



# BENEATH THE PURPLE ROOF

HOPETOWN GIRLS' SCHOOL



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# FOREWORD

Dear Readers,

Writing the foreword of the BTPR for the first time overwhelms me. With the school buzzing with activities and excitement of the new semester, the publishing of this edition has been nothing short of a journey for us.

To all the Board students, I wish you all the best for your exams and hope you do well and to my team, thank you for always meeting the deadlines and to Sonia Ma'am for guiding us all the way through.

Wabi Sabi.

Saisha

Dear Readers,

We bring to you the first issue of Beneath the Purple Roof-2023. Sean Higgins said: 'Every day the clock resets. Your wins don't matter. Your failures don't matter. Don't stress on what was, fight for what could be.'

Every great team knows how to change and adapt, based on their situation, like a bowler changing the pace, or a singer changing the notes. Whether in workplace or life, we take time to get used to change. With these thoughts, I welcome the new Editorial team, being led by Saisha Arora and congratulate them for bringing out this issue of BTPR.

I must quote:

'Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.' -Harriet Tubman

Good luck and God bless.

Sonia Singh



# HT TIMES

A sneak-peak at everything that's been happening at Hopetown

## Robotics Fair

'The beginning of a new era of Robotics'

On 19th November, Hopetown organized its first ever robotics fair. The students had been rigorously preparing for this for a month. From a prototype to a code, to the execution, every step was a new challenge for the students. With the initiative and guidance of the I.T. team, the students were able to overcome the challenges and showcase their skills and creativity through their models. All in all, it was a huge success and Hopetown is proud to be one of the schools who has successfully introduced robotics as a part of extra curricular.



## Investiture

The Senior School Investiture took place on 16th November 2022, with Mahii Madan, School Captain from the batch of 2020 as the chief guest. The leadership passed on from the previous captains to the newly elected ones; eager to take up their new roles. The day was filled with anticipation, excitement and nervousness all together.



## Christmas Sale

Christmas is a time of 'giving' and the Senior Council did exactly that by hosting the Annual Christmas Sale wherein old clothes, daily use items, stationery, etc were collected from all the Blocks and sold to the supporting staff of the school at minimal cost. The proceeds from it were then used to buy woollen socks for all of them.







## IAYP Bronze Treks

IAYP treks have been helping students to develop essential skills like leadership, teamwork, collaboration and community service. In the month of December, our students from Grades 9 and 11 went for their Bronze Trek to Tehri and Kanhatal where they took on numerous challenges and accomplished all their tasks.

## CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

To live up to the spirit of the most joyful time of the year, Hopetown organised it's Annual Christmas Celebrations and Badge Ceremony on the 3rd of December 2022. The Middle School skit "Pi-rating Competition" and the choir livened up the entire foyer with their performances. Santa and the carols simply let everyone bathe in the spirit of Christmas.



## Leadership Workshop

On the 28th and 29th of January, our newly elected Senior School Council had their leadership workshop with Ms. Indrani Lahiri. The two day workshop was jam-packed with activities that taught them the key skills they would benefit from, like team building, trust, communication and more.



# Art Fair

Our Grade 11 students attended the 14th edition of the India Art Fair on February 12 at the NSIC Exhibition Grounds in Okhla, New Delhi. The exhibition was the largest event on India's cultural calendar, with 71 art galleries and 14 institutions presenting their artwork. The displays' diverse range, from modern to contemporary, folk to digital, reflected the many strands that define Indian art today. This learning extravaganza fueled the students' imagination and inspired them to keep creating, just like the exhibition's countless artists.



## Lit Week-2023



### BOOK DISCUSSION

Lit Week 2023 commenced on the 6th of February with a book discussion on 'The Girl With Seven Names' written by Hyeonseo Lee by Grades 9 and 11. The event was held at the library. The discussion was interesting as the panel of girls put up significant questions, while the others were prompt in answering them. The life of Hyeonseo Lee inspired the girls to make the best of their life. Everyone felt happy to be living in a democratic country. The Middle School also had an equally interesting and interactive book discussion on the book 'The Song of Achilles' by Madeline Miller on the 7th. The session fully absorbed the students in the ethereal world of Greek mythology.

