

By KU-SGC EDITORIAL BOARD

## BOUT

The Blend is Karnavati University's very own student run magazine, managed by the KU-SGC Editorial Board. As the name suggests, this magazine's purpose is to display different ideas and experiences that 'blend' together, to form our university culture. It is intended to be a safe space where the vision of various students of our university's constituent colleges meet & amalgamate in the form of written expression and art.

In order to display an array of interesting opinions and notions involving the public interest, law and society and design; we at Karnavati University, through TheBlend, aspire to give individuals a platform to voice their opinions, hence making an impact in society through forms of creative and written expression.



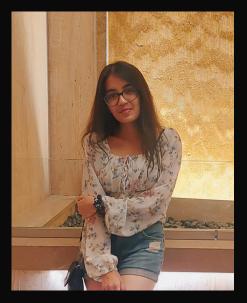
# note



Diya Dalwadi, Editor-in-Chief



Ishwari Raut, Editor



Jinal Patwa, **Design Editor** 

"ये अजब क़यामतें हैं, तेरी रहगुज़र से गुज़रा न हुआ कि मर मिटे हम, न हुआ कि जी उठे हम" Faiz wrote, "Neither did I annihilate, nor did I live up."

Between the two extremes of blacks and whites, we persist in a world of greys. There is no objective truth, but merely perceptions of what one believes to be true. Inspired by this philosophy that the largest world existence in obscurity and lack of certainty, we present to you this edition of TheBlend, the 'Greyscale'.

Love, Diya.

Even the yin and yang has black and white inside of them. There's so much grey to every story, nothing is so black and white. We attempted to understand the grey aspect of everything.

Every field out there, people fall in dilemmas so often trying to grasp the middle ground. Here is yet another version of portraying the grey of things. We present to vou, TheBlend:

Sep-Oct 2022 edition.

Happy Reading to You, Ishwari.

"Life isn't black or white, it's all sorts of shades of grey."

- Nicky Morgan

Our lives at times seem a study in contrast, everything seen in absolutes of black and white. Too often we are not aware that it is the shade of grey that adds meaning and depth to the starkness of those extremes. Here's introducing the latest edition of TheBlend, where we unravel the 'Greyscale'.

Hope you enjoy, Jinal.



Black and White



Crime and Punishment : A grey area



Insider Trading through an Outsider's Perspective



Grey is the New Black

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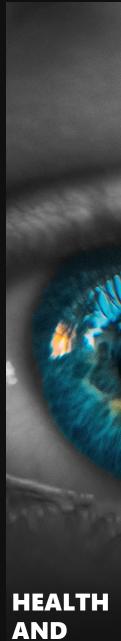




Is there a greyscale in gambling?



The Grey World Of Gaming



AND
WELLNESS

Conflicting Emotions



Sivaka Izhaar Kalamkush Haafiza Samaa

### DESIGN



#### BLACK AND WHITE



magine a world without colours, imagine a world engulfed in the shades of grey. Although such a world would seem dull and tedious, it may give rise to strange and unexplored emotions. The power of black and white is not only seen but can be felt if we try to look deeper. Every black and white work of art makes us look at it twice, and gives us the urge to decipher its meaning. This is because colours give us a lot of visual information, they tend to tell us a lot of stories, and create visual distractions. Whereas greyscale gently whispers. Black

and white allow us to breathe, to consciously descend into an entirely different world, and try and understandwhat the artist is trying to convey. Many artists work in greyscale because it makes their work more expressive, mysterious, and dramatic, allowing them to truly engage the spectators.

When we think of the colour black, we think of shadows. We think of the cracks meandering through the mountains, the emptiness in the eyes of a tiedup animal, the depth of the ocean that sends shivers down

our spines, and the dark rooms of a prison where there is no touch of life. We think of the dark ominous clouds overcasting the sky and the eternal expanse of the firmament. On the other hand, when we imagine the colour white, we think of light. We think of the sunlight peeping through the narrow window panes, the glistening water of a forest brook, the innocent smile on the face of a beautiful bride. the towering spires of an ancient church, or a sun-kissed feather bathed in morning dew. Thus, we think of all that is bright and pure when we imagine

the colour white. The shades of grey which lie in between black and white have the most important role. They connect these two colours and interlink them. The grey scale allows the opposites to come together and form meaning, to be able to tell a story. Everything is born in black and white. Be it photography, films, paintings, typefaces, and so on. The world of Art has been immensely impacted by the concept ofblack and white.

Amongst the various forms of expression, photography is one of the best mediums which tells stories through the greyscale. Imagine a colourful image of a small child smiling with watery towards the child. Now imagine the same photograph in black and white. It would invite you to look deep into the eyes of the child and you would try to hold on to the river of emotions emanating from her eyes. Perhaps you would feel a bittersweet sadness or try to uncover the untold stories behind her smile. Hence, we can see that photography has the power to express an ocean of emotions when taken in black and white. Black and white photography is therefore heavily famed in the present world when coloured photography is no more a financial or technical issue. Photography has allowed people to understand the world of black and white more comprhensively. Even after colour was introduced.

"Black and white create a strange dreamscape that colour never can."

-Jack Antonoff.

black and white photography prevailed for a long time. It has the power to stir our souls in ways that colours cannot.

