

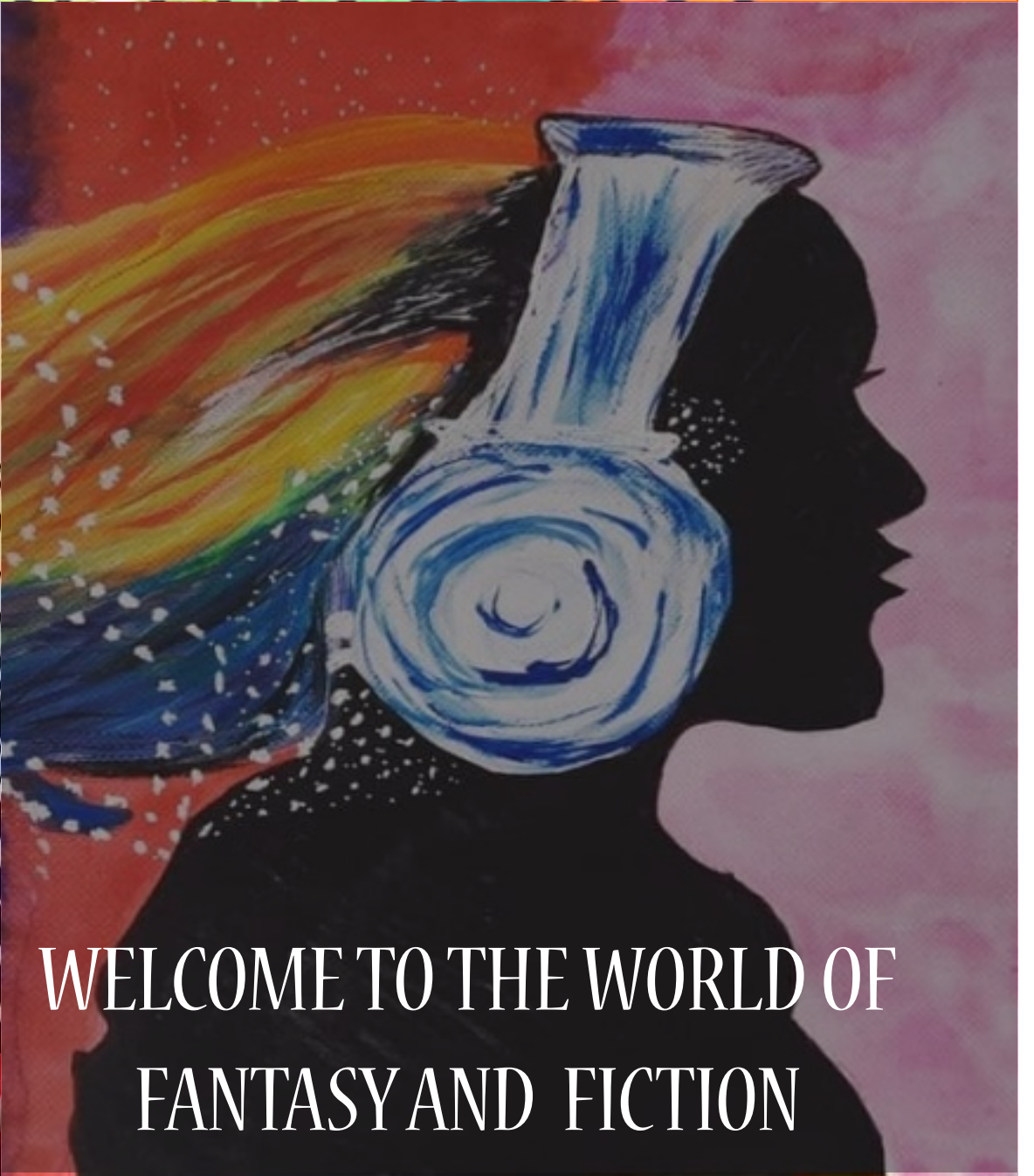
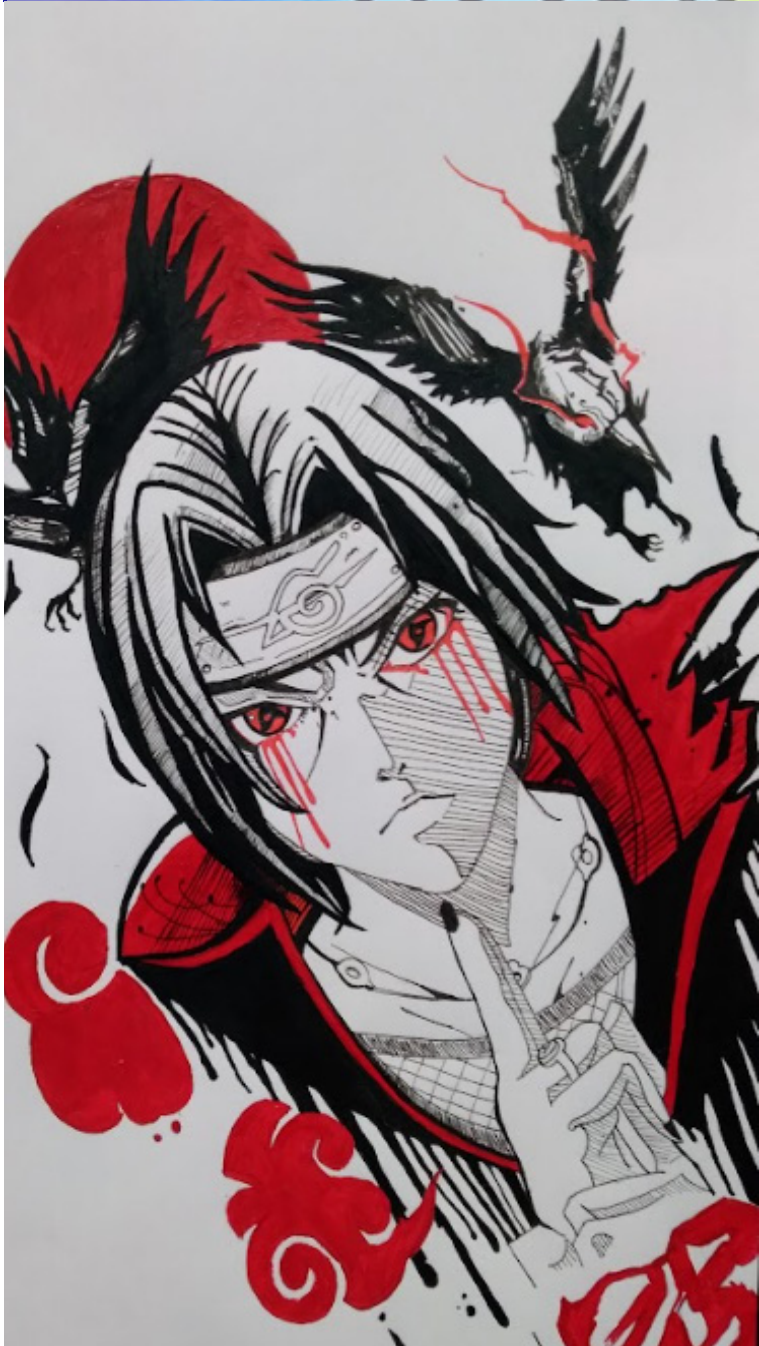


