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**THE PLIGHT OF INDIA,
IS IT IN YOUR NAME?**
PAKHI SENSHEKHAR

THE NBA BUBBLE
SIDDHANT GARG

THE GOLDEN RATIO
DHRUV CHAUHAN



ART BY ADITI AGGARWAL, GRADE 12

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A LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

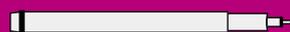


October is upon us, and brings with it Halloween! However, is that really all we have to be spooked about? As a nation, we face one rape case every sixteen minutes on average. This horrifying statistic should scare the bejeezuz out of everyone of us.

In light of the recent, and constant, atrocities of violence against women we have dedicated this month's issue to spread more awareness about this problem.

"The Plight Of India, Is It In Your Name?", a strongly worded essay penned by Pakhi Senshekhar explores just that. Aditi Aggarwal's art, inspired by this brutality, is featured on the cover.

We also feature "The NBA Bubble" and "The Golden Ration" written by Siddhant Garg and Dhruv Chauhan respectively, along with art by Devang Khetan.



*Avika Sukhija
&
Varun Pillai*

THE PLIGHT OF INDIA TODAY, IS IT IN YOUR NAME?

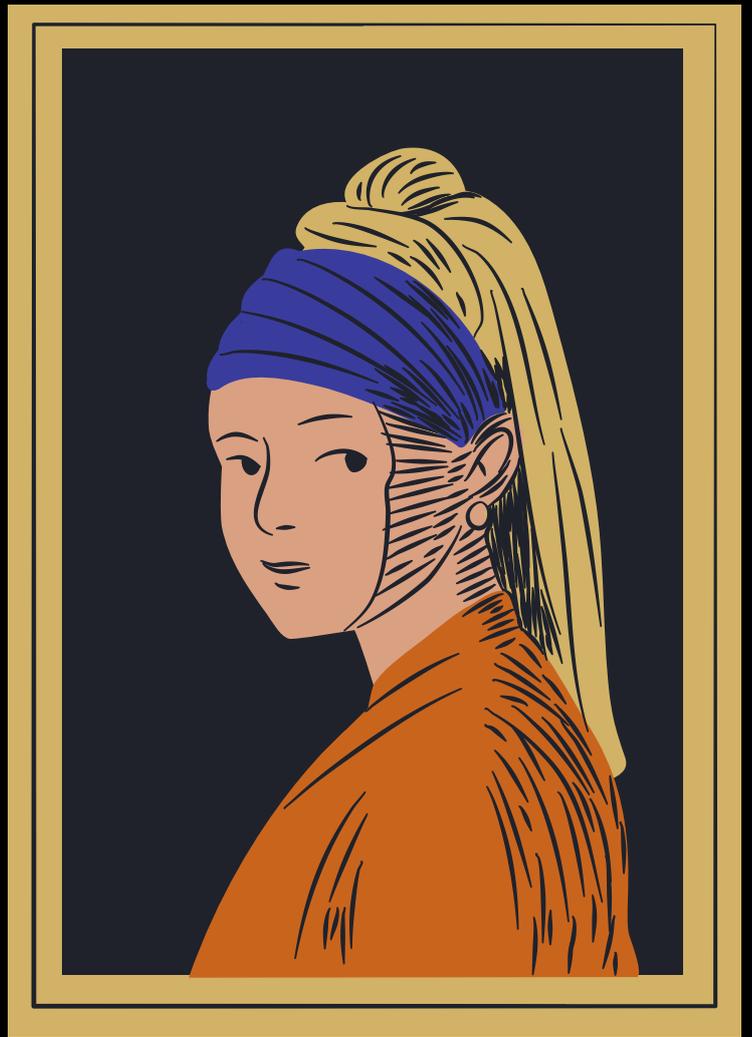
Pakhi Senshekhar,
Grade 12

As a 17-year-old on the brink of adulthood I write this with shaking hands, for each one of us is responsible for the plight of India today. A country no longer celebrated for its rich culture, art, and music, but one whose cities are branded, and rightfully so, as the rape capitals of the world. For those of you who still deny it and choose to stay blind to this heart wrenching truth, I say only this, your ignorance feeds into the cracks of this once great democracy. Each act of ignorance and silence gives way to those who exploit their power and privilege.

