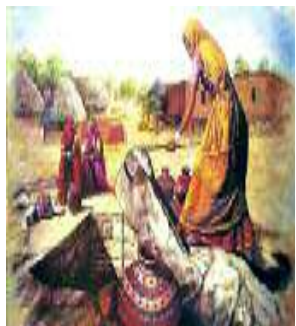




YUVA for Girl Child, p 2



Naxalites, p 3



Visit to rural India, p 5

Food for thought

Formula for Success

Courage is what we need to Move on
Willingness to fight and look for new Dawn
Hope in our heart and dreams in our Eyes.
We should aim to become noble and Wise
Speaking truth and encouraging Youth
Raising the bar and moving at Par
Crossing every hurdle every Hour
With Destination so near yet so Far
Endurance to withstand Hardship or Stress
Winning formula for achieving SUCCESS
Vidusha Class XII, AISN

THE GLOBAL TIMES

November 16-30, 2009

AN AMITY NEWSPAPER

www.theglobaltimes.in

Vira Sharma

"Till yesterday I thought that leadership meant stepping out of the crowd and guiding a herd of sheep. But after participating in the Youth Power 2009, I realized that leadership means staying with the herd and guiding them," says Anantdeep Singh, Youth Power finalist from AIS Noida.

The Youth Power 2009, a unique national ethical leadership talent hunt organised by The Global Times in association with tGELF that teed off in April 2009, saw over 4000 children step forward, speak out and take up an active role in building a world truly fit for children. Eighteen semi-finalists across India, short listed through various stages, flocked together at Manesar for a novel Leadership Camp. The two day, one night camp replete with varied activities to nourish the mind, body and soul, by world renowned professionals united the participants into a cohesive force.

I AM YOUTH POWER

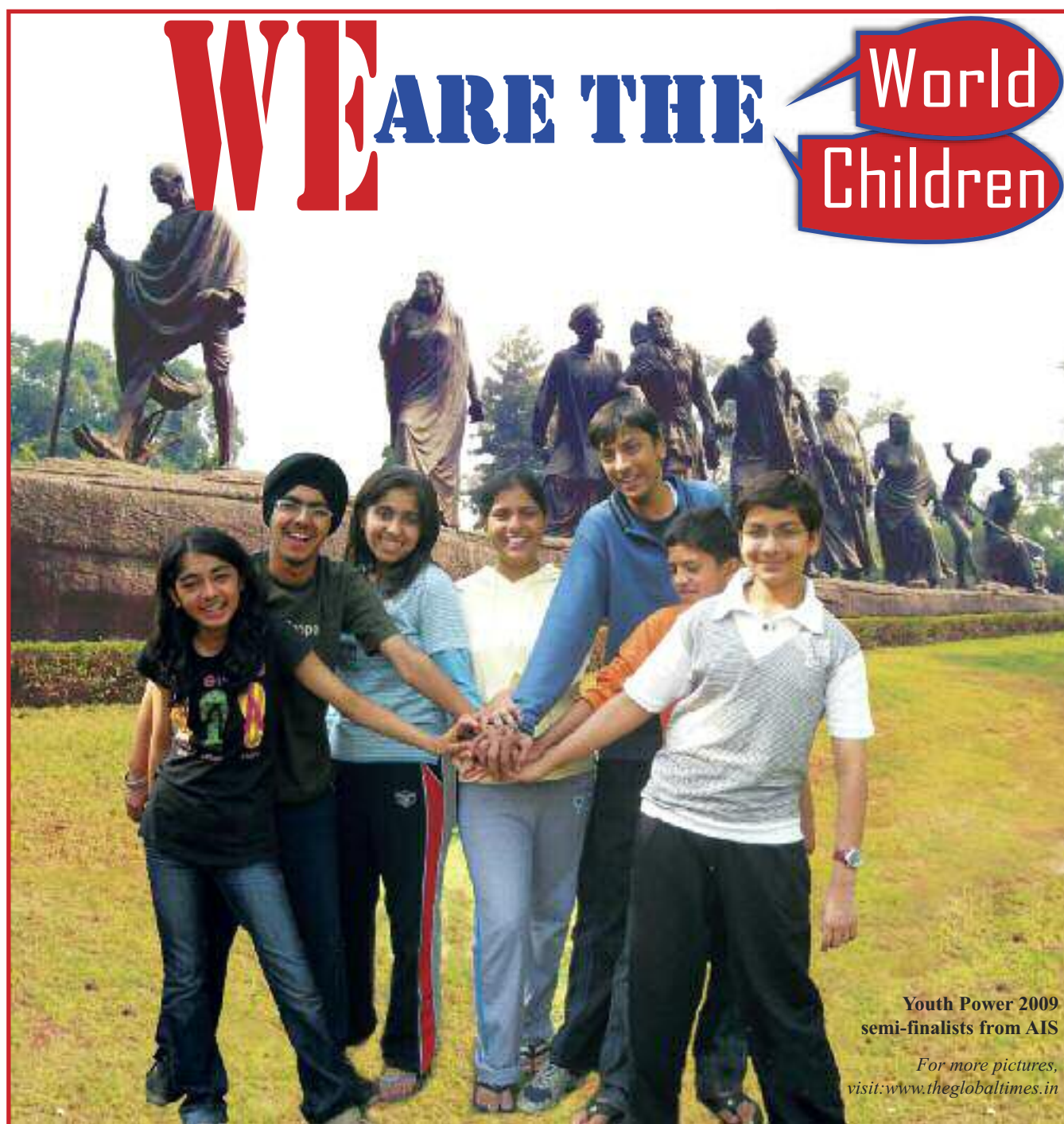
Avers Ishita Bedi, Youth Power finalist AIS MV, "Initially when I took part in this competition, it was just an opportunity for me to unleash my potentials. Soon, I realized that its unique format had to offer me something new every time. Irrespective of the results, today I can proudly say - I am Youth Power." Echors Saksham Aggarwal and Ojasvi Khare of AIS Gurgaon Sect 43 and 46 respectively, "Youth Power taught us to be more confident and expressive, realize our potential and develop leadership skills."

DARE TO LEAD

Towards the end of the leadership Camp that marked **Round V: Dare to Lead**, the semi-finalists, seemed to have internalised and developed the meaning and role of an ethical leader. Explains Jigyasa Chauhan, Semi-finalist from AIS Saket, "While the activities before the camp exposed us to various social issues and concerns, at the camp I learnt how to approach them positively without fear, and respecting each other's viewpoints."

I CAN & I WILL

Having researched on issues as 'Peer pres-



Youth Power 2009 semi-finalists from AIS

For more pictures, visit: www.theglobaltimes.in

sure' and participating in teaching students at MCD school after schools hours, Tejaswita of Vasant Valley School believes she is more evolved today. "I learnt to give myself a chance. I had a mental block towards many things. I learnt that if I give myself a chance with an 'I can' attitude, I can easily do it."

ONE WITH NATURE

The theatre workshop and adventure activities at the camp stimulated the mind and souls of the participants who felt the

need to nurture all living organisms in their path of progress and development. For Amal Srivastava of Bloom Public School, who also performed a play at Dilli Haat to generate sensitivity towards environment, the camp once again brought him close to nature. "I felt as if nature and I were woven into one. I promise to treat it with respect and care," says Amal.

LEARNING TO LIVE

Youth power 2009 had something for everyone. Richa Chandan (RPVV

Shlaimar) learnt how to control her anger. Chirag Guglani (Dev Samaj Modern School) overcame his fears and felt ready to move on positively. The chance to work on a Polio Project and then with an NGO changed the way Ashwini Vaidialingam (Sanskriti School) would view the world she took for granted. While only eight finalists shall move on to the final round, they all had one thing in common as put by Kritika Kumari of Purukul Youth Development School, Dehradun: "I've learnt the way of living."●

There is no short cut to success, you have to follow the rules

Admits David Coulthard, the wizard on wheels in a candid tête-à-tête with Satrajit Sahani X B, Aarush Dua IX B, Arushi Jain Aparajita Aggarwal & Rashika Sood, IX A of AIS Mayur Vihar...

Who has been your biggest inspiration?

My father has been my biggest inspiration. He was the best driver for me. And of course, my family.

What are the basic qualities needed by a person who wants to enter this sport?

Car control is very important and then, lots of patience. If you come in this sport, then do not think that

you will be the winner, be prepared that you are going to lose. Winning, of course, feels good. But I think, the most important thing for any F1 racer is to be prepared to face a defeat. It's more important to have the courage to be able to accept defeat. Also, one should have perseverance, patience and the courage to walk up to his rival and congratulate him for winning.

What are your views about Renault's race fixing?

The recent incident, though unfortunate, was an isolated case. It should not mar the image of this sport F1. Authorities should come together on this issue and show solidarity. It was very unfortunate

and those responsible must be penalized. It has shaken many, including me. But we have to get over it. There is no shortcut to success. You have to follow the rules.

Racing is a very risky sport and recently you broke your leg in an accident.

Yes, I was very disappointed. I wanted to get back to my sport. My whole focus was on my leg and to get the plaster removed. I gave myself to physiotherapy and medical attention and pulled myself back on the track. As they say, if you are knocked down, get over it and get up again to stay on the game.

India is a developing country; can

we afford to promote an expensive game as racing here?

F1 is an expensive sport. But it gives a big return on investment. India is on the world map for automobile industry and it has got talent, which can be channelised into this sport. With technology and engineering, India too has a good future. Also, India keeps facing problems like road rage and accidents; we can channelize it into some thing positive.

Which was your most challenging race?

The most difficult race so far has been the 1998 Belgian Grand Prix. It was raining heavily and visibility was very low. It resulted in the collision of Michael Schumacher's car with mine.

Parting shot...

Looking at Amity's enthusiastic students, I also wish I could have attended a university!●

David Marshall Coulthard, often called DC, was born on 27 March 1971 in Dumfries and raised nearby in Twynholm, Scotland. He is a British former Formula One racing driver from Scotland. Having had a long career, he has innumerable wins to his credit, and ranks seventh on the all-time scorers list, being the top British scorer. He has won thirteen Grand Prix.

YUVA reaches out to Girl Child

YUVA society committee members (L to R): Sricharan, Eshan Hemrajani, Ayushman Jamwal



Indian Students at Cardiff University raise fund for Amitasha Children

'We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give'.
Winston Churchill

Miles away at Cardiff University, the Youth of India feel the intense bonding with Indians. With a small gesture but a big heart, they touched upon the lives of the girl child in India. At the beginning of this academic year, YUVA, Cardiff University Indian Student Society donated Rs 25,000 to the charity 'Amitasha' which focuses on the upliftment of the girl child in India. The money donated by YUVA will be used to buy books, toys and clothes for children under the New Delhi chapter of Amitasha. Says *Eshan Hemrajani* of YUVA, "Cruelty and neglect towards the girl-child in India is a sad reality, something which the young Indians must strive to eradicate for the future of their nation. While we strive to become conscious citizens at University,



it's never too late to lend a helping hand to India's progress. What better to begin with than a girl child who is the axis of Indian family." For YUVA, the idea to do something worthwhile evolved during their regular Indian student gathering. Shares, *Ayushman*, pursuing Bachelor in Journalism, Film and Media, at Cardiff University, "The get-togethers were a platform for Indian culture, values and thought sharing wherein the Indian students got together with a sense of bonding. YUVA wanted this group to do something worthwhile. So we organised few events and raised some money which we have pledged to donate towards a noble cause. We have raised Rs.25000 which we have decided to give to New Delhi chapter of Amitasha." Choosing Amitasha was a unanimous decision. Opines *Eshan*, "As an Indian, I can say that the future of India looks good, yet the obstacles still stand-



Pic: Pankaj Mallik

ing in my nation's way pose a great challenge. A majority of Indian society is still plagued with poverty, lack of education and superstitious social evils, which stagnate the country's progress. The worst of all these evils are the discriminatory practices against the girl child." Through Amitasha, initiated by Dr. Amita Chauhan, Chairperson of the chain of Amity International Schools, YUVA made its first attempt to shape

the lives of hundreds of girls who are more or less alone in their quest for a better tomorrow. Responding to this initiative, Dr. Amita Chauhan shares, "It is enriching to see that Indian students even outside the country feel for their country and are providing beneficial assistance to charities that aim to improve the social state of the nation. I want to thank Cardiff University's YUVA in helping us im-

prove the lives of neglected children and putting smiles on their faces." And how does it feel to hear the gratitude notes shared by their beneficiaries from Amitasha? "YUVA, knows that the donation hasn't even scratched the surface of the problem. However, knowing that it has brought happiness in the lives of even a handful of poor innocent children, makes it fulfilling," says the modest YUVA member Ayushman. ●

It's time to diet!