**VOLUME 2**  
Mass Communication Department, St. Xavier's University, Kolkata

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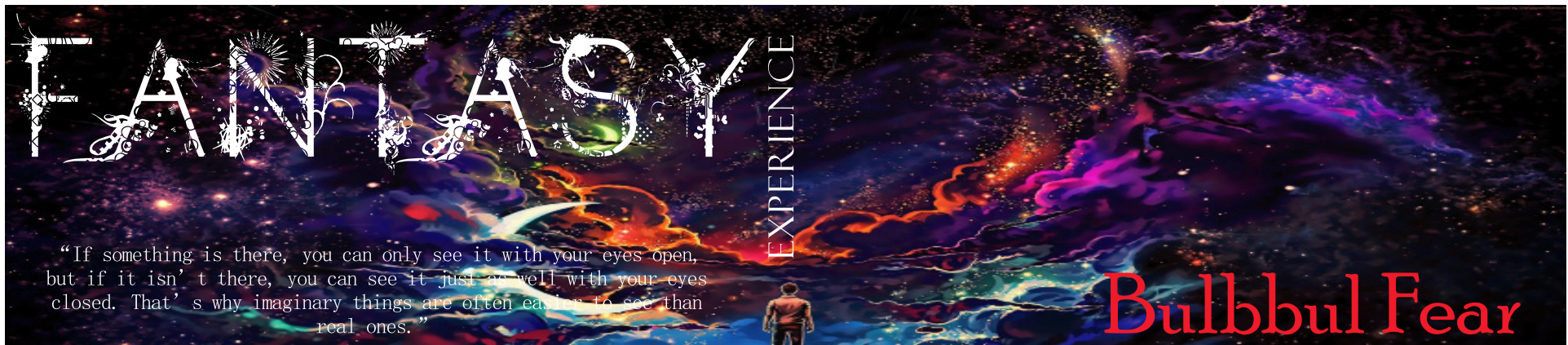
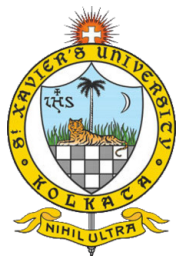
**ISSUE 3**  
July 2022



WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF  
FANTASY AND FICTION







## Avatar

Avatar, a movie by James Cameron, takes place on Pandora, 100 years from now. The Na'vi are tall, blue, thin beings with humanoid traits but also long tails and movable ears that live on this rich planet. They resemble a wasp-waisted cross between Meerkats, Minoan athletes, and Barbie dolls. In contrast to the "Sky People," as they refer to the humans who have come to take their natural riches, they coexist peacefully with their breath-taking, technicolour, and dazzling terrain. Unobtainium, valued at \$35 million per ounce on Earth, is what the miners are after. It genuinely represents the most recent manifestation of human avarice, as the name says. The movie shows the typical conflict between natives attempting to preserve their ecosystem and strangers whose job it is to destroy it for profit. Of course, there are deeper issues at stake than money; ideals are at stake. The imperialists/



## SMALL TOWN SUPERHERO MINNAL MURALI

Disclaimer : I am not a fantasy fiction fan but this Malayalam movie has proved me rightly wrong. My friends have tried their level best to convince me into watching either Stranger Things or Harry Potter, but never have I ever been interested in any of the former. For me it was always Shah Rukh spreading his arms, Rohit Shetty blowing cars or Jr. NTR running with an axe that has caught my eye. We might not call them fantasy fiction but the fiction was always 'fantastic'. One fine afternoon when I was about to follow my everyday drill that is to watch FRIENDS for the nth time, I saw Minnal Murali in Netflix's top 10 ranking and I thought to give this movie a watch because lately I have been enjoying a lot of Malayalam content. In Basil Joseph's MINNAL MURALI, Tovino Thomas aka Jaison and Guru Somasundaram aka Shibu was struck by lightning and that gave them superhuman abilities. Jaison, an over ambitious tailor wanted to do something big in life. Shibu on the other hand, was a loner, belonging from the lower caste and was mostly ignored by the village people. Unlike any other movies in Minnal Murali, not only the protagonist but the antagonist too had an origin story. He loved an upper caste girl called Usha in his youth and had eloped with someone else when she got pregnant. Later, the lady and

her daughter were abandoned by her husband. Nothing changed for Shibu; he still loved Usha the way he did years before. But Shibu's unsettling love led to him killing her brother. Knowing these, the villagers tried burning Shibu but ended up burning his house with Usha and her daughter inside. Shibu watched them burn, screaming! That's when a monster was born as Shibu planned to slay the village. He planted bombs everywhere. Jaison's transformation on the other hand was very comical to watch and the contrast between their transformation was beautifully presented in Basil Joseph's direction. Jaison's chemistry with his nephew was a very sweet part of the film. Like any other superhero film this was also a war between good and evil. Jaison being the former and saving the villagers from Shibu in the end. But what interested me was Shibu and his origin story. No man is born evil. Society, caste discrimination and lack of companionship can give birth to devils. The film offered something new in the superhero. He was neither a Krrish nor an Iron Man, he was a simple villager unaware of his powers and didn't know what to do with them. Honestly, I didn't expect fantasy fiction to be portrayed with such simplicity and authenticity. This regional movie gave India a local superhero, like a very unlike very neighbourhood Spider-man.



clones. With limited success, the scientists tried the colonial strategy of "teaching" the Na'vi their ways; as a result, they are currently experimenting with hybrids as a sort of cultural Trojan horse. The Na'vi body of these clones/avatars, which is "controlled" by a human in suspended animation, has been used as an avatar. The Na'vi's holy Home Tree is where much of the ore is found, therefore the scientists are hoping the clones will help them and numerous than those Because I'm seeking for constructive alternatives to our "self-reinforcing engine of expansion based on insatiable demands," I wanted to see Avatar. I found the movie to be disappointing. The narrative is predictable and the animation is creative. There are evil guys and good guys, boy meets girl, combat on flying animals in place of vehicle chases. The narrative "takes us wherever we've ever gone," says reviewer Byrnes. However, Avatar polarised opinions. Some people were shocked by how well-liked it has been, ranking as the "fourth-highest-grossing picture of all time," despite its unconventional "eco" perspective.

-By Abushka Dey  
Mass Comm



## Conquering Alternate Worlds

The Man in the High Castle is considered as one of the best sci fi novels and in its web series adaptation we see the Nazis build a machine to conquer alternative dimensions for Lebensraum. The show never fully displayed the Nazi troops marching and overruling the various worlds and that is what still fascinates me. How would such a thing play out? In the show, the Nazis had supreme power with successful inventions

of super weapons and even colonisation of the solar system by 1960s. Open endings are always fan favourites where the creators leave us craving for more and exploring our imagination. This again is no different, what I vision is the Nazi army storming into our world into the continental United States. But how would this pan out? Would the divided world during the cold war fight together like it did two decades ago? Certainly sooner or the

Witches or "chudails" are scary figures that gave us nightmares in our childhood. They are evil fictional characters who want to harm us if we fail to conform to the norms of society. But the concept of Witch is very real drawn from the rebellious independent women of society. Bulbbul tries to narrate the stories of those fictional characters from a woman's point of view making it a feminist fantasy movie. Bulbbul is the story of a woman who gets married as a child to an old Zamindar. It portrays her story of becoming the woman of the house silently giving in to all the injustice done to her. But in the end, it shows how she transforms herself into a fictional image to fight for the basic rights of women in society. Bulbbul draws a fine line between fantasy and reality. Though it is set in a very real historical period of West Bengal, the character becomes fictional as in those days women thinking about their rights is nothing but a fantasy. Being a married woman and having independent thought is a dream for many. The ring on her toe-

nails is the symbol of societal control. The same feet are attacked when her husband suspects her of adultery, so with the help of twisted feet, she crosses the line of control to be independent. The red lighting and the treatment add to the horror genre of the Netflix film. The sad reality is one has to take the help of fantasy as we see in this film to fight for basic human rights. She is reminded repeatedly of how she should be the "thakurain" not the "thakur" of the house. To get the basic rights as a human being, to have an independent life she had to die and take the form of a ghost. She has to take the imagery of a "chudail" with twisted feet to seek justice for herself and all those women who were failed by society. Thus she takes the form of rebellion to stand against the norms of patriarchy. That is how time and again women who fought for their rights are termed as a dark force that seeks to disturb societal harmony.