In conclusion, the interaction between light and shadow makes a piece of art captivating. The greyscale makes us think beyond our limits, it helps us to empathize. The power of black and white is unparalleled, it can be felt in the deepest crannies of our minds. Black and white create a pathway to the deeper truth of things and gracefully unfurls its hidden meanings.

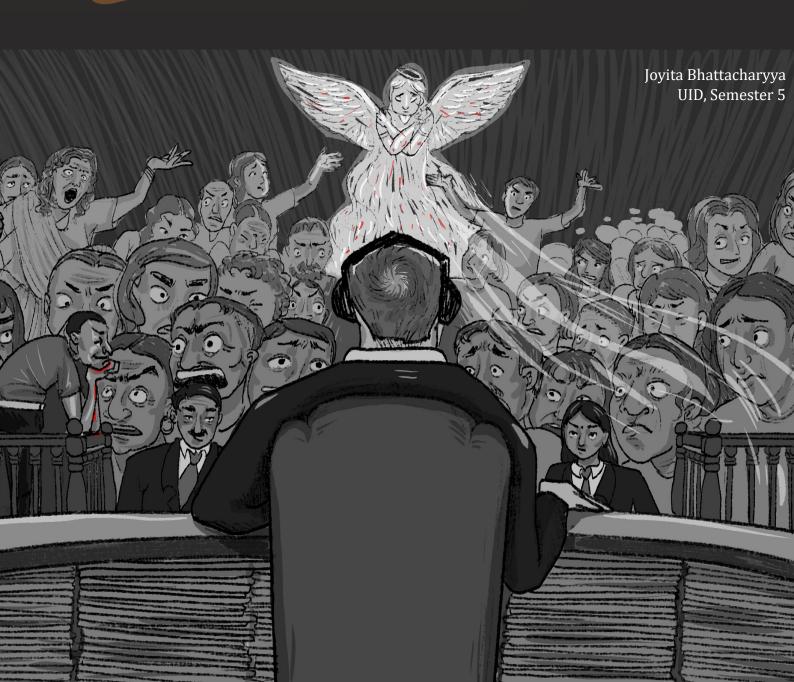
Ishika Datta UID, Semester 3





## CRIME AND PUNISHMENT:

A GREY AREA



#### "Let go of a hundred guilty rather than punish an innocent."

egally speaking, what lies between crime and punishment, is a lot of grey areas. As many people operate under the mistaken assumption that law is black and white. That is to say, the law is enforced as it is written... Period. But, the law is not so black and white after all.

The main objective of punishment is to administer justice and there is no rule, or regulation that would answer the question of what is Justice as the term "Justice" is subjective in nature. The whole idea of justice revolves around what the judge considers just and reasonable as they are considered to be the supreme beings as provided with the stature of God himself (they are referred to as My Lord).

In order to administer justice, the judges use various theories of punishment ranging from retributive theory, preventive theory, and reformative theory. But one theory should not be preferred over the other because "Every saint has a past and every sinner has a future."

There exist extremes of punishment the first one being retributive in nature which is based on the principle of an eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth. The contention is that the object of this theory is to deter the crime but it fails to do so as we can observe that the death penalty

in the Nirbhaya case has not deterred the crime, as the rape cases are continuously being reported on a daily basis. Thus, this principle perpetuates the rule of the jungle as it cannot ensure the rule of law. The other extreme is, preventive in nature which aims to transform the criminal by restraining him from committing the crime. The restrainment can be in the form of imprisonment which does not stop the crime but rather only postpones it.

"Let go of a hundred guilty rather than punish an innocent." This is the reason why there is a need for the judiciary to execute carefulness while administering justice or else the principles on which punishment is based would go for a toss. There lies a grey area in choosing the appropriate theory of punishment as a crime for one might be a last resort for the other.

Harshita Mewade UWSL, Semester 3

#### BUSINESS

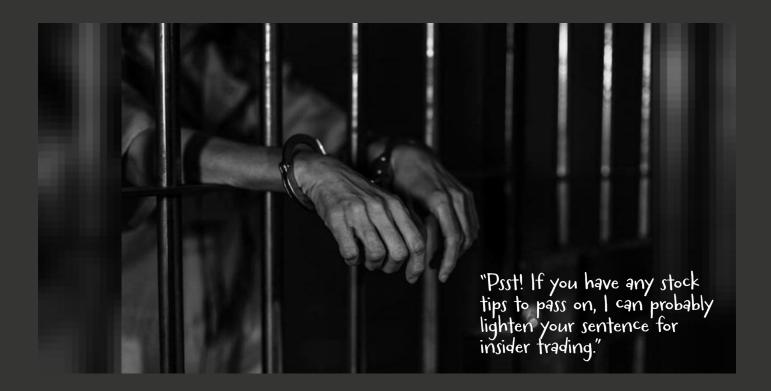


## INSIDER TRADING THROUGH AN OUTSIDER'S PERSPECTIVE

hen it comes to handling a profitable Business, Information becomes of vital importance. Every person or business functions based on the information it has. However, certain material knowledge is purposely hidden

from the eyes of the public to create an equal ground which if leaked among certain people, may cause a debacle. This is what the concept of Insider Trading is supposed to be based upon. Insider Trading refers to the practice of trading a company's

securities by an Individual with access to confidential or material non-public information about the company. It can be defined as an act of taking key trading decisions related to a company's listed stock using this material non-public information and gaining profits.