Over the past 3 years we've seen incident after incident slowly pecking away at our rights to freedom. And what has been the result of that? That most of us are not aware. The number of people who didn't even bat an eye during the CAA protests shocked me. The number of people who chose to say "Abhey chhod na" or "yaar, this means I'll have to take the longer route to school" even more so. It is time to realize that while protests and riots may cause minor inconveniences they stand for much more. They stand for a cry for help that we as students and the future generation, can provide. A cry for help that calls for action, and the need for us to first acknowledge our country is broken, and then help fix it. Each one of us has the power to do so. So, I urge you to be aware. Be aware of the fact that:

In 2018, an 8-year-old girl in Kathua was raped and killed. Her crime? She was a Muslim nomad. The year before that, 15-year-old Junaid was lynched and mobbed. Why? Because he was Muslim. And on September 14, 2020, a 19-year-old girl was gang raped and murdered by four upper caste men. What for? She was a Dalit. It took 6 days for the police to take action, 6 whole days for the police to acknowledge that a crime had been committed. Yet they mocked the victim's family, and for what? The delay suggested that if you are upper caste, have a Hindu status, or a title, you are invincible.

I've often been asked why I care, or why I continue talking about issues that have gone by, by my own classmates. And while human memory is short, the effect of our forgetting will not be. 3 years ago, a movement was brought to India, called NotInMyName, and I hope to revive it by saying NOT. IN. MY. NAME. All these acts of hate, on the basis of caste and religion, will not take place in my name. Laws passed based on discrimination will NOT be in my name. The rape of 8-year-old girls who have their whole life snatched away from them will. not. be in my name. And lastly the free pass that rapists and murderers are allowed based on their position in India's Hierarchy, will not be in my name, will it in yours?



THE
MONOCHROME
MUSEUM

Featuring Devang Khetan,
Grade 12



"My recent works revolve around the concept of personal identity, for which I recognized culture as a building block which is made visible in the formal qualities of the pieces."

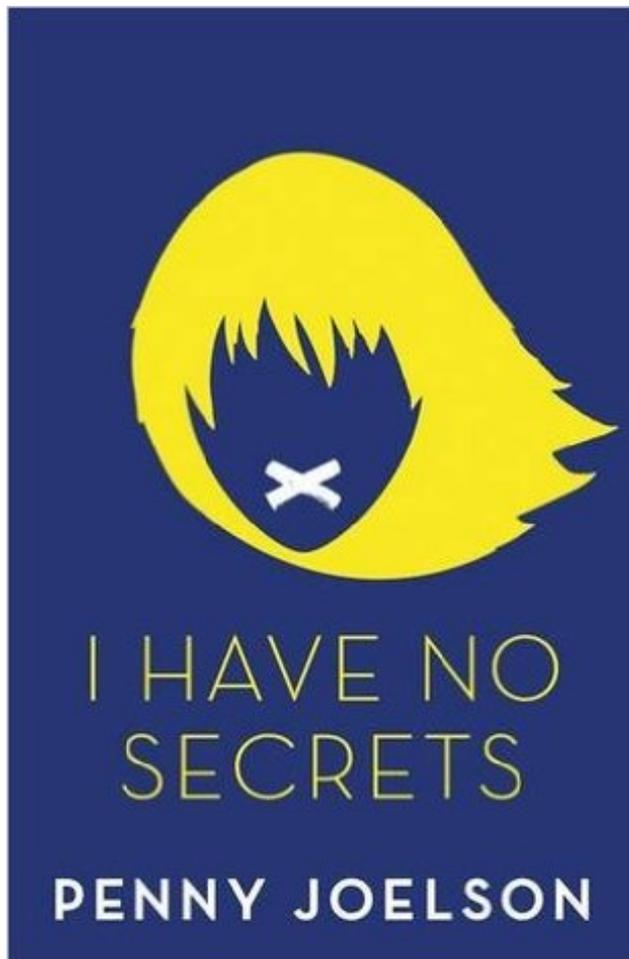


"The artworks also revolve around the concept of putting together historical aspects or elements and combine them with modern styles to present a visually appealing fusion. This was my personal take on the popular topic of 'then' and 'now', where there are no contrasting components, but giving the historical and modern aspects plenty of space to individually express brings out the best in the works. "

THE BOOK CLUB AT

Cafe Chrome





I Have No Secrets

Penny Joelson

This 300-page long book is a perfect lock down thriller for teenagers. I was personally glued to the book as it took me along on a roller coaster of events with Jemma, the protagonist.