-By Subecha Sarkar

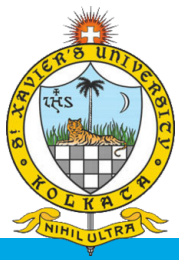


be more brutal than the Nazis in our timeline as they had already developed themselves. We'd see the Nazi master race thriving while the others are either gassed in another holocaust or exiled a primitive life in the rocks. Do you believe we would've defeated them instead? No one can truly predict such alternate scenarios but it's fun to imagine.



- By Armaan Agarwal,  
BA Mass Comm  
Sem 5





## STORIES UNSAID

## THE FOREFATHERS OF SUPERHEROES

Ever since the beginning of this new millennium, the rise of the superhero genre has been astronomic. From Sam Raimi's Spider Man trilogy to the billion-dollar juggernaut known as the MCU, the response has been overwhelming. However, time moves on and the new eventually becomes old bag. Ever since the conclusion of the Infinity Saga, the MCU has pretty much atrophied, with the response to the much-touted Phase 4 tepid, at best. Household Franchises like Star Wars, Star Trek and Doctor Who have fallen into the trap of modern identity politics, which has been pretty much rejected by most longtime fans of the franchise. In these times, when we have been so inundated with "content", it's best to take a step back into a less complicated time, when this genre was not mainstream. Far from it, stories like these were found in the back of cheap magazines and bookstores, as well as the comic strip section of newspapers- what we now know as Pulp Fiction.

Probably the first and best-known character that comes to mind, when we think of this category is the swashbuckling, gentlemanly masked vigilante dressed in all black protecting the common people against the sway of tyrannical officials and businessmen, Don Diego de la Vega, better known as Zorro. Created by Johnston McCulley, His very first appearance came in a 1919 novel- 'The Curse of Capistrano', serialized in the pulp magazine 'All Story Weekly'. Since then, he has made several appearances in comics, tv series and of course, films. A more familiar, but nevertheless just as iconic character is the purple spandex wearing crime fighter from the fictional nation of Bangalla, The Phantom. He made his first appearance in the comic strip of the same name, created by Lee Falk, debuting on February 17, 1936. The comic strip was translated into Bengali by the Bengali children's magazine Sandesh in the 60's. Both Zorro and the Phantom have inspired a

number of other characters including Batman and for Bengali comic book fans, Black Diamond Indrajit Roy. Perhaps one of the most complex and thought provoking among these characters are the stories of The Shadow. A mysterious and highly skilled vigilante, capable of making himself by invisible, known by a number of aliases, The Shadow was originally created for the radio drama 'Detective Story Hour', and made his first appearance in July 31, 1930, with Orson Welles narrating the stories. Other famous characters of this period include Solomon Kane, The Rocketeer and Dick Tracey. While some of these stories might seem stereotyped and a bit corny by today's standards, they are a breath of fresh air in this world of either franchise fluff or the nihilistic 'realism' of 'The Joker' and 'The Batman'. They are enjoyable, escapist tales that sometimes do offer you a lesson, without bludgeoning into your head.

*A portrait of early pulp heroes* -By Rudranshu Sengupta



ThePhantom



Douglas Fairbanks as Zorro

## THE LAST SUNRISE

-By Anurag Guha

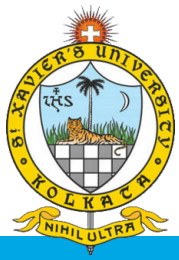
As the sun rose upon a miserable landscape, I looked at the metallic watch that was installed in my hand. 5:50 - I rose from the dusty ground. My metallic arms and robotic legs creaked with the effort since now I was more metal than flesh, not of refined duralumin like those in the upper class, but simple steel. "Get up, grandpa", I said softly in a normal humane voice, "the last rocket leaves in ten minutes!" I crouched down slightly beside my grandfather so that he could take a hold of my shoulders and helped him rise from the barren and rocky ground. For that was how the Earth was now. All rocks. Ever since humans started sending manned missions up to the moon to colonise the area, there's been a race among nations to advance their technology to achieve futuristic feats. It was a short yet brutal fight and it yielded no one victorious. Just billions of victims. The price was high. Our technology lays waste to the world. The warm, organic land turned into something cold and unfamiliar. The higher we rose, the greater we risked the more we lost. Now all there remains are a ground full of rocks and dust. Pre-existing Sandstorms and famines were drowned by hurricanes and floods until this new cycle of seasons repeated itself. Life ceases to exist for either every human being was dead or had been moved to the moon. No one close to my heart had survived. Well, besides my wife- who had been taken to the International space station last week, and my grandpa who has supported me my entire life and I was not going to leave him without him. 5:55 - Grandpa and I struggled along the uneven path. My job was to ensure we both reached safety. A tsunami was

access of a online studies manage htm scheduled to hit us in around fifteen minutes or so. We had to reach the final rocket or succumb to our fate. Grandpa yelled as he stumbled over a rock and groaned, "All these metallic bolts and screws are making me go nuts!" I offered him a soft smile. I wasn't sure whether we were homo sapiens sapiens anymore because we seem to have evolved into something new, something like cyborgs, living a symbiotic life with technology. 5:57 - The station was just a distance away. I could see the gates. They were still open! "Grandpa!", I urged him to walk a little faster but I guess I was too ambitious. My sudden burst of movement made us both topple over. "GATES WILL BE CLOSING IN TWO MINUTES", a sudden announcement rocketed across the empty landscapes. 5:58 - my watch beeped. I looked at my grandfather with panic-stricken eyes. I had to save him. I loved him dearly, and having lost his children, he loved me equivalently. I must have not been the most ideal kid to raise, but he never complained- not once. He may not have raised me wealthy in show but he had made me wealthy in mind. I felt the thump against my chest and the churning in my tummy. A small metal incision held a locket. It had the picture of my parents in it. 5:59 - "Grandpa!", I begged. The old man slumped his shoulders as he shook his head, "No, I cannot make it, you have to go off alone" I just gaped speechlessly at his ridiculous thought. Grandpa however just cozied himself and stared at the sunrise, "My time has come. Your grandmother and mother call me" "GATES WILL BE CLOSING IN 30 SECONDS", the cold voice resonated across the land.