Ankitra Naik & Parul Aggarwal,
X A, AIS PV

Prices of potatoes doubled, onions are 10% more expensive, prices of pulses are going up over 25%. What are we going to eat? Yes, this is the condition of the common man with a shortfall in kharif production of about 21mn tons. The inflation in food has left people worrying with the overall inflation being 1.5% and prices of food products raised by 13.4%, all the newspapers spell doom for the "Am Aadmi." These prices have upset the home budgets of many households with them pondering over what to buy and what not. Though the situation is expected to change, once crops are harvested; but at this rate, the time is not far when all of us would have to go on a diet.

News Digest

Once again piped to the post

Sushmit Sharma, Aniket Mishra & Arnab Bhowmik, IX C, AIS PV

Millions of Indian cricket fans saw India reaching a disappointing leve in the much-awaited 7 ODI series against Australia. Fighting for the first position, the Indian fan suffered heart-break as the men in blue struggled to show consistency both in batting and bowling. In spite of the players' everlasting injuries, Australia managed to win the series 4-2 and cling to their number 1 position which clearly showed the confidence of their new players. The Indian top order batsmen failed to detect the weakness of the new pace attack of Australia failed unable to exert pressure

on them. Verinder Sehwag, struggling with his form, was another drawback for the Indian side. On many occasions India lost closely, which showed its inability to handle pressure situations.

Banged up Pakistan

Meharpreet Chawla & Aashna Gupta, XA, AIS PV

A series of bomb attacks with multiple casualties have shaken up Pakistan. The terrorists claiming to be Taliban militia have not hesitated to even target the military headquarter at Rawalpindi. In all the upheaval, it is the common man who is suffering. He is becoming increasingly angry with the government for failing to protect him. Pakistan needs to tighten up security and boost the morale of its people. ●

Screen Scare Spells Profit

Amlaan Kumar (VI E)
AIS Noida

How would you react when you hear that a \$15000 film grosses over \$ 71million ? You would be shocked as it sounds abnormal. But that is exactly what happened with "Paranormal Activity". The film titled 'Paranormal Activity' written and directed by 39 year old Oren Peli, broke all hell loose at box office, with a whopping 71 million dollars in US alone. What would happen if it is released all over the world? It is estimated to easily gross \$ 300 million. The film, a horror story, spins around two people – Micah Sloat a day trader and Katie Featherston, a student who move into a new home at San Diego, California. Katie has an eerie feeling that a ghost has followed her into the new home. Micah installs a video camera to catch the footage if any. What unfolds is a spine chilling drama. The complete film shot in three weeks, by a video games designer with a modest budget of \$15,000, a hand-held video camera and no prior training or experience in film making, "Paranormal Activity" gave Hollywood new lessons in film making. The film completed in 2007, shuttled for three years to be fi-



nally screened till it reached Steven Spielberg. Says Peli, "After Spielberg watched the movie, the door to his bedroom somehow became locked from the inside, and he couldn't get back into it. There was no way to unlock it because there was no way it could have become locked to begin with. He ended up having to call a locksmith to remove the door, and once he got back into his bedroom, he looked at the DVD and said, 'I don't want this DVD in my house any longer!' He put it in his 'garbage' bag because he thought it was 'haunted'." Spielberg loved the movie. Paramount Pictures acquired the domestic rights to the film, and international rights to potential sequels, for \$300,000 USD. With modest changes and a tighter ending, Paranormal Activity became the most profitable film after The Blair Witch Project (1999), another horror film. It seems - Horror indeed sells. ●

Searching India's identity



Imaging: Pankaj Mallik

Aashna Gupta, X-A
AIS Pushp Vihar

There was pandemonium on the first day of the new Maharashtra Assembly when Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) legislators roughed up Samajwadi Party member Abu Asim Azmi for taking the oath of office in Hindi. MNS Chief Raj Thackeray issued a writ to all the newly elected MLA's to take oath in Marathi.

However, when SP MLA Abu Asim Azmi who dared not to be intimidated by such threats by "extra-constitutional authorities" uttered the first few words, MNS members mobbed him. The offenders were suspended for four years from the assembly. Does it solve the problem of lingual division in a secular country like India? The idea of India is based on the unhindered flowering of diversity and safeguarding the spectrum of a million flowers with as many fragrances. A few days later, another debate spins off. This time, it is between the master blaster Sachin and MNS Chief, Bal Thackeray on who is a true Maharashtrian....Oops! True Indian....oops True Maharashtrian..Oops... Shashi Tharoor, the country's Minister of External Affairs twitters: With Maharashtra for Maharashtrians and Kashmir for Kashmiris where is India for Indians? Let's Ponder! ●

Outsourced: Where's the love?



Mrs. Sangeeta Paaruthi
TGT, AIS Vasundhra 6

New age parents are busy gathering silver and gold but in the process they forget their richest treasure- their own children. Can you imagine the happiness which the parents of Abhinav Bindra or Vijendar Singh experience when their sons win them laurels at Beijing Olympic games? The nation shares their happiness and congratulates them. The heart of the parents flutters with joy.

Parents are the first, foremost, natural and most impactful teachers in a child's life.

Exquisite parenting has to maintain a fine balance of love, discipline, values etc. Over expectations/ hyper parenting is as harmful for the child as neglecting them is.

Exclusive parent-child time is a concern area today. Quality time spent with the young yield the results later. Materialistic pleasures cannot compensate for the emotional bond built between a child and a parent. Dr. Sudha Gupta rightly says "Children need your presence more than your presents."

Parents should learn to see things from their child's perspective at every stage of life. To a child, your earning bucks or running a smooth house is not as important as playing with you or listening to a story from their loved one.

The scene today is very different. Parents have become ATM counters for their children. They have started outsourcing their parenting to latest gadgets on child care like audio/video monitors to keep a watch on their children's activities.

Parenting has been outsourced to TV/ Video-games/ Computers/ Play-station/ Day-care centres/ Creche/ Servants & Mobile phones and internet especially with the teens. The TV and the internet are substituting for parenting. Parents have to seriously rethink their roles as 'Parents'.

Ms Neha Sharma, coordinator at AIS Vasundra feels that the use of internet is a fantastic resource for learning, entertainment and communication but parents should follow certain rules to make the children surf safe. Children should not be left isolated in their rooms with computers. The PC should be placed in some common area in the house. "Parents should know how to block or filter the offensive material." says Mrs Ranjan, Principal.

"Children shouldn't get addicted to technology" says Mrs Meenu Jha, coordinator of the senior wing. Parents are too busy to cook for their kids & children spend time at Pizza Hut & McDonalds. Are we really working for our kids?●

Breaking news



An exclusive website for kids

This Children's Day, a new website called www.children.co.in has been launched which is specially designed for Indian children and is dedicated to their overall growth and learning. The website not just offers a host of exciting and entertaining features like fun activities, games, jokes, riddles and puzzles but also offers general knowledge quizzes, learning videos and Indian facts that can contribute significantly to a child's learning curve. www.children.co.in has a dedicated section called 'knowledge for kids' which helps children to strengthen their math and verbal skills and also gives them facts and figures about our planets, space, human body, our country, etc. which will help them to widen their knowledge base. Internet is a great tool of learning but there have been very few Indian websites that are designed specially for Indian children to facilitate their learning. Keeping this in mind, www.children.co.in has been launched

with the sole purpose of contributing significantly to the overall development of a child through e-learning. This site is as much useful to parents as it is to children since it also offers a range of articles on different kind of activities that children can take up in their vacations, parties that can be organized for them, yoga from which they can greatly benefit, healthy recipes that can delight their taste buds, etc.

Most children today are brought up on Harry Potter, Spiderman and Superman stories. However, it is important that Indian children know about Indian folk tales and stories from Indian mythology. Keeping this in mind, the website has specially dedicated a section to such Indian stories that makes the new generation aware of India's culture and heritage. All in all, www.children.co.in is an informative, wholesome website that combines learning with fun and excitement for your children. Do visit the website at a computer near you.●

Scholastic alerts Nov-Dec 2009

Institute/Exam: Indian Institutes of Management and others
Course/Discipline: Management
Entrance Exam: CAT
Website: www.catiim.in



Institute/Exam: Jr. Research Fellowship and NET
Course/Discipline: Education
Entrance Exam: Jt. UGC-CSIR
Website: www.csirhrdg.res.in

Institute/Exam: Symbiosis Institutes
Course/Discipline: PG Courses
Entrance Exam: Symbiosis National Apt. PG Test - SNAP
Website: www.siu.edu.in

Institute/Exam: IITs & Indian Institute of Science
Course/Discipline: Management
Entrance Exam: Jt. Mgt Entrance Test - JMET
Website: www.gate.iisc.ernet.in

GT CLASSROOM

Archita Goyal
IX A, AIS Mayur Vihar

Who are Naxalites?

Naxalite or Naxalvadis are a group of radical-communists supportive of the Maoist ideology. Commonly known as Naxals, the group possess a serious threat to the Indian security. It is a group of violent radicals waging a violent struggle on behalf of landless labourers and tribal people against landlords and others.

What is their origin?

Their origin can be traced to the split in 1967 of the Communist Party of India

What are their demands?

According to the Naxals, the administrative and political institutions are inadequate. They even espouse some local demands. They demand to put an end to the injustice done to the exploited segment of the society and seek for an alternative government which promises to set free those within the clutches of the bureaucrats.

Where do they operate?

With west Bengal as the center, the Naxals have spread their tentacles into less developed areas of rural central and eastern India, such as Chhatisgarh and Andhra Pradesh. The Naxalites operate mostly in the rural and Adivasi areas, often out of the continuous jungles in these regions. Their operations are



Naxalites the New Age Robinhoods?

most prominent in (from North to South) Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh [Images], eastern Maharashtra, the Telengana (northwestern) and western Orissa

How is the Red Corridor related with the Naxals?

The Naxalites are active across approximately 220 districts in twenty states of

India[2] accounting for about 40 percent of India's geographical area. They are especially concentrated in an area known as the "Red corridor", where they control 92,000 square kilometers.

Name the two most devastating manifestations by the Naxalites.

The earliest manifestation of the move-

ment was the Telengana Struggle in July 1948. On May 25, 1967, in Naxalbari village in Darjeeling district, northern West Bengal, local goons attacked a tribal who had been given land by the courts under the tenancy laws. In retaliation, the tribals attacked landlords and claimed the land. From this 'Naxalbari Uprising' came the word Naxalite. ●

Do You Know What **Your Child Is Up to?**



Its difficult to refrain children from Computers, the power house of knowledge and information. With little awareness one can certianly keep them on the right track.

