

WRITERS INC
★ CRESCENT EDITORIAL E- MAGAZINE ★

MERAKI

FICTION - NON-FICTION - POETRY
ART - PHOTOGRAPHY

CRESCENT LITERARY SOCIETY | JULY 2022
SUMMER EDITION

FOREWORD



Dr A Peer Mohamed, Vice-Chancellor

In our university, there are two ways to tell when summer has arrived - the ever-increasing heat, and the summer edition of Crescent Literary Society's collective magnum opus, Meraki. It is a joy to watch Crescent Literary Society grow and get better at what they do best - create. The seasonal editions of Meraki are loud and proud trophies of what a club can be when they are left to realize its potential. This magazine is evolving proof of how small actions can add up and contribute significantly towards a bigger picture. Seeking to fly greater heights with every try, the team at Crescent Literary Society has done a wonderful job packing this publication to the brim with creativity. I encourage you with all my heart to go forth and give this page-turning anthology a hearty read!



Dr Raja Hussain, Registrar

Taking a step back and working as a part of something bigger than oneself is, in my opinion, the ultimate test of trust and teamwork. The students of Crescent Literary Society have achieved trust, teamwork, and beyond. Like a candle in a cove, a positive footnote to an experience almost always ends up defining the experience; the summer edition of Meraki is a loving footnote to every academic year of this institution. The Meraki team and the Writers' Guild continue to improve upon past editions of their biannual publication, achieving a level beyond excellence. In line with the trend, this edition of Meraki goes above and beyond what makes for a great magazine. The legacy of Meraki speaks volumes about the work produced by Crescent Literary Society, and I wish them the best in their future endeavors.



***Dr Karthikeyan Ramalingam,
Dean of Student Affairs and
Chief Proctor (Discipline)***

Crescent Literary Society demonstrates its mastery over the ability to envisage art with their eagerly awaited editions of Meraki, even though creating art is frequently a subjective experience. Visualizing what the creation process must produce is a skill in and of itself. Our student journal consistently manages to gather and weave together the appropriate words for the appropriate circumstances alongside insightful artwork and photography. Crescent Literary Society continues to face and overcome obstacles with excitement and each other, thanks to a rising online presence and a passion for all things spoken and written. The contributors to Crescent Literary Society deserve my sincere gratitude for being able to bring out the best in each of us in this edition of Meraki, which is a compilation of art from both the median and the fringe. The readers of this magazine will undoubtedly experience positivity because of positive thoughts and positive phrases.



***Dr. P. Rathna, Professor and
Staff Coordinator of Crescent Literary
Society***

Bertrand Russell's perception on reading is that "There are two motives for reading a book: one, that you enjoy it; the other, that you can boast about it" encapsulates my experience of reading the magazine Meraki, that always proves to be the laudable venture of the Literary Club. The editorial board and the members never fail to surprise me with their refreshing ideas and insights given due expression in various genres, such as poetry, fiction, non-fiction, art and photography. I was, indeed, overwhelmed with joy and pride at their mastery in curating the articles and presenting them with a perfect blend catering to the interests of the variety of readers. Above all, the culture of inclusivism nurtured by them with all the warmth and endearment is a rarity in today's context. With great pleasure, I would like to record my congratulations on their accomplishments and best wishes for their future endeavors.

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Ashes to Ashes

With the sweetness of love and bitterness of addiction, it is a perfect story highlighting the importance of our mental health and that of our loved ones.



The Objectivity Behind Subjectivity

A thought-provoking article about our morals, their very origin and validity.



Is the World Ready for EVs?

An in depth analysis into the world of electrical vehicles that will tell you everything you need to know about EVs and the future of transport.



Cres-Broadcast

A collection of news-worthy moments from the past year, made possible by all students of BSACIST.



A NOTE FROM THE

It gives us immense pleasure to introduce to you the Summer Edition of Meraki 2022. This edition is very special and very close to my heart - my emotions overwhelm me as I write this. I know I will miss everything and everyone, especially the people involved in creating this beautiful magazine. Of all the ravishing and unrefined pieces that we received, a carefully curated selection of entries has been hand-picked for our beloved readers. I thank Meraki and its members from the bottom of my heart for being a significant part of many lives. My warmest gratitude to Dr. Karthikeyan Ramalingam (Dean of Student Affairs) and Dr. P. Rathna (Staff Coordinator of Crescent Literary Society) for their unwavering support throughout this academic year.

The memorable moments and life lessons we, the final years, learned will stay with us for the rest of our lives. Those that taught us how to celebrate our defeats, and those that instilled the attitude of never quitting; all the goodbyes that we have had have sparked several moments of heartbreak. Every missed heartbeat, every desire, and every painful moment counts towards shaping us into the people that we will become. We do not want to part from each other, but it is a part of life that must be experienced. It is a moment of conflicting emotions, feeling elated and dismayed simultaneously.

This magazine's theme reminds us that life is colourful, and savouring moments of varying flavours is what makes it lively and exhilarating, be they sweet or sour. The contents of the magazine have their own cool sodas and juices to refresh your mind, and will captivate you till the last page.

And, as a millennial once said, nothing is impopsicle. Happy reading!

Tasneem Juzer
Editor-in-Chief
4th year, B.Tech Biotechnology

EDITOR

A NOTE FROM THE

Someone has said in parting, "It always is harder to be left behind than to be the one to go." It didn't make sense to me before, but it quite does make an awful lot of sense now, knowing that I am graduating and leaving behind this joyful bunch of literary enthusiasts and the Institute, itself. To the members of Crescent Literary Society, the students and faculties of Crescent, this is the part where I bid farewell to thee.

Starting off with the Management, especially the Office of Student Affairs, I am thankful personally and on behalf of Crescent Literary Society for your concern, and for always being a staunch support to all of our activities, which includes giving us permission to conduct events and sanctioning our ODs. I also thank the ISTD-C and its Coordinator Ms. Manickapriya, for helping Crescent Literary Society host various shows and events, and letting the fellow literarians fly their geek flags high.

My awe-filled thanks to Dr. Rathna P, the Staff Coordinator of Crescent Literary Society, for being the light of hope during our lost days and guiding us, especially me, throughout this academic year. I wish that the Club always remains blessed with your guidance ma'am. I also thank my bundle of sunshine, my club kids, who have always shown me love and constantly worked towards bringing laurels to the Club and me. I thank my panel of Office Bearers for their rigorous support in handling the affairs of the Club.

To the entire student community, the teaching faculties and the support staff of Crescent- my gratitude lies with you all, for each of your claps, cheers, comments, smiles and technical support, that I got to see every time I hosted a show or an event, have made me who I am today.

As an ending note, I hope all of you eat healthily and stay healthy by avoiding everything that is injurious to your physical and mental health. Wishing you the very best in your life.

Sujan Ganesh
President
Final Year, B.B.A, LL.B (Hons.)

PRESIDENT

AN ODE TO THE SENIORS

Dear seniors,

The day has finally come, and you are going to graduate. I'm sure you're filled with every possible emotion: bittersweet nostalgia, pride, and anticipation. You are yearning to make your mark on the world while wishing to relive your first year - if only for just a day. You feel so ready to embark on a new beginning, but not entirely ready to close this chapter. To start this off, I would like to congratulate you on your amazing journey in this college.

Three years ago, when I entered Crescent, I was overwhelmed by everything happening around me, as well as scared - scared of what the future holds, the completely new environment, and the fear of being bullied by seniors. This was when I met Crescent Literary Society and all of you.

I could never have imagined in a lifetime that we would reach this place of love for each other. Each and every one of you has been a constant source of support in my life throughout these past three years; it is not just me - I think I can safely speak for every single junior when I say this. We cannot be grateful enough for the tremendous amount of love, care, and guidance you have given us.

You will be dearly missed. Even though we feel saddened to see you go, we are also very happy for you and the bright futures that lie ahead. I hope and pray that all your wishes and dreams come true. I know you all will do extraordinarily amazing things in the careers you decide upon. Wishing you the best of luck in all your future endeavours!

Lots of love,

Azfar Faheem Mustafa

3rd year, B.Tech CSE





Hand Me Down

I was once soft, shiny and bright.
Then came my journey of being used
From person to person, down I went
Nothing short of being abused.
Thinking maybe the next would treat me right.
Maybe he's my god sent.

