



Yuva Vani

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#BlackLivesMatter: The Movement of the Year

By **Gargi Khadse**

In the last month, there has been a surge in the Black Lives Matter movement. But what exactly is the Black Lives Matter movement? And what caused such a sudden spark for it?

Black Lives Matter is an international human rights movement originating from within the African-American community, which campaigns against violence and systemic racism against black people. It was founded in 2013 in response to Trayvon Martin's murder. It has since evolved into a global foundation and its mission is to "eradicate white supremacy and build local power to intervene in violence inflicted on Black communities by the state and vigilantes." The creation of the movement and related organization was sparked by reports of police brutality against black people which resulted in the murder of the victim.

A similar series of events has led to the uptake of the movement in recent weeks: the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery, all three of which were caught on video. Ahmaud Arbery was killed by two white men as he was on a run; Breonna Taylor was shot and killed in her home by police; George Floyd was suffocated by a police officer who knelt on his neck. This caused a cry of outrage which has given the BLM movement more momentum than ever before. According to The Washington Post, there is a growing consensus about the existence of systemic racism in American policing and other facets of American life which also contributes to the maintained momentum of the movement.

While some people are calling the movement a political battle between the Democratic and Republican parties, organizers and activists view it as a humanitarian right issue. Supporters and opposers alike have taken to the streets and social media to express their opinion on the matter.



There is no way to predict what changes the movement will cause in the coming future, but one thing is for certain: the fight against racial oppression has more response now, than ever before. We can only wait and see where it will lead.

Hard Work vs. Talent

By **Yash Kankariya**

Every single human being is born with an organ that's considered to be the most complex thing in the world: the brain. When a human is born, their brain has already created neurological connections that allow them to play their vocal chords to create the wondrous sound of crying, breathe in the air around them, and send impulses to the limbs allowing them to throw tantrums; however, their brain has the potential to store millions to trillions of pieces of information which we have dubbed as "experience". This brings up the question, are some humans born with talent or is it obtained through hard work?

First, let's talk about talent. As kids, and in movies, we have heard of these things called talent shows where we demonstrate our abilities to society, but are we really exhibiting our talents? When we are born, most humans have the neurological connections to do what i stated before; however, there are some that have stronger connections to certain areas of their brain. This is why some kids are naturally gifted in the arts, singing, or even mathematics. Each child has their own unique connection, aka talents, that they are born with.

But, as our lives progress, we stray from these "natural talents" and this is where hard work comes into play. In the very beginning, I stated every child has the potential to store a tremendous amount of information. What this means is that every single human being has the potential to either become the next billionaire or the next president. There are two factors that can alter their capabilities. The first would be their environment. If you are raised in a poverty stricken neighborhood, there is a larger chance your main goal would be to support your loved ones. On the other hand, if you grew up in a wealthy affluent neighborhood, there is a greater probability that you would focus on how you can change the world. Your environment is what conditions you for the future as well as what you set your sights on. The second factor is hard work. The harder an individual works, the more connections their brain makes, thus increasing their chance of success.

In the end, everyone is born with some talent but that is not what determines our lives. Every person is fighting their own battles and that work they put in to fight defines who they are.



Creative Corner: *Elixir*

A piece by **Janhavi Kulkarni** about the revitalizing sounds of nature.

The mismatched clearing of dead leaves and the spring flowers created a warm halo around me. The chill was settling in. A wine colored tree loomed over me, tall and sturdy.

A clutter in a nearby bush startled me. It was a squirrel. Just for a moment, we made eye contact.

Did it smile?

Can it smile? I realized I was smiling.

The loud rustle of broken leaves echoed the distant laughter of children. The brushing branches whispered a playful harmony. The gust of wind muttered a honey-laced melody. It was a mesmerizing ballad, and I was the one, the only audience.

Before, my heart was deep within a river where all sounds were dulled out. Before, my soul was caged by iron-clad gates in a place where even the stillness murmured its own misery. Before, I walked a thousand steps yet I never reached my destination.