Samyak Ranjan, XI-B,
AIS Vasundhara-6

In this epoch, all of us want to “get connected” with the world through Internet. Orkutting, Twittering, YouTube, etc. They are now part of a young person’s lexicon. But as these sites provide free services, they make money by advertising. These are linked to malware sites which can infect your computer with ease. They often have links to adult content which is inappropriate for kids. But don’t you worry, help is here!

Windows has launched Parental Controls, which allow parents to take control of their child’s online navigation and limit it. Every parent must limit his/her child’s use of the internet and take preventive and cautionary measures so that the web is used for all the right reasons. Different softwares are available in the markets which do these jobs success-

fully. Not only this, such softwares take screenshots of minute to minute navigation and ban sites which are illicit for the usage of chuldren.

Some easy ways to keep a check on your little ones (For XP users)

- Download and Install the software XP Protector. After installation, it will prompt you to create a password on any administrative account or separate account for your child; if already created, skip the step.
- The software will now prompt to install its shield. Preferable select: “Automatically Install Shield When Needed. Go to “Yes, I want to restrict users now.” and hit Next.
- Go to the user’s name and click on select at its right side. Click on Next
- Click on “No, I want to manually configure the user” Hit next.
- A wizard will now enable you to configure all the abilities of what the user can or cannot do. After the completion of the wizard, the original XP Protector will launch and you will have to click on the number it tells you to (A limitation of the trial version).

- Next go to Log files on the left hand panel and click on (+) go to log file options.
- Put a tick mark on “Log dates and times when user logs on/off”
- On the maximal size of log, change the default “640” to “51200.” That’s it! Now close the program and wait for your children’s reactions!

For Windows Vista/7 Users

- Download and Install the software Advanced Parental Control (APC). The program will first prompt you to enter an “Admin Password” which you must enter.
- The original APC will open. Click on the desired username which is needed to be barred from some functions click on any of the 6 icons present on top of the program.
- After applying the desired restrictions, on the left side, there will be a User Monitoring panel which is very useful if you want a detailed view of what your child has been up to.
- After setting everything, click Windows off and URL ‘off’ to ‘on’, so that the applied settings can work.

Now you can keep track of what your child is upto on the internet! ●

Numer-o-magic

Apoorva Kapoor XI-B,
AIS Mayur Vihar

Numbers! Numbers! Numbers! Everything revolves around numbers. We, at times, are overwhelmed by these numbers, and they can be very monotonous. But do we realize the importance of these numbers in our life? When we look at bare numbers, they look very dry and unassuming. Little do we realize that they are present all around us, and completely surround us.

- Most of us have a fear of numbers because, for us, numbers are confined to the working of Mathematics. But there is more to numbers than Maths. From the time we get up and till the time we sleep, and even while we are sleeping, our life is totally controlled by numbers.
- Our time revolves around the clock, which comprises of numbers. We get up early in the morning, targeting a number, say 5 a.m., and we sleep at, say, 11 p.m. (numbers).
- Our travel from home to school and back consists of so many numbers- the number of the bus, its registration number, the mileage, say 10 kilometres one side, and takes 30 minutes to reach our

destination.

- In the class we are identified by our roll numbers, and even the classes are identified by numbers, say XI.
- The books we study have many numbers- page numbers, exercise numbers,



question.

Our day in school is divided into different periods which are again numbers.

- Our performance is evaluated by numbers in the examination- 70%, 80%, 90%, 100%.

- Money is counted in numbers.
- Computer programming is done in binary numbers, “0” and “1”.
- Winning or defeat in sports is defined in numbers, runs in cricket and goals in football.
- Distances between the countries, cities and even planets are again calculated in numbers.
- Politics is a number game of votes and constituencies.
- The growth of a business is measured in numbers. The business plan is nothing but achievement of numbers. A school is a function of the number of students multiplied by fee receipts of each student, along with the expenditure (again in numbers).
- In this fast paced world we are incomplete without telecommunications which consists of so many numbers. Numbers play a very important role in the day-to-day working of our lives. If numbers are understood in the right way, they can bring magic to our lives. So friends, do not be afraid of numbers but instead make them your friends as numbers bring comparisons, comparisons bring understanding and understanding brings growth. And growth means success.●

Blog

guru

Not a blogger yet? You’ve been living life without blogging...and you’re still alive! Wake up, You just need to blog ...

Bloggers park

Gautam Saxena,
AIS Mayur Vihar

Here are the top three blog sites for my dear fellow mouse potatoes who keep blogging all the time... ■ victorchen.info ■ egyptfans.net ■ myblogspot.com

What is blogging?

A blog (a contraction of the term “Web log”) is a Web site, usually maintained by an individual with regular entries of commentary, descriptions of events, or other material such as graphics or video.

Why we need to blog?

Many blogs provide commentary or news on a particular subject; others function as more personal online diaries. A typical blog combines text, images, and links to other blogs, Web

pages, and other media related to its topic. The ability for readers to leave comments in an interactive format is an important part of many blogs. Most blogs are primarily textual, although some focus on art (artlog), photographs (photoblog), sketches (sketchblog), videos (vlog), music (MP3 blog), audio (podcasting), which are part of a wider network of social media. Many of you must be blogging and those who are not...should start blogging.

Blog sites for students

There are many blog sites for students that help them to communicate with other students from different schools, ask questions, find facts and do everything important for a student. Some sites are- www.yomod.com, www.globio.com etc. A blog is certainly a great place specially students, to connect to other people...outside.

Death drugs

A recent poll has found that adolescents listed drugs as the most important problem facing people of their age.



Aditi Sharma,
AIS Vasundhra

With the fast pace of life, everything and everyone is getting modern and stylish. But does modernity mean that one falls prey to the vices of the society just to stay cool? A large number of teens and even younger kids are becoming addicted to drugs! A sad scenario, indeed.

What Are Drugs?

A drug is any chemical that produces a therapeutic or non-therapeutic effect in the body. As kids are addictive to drugs, let us find out the ages from

which this disease starts:

The age of first alcohol abuse is 12 and the average age of first drug abuse is 13. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, 93 percent of all teenagers have some experience with alcohol by the end of their senior year of high school and 6 percent drink daily. Almost two-thirds of all American young people try illicit drugs before they finish high school. One out of sixteen seniors smokes marijuana daily and 20 percent have done so for at least a month sometime in their lives. A recent poll found that adolescents listed drugs as the most important problem facing people their age, followed by crime and violence in

school and social pressures.

Substance Abuse Treatment

Parents can help through early education about drugs, open communication, good role modeling, and early recognition if problems are developing. If there is any suspicion that there is a problem, parents must find the appropriate intervention for their child. Prevention is possible through counseling and medical detoxification. But definitely, drugs use is associated with a variety of negative consequences, including increased risk of serious drug use later in life, school failure and poor judgment which may put teens at risk for accidents, violence, etc. ●

Taking of drugs leads to

- **Physical Problems:** Fatigue, red and glazed eyes, increased blood pressure, rapid heart beat.
- **Emotional Problems:** Sudden mood changes, irresponsible behaviour, poor judgment, etc.
- **Family Problems:** Chaotic home environment, breaking rules, negative attitude, parenting difficulties etc
- **School Problems:** Decreased interest, Skipping scholastic re-

sponsibilities, negative attitude, drop in grades, etc.
So dear friends, it’s never too early to know about the harm caused by deathly drugs. My advice is stay away from them!

A visit to the real India

Kripti Badonia, VI-B, AIS Noida

Gramin Darshan

As the holiday excitement began to grow in our hearts in the last period of the last day in school before summer holidays, I couldn't wait to see my mother, as she had promised some real excitement for me during the summer holiday. It came to me as a surprise (rather shock!) when I heard that Mom had planned to take me to 'Begumganj' via Bhopal. "Beeeeeguuuugaanj! Belgium would have sounded better!" I thought! Come whatever may, after 16 hours of an extremely tiring journey by train and bus, we reached this place called Begumganj. Suspiciously, I stepped out of the bus, but, my eyes widened to see the well structured, cemented road. Well, my Mom's village had cemented roads (unlike our tarred roads) and electricity, too. The width of the road was smaller and had a mixed traffic of bullock carts, tractors and of course, autos. I had kept lots of hankies in my purse, thinking it would smell horrible. But the weather was pleasant. I could actually take deep breaths of fresh air. It was then that I realized the difference between the unpolluted environment there and the polluted one I had got used to. My great grandmother's 'haveli' was really huge. It was like three big bungalows clubbed together with a big temple. In the front of the temple, there was a huge

well. I wondered how women draped in long 'ghung-hats' could draw from the well without wasting a drop! Within minutes, I reached the gate, tons of my cousins came out to greet me. My grand aunt sprinkled holy water to purify me. No sooner had I reached than I started playing with my cousins as if I had known them for years, whereas I had met them for first time. I could sense the deep intimacy in relations, something I was deprived of all these years. In just an hour, I discovered all creeps and corners of the place. The big Haveli had an old look. It had large rooms with very high ceilings and an open verandah. The ground floor was used for storing grains and the other side had huge cowsheds and parking space for tractors and bullock carts. The upper floors had big bedrooms, but a modern kitchen. I guess the kitchen was given a modern outlook recently. But I could still get the sniff of 'chulha' made 'chapattis'. Mind it, my cousins had a TV, video games and a computer, too. But of course, they weren't a common sight. There was a usual electricity shutdown and to my surprise, rather than

turning on generator, everybody moved to 'Bunda Kotha.' Some of the rooms still had old construction and remained very cool in peak summers and did not even need fans.

I went to visit a nearby farm house where I saw tractors running over huge fields, scarecrows (some were really scary) and rode bumpy bullock carts. As the night enveloped the sky, I could see thousands of tiny little stars shining in the sky. For the first time I slept under the sky studded with beautiful stars. The marriage was loads of fun too. Along with 'mehandi' and make up, I learnt many folk songs. Some thousand of villagers had come for the wedding; some of them even had face masked with long ghunghat. I thoroughly enjoyed 'juta-churai' and relished 'garam jalebis' and 'chulha cooked chapattis.'

My heart sank when I realised that the days have just slipped by and I needed to go back to my city to complete my homework and project work! All this while, my impression of villages and villagers was totally changed. The real India has a treasure of warm hearts, glowing farms and budding development. Someday I want to go back to our villages, our real India and work for the welfare of our country. ●



A prick of style

Kanchan Joneja
VII-D, AIS Noida

Body art is all the rage. Those tattoos and bellypiercing might look cool, but are they safe? To add to that, there are a number of risks one has to take to get them done. **TATTOOS:** A tattoo artist uses a tool with several small needles that are powered by an electric motor. They prick the skin innumerable times and punch ink into the flesh. Because the ink is in your skin, tattoos are permanent. Getting a tattoo can be quite risky as unclean needles can cause serious diseases like HIV and Hepatitis B. One might even have allergic reaction to the tattoo ink. Skin infections may cause redness, swelling, bleeding and scarring. Tattoos can also be removed, but the process is expensive and painful as a laser beam is used to zap the pigment. **PIERCING:** In piercing a body part is punctured by a sharp tool, and then a piece of jewelry is placed. Piercing can take a few weeks to several months to heal. If it is bellypiercing, it may even take even one year. There are health risks to piercings also. Piercing guns should never be used, as they are not sterile. Tattooing or belly piercing is not allowed if you're under eighteen. So, do you still reckon you should get a tattoo or get your belly pierced as a fashion statement? ●

World's Best Mother

Teen Trails

Anugya Gupta, IX-C
AIS Pushp Vihar

This article is dedicated to all the mothers of the universe.