I bent down to reason with grandpa, too shocked to believe what was happening. There was no time for this nonsense. I opened my mouth to speak up when he suddenly raised his finger and put it to my lips. "Ssh", he whispered as he looked ahead, "look at the sun. It signifies the beginning" I looked in the direction where the sun was gradually rising. 6:00, my watch continued to race but I felt too numb to care. My mouth was dry as grandpa poked at my chest where I had my locket, "You have to leave. Don't let your wife blame me for her husband not going back to her" "GATES CLOSING IN 15 SECONDS" My eyes became blurry with tears as I held on to my grandpa grasping the gravity of the situation. "But grandpa, without you, I can't-" Grandpa just tapped me gently on my cheek as he looked at the miniature red sun, "I have lived a long and eventful life. We all need to go where we are destined to go, where we are called for - navigate with your head but choose your destination with your heart" He turned and faced me, "Go! Do me a favor and live a life as I did" "GATES WILL BE CLOSING NOW" I hugged grandpa tightly as I quickly ran towards the station. My eyes with tears but my emotions with a new resolve. "WAIT!", I shouted. Fortunately, there was a human sentry who saw me and pulled me in. He ran with me as he guided me to an elevator to the rocket doors of the passenger compartment. I turned around to see my grandfather. Although I couldn't see him, I imagined him smiling in the direction of the Sun. Except now, it had hidden behind an advancing wave of massive proportions. I wiped a tear as I noticed the gates close shut while I was elevated to the rocket. We had seen the last sunrise.





Stranger Things, written and directed by Matt and Ross Duffer has had a considerable impact on the fantasy-fiction, and the horror genre. Restructuring a genre in itself is a challenge. How do you set yourself apart from a crowd of distinguishable content, especially in the media's Golden Age? However, Stranger Things is in no shape free of its flaws. Without spoiling Season 4, we are yet to see whether the events unravelled in the latest volumes are the foundation to another subversive restructuring of media archetypes or whether the show is succumbing to what it once sought to destroy — a cliché. Let us discuss what subversion is.

When a trope is “subverted”, the author of the story sets up an approach or common notion for the audience but then shocks them by changing it into something else. Funnily enough, subversion of tropes in itself is a trope. How is Stranger Things relevant to subversion? According to Steve Neale's notion of genre, repetition and difference constitute genres. For products of the same kind to remain interesting, differentiating themselves from one another, there must be both frequently observed conventions and variances between them. Stranger Things does just that. In Season 1, we are introduced to Steve Harrington — the typ-

ical, character-trope of the “popular jock/bully/douche-bag boyfriend” to a sweet, sensitive, and for a lack of better words, “helpless” female character. Subversion occurs when we see a character progression which turns Steve haters into swooners; not just for his looks, but also for an evolved, kind, sweet personality. From the overtly masculine trope of the “popular jock”, we shift to a traditionally non-masculine trope of the “nurturing” figure. With Nancy Wheeler, we see the initial facade of a “sensitive, sweet girl” fade into 3-dimensional subverted attributes: she's kind, she's fierce, she's fun and she can shoot you down with a gun. In the beginning, we

are also introduced to Will Byers: described as a “kind, sensitive kid.” Upon sensing danger around, he does something that is unlike any other horror-story protagonist: he seeks refuge in precaution, instead of morbid curiosity. The “sensitive kid” can load a gun and fend for himself. Other instances of subversion include — the character who's supposedly a virgin being the one to die, as characters who are sexually involved survive — once again, a subversion of the slasher movie trope, “death by sex.” We also see Eleven, the typical portrayal of the “alien character propelling the protagonist's story forward.” Her character subversion can be seen when

she becomes the protagonist of the series, instead of a tool to move the plot forward. There are numerous other instances in the show of archetype subversion; its definitive appeal in the first two seasons was how “different” it felt in comparison to existing media products. Unfortunately, the latest season made fans pessimistic with the overbearing usage of clichés. Although, in itself, those clichés beg a question — was Season 4 a set-up for the greatest media subversion that is yet to be seen, in the show's upcoming and last season? That is the silver lining which is yet to be seen.

- By Debdipta  
Bhattacharya,  
Mass Comm

UPSIDE  
DOOM



## JIM HOPPER'S APPRECIATION



Hopper is the Chief of Police in Hawkins and one of the main characters from Stranger Things. In fact, he might just be my favorite character (sorry Dustin!). He's smart, resourceful, and caring. He cares about the people in his town, friends and family alike. He also has a kind heart. I don't know how many times I can say, “He's so nice!”, but yes, he is just that good. I wouldn't really mind having a friend and guardian like him in my life.

Who is the bravest of them all? Hopper it is. Imagine being hollowed out by a series of horrible occurrences throughout your

life and receiving no sympathy from the audience. That is precisely the remarkable accomplishment that the Duffer brothers made while creating the show's character of Jim Hopper. He had no one. He lost his daughter to cancer and his wife left him and yet the cruelties of life makes him no villain. He is ready to save the world and he is ready to die. He is confident even when a hungry demogorgon is right in front of him. He knows he has to fight in order to save his dearest ones.

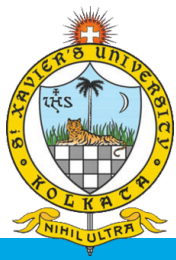
In season 2, we saw the overprotective dad in him. He wants to protect Eleven even though she has enough magical powers to save herself. He saw

his daughter in her. Hopper is the most human character in a science fiction television programme. As Hopper makes a sacrifice for those who are important to him at the end of season three, it somehow serves as atonement for his now jerk-like portrayal of him. This highlights his selflessness and demonstrates how much he cared for them despite his inability to speak clearly. Hopper is one of the best characters on the programme because he was a man who had loved and lost everything he had, a man who had been rejected by the merciless hands of fate yet battled valiantly for Hawkins and its residents. There are moments in the show

which make you want to break through the skin and comfort him, wrapping him up in a blanket like a sushi roll because “There's only so much hurt a man can take”. He was perhaps one of the most good-hearted characters on the show but yet managed to arouse viewers' ire by trying to love and care for an abused youngster.

“Make mistakes, learn from them and when life hurts you – because it will – remember the hurt. The hurt is good. It means you're out of that cave. But please, if you don't mind, for the sake of your poor old dad, keep the door open three inches.” -- Jim Hopper  
- By Madhusnata Saha  
Mass Comm



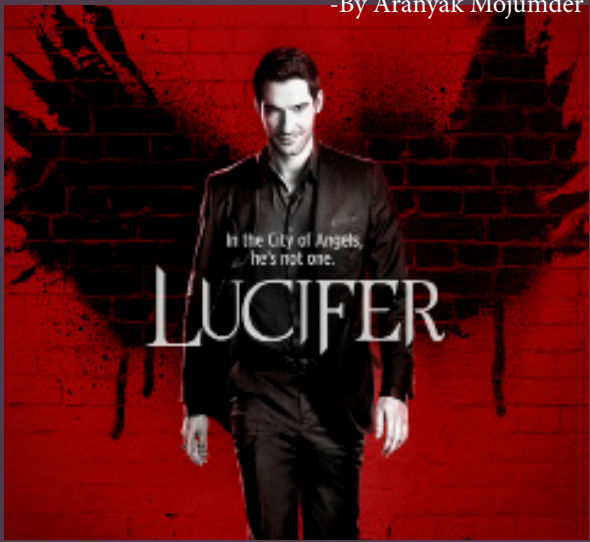


## FANTASY & BEYOND



### THE DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

-By Aranyak Mojumder



The five-season long fantasy fiction Netflix series, Lucifer, based on DC Comics' version of the Devil, has been truly a "hell" of a ride for me. It has hugely impacted my way of life and will always be one of my all-time favourite series.

