THE ECHO

The Voice of Mahindra University
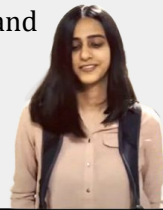
MasterShot Premiere Night: Celebrating Cinema

Medha Prodduturi, Editor-In-Chief

MasterShot, the film club of Mahindra University, premiered two short films and one feature film, making the event the first of its kind. The premier started off with "Tanu..Anu..," a film by Aniruddha Srihari and Yugest Katta, followed by "Clouds of August," written and directed by Pranav Bellary. Both films were produced by Master Talkies, a production house by Hemal Tummapudi, Prabhath Reddy, and Pranav Bellary.

Master Talkies also released their biggest project of the year, "Kalasalalo," directed by Prabhath, written by Hemal, co-directed by Nalin Koundinya, and music by Sai Ravi Teja. The film was made on a zero budget over the period of ten months and portrays the interactions and hardships of college students on a daily basis. Sankalp Reddy (Director of Ghazi)

and Sashi Kiran Tikka (Director of Major and Goodachari) graced the event.

In efforts to encourage the art of making cinema, the team of MasterShot elaborately planned the event. Days ahead, the team designed custom invitations for the faculty, displayed posters all over the university, and promoted on various social media platforms. A few days before the Premiere, the team held a pre-screening for the MU faculty. To say the least, the event was held in the most orthodox manner.

Throughout the three films, the MU audience enjoyed the comedic elements while appreciating the emotional aspects. To end the event, the filmmakers introduced themselves along with their cast and crew. The event was an initiative to encourage young storytellers to find their calling, and it did exactly that.

Pranav Bellary, Hemal Tummapudi, Prabhath Reddy (left to right)
Photo Courtesy of the Media Club

Photo Courtesy of the Media Club

MU Law Students honour the 73rd Constitution Day

Sravya Puvvala, Staff Writer

To honour the 73rd Constitution Day of India, Mahindra University held its first-ever Law Week, from the 21st-25th November 2022. National Law Day is prominent in democratic India as it marked the beginning of freedom for its citizens. As the name suggests, The Indian Constitution was adopted on this day. Student coordinators of the School of Law Aditi Srivatsala, Loka Bhavitha, and Anushka Ramancherla, along with a few volunteers organized the week. More on Page 2.

Outreach Blood Donation Drive Saves Lives

Suryansh Ivaturi, News Editor

Mahindra University's Outreach Club hosted the Blood Donation Drive on 23rd November 2022. "All heroes do not wear capes, some wear jeans and shirts too," was the centralized theme for the year. The drive was hosted in collaboration with NTR Trust with the motto, "Health is the greatest gift." A total of 24 members from the outreach club conducted the event, with 181 student and faculty members donating blood. Awareness was spread regarding the benefits of blood donation to people in need as well as to the donors.

A single blood donation can save up to three lives, providing three different components of blood namely, red blood cells, plasma, and platelets. Regular blood donation by a sufficient number of healthy people can ensure the safety of women with complications during pregnancy and childbirth, children with severe anemia (often resulting from malaria or malnutrition), accident victims, surgical and cancer patients, and other such individuals.

Law Week: Timeline of Events

Sravya Puvvala, Staff Writer

Continued from Page 1.

Day 1: Professors and students of the School of Law started the week with an inaugural event. Shortly after, memorials were submitted for the Moot Court competition.

Day 2: Students submitted their essays based on the topic, "Students need to follow the discipline of wearing uniforms without any addition, subtraction, or modification to it. To what extent do you agree with the hijab row judgement?"

Day 3: Participants in groups of three assembled at the Moot Court, presenting their arguments in front of the row of judges. The Moot Court Committee is a student-run group that strives to teach pupils the skill of mooting. This was the first internal Moot Court Competition, consisting of mainly second-year BA/BBA LLB students. The judges for this event were Dr.Mandeep Kaur, Dr.Vinay Sharma, and Prof. Aparna Singh. The debate competition was held next, allowing each individual five minutes to speak. The topic for the debate competition was, "Equality in abortion rights regardless of marital status - a step towards societal liberation or regression?". This was judged by Dr. Sehar Khwaja, Asst. Prof. Ankesh Shreyansh, and Dr. Paromita Das Gupta.

Day 4: A three-round pop quiz was held on the fourth day, with students participating in teams of four. Round one was focused on legal and Indian history, two was legal literature and entertainment, and three was regarding fundamental rights and the constitution.