When she scolds me, I feel dejected. When she hugs me, I feel at the top of the world. When she gives me a shoulder to cry on, I feel better. When she laughs with me, I feel pleased. But most importantly, whenever she closes my eyes with warm hands and sings a lullaby to make me go to sleep, I feel as if all existence is nothing as compared to my mother. My relationship with my mother has always been that of two best friends. She knows when I am happy, when I am upset, when do I need a warm 'jadoo ki jhappi' and when I need a terrible scolding too. She knows all my likes and dislikes, is the best cook in the world and of course the best mother! She is the one who gave me birth, the one who made me walk, the one who made me talk, the one who taught me how to dress up, how to take a bath, how to brush my teeth, how to write a good hand, how to use a computer and how to cook the things which I can at this age. Basically she is the one who made me who I am today. She taught me how to differentiate between the good and bad, how not to give in to my temptations and how to believe in myself. She is the one responsible for my brilliance, my intelligence, my talents, my etiquettes, my existence and the reason behind me. Mom, you are the greatest! ●



Shantanu Dey, IX A
AIS Pushp Vihar

"Hey buddy! Happy birthday! Here is your gift- an Adidas deodorant." This is the most common line that you get to hear at birthday parties. Is your birthday coming and are you excited to get your gifts? Then I am sorry to put an end to your excitement as there are no surprises to what you might be getting on your special day. A perfume, a game or music CD, a table clock, a mug, a pen stand, a decoration piece, a chocolate box or a book? Now don't blame me for spoiling all your excitement about your birthday gifts since you don't need to be a fortune-teller to predict what gifts you might get! Today's generation seems to have lost its creativity, innovation and 'hatke' attitude when it comes to buying gifts for their friends. It's time to think out-of-the-box while we are buying gifts for anyone. Let me tell you one thing – no one likes to get an ordinary and rugged gift and it might hurt you when you come to know that s/he had given that gift to someone else and then the next person does the same. The cycle continues and one day it might so happen that the gift comes back to you. Sad, isn't it? But if you continue with your lazy attitude towards buying gifts, you will always end up with this kind of embarrassing and sad feeling. So people, its time to think differently from the crowd, and make your gift extraordinary, special and 'hatke.'

Gifting Gyaan

- Try not to take a shortcut and go to Archies.
- Don't think that an expensive gift has to be a good gift.

It's time for



'Hatke' gifts

- If you are buying a T-shirt or Top, make sure that it is of correct size, has a funky message written on it and is of the receiver's favourite colour.
- Delhites, when the government has put a ban on use of plastic bags, you can give your friend a nice, beautiful jute bag with his name written on it and save him from being imprisoned or paying a fine. Just make your friend proud that you are his friend.
- Try to give a symbolic and simple gift like a scrapbook. Write loads of stuff about the person and make a collage of pictures of the memorable moments you have spent with the person you are gifting the scrapbook to. This will make the receiver cherish the gift for years to come and also help you save your pocket money.
- Try to give a card along with the gift but remember, the card should be handmade and the message original and straight from the heart as Archies cards seem to be fake in comparison to your handmade card.
- Remember one thing- most girls love junk jewellery and cosmetics. So, if it's a girls birthday and you don't know what to buy for her, then the best thing is to buy some junk jewellery and a lip gloss or nail polish for her.
- Try to make your gift wrapping paper funky by writing fun stuff on it. While thinking about what gift to buy, think from your heart and not your brain.
- And now the last tip is to follow the above 9 tips. I hope that the next time you think of buying a gift for someone, you take a glance at these tips and give a great, unique yet simple gift instead of buying those boring, expensive and ordinary gifts. So friends, follow these 10 steps and become the master of gifting gyaan. ●

Ethical leaders

The Roots of Violence:/ Wealth without work,/ Pleasure without conscience,/ Knowledge without character,/ Commerce without morality,/ Science without humanity,/ Worship without sacrifice,/ Politics without principles.

M K Gandhi



Dr. Amita Chauhan
Chairperson

India has had many great leaders. But one leader, whose name remains at the top of our recall memory, is none other than Mahatma Gandhi. His ideals continue to inspire every generation. One of the qualities that pulled him across every struggle, giving him the courage and confidence were his ‘ethical leadership’ qualities.

Ethical teaching & ethical practices are of prime importance to any schooling system to build ethical leaders for tomorrow. While at Amity, ethics forms the basis of every activity, Youth Power 2009 has carried the effort forward.

The need to discuss this becomes more imperative as the education and evaluation evolves to accommodate ‘ethical’ virtues within the educational curriculum. Country’s most prestigious UPSC examination, today, gets ready to replace the preliminary examinations with an ‘Aptitude test’ that shall gauge the ethical, moral and decision making skills of the aspirants.

For the nation that is looking for a leader, the wait is about to get over. While everyone is looking for a leader, I am proud to say that the high ethical quotient of my Amitians, shall surely develop an ethical leader in each of them. The boom of ethical leaders is in. ●

Evaluating Youth Power



Vira Sharma

Initiating, developing and travelling with the students through the different stages of Youth Power 2009 were a metamorphic process. I must confess that with every stage of the Leadership Programme becoming more intense and involved, I felt extremely guilty of pushing the participants a little too much, fearing many may drop out. The complete programme, designed to test their mind, body and soul, working hand-in-hand with NGO’s, learning through experience, introspection, group discussion were to chisel the ethical leaders for tomorrow. Even without realising, my face-to-face interaction with the Youth Power semi-finalists at the leadership camp held at Manesar forced me to change my perspectives and introspect. From being the editor of the newspaper, I was actually a part of the Continuous Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE). As the camp proceeded, so did the process of evaluation. The experts came forward with advise and help. A scoring rubric was thrust in. I glanced at the sheet. Evaluate on what? Attitude or Initiative? Interpersonal skills or Team Skills? Communication Skills or other parameters? The call was tough. Participants went about merging effortlessly in every role, living to its fullest. The impromptu bonding reflected the basic need to learn from one another and evolve in the process. Every time, I switched on the CCE chart, the beauty was lost. The burden was exhausting. Chuck it - said the mind. Experience it- advised the soul. Feel it- cajoles the soul. And I was a part of the Youth Power 2009. I wondered: If only we could swap the ‘Evaluation’ with ‘Education’. *Post Camp News:* Evaluations were made. Ten students out of 18 reach Youth Power 2009 grand finale. ●

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Health is Not a Condition of Matter, But of Mind

Rubina Mulchandani XII – A,
AIS, Vasundhara



It’s believed that a healthy mind lives in a healthy body. Health is universally considered as the greatest of all wealth. It’s said to be the greatest of blessings amongst money, luxury or comforts. Let us ask ourselves one

question, ‘what really is meant by good health or by being healthy’? Health is not just the absence of a disease or infirmity. Actually health is a state of complete physical, mental, social and emotional well being. Someone has rightly said, ‘healing is not a matter of technique or mechanism; it is a work of spirit’. So a healthy mind may not necessarily live in a healthy body but it can definitely result in a healthy body.

Our health is, to an extent, our perception towards everything; it’s the reflection of our own mind and thoughts. Staying healthy is in our hands. A sick person can be healthy if he feels so whereas a totally unhealthy person may be ill just because s/he has chosen to be.

There has been a sharp decline in the mortality rate, but the point to ponder over is that the number and variety of diseases was also quite less in older times as compared to today. We can clearly see that most of the diseases in these times are lifestyle related. They result from stressful and sedentary lifestyle of people who are just interested in the rat-race.

Hypnotherapy, Yoga, Art of Living sessions, spiritual gurus, have become very popular these days. All of these point towards just one thing – our mind and thoughts are major factors affecting our health.

We see people recovering from life threatening dis-

eases like cancer and tumour – this is just the product of their sheer will power and optimistic approach to life and a strong desire to live to the fullest.

Our mind decides what we are. Henry Maudsley has rightly said, “The sorrow which has no vent in tears may make other organs weep.” Thus health is a feeling of wellness, a desire to fulfil your potential. It’s not that medical science is all useless, it’s not that everyone is totally immune to diseases, but it’s just that these things don’t flourish in happy optimistic people. A disease which may seem very severe may just be a symptom of some ailment in the spiritual aspect. So we should just remember, if you think good, feel good and think healthy, happiness will be at your doorstep. So think fit and stay fit! ●

(The essay won bronze medal in Wordsworth Essay Writing Competition organised by Newspaper in Education, Times of India.)

“In international relations there are no permanent friends. There are just interests that dictate alliances”

Prof James Mayall, former British Civil Service and teacher at Cambridge and Harvard, is a reputed authority in the field of International Relations. During his recent visit to India, he addressed the students of Amity International School Saket, on the Changing face of International Relations.

Do you believe, a time would come when everyone would co-operate to eradicate problems like climatic change which are posing threat?

Well, I hope so. The problems is that the national interests tend to contradict each other. The best example is the Climate Change negotiations. The basic argument arising is -.Who’s caused the problem? Is it fair to ask those countries which are developing very fast to pay the same amount as the people who have caused the problem? Who shall pay how much? However, there is still some sign of hope. The Chinese govt has now begun to realize that its own economic prospects are seriously under threat from the levels of pollution. So once you get the sense within a country, then its going be more willing to reach for accom-

modations. Everybody is ready to do it in principle on paper rather, but who is going to deliver, is important.

There is an idea that to form alliances you have to break alliances formed with other countries. Comment.

There is a saying that in international relations who don’t have permanent friends. There are just interests and it is



interests that dictate alliances. If your interests shift, you could be shifting your alliances. There is a certain feeling that the enemy of my friend is my enemy, which suggest that you do

break off alliances. But then, in NATO, that still exists, members have a very different relationship. It is involved in Afghanistan under its international programme, but several NATO countries do not take part. So alliances are not what they used to be, they don’t bind you.

Is the noble prize given to Obama justified? Do you agree that this is going to back the international relationships of the countries that are di-

Alliances are no longer what it used to be. They no longer bind you.

rectly involved with the US?

It is a bit surprising. I think Obama’s popularity ratings in US are dipping now. He is facing enormous difficulties with his domestic agendas. But he has managed to make all of the right noises in relation to foreign policy. He has tried to make an opening into the

Middle East, re-engaged with the multilateral population. Whether Obama getting a Peace Prize will make any difference over a long run is a public relation exercise.

We have had the UN for a long time. They served its major purpose right after the World Wars. We have NHRC, still we have Human Right Violations. We have UNICEF, still atrocities against children are often heard of. We have Security Council, still peace is violated. So, to what extent do you think that the UN should be reformed to take the world peace forward for world growth?

Some people do feel that UN today is redundant. I think that if you get rid of it, you will very soon find yourself recreating it because there are so many things in the world that require co-operation. I don’t feel that UN does not need any reform, but there is no easy reform that you could point to that would speed up world peace. One that is very close to the heart of the Indians is the reform of the Security Council. We need to keep working on it. It’s we who have to prove ourselves. The solution therefore lies in us. ●

Compiled by Vira Sharma

Thank you very much for your kind letter. I am grateful to you for sending me a copy of your excellent paper. I wish you continued success in making the Global Times a vehicle for spreading a Message of Hope and happiness in our world.

M S Swaminathan

(...in response to the interview published in The Global Times issue date October 16-31, 2009)

The GT issue edited and presented by AIS Mayur Vihar was very inspiring. The theme of the cover page was attractive and innovative. The articles

were well written and creative. Topics chosen were innovative and happening. I would like to mention that if they would have included some more articles on entertainment, the paper would have been even better. Other wise the overall layout was enlightening. We were very happy to see the article on Saksham Aggarwal’s achievement. We at AIS Gur 43 hope to drive inspiration from this issue and strive to make a good paper ourselves. We have put on our thinking caps and are busy penning

GT M@il



down articles for GT Gur-43 January issue.