Jemma is unlike a lot of us who have a voice and can express, but she is no different either; she is strong, fierce and bold. She needs support externally but has a strong interior, which we see and feel all along the course of the book. Her disability does not deter her spirit. She has the desires and aspirations of any 14-year-old teenager. She has a stand-alone inspiring spirit. Her character does not evoke pity for a disabled, invalid person, rather the focus is on her thoughts, wishes and personality, making her a rounded character. Her disability is not used as a plot device. She feels real and believable and we want her to succeed.

The novel highlighted some important problems with how we treat those with disabilities and I definitely think this should be heard more. At times it was particularly heart-breaking feeling the frustration as Jemma couldn't communicate.

"She looks into my eyes for clues. I wish they could give her some. She feels my brow, inspects my arms, legs and chest for rashes. Then she gets the ear thermometer and takes my temperature. Hopefully once she's sussed, I'm not ill, she'll work out how unhappy I am."

The plot and subplots kept me turning pages as much as any thriller. I especially like the realistic arc with her long-lost sister. Penny Joelson could have taken the easy way, with a fairy tale reunion, but she never took the easy way out. The book is fast paced, the characters are intriguing and the detailed depiction of augmentative and alternative communication explores the joy of self-communication.

Reviewed by Siddhi Khare, Grade 10

THE NBA BUBBLE

Siddhant Garg, Grade 12

From LeBron's "We built different. We built different dawg.", to Jimmy Butler's "Woo party!", the NBA Bubble has been an exhilarating journey for the players, and the fans. Whilst it started with the games 'looking like LA Fitness at 3 'o clock', by the end we experienced some of the best basketball that has ever been seen. The thrilling game 7s, the unbelievable upsets, the rise of emerging stars, the narratives, the fight for social justice...the past few months were truly a roller-coaster ride.

On March 11, 2020, the NBA announced the suspension of the 2019-2020 season following Utah Jazz centre Rudy Gobert testing positive for Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). It was heartbreaking, although coming from a Cavs fan, i.e. someone who has experienced much more pain, as the 2019-2020 season was supposed to be an art piece until the hiatus. The anticipated 'Battle of LA', an action-packed 7 Game series that most fans expected to take place during the playoffs, was most probably never going to happen. Or the emergence of Giannis Antetokounmpo as he took the league by storm, left us wondering if he could ever showcase his talents in the playoffs.

However, Adam Silver, an American businessman, lawyer, NBA commissioner, and undoubtedly a GENIUS, approved a plan to continue the 2019-20 season with 22 teams playing at Walt Disney World's ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex in the NBA bubble. Amidst the dreadful state of our world, the NBA masterminded and managed to execute one of the most challenging tasks ever experienced by sports executives, and for that, I thank them.

Players played every game as if it were their last. A glaring example would be the bubble MVP, 'Damian Lillard', who averaged 37.3 points, 9.6 assists and 4.3 rebounds while shooting 49.7 percent from the field and 43.6 percent from 3-point distance in eight games. In addition, led by Devin Booker, the Phoenix Suns managed to go on an 8-0 run, but failing to secure a chance to compete with the Los Angeles Lakers in the first round of the Western Conference playoffs. Surprisingly, we were introduced to an unnoticed talent as well, TJ Warren, aka Bubble Warren. The 6-foot-8 Indiana Small Forward shook the NBA fan base when he scored 53, 34 and 32 points in the first three games of the Bubble. Never scoring 30+ points in consecutive games for the past 5 seasons was soon abolished after this run.

Nonetheless, the true test for the players was the NBA Playoffs. A battle ground least to say, the previously hostile and exciting environment created by the fans was now replaced by Zoom screens on all 4 sides of the court. Whilst Round 1 of the East Playoffs went as expected with the Bucks, Celtics, Raptors and Heat advancing with ease, it was the West Playoffs that had every fan on the edge of his seat. For instance, Luka Dončić's first ever playoff run. Although the Dallas Mavericks lost in 6 games, it was heart warming to see Luka go off in each game to give the Los Angeles Clippers a run for their money. Moreover, the two 7 game series that took place between the Rockets and Thunder, and the Jazz and Nuggets were beyond exciting. Led by Chris Paul, the Oklahoma City Thunder challenged the Houston Rockets with grit and just fell short of getting over the hump. Contrastingly, as the Utah Jazz secured a 3-1 lead, it seemed as if the series was over. However, the lead faded away like sand from their palm, as Nuggets embarked on one of the most unexpected playoff runs, which started with their triumph over the Jazz. Lastly, the Lakers cruised through their first playoff series, beating the Damian Lillard led Portland Trailblazers in 5 games.