### SPELL BEE

On the 7th of February, Grade 6 participated in Spell Bee Competition. Three rounds of questioning was conducted. 1st- Dictation, 2nd- Identifying the picture and 3rd- Jumble letters. The activity was thoroughly enjoyed by the girls and they got to learn a lot.







### **POETRY WRITING**

On the 9th of February the entire school participated in On-the-Spot poetry writing during their English Lessons.

Everybody wrote interesting poems on topics that varied from elements of nature to relations and from pets to places of visit.



### **WSC DEBATE FORMAT**

The World Scholars Cup spirit was brought to Hopetown as Grade 9 presented the same format of debate to the school as one of the Lit Week events on the 10th of February. The participants were given an impromptu topic 'Parents should be allowed to implant GPS trackers in their children' fifteen minutes prior to the debate. After researching, the speakers from both sides presented their arguments exceptionally well, keeping in mind the liberal, yet thought provoking form of debating. Team opposition won the debate, having convinced the judges that implanting GPS trackers in their children might not be the best course of action.

### **INTER-HOUSE DRAMA**

For the grand finale of Lit Week, Hopetown organised it's Inter House Drama Competition. This year's theme was 'Humour' and the plays performed by the respective houses were

Emerald: Masked

Sapphire: Lamb to the Slaughter

Ruby: The Play That Went Wrong

Diamond: College Interview 101

The first position was bagged by Ruby House, second by Diamond House and the third by Sapphire House.





# Critical Analysis

The Spider's Thread by Ryunosuke Akutagawa

This Japanese fiction is a rudimentary juxtaposition of the good and the bad presented before us by the famous author Rashomon. The story is based on a robber who has done atrocious deeds and has now been sent to hell to compensate for his sins. He is given a chance to save himself and climb to heaven by using a spider's thread. This opportunity presents to him as a ray of hope, quite literally, to save himself from the deep depths of hell and its never-ending torture. But halfway up, he notices other sinners trying to procure the same salvation by climbing after him. He orders them to get off in fear of the thread snapping but this very unworthy act causes the thread to snap and sends him plummeting back. The primary conflict of this story, as I like to believe, is not about the robber's choices or the spider's thread or even the ruler of heaven who saw the robber writhing in pain in the depths of hell and having decided to give him a chance by sending that singular frail thread. Its more substantial than that. It is about us and the world we live in.

In this world, most people resolve to such means of livelihood when they have nothing for their sustenance. What's ironical about this is, that the society that they live in is designed in a way to sustain that very life and its means to live. Yet, in that very system, supposedly designed for them to thrive in, is the very place they find themselves trapped in. Then comes that ray of hope, a way out from this never ending economic hardship. Of course, they would jump at the opportunity. But so would everyone else who is on the same boat as him. But is it fair to only help one man or a group of unfortunate individuals? How can one come to such a subjective and impossible estimation, all in the very society designed for them to thrive in! This story, in my perspective is much more than just about heaven and hell or good and bad. It's a satire on our society and our life, the ruler of heaven, being the framers of this society, the ray of hope being the chance to survive and sustain, like robbing a house. A difficult hard chance filled with prolonged suffering such as climbing the long never-ending rope to heaven. It's almost futile and all it does is, prove the ruler as a sadist. It is not fair to categorize people as good and bad, based purely on outward stimuli that are out of their control and then decide who would get a garden and who gets eternal pain.

- Vanessa Alam



# OP-ED

It's 2024, you're a single mother, working two jobs; struggling to put food on the table. Your heart breaks everytime your child goes to bed with an empty stomach. You cry yourself to sleep wondering when you failed as a mother.

Roe v Wade was an important decision made by the US Supreme Court in which the Court ruled that the Constitution of the USA granted the right to choose to have an abortion. This right however, was not absolute and a person could have an abortion only until a fetus becomes viable, which is usually 24 weeks after conception. Over the years the case has been a central topic of debate as to what extent can the abortion be considered legal, who gets to decide it and where do peoples' religious and moral beliefs fit in all of this.