Pallavi Vemuganti, VIII B, AIS Gur- 43

The much awaited “Super Special issue” of GT was released with lots of fervour and excitement and why not, it was a dream come true for each and every Amitian at Mayur Vihar! The issue started with a tribute to the “Father of the nation” and the article “Youngistan ka ailaan” highlighting the evils that are hindering India’s dream to become a global power. Issues like saving our

wildlife especially Cheetah from getting extinct were handled sensitively and an interview with the Secretary General and CEO of WWF left a mark on the mind of every reader. The newspaper was also filled with some really interesting and informative articles like Aloe Vera as a “healer” to choosing the appropriate outfit for the festive season, craft related activities and puzzles. Our Principal’s message ‘spread your wings’ uplifted the confidence level of every reader and made us realize that each one of us has the capability to emerge as a winner.

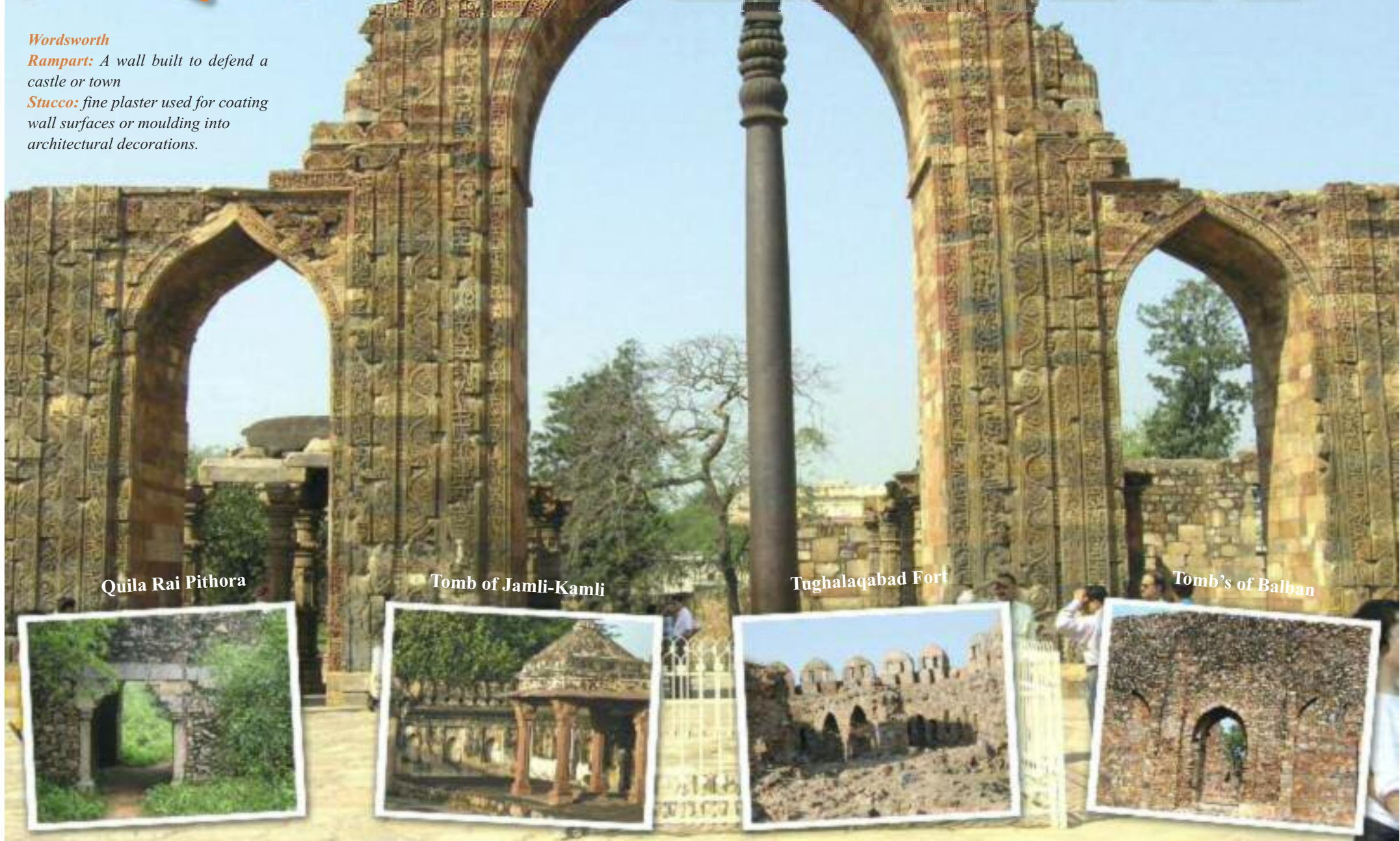
Neha Sud Teacher AIS MV

Know Delhi

Wordsworth

Rampart: A wall built to defend a castle or town

Stucco: fine plaster used for coating wall surfaces or moulding into architectural decorations.



Quila Rai Pithora

Tomb of Jamli-Kamli

Tughlaqabad Fort

Tomb's of Balban

How many of you have ever been to or heard about Connaught Place, Sarojini Nagar or Lajpat Nagar? Guess, almost all of you. But how many of you can name more than five monuments in Delhi?? If you are one among the many delhites who can't, here's bringing the eternal side of dilli to you...

Imaging: Pankaj Mallik

Sanjana Chopra, VI-A &
Kashish Minocha, AIS Saket

Monuments from an integral part of India's heritage. The capital, Delhi, itself has over 300 monuments, standing alone and isolated in the midst of a crowded city, more used as a shelter for road-side dwellers, a junkyard or a growing place for weeds. These monuments are only to be buried in the books and no one today is interested to know what their walls and foundations consist of. These monuments stand still hidden in the darkness and no one wants to bring them into the light. Infact, more foreigners visit the monuments than Indains themselves!. While monuments like Qutb Minar, Red Fort, Humayun's Tomb etc. have been restored to glory, many other monuments lie, disheveled, in shambles. The massive beautification and restoration work in the known monuments is in stark contrast to the silent neglect of the others. Amongst all who've made Delhi their hometown, how many really know their city? A survey, some visits and a little introspection later, we realised most people including us, were ignorant of the vast treasure trove the city holds. Thus, we bring to you the flavour of Delhi, beginning with its long forgotten monuments.

Quila Rai Pithora

Prithviraj Chauhan built Qila Rai Pithora, the first city of Delhi, by extending Lal Kot, and constructing huge ramparts and moats around it. The city derived its name from the title of Prithviraj Chauhan and thus came to be known as Qila Rai Pithora, with Lal Kot as its southwestern base. At present, the ruins of Qila Rai Pithora have been conserved in a 20-acre DDA Conservation Park at Mehrauli. The park has an 18-foot high statue of Prithviraj Chauhan and a library, and is being developed as a tourist destination that will house an interesting museum and artifacts belonging to the medieval period. The ruins of Qila Rai Pithora can be reached by taking the Delhi-Qutab or Badarpur-

Qutab roads. The ruins of the ramparts of the extended city are rubble-built and are 5 to 6 meters in thickness, with a height of 18 meters on some side, surrounded by a wide moat from the outside. The city had a number of imposing gateways and bastions. Qila Rai Pithora had 13 gates. Badaun Gate, one of the remaining gates, was the main entrance of the city. The other existing gates of the city are Hauz-Rani and Barka gates. The boundary walls are well lit up in the evening and it looks very beautiful when one views the ramparts through the camera arrangement placed atop the Qutab Minar.

Tughlaqabad Fort

Tughlaqabad Fort is in the outskirts of Delhi, aloof and secluded from public view. Very less remains of what was once an intimidating fort. The red stone fort was commissioned by Tughlaq emperor, Sultan Giyas-ud-Din Tughlaq as a part of Tughlaqabad city, which is considered the 3rd city in Delhi of the sultanate era. The primary reason for building this fort was the then prevailing political and social unrest. The Mongols were on rampage in Central Asia and were attracted to Delhi because of stories about its grandeur, which at times were grossly exaggerated. This political instability made Giyas-ud-Din build a fort which was invincible and thus came Tughlaqabad into existence. The height of rampart varies from 15 to 30 meters from its base. The walls are the thickest you can find in any of the forts in India. At places it is 35 feet thick, but generally varies between 15 feet to 25 feet at most of the places. Within these high walls you can still find ruins of double-storied bastions and massive as-

sault towers. Besides it had numerous palaces, a grand mosque and meeting courtyards. The main city was on the eastern side of the palace. The other major attraction is the tomb of Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq. It was built by the emperor himself in the year 1328. The tomb, enclosed in a courtyard which has high raised walls, is a masterpiece of the fusion architecture of Afghanistan and Central Asia. This invincible fort was never conquered by the Mongols but it lost the battle against nature. The city was abandoned within 5 years of its establishment due to severe lack of water.

Tomb of Jamali-Kamli

The Jamali Kamali mosque and tomb is situated in the Archaeological Survey of India Park. Jamali was the name of a poet, Shaikh Fazlullah, also known as Jalal Khan. He lived from the reign of Sultan Sikander Lodi till that of Mughal Emperor Humayun. The construction of the began in 1528-29 during the rule of Babur, the founder of the Mughal Empire but was completed during Humayun's reign. Richly ornamented with stucco-work, the mosque is considered to be a transition between the architectural styles of Moth-ki-Masjid and Sher Shah's mosque. The prayer hall of the mosque has five arched openings with the central arch higher than the rest and is aesthetically carved with fluted pilasters flanking it. The western wall of the mosque has niches decorated with Quranic inscriptions. The façade of the prayer hall is decorated by pendant lotus-buds. The tomb of Jamali Kamali stands within a large courtyard in the same complex, north of the mosque. The square chamber measures 7.6 square meters and is

covered with a flat dome. It has two marble graves, one believed to be of Jamali and other that of Kamali, but who he was remains a mystery. The chamber is beautifully decorated with phenomenal stucco decoration in the interior and blue tiling on the exterior, including the inscribed verses composed by Jamali. The beautiful and spruce lawns of Jamali-Kamali make it a popular picnic spot for Delhites.

Balban's Tomb

Located near the entrance of the Archaeological Survey Park, lies a 13th century tomb popularly called Balban's tomb. Balban was the last of the major Slave dynasty sultans who died in 1287 and was buried here. The tomb is among the many ruined old structures of Mehrauli that are in a serious state of neglect. Ghiyathu'd-Din Balban's tomb is a rubble-built square chamber, open to the sky, with arched openings on all its sides. The chamber occupies an important place in the history of the development of Indo-Islamic architecture, as it is for the first time that true arches were used in a structure in India. To the east of Balban's tomb is situated a ruined rectangular structure, believed to contain the grave of Khan Shahid, Balban's son. He died fighting against the Mongols near Multan in 1285.

Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque

Even in ruins, the Quwwat Ul Islam Mosque in the Qutab complex is one of the most magnificent in the world.. Its construction was started by Qutab-ud-din Aibak in 1193 and completed in 1197. Additions were made by Iltutmish in 1230 and Alla-ud-din Khilji in 1315. The main mosque includes an inner and outer courtyard, of which the inner is surrounded by an exquisite colonnade, the pillars of which are made of richly decorated shafts. Most of these shafts are from the 27 Hindu temples which were plundered to construct the mosque, which explains the typical Hindu ornamentation on Muslim mosques. ●

I talked to about 100 people about visiting and knowing "Old and Forgotten Monuments of Delhi" and this is the survey result:

Quila Rai Pithora: 13%
Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque: 15%
Tughlakabad: 10%
Tomb of Jamali & Kamali: 5%
Tomb of Balban: 3%
Qila Rai Pithora :

Commonwealth Champion

First Person

Bhaskar Sen, AIS Saket

How does it feel to represent India? Great. And how does it feel to win a medal for India? It is a 109-million dollar feeling—as you feel you have won it for each of our teeming millions, and to have given your people something to cheer about. This is exactly what I felt as I won the bronze at the 5th Commonwealth Karate Championships held at Johannesburg, South Africa, between 14th & 17th Oct’2009, having missed the silver by a single vote. After having recently returned from the Youth World Cup’09 at Greece, where I was ranked sixth; I was both elated and overwhelmed when I was called to represent India again at the Commonwealth Champs. So, available time being short, hectic preparations started under our karate teacher, Tarun Sir. International competitions are great fun, and this was no exception, where on the very first day, they went to one of the largest and finest Lion Safaris in the world, near Pretoria; where we all (my coaches and me) not only saw lions, but also got to touch and pat the more friendly ones. Having arrived at Johannesburg to a rousing welcome by the scores of Indians settled in SA, we were moved to the Airport Grand Hotel, a four-star resort; in the team bus. We enjoyed the trip around Pretoria on the first day, and were taken to the sprawling State Bank Stadium on the next morning for registration and other formalities; where we were issued with the CKF accreditation cards, athletes badge stickers etc. It was great to meet the President of SA Karate Federation and also have a photo session with him. It is really commendable that, by now, several of the world’s top National Coaches know me by name, and are regularly in touch; having appreciated me for my dedication and prowess, and have also given excellent tips to him. On the second day, it was a great scene at the stadium, bustling with more than two thousand athletes from all over the world; six large arenas, and hundreds of tournament officials, referees, judges; all frantically going about their chores. Once you feel overawed by the sheer size of the tournament; it was then that I recall my father’s advice, ‘Believe you will win, and you will’. The day was spent in dressing up, warm-ups and refreshing techniques in between bouts, and waiting for the next call. At that point of time, I felt as if my world revolves around karate and I was mentally shut-off from the world. After having won rounds of qualifying and ranking matches, I geared up all my senses for the fullest concentration, once I reached the medal



round where I was to meet one of the world champs from SA. The round went perfectly for me, so much so that the panel of judges were in a bind to decide as to whom they should award the bout; and ultimately a judges meeting was called, giving me quite a few jitters and missed heartbeats. After much deliberation, the bout went to the erstwhile world champ by only the margin of a single vote; where the Chief Judge still voted for me, and I missed the silver by just a whisker. It was a great feeling to stand among the world greats at the medals podium and to be photographed with the World Federation Chiefs. I felt I had done something for India, something for the school. The next day, I bade goodbye to fellow athletes and left for the Airport from the stadium itself, to the cheers of assembled Indians, who form a large part of the South African milieue.●

Taekwondo tango

Mihir Amol, VI C
AIS Gur 46

I am a Black belt holder in Taekwondo. It is my favourite sport for it provides a balance of Combat Techniques, Self Defence, Meditation and Philosophy, Sport and Exercise, Speed, Stretching and Stamina, Punctuality, Flexibility. It is a Korean martial art and national sport of South Korea. It is the world’s most popular martial art in terms of number of practitioners. My role models are my coach Raju Sir (Dan 4), Padam Sir (Dan 2) and Lama Sir (Dan 8). The word Taekwondo means strike or break with foot. It consists of blocks, kicks, punches and open handed strikes and also includes sweeps, throws and joint blocks. The uniform is white in colour with belts tied around the waist according to rank. Upgradation is held after 3-4 months for coloured belt and a test held annually for black belt. There are 2 main organizations for Taekwondo -WTF (World Taekwondo Federation) and ITF (International Taekwondo Federation) It is an example of union of mental and physical discipline in breaking of



My Favourite Sport

boards, which required physical mastery, techniques and immense concentration. Realizing the importance of self defence, it has become compulsory in Govt. school and free Taekwondo camps are held for girls. The biggest asset of Taekwondo is that one can wear the belt with pride in school but one can’t wear the medals around one’s neck!●

The intriguing history of Taekwondo

●Many believe that taekwondo was born in Korea, some 2000 years ago. Taekwondo, predominantly used in the form of martial arts to drive off enemies was also played as a sport to attain fitness. ●In the year 1910, when Korea was in the clutches of Japan, the latter imposed various bans on the Korean martial arts in order to wipe out the cultural history of Korea entirely. However, Korea resisted and continued to provide training for taekwondo secretly.

●Post World War II, taekwondo gained immense popularity as numerous schools were set up to impart training in martial arts. By then, taekwondo had greatly evolved, thanks to the Japanese techniques learnt by the Koreans under the Japanese invasion! ●A Korean cave painting has sparked many debates; Some say that the painting depicts two men practising taekwondo while some argue that the two men in are illustrated as dancing.●

Compiled by: Namrata Gulati

Parth ka HADIPPA!

Parth Rohilla, student of VII, AIS Gur-43, is a passionate young cricketer. He is an incredibly talented batsman, accurate off-spinner and brilliant fielder. He is an important member of his school team which won the 2009-10 Under 16, Gurgaon District School Cricket Tournament. Based on his performance in the said tournament, Parth got the chance of representing Gurgaon’s Under 16 team in ‘44th Sports Meet of Haryana Schools’ held in Rohtak. Parth’s five wicket spell in a single match at Rohtak helped the 12 year old find his place in playing eleven of Under 16 Cricket team of Haryana for ‘55th National School Games 2009-10 (under aegis of School Games Federation of India)’ held in Srinagar, J & K. Parth was the youngest player of the tournament and his performance was noticed by all. Parth also made his mark in the various other tournaments in which he has participated as a member of his school or club teams. In December 2007, at the age of 10 years, he had played for Under-15 Cricket Team of Gurgaon in ‘All India Invitational Under-15 Cricket Tournament for Adarsh trophy’, organ-



ised by Adarsh Sports & Cultural Club under Sports Authority of Goa. There, Parth participated in three matches opening the innings for his team and took five wickets. Parth’s performance was commended by all including local print media of Goa and Maharashtra. This budding cricketer is equally focussed on his academics and is the ‘School Scholar’. He attributes his growth in both academics and cricket to the motivation provided by the school, his teachers especially Ms Sangeeta Sethi and his school coach, Mr Sanjay Dalal (an ex-Haryana Ranji player).●

Spoducation!

Akash Tyagi, IX-B
AIS Vasundhra

Not many of us realize the value of education, mainly because we take it for granted. We were blessed enough to be born into a good home with good parents and it was taken for granted that we would attend good schools and go on to graduate from good colleges. But for those who are less fortunate, education remains a distant dream, one that is achieved only through sports.Children from poor backgrounds who are talented in sports and games are offered a shot at school through scholarships and fundings, and for them, education is the key that opens he door to a totally different life from the one they knew. They use sports as a ladder to climb up the rigs of education, and although some of them struggle with lessons and assignments, they manage to make it through. Sports help in furthering the cause of education by: **Increasing knowledge about the world:** Inter-country sports meet help in spreading awareness about the culture, customs and habits of people from different parts of the world. We learn a lot

through observation, interaction, communication, and comparison. **Respect for rules and regulations:** Sportspersons are familiar with rules and their importance in the world of sports. They are thus able to understand the regulations that govern education, and are able to abide by them without questioning authority. **Increase self-confidence:** Any person good in one walk of life automatically gains confidence in others. So if you’re



good at sports, it follows that your confidence will spill over to academics as well. And with confidence on your side, you are motivated to give your best. **Providing a way to better life:** Children from a poor background who are not too interested in education realize soon enough that a sports scholarship is the best way to a better life, one that does not include abject poverty and misery. They are thus motivated to do better at school and seek a place for themselves in college later at life. **Decreasing depression:** Sports as we all know, is a natural stress buster. Any activity that we enjoy and that gives us a good workout releases feel-good endorphins which elevate the mood .A good mood is conducive to performing well in academics because there’s a peace of mind that allows greater concentration. Sports are a great outlet for frustrations of any kind. So it can be concluded that sports is a boon for the poor children who are less fortunate and are unable to afford their education. However, they have the opportunity to get a scholarship lead a better life through sports.●

Imaging: Dinesh Kumar



The wicked witch

Short Story

Anoushka Chakrapani
IV A, AIS Saket

As I opened the door, I saw a tiny little green snail standing on the doorway. The moment I touched it suddenly it started murmuring some strange words and with a big ‘THUD,’ the snail became a wicked witch. The witch took me on her broom and laughed wickedly. I was scared. She took me to a strange island which was made up of eyeballs, acid, mummies and monsters. The witch turned to me with a horrifying look and said, “Welcome to horror land the scariest place on earth”. We landed roughly and I was

pushed towards a tank of acid, and the witch said in a horrible voice, “Well, now is time you say goodbye to earth!” She was about to push me in it; but before she could, I ran away. I saw them all come behind me. They was spookier than ghosts. I was so scared that I could not imagine that it was true. I ran to the witch’s broom, climbed on it and said loudly, “Take me home as fast as you can!” The broom flew with a lot of speed. When I reached home I threw the broom in the water so that the witch could not take it. I ran home and told my mother and father about it but they said it must be a dream and told me to sleep. But before I could sleep, I saw the witch’s face formed by the stars laughing at me!●

“Laughter is an instant vacation.” —Merlin Berke

Ishita Bedi
AIS Mayur Vihar

Girlfriend: And are you sure you love me and no one else?
Boyfriend: Dead Sure! I checked the whole list again yesterday.
Waiter: Would you like your coffee black?

case.You will see, I won’t be of much help anyway!
Dad: Son, what do you want for your birthday?
Son: Not much dad, just a radio with a sports car around it.
Diner: I can’t eat such a rotten chicken. Call the manager!
Waiter: It’s no use. He won’t eat it either.



Customer: What other colours do you have?
Manager: Sorry, but I can’t give you a job. I don’t need much help.
Job Applicant: That’s all right. In fact I’m just the right person in this

Diner: You’ll drive me to my grave!
Waiter: Well, you don’t expect to walk there, do you?
Husband: You know, wife, our son got his brain from me.
Wife: I think he did, I still got mine with me!
Man: Officer! There’s a bomb in my garden!
Officer: Don’t worry. If no one claims it within three days, you can keep it.
Father: Your teacher says she finds it impossible to teach you anything!
Son: That’s why I say she’s no good!●

Earth Rashi Jain, V F, AIS Gur 46

The earth is lovely
But pollution is making it ugly
Let us take a test
And make our earth the best
Earth is our home

Don’t make it plastic foam
We our not free to cut a tree
But we are free to plant new
Earth is in pain
Don’t hurt it again
God has given us nature
But we are selfish creatures
We are destroying earth badly
It’s dying very sadly.

Discovery Kashish Minocha VII B, AIS Saket

Faraway places
Events gone by
Interesting faces
Make you laugh, make you cry.

Cities never visited
Easy to see
Mysteries unsolved
Unraveled for me.

In the chair by my bed
Tall mountains I’ve scaled
In the pages I’ve read
Seven oceans I’ve sailed.

Stories on pages
Picture it well
Mystical fables
Only books can tell.

Books Neelakshi Yadav VI A, AIS Gur 46

I like to read books,

They give us knowledge,
That wasn’t in the Stone Age.

There are many paragraphs,
Which to read, are long enough.
There are many facts,
About animals’ and birds’ lively acts.

There are many children,
Who love to read and read.
There are many authors
Who love to write, rather.

They take us to another world,
Where knowledge is continuously told,
These are the books of mine,
Kept on shelves, in line.

The Almighty, who is he?

Pratibha Gauri Nigam
AIS Pushp Vihar

When I turned one, I witnessed who he was,
as a baby he visited and made me smile in my sleep,

When I turned five I was taught who he was,
I learned prayers, but unaware of their meanings deep.