But tonight, the first drops burned, leaving marks. The good kind.

The silver sky cast a blanket of clamor over the forest as the rain plummeted into the ground, creating a chocolate mush. Petrichor; the earthly scent produced where rain meets dry soil. My taste buds danced rhythmically to the delicious fragrance.

Tonight, I was content. Tonight, my heart, my soul, my head, and my body were finally reunited by the enthralling musical piece perfectly tied together with a refreshing elixir.

Do Violent Video Games Make People More Violent?

By **Pinak Chitnis**

Oftentimes when I've seen an older relative, I hear the same 6 words, "Why are you playing that game?" I have the same standard response every. single. time. "It's really fun". But the one thing that really confuses me is when people say, "Make sure you don't play it too much, you don't wanna end up a serial killer." I have often pondered upon whether that was true, and if a higher rate of violent video game playing actually has a direct causation with the number of violent outbreaks at a particular amount of time.

A gunman who opened fire in a Walmart in El Paso, Texas, later admitted to modeling himself off of a video game narrative, and imitating the actions of a video game soldier. As such, many politicians were quick to blame this violent outburst and killing on the idea that video games cause violence. On further investigation, it was revealed that the gunman had a racist manifesto published against Hispanics, and would have opened fire regardless of a video game to follow.

The common saying "Correlation is not causation" has never fit better. While it is true that both video games and violent tendencies have spiked up around the US, this may actually be attributed to different ideologies/upbringings influencing the violent tendencies rather than by the unrelated spread of video games. For example, the same video games that are played in the US that seem to cause a higher level violence in our nation, are also played by 2.6 billion people worldwide, but none of those nations have experienced a spike in violent outbursts.

A study done by the ESA revealed that girls who engage in video games are 3 times more likely to pursue a STEM major than girls who do not. They also go on to explain that employers are now looking towards video games as a propeller in strategic thinking and adaptability. Many people are quick to overlook these basic benefits that video games provide, as the alternative outlook is a much better rhetoric to believe.

This same rhetoric fails to capture the full picture, as it resorts in observing only one corner of a larger mural. By only observing one section of the larger illustration, society's perspective becomes narrow and myopic, which leads many to thinking that violent video games cause mass shootings and killings.

While the media and politicians may be encouraging this false narrative in an effort to simplify and easily explain the spike in violent behaviour across our nation, it is our duty as American citizens to find out the truth, and not blindly believe the

false rhetoric that a game on a screen can lead to the murder and maiming of real people.

Best Young Adult Novels

By **Janhavi Kulkarni**

It's true that school forces us to read classics like *Hamlet* and *The Scarlet Letter*, but the books that we hold dear are the ones we read in our teenage years, willingly. We spent years growing up with Harry, Hermiones and Ron; both with books and movies. Even today, if a Harry Potter movie is playing, we stop and we watch. Who can forget Katniss Everdeen in *The Hunger Games*? Bookstores all over America are filled to the brim with Young Adult novels. Here is a list of Best YA Novels of all time:

Anne of Green Gables by Lucy Maud Montgomery

The fast talking Anne Shirley is breathtaking in this coming-of-age series. The series centers around Anne and the Cuthberts, who adopted her thinking she was a boy, as she journeys through the river of friendships, relationships, and defying gender roles. The novel's popularity has birthed several live screen adaptations. The two most famous are the film series in the late 80s and the recent Netflix show, *Anne with an E*, which received several accolades.

We Were Liars by E. Lockhart

We Were Liars is a young adult novel, which focuses on themes of self-acceptance, family morals, and the consequences of mistakes. It is centered around the wealthy, privileged Sinclair family who spend every summer on their private island.