In June of 2022, the court overruled Roe v. Wade; removing nearly 50 years of federal protection and allowing states to make abortions illegal in their independent jurisdictions. This has led to abortion being completely unavailable in 14 states and the enforcement of severe bans in 8 others as of December, 2022

The 'Great American Dream' has now turned into a nightmare for most citizens. According to a survey conducted by BestColleges of 1000 current and prospective undergraduate students 39% of the students claim that the court's decision directly impacts their own choices as to the states in which they want to attend college(s). Furthermore, restricted abortion rights will have direct impacts on jobs all around the country. "I'd rather have my life than millions of dollars", Kristi Bradford who walked away from a three hundred thousand dollars job offer.

This situation will only continue to get worse and there might be millions of deaths, attempted suicides etc. if citizens don't get the right health care they deserve.

- Saisha Arora



# music x books

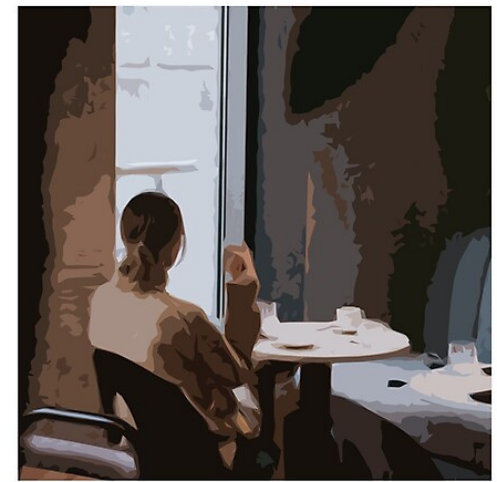
the right harmony that goes with right words

BY SAISHA ARORA AND APRAJITA SINGH

"There was before you and there was during you  
For some reason, I never thought there would be an after you.  
But there was, and I was in it.  
I'll be in it forever" **(Reminders of Him)**

"Did you hear about the girl who got frozen?  
Time went on for everybody else she won't know it.  
She's still 23 in her fantasy  
How it was supposed to be" **(Right where you left me)**

Reminders of Him by Colleen Hoover is an agonising yet optimistic story about redemption. It follows Kenna, a single mother, who tries to connect with her daughter after spending 5 years in jail for a tragic mistake.



*Right where you left me*  
Friends break up, friends get married  
Strangers get born, strangers get buried  
Trends change, rumors fly through new skies  
But I'm right where you left me

Dear Scotty,  
Love, Kenna



**THE GREAT WAR** 2022  
TAYLOR SWIFT  
MIDNIGHTS  
written and produced by ARBON DESSNER, TAYLOR SWIFT

"A love like theirs was never going to survive in a city divided by hatred.  
This would be the death of them all" **(These Violent Delights)**

"All that bloodshed, crimson clover  
Uh-huh sweet dream was over  
My hand was the one you reached for  
All throughout the great war." **(The Great War)**

These Violent Delights by Chloe Gong is a fantasy set in 1926 in Shanghai, a time where corruption and vice ruled the city. It is an imaginative retelling of Romeo and Juliet, filled with tragedy, rival gangs and a monster that lurks in the depth of Huangpu River.

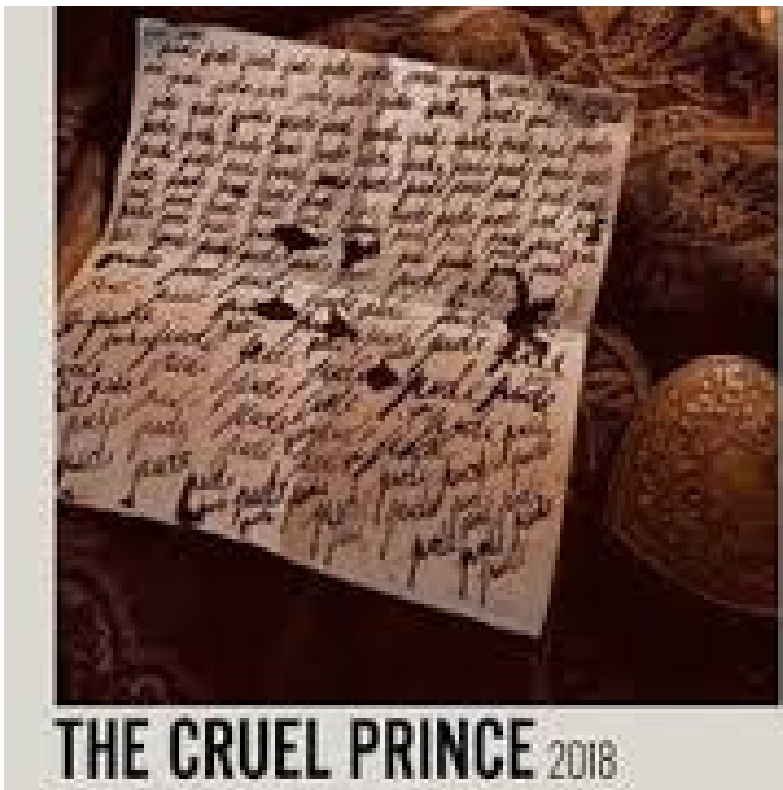
These Violent Delights  
have Violent Ends