Insider Trading is currently illegal in India and deemed to be unethical by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to promote fair trading in the stock exchanges for the benefit of the common Investor, however,

Arguments and Debates have been made by many marketing professionals and academicians which suggest contrasting opinions which do not conform to it either being ethical or unethical. Some are of the view that Insider

Trading has its benefits to Society and the Economy whereas some criticize the practice as being unfair and discouraging to Investors. Therefore, Let's look into Proponents for and against the Insider.



#### Proponents for Insider Trading

Insider Trading is highly questioned based on maybe Illegal but allowing non-public material information to be reflected in a Security or Stock's price would make the markets efficient as such reflection would convey the direction of the security's price to other Investors. Instead of depriving investors, it would increase the prospective investors to

buy the stocks at better prices while the current ones would be able to sell at better prices. Investors would trade based on the information provided which would not happen if information is not available earlier.

Barring the practice of Insider Trading may only delay the inevitable release of the nonpublic information gradually to the public which may create errors in an investor's trading. The material information should be readily available as the security's price would be decided based on barring which would certainly lead to errors.

#### Critics against Insider Trading

The main point of contention revolving around Insider Trading is that a select few people may use this material non-public information for their advantage which raises an unfair and unethical image of the markets and questions its morality. This would lead to common investors undermining the validity of the financial system and may deem them rigged.

Investors without non-public material information would be robbed of the full value of their securities by those Investors who have easy access to the material information which when integrated with the markets, would result in accurately priced securities.

Therefore, the bottom line is that Insider Trading regardless of it being Illegal and severely punishable has both its proponents and critics. It neither creates a balance nor tips to any other side.

Yash Parekh UWSL, Semester 5

## LIBERAL ARS





## GREY IS THE NEW BLACK



e live in a world where we are carefully categorized between right and wrong. The victory of good over evil has what driven the Indian society since ages. Right between this spectrum of 'morally right' and 'morally wrong' lie our grey charcters, be it real or fictional.

Indian cinema has evolved with its potrayal of grey characters in recent times. We have all seen those days wherein whatever the heroes of bollywood did was 'morally right' without any "A liar, a thief, and utterly without conscience. But he'[L keep to any deal you strike with him." – Leigh Bardugo, Six of Crows

characters flaws, successfully beating up the villain wherein everything that the villain did was 'morally wrong' and nothing further. The audience did like those heroic characters irrespective of the fact that humans cannot be categorized as rights or wrongs, their actions are. The unambiguity of characters like these shuts the box of possibility to develop them completely. The audience, back in the days, were just looking for entertaiment and they got it. Hence, audience enjoyed the good struggle ending on a high victory note, without being taxed, morally or intellectually, they had found an escape for those three hours.

With changing times, the audience could not relate to or emapthize with such characters. and hence their came a need for writers/directors to understand human emotions and traits in order to build up characters which are relatable. Imperfect.

We fell in love with such charachters, Snape (Alan Rickman) and Draco (Tom Felton) from Harry Potter, Tara (Sobhita Dhulipala) from Made In Heaven, Badru (Alia Bhatt) and Shamshu (Shefali Shah) from Darlings, Kaz Brekker from Six of Crows, Annalise Keating (Viola Davis) from How to Get Away With Murder, and many more.

These characters have layers to their personality, letting the viewer also decode some parts. Their actions and behaviours are somewhat unpredictable, making them interesting to sit and watch. They are humanized, portraying both the aspects of the previously mentioned spectrum.

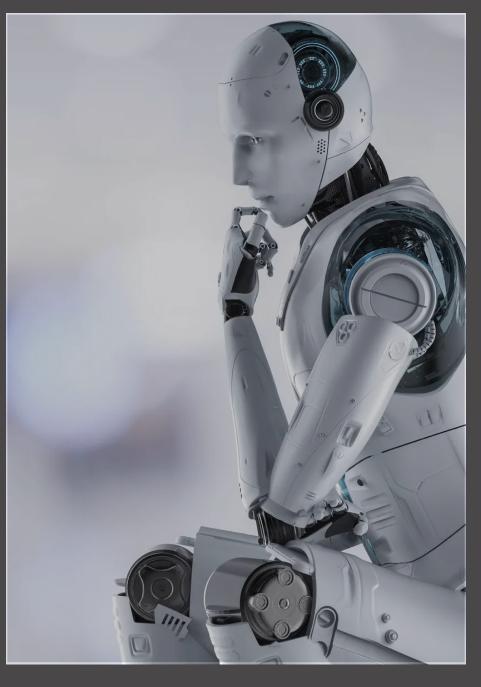
We are gradually adapting to appreciate more such nuanced storylines and characters, wherein all the content we're watching or reading, turns into a comfortable escape.

Ishwari Raut UID, Semester 5





## GRAYS OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE



Prof. John McCarthy coined the term 'Artificial Intelligence' (AI) while working on a project on computer Chess during the 1950s. During his work, he coined the term 'Artificial Intelligence' to refer to the probability of creating a machine which could think, reason and process information like humans. To turn this to reality, human like intelligence needed to be implanted in a machine so that it can take decisions and improve itself by collecting the information fed to it. Fast forwarded to the 21st century, AI is on its way to become a part of almost every gadget involved in human lives. This intelligence, and the smart gadgets as a result of its continuous evolution are deeply embedded in our surroundings.