Day 5: The last day of law week was dedicated to awarding the winners of the various events held throughout the week. This was followed by a closing ceremony by the Dean of the School of Law, Dr.Sridhar Acharyulu.

ASCE Holds Annual Bridge Making Event

Suryansh Ivaturi, News Editor

"Bridge It" was conducted by Civil Engineering Department of Mahindra University on November 24, 2022. As suggested by the name, participants were tasked with building a bridge using only popsicle sticks and glue. The goal was to assess how well students could build a strong bridge by adhering to the said instructions.

Judging criteria was the efficiency score that was calculated as the ratio of how much load the bridges could take and its weight. Participants were also judged based on their originality and creativity. The bridges' dimensions were specified in advance and the teams gathered to test their loading capabilities.

The evaluation took place in two rounds. The bridges had to bear a load of at least four kilograms to advance to the second round. The load was placed in the midspan of the bridge, with 3 centimetres of support at each end.

Behind the Scenes of Tarang, by Kalakriti

Akshitha Upadyayula, Staff Writer

Despite the rigor of academics, life in college is not defined by words within the pages of a textbook. College Celebratory Events are a much-anticipated way for students to blow off steam and have fun. University clubs and the student council present a twofold system. It is a chance for those who are a part of it to define responsibility, character and leadership for themselves. It is also a chance for the rest of the university to analyze, contribute to a team, and forge bonds.

Mahindra University's *Tarang* is an event intended to showcase Indian heritage through various cultural performances. The event beautifully brought together music, dance, and food. The decorations added an air of magic to the whole night with vibrant colors and twinkling lights. The event was significant in bringing the university together to celebrate the nuances of our culture. The ramp walk showcased traditional designs and weaves while the band played various classical instruments. The food and drink stalls had a variety of tasty dishes to offer, from popular Indian street food like pani-puri and goli sodas to Shawarma.

Photo Courtesy of the Media Club

The event was a chance for students to unwind, socialize and dress up.

To gain insight on the behind-the-scenes of Tarang, we interviewed the event's co-heads, Keerthana and Mihir Ranjan. From conception to execution, the journey was filled with joy, laughter, fights, and many long nights.

Kalakriti conducted the event on such a large scale that it became essential to coordinate between the finance, logistics, security, content and event management teams. Planning and preparation are everything with large-scale events like these, but sometimes things aren't in your control. The team had to deal with an unforeseen event less than an hour before showtime.

A dance and music performance got cancelled last minute, which meant the order needed to be reworked, set lists changed and new uploads given to the sound team. During this time, multitasking and prioritization were their most significant assets.

As much as college is about acquiring theoretical knowledge, having opportunities to apply it to real-life scenarios is a precious opportunity. The organising committee learnt to manage finances, marketing, leadership and event management hands-on. The team members and volunteers maintained the event's ethos through their behaviour and work ethic. When asked what their biggest learning from this experience was, they said proper planning and being polite to all the stakeholders were critical to the success of an event. The resulting success can be credited mainly to the amount of hard work, passion and emotion the team put in.

In terms of future events, Kalakriti said they are planning to host a tye-and-dye workshop as well as an event for Holi.

Analyzing the Layoff Saga of Tech Companies

Shreeniketh AK, Staff Writer

Twitter, Google, Meta, Amazon and other major corporations have all announced mass layoffs in the past month.

The reasons behind the layoffs vary, but the end result is the same: hundreds and thousands of people are unemployed with short notice. The firings come as a blow to the workers who have been let go, many of whom dedicated years of hard work to these companies. The most recent round of layoffs came from Twitter, which has cut more than 50% of its workforce to improve the company's bottom line. The cuts were across the board, with employees in all departments being affected. Just a few months ago, Twitter was being hailed as one of the hottest Silicon Valley start-ups. Thus, for many, the news came as a complete shock.

The layoffs at Google were also unexpected, although the company has been under pressure to cut costs for some time now. Google has been on a hiring spree in recent years, and many of the newly hired employees are now being let go of. Soon, Google plans to layoff 10,000 low-performers. The company is also shutting down several of its less successful products, which implies more firing.

There are a few possible explanations for the layoffs, however. It's possible that these companies are simply trimming their workforces to be more efficient. With the economy improving, they may feel that they don't need as many employees as they did during the recession.

Another reason being the possibility that these companies are preparing for another economic slump. By cutting their workforce now, they'll be in a better position to weather any future economic storms. Companies could also simply be making room for new employees.

The mass firing of workers by corporations is indicative of a larger problem in the economy. These companies are not struggling because they are inefficient or because their products are inferior; they are struggling because the demand for their products and services has declined.