Not once did I get the care I deserved,
Just thrown in with the other clothes.
When once he'd look into my eyes with
something close to love and say
"Damn Baby, You're a dry clean only."
And I'd buy it, smiling slowly.
But it always ends the same way

Left alone at the thrift store;
Just another hand me down.
Feeling hurt seep to my very core,
A new meaning eats at my fallen crown

Now I'm not special, realized I never was.
Love and lust,
Both were lost.
Pretty soon it'll be time
For the next in line,
To wear and tear me,
Yet again.

~ Neha Jamshid
3rd year , B.Des Interior Arch

The Silent Sound

Worries of the heart, as
Blood runs a heavily burdened path
For it carries emotion from tangled valleys, to
Your sight of the horizon, as
Plane and wide it might seem,
You can only hear the silence roar,
In the depth of the heart's abyss.

You'll see nothing from where you stand,
You'll hear nothing, as you
Wander in the void of darkness.
You will only hear silence echoing back.

Time is the only concoction-
So the physician says, a remedy which
Heals the self-sickness within,
As you wander the cold winter path
Of your own self-induced grief;
As a ripe fruit falls,
Just to be consumed,
Just to be devoured.

~ Kidher Rahman
2nd year B.Tech Biotech



Raw

Unusual weather , heightened emotions -
Making me wanna escape from reality.

These whimsical notions

Lead me to this feeling of abnormality.

My actions went too mechanical and numb;

The time in between stuck like gum,

And right now what I know is this piece of

Rare medium steak in my mouth,

Sent as a parting gift from Louth.

Memories flushed down as the juice

Of the meat gulped down my throat,

Sinking with the rhythm of my teardrops.

I drink some wine from the bottle straight,

And I question, "Why am I to life, a bait?"

I moan while eating it, my sobs dried,

Eyes tired; my hunger grew with feverish haste.

More gulps and more chewing.

Ah! how I wish wines were ever brewing.

Maybe the rawer it is, the more real it should feel,

And maybe life is not too short to heal.

~ Anna Catherine M V

2nd year, B.A. English (Hons)

If Only You Were Here

If only we lived in the same city,

Things would have been more intimate and real.

I can't entirely comprehend what we're calling ourselves,

But this is changing me for the better and I hope for you as well.

I don't know why I'm trusting you with my heart so fast;

Maybe because deep down, I know

You'll treat it better than I do.

We've let ourselves up for luck and flow,

Hoping we'll cherish and grow.

But, there's a chip on my shoulder;

A voice in my heart, that aches-

Maybe I'll drag you down with me

but it's hard to depart.

Yet here we are going through this,

With half a heart, trying to piece it together.

You feel like a utopia in my blurry days,

A butterfly among the waves.

If only you were here to tell me;

If only we were able to fully commit.

However, all we can do is hope.

Thinking, eventually, we'll be able to cope

With everything, we're going through.

I yearn that this shouldn't add

To my pile of heartbreaks or yours;

Yet, all we can do is hope.

~ Aashik S

1st year, BCA

The Part of Love

I love you in all the ways
I have never known.
When the night falls
Softly over a sheepish world, my heart sighs and
I hold a lantern
For you to come home.

Your touch permeates my sense
And we are a seismic collision
Waiting to happen.
Our bodies are locked
And we cling to a vulnerability,
Almost overwhelming.

We stay quiet for too long
And watch the sun gently pierce through the skyline.
And for someone who forever
Has been fascinated by how things end,
You make me want to stay.

Your frailest gesture puts my heart at ease.
There is something soothing
About loving like this.
Like a layer of flowers.
Like the very life living
And breathing into numbered days.
Like eyes that know.
Like affection that lingers;
Lulled to sleep.

You're the part of love
That spells silence,
Giving and patience.
Roaring midnights that kiss the solitude of the day.
You're the part of love
That remains, constant.
That is a trove of memories.
The part of love that looks
A lot like coming home.

And in all the ways the night rests in you,
You are my living.
Are truly my everything.

~ Sriya Samanvita M
1st year, B.Tech ECE

Why do I write?

For them who toss and turn
as the dawn breaks unwillingly and
the dusk crashes to the rhythm of
their unsolicited thoughts.

Why do I write?

For the birds that can't sing,
their unheard soliloquy choking them
yet drawing the strings to their flight.

Why do I write?

For the fireflies that light up
to lose their shine,
to light up again to lose their shine.

A love that never found a home.

Why do I write?

For them, snoring loudly to
the rhythm of my poem
as they fly away into the
wormhole of their dreams,
a place as vividly flamboyant
as their souls, waiting to taste the exquisite flavors of
everything that awaits them.

Why do I write?

For the sky that never screams,
and for the land that never ceases.

For the inevitable gravity,

For the evitable reality.

Why do I write?

For the rainbows spanning like Saturn's rings,
For the rain that nourishes those quenched by greed
For the blood not spilt and the blood coursing our veins.

Why do I write?

For the heart that ached but never longed

For the eyes that have seen but never felt.

Why do I write?

For the mahogany woods strumming
With its hoods, embracing its bizarreness
away from the air that has lost its purpose
away from the birds that can't take flight.

Why do I write?

To feel the calmness of raging seas,
To feel the stillness in my heartbeat.
To extend my arms so that I could hold you from afar,
the closest you can get.
The closest I can get.

~ Anjana Badrinath
4th year, B.Tech ECE

The Liminalist

Sonnet in Progress

I stay in hiding behind open doors,
I hear you clambering through time - its shores,
I see him cowering in fear, alone,
I smell her secrets and her sins, atoned.

Walking through waking dreams, can you not see?
Neither above nor below I shall be;
I am all that is in purgatory.

I write this poem in despair and hope,
As I tread through to the end of my rope;
Neither above nor below I can stay,
At this empty bay, all I can is pray.

Born unblessed by the ever-watchful Star,
Dead, uncounted, in the eyes of the Scar;
Yet, in the middle, I am ne'er afar

By Vikram Venkat,
3rd Year, B.Tech EEE.



ASHES TO ASHES

By S.R. Parvez Riswan Mohamed
3rd year, B.Tech ECE

"Nara! Can you hear me?" the nurse asked, rubbing my hand vigorously. "Stay with us, dear!"

I could barely hear her voice. It was like time had slowed down. I couldn't make out her face as everything was blurry. Her face was sweating as if she was burning inside an oven. I could feel her trembling hands pressing on my chest, hoping for something miraculous to happen.

Is this what dying feels like? Like a grand final act where everything related to you comes to an abrupt end. You won't be the same person you once were, just an organic matter waiting to rot away. You'll be nothing but a distant memory, leaving a deep scar on everyone you love.

Life is unfair. There are only two things that are common for every human: Birth and Death. Everything that comes in between is not the same for everyone. One person gets to live up to a hundred years while the other dies within minutes of their birth. No one understands the purpose of life. All they do is follow what the others do. Why should it be this way? Why can't everything be fair for everyone? Why did God create us if all we do is suffer?

Suddenly something popped and I was out of my body, floating in the air without being affected by gravity. The monitor flat-lined. The paramedics tried everything they could, but my body didn't move. I was watching everything as an outsider.

My mom was crying in agony, looking at my body lying there soulless. My dad was standing there holding my mom's hands tightly, not knowing what to do. His face was as pale as a ghost. I went near my mom to console her, but I couldn't touch her. My hand passed through her cheeks as if it was a hologram.

I couldn't believe anything that was happening. All of this wouldn't have happened if it wasn't for my stupidity. I shouldn't have taken those drugs. I was not in my right mind at that time. I wish that someone could have talked me out of it. I don't want to die right now.

All of a sudden, I couldn't move my hands and legs. I got pulled back into my dead body by some force. My head began to spin, and my sight started to fade slowly as I was looking at the ceiling of the ambulance. All I want now is for someone to say that this is all just a bad dream.

I opened my eyes slowly, trying to adjust to the light. I was lying somewhere. As I opened my eyes fully, I could see millions of stars shining brightly; comets flying around. The sky was violet in color. I've never seen anything like this before.

I was on my feet quickly and looked around. It felt like I was standing somewhere in outer space. The surface I was standing on, felt like glass. It extended as far as I could see. There was nothing else around me except a small red door that was a few feet away. The door had no support on its sides. It was just standing there on its own. Is that the doorway to the afterlife? I placed my hand on my chest, and there was no heartbeat.