A research conducted in 2003 concluded that the internet traffic will double each year, meaning that AI equipped gadgets will cater to more human needs and eventually, will be exposed to even more information leading to an infinite loop which makes AI more better

and evasive. However, this new artificially intelligent realm does not come without its grays. Some of which are enumerated below.

Automation of tasks and additional involvement of AI into tasks which were previously manual will eliminate the need of people to handle them. Capitalist economies will resort to AI based operations and will cut down the costs they otherwise incur on an employee. The hazards posed by the problem of unemployment clubbed with growing population are disastrous for the world.

AI learns about its users and often personalizes its results from the data it collects from the inputs. This data intake is not limited to relevant and necessary information. The data collection process runs across domains such as images, voice, consuming patterns, location, duration of stay at particular locations and numerous other types of data. Research done by professors Steven M. Bellovin and Renee M. Hutchins made it clear that AI was able to predict a user's future exact location by collecting and studying his data. Now imagine this technology getting hacked and in hands of people whose motives are not very noble. A user, for instance, you would not like your information to be stored by a machine that can be accessed by others. Would you like to live in a transparent house?

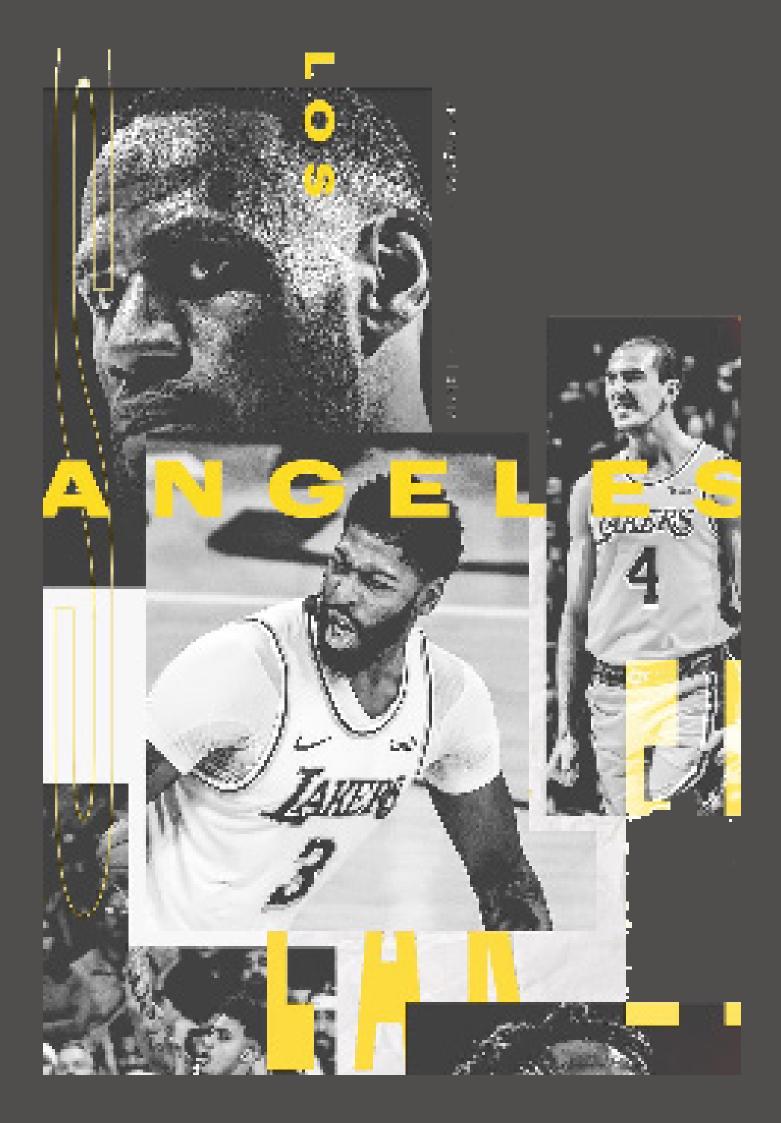
Another disadvantage of AI, however over exhibited by Sci-Fi comics and movies is that it may rule the world one day! Flippant as it may sound, but the statement is technically and logically true. The process of AI to self-improvise by learning the patterns from the data served to it and getting smarter through use is an infinite one. Facebook had to shut down two of its robots after they surpassed English and created their own language to converse and communicate in. AI is also used to self-encrypt and decrypt data. How long is it when it becomes known of its dependency on humans and decides to move beyond it? Anyways, these are just question that another generation is 'expected' to keep asking.