This is a problem that cannot be fixed by firing workers, it can only be fixed by stimulating demand. Whatever the reasons behind these mass layoffs are, it's clear that they're having a devastating effect on the lives of those who have lost their jobs. Consequently, finding new employment will be daunting to them. The unemployed will likely compete with each other for a limited number of jobs, driving down wages in the process.

Workers who are still employed by said companies may also suffer as a result of the firings. With fewer employees to do the work, those who remain may be overworked and underpaid. In fact, the morale of the workforce is likely to suffer as a result of the firings, making it even more difficult for these companies to retain and attract talent. While more layoffs are expected to occur soon, it won't be the norm in the long run.

Photo Courtesy of StartUp Talky

Iran Protests Over Mahsa Amini's Killing

Krish Hindocha, Staff Writer

Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old woman, was killed on 13th September of this year, after being detained by the morality police in Tehran, the capital city of Iran; she was accused of disobeying the country's severe laws requiring women to cover their hair with a hijab, or headscarf. The killing of Amini started nationwide protests, killing more than 200 people at the moment.

Pictures and videos of Amini in a coma are circulated while the Iranian government defends itself by claiming she passed away due to a heart attack. It is clear, however, that Amini was essentially murdered for having her own values - wearing a piece of garment should be a personal choice and not a necessity.

The drastic actions taken in this situation eventually make the public feel as though they were part of a dictatorship. Taking the choice of not wearing a hijab offensively and considering it a crime against the religion is unacceptable. This is a modern world and people should have the freedom to wear and do whatever they want.

Additionally, using political power to cover such blatant lies will only result in major complications in the future, making its citizens feel unsafe in their own country.

With the rising protests, children taking part in the rallies are being detained and as a result, their freedom of speech and right to information is being snatched away from them. Instead of solving the issue, the government is blaming its enemy countries. They have restricted their citizens from accessing social media in order to stop the information from spreading, making it simply a basic violation of human rights.

While the situation seems to intensify, neighbouring countries must speak up regarding this issue and extend their support to the women in Iran who have been fighting a one-sided war. It is during times like these that we as a society must come together and strive for the greater good. This isn't an equality battle, it is a human rights battle.

A Note From The Editors-In-Chief

Medha Prodduturi, Manikanta Reddy

We are delighted to introduce the first edition of The Echo, the official Mahindra University Newspaper. The Echo essentially gives students a voice, encouraging them to bring light to social and national issues, unleash their creative sides, keep their peers updated with campus news, and provides a community for their opinions, ideas, and ideals. When students have such a community, they feel empowered and validated to enact change of any kind.

Since the newspaper largely focuses on the events that occur within the confines of the University, there is a recognizable context that spurs discussions among students. It establishes a community of readers and connects them in ways they never knew. It encourages them to question, approach or see an issue with a different perspective and brings a sense of awareness of an issue's prevalence, or the lack of it.

With the current digital age consisting of various avenues of communication, Newspapers still stand as the primary source of information. Student journalism looks further than the academic knowledge or the limited opinions we possess; students and faculty are able to explore other avenues by reading stories and perspectives that stayed untold for long periods of time.

This edition is a combined effort of more than 20 writers, editors, and illustrators. We have put together this issue over the course of this month, with many brainstorming, writing, designing, and layout days. We are happy to have executed this in a short period of time, with a total of 1000 copies distributed all over the campus. Every month, our team plans to present a high-quality informative issue to the students and faculty of Mahindra University. We call on all of you, faculty and students, to contribute as well. Join us in making future editions successful.

THE ECHO

Logo by Divya Reddy, Design Head

Photo Courtesy of gettyImages

The Collapse of Crypto: An Overview

Krishiv Agarwal, Opinion Editor

Cryptocurrency is one of the finest revolutions in finance- a true integration of a monetary system within the digital world. The prefix Crypto comes from the encryption techniques used to safeguard these currencies, some of these techniques include elliptical curve encryption, public-private key pairs, and hashing functions. The main appeal is its use of blockchain technology, decentralizing by having a common 'ledger' of transactions possessed and independently verified by all users and new transactions being 'processed' into the blockchain privately, making it nearly impossible to fake or manipulate transactions.