.As the competition got eliminated, the fire between the remaining competitors grew. The Lakers finished the job as soon as possible, beating the Rockets in an easy 5 game series. The 5th seeded Heat shocked the world as they beat the MVP led Bucks team with a gentleman sweep. As the Celtics went 2-0 in their series against the Raptors, in the blink of an eye, the Raptors managed to push the series to a game 7, but fell short to Jayson Tatum's 29 points, 12 rebounds and 7 assists in the last game. As the fans patiently waited for the Battle of LA to takeplace in the West Finals, the Nuggets pulled off one of the greatest upsets. Down 3-1, Jamal Murray put up few of the best playoff performances ever seen, taking down last year's finals MVP, and becoming the only team to come back from two consecutive 3-1 deficits in the playoffs.

The Conference finals breezed by us all, as in the East, Jimmy Butler led the Heat to the first finals performance since 2014, and in the West, LeBron James returned to his favourite playground, the NBA Finals. It was a nail biter, every time we thought the Lakers had it in their bag, the Heat managed to pick themselves up and compete for the championship. Sadly, Jimmy Butler's thrilling Playoff run came to an end when the Lakers triumphed in 6, giving LeBron James his 4th ring and 4th Finals MVP, and achieved the title of being the only player to win Finals MVP on three different teams.

I hear so many people saying that this championship will come with an 'Asterix' attached to its name, and I agree to them, not because it was played after a three month break, but because this was the toughest NBA playoffs ever played. Playing Basketball in an environment like nothing before, being separated from their loved ones, playing through the thought that they could be infected at any given time, and performing whilst fighting for social justice and equity are reasons

why an Asterix should be attached to this season. There has not been a year like this for Basketball for ages, and as unsettling as it was to see the stoppage a few months ago, it was the wait that made everything so enthralling. We do not know how the 2020-2021 season will move forward or when this disease will be eradicated, however, as we patiently wait, we will have something beautiful to look back to.

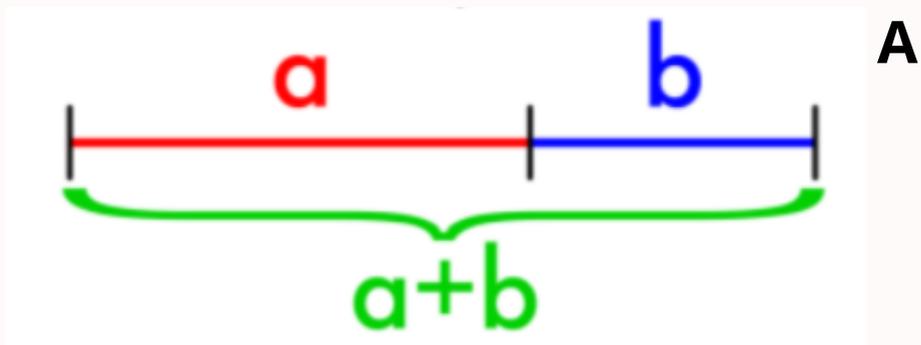
THE GOLDEN RATIO

Dhruv Chauhan, Grade 12

The world of math is full of numbers, variables and constants. We all begin with natural numbers starting from 1,2,3 and going up till infinity. Then we learn that there is a 0, which along with the natural numbers, form whole numbers. After that, to our astonishment, we get to know about negative numbers, which are to the left of 0 in the number line and go from -1, -2, -3 and again up till the negative infinity, and with whole numbers are called integers. We are then introduced to fractions and decimals, which represent the rational numbers. And finally to complete the journey to form the real numbers, we add the irrational numbers. Almost all of you have heard of π (pi - 3.1415926....) and many of you have heard of e (2.718...), but how many of you have heard of ϕ ?

