



Yuva Vani

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BMM Yuva June 2020
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A Walk to Remember

by: **Pinak Chitnis**

June 6th 1674:

On this day in history, Shivaji was crowned King of India. Shivaji was a Marhashtra born, young fighter. He was a strong, resilient leader that was able to tackle many forts in India, including but not limited to: Torna, Raigarh, Purandar and Kondana. He was able to kill Azfal Khan, a man who was a perceived threat to India.

June 8th 1915:

'Geeta Rahasya', a book written by Lokmanya Tilak was published. Tilak was considered the "father" of the Indian National Movement. He would help to educate youth all around India, and was a Member of the Council of Pune.

June 25th 1932:

India played its first official cricket test match in London. India is known as a world pioneer, and pillar, of cricket. It has won numerous world championships in the Cricket World Cups, and this date started this journey.

Covid-19 Effects on College

by: **Yash Kankariya**

The pandemic is slowly easing up as multiple states are reopening due to the "flattening of the curve". However, this pandemic raises many questions for children,



mainly the class of 2021 and college applications. Here are some changes that will be taking place in response to COVID-19 during the 2020-2021 college application season.

1. Many colleges will take in account the changes in GPA as some high schools have moved towards the pass or fail grading process
2. Many colleges, such as MIT and the UC's, have gone test optional for the ACT and SAT; however, these tests if submitted will still play as a factor in the admissions process
3. All colleges have are now not requiring SAT subject tests while some, such as MIT, Corneel, Harvey Mudd, and CalTech, have gone completely test blind meaning they will not access subject test scores
4. The underlying factor for holistic review will most likely be how the student is able to respond to this pandemic and how they continue to explore and expand on their passions
5. EA/ED application deadlines may be pushed back
6. There may be additional emphasis on AP scores this year as it is one of the only standardized test available for colleges

Overall, there are a lot of changes happening with college admissions this year, but here is the thing. There is no point worrying about these changes. This is an unprecedented time meaning there will be unprecedented changes which are out of your control. The best you can do now is just be yourself and see how it goes.

Good Luck to the Class of 2021!

P.S. That's me too!

The Validation of Standardized Testing

by: [Janhavi Kulkarni](#)

The Covid-19 situation created a snag in testing such as AP Exams, SAT, and ACT all over the United States. As the FRQ based AP Exams come to an end this week, a different question arises: compared to FRQs, are standardized tests even effective anymore?

Many argue that standardized tests leave little to no room for creative and innovative thinking. Equality is a term casually thrown around every American household, but it is an ideal that is largely out of reach, especially within the United States' education system. While equal tests are scattered across schools, the quality of education received in preparation varies tremendously. It is true that standardized tests help schools evaluate progress, but requiring students to pass a subjective, predetermined test disserves our entire society. Standardized tests do not take into account learned differences, out-of-the-box thinking or individual qualities, talents, and passion. In addition, standardized tests operate under the same old-fashioned curriculum. The current



education system was designed during the agricultural era, and modified only slightly during the industrial times; and it was created with the intent of imparting values and skills of these onto students. The ideology, then, required public education to teach unruly children. Today, the school system still values discipline and structured regimen. Today schools are still teaching the same values, but with yesterday's methods.

Along with not measuring a students' abilities accurately, standardized tests also serve as a profit for organizations like the College Board. Although listed as a "nonprofit," the College Board profits \$62 million and a revenue of \$200 million every year. An experienced guidance counselor says, "The College Board is capitalizing the perceived and exaggerated importance of the SATs." As a matter of fact, the College Board will tack on all kinds of extra feed for certain services, and even attempts to sell products like The Official SAT Study Guide. Students with the right amount of money reap the benefits, while the others are left in the dust.

Standardized tests have become quite a flaw in the modern world. The inaccurate measurement of one's aptitude, accompanied by age-old methods cause a dent in the perception and overall effectiveness of standardized testing. Moreover, organizations like College Board profit heavily off students, giving wealthy students an edge over their low-income peers.

With 21st century technology, we have more opportunity and ability to create change than ever before. If, together, we can change the way we approach education, there is potential to decrease the gigantic gap within society.

Death Penalty

by: **Pinak Chitnis**

Some of life's biggest controversies arise when ethics have been compromised. These ideals date back to the beginning of mankind, and all the way up till now. The issues of slavery, prejudice, genocide, all fall under this category. In more modern times, the issue of the death penalty has caused quite a lot of controversy, as people begin to wonder if it sends the wrong message: Is killing someone that killed someone else really proving that killing is wrong? In this, we will dive deep into the the pros and cons of the death penalty, and let you make an informed decision for yourself.

The ideals of the death penalty seem barbaric to most. How is this "eye for an eye" form of punishment still existent in the modern, civilized, advanced world? Many also claim that a lifelong prison sentence is far worse than the "sweet release of death". While the death penalty may only be used in extreme cases, it is often said it should not be used at all, because it can create sympathy for the perpetrator,



when they do not deserve it. But perhaps the biggest argument towards banning the death penalty is that it is a form of “cruel and unusual punishment”, and while that it may be justified under the circumstance, it is not justified under the eyes of the law.