When I turned teen, I doubted who he was,
with complains in my life one too many!

When I turned 20, I denied who he was,
I asked many questions but he never answered any.

When I turned 30 I actually saw who he was,
when I first held him in my hands as my child.

When my hair turned salt -pepper, I forgot
who he was,
with time, his essence faded and became very mild.

When I turned 60, I thought now I knew who he was,
with experience came faith more than ever.

When I took my last breath, I understood who he was,
someone who could be discovered never!

Well, don’t worry
this life of attempted discovery,

did not go waste... as I learned from age,
whoever he may be... he was there at every stage.

Being a Bird

Vallari Suharsh, AIS Noida

Thinking of breaking through the cages
I’ve been locked in here since ages
I want to break away, I want to fly
I haven’t seen the green trees or the sky
People sell me locked in cages
and make me a source of their wages
I think I will never understand
What happiness they get by making me sad.
Freedom is the thing I demand
Set me out of this captivity
Set me out of this pain
And tell me is being
a bird, a boon or a bane?

Friendship

Shipra Kukreja & Lavanya
AIS Gurgaon-43

Friends are there to heel the
wounds
To pull out the saddened
wounds,
To brighten up your cloudy
skies,
To stop you from telling facti-
tious lies

Friends are there with open
arms
To comfort you, they block
the harm,
To keep your secrets hidden
away,
To entertain you when you
want to play

Friends are there, smile or
tear
Friends are there, happiness
or fear,
Friends are fun and friends
are clever
And the ties that bind friends
will last forever





Pix : Pankaj Mallik

“I’ll give them the real picture of India”

Shweta Jain

He is the head of department, Geography, at Tauhara College, New Zealand who would love to witness a live volcano. He is in India on a familiarisation trip for the sake of young New Zealand students. Meet Mr Geoffrey John David Prestidge in India, on a three week scholarship by AFS Asia/NZ to experience school and home life in Asia.

They chose Amity: AFS India chose Amity to play host to NZ teachers in India, and therefore I am here. I stayed for two-weeks with a host family from Amity Vasundhara. The staff and students are really nice. Students were really inquisitive about NZ and asked several questions on global warming.

Perception: If I ever get a group of students from NZ, they are going to find India very challenging. But what I want them to appreciate is that India in many sectors is very developed. The general perception of India in western countries as dirty, beggars, land of magicians and snake charmers is not true. On the contrary, Indian people are so welcoming that you just fit in.

Beneficial for students : In high schools here, I have observed a certain degree of

rote learning. ‘The frog is green. What colour is frog? Green!’ Back home, we give students ‘find out’ kind of tasks. Now when I go back with memories and images of India, it’s anecdotal, and not word of mouth account from someone else. So this is going to be a first hand account for my students.

Relishing Indian food: Five years ago , when I was in Chennai, I tried a south Indian *thali* and it was painfully spicy.

sailing, skiing as well. After finishing my work here, I’ll be leaving for trekking to Pathan Kot, Mcleodganj, Chamba, etc. Some of the places I would love to see are the he high valleys of Nepal and Middle East from Syria down to Jordan and Israel. What I want to see, once in my life is an erupting volcano.

Students’ exchange: A reason why I want to get NZ children to India is for them to understand how fortunate they

A reason why I want to get NZ children to India is for them to understand how fortunate they are to have the luxury of open spaces.

So this time when my host family asked me to have *thali* I gave in reluctantly. And it was fabulous. I learnt that you get a *thali* everywhere. It’s a regional speciality. I love the yellow *dal* and the way Indians cook paneer. It tastes awesome. I am surely going to try cooking them back home.

Adventure soul: I think New Zealand has very outgoing people. I love Tennis and tramping and have climbed the second highest mountain of NZ. I am into

are to have the luxury of open spaces. For them, it’s ordinary, they take it for granted. But once they come here and see the life they would hopefully start preserving and caring for what they have. There’s a possibility of student exchange in future. I have positive signals from the principal of Vasundhara School and I have to speak to the chairperson about it. And it will help establish a friendship between students of the two countries that might last a lifetime.●

Campus Briefs

Information Storage Management Online Test Conducted At ASET

Amity School of Engineering & Technology in association with EMC2 organized an online test for the students of B.Tech. CSE and M.Sc. NT&M final year students on November 16, 2009. The objective of the test was to evaluate & certify the students on their knowledge for ‘Data Storage & Management’ for which there were four different tracks on storage system, storage networking technologies and virtualization, business continuity and storage security and management. More than 200 students appeared for the test from ASET & AIIT. The top-pers were awarded attractive prizes. Mr. Amit Rawat, Programme Manager, EMC Education Services and Ms. Riti Bathla, EMC Data Storage Systems (India) Pvt. Limited, Prof. A L Verma, HOD Applied Sciences, ASET, Prof. Kesar Singh, HOD, CSE, ASET and various faculty members from ASET & AIIT were present along with the students during the function. Mr. Nitish Yadav, a student of B.Tech. CSE Final year was awarded the EMC Champ title with I-Omega Screen Play Pro 1 TB worth INR 16000 as the mega prize. Mr. Siddharth & Ms. Pavneet, final year students of B.Tech. CSE and EMC Campus Ambassadors in Amity Campus were honoured with a goodie bag for the excellent overall co-ordination of the event.

Lecture by CERN Physicist

Amity School of Engineering and Technology Organizes Lecture on ‘Science & Technology Frontier: Steps Towards 2010’ by Dr. Archana Sharma, staff Physicist and the only Indian to have become a permanent employee of CERN, at Amity University Noida Campus on November 13. Senior officials like Dr Balvinder

Shukla, Pro Vice Chancellor (Academics) & DG ASET, Prof. A.L Verma HOD Applied Sciences and Dr Sunita Rattan, HOD Chemistry, ASET were the attendees of the lecture.

AIPT Organizes ‘Trauma Care’Lecture

Amity Institute of Physiotherapy (AIPT) organized a lecture for the Physiotherapy students & its faculty members, delivered by Prof.Celine Lamarre, Professor of Rehabilitation & Physical Medicine at Montréal University, Montréal, Quebec, Canada. Dr.Nitesh Bansal, Director, AIPT welcomed the speaker and called it a great opportunity to understand the Canadian model of Trauma Care Consortium to develop some guide lines or protocol for trauma care for the Indian Scenario. Prof Lamarre delivered a detailed presentation about the Trauma Care Consortium (TCC) followed in Quebec province of Canada, describing all the components starting from preaccident, collision, post collision, pre hospital, hospital and post hospital services. She made the presentation more interesting by supporting it with facts, for instance, TCC has been successful in reducing the mortality rate from 51.8% in 1992 to 8.6% in 2002 in Quebec province. Prof Lamarre also emphasized the important role played by the physiotherapist in the team rehabilitating the victim of Trauma and advised the students aspiring to become expert in trauma care rehabilitation to develop a perseverant approach in life.

The faculty and students appreciated the lecture delivered by the professor and interacted with her at the end of the session.

Prof.Celine Lamarre, Professor of Rehabilitation & Physical Medicine at Montréal University, Montréal, Quebec, Canada Delivering the Lecture

Amity in a Tribal Village



MC Sekhar

Amity Global Business School (AGBS) Bhubaneswar observed Founder’s Day at a tribal village in Khurda district about 30 kilometers from campus. The village Chudanga is a tribal village with some 200 households. The village school ‘Jatiya Sishu Shramika Prakalpa Vidyalaya’ has 70 students in classes I to V. It is helped by ‘Zilla Shramika Bibhaga’, Khurda and managed by ‘Sishu O Mahila Vikas Kendra’ (CCWD), an NGO promoting child rights and education. The poor structure of the school was the decisive

point to hold the Foundation Day there. Amity provided the school with a wall clock, 70 school uniforms, twelve prizes for winners in the essay, speech, art and song competitions held on the day or earlier. The students and parents also enjoyed the sweets and lunch provided by Amity. As the three coaches roared to the tiny village of Chudanga that was replete with scattered hamlets, full with paddy fields with the crops playing to the tune of the wind, goats grazing hither and thither, chickens making inviting sounds, huge fields of brinjal, onion and chillies. There was commotion to be heard with more than 50 children of the

school and their parents as they waited with inviting and surprised looks, school teachers and workers all waiting to receive us. May be they had seen more elephants and bears than people, except perhaps during elections. Interaction with Women SHG group, the male folk and group discussion with families revealed the friendly nature of the tribals, their simplicity and the fact that they were so close to Bhubaneswar, yet they received such little facilities from the Government. Dancing of students hand in hand with tribal male and female folks was fascinating and transcended upon all present. The ones most happy were the little ones of the village who received school uniforms, belts and school bags as prizes won in the competitions organized at the event. Lunch was provided to all children, their parents, Amitians and the coach drivers. The NGO and the villagers were all praises for Amity.●

The tiny village of Chudanga was replete with scattered hamlets, full with paddy fields with the crops playing to the tune of the wind and goats grazing hither and thither.

A taste of Swiss education



Indo-Swiss ties: Sixty years of Indo-Swiss friendship were celebrated with a number of events in the two countries. The Indian chapter of the celebrations were embellished with a workshop on 'Science and Education of Switzerland in India' hosted by AIS Saket on 5-6 October, 2009. The event was organized by Ms Sandra Hutterli, Scientific Adviser at the Swiss Conference of Cantonal Ministers of Education (EDK) in collaboration with the Swiss Embassy in India, the Directorate of Education, Government of Delhi, and Indaf, New Delhi. The objective of the workshop was to explore the potential of cooperation between Switzerland and India in the field of education, via interactive programmes. The event afforded a rare opportunity to AIS Saket to showcase its organizational acumen, and organizational ethos and philosophy.

The Inauguration: The inauguration ceremony was blessed with the august presence of luminaries. The Swiss embassy was represented by Mr Matteli, the

deputy head of the mission in India and Ms Sarah Berry, official coordinator in India. Ms Neelam Verma, Deputy Director, Dte of Education and Ms Bharti Sharma, Principal AIS Saket, too graced the occasion. Indaf was represented by the organization's secretary general, Ms Puneet Kaur. The inaugural ceremony commenced with chanting of shlokas and with the lighting of the lamp by the dignitaries. An inaugural address by the



gave a presentation on education in Switzerland, highlighting the similar multi-language societies that exist in both the countries. Right from the childhood, people of the two countries are accustomed to speaking a mother tongue, a national language and may be, another foreign language. An interactive discussion took place wherein the participants discussed various facets of the education systems of the two nations. At

pressing ourselves when we start learning a new language. She elaborated on the Swiss pedagogy and highlighted that the languages are taught in easy and play way methods. Sixty German and French teachers from various schools in Delhi attended the session. Session Three was aimed at acquainting the Indian students with the Swiss education system and the opportunities that exist in Switzerland. For this session, one teacher and three students each from forty schools of Delhi were invited. During the interactive session, participants discussed admission criteria, cost of education, scholarships, etc. The third session was a one-on-one session attended between the press and the organizers of the workshop. The workshop helped the students get an insight into the Swiss culture and the Swiss system of education, and the opportunities available for them. The workshop was mutually beneficial, as it also helped the Swiss participants to understand our system and its strengths.●

AIS Saket

dignitaries set the stage for the commencement of the workshop.