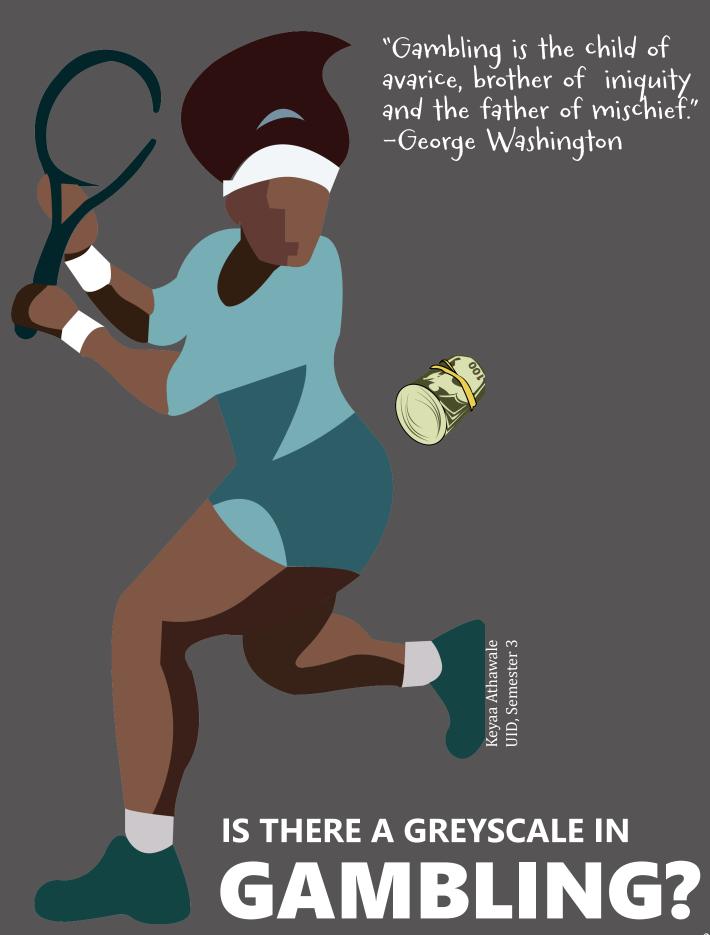
Mrutyunjay Saramandal UWSL, Semester 5

"The development of full artificial intelligence could spell the end of the human race. [...] It would take off on its own, and re-design itself at an ever-increasing rate. Humans, who are limited by slow biological evolution, couldn't compete, and would be superseded."

— Stephen Hawking

### SPORTS





ambling in sports is one of the oldest and continuous activities. It is no doubt the most prevalent activity regarding sports in almost every part of the world; with the world progressing and technology expanding everything is extending and enlarging at its own pace and speed. It is a known fact that gambling is expanding too, from back in the old times gambling on different sports and events to online betting and gambling on various sports with the use of different apps. In fact 45% of sports betting now takes place online.

Is gambling all good, all bad or is there a 'greyscale'?

We often think that there is right and wrong in everything, either a particular thing is good or bad. We often get confused between the right and wrong / good or bad and come to a conclusion, and look at everything as 'black' or 'white' but there is a path that most of us do not even think of. It is known as 'greyscale'. Everything cannot be cataloged in only black or white but there is more in between them.

Humans seem to be almost as motivated to bet on sports as they are to actually play them. Since ancient times, people have placed bets on the results of sporting events. Horse racing and boxing became popular spectator sports during the eighteenth century, and the general people liked betting on them. In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, team sports received new attention, and Europeans started betting their paychecks on matches like cricket,

rugby, and soccer.

While for some people, taking a small loss on a sporting bet may be part of the fun, for others this can lead into a gambling problem with devastating consequences for both them and their loved ones. Gambling advertising is now interchangeable. It seems like there is a commercial for betting on the radio or during a sporting event every other second. Additionally, given that betting companies have a significant online presence on websites like Facebook and Instagram, you cannot avoid it there either. The realm of sports betting has always been rather mysterious when it comes to gambling. It is frequently seen as a science and one of the few forms of gambling where knowledge and skill could actually matter.

Sports betting has become even more popular and widely available thanks to technology, which has also helped a number of new participants enter the market. A sport betting is not flawless, though, and without the appropriate tools, abilities, and strategy, it will be just as much of a crapshoot as any other form of gambling.

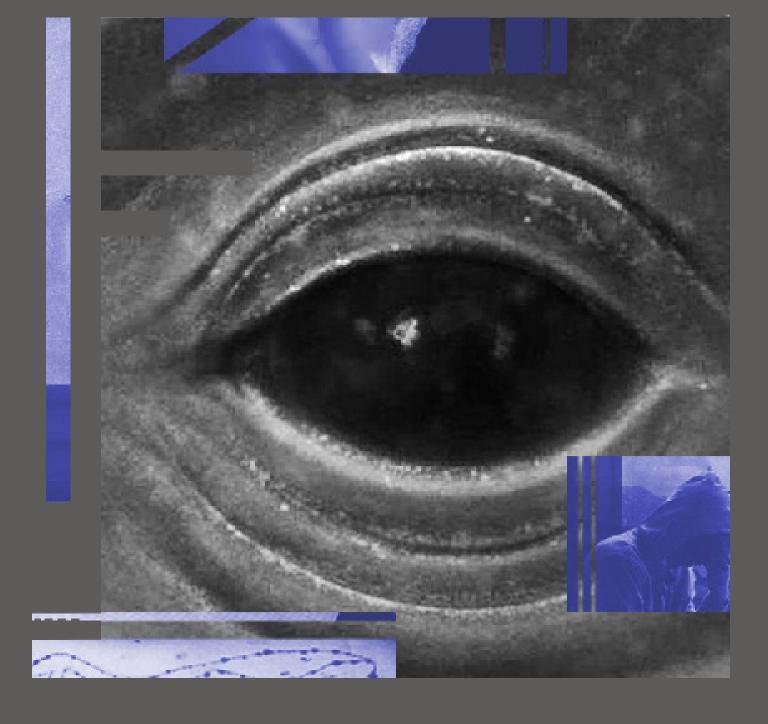
The main drawback is that gambling can become addictive for some people. Gambling addiction may be a significant issue that costs a lot of money and causes personal harm, just like any addiction, whether it is to food, or alcohol. Betting stimulates particular brain receptors that cause a pleasurable reaction. The consequences of gambling insist us to look into the bad things that

it has to offer and the winning side always thinks that it is the greatest pleasure that sports has to offer. This takes us onto that path again where we see everything as black and white but the reality is a grevscale.