I am dead.

I approached the red door slowly and opened it. There was a small room that was lit poorly by a bulb. I didn't expect this. A small television was in the middle and a shelf full of tapes near it. The tapes in the first three rows were white, and the others were black. There was also a small telephone on a wooden table.

I took one of the white tapes from the shelf and played it on the television. It was a video taken on my third birthday.

My younger self was cutting the cake with a bright smile and giving it to my parents. All my friends were there, wearing beautiful dresses and cheering for me.

I played a different tape. *It was the day when I went to the zoo with my parents. I was eight years old. I was roaming around, looking at different animals. My younger self was a happy kid enjoying her life. I started to watch all the tapes.*

They were nothing but a collection of all my good memories.

I wondered what was there in the black tapes. So I played one.

My teenage self was standing in front of a mirror with a knife. I slowly slit my wrist, and blood started dripping on the floor. My parents rushed into the room, and my father grabbed the knife away from me. My mom called an ambulance as I fell unconscious.

That was the day my life took a wrong turn. I played the other black tapes too. They were all the bad memories that I could have avoided if I hadn't made those mistakes. I'd be so happy if I get a chance to change those things. I want to live my life again- now, more than ever. I want to go back to my parents and give them a big hug.

The phone rang. I picked it up and slowly placed it on my ear. I could hear my mom speaking to my dad- "I should have stayed with her during her hardships. It was all my fault. I killed our daughter."

My dad replied, "It was not your fault dear. Our daughter was depressed. We tried everything to bring her out of it but she didn't cooperate."

My dad was right. All this is happening only because of me. I'll do anything to bring everything back to normal. Suddenly a clock appeared in front of me.

"It's too late now", a voice echoed. The clock began counting down from thirty seconds. Someone began to sing a lullaby. The voice sounded so familiar. It was my mother. It's the same lullaby that she used to sing to me when I was a kid. I began to feel sleepy. My eyes started to close slowly as the countdown reached 15 seconds. I lie on the floor with my eyes closed ready to have a good night's sleep as the lullaby continues one last time. Ashes to ashes. Dust to dust. From sand, I came and to sand, I'll return.