The Workshop: The workshop was organized into three sessions, each targeted at specific areas of education. The first session aimed at comparing the system of education in the two countries and identifying the positive aspects. The session was attended by three teachers each from forty public, government and government-aided schools. Ms Hutterli

the end of the session, the participants were presented a certificate and there were refreshments organized by the Swiss Embassy. In Session Two, participants discussed the nuances of teaching multiple languages to students. Ms Hutterli shared her experiences and emphasised the advantages of learning a foreign language, and how we begin to have different thoughts, a different body language and a different way of ex-

Green looks peaceful

Raghav Paul, a student of class VI, AIS Mayur Vihar is a budding shutterbug. His pictures have gained recognition and laurels far and wide. This time one of his pictures (Green looks peaceful) received 'Highly Commended Award' in the 'Young Environmental Photographer' contest organised by CIWEM.

CIWEM is an environmental organisation based in London. CIWEM's Environmental Photographer of the Year 2009 contest received nearly 2,500 entries from photographers in more than 60 countries, including Hungary, Poland, Bangladesh, Serbia, Israel, Bulgaria, Pakistan, The Netherlands, Zimbabwe and the UK. Raghav Paul's image 'Green Looks Peaceful' was selected as 'Highly Commended in the Under 21/Young Environmental Photographer of the Year' category. His image was part of CIWEM's Environmental Photographer of the Year Ex-



hibition, credited with his full name and title of the image. He was invited along with his friends and family, to the Award Ceremony and Private View held at the launch of the exhibition at Bedfordbury Gallery, Covent Garden, London. He had the option of limited edition prints of his image to be sold during the period of the launch exhibition in London which run from 7th to 18th October.●

Nature trail at CM's residence

Usha Verma, Teacher
AIS Noida

AIS Noida

On 27th October 2009, five students of AIS Noida (Kam Nag, VD/WA, Namesh Kukal, VD/WA, Arnav Jain, VA/WA, Pulkit Jain, VA/WA and Pahini Aggarwal, VC/WB) called on the residence of the Chief Minister of Delhi, Mrs. Shiela Dikshit. They were accompanied by the team of "Newz Buzz", a Noida based cable news channel whose logo is "for and by children". The purpose of the visit was to explore the "Nature Trail" at the Green Canopy. (Nature Trail had been specially landscaped by WWF four years back). The young Amitians were taken on a guided tour by Dr. BC Sabata, Senior Scientific Officer, Department of Environment, NCT Delhi and Mr. Animesh Kapoor, animal activist, environment

educator and volunteer for WWF. They were also given educative tips on preserving the environment by both their guides. What captivated the kids were the awesome 6000 mega bats and vermiculture process. The Amitians also got to interact with Mrs. Sheila Dikshit and voiced their desire about becoming volunteers for Commonwealth Games 2010. They also

posed some interesting questions as, "Is Delhi prepared to host the Commonwealth Games?", "How can kids help to keep the Yamuna clean?", and the like as the CM patiently answered all their queries. What struck the kids were her warm hospitality, patience, genteel mannerisms and "down to earth" attitude which they will certainly remember for a long time to come. ●



Amitasha's Balakalakars

Ruby Chauhan, Teacher, Amitasha Saket

More than hundred students and seven teachers of Amitasha went to attend 'Balakalakar'-an art workshop for the underprivileged children of the city at Aadyant Pre School, Vasant Kunj on October 11, 2009. 'Balakalakar' was an initiative to recognise the talent of such kids and provide them a platform to improve. Nearly 1000 children from various NGO's as Birla Vidya Niketan, DPS, Ryan, Mount Carmel, Khushi, etc participated in it. The workshop started with 'hand printing' in which children made hand prints

on a white canvas, in the form of the national flag. An interactive session followed where participants played games and sang songs. The theme of the painting competition was 'India Great' and Amitasha students depicted it very beautifully. They even presented songs on the stage to showcase their singing talent.

As the results came out one after the other, it turned out that Amitasha had bagged them all. It was a clean sweep and everyone appreciated their paintings. The prizes were as follows:

Below 7 years: Prarthana, Amitasha Saket
7-10 years: Roshni, Amitasha Gurgaon

Above 10 years: Jyoti, Amitasha Noida
They were awarded with a cycle each and sponsorship for three months of classes by National Institute of Fine Arts. In the other category, the following won prizes:

Below 7 years: Nikita, Amitasha Noida
7-10 years: Pooja, Amitasha Noida

Above 10 years: Neha, Amitasha Noida
They received sponsorship for three months of classes by National Inst. of Fine Arts. Our heartfelt thanks to Chairperson Dr Amita Chauhan and Coordinator Dr Manorama Saxena for providing them an amazing opportunities to showcase talent.●

Barbie doll is my favourite toy because I enjoy combing its hair and dressing it up in pretty clothes. Lakshaye Chopra, III-A, AIS Saket

“The Doodle Dude!”



Namrata Gulati

As I enter the house of Puru Pratap Singh for an interview, one notices the many trophies and certificates that adorn his shelf. The ten year dude, a storehouse of talent himself and winner of the prestigious ‘Google for Doodle competition’, emerges, sporting the winning t-shirt. “So, how does he feel to have been chosen as the winner from among 4000 entries,” I ask. An expert at answering by now, pat comes the short but honest reply, “Very excited and very happy.” His mother, Arti Singh, an art teacher in her son’s school, proudly interrupts, “Puru has always been participating in art competitions and more often than not, announced the winner! Besides, he has won many accolades for academics.” The star kid from **Amity, Sector-43 Gurgaon** continues shyly yet with a dash of confidence in his voice, “My whole family was of an immense help to me. We continuously come up with ideas on the theme of ‘My India’. This encouraged the artist in me. My mother



Pic: Pankaj Mallik

Puru Pratap Singh winner of ‘Doodle for Google competition’ on Children’s Day sports his Google t-shirt and Certificate

cheered me always, by telling me not to lose hope even if I didn’t win the competition. She taught me that Winning is not as important as participating.” Puru, read about the launch of this on-line competition in India in August 2009. He took interest and created history, when his doodle, ‘made in India’, was viewed by billions across the world on the occasion of the Children’s Day. Excitedly, he explains the meaning of the doodle, “G stands for the peacock, the national bird of the country. The crown of the peacock represents the four religions; O symbolises the wisdom of the country; the 2nd O is the water found on the moon by the Indian scientists; G is the crown of India-Kashmir; I represents Amar Jawan Jyoti; E is a tribute to the ethics of Gandhiji.” And, what is the ambition of our little artist? “To become a renowned scientist” he surprises me with his answer. Managing to convince, he explains, “Art does not intrigue me as much as science. It is something I enjoy in leisure.” The interview over, Puru poses for GT tirelessly, as if, this was a routine to him. His mother explains, “The day following the result of the Google competition, the media swarmed Puru for interviews and photographs. He was covered live for a channel too.” I look at the junior celeb and can’t help smiling! ●

My Fairy World

Ira Pachori
AIS Gur-46

The word ‘fairies’ sends a person, mostly little kids, into a heavenly, secretive world of their own. Most children believe that the fairies are tiny, beautiful girls known to do good to a person who believes in ‘service before self.’ They are also believed to be very close to the great creator, God. The most

common is the tooth fairy that wears a pink gown. It is believed that if you sleep with your broken tooth under your pillow, the fairy comes somewhere in the night and changes your tooth into a gold coin. Five year old Radhika, in all her innocence, believes that, “Fairies come from flowers at night. If I had a fairy, I would ask her to give me tattoos!” And what if, one was given a golden chance to be-

come a fairy? Devsi, another five year old, says, “I’d like to be a pink dancing fairy and gift balloons to kids and make them happy.” Suvasita, from Gurgaon, also wants to spread happiness, “I would grant wishes if I were a fairy.” Perhaps, if we had a machine to show what’s going on in a little one’s brain and ask her to think about fairies, we’ll see a new world unknown to all, that prospers on the basis of peace, harmony and love. ●



Apoorv Aggrawal
AIS Vasundhara-6

“Shinchan! Will you stop it?” This is a familiar line from the most watched cartoon on Hungama Channel, ‘Shinchan.’ Shinchan is a five year old mischievous boy whose antics lend an interesting angle to the show. He cribs and abuses when his mom asks him to clean his room, has the annoying habit of answering back and is generally very irritating. In another cartoon ‘Doraemon’, careless Nobita doesn’t want to do his work on his own and needs the help of Doraemon’s gadgets.

When children watch such shows, they tend to imitate those antics. Has anybody stopped to think what impact such programs have on young minds? U/G warnings that appear in the beginning of a TV show or film; how many of us adhere to them? In most households, TV time for kids is an uninterrupted and exclusive slot wherein they can watch their favourite shows. Not only television shows, but many movies aren’t really meant for kid viewership and yet, they are released without any statutory warnings. Films

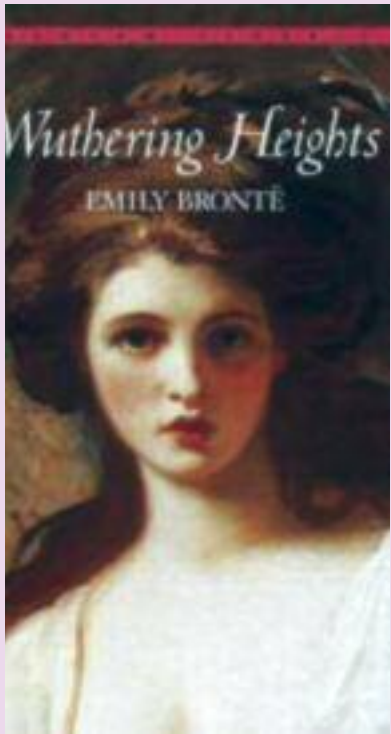
like ‘Bachna - E – Haseeno’ and ‘Krrish’ were not for children. In Bachna - e – Haseeno, there were some scenes that were not meant for children but still, children saw the movie and liked it. Children who saw Krrish felt like jumping out of the multi-storey buildings. It is very important to monitor children’s TV/movie watching time. Also, I’d like to request producers and directors, not to produce such films and cartoons which can misdirect the kids. Parents must take up the basic responsibility of supervising what their children are watching. ●

A tragic tale of star-crossed lovers



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Fairytale endings- ‘and they lived happily ever after’ -don’t always come true in real life, but nor does it always happen in all books. The path of love trodden by even the most affectionate couple in stories, is usually edged with the dark thoughts of a typical villain. But have you ever heard of a protagonist portraying shades of grey? What better than to read ‘Wuthering Heights’ for evidence of that? The wild yet harrowing love story of Heathcliff and Cathy will forever be deemed as one of the greatest books of its era. Nellie, Catherine’s housekeeper narrates the story of two little children, Heathcliff and Catherine, brought up together on the desolate, yet beautiful moors, who grow up to fall in love with each other. But before the two of them can realize their newly-found love for each other, enters Edgar Linton, another inhabitant of the moors, and marries Catherine. When Heathcliff, the storm incarnate, a wild barbarian, is pitted against the civilized and gracious Edgar, what hope does Heathcliff have of winning the beautiful Catherine’s heart? Heartbroken, he departs and returns mysteriously years later, an educated and cultured gentleman, to find his beloved Catherine pregnant. Both of them reveal their feelings to each other, but soon after giving birth to her and Edgar’s child, a baby girl, Catherine takes her last breath. Some time afterwards, Heath-



cliff, mad with his loss, starves himself to death, to truly join his love at last. But the story runs on ahead, telling the equally heart-rending tale of Cathy’s daughter, named Catherine after her. But unlike her mother, Catherine finally has a blissful ending, finding her soul mate in her cousin Hareton. But what thrums the deepest chords of your heart is the hauntingly beautiful story of Heathcliff and Cathy, both the epitome of evil, with their love for each other embodying the only goodness in their hearts. Emily Brontë’s story of Cathy and Heathcliff’s perennial love for each other, which even death could not vanquish, sure is a must-read for everyone. Heathcliff and Cathy, however evil they may be, will forever be immortal in the hearts of those who read of their stirring tale of love.