Cryptocurrency was first thought of in a 1983 paper by David Chaum but the first real precursor to Bitcoin was called Bitgold, released by Nick Szabo, but failed to solve the double spending problem. In 2008, a person hiding under the name

Satoshi Nakamoto published a paper called "Bitcoin – A Peer-to-Peer Electronic Cash System" which set into motion the existence of Bitcoin. Four months later, the same person mined the first 'block' of the Bitcoin network, commemorating its birth. The first Crypto disaster occurred with Mt. Gox (the largest BTC exchange back then, with a market share of 70%) was hacked and 500k worth of BTC was stolen. This resulted in a dip of 50% for BTC, a hit it couldn't recover from for three whole years. This was barely the beginning of the dark waters that Crypto finds itself in regularly, the Great Crypto crash of 2018 was truly a disaster to behold, with Bitcoin crumbling by 80% and four-fifths of currencies completely failing. This crash happened largely due to massive selloffs in early 2018 after a surprising boom in 2017.

The most recent crash, the one which happened just a few weeks ago was due to the fraud of FTX. Sam Bankerman-Fried (SBF) was the founder of a crypto investment firm before FTX, Alameda research. Once he founded FTX, he left Alameda but his romantic partner, Caroline Ellison, became the new head. Although claimed otherwise, bankruptcy filings have shown that FTX gave Alameda special treatment by allowing them to take on more risk.Along with this, Alameda had taken out billions to invest in startups with FTX's own currency, FTT being the stake When Crypto crashed recently, Alameda's risky bets didn't pay off. To make matters worse, FTX loaned out billions of customer assets to keep Alameda afloat. The whole house of cards came crumbling down when CoinDesk published a report questioning the financial stability of FTX and Alameda.

When Changpeng Zhao, the owner of Coinbase (FTX's rival), said he would dump his FTT holdings, the whole market went into an alarm and customers started to pull their cash out but FTX was unable to honor those requests. After a failed sale to Binance, FTX filed for bankruptcy and SBF resigned. In retrospect, auditors and promoters should've known better than to lead their customers into a firm with such a questionable balance sheet. Although statements of this nature are preached in every crash, it's not just the fraud of the company but also the failure of regulatory systems and the basis of trust in financial markets. A concluding observation would be that most of these cases occur not at their core due to deceit, but the blind confidence of investors in any firm or person that shows potential.

Metaverse Mayhem

Alekhya Kosuru, Opinion Editor

If we've learnt something from the boom of technology in our era, it's that it has enabled us with the power to express ourselves and enrich the way we experience the world. Whatever the device, video has become the main way we experience content. However, social interactions today are a screen away, and even though text messages and 2D images serve the purpose, they lack the adrenaline and excitement that comes with physically being present in a situation. Bridging this gap is exactly what the Metaverse is trying to achieve. The metaverse is the convergence of two ideas that have been around for many years: virtual reality and digital second life. The two main features of the metaverse include co-presence - the absence of physical distance and continuity - the ability to navigate through interconnected digital spaces. The feeling of presence is the defining quality of the metaverse, be it interpreting others' facial expressions or body language. Additionally, we have avatars to represent ourselves in the metaverse, making interactions much richer than anything that's possible online today.

One of the core attributes that differentiate the metaverse from the internet we know today is its interoperability or continued existence, which basically means that you should be able to move seamlessly between spaces and take your identity and items with you as you go.

Right now, experiences are being built for a VR headset, but not everyone can buy headsets or has an internet that's fast or powerful enough to dive into the 3D environment. Although it seems like there's a long way to go, it's essential that we make ourselves familiar with the metaverse as soon as possible; it could enable us to do almost anything we can imagine. Be it real estate or retail shopping, the metaverse will serve as a universal platform where your imagination can be transformed into reality. In a nutshell, the metaverse experience is about being online rather than always having access to an online world, and it is surely the "next big thing."
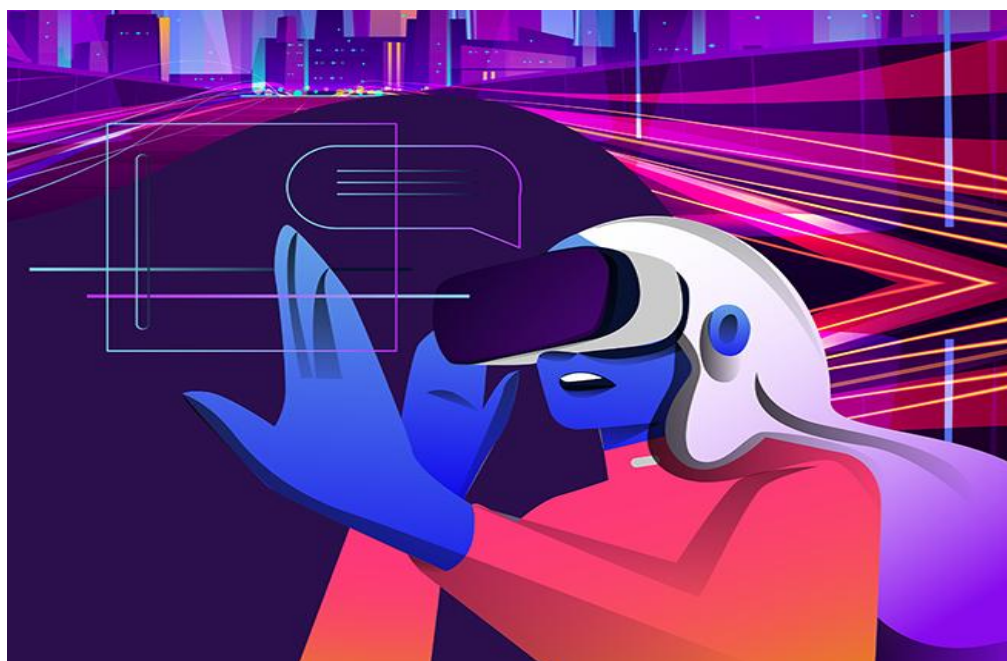