The cause and effects of gambling in sports turn our heads towards the end points of a very long road i.e. - black and white, but the reality differs from persons, to personal experiences etc; which consist of that grey area which is mostly left behind. Hence gambling or ethics of gambling in sports comes to an individual potential, luck and mindset.

Ashmeet Kaur Khanuja UWSL, Semester 3

#### GAMING



## THE GREY WORLD OF GAMING



game is a work of art. In redefining narrative with interaction, they have attained the highest artistic altitudes. They are vast, varied, and incorporate various artistic mediums into one work of art. They're works of literature. However, that does not imply that game violence and addiction are black and white issues.

Almost all kids and teenagers spend at least one hour a day playing video games, making them a commonplace part of their life. For a long time a debate has been going on about the positive and negative impact of gaming but there also lies a grey area that targets depressed and suicidal individuals. There exist several games such as Blue Whale Challenge, The Salt and Ice Challenge, The Fire Challenge,

and The Pass Out Challenge that blur the line between reality and fiction.

It has been determined that these challenges, which have mostly attracted the interest of teenagers and been related to several fatalities around the world, are eviler than first appear, and the circumstances around their origin are extremely unsettling. The games themselves are not exactly what they first appear to be.

The challenge itself promotes and incites self-harm, with death serving as the ultimate goal. There are 50 chores to complete over the course of 50 days, and each task gets progressively more diabolical. Watching scary films, hurting oneself, getting up early to listen to particular music, and

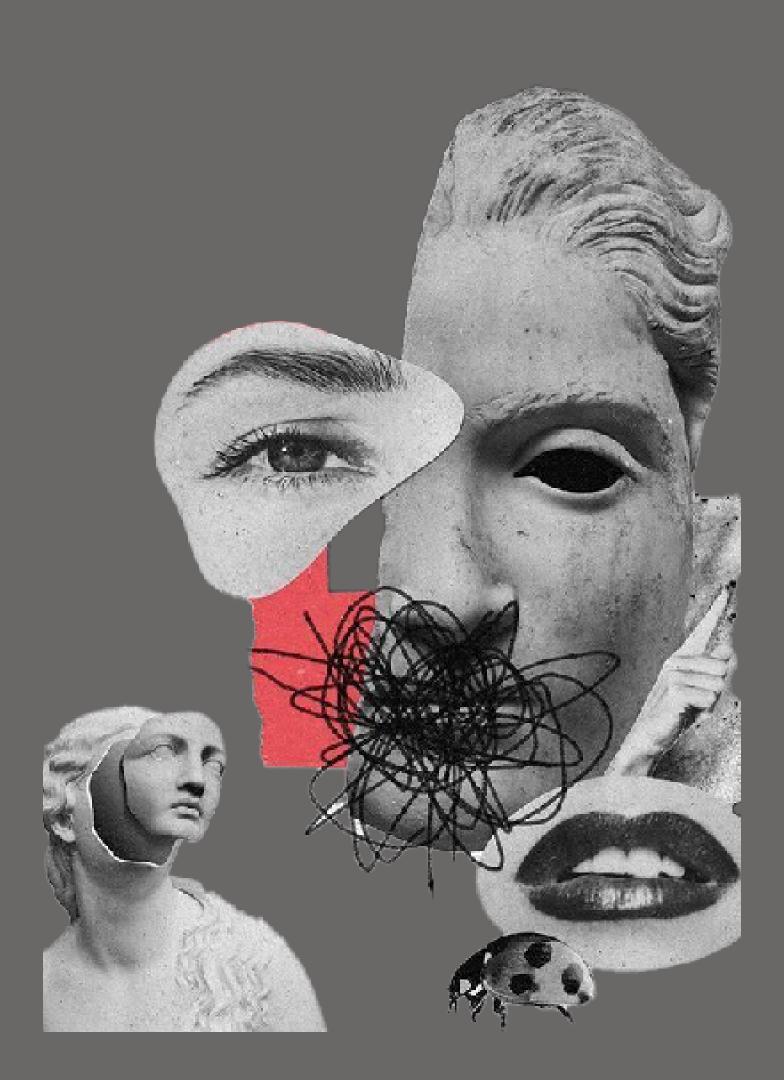
thinking about death are some of their challenges. To commit suicide is the final challenge in the "game."

The curator issues threats to players who indicate they want to quit the game in the middle, warning them that doing so will affect their parents and relatives. Because they are intrigued by the novel "game," the game draws in minors by appealing to their natural curiosity.

"We are what we pretend to be, so we must be careful about what we pretend to be". This is the reason why one should be careful about what they play. However, many people don't share that sentiment and view video games as escapism fantasy. They don't even realize when this escapism lands them in a grey world of gaming.