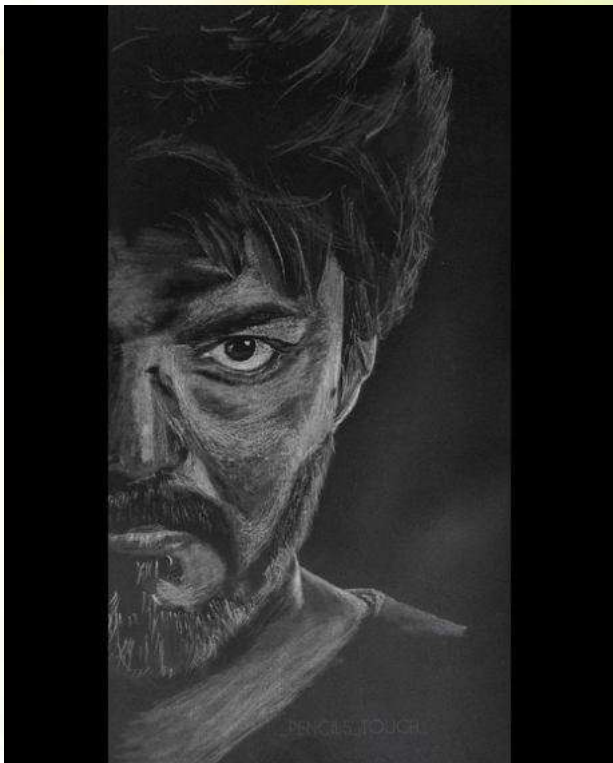
Art Corner



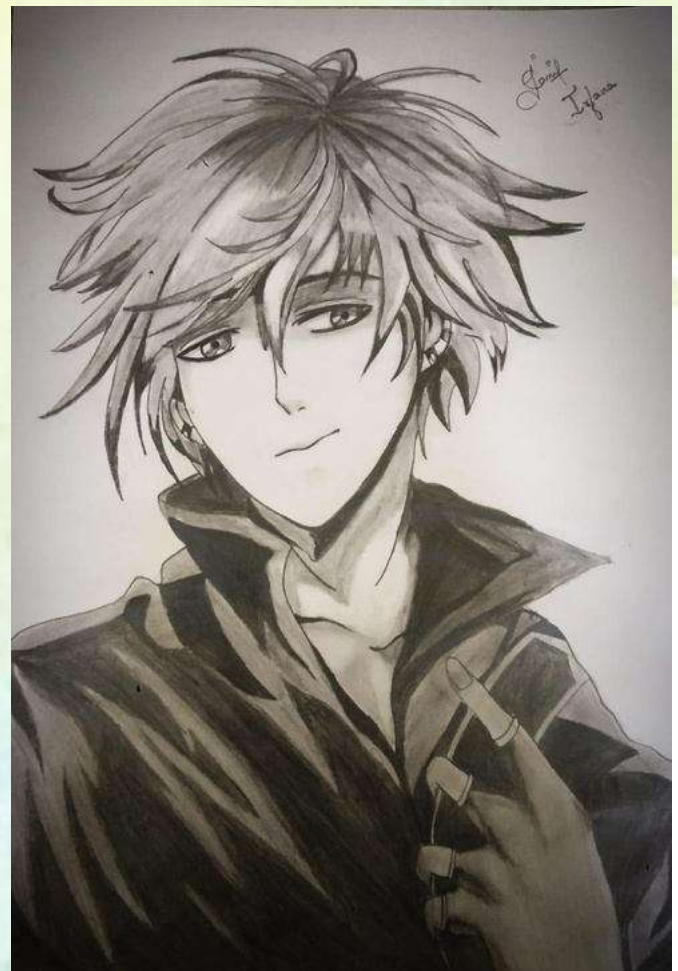
Vinit Kumar , 2nd year EEE



Ronisha S , 2nd year B.Tech Biotech

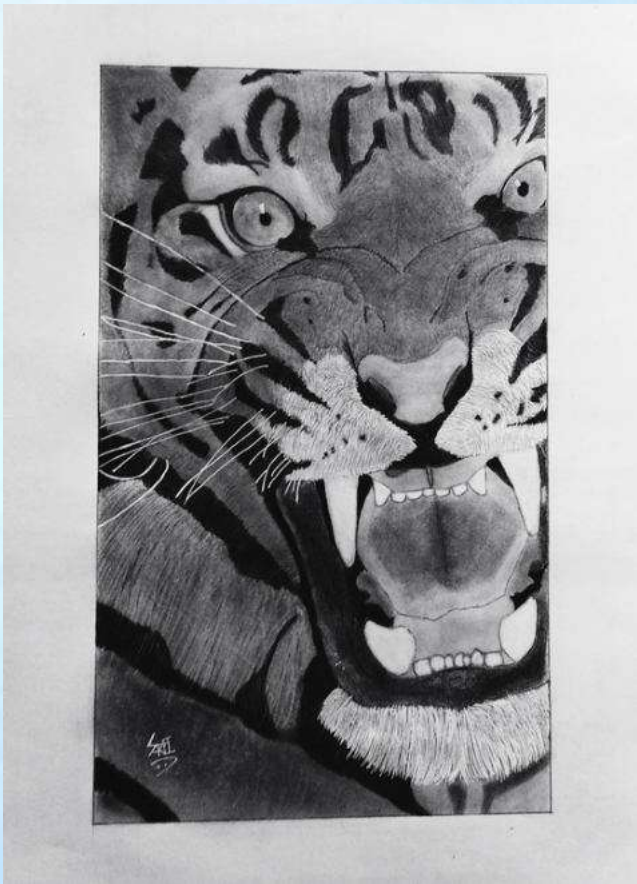


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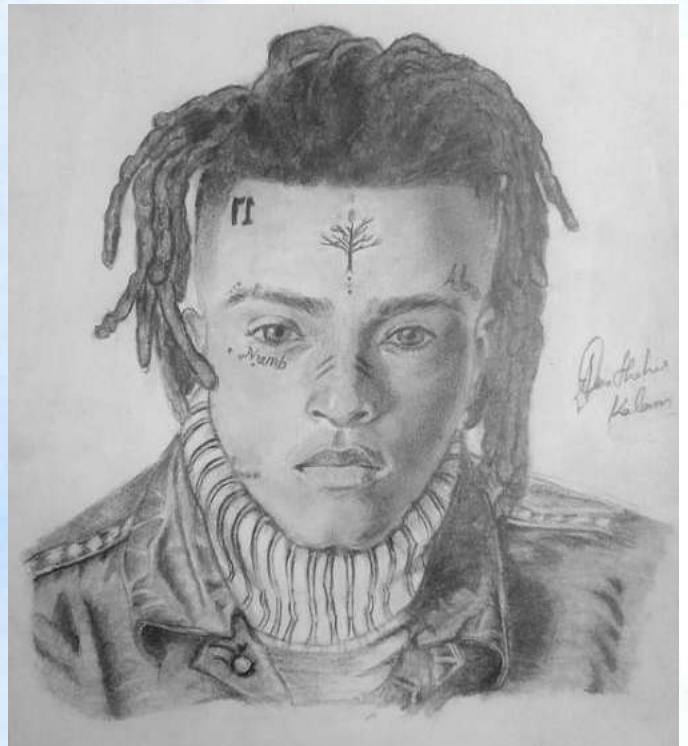
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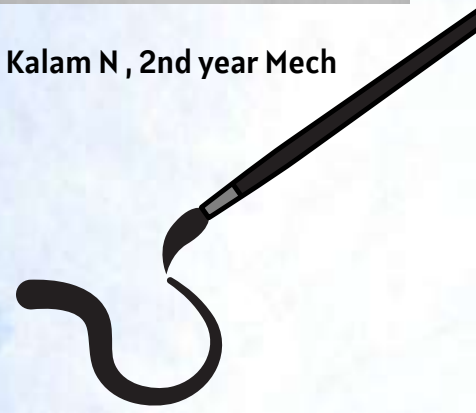


Maryam Mahboobha , 2nd year B.Sc Biotech



Md Abuthahir Kalam N , 2nd year Mech

Contributed by
Crescent Creative Strokes

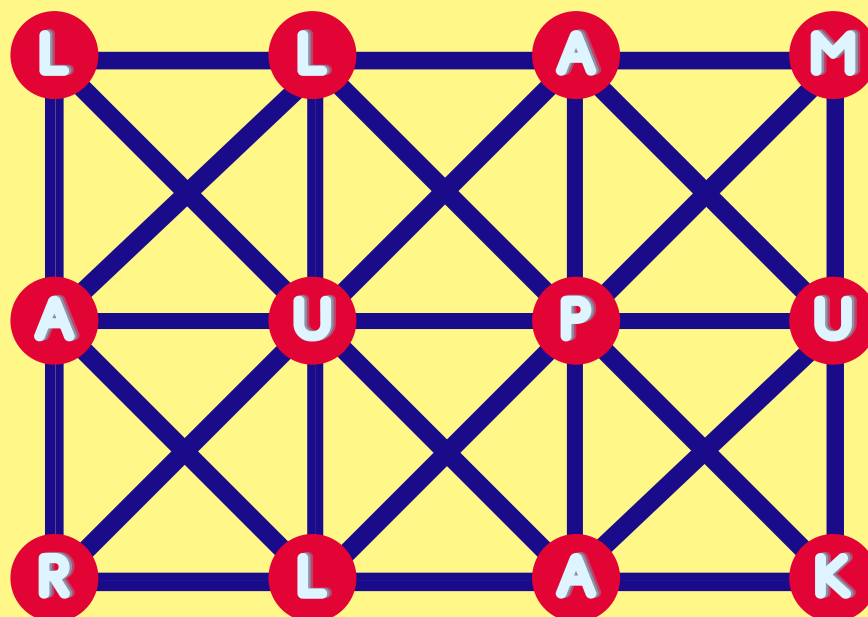


GAMES

PLAY

START

SPELL IT OUT



Travel from each letter along the lines to spell out the name of a two-word place.

Condition: You can only go through each circle once.

HINT: PETRONAS TWIN TOWERS

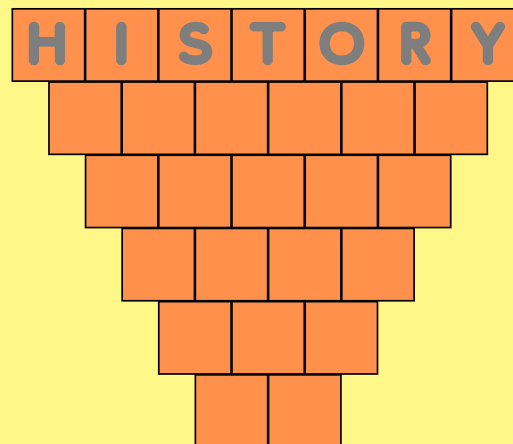
WORD ROCKS



Create three words; one from each rock, that all have the same meaning.

STEP DOWN

Beginning from the top of the upside-down pyramid, remove one letter from the word "HISTORY" and rearrange the remaining letters to build a new word beneath. Continue the same process to each word until you get to the bottom.



Ideated by
Fadhil ur Rahman
3rd year, ECE

ANSWERS ON PAGE 33

The Objectivity Behind Subjectivity

By Saniya Mirza, 3rd Year, B.Tech ECE

A copious amount of times, we fail to realise why we accept certain things and reject others. We live in a time where we are quick to denounce or accept anything using any logic that comes by. But how do we know we're right? How do we know the other person is wrong? Where do we get our conclusions from? Where does our logic originate from? How much of it was a product of our thoughts? How much of it was coerced by others? What morals were ingrained in us from childhood? Who came up with those morals? Why do we, even as children, feel guilty after doing something wrong? Why even at an age when we don't have a care for the world, feel bad when we know we hurt someone? How does a child that can't even speak, sense when someone is sad and try to cheer them up?

How did we develop this complex sense of morality? One may argue that it was entrenched in us as we grew up. But whoever taught us how to think, must have been taught by someone else. This chain must have started somewhere, but how? Who decides what is acceptable and what isn't? If you go out and tell people that killing someone is wrong, every sane person will agree with you. But who defined this sanity? Is it unravelled from our conscience? Or empathy? How does our conscience know where to incline? Surely, our morality didn't spring from nowhere. Every faith in the world preaches its rules for morality, but who at the beginning decided what had to be preached?

Now, let's take a pragmatic approach. If morals were completely subjective, one can rely on a human being to justify anything. Murder of civilians in war; Collateral Damage. Genocide by a powerful country in a powerless one; Conflict. Aborting a foetus; Murder. Forcing teenagers, rape victims, and endangering women's lives to continue pregnancies;

Acceptable. Poor people stealing; A punishable offence where some are even killed. Billionaires evading taxes; Just another scam. Inflammatory speeches against minorities; Freedom of Speech. Condemnation of a government or its policies; Anti-National.

Citing the examples mentioned above, it's evident that something is wrong. Yes, every situation is distinct and demands its own moral code to be followed, but there is an underlying agreement on how that moral code must function, which defines our belief in justice. This moral code cannot remain subjective to just anybody's interpretation, because every person is flawed and biased. There has to be a sense of objectivity that comes down to our source of morality. Although I questioned the source of morality at the beginning of this thought bubble, regardless of what you believe it is - one's conscience, basic human empathy or a God-given sense, the bottom line is that there are universally agreeable rules that must stay intact for the betterment of society.

Fundamentally, most modern problems come down to our definition of morality. In a society where morality is subjective to each one's interpretation, anything is acceptable and, paradoxically, nothing is acceptable. There will always be people who support something, there will always be people who are blatantly against it. But at the end of the day, whether we admit it or not, there will always be some besetment inside our soul when we see something wrong. And that sense of morality is in-built. The more we choose to ignore it, the more we silence our conscience and train it into believing something that we know is wrong. But, every once in a while, we see or hear something and our conscience takes a hit. In such moments, our decision to listen to our gut can change our lives. And who better to listen to, than ourselves?



DOES FREE WILL ACTUALLY EXIST?

If we were to understand the concept of free will and its existence in our reality, we have to focus on two main theories - Libertarianism and Determinism. Let's start with understanding what libertarian free will is.

It is a belief that we choose our actions freely by ourselves. Libertarian free will could be anything from political libertarianism to socialism. They just think that, metaphysically, we can act free - but, *are we free?*

Generally speaking, most of us have a sense that we have clear control of the situation we are in, and everything that happens is according to our own will. We feel free; we feel like we make all sorts of decisions that lead to both beliefs and actions; that these beliefs and actions are of our choosing and will.