I gasp' "But you can't do that!"  
He looks at me for a long moment, but his gaze is mild, as  
though he's expecting me to be fine with exile. As though I  
am one of his petitioners. As though I am nothing at all"  
**(The Wicked King)**

"I think I've seen this film before,  
And I didn't like the ending  
You're not my homeland anymore so who am I offending  
now?  
You were my crown, now I'm in exile seeing you out"  
**(Exile Ft. Bon Iver)**

The Wicked King by Holly Black is the second book in a  
trilogy of fast paced fantasy novels that have the perfect  
mix of politics, danger and magic to keep the reader  
gripping the edge of their seat the entire time



I think I've seen this film  
before  
And I didn't like the ending  
  
You're not my homeland  
anymore  
So what I'm defending now?



"You can be sorry about something and not regret it"  
**(The 7 Husbands of Evelyn Hugo)**  
  
"Because I dropped your hands while dancing  
Left you out there standing  
Crestfallen on the landing"  
**(Champagne Problems)**

The 7 Husbands of Evelyn Hugo by Taylor Jenkin  
Reid follows reclusive and iconic Hollywood star  
Evelyn Hugo as she finally breaks her silence and  
tells the story of her life to set the record straight;  
once and for all.



# Swirling Pen

## NEVER ENDING

They ask me first  
Why didn't you move quickly  
My head faces the floor  
My mind somewhere between death and hell  
The answer murmurs between my lips  
I never had the chance I say  
The burnt truth tumbling from my lips  
My voice a scratchy nuisance.  
The cop shoots a look  
Somewhere of impatience  
Those hushed looks not missed somehow  
Even as I busy myself counting the tiles  
The dress is fully ripped  
Its remnants clings to my body  
Reminding me of the burnt markings on my skin  
They have given me a shawl to cover  
To hide away what he has done  
But God does my skin burn  
I feel like scratching the body part  
Maybe take a bath or a shower  
The flowing water  
some kind of soothing yet a blazed touch  
It's just the dirt to clean a little bit.  
The blood markings everywhere  
I dare to look up and see.  
The cop slowly asks why was I out so late  
Should I just tell her  
I was out with a friend  
Will she believe me  
Or think this is for attention  
A doubt gnaws at me unconsciously  
Telling myself that it was a lie  
Telling me that 'he' never happened  
I was safe in a bubble  
I reply something vague  
Not enough for me to remember right now  
The cop tsked a little  
Pitying me like I'm some roadkill  
Maybe a question

Makes hating me easier  
If you had gone fast  
She asks me with a passion  
The burning feeling would not have been a living touch  
Maybe another woman comes  
Sweeping in the scene  
Sympathy and sadness  
Her voice says it all  
Oh, how she pities me  
Thinking she can solve it and more  
I feel dirty  
I say to a dead me  
His touch ingrained like a poisonous poppy  
I should have died  
I say to my soul  
She agrees with a venomous nod  
They say it is going to be alright  
Assure me that I am safe  
Don't you see I'm scared  
My tear streaked cheeks  
My hair is wild  
Paranoia claws my heart  
Telling me to run away  
Even as I sit here and wait  
The other lady brushes past  
And I flinch myself away  
Maybe she grimaces  
But my face stays a stoic parrot  
"we will catch him", she says  
But my huddled mind disagrees  
I don't see the point now when all is said and done  
My scraped knees; my busted lip  
I remember the smell of alcohol  
The marks on my skin  
The sight of me ruined, forever  
The world got grey  
My life snatched away  
And as usual  
Just like I predicted  
He has once again gotten away.