Jeevanshi Tyagi UWSL, Semester 3

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS



# CONFLICTING EMOTIONS

ight or wrong, Black or white, to do or not to do are the questions we often ask ourselves. Consciously or unconsciously undermining the humongous universe that lies in between these questions. What lies in between right and wrong is neither right nor wrong, neither white nor black it is a shade of grey. But if it's not right, why isn't it so? And if it's wrong, why does it feel so right? Who decides what is right and wrong? As teenagers, confronting a situation of conflicting emotion is very common. We often find ourselves standing on the crossroads not knowing where to go. At one end there are morals and values, the other end is dominated by the urge to stand out and a spark of curiosity to question everything under the sun.

When you believe that you need to pick which of your thoughts or emotions is your true experience, you have set yourself up for an exercise in frustration.

It's a lot like looking at a picture of a tree and having to pick what

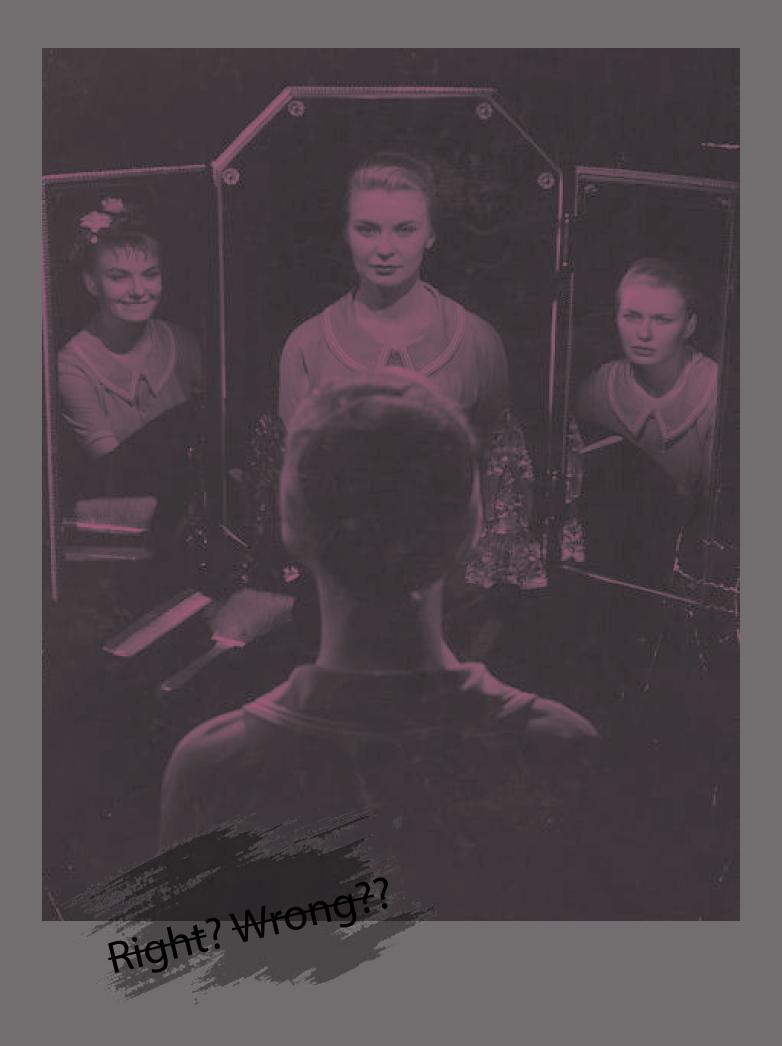
one colour you are seeing. You might pick one colour – say, green – when looking at the leaves, and then change your answer to brown when looking at the bark; only to change your answer again as you focus on the blackness of a knot in the trunk. The truth is that your thoughts and feelings are equally rich experiences.

You know that feeling when one part of your life is in a flat tailspin while another part is soaring to great heights? We are complex beings and capable of experiencing all the emotional seasons in one day like rain on a sunny day. Of course, this can be disorienting and draining, but the trick is knowing how to deal with life's conflicting emotions – when we feel torn in two, feeling both good, bad and just a bit mixed up. By taking the time to become more aware of your inner conflicts and accept them, you are likely to be able to reflect on them more clearly. You are then more likely to make a wise decision – one that will help you move forward in a positive way, even as you continue

to feel conflicted.

During this process one must not forget to cherish the grey areas and sometimes just the feeling of not picking a side and embracing the greys provide peace to the mind.

> Teesha Madan UID, Semester 3



# SOCIETIES



# SIVAKA

SIVAKA, the fashion society of KU, always aims to achieve excellence in exhibiting their creative expression in the form of fashion. Ever since the establishment of the society, the members have been displaying exhilarating shows at various events organised by our university and the society's show for Ganesh Utsav'22 was no exception to this. Celebrating simplicity, an experience of the symbiotic existence of presence and absence. A festival with process and a procession, a rollercoaster ride of emotions is intertwined with faith and divinity. While

closure comes with contentment and tranquility, the bittersweet feeling of separation and remembrance is ought to be acknowledged. SIVAKA proudly presented, smaravedhana, a symbolic significance of Visarjan - a commencement of closure.













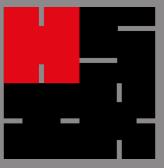
## HAAFIZA

As the new term started we were all excited to restart our societies meetings and activities. There was a lot of backhand planning and scripting that we did before our first Haafiza meeting for this academic session. As a drama society we are here to tell stories and it's a perfect combination of writing and acting.