Most of us figure that our thoughts and actions are free, but some believe that every action has a cause and that everything that is happening now is the necessary result of events that occurred in the past. This view is known as hard determinism.

Determinism: A belief that all events are caused by past events such that nothing other than what does occur, could occur.

Most people believe in both realities, that most of our actions are free and that the world is governed by cause and effect. Rationally, though, the world can only exist in one form of reality. Hence, we cannot hold onto both points of view.

Because of this confusion between determinism and rationality, libertarians have defined free action according to what is known as the "*Principle of Alternate Possibilities*". It states that an action is free only if the agent - the person acting - could have done otherwise, as truly free actions require options.

Determinism, in contrast, does not allow the agent to choose an option. It holds that every event is caused by a previous event, which means that an agent can never have done anything other than what they did before, and therefore, they are never truly free.

Libertarianism runs counter to the workings of the physical world, with one thing causing another. So, we need a way to account for our view of things.

Let's say that no physical event can occur without having been caused by a previous physical event. So, many libertarians concede that the physical world itself is deterministic. Like a fan spinning when the person hits the switch, for instance. At the same time, what about an event caused by an agent, a being, or an external agent being propelled by a mind? They can start a whole chain of causality that was not caused by anything else. So, the person who switched on the fan most likely did so because they just decided to do it. By this concept, agents can affect the causal chain of the universe. This also means that they can make things happen on their own but, to say the least, this kind of thinking is just bizarre and untenable.

When you think about it, where do these free decisions come from that can change the entire causal chain of the universe? What would compel an agent to make one decision and not the other? If we can answer those questions on how an agent acts, then that means you have just reinforced the position that actions are caused, rather than free. No matter how you think about it, it just ends up that your decisions are caused only by your previous events and your current situation. The best argument in favour of it seems to be that it just feels awful like we are free.

In the 18th century, French philosopher Baron D'Holbach stated that *none of our actions is free*. He believed that everything that is happening right now is the result of an unbroken chain of events. He said that everything is the inevitable result of what came before, including everything that we do. Our actions are caused in the same way that the fan spins - the current surges through the motor when the person switches on the fan, or like how tornadoes are caused by warm air systems hitting cool air systems under the right conditions.

This means that we, humans, and our actions are just a part of the physical world, bound by its physical laws.

When you see your mind as being capable of making free decisions, you may think that what goes on in your head when you make a choice is not like switching on a fan. But when you think a little further, mental states are brain states -or, at least, they are tied directly to your brain- which is biological, and biological states are physical states and the physical world as we know, is deterministic. There is just no room for free will here.

We think we are free - but are we?

At this point fate, destiny, and prophecy seems so real.

When Oedipus was born, a prophecy foretold that he would kill his father and marry his mother, so his father left baby Oedipus in the wilderness, assuming the baby would die and the prophecy would not then come true. Of course, the abandoned baby was discovered and raised by another family, and, as an adult, Oedipus learned of the prophecy that he would someday kill his father and marry his mother. Not knowing he was adopted, he left his adoptive parents to avoid fulfilling the prophecy. Figuring that if he wasn't near them, it couldn't come true. As he was trying to flee his fate, Oedipus killed a stranger in a fit of rage, who turned out to be the father he had never met, and then he proceeded to marry the dead man's widow, who was his mother, though he didn't know it.

Needless to say, this is a fate that any of us would like to avoid. The whole point of the story of Oedipus is that there is *no escaping fate*. In this view, what we all call 'decisions' are just the inevitable results of a bunch of mental stuff combined in just the right way. Maybe it feels free, even though it might not be.

But, is there no way out of this? What if someone else made my decisions? Or what if I fall on randomness, like flipping a coin? After all, if I just flipped a coin then that means the decision wasn't based on belief, desire, or temperament. However, there's no such luck, because even if I chose randomly, 'I' decided to flip the coin, or the person 'I' picked flipped it, which is just as determined as everything else.

Determinists believe that you can't help but feel and react the way you're reacting right now. You think you're choosing to act in ways that conform to the character that you've selected and shaped for yourself, but even that 'choice' is the result of all sorts of already-determined factors about you and your spot in the world.

As Baron D'Holbach put it, "*We're all just cogs in a machine, doing what we were always meant to be doing, with no actual volition*". But is there any way to escape fate? Probably not, because no matter how much you think about it, you will come to the same conclusion.

For example, we know that everything in the world is determined and the future decisions we're going to make or events that are going to take place are already caused in the present. Everything is going in an orderly fashion and we're sort of stuck in a loop unless the loop is broken by absolute uncertainty. If you were 99% sure that an event *will* take place like if a man from the future comes to your present-day and you've been told about your future, will that change your fate? Well, sort of. However, if you keep thinking deep enough, you'll eventually find that since everything in the physical world is determined, that means our actions led that man to find the 'time machine' which led him to tell you about your future, that would mean that his actions were also determined; ultimately, it was fate that changed your fate.

~ Kidher Rahman
2nd year B.Tech Biotech

FEED YOUR SOUL

By Fadhl ur Rahman, 3rd Year, B.Tech ECE

Every one of us is stuck in the routines of our lives, and sometimes we forget that we desperately need a break. There will be instances in our life where we might just be happy with what we are, while not knowing the purpose of why we even exist in this world. Every life has been created for a purpose, and every life has meaning. Travelling makes us realize the essence of enjoying the moment and not worrying about the exogenous things; that aren't within our control.

When we leave things behind and decide to stay away from our normal life for a few days, we realize that the things that troubled us the most do not concern us anymore. Things turn out to be so easy in our life because, as we start making time for ourselves, we tend to not think about anything else and we try to live in the moment. We also realize that we live in a happy place, and there is truly nothing to worry about. The greatest of challenges become so easy for us to face that it becomes a changing point in the lives of many.

Meeting people different from your ideology and culture and having conversations with them will make us realize that everyone in this world is the same - all human beings are equal, and we should never create situations that form differences among us. You meet them and you realize how well we can lead a happy life by opting for a simple lifestyle, and you grasp that the reason for all the problems in your life is you, and you alone.

Sometimes, there will be people in your life that are willing to travel along with you, and spending time with them makes the pair of you happy, you also realize how much of a positive impact you can have on their life. Travelling is one of the best ways to get to know a person better. Everyone is weak, every soul craves attention and care, and, most of the time, we feel lonely. To battle through all the ups and downs of our life, we need courage, and it comes through meeting different people away from your ideal friend group.

While looking at other people, you realize how blessed you are in this life, and begin to think how ungrateful we are towards our creator. You develop a tendency to help someone, even if you are going through some rough patches in your personal life; like when you travel to the countryside, you find that the people over there completely rely on tourists and travellers for their source of income, and with whatever little money they get, they feel happy and satisfied.

We have a habit of doubting our ability to achieve certain goals in our life. Travelling helps us achieve it by aiding us in focusing on the very pint-sized things in life. Each journey helps us develop new skills and ignite passion; thus, you tend to become more confident as a person and begin to frankly discover what you like and dislike. We are reborn into this world with new thoughts and new beliefs, and become more independent.

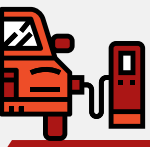
While travelling, you realize that the amount of peace you get - the freedom you feel inside your heart - can never match any feeling in the whole wide world.

When was the last time we put a pause on our studies or work for a small trip or a drive? How often do we travel to feed our souls? Think about it. We don't necessarily have to leave the country or even travel to other states of the country for a trip. Even if it is within the borders of the state, all we need is some time away from the usual surroundings and some fresh air. Most of us might have gone for a trip only when we get our summer holidays (or when we have a string of public holidays, maybe a long weekend).

Did we ever skip our working days for a trip? The answer is often a resounding no. Some of us think or say that we haven't saved enough to afford a trip. But, come on, let's be honest with ourselves - did we even try to save some money on a weekly or a monthly basis? The answer, again, is no.

We often adjust our lives to please our loved ones and to make them happy. But, we have to put in some effort to make ourselves happy, too. Travelling is one of the ways that can give us happiness. By staying clear of our accustomed lifestyle, we begin to start loving ourselves and at the same time, it helps us become the best possible version of ourselves.