-Pragyamita Chaudhari



## 'I still think about this particular line everyday...'

There was a book I read a few years back. You know, a typical teenage high school novel with a level of angst and drama no person at 16 probably experiences. But one chapter stuck with me in a way none of the others did. It started along the lines of, 'What's the minimum length of time with the power to change your life? A year? A month?' I still think about this particular line every day. Life moves either wickedly fast or terribly slow. Changes ebb and flow when we're least expecting them. They have the power to turn your entire life upside down, to turn it into something devastatingly beautiful or something terribly ugly. But one thing I did realise is that change is inevitable. We try to forget it, avoid it and do everything in our power to pretend it doesn't exist. Humans hate to live a monotonous life but at the same time are so afraid of the possibility of change that they do not realise their own potential. The only thing in our hands is to embrace the change, be it good or bad, because that's life, and it happens.

- Saisha Arora



## DEAR GOD

He will be there,  
He will be there to guide you  
He will be there when you are sad,  
when you have lost a fight  
He will be there to be the light  
and he will drive you from the darkness  
He would stand still; He would let you fight  
To tell you that you are right  
He would be silent  
but stay by your side  
He will guide you  
He will be there  
He would never wish bad for you  
Because you are His creation, His child.

- Urvii Dewan



# MENTAL HEALTH

## WAYS TO DE-STRESS DURING EXAMS

Exam Season is on and handling the pressure, while also maintaining your mental health is the most important thing.

Here are a few ways to achieve that:

- REMEMBER YOU ARE STUDYING FOR YOURSELF

When we stress about our exams, we forget the fact that we are studying for ourselves, not for others hence we have to prioritize ourselves; taking too much stress would lead you to go through a variety of phases which sometimes lead to depression, anxiety, etc.

- LISTENING TO MUSIC

Listening to music while studying not only improves concentration, but also helps making studies feel less like a chore and more like something that can actually be enjoyable while doing.

- REWARD YOURSELF WITH BREAKS IN BETWEEN

Whenever you solve a tough question after many efforts, you should definitely reward yourself with small things. It would just help you to improve your efficiency and make you feel energized.