Photo Courtesy of ShutterStock

Illustration By Divya Reddy, Design Head

Editorial: The Art of Gossiping

Medha Prodduturi, Editor-In-Chief

During a recent civil conversation, a dear friend asked me what the definition of "gossiping" is. Gossip, in its formal terms, is talking about someone who isn't present at the time. All humans partake in some form of gossip; whether it be texting a group of friends, sharing news within a family, or chit-chatting at a workplace, it's happening. Inevitably, everyone who talks, talks about other people. It's something that comes naturally to us and an integral part of any conversation - not to mention it's pretty entertaining.

It's not inherently wrong, at least according to history. Our ancestors had to know what other people were up to to be socially successful; at the time, every notable event that occurred in a community was spread through word of mouth. For centuries, people have been using gossip as a means to stay informed on the well-being of relatives or friends, spread ideas that are generally not welcomed in mainstream society, and hear the latest happenings in a community.

Due to its reputation for being pernicious, we view it as something vile and often claim we are above it. If you tell a juicy bit of scandal to one close friend, who tells a close friend, who tells a close friend, by the end of the week, eight people already know. That is, assuming a close friend doesn't have two close friends. We do this all while thinking we are just sharing information; when others do it, however, it's overstepping and sloppy.

If we can go as far as being fascinated by the lives of people way out of our social sphere - falling for the 21st-century media tricks with their compromising pictures and eye-opening headlines about celebrities - then we're undoubtedly wired to be discussing our immediate surroundings. Humans are social beings, and gossiping is a form of bonding. There's intimacy in sharing experiences and feeling you're on the same page about others. So, keep talking, and when your conversation turns to gossip, as it inevitably will, remember that no piece of gossip is relevant for long.

How to Get to Know Someone (or Not)

Akshitha Upadhyayula, Staff Writer

The practice of ragging is considered a rite of passage in most Indian colleges. The most common argument backing it up is that it is a way for juniors and seniors to bond. However, the core reality is that it is a ritual based on creating a distinction by establishing dominance in the power hierarchy. Most reported cases rise from seniors venting their frustration by treating freshers as puppets, often making them do unpleasant things for what can only be termed distasteful amusement. Ritualistic bullying has been normalized as part of the "college experience." The problem is not only the action of ragging but the underlying philosophy behind it.

The intention to cut juniors down to size and show them their place in the pecking order is highly problematic for two reasons. The implication is that seniors are more capable and worthy of respect simply because of their age and not for

Illustration By Prakriti Gupta

who they are as people or what they have achieved. The feeling of inferiority negatively affects the juniors' mental health, and consequently, their capability for growth and development. Ragging is normalized in the minds of students to the extent that those who raise questions about it are labelled "overly sensitive" or "unable to take a joke," setting a dangerous precedent for the larger narrative about harassment and abuse of power in our society. This culture also breeds a vicious cycle; juniors who were ragged and likely suffered humiliation turn into seniors who rag as a way to reclaim power or succumb to peer pressure. Teaching people not to voice their discomfort under the pretence of "preparing them for the real world" cannot be an acceptable line of reasoning. Most universities are anti-ragging and have policies in place. The nuance of how it is handled, however, is a critical factor in curbing the practice. Taking care to maintain the anonymity of anyone that chooses to speak up and taking action depending on the severity of the situation is a must.