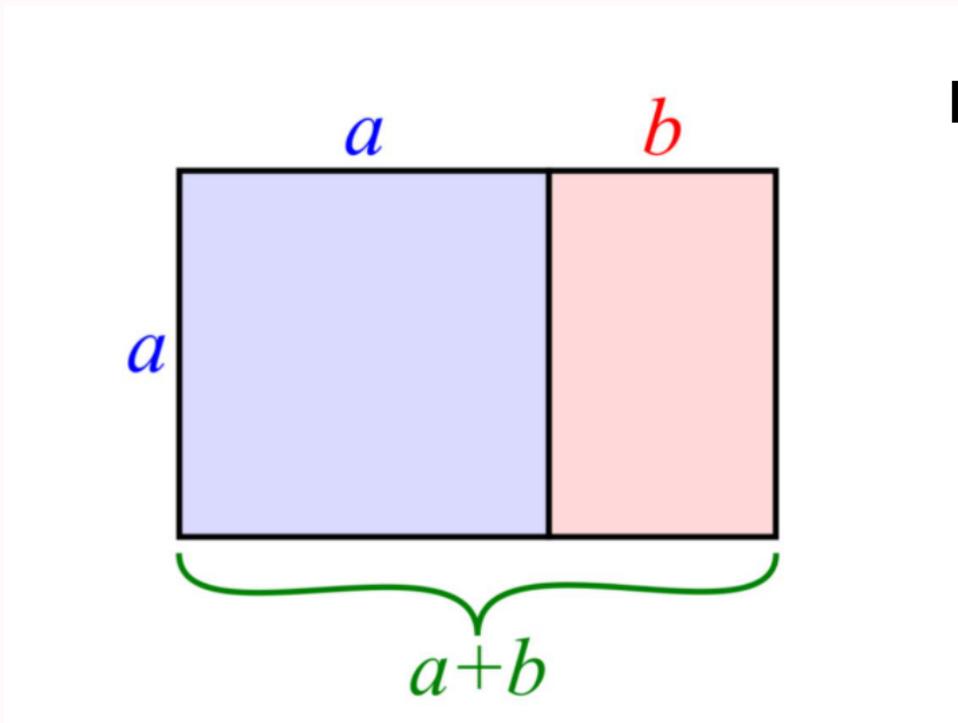
Phi (pronounced as 'fy') is the name of the greek letter ϕ , also known as the golden ratio. The value of ϕ is 1.618.... And as stated above, is an irrational number. Now we all know that pi is the ratio of the circumference to the diameter of a circle, but what is phi and why is it called the golden ratio? Well, the answer to these questions lie in how phi is defined.

To understand how the golden ratio is defined, let us take a line segment and divide it into two lengths a and b assuming $a > b$. If the lengths are divided such that the ratio of a and b is equal to the ratio of $a+b$ and a , then the ratio formed is the golden ratio, which is 1.618... To understand it better, have a look at the below figure.



With reference to the picture, $\frac{a}{b} = \frac{a+b}{a} = 1.618$. Now that we have understood how the golden ratio is defined and why it is called so, I would like to show where all it appears in math. The golden ratio is so prevalent in math and is hidden in plain sight, yet no one talks about it.

Now golden rectangles are those rectangles from which if a square of side 'a' is cut and the remaining length of the rectangle be taken as 'b', then again $\frac{a}{b} = \frac{a+b}{a}$. To visualize it, look at this picture



It is believed the Greeks used the golden rectangles a lot in their architecture, as shown below



C

The golden rectangle is thought to give a certain shape and elegance to not only architectural beauties, but also to some great artworks as well.

It has also been used by famous painters like none other than Leonardo da Vinci and Salvador Dali in the following pictures.



D



E

In the above painting by Salvador Dali, the windows in the background are framed by a 3d figure composed of pentagonal faces which also connect to the golden ratio.

Looking back from where we have started, I feel the golden ratio is one of the most important yet unknown constants in the world of mathematics. With its applications ranging from algebra to geometry to even art, the golden ratio indeed is as valuable as gold to the mathematic

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The Monthly Monocle

AN INTERVIEW WITH TANVI AMRIT, GRADE 12

Available at:

<https://psnpublications.wixsite.com/website-1/gallery?pgid=k7ametv9-390cda4e-8bd5-4e26-9b5e-910182698cb8>

FIN!

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