- d) Salvador Dali
- e) Joe Ligma
- f) Grant Wood

Crime and Punishment is considered by many to be a timeless work of literature and to be relevant to this day. Who is the author responsible for writing this novel?

- a) Fyodor Dostoevsky
- b) Boris Yeltsin
- c) Leo Tolstoy
- d) Micheal Gorbachev
- e) M.K. Stalin
- f) Nikita Khrushchev



घरेलू - हिंसा

By Niharika Chauhan

उसकी चीखे गूँजती थी दीवारों पार
उसके घाव से बहा रक्त चारों किनार।
आवाक थी वो लेकिन उसकी आँखें बहुत कुछ कह
गयी
हल्की मुस्कान से अपनी पीड़ा ठुकराकर, यह
कुरूपता सह गयी।

क्या स्वीकार करने की प्रवृत्ति लड़कियों को हमेशा
घुट्टी में पिलाई जाएगी ?
'मौन होना ही है सावधान' यह कब तक झूठी आशा
दिलाई जाएगी ?
कर्तव्य की आड़ में, अपनी आहुति देना उसका फर्ज
है
कौन समझाए उसके साथी को, बीवी की खुशी भी
उसका कर्ज है।

कब तक खुले दरवाजों पर खट-खटाना होगा ?
कब तक रोज़ घावों पर फाउंडेशन लगाकर निकलना
होगा ?

अपने पैरों पर खड़े तो होना ही होगा
बदलाव के बीज बोना ही होगा
शुरुआत का इंतज़ार अब नहीं
प्रारंभ का आरंभ में परिवर्तन होना ही होगा।

Insight- मैं एक परियोजना के लिए कुछ लेख पढ़ रही थी, और मुझे घरेलू हिंसा के बारे में एक लेख मिला। लेख में शब्दों के पीछे की शक्तिशाली भावनाओं और भावनात्मक रूप से दुखियारे अनुभवों ने मुझे इस विषय को अपने विचारों में व्याख्या करने के लिए प्रेरित किया।



GRAPHICS ARE TEMPORARY, GAME DESIGN IS FOREVER

THE TIMELESSNESS OF MINECRAFT

By **ARNAV ARORA**

It is no secret that Minecraft is one of the most iconic video games we have had the privilege to enjoy. Whether it be at school, at home, on the internet or the television, Minecraft has ingrained itself into our culture for the better part of the last decade. In fact, it has even made its way into education, with an increasing number of institutions employing Minecraft to teach students creative, collaborative and problem-solving skills. It comes to no one's surprise that it is also the best-selling video game of all time, sitting at an astonishing 238 billion copies sold. But exactly what has caused the whole world to be completely enamored by a video game for so long? In other words, what makes Minecraft timeless?



In a world where video games are constantly looking to outdo each other in terms of graphical fidelity and the competition is cutthroat, Minecraft is in a realm of its own, with simplistic graphics, blocky textures and no sign of hyper-realism. Before ever trying Minecraft, I always wondered how Minecraft was so popular given the fact that there were games with far better graphics on the market.

It was only after experiencing what Minecraft had to offer that I realized that good game design is what really makes a game enjoyable to play, not the graphics. Game design refers to the various mechanics implemented into a game, and describes the interactions between the game and the player. The games of today often end up delivering amazing graphics at the cost of good game design, which is why they feel like pretty but rather empty shells. Minecraft, on the other hand, strips it back to the building blocks (literally), and provides players with great game fundamentals, mechanics and environments to keep them constantly engaged.

Each time a player starts a new game on Minecraft, a new, unique and randomly generated open world is provided to them. There are hundreds of materials, thousands of block-types and an infinitely large number of possibilities for the player to create. As mentioned earlier, the game implements blocks that a player can “mine”, store and use. Thus, the blocky graphics, while being under industry standard at this point, actually contribute to the game.

The blocks are also probably the most iconic part of Minecraft and what most people instantly associate the game with. Minecraft is like an empty canvas that the player fills exactly the way they want, breaking and placing blocks on the way. It is this idea of complete freedom to create whatever the heart desires that leaves almost everybody who tries it wanting more. Moreover, through consistent high-quality updates over the years, there are always more new block types, terrains and dimensions for players to explore.

What has really cemented Minecraft’s place as the greatest video game in history, however, is the community interaction and the multiplayer aspects of the game. Since Minecraft is extremely modular, there exists a large scope for custom-made game modes that players can enjoy with each other online. Game developers and enthusiasts are able to create their own levels on Minecraft and share them with the community. A few noteworthy examples include escape room puzzles, parkour challenges and one-versus-one sword matches. In fact, there are multiple popular online servers that host these custom games. Players from all around the world can join and take part in the fun. Hypixel, one of the most popular Minecraft servers, consistently hits 100,000 players during peak hours. These online experiences ensure there is always something new to play. These custom levels have also given rise to thousands of memes and funny clips on



websites like YouTube, which have only contributed to the popularity and timelessness of the game. While most people play Minecraft without a tangible end goal in mind, the game can also be “beaten”. This is done by traveling to a special dimension and defeating a dragon. Unsurprisingly, this is a difficult task that even the experienced player will have great difficulty completing. Still, there exists a huge community on the internet that is dedicated to beating the game in the lowest possible time: known as speedrunning.

Records are set, and before you know it, they’re broken by someone else. Speedrunning has hence become a source of enjoyment for speedrunners and fans alike.

Ultimately, these factors contribute to Minecraft’s supreme replay value. Even with old graphics, a seemingly simple concept and the fact that the game is more than a decade old, in my opinion, Minecraft still trumps any other video game on the market. With its universally-loved game design fundamentals, custom games, a roaring online presence, countless clips and memes, and the active speedrunning community, Minecraft has wholly taken over the gaming world. We can be assured that Minecraft is not going anywhere anytime soon, and it is here to stay for the whole world to enjoy, exactly like it was back when the game was released. Minecraft is, in the truest sense, timeless.





EDITORIAL

By **VEDAANT YADAV**

School assemblies are a vital component of any educational institution. As students, we have experienced and have been a part of hundreds of these assemblies. Some bad, some good but all following the exact same generic format. A part of this format is a prayer. Almost nobody has a problem with a prayer itself, however often the content in these prayers is somewhat problematic to a wider student body.

The prayers often mention Christian religious figures and always end with the sharp 'amen', cementing that it is indeed a Christian prayer. The fact is that imparting these prayers on often unaware or unwilling students is a colonial idea that has unwillingly become part of our collective educational culture, thanks to Macaulay. His beliefs bulldozed Indian education with English education with the sole purpose of anglicizing and subduing Indians. The requirement of a Christian prayer with colonial intent in many ethnically and religiously diverse international schools is an unintentional homage to his legacy even 160 years after his death.

While the intention of the prayer was likely different, it has morphed into a Christian prayer with overtly colonial undertones, through no fault of the schools themselves. This probably comes from the towering long-lasting legacy of the convent school, however, most fail to see its relevance in acclaimed schools with no visible religious affiliation, especially if the schools have students of all faiths.

In order to satisfy the core values of the IB Program, namely their commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, it is recommended that the schools should think over this aspect. Most students understand that this is not the intention of the school, and therefore would like to sincerely make the school aware of the same.