Lucifer Morningstar (Tom Ellis) abandons hell to take a vacation in Los Angeles, where he owns and runs a nightclub with his trusted friend and demon, Mazikeen (Lesley-Ann Brandt). He soon meets Detective Chloe Decker (Lauren German) and realises that even the invincible Devil becomes vulnerable around this woman and bleeds like a human being when shot at. He starts to work as an assistant to the detective using his charm and magic, and soon they hit it off, becoming one of the most complicated love stories in the fantasy fiction genre.

The Devil, who was supposed to be devoid of feelings like love, falls in love and this completely changes him. He starts to see himself as an angel instead of a devil. He who delves into the depths of what others desire eventually discovers what he truly desires, and together with his brother, a psychiatrist, and some other friends from Earth, hell, and heaven, succeeded in escaping the monotony of torturing in hell and begins counselling hell-bound souls instead. I'm not going to lie, the ending was terrible, but the character development of Lucifer, as well as Mazikeen and Chloe's ex-husband, Dan (Kevin Alejandro), has made it abundantly clear that no matter how strong or powerful you are, if your heart is pure, you will always grow and improve.

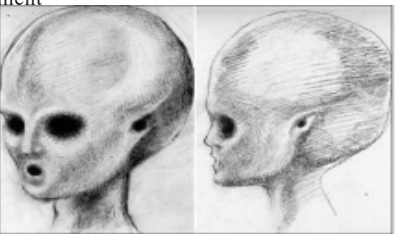
Watching the series has personally impacted me a lot. My desire to become like him has made me comparatively a more honest person than I was a couple years back, because "The devil never lies." He only brings out the hidden desires of others and uses them to his advantage.

To conclude, this series has had its good and bad episodes, but the charm of Lucifer Morningstar will always make it a memorable experience for the audience. I won't tag it as a must-watch, but for some action, comedy, and a perfect taste of fantasy fiction, one can try watching it and the experience will surely be worthwhile.

Ridley Scott's Blade Runner which was adapted from a novel of Philip Kindred Dick was voted the best science fiction film by a panel of 56 scientists assembled by the British newspaper The Guardian in 2004. In British magazine New Scientist, Blade Runner was voted "all-time favourite science fiction film" in the readers' poll in 2008, with 12 percent of thousands of votes. It topped a 2011 poll by Total Film magazine. Philip Kindred Dick was one of the greatest science fiction writers ever born. He wrote 44 novels and about 121 short stories, most of which appeared in science fiction magazines during his lifetime. His fiction explored varied philosophical and social questions such as the nature of reality, perception, human nature, and identity, and commonly featured characters struggling against elements such as alternate realities, illusory environments, monopolistic corporations, drug abuse, authoritarian governments, and altered states of consciousness. One of his best works Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep? was adapted to make the movie Blade Runner in 1982 directed by Ridley Scott, and adapted by Hampton Fancher and David Peoples. Starring Harrison Ford, Rutger Hauer, Sean Young, and Edward James Olmos, the story is set in a dystopian future Los Angeles of 2019, in which synthetic humans known as replicants are bio-engineered by the powerful Tyrell Corporation to work on space colonies. When a fugitive group of advanced replicants led by Roy Batty (Hauer) escapes back to Earth, burnt-out cop Rick Deckard (Ford) reluctantly agrees to hunt them down.

#### Plot of the Movie-

In November 2019 Los Angeles, former police officer Rick Deckard is detained by Officer Gaff, and brought to his former supervisor, Bryant. Deckard, whose job as a "blade runner" was to track down bioengineered humanoids known as replicants and terminally "retire" them, is informed that four replicants are on Earth illegally. Deckard begins to leave, but Bryant ambiguously threatens him and Deckard stays. The two watch a video of a blade runner named Holden administering the Voight-Kampff test, which is designed to distinguish replicants from humans based on their emotional responses to questions. The test subject, Leon, shoots Holden on the second question. Bryant wants Deckard to retire Leon and three other Nexus-6 replicants: Roy Batty, Zhora, and Pris. Bryant has Deckard meet with the CEO of the company that creates the replicants, Elton Tyrell, so he can administer the test on a Nexus-6 to see if it works. Tyrell expresses his interest in seeing the test fail first and asks him to administer it on his assistant Rachael. After a much longer than standard test, Deckard concludes privately to Tyrell that Rachael is a replicant who believes she is a human. Tyrell explains that she is an experiment who has been given false memories to provide an "emotional cushion", and that she has no knowledge of her true nature.

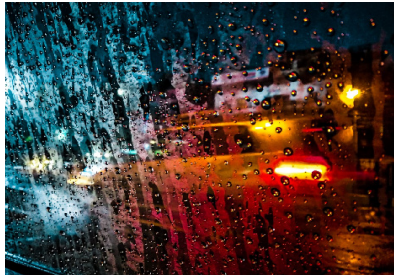


Avatar- A film by Satyajit Ray. Surprising? Another clickbait (readbait). I am sure you won't find such a film in Ray's filmography ever. What is the truth then? Truth is always stranger than fiction, however fantasied it may be. One Balkishan dies, another comes. Balkishan is deathless. When my Bengali teacher narrated Satyajit Ray's 'Khagam', it sent a chill down my spine. Imageries of a man developing scales on his body, hissing and turning into a snake had left me horrified. It wasn't a Kafka's Gregor Samsa or a David Lynch's Eraserhead but a Ray's short story that had introduced me to 'body horror'. Later when I started reading and re-discovering Ray, mostly as a film enthusiast, I was introduced to a newer horizon. If we take a closer look at Ray's family tree, fantasy fiction is inherent with the timeless Goopi Bagha by Upendrakishore to Heshoram Hoshiyara, Kumropotash, Tnyaashgoru and other mind bending limericks by the non-sense genius Sukumar Ray. Satyajit Ray being a huge admirer of Professor Challenger

After searching Leon's hotel room, Deckard finds photos and a synthetic snake scale. Roy and Leon investigate a replicant eye-manufacturing laboratory and learn of J. F. Sebastian, a gifted genetic designer who works closely with Tyrell. Deckard returns to his apartment where Rachael is waiting. She tries to prove her humanity by showing him a family photo, but Deckard reveals that her memories are implants from Tyrell's niece, and she leaves in tears. Meanwhile, Pris locates Sebastian and manipulates him to gain his trust. A photograph from Leon's apartment and the snake scale lead Deckard to a strip club, where Zhora works. After a confrontation and chase, Deckard kills Zhora. Bryant also orders him to retire Rachael, who has disappeared from the Tyrell Corporation. After Deckard spots Rachael in a crowd, he is ambushed by Leon, who knocks the gun out of Deckard's hand and attacks him. As Leon is about to kill Deckard, Rachael saves him by using Deckard's gun to kill Leon. They return to Deckard's apartment and, during a discussion, he promises not to track her down. As Rachael abruptly tries to leave, Deckard restrains her and forces her to kiss him, and she ultimately relents. Upon arriving at Sebastian's apartment, Roy tells Pris that the other replicants are dead. Sebastian reveals that because of a genetic premature aging disorder, his life will be cut short, like the replicants that were built with a four-year lifespan. Sebastian and Roy gain entrance into Tyrell's penthouse, where Roy demands more life from his maker. Tyrell tells him that it is impossible. Roy confesses that he has done "questionable things" but Tyrell dismisses this, praising Roy's advanced design and accomplishments in his short life. Roy kisses Tyrell, then kills him. Sebastian runs for the elevator, followed by Roy. Roy rides the elevator down alone. [nb 1] Bryant tells Deckard later that Sebastian was found dead. At Sebastian's apartment, Deckard is ambushed by Pris, but he kills her as Roy returns. Roy's body begins to fail as the end of his lifespan nears. He chases Deckard through the building and ends up on the roof. Deckard tries to jump onto another roof but is left hanging on the edge. Roy makes the jump with ease and, as Deckard's grip loosens, Roy hoists him onto the roof to save him. Before Roy dies, he delivers a monologue about how his memories "will be lost in time, like tears in rain". Gaff arrives and shouts to Deckard about Rachael: "It's too bad she won't live, but then again, who does?" Deckard returns to his apartment and finds Rachael asleep in his bed. He finds an origami unicorn which has been left by Gaff. Deckard leaves the apartment block with Rachael. The Legendary Tears in Rain monologue. "Tears in rain" is a 42-word monologue, consisting of the last words of character Roy Batty (portrayed by Rutger Hauer) in the 1982 Ridley Scott-directed film Blade Runner. Written by David Peoples and altered by Hauer, the monologue is frequently quoted. Critic Mark Rowlands described it as "perhaps the