Me Before You by Jojo Moyes

Me Before You is a romantic novel between a paralyzed man and his eccentric caretaker. William, after being hit by a motorbike, is left paralyzed, bitter, and angry. After Louisa enters his life, he begins to appreciate the life he was given. She helps him understand the greatness in being alive, while he helps her step out of her comfort zone. Thus novel explores topics such as love, friendship, and assisted suicide.

Illuminae by Amie Kaufman and Jay Kristoff

The Illuminae Files is the first novel of the series, and it is told through a series of classified documents, censored emails, and interviews. It is set in the year 2575, and

centered around Kady and her boyfriend Ezra. This dystopian gem has all the aspects from rival multi corporations starting wars to killer AIs.

***The Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern**

The Night Circus is a beautiful story of love between Marco and Celia that spans years as they fight their obvious attraction in order to win the competition that has been forced on them by their mentors. This novel portrays all elements of magic and power, proving that love truly does conquer all.

***A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams**

A Streetcar Named Desire is a play that opened on Broadway in 1947. The play dramatises the life of Blanche DuBois, who is encountering a series of personal losses and aristocratic past. This play is considered to be one of the most successful and best plays of the 20th century.

***Carve the Mark* by Veronica Roth**

If you enjoyed Divergent, Roth's *Carve the Mark* duology might be for you. Centered around another galaxy altogether, the series explores the power of personal will, defying gender roles, breaking through the wall of parental pressure, and, as always, the power of love. You will come to admire Cyra and Akos as he gently breaks through her cold exterior in order to get his family back to safety. The story climaxes around their intricately intertwined fates, and the consequences, good or bad, of taking a stand against them.

***Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children* by Ransom Riggs**

An extremely underrated series, Riggs' *Miss Peregrine's* novels follows Jacob as he travels to his grandfather's childhood home only to be transported back in time to 1940 where a group of "peculiar" children live the same day over and over again. The seemingly nostalgia-driven novel takes a very dark turn very quickly. In order to escape the trauma of his grandfather's death and his eventual fate, Jacob must enlist the help of Miss Peregrine and her children to fight the evil that lurks in the shadows.

***Just Listen* by Sarah Dessen**

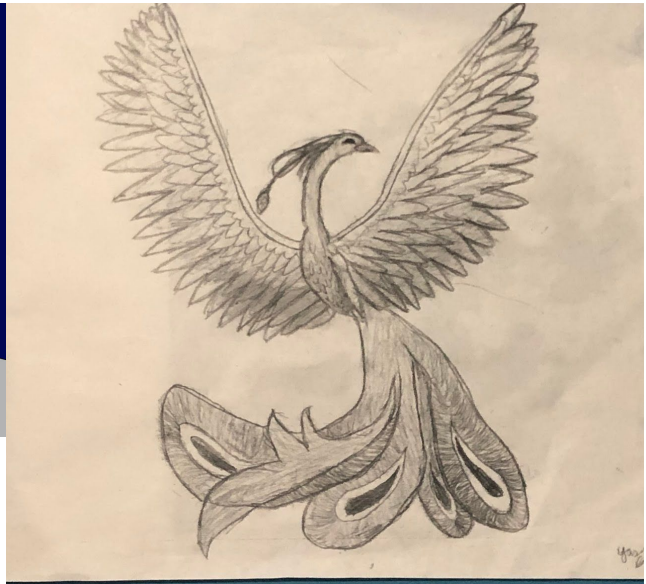
Sarah Dessen is known to tackle hard and uncomfortable subjects. She continues her streak in this young adult novel as she explores the ramifications of rape, anger, embarrassment, eating disorders, anxiety, and depression. Dessen urges her readers to talk, seek help, and most importantly, just listen.

Artist's Nook

By Gargi Khadse and Yash Kankariya



*Above: Modern Living Room From Polygons
Right: A Phoenix Rising*



Summer, filled with warmth and magic, inviting you to make memories of a lifetime with friends and family. So, seize the day, and embrace the adventure waiting.



*Left: A cue balls point of view
Below: Geometry of the tropics*



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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