The other portion of the population vigorously disagrees. They say that those who violate the law to such a degree, by taking another human’s life, do not deserve the privilege of living. The victim’s loved ones that were so damaged and hurt by the actions of the perpetrator will finally have closure and be able to move on. Additionally, prisoner parole, or escapees, always have a chance to kill again, and that is not a risk that society should be willing to take. This additional form of punishment provides a deterrent to the current prisoners serving life sentence, if they ever get out on parole. The counterside argues that while the death penalty may not be justified under the eyes of the law, sometimes we must be willing to go beyond the law in order to find true justice.

The death penalty is perhaps one of the most debated questions of the 21st century, as it combines in factors of both law and ethics. What do you think?

Creative Corner

A poem by **Janhavi Kulkarni** about personal struggle.

Mirror, Mirror, let me tell you.
Pieces never tell the story; safety glass still breaks.
Chipped words go airborne when thrown against you,
Cuts remain on the surface.

Mirror, Mirror, we all have asked,
Show me what lies within.
Turn the visions screen,
Adjust your eye’s spears.

Mirror, Mirror, to tell the truth,
You’re a double edged sword.
Straightening and breaking
To those who share a look.



The Artist's Nook

by Yash Kankariya and Gargi Khadse



Sun-filled Flowers



Sleepy Clipart Penguin



Krishna Kamal



Rainbow Peacock

Binge Worthy TV Shows

Movies are always a sure-fire way to cure boredom; but sometimes you need something longer to satiate the boredom. That is where TV shows come in. There are a boatload of great TV shows to keep you occupied for weeks. Not to mention, there are a myriad of different streaming services available for anyone to watch shows on. Here we have a selection of a few shows, spanning over a few genres, which we have deemed as binge worthy.

1. **Peaky Blinders**

This 7 season crime drama is about a British crime family, the Shelbys. It stars Cillian Murphy as Tommy Shelby who returns from the war, and sets about trying to expand his family's control of Birmingham, stealing a shipment of guns to give his gang an edge in the world of crime. As such, the show follows Tommy and his family as they move up in the world. The show is said to be gorgeously shot, and the story it tells is one of complicated people and muddy morality.

2. **The Crown**

This riveting historical drama is about Britain's current and longest-reigning monarch. Elizabeth II ascended to power in the aftermath of World War II. This show traces Elizabeth, played by Claire Foy, and her life from her marriage to Prince Philip, played by Matt Smith, in 1947 to the present day. It digs into the web of agendas and alliances the Queen must navigate through. This is a 5 season long show which is sure to satisfy viewers who enjoy historical, political dramas.

3. **Never Have I Ever**

This is one of the most recent Netflix shows to drop and its success is one for the books. It is a coming-of-age dramedy about a young high school girl, who decided to change her life after her father's untimely death. She is looking for a way to elevate her social status. However, Devi Vishwakumar (Maitreyi Ramakrishnan), who is an Indian girl raised in America, finds that her sudden wish to change her high school social status is not fully accepted by her friends and family. The series stand out and creates a delightful balance between the traditional perils of high school like teen romance and popularity with the challenges of grief, being a first-generation American, and finding yourself in a crowd of loved ones.

4. **The 100**

This show is for the post-apocalyptic, dystopian loving viewers. This thrilling series, which just recently premiered its last season, starts ninety-seven years after a nuclear war destroyed civilization on Earth. Then, a spaceship holding humanity's last survivors sends one hundred juvenile delinquents back to Earth, in hopes of deeming its survivability and the possibility of re-populating the planet. What could go wrong? Based off of the Kass Morgan novel, this show is a well conceived, cleverly plotted must watch for those who enjoy post-apocalyptic, sci-fi, and drama all rolled up in one.



5. Avatar: The Last Airbender

What better way to kick-back and relax (with some snack, of course), than to watch some old cartoon? This show aired on Nickelodeon back in 2007, and is remembered quite fondly by most teenagers today. It traces a fictional world in which there are four nations of Air, Water, Earth, and Fire, each having their own elemental benders and living in harmony until the Fire Nation declares war.. A century later, the end to the war is still not in sight until an Avatar named Aang, who can harmonize all four elements, resurfaces and joins forces with Katara and her brother Sokka to restore the nations to harmony. This show takes many on a fun and action-filled trip down memory lane and is a relaxing must watch which can be enjoyed by all ages.

Note from Editors

Hello readers,

As you can see, our Newsletter contains more than just typical fact-based articles. We are here to give you an opportunity to explore your creative side as well as give them a platform to voice their opinions. After this issue, we are opening the gates for all youth to submit their journal articles, creative writing, photography, or nonfiction writing . Every month, our team will choose the best from each category, and it will be displayed in the upcoming issue. So, simply put, even if you are a fierce advocate for change or someone who enjoys knitting together the threads of their vast imagination for fun, this newspaper has a place for you. Submit your work at the email provided below and we will try our best to incorporate your work into the Bruhan Maharashtra Mandal (BMM) Newsletter.

Thank you for reading,

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