We have to accept the fact that this is the healthiest period of our life. As time passes, we do not know what is in store for us. We might have the ability to afford a trip by then, but, likely, we will not be in the condition to travel. Over time, our commitments will only increase. So, this is the most ideal time for us to relax, be grateful, and create memories of a lifetime.



IS THE WORLD READY FOR

ELECTRIC VEHICLES?

An electric vehicle is a vehicle that uses one or more electric motors for propulsion. It can be powered by a collector system, with electricity from extravehicular sources, or it can be powered autonomously by a battery. Sometimes they are charged by solar panels, or by converting fuel to electricity using fuel cells or a generator.

Due to the price hike in fuels and concerns towards the environment, after many years of domination by IC engines, electric vehicles have started to gain attention in the automotive sector. Companies like Tesla, Morris Garages, Tata etc. have already launched dependable EVs.

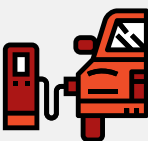
In the world of sustainable energy, electric vehicles (EVs) are championed by governments and car manufacturers as the technology to decarbonise the transport sector. In Europe, governments are giving subsidies and benefits to purchasing an EV more attractive to their citizens. Beyond this nudging, many governments have also scheduled a statutory ban on the sale of new petrol and diesel cars within the next decade. So, the future looks bright for EVs; but this future will not arrive without an environmental cost.

EVs are marketed as green technology and are considered energy efficient, but do not be fooled by their green credentials. The picture painted by governments and car manufacturers hides the dark side of EVs, which consists of the invasive mining of lithium and cobalt for creating batteries and many sustainability and ethical issues. Fun fact, there is a worldwide shortage of lithium, an important component used in the lithium-ion batteries that power EVs; the main reason why electric vehicles are a lot more expensive than conventional ones.



*By Mohammed Adil Sajith
4th year, B.Tech Automobile Engineering
&
Babu Mohammed Izhan
3rd Year, B.Tech CSE*

While EVs produce no direct exhaust pipe emissions, the production, distribution and disposal of EVs are emissions-intensive. The electricity used as fuel may be generated from fossil fuels. The same fossil fuels that people with electric cars believe they're reducing the consumption of. The mining of rare minerals needed to produce batteries also has an environmental impact. This means that the production process emissions of an EV can be higher than those for a petrol or diesel vehicle in some cases.

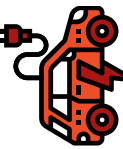


The processes involved in making their batteries are where EVs' green image starts to fall apart. These lithium-ion batteries are the same as those found in phones and laptops. Over half of the earth's lithium resources are found in the so-called Lithium Triangle which spans Bolivia, Argentina and Chile. Lithium mines have quite an environmental impact through their destructive extraction processes. Landscapes are dug up and scarred, habitats destroyed, and chemical runoff can cause water pollution. In May 2016, a toxic chemical leak from a lithium mine in Tagong, Tibet sparked mass protests after hundreds of dead fish surfaced in the Liqi river.

Mining for lithium also consumes a tremendous amount of water, about 500,000 gallons per tonne of lithium. That's equivalent to 22,730 baths. That's a lot of baths. In Chile, lithium mining has contributed to water shortages which have hit farmers particularly hard.

Perhaps the darkest of all is cobalt, which is commonly used, alongside lithium, in the batteries of many electric vehicles. More than half of the world's cobalt is mined in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). According to a report by Amnesty International, 30% of the cobalt exported from the DRC comes from artisanal mines, in which miners use either their hands or very basic tools to dig out rocks from tunnels deep underground, often for as little as \$2 a day.

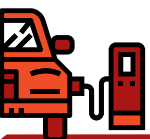
Worse still, UNICEF estimates that 40,000 of the workers in these mines are children under the age of 18, with some as young as 7 years old. Cobalt mining also comes with serious health risks. Chronic exposure to dust containing cobalt can cause the potentially fatal lung disease- "Hard Metal Lung Disease". Many fatal accidents have also been caused by mines not being constructed or managed safely.



The point is that EVs run on dirty energy and blood batteries. This is not a feasible solution to the climate crisis. A climate solution should not be at the expense of human life. It should be ethical and sustainable; that's the whole reason we're doing this damn thing in the first place, right? The question may arise- with the various ethical and environmental concerns about electric vehicles, how are we supposed to reduce carbon emissions and move away from petrol and diesel cars?

One suggestion is pursuing the development of safer, more eco-friendly battery alternatives to lithium-ion and cobalt batteries. Another suggestion is to design lithium-ion batteries in such a way that they are easier to recycle, thereby reducing the need to mine lithium and cobalt.

Long story short, electric vehicles have a long way to go before they can claim to be clean and sustainable. We have to manufacture them ethically and sustainably for the EV revolution to create a considerable impact on the environment. If not, then electric vehicles, ironically, would be creating more harm than good for the environment.



IS THE NFT HYPE OVER?

Just a little over a year ago, NFTs were all the rage in the tech community, with Jack Dorsey's first tweet being auctioned off for \$2.9 million, NFTs seem to be the next big thing. However, a recent attempt to sell on Jack Dorsey's Twitter debut for \$25 million was pulled out, after the auction bids came to a head at just \$14,000.

The explosive growth of NFTs over the past year has levelled off; according to market analysis of the sector, all the attention seems to be consolidated around a few of the largest players.

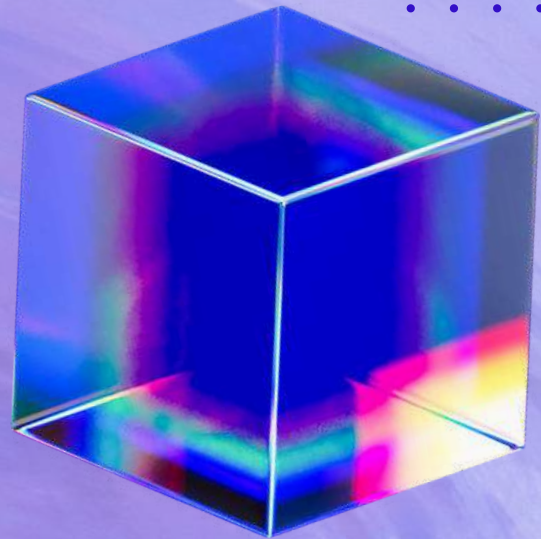
For those of you who are clueless about NFTs, let me explain - NFTs are "**Non-Fungible Tokens**", which means you can't replace or trade them like other digital assets. This creates digital scarcity thus making them very valuable. NFTs could be linked with any digital asset- digital artwork, music or even an iconic video clip from the NBA. NFTs use a blockchain, which is a decentralized ledger, to record who owns them and allow them to be traded or modified.

A recent report by blockchain data site *Chainalysis* showed a steep decline in NFT trading. They found that at the start of 2022, close to a million accounts were actively buying or selling NFTs but those numbers have dwindled to about 491,000. Even retail investors are not searching the web for NFTs as much as they did around October last year, according to search data from Google Trends.

However, the prominent players in the market seemed to be unmoved. Yugo Labs's *Bored Ape Yacht Club* and *CryptoPunk* are considered to be the "*Blue-chip*" names in the market; they have more price stability than fresh entrants that usually get hot and die out quickly.