most moving death soliloquy in cinematic history", and it is commonly viewed as the defining moment of Hauer's acting career. The Guardian writer Michael Newton noted that "in one of the film's most brilliant sequences, Roy and Deckard pursue each other through a murky apartment, playing a vicious child's game of hide and seek. As they do so, the similarities between them grow stronger - both are hunter and hunted, both are in pain, both struggle with a hurt, claw-like hand. If the film suggests a connection here that Deckard himself might still at this point deny, at the very end doubt falls away. Roy's life closes with an act of pity, one that raises him morally over the commercial institutions that would kill him. If Deckard cannot see himself in the other, Roy can. The white dove that implausibly flies up from Roy at the moment of his death perhaps stretches belief with its symbolism; but for me at least the movie has earned that moment, suggesting that in the replicant, as in the replicated technology of film itself, there remains a place for something human. Blade Runner continues to reflect modern trends and concerns, and an increasing number of critics consider it one of the greatest science fiction films of all time. It was voted the best science fiction film ever made in a 2004 poll of 60 eminent world scientists.[149] Blade Runner is also cited as an important influence to both the style and story of the Ghost in the Shell film series, which itself has been highly influential to the future-noir genre. Blade Runner has been very influential to the cyberpunk movement. It also influenced the cyberpunk derivative biopunk, which revolves around biotechnology and genetic engineering.

-By Rounak Mitra



### POEM

Let's walk towards light. More light,  
Let's come down and hold the canopy,  
This continent will end here,  
We have no more borders left.  
More love and more love,  
The light is dimming.  
The fireflies know the path of the curved  
paths of mind,  
Flowing fins in the reverse flow,  
If you want me to set me on fire,  
I'm ready to be burnt for several times  
no matter what obstacles come in between.  
Let's walk towards light.  
More light.

-By Sharad Mukherjee,  
Mass Comm

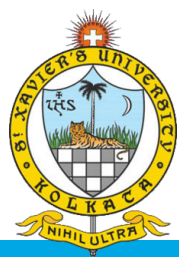
## ETcetera Rayminiscing Bonkubabu and Spielberg

stories and an Arthur C. Doyle fanboy, was an extremely gifted fantasy and science fiction writer himself. Be it a puppet called Fritz turning into a skeleton in a psychological horror story or an eccentric Batikbabu confessing his own dark, ruthless deeds, Satyajit's short stories, which were majorly fantasies and purely fictional, messed up with my brain. Surprisingly, with his first ever literary work, Professor Shonku, we got one of the most loved children's fiction. Much inspired from Heshoram Hoshiyara Diary, Scientist Nidhiram Patkel and Prof. Challenger stories, Ray created a mélange of all lovable elements into a quirky scientist for the generations to come. Ray decided to name the film Avatar but later changed his mind. The sketch that you see depicts Ray's central character in his 'could have been' Hollywood debut film "Alien". Loosely based on his first short story, titled Bonkubabur Bondhu, Ray had developed a script for Columbia Pictures titled 'Alien'. Great Hollywood actors like Marlon Brando were roped in for the project. How-

ever due to some dissent between the producer and Ray himself, the project got shelved and it never happened. Ray even found Columbia pictures distributing copies of the script to the public. Cut to 1982 when Ray received a phone call from Arthur C. Clarke, a gifted science fiction writer and a dear friend, stating that he had watched a film titled E.T.- The Extra Terrestrial by Steven Spielberg in a film festival and found uncanny similarities with the script of 'Alien'. He even urged Ray to sue Spielberg. "At least two of the Spielberg films, Close Encounters of the Third Kind and ET, would not have been possible without my script", said Ray to India Today in 1983. He even added that he has no quarrel with the makers except that they have complicated the narrative. With Pterodactyl, Mr. Shashmal, Mackenzie Fruit, Ratanbabu and others, Ray had created a fantastic world of fiction which is hard to escape and once you have read them, you cannot help but get inspired from them. So I don't blame Mr. Spielberg enough !

-By Nilav Bose, Mass Comm





## Hogwarts Tales

“In dreams we enter a world that’s entirely our own”

- Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban

### HARRY POTTER A TALE OF INTRIQUE AND INTRINSIC HUMAN VALUES

Like millions around the globe, I grew up adoring the magical world of Harry Potter. From the time he received his Hogwarts acceptance letter till the time he triumphed over Lord Voldemort, I accompanied him on the incredible journey. Harry's tale is one which imagines a world divided between 'muggles' and 'wizards'. It's also more than that. Throughout the story, J.K. Rowling weaves an intricate web of human emotions and values like love, courage and friendship. Love- the strongest magic there is. In the books, we are constantly reminded that the magic created by love for someone is stronger than any other magic. Harry's journey begins with his mother sacrificing herself because of her love for him. In 'Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows', we learn how Snape, whom most assumed to be evil, was actually trying to protect Harry because of his love for Lily. "You are protected, in short, by your ability to love" Dumbledore reminded Harry in 'The Half-Blood Prince'. Harry's power to love is his greatest strength, just like it is for all humans. The trajectory of Harry's empathy In 'The Goblet of Fire', Harry discerns how he never asked his friend, Neville, about his parents, who he comes to know were alive but had become insane. Harry realizes how Neville had suffered through his ordeals silently while everyone sympathized with him for being an orphan. Harry decides that he needs to

be more empathetic and create stronger bonds. After this, we witness how Harry begins to feel deeply about his friends' issues which led him to have an army of loyal companions during the battle of Hogwarts in 'The Deathly Hallows'. Our inherent potential to do good "We've all got both light and dark inside us. What matters is the part we choose to act on. That's who we really are." Sirius Black told Harry in 'The Order of the Phoenix'. Harry, too, had the darkness inside him. At the end of the same book, when Voldemort possesses Harry and persuades him to give into this side of him, Harry fights back. He refuses to let darkness overtake him. He reminds himself of his friends and Hogwarts. He chose light and fought the Dark Lord off. Acceptance as a core human value. In the 'Goblet of Fire' we see Dumbledore's acceptance of Snape, a former death eater. This heartwarming act of acceptance plays a crucial role in the story as we come to know in the last book. While reading, we are constantly reminded how accepting others despite their dark past, giving them an opportunity can actually help someone make their life better. Along with its thrilling tale of sorcery, Harry Potter effortlessly takes the readers into a magical world with boundless possibilities. A world which instills in our hearts the importance and strength of virtues. -Krish Saini

### MY CHAMBER OF SECRETS



### POTTERHEADS UNLOCKING THE DOORS OF PREJUDICES

We have often waited on platform number 9¾ at King's Cross station to catch the Hogwarts express with Harry, or religiously chanted spells with him to vanish people. We have walked through corridors of Hogwarts with the students of Gryffindor or Slytherin and used the powers of witchcraft and wizardry whenever needed. Jk Rowling successfully wrapped our childhood with magic and spell, but she perhaps had much more to tell.