We geared up and conceptualised and came up with a concept for Haafiza's performance for Ganesh Chaturthi. The script is all about the Mythological Story of Ganesh but with a modern twist and approach. After finalising the script and setting the dialogues in place we went ahead with our first official meeting.

We had a few exciting announcements for our members as we were introducing the Ganesh Chaturthi script to the members, announcing auditions for the same and we also announced the new core members. So for this fun filled session we visited a cafe for an important yet light hearted meeting. It was so much fun to start our new session and discuss our plans for the same.

We are very excited to take on this new session and bring in some memorable performances for everyone to cherish.







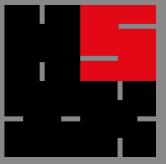




## SAMAA

With every coming Wednesday, we conduct a brainstorming and practice session. Wherein we discuss about songs, events and upcoming competitions. Our last jamming session that we had at Anticlock received an amazing response, including seniors and juniors.

Such jamming sessions improve the team's morale, helps us get up on our feet with creative ideas for our performances, we planned some really fun and interesting activities to get along with the events. People sang along, enjoyed and had a lot of fun jamming with us. We also had meetings for the team to discuss if any members had any ideas that they want to share, such sessions really help us bond together as a team.





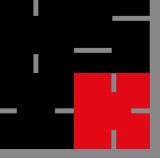




## **KALAMKUSH**

KalamKush, the literature society of KU is always enthusiastic about performing at the various events held at Karnavati University. Throughout previous semesters, the members kept the same spirit alive and performed at the book fair as well as on the cultural night of National moot court competition. They also performed at urban chowk to promote KU MUN. At Viaje, which is the cultural fest of KU, they executed their talent by paying a tribute to the legendary writer Shri Rahat Indori sir. The members recently gave a tremendous performance on

the cultural night of Ganesh Utsav. Going forward with this year, the society plans to hold a lot of interesting activities for the members and all the students on campus. They are looking forward to bringing new members to their team and learn from each others' experiences.













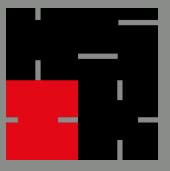
# IZHAAR

The Dance Mantra Academy conducted a workshop at Karnavati University on 27th August. The primary instructor of the academy, Yagnesh Vaishnav & Sanket Patel headed this workshop.

The workshop consisted of foundational techniques of dancing which included groove,

footwork, and choreography based on the techniques mentioned above.

It was also a choreography workshop which was based on different Street-styles.







# FEATURED



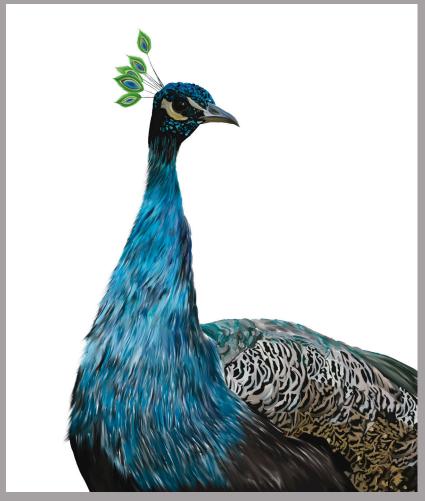






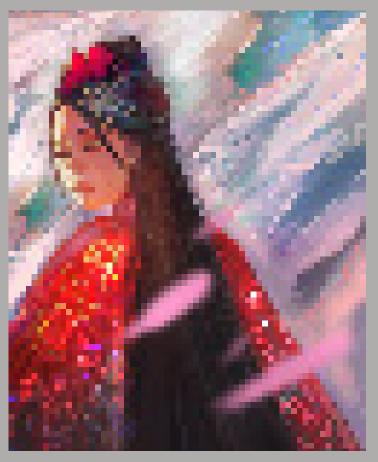
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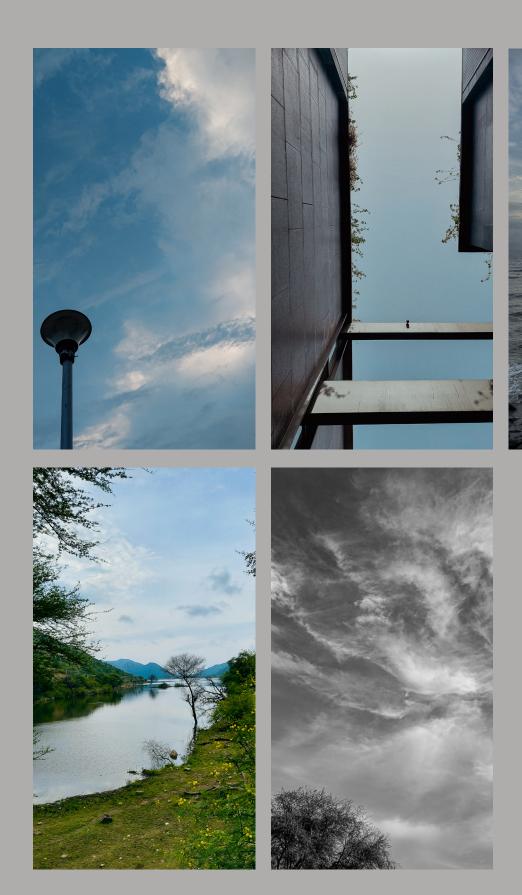
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