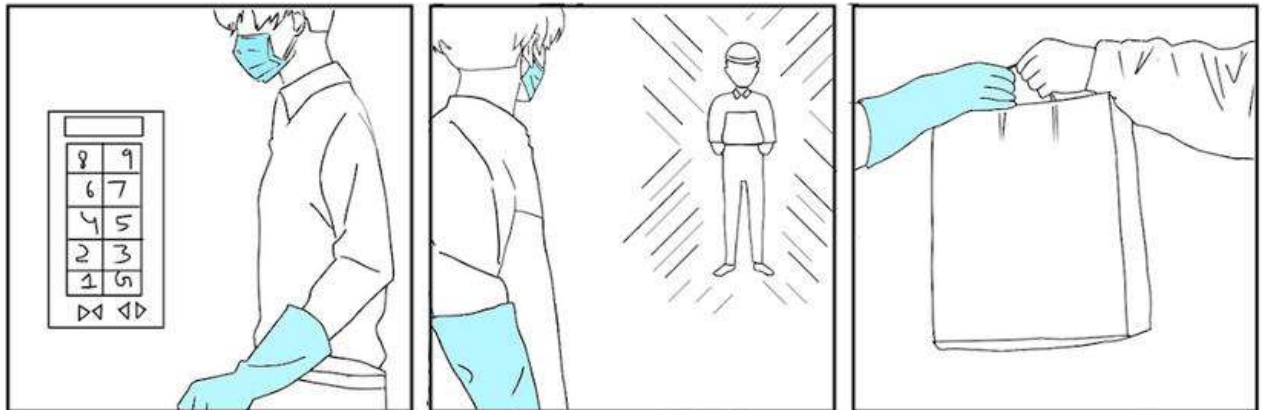
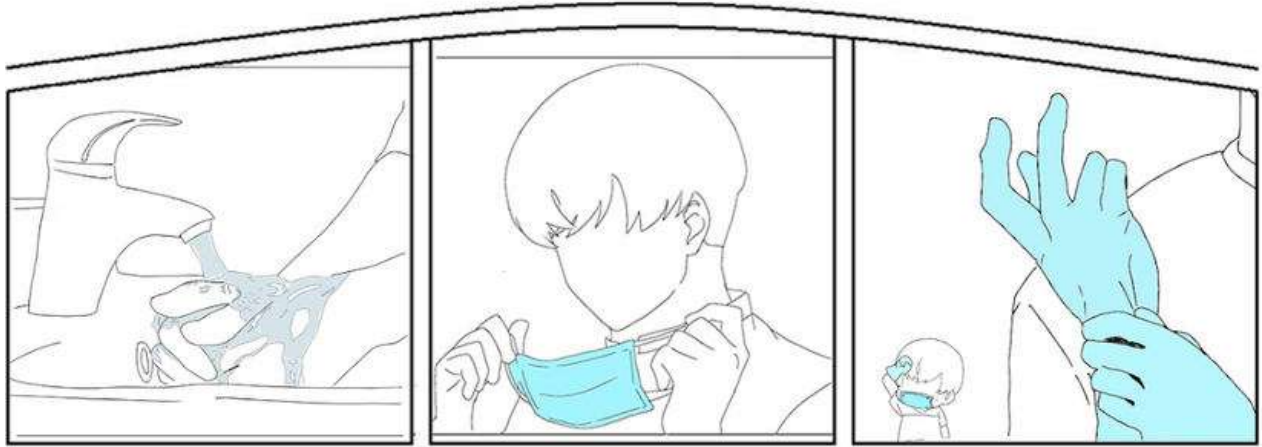
Most of the NFTs made, never really take off. The majority of them sell for less than \$200. Even after the recent level off, the average sale price of NFTs was close to \$1000, as of the first quarter of 2022. However, this sale price is mainly due to a few enormous purchases like *Beeple's Everyday* or *Doge meme*. The sale of other bluechip projects like *Bored Ape Yacht Club*, *CryptoPunk* or *Azuki*, to name a few, also drives the price.

The point of this analysis comes down to the fact that NFTs seem to be approaching a similar bubble-burst moment to the dot.com crash in the late 90s. The major projects are still hitting all-time highs but this could be the end of one curve for the NFTS and the start of another, as we move from profile picture NFTs to NFTs with actual use, we can expect to see new forms of adoption and can emerge as something really interesting.



By Shafeeq Ahamed
3rd year, B.Tech ECE

QUARANTINE ROUTINE



Corona isn't gone yet

Mohamed Khaif,
3rd year, B.Tech EEE

PHOTOGRAPHY



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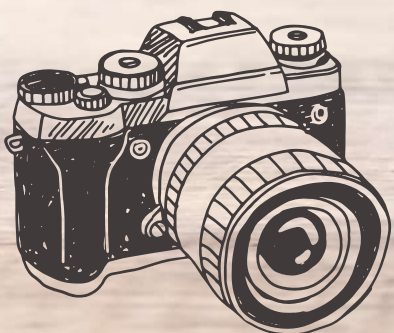
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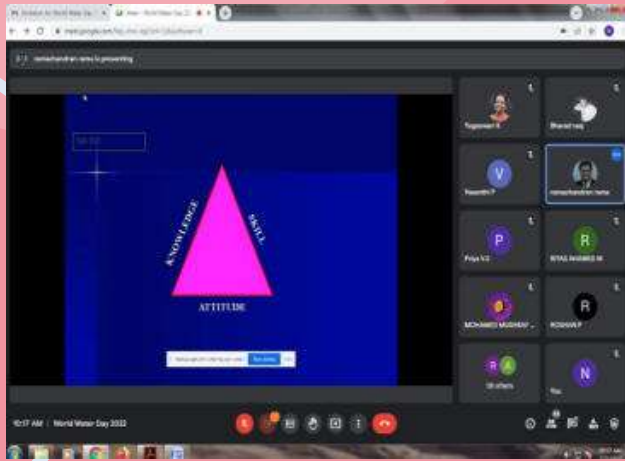
All photographs were provided by Crescent Club of Photographers



CRES-BROADCAST

WORLD WATER DAY

"World Water Day 2022" was celebrated on March 22nd, 2022 by the Department of Civil Engineering. Around 75 participants including faculty members and students participated in this programme. The guest speaker Dr R.Ramachandran, Superintending Engineer (Retd), PWD, Madurai, delivered a lecture on "Water Resources Management". He highlighted the importance of saving water and the fundamental details of the water sector.



CRESCENTSAT 2.0

After the setback due to the pandemic, the CRESCENTSAT 2.0 team was formed in January 2022 to restart Project Director, Dr.S. Kaja Mohideen's vision of Crescent's own space mission. This team consists of 15 students from different engineering disciplines of our college, who are set on designing a CubeSat. The objective of the CubeSat is to measure various space parameters, especially the electromagnetic radiation which affects satellite communications. It is lined up to be launched to an altitude of 110kms using a suborbital launch vehicle. The team, on February 14th, 2022, had the privilege to meet Dr Mylswamy Annadurai, the Program Director of the Chandrayaan and Mangalyaan Missions in ISRO.



CRESCENT FASHION TEAM

The club participated in an event conducted by Shrimathi Devkunvar Nanalal Bhatt Vaishnav College for Women and won 1st place in the Fashionista event and also 2nd place in SDNB SMRITI.



CRESCENT ART CLUB

Occasional tasks are organized time and again within the club where members are asked to showcase their talents in depicting the depth and importance of various events. Here are a few:

On account of January 15th being Pongal, members were given a task during the period of January 13th-17th, 2022 while the club was still functioning online. Their artworks were related to Pongal. Some of the top pieces by Ronisha, Mujaina and Mandahini A. are shown below.



A similar task was carried out from January 25th-30th, 2022 to commemorate the importance of Republic Day. Some of the top pieces from S.Hema, Arshiya Fathima and Jayasri R. can be seen embodying the spirit of our country.

CRESCENTIAN VOICE CHANNEL

The club members of the Crescentian Voice Channel are actively participating and keeping their social outlet, i.e. Instagram, active by posting 15 seconds and 1-minute audios for the club page.

The club is also putting a front in inter-collegiate events as well. The members participated in an inter-collegiate event on April 1st, 2022 for the very first time and Anna Catherine M.V. won second place for the event 'RJ Hunt' conducted by Hindustan College of Arts and Science.



EGT 2k22

After the hiatus due to the pandemic, the final year students of ECE brought back the annual ECE Got Talent competition this year. All the junior sections of the ECE department competed with each other in various extra-curricular events like chess, story-writing, fandom quizzes, photography, etc over the period of 20 days starting from May 11th, 2022, which finally led to a showdown on June 2nd, 2022, wherein all stage events like singing, dancing, RJ-VJ and variety were held. The rolling trophy was won by 3rd Year ECE-B students with 556 points, and the runner-up trophy was awarded to the 1st year ECE-B class.



IETE BEST ISF AWARD

The Institution of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineers (IETE), on March 31st, 2022, awarded the ISF student chapter of the department of Electronics and Communications, BSACIST The *Best ISF Special Award* for the activities in 2020-21, in the IETE student chapter, Gopalapuram.



GUEST LECTURE – HIGHER EDUCATION ABROAD



The Department of Civil Engineering, School of Infrastructure, organized a Guest Lecture on the topic "Opportunities about Higher Education Abroad" by Mr George, Consultant from Jamboree Education Limited, Chennai, on April 6th, 2022 specifically for Pre-final year students. The talk highlighted the various opportunities for scholarships, internships, and exams such as IELTS, GRE, TOEFL, and GMAT.