A recent study- "The great magic of Harry Potter reducing prejudice" established how the rate of discrimination against the minority groups has descended among the readers. Researchers revealed that potterheads have positive approach towards refugees, immigrants, LGBTQ community or any other minor groups in comparison to the non readers.

The journal of Applied Psychology published an article on an experiment with 34 fifth grade students showing positive attitude towards immigrants.

In this six weeks long experiment researchers read kids specifically selected passages from Harry Potter that dealt with issues of prejudice. When the kids were surveyed again it was observed

that they identified with the protagonist Harry and disidentified with the villain Voldemort, which showcased their improved attitude towards outgroups.

In the xenophobic world of wizards there is not much appreciation for the outsiders. The Harry Potter stories have groups who face discrimination from mud-bloods to elves, goblin and half giants. The plots revolve around Harry and his friends standing up for these minorities, which creates a positive impact on the readers. "Don't let the muggles get you down."

"Harry has meaningful contact with characters belonging to stigmatised groups, he tries to understand and appreciate their difficulties...."

According to researchers this novel helped British University students develop a sense of acceptance towards refugees. In this study the desire to be like Harry was less and the choice of not becoming like Voldemort was more. Harry's constant battle against Voldemort, whose beliefs have been frequently compared to Nazism made the readers feel disconnected from his character. Disassociating with volde-

mort is an indication of positive approach towards refugees.

Several analytical studies also established that Rowling's fantasy literature helps in developing a welcoming attitude towards stigmatised groups such as LGBTQ. Back in 2007 Rowling declared Dumbledore as gay. "The Potter books in general are a prolonged plea for an end to bigotry."

Potterheads emotionally identify with Rowling's magic boy Harry which helps in developing the sense of acceptance among them. Researches talk about 'perspective taking' that the readers undertake during the stories. Progression in perception breaks the barrier of rusty thought process and generates a sense of equality among the potterheads. "We are all human aren't we? Every human life is worth the same, and worth saving." -Shalmali Chanda Choudhury

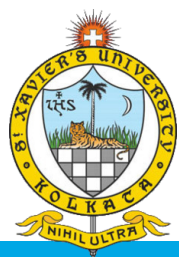
"Lighting bolt forehead scar  
hogwarts school stands so far  
black round geeky frame  
aparecium / reveal his name."



I remember it was a summer afternoon when I first came across the world of Harry Potter. The memories of that summer are still fresh as grass in my mind because of the magical book that was gifted to me by my mother, Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone by Jk Rowling. I remember growing up in the world of Harry Potter and how I always used to be lost, thinking of the various spells and the lessons from potion classes and how obsessed I used to be with the collectives. I secretly used to pray that someday I'll get my invitation letter from Hogwarts and I'll fly into the wizarding world with my Hagrid far away from this muggle world. Harry Potter was not just a book for me, it became a way of leading my life. My days used to start with it and end with the same. There are uncountable reasons for which Harry Potter will always be special for me. I remember falling in love for the first time, it was Cedric Diggory, I cried rivers when he died in the Goblet of fire. I was never great at making friends in school and was always an introvert. Jk Rowling helped me to make friends from the wizarding world. I remember how badly I cried when Dobby died. I was numb for a day. I

got a fever and my mother had to take me to the doctor. I also remember how a part of me perished when Sirius faced death. His loss felt personal, as if someone had stabbed my bare little heart. Harry, Ron, Hermione, Luna, and everyone of them helped me become who I'm today. They say, you're a result of the things and ideas that are closest to you and I'm really glad that there will always be some HARRY POTTER in me, wherever I am, whatever I become. If I'm mentioning Harry Potter, how can I not mention Professor Albus Percival Wulfric Brian Dumbledore? I know that he has a really big name but so is his aura! I remember when I first came across Dumbledore, I felt a void in me, I felt that I needed someone like Dumbledore who'll understand me and my actions rather than just disciplining me. Someone who will be careful with their words and someone who would tell me, "Happiness can be found, even in the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light." Maybe I couldn't find Dumbledore when I looked around but somewhere in between the ventricles of my heart, I did find my inner voice - my Dumbledore. -Rakshita Tiwary





## And Action!!!



- A Sneak-Peek at the Xaverian Life

Beethoven  
at the campus

### Ignatius Cup

Go forth  
and set the  
world on fire

The Xavier's University Sports Society introduced us to the Ignatius Cup, 2022 this year on the 22nd of July. With an 11-A-side football for men and 7-A-side football for women and volleyball for both men and women, the event has already grabbed the attention of almost all the students entering the edges of the University. Mr. Sandeep Mundra, being the Professor-in-charge, has made sure that the entire event is conducted with utmost responsibility, decorum, diligence and with the essence of amusement in it too. Alongside sports, the Ignatius Cup is also expected to see a skit at the end of it which is expected to be a delightful surprise for all.

Commencing with a men's football match between the Xavier's Law School (Semester 3 and 5) and the Economics department, the format of the sport has been very articulate. With a team of 4 in Group A, a team of 3 in Group B and a team of 3 in Group C, the teams play group stage matches within their own groups to qualify to the semi-finals and then the qualified team from each group play against each other in the finals. The

first semi-final was a match between Xavier's Law School and BCom Morning (Semester 3) which saw the former win. The second semi-final was a match between the mass communication department and BCom Morning (Semester 5) which saw the latter win. The finals took place on July 27, 2022 between BCom Morning (Semester 5) and Xavier's Law School where the former brought the cup home with a 3-0 clean score.

The format of volleyball is similar to football's with respect to the time table. The finals of girl's volleyball is supposed to take place between the department of mass communication and Xavier's Law School and the same for the boys is between the department of Management Science and Xavier's Law School.

Whether it be a win or a loss, the fact that the participation and sense of competition binds the students of the University all together is a win for us all in the end. What the Ignatius Cup stands for is, "Go forth and set the world on fire" and if not anything else, this event sure has brought back the lost fire better and stronger.