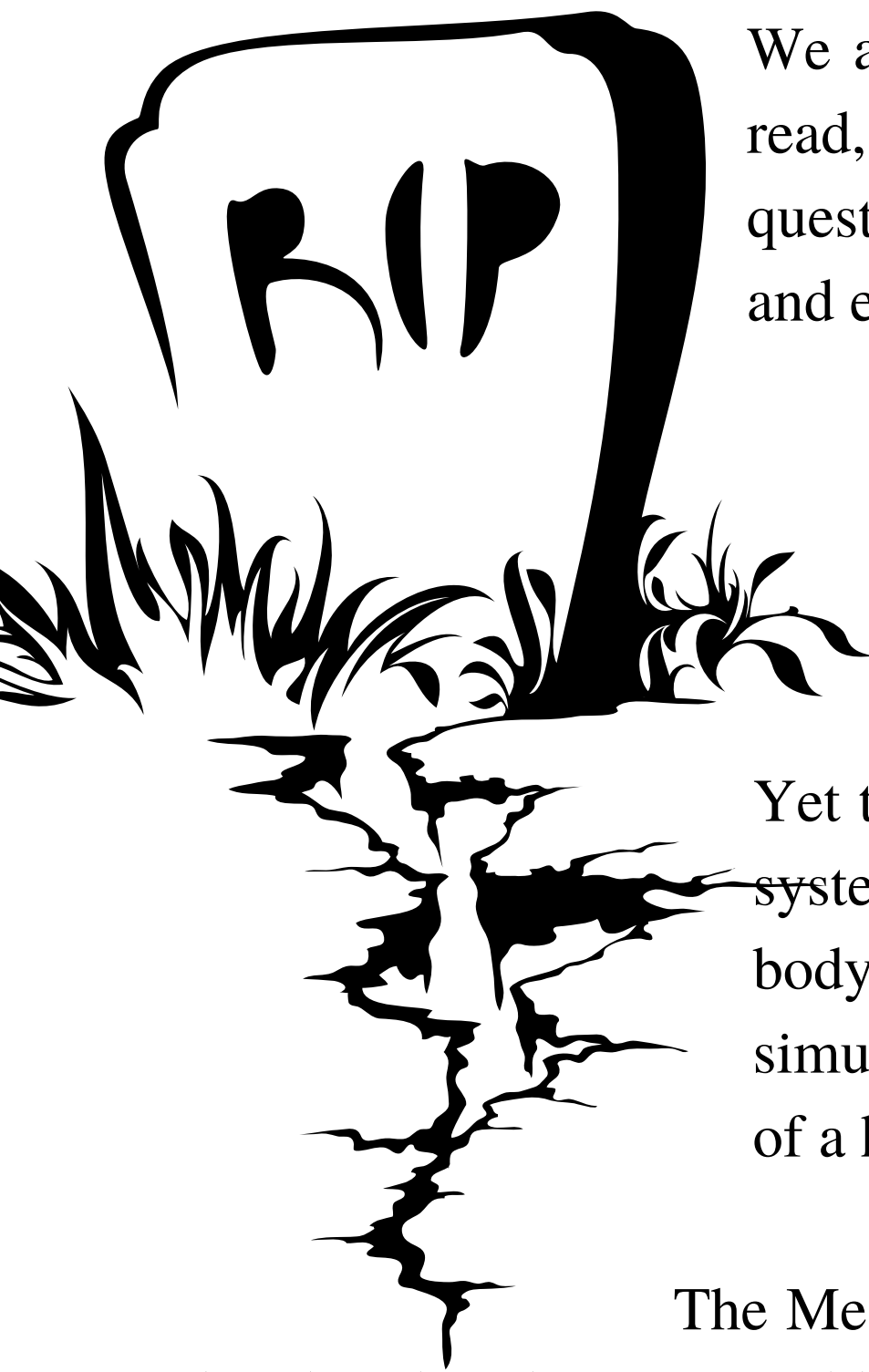
- NEVER SAY YOU CAN'T

Sometimes giving up seems like the best option but constantly telling yourself "I can't", eventually leads to you adopting that mindset and not realizing your true potential. In the end, it's not really about the score but the actual effort you put into getting it.

- Riddhi Chauhan



# THE WORLD OF SUPERNATURAL



We are all intrigued by ghosts, spirits and the supernatural in general. We have read, heard and watched innumerable stories and movies. However, the actual question is, 'Are they real?' What is this 'thing' people call apparitions, specters and entities.

People have constantly been researching and looking for evidence of the paranormal. Shows such as 'Buzzfeed Unsolved Supernatural' and several other documentaries and series have been seriously trying to portray the reality of the paranormal world.

Yet the question remains, "What is the paranormal?" The human body is a complex system consisting of three important aspects or parts that control all things in our body. Those are the mind, body and soul. Even though the three of them work simultaneously, the soul is said to work differently. It is believed that after the death of a human, his/her soul leaves the body and travels to afterlife.

The Mesopotamian civilization feared their dead greatly. It was thought that distressed, murdered and evil spirits could escape the land of the dead to cause havoc among the living by entering the bodies of the living through their ears. Several other civilizations had their own interesting methods. However, what a lot of them have in common is the belief that the dead continue living, even though in a different world. When we come across the belief that the souls travel to a different world, we choose to believe either heaven or hell because then the greater question arises, "Is God real?" Well, the question is quite controversial but I personally believe in Him, as humans and as individuals, merely out of habit or need, 'Have to believe' in something. This belief is for our own relief in life in times of sorrow and suffering. It's all a concept of belief, we get over problems and troubles in life because we believe that a greater power protects us.

However, we have had quite close encounters with the paranormal realm in certain cases such as that of the exorcism of Annelise Michel, which was taken as the script to make the famous film 'Emily Rose.' However, just like in the film and several other cases, these encounters clash with mental illnesses, thus blurring the concept and the existence of the paranormal. But I still believe that the feeling you get in your room when you are all alone is not simply your subconscious but rather something more complex. Thus the quest continues. I would like to end with a quote "The Devil is real; And he is not a little red man with horns and a tail. He can be beautiful. Because he is a fallen angel and he used to be God's favorite."