Teachers, being facilitators, students to help them decondition their mistakes. College authorities should make an effort to create a safe space for affected students, and let them know that they are not being judged for speaking up. University provides powerful opportunities to network and develop powerful relationships with the people who will grow to be your coworkers, competitors, employees, and bosses. The focus should be on nurturing these relationships. Having a trove of funny stories, embarrassing incidents, and inside jokes is a crucial part of the college experience. Still, the belief that ragging is always synonymous with having fun and making memories is a problem, significantly when the negatives outweigh the positives. As students, we are responsible for creating traditions that boost college spirit, strengthen bonds between juniors and seniors and create memories in a fun and comfortable way for everyone involved. It is worth considering that we can leave behind a more powerful legacy in doing so.

The Eras Tour: What Went Wrong?

Bhavana Gundeti, Arts & Entertainment Editor

Photo Courtesy of Wikimedia

Who doesn't know Taylor Swift? Who's a Swiftie? I'm a Swiftie, and I'm sure most of us have heard of the issue regarding her upcoming tour ticket prices. For the unversed, the concert tickets for The Eras Tour (USA leg) went on sale on November 18, 2022, on Live Nation's Ticketmaster. In just a few hours, fans experienced site crashes and long online queues, which lead to countrywide discontent. Why? Unsurprisingly, because of the high craze and inevitable digital traffic. It is important to note that this tour will include Taylor's last *four* studio albums, Lover (2019), Folklore (2020) (my favourite), Evermore (2020), and Midnights (2022), as she cancelled her last tour "Lover Fest" due to Covid-19. This means Taylor's last official world tour was in 2018.

While all this was going on, on the other side, ticket resellers were going overboard. Let's first understand the term "ticket resellers" - they are licensed people who purchase tickets early, at a lower price and resell them at a higher price to gain profit. Believe me, I was just as shocked as you when I learned that this is legal. The popular songwriter's tickets were originally starting from $49 to $499, depending on the seating arrangement and more, while VIP packages would range from $199 to $899.

According to reports, the ticket reseller sites chose unaffordable prices for the general public: to put it into perspective, a ticket was as much as $22,700 (Rs. 17.85 lakh - You can find the memes on social media). This absurd difference caused huge backlash to Taylor herself, who is reportedly said to have used the "dynamic pricing" option on Ticketmaster; this means that the price of the tickets can vary depending on the calculated e-demand for the tickets. Everyone knows that's an expensive price, so the higher the demand and web traffic, the higher the rates.

Commenting on the issue, Taylor posted to her Instagram story saying, "I'm extremely protective of my fans..excruciating for me to just watch mistakes happen with no recourse..really pisses me off that a lot of them feel like they went through several bear attacks." What this shows is that Taylor doesn't seem to be having as much control over the price issue as most fans thought. The intention was never for the fans to go through such an experience. Aside from all this, I want to say I, like many of you, know that "The Eras Tour" is a predestined success.

Social Media 101: Two Sides of a Coin

Shriya Vuppala & Lekhana Guntupalli, Staff Writers

We witness influencers vlogging their perfect life on social media and do nothing but think about how picture-perfect it looks. It does create an idealized version of someone's life, but does it also represent the gray areas?

Being an influencer may sound like fun, but the reality is far from it . With a career as such, you are constantly looked at and judged for every small detail. From being body shamed to being judged for who they date, they see it all. Although this has a negative toll on influencers, they crave criticism and recognition that breaks them down under circumstances like losing their followers.

Where does this idea of portraying an ideal life stem from? Influencers have certain expectations from their followers, resulting in an immense amount of pressure to satisfy the definition of "perfect" for their viewers.

The viewers, however, are on the other side of the coin. We indulge in a lot of social media activity and come across

several videos where influencers showcase their perfect lifestyles, and whether we like it or not, we end up setting unrealistic expectations for life. By failing to see the whole picture, we judge ourselves for not living the ideal life, not following trends, and not visiting "aesthetic" places.

However hard it may be to accept it, it is evident that social media toxicity is always mutual. Influencers and viewers are both part of this ongoing problem. When both parties stop expecting from each other, it becomes much easier to break this cycle of toxicity.