Students jamming and dancing together at the SXUK Campus

## CAMPUS LIFE



wine glass  
one of the



No censorship for  
the students of  
SXUK

At the AV Studio

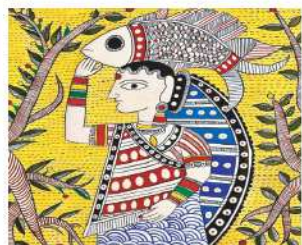
On July 12, 2022, the department of Mass Communication saw some visitors from the Salesian College, Darjeeling. They were in the University for a brief period of time in some introspection and that is when the BA semester 5 students of the department presented a debate in front of them. The debate took place in the University studio and Professors in charge of the event were Dr. Sithara Venkatesh for the overall supervision, Mr. Asok Dasgupta for the camera department and Mr. Nilanjan Ghosh for the

sound department. There were 22 students working for the same, with 17 crew members, 4 speakers and the debate moderator. The notion for the debate was, "Should the internet be censored?" and the students who spoke against the same were Nilav Bose from BA semester 5 and Armaan Agarwal from BA semester 3; the students speaking against the notion were Barkha Mishra and Aindrila Guha both from BA semester 5. Each of them were allotted 3 minutes to speak and contrary to what the notion stood for in the first

place, the students were given the utmost liberty to speak their perception out without any, as the title suggests, 'censorship'. It was a day of information, discussion and discourse which in the end was nothing but fruitful. Whether it be sexual exploitation of women or identity theft or pornography, the speakers supporting the notion didn't leave any stone unturned to prove their point to the core. The speakers also threw light upon how censorship is different from banning and the failure of self censorship. The political rights of people in Udaipur

were also talked about briefly. The speakers speaking against the notion were no less. The aspect of subjectivity was brought into the picture by the speakers by raising the question, "Who decides what is vulgarity and what is not when the concept in itself is relative?". The deciding factor in the scale of vulgarity was also questioned by highlighting the instance of censoring a film and rating it as 'adult', both at the same time. All in all, it was a wonderful experience for everyone. We saw nothing but smiles on all faces, makes the debate a success, doesn't it?





## From the Editors

### The converge of mortals with the immortals

A tantalizing movie about being swept away by fervent desire, ecstatic love and an aching of the heart in the presence of a beloved. We have watched many movies with different shades of teenage infatuation but the movie "Twilight" explores fresh territory with its bold treatment of the romantic relationship between a mortal human being and an immortal vampire. This movie has the touch of horror story elements and mostly revolves around the tantalising and compelling exhilarations of love in all its mysterious constellations. Seventeen year old Bella Swan has been living in Arizona with her mother but when her mother started travelling with her new husband, she decided to go and live with her father in Forks, Washington. In her new

school Bella preferred to stay alone all by herself when she immediately got attracted to another loner, Edward Cullen, a handsome and mysterious boy. There was something very different about him:- his hands were always cold, his eyes changed colours, he put off balance during Bella's presence as if she smelled bad and he never used to show up on a bright sunny day which was really rare in Forks. Bella eventually learns the truth about Edward's identity and discovered that Dr. Cullen and his wife have adopted Edward with four other vampires and they have trained themselves to consume only animal blood which is equivalent to a human going on a vegetarian diet. Edward and Bella forge an uneasy bond: he lets her into his vampire world

and she yearns for the ultimate connection with him which can only happen if she allows herself to transform into a vampire. "Twilight" is a supernatural fantasy tale that comes across a thought provoking meditation on adolescent love. As we would expect in a film about vampires, it does reveal some of the shadow side of love: Edward's possessiveness, Bella's insecurity and submissiveness and their mutual fear of the challenges that time might bring to their relationship. Despite all the vulnerable emotions, these two young lovers wanted to endure all the hurdles for their roller coaster ride of love and also were desperate to make a way out to exist in each other's world.

-By Subhankita Ghosh  
B.A. Mass Comm



## Doomsday

I was standing motionless on my front porch, a silent teardrop tracing its way slowly down my left eye towards my lips. I held on tightly to the old photoalbum in my mind and forced my brain to replay all the memories I had since the day I was born. I looked up at the clear blue morning sky, decorated beautifully with white clouds floating around innocently. I mentally noted the fact that everyone on Earth was at least dying on a pleasant day and a smile peeked through the corner of my wet lips. From where I stood, I could see my neighbors and their families nervously holding on to each other, and I reached out to clutch on to the metal railing; a pleasant day to die but a rather lonely

death. The old lady who lived in the bungalow right next to mine waved at me, a woeful smile on her face. I waved back, trying my best to look a little less heart broken than the world around us. I wondered where her husband was, but I didn't ask. The sudden sound of distant sirens informed us about our impending doom. In about 10 minutes, human beings would be what dinosaurs are to us and my love for the blue-eyed man I met 2 years back and who moved to a different country last month so that he could spend humanity's last few days with his family, would cease to matter. I was dying, He was dying. We were all dying.

-By Mouli Majumdar,  
M.A. Mass Comm



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## THE PILLAR OF REALISM AND UNREALISM

Fantasy - what is fantasy? Is it the ability to create unrealism in the realms of realism or is it any cynical mind's superpower to run to places that the species of flesh and blood don't explore? The one and only distinctive feature that sets human beings apart from every other living organism is their capability of invention, innovation and imagination; yet, there exist certain stories that are considered to be written by divine supernatural beings. Mahabharata, ostensibly written by Vyasa and allegedly some other unknown sources, is one of them. As someone whose childhood was induced with the stories of Panchatantra, Amar Chitra Kathas, Ramayana and most definitely Mahabharata, it has always been a wonder that how could most of them around me regard Mahabharata as an 'epic' or a 'mythology'. Truth is, while for kids my age fantasy was

the world of Disney, Marvel, Spielberg and Harry Potter which it was for me too, but my world of fantasy was more than that. I remember finding a resemblance of a 'fantasy fiction' written by a fictional being with Christopher Nolan's film Inception where I witnessed a peculiar concept of 'dream within a dream'; Vyasa, the Hindu sage who was also considered as an incarnation of God Vishnu, being the fictional being and Mahabharata being the fantasy fiction. Consisting of 1,00,000 verses, Mahabharata is evidently the longest epic poem ever written in world history. After talking about the generational spectacle of Shantanu, Devavrata, Gangadatta, Satyawati and Vichitravirya, the novel finally comes to the beginning of its crux. Then we witness the birth of two brothers Dhritarashtra and Pandu and the former giving his kingdom to the latter for being visually impaired.

Pandu's curse of not being able to consummate any of his two marriages with neither Kunti nor Madri leads him to have no children until Kunti is blessed with three sons of the Gods Yama, Vayu and Indra respectively. Madri gives birth to a set of twins of God Aswin. On the other hand, Dhritarashtra's wife Gandhari gives birth to a 100 sons. The supernatural in it all is fiction at its peak. The kids of Pandu are known as Pandavas and the kids of Dhritarashtra are known as Kauravas. Mahabharata centres around a battle between the Pandavas and the Kauravas who personified good and evil respectively. Although, if one has to get into the aftermath of the war, Mahabharata was a story of revenge and a fight of succession and a narrative which is grayer than any other. It is an encyclopedia of verses which enhances the concepts of Dharma and Karma to its core. There is

so much depth in the story of Mahabharata that one could easily dive into the world by exploring parts of it like a Yuganta by Iravati Karve, a Mrityunjay by Shivaji Sawant, a Yajnaseni by Pratibha Ray, a Yugandhar by Shivaji Sawant, a Parva by S.L. Bhyrappa and so on. I have always believed in one thing and that is that a myth isn't something one holds on to for long but when it comes to Mahabharata, no one seems to let it go; even the holy Bhagavad Gita, a 700-verse Hindu scripture, is a slice of the Mahabharata. For me, the novel has always been that one wall whose one side faces the deepest tracts of fantasy and reverie and whose other side faces the darkest areas of human emotions; and standing in the middle is a firm pillar comprising two utmost truths of reality and unreality - Dharma and Karma.

-By Mayurika Bhattacharya,  
Mass Communication  
B.A. Sem 5