--Aneesha de



# CRITICAL CLASH

## SHOULD ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS BE GRANTED RESIDENCY

Let's imagine ourselves in a hypothetical situation where a stranger comes and lives in our homes. It feels unethical, doesn't it ? Imagine the same situation just on a larger scale where people break through your country borders and create trouble for the government and disrupt the personal lives of the citizens. That's what illegal immigrants do. The soft humble side of ours do want to provide them with a roof on their heads, social security, health and education benefits. But that's not practical in real life.

If countries start improving their citizen law and allow immigrants to keep coming in and providing them with everything one could ever wish for be it jobs, steady income, a warm home etc., all of this invites a huge number of aliens to enter your premises which results in annulment of the security of the nation. Open borders terrorist group entering and attacking, criminals getting a free pass to flee away destroys the ethnicity of the nation. Apart from the illegal immigrants almost destroying the security of a country, it can also result in a burden for the government by negatively affecting their budgets resulting in an increase in spending on social services and use of tax credits.

Issues of fairness makes legalization a political contingency for dealing with illegal immigrants. But that's not all Allowing illegal immigrants to stay also results in the workforce of the nation to compete with the illegal ones resulting in poverty for a huge number of people. And of course overpopulation is always a case as every country does not have the resources both the man made ones and natural to help ensure a healthy and safe life for everyone.

I oppose imparting pathway to citizenship due to the fact that you can't provide incentives for breaking the regulation without waiting for extra legal guidelines to be broken. It's a fundamental regulation of economics.

When you praise a behavior, you get extra of it; whilst you punish something, you get much less of it.

-TASHVI ANAND

According to the latest data present with us, the number of undocumented immigrants who have crossed the border has risen to an estimate of 2.76 million. One of the major factors which has resulted in rendering this number so high is the increase in terrorism and war activities world over. These people are away from their families, homes in which they have spent their childhood and a place of comfort and familiarity.

It is to be noted that most of these migrants have broken other laws beyond their initial unpermitted border crossing. Most illegal immigrants have established residency and about one in three undocumented immigrants own their own homes and pay taxes like any normal citizen. America, the land of liberty, whose very foundation has been built upon ideas, culture and skills that these people brought with them owes a lot to them. Immigration has helped renew collapsing nations by bring in more residents and stimulating economic growth.

Media has created a common conception that immigrants have increased the danger of crime and terrorism. In a research conducted by the Texas Department of Public Safety, it was found that undocumented immigrants have reported substantially lower crime rates than native citizens.

What all these people are trying to do, is to seek refuge in a place where there is no threat to them of being killed, where there are better living standards for their family and where they don't have to think whether today's the last time they'll see their loved ones. Just try to put yourself in their shoes for once, away from the safety of your home, your haven, stuck between war and death, losses and tragedy. These people have gone through a tremendous amount of trauma and struggle, they are not coming in your country to steal your jobs or instigate any revolt, they are only there to live their live as peacefully as each one of us is entitled to.

-APRAJITA SINGH



# ECONOMIES OF THE WORLD

by Tashvi Anand

## Russo-Ukraine War

The cold war between Russia and Ukraine originated on the 20th of February 2014 which proves how the citizens have been living in fear for the past nine years! The heat between both nations started to rise in 2021. The basic idea of the war has been how Vladimir Putin, the President of Russia, wants to invade Ukraine and re-establish a Russian Empire, while preventing a democratic encirclement around Russia. As both nations are significant producers of oil and natural gas, this has resulted in a 30% price hike of the commodities. The price rate has not only jumped for the respected commodities but also the global exports for wheat and rice and other food stuff. IMF also reports how globally we will face a fast rate of inflation.



## BRITAIN'S ENERGY CRISIS

It certainly is not cheap being green. British Consumers face an eye-watering price high in their bills ever since October 2022. Around £3,459 i.e, \$4,115 for an average household. Analysts claim that with winter approaching, the UK is in for a worse economic condition. Analysts suspect that by 2023 January, when the price cap is calculated or updated, the average bill could go up to £5,386. But the question is why? Britain generates 40% of their natural gas and energy from the gas fields in the North Sea and the rest is imported from all over Europe. With the Russo-Ukraine war, both nations stopped their energy supply to other nations which resulted in a spike in prices for the Britishers.





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