Understanding that social media is just a minor part of our life is extremely important. Celebrating our differences and learning to enjoy them should be what we work towards. It's okay to not keep up with trends. At the end of the day, the internet should be a place for entertainment and to converse with friends rather than an unhealthy environment which makes us question our lifestyles.
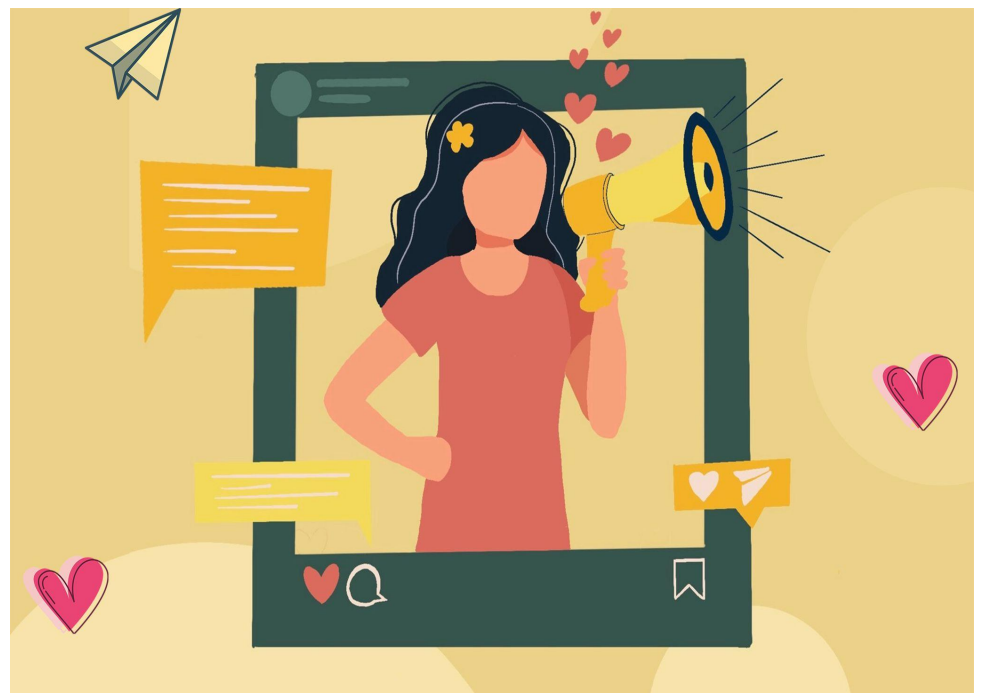

Illustration By Meghana Vaka

MasterShot: The Cinema of Young Filmmakers

Bhavana Gundeti & Divija Agarwal, A&E Editors

Tanu..Anu..

Posters by MasterShot

Tanu Anu is the first film presented to the audience on the screens. Tanisha and Adi are the main characters of this movie. The ups and downs of their relationship and the start and beginning of their interactions are shown in detail. What is really interesting about this film is that in between scenes of the present, there are flashbacks to the beginning of their relationship. We greatly value this nice attempt at a non-traditional method of storyline. Watch Tanu Anu for a new generational form of self-happiness, even when people don't end up being who we thought they would be.

Clouds of August

The short story Clouds of August follows the tale of Nidhi, a first-year dental student who witnesses a number of life-altering events. In the film, Nidhi tells her personal narrative. She not only has a juvenile sense of humor, but she also has a sharp and intelligent mind. Clouds of Pallavi, Clouds of Rahul and Clouds of RK depict three different characters who take an active role in moulding the protagonist's perspective.

She ultimately comes to the realization that perhaps the most significant fact in life is to be 'honest to oneself'. The story was more compelling because it was based on a motivating actuality.