SURVEY CAMP 2k22

The Department of Civil Engineering organized a survey camp for the third-year Civil Engineering students of batch 2019-2023 at "Seethakathi Farm House" from March 8th, 2022 to March 11th, 2022.



INTRON

Intron, a cultural event exclusively for the School of Life Sciences, was conducted on March 17th, 2022, by the School of Life Sciences and the Biotech Student Association. A variety of events including singing, dance, photography, painting/drawing, acting, trend show, poetry, and variety show, were successfully conducted. A total of 157 participants participated overall, excluding the host performances by the final years and the PG students. Trend show, a new event introduced during Intron 2022, was sensational. A lot of budding talents of the department were unveiled. Each event was judged by the alumni and the faculties of SLS. At the end of the event, the top 3 winners of each event were announced and appreciated. It was a successful and incredible event overall.



ORION 2k22

Starting from the year 2006, ISTD-C acts as a governing body for a range of clubs and activities. Every year ISTD-C conducts Auditions to take in new members for its various clubs, CresHunt and Quest to find the best talent in their respective clubs. The biggest event of Crescent, 'Orion' is also conducted by ISTD-C along with its clubs every year. This is a tradition that has a long and rich history of more than ten years. And this tradition was carried forward even grander this year and ISTD-C proudly presented ORION '22, on May 31st, 2022 from 9.30 AM to 6.30 PM, in the Auditorium, Convention Centre.

As a part of the competition and talent hunt, the Crescent Art Club hosted its art competition. The Crescent Music Team hosted its Solo and Group singing events. Crescent Dance Club hosted its Solo and Group dance events. Crescent Philately Club displayed crafts and collections. Crescentian Voice Channel had shows to pick their best RJ and VJ. Crescent Silambam Club demonstrated valour and strength through Silambam and other traditional art forms. Crescent Literary Society soothed the world's pain with poetry and provoked rationale through debates, and humour through improv. Crescent Media Club filmed and screened beautiful featurettes. Crescent Team Dramatix took acting and drama to professional levels. Crescent Club of Photographers were busy capturing memories and beauty. The Crescent Fashion Team set the ramps on fire. Each of the prize winners of the event was honoured with a trophy and certificate, as well.

The whole event was sponsored by Route 66 cars, a luxury automotive company that provides high-end cars & services for resale. The co-sponsor was Naturals, a salon and spa brand. The event also had a DJ session, which was like icing on the cake, giving the students of Crescent an amazing opportunity to celebrate themselves and their friends. ISTD-C and the Final Years take this article to thank the Management of our Institute, the Office of Student Affairs, the Deans and HoDs of various schools, the support staff especially Kadher Sir, and finally the Office Bearers of ISTD-C for this splendid, successful event.



QUEST 2K22: CRESCENT LITERARY SOCIETY

Quest'22 was an intra-collegiate club members' exclusive event hosted by the final years and ISTD-C along with its subordinate clubs on 23rd and 24th March 2022. **Crescent Literary Society hosted its competitions offstage on 24th March 2022, with around 60 student members ranging from 1st year to final years, actively participating.**

Following the inauguration, the literary events started at 12 PM with the writing competition conducted by the Writers Guild in which the participants were provided with prompts and mandated to write both prose and poetry, for the completion of which duration of two hours was given. The works of participants were judged by Anjana Badrinath (IVth year B.Tech ECE, Secretary, Writers Guild) and Irum Fathima (IVth year, B.Tech EEE). The submission which gathered the most points was announced as the **winner of the "Word Wizard" award, which was Rishika Saaju (IIIrd Year, IT). Namratha (IIInd Year, CSE) was given a Special Mention.**

Simultaneously, events of Improv and Theatre commenced and were judged by Sridhar (4th year, B.Tech Aeronautical Engineering). The participants were given the option to choose one of the two events - Elevator Pitching or Shipwreck; they were judged based on their creativity, humour, body language and coherence. **Mohamed Aman (IIIrd Year ECE, Secretary, Improv and Theatre) was declared the winner of the "Pun Intender" award, and Ankita Rao (IIInd Year, Biotechnology) was given a Special Mention.**

"Block and Tackle" by the House of Debaters was held subsequently at 1 PM. The event consisted of two rounds, both judged by Sujan Ganesh (5th Year Law, President, Crescent Literary Society) and Mehran Saquib (4th-year B.Tech ECE, Secretary, House of Debaters). In Round One, each participant was given different prompts on which they had to speak for one minute per the commands given. Two participants were shortlisted for Round Two of the event. Round Two was a Lincoln Douglas debate in which the participants were asked to speak for and against the topic given to them in common. The participants were graded based on argumentation, flow and clarity. The top scorer was declared **the winner of the "Lincoln's Prodigy" award; it was awarded to Pavan Sai (IIInd Year, Biotechnology), and Talha Abdur Rahman (IIIrd Year, B.Tech CSE) was given a Special Mention.**

Quest '22 concluded with the award distribution to the winners of each event. The prizes were distributed on stage by the Dean of Student Affairs, Dr Karthikeyan Ramalingam, along with the Deputy Dean of Student Affairs and other staff coordinators. The event was a grand success, whereby Crescent Literary Society has once again proved its mettle.



Crescent Literary Society

WINNERS 2021-22

PARTICIPANT NAME	HOST NAME	EVENT	POSITION
Mohamed Aman (3rd year , ECE)	REC Air India BSACIST Patrician College of Arts & Science	Lockdown fete Extempore(Improv) Debate Civilian Pro (Oratory) Debate	Second First First First
Fadhl ur Rahman (3rd year , ECE)	Air India BSACIST BSACIST BSACIST	Debate Cygnus Spectron (Debate) Spectron (Adzap)	First Second First Second
Naqiya Tabassum (2nd year , CSE)	BSACIST BSACIST	Civilian Pro (Poetry Slam) World Book & Shakespeare Day (Poetry composition)	First Third
Pavan Sai (2nd year , Biotech)	Air India BSACIST	Debate Turn a Coat (Block and Tackle)	First First
Sujan Ganesh (5th year , Law)	BSACIST BSACIST	Pen Down (Essay) World Book & Shakespeare Day (Poetry composition)	Second First
Abishek Shankar (3rd year , EEE)	BSACIST SRM BSACIST	DEBioinfoATE Kratork(Cygnus Technical Debate) Cygnus (Quiz)	Second Second
Musab Humzah Syed (2nd year , AI&DS)	SRM SSN	Kratork(Cygnus Technical Debate) SSN Debates	Third
Vikram Venkat (3rd year , EEE)	BSACIST	Cygnus (Technical Debate)	
Muhammad Umar (3rd year , EEE)	Patrician College of Arts & Science BSACIST	Debate Road to Orion (Improv Theatre)	Second First
Aashik S (1st year , BCA)	SSN	SSN Debates	Third

PARTICIPANT NAME	HOST NAME	EVENT	POSITION
Anna Catherine M V (2nd year , BA English)	SSN	Instincts (Enigma)	Third
Thamarai G R (2nd year , B.Tech Biotech)	BSACIST	Intron (Poetry Slam)	First
Cassandra Riffliin C R (2nd year , B.Tech Biotech)	BSACIST	Intron (Poetry Slam)	Second
Kamalalakshmi V (1st year , CSE)	BSACIST	Road to Orion (Improv Theatre)	Special Mention
Kenisha Christina (2nd year , B.Arch)	BSACIST	Road to Orion (Writing)	First
Talha Abdur Rahman (3rd year , CSE)	BSACIST	Road to Orion (Debate)	First

GAMES ANSWER KEY

Spell it out : Kuala Lumpur

Word Circles : Journey, Trip, Travel

StepDown : HISTORY

SHORTY

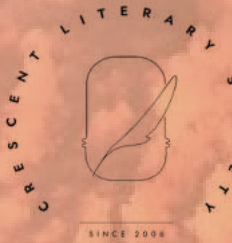
STORY

SORT

ROT

OR

Ideated by
Fadhil ur Rahman
3rd year , ECE



Editor in Chief: Tasneem Juzer, (4th year B.Tech Biotech),

**Editors: Anjana Badrinath, (4th year B.Tech ECE),
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