Kalasalalo
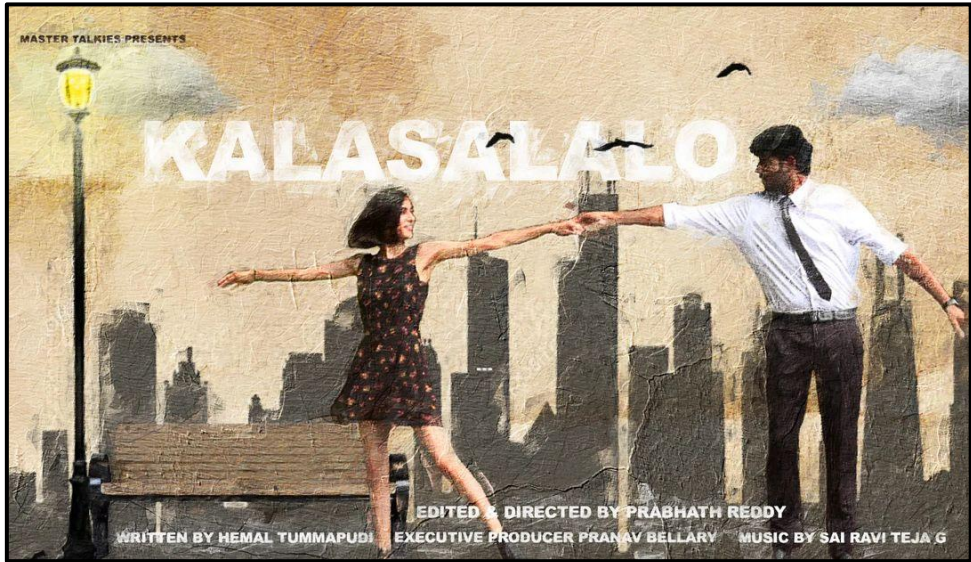
This movie is set in university, with multiple characters and their personal lives intertwined with their academic life. Kalasalalo, which took 9 months to create, with a duration of 1 hr and 17 minutes, is filled with humor, romance, and peppy music. The movie summarizes different storylines and combines them in one setting. The first scene of the movie opens with a conversation regarding an upcoming exam. While some seem to worry, one student is casual about it and says "Pichha lite", which basically means "take it easy," in Telugu. This is a recurring phrase in the movie. This transitions to a song scene where students have a good time partying despite their upcoming exam.One of the characters, Vishwa, has to write and shoot a story for his assignment, and the deadline is very close. How he deals with his stress and takes advice in this period of his student life is what forms the crux of his storyline.

Secondly, Prateek is a low-confident guy who likes to play the keyboard. However his anxiety and stage fright tend to be his worst enemy. Thirdly, Arjun is a basketball player who, according to his team captain, seems to have a slight problem of dis-involving his teammates. Will his team win the basketball match in the next few days, with Arjun's sportsmanship? Our fourth story opens with Aditya and Ayeesha who have quite different personalities and seem to have an endearing beginning. Will they be able to make it work or will it end in heartbreak despite their conflicting priorities? The fifth of our narratives: after a pointless argument, Jay and Abhinay eventually make amends and resume their friendship. Watch the film to find out more. In my opinion, the long camera shots in the basketball scenes are like those in an official cinema. Apart from the cast's exceptional performance, we would like to especially applaud the camera crew in this film.

Wakanda, Paving The Path To Forever

Likhith Gadde & Johaan Vinu Alexander, Staff Writers

"Wakanda forever maintains consistency in the MCU after Thor: Love and Thunder by being a just as disappointing sequel." But are we being fair to a movie if it's constantly compared to its predecessor? This encapsulates Marvel's phase 4 movies, where almost every movie seems to be a filler just to set the pace and introduce characters for future movies and series.

The movie starts by paying respects to our beloved Chadwick Boseman through Marvel's intro sequence. As soon as the first scene starts, it immediately answers every fan's question about how the storyline is going to deal with Chadwick's death. Although the starting was adequate, the rest of the story seemed very one-dimensional despite Wakanda Forever being the second longest MCU movie, which was perhaps caused by the not so 'oomph' background scores in the movie which create a mellow-sad theme, highlighting the mourning aspect of the movie. The music elevates the theme of dread.

Amidst the sadness and peril of a Wakanda without a Black Panther, while being threatened by Talokan- another advanced civilisation, the writers didn't forget the Shuri-Okoye synergy that alleviates the sad atmosphere. Tenoch Huerta did a terrific job of playing K'uk'ulkan(Namor) as one of the first anti-heroes in Marvel comics. The writers did a good job of introducing an anti-hero and drawing parallels between him and the protagonist, which showed how Namor cares just as much about Talokan as Shuri cares about Wakanda. The tour of Talokan that Namor gives to Shuri also draws parallels between Talokan and Wakanda, both highly advanced civilisations that lived in the shadows.

The storyline, although disconnected in some places, does a good job of mourning the loss of the king and setting up characters for future series and movies with the introduction of Iron Heart and T'Challa's son Toussaint.

Just like the first movie, this movie lives up to the Marvel name in terms of camera work, especially during T'Challa's funeral scenes where they fully capture the sadness and atmosphere of mourning looming over the Kingdom of Wakanda while also celebrating him. We can see that the standards of cinematography and CGI are met, especially when Namor gives Shuri a tour of Talokan. The background score during this sequence is just as good as the CGI. The fight sequences were very similar to the first Black Panther movie, especially the chase that ensued after Shuri and Okoye visited Riri Williams and the final fight between Shuri and Namor. Although very similar, they do seem adequate.

So is it worth the hype? We don't think this is a simple yes or no question. Wakanda Forever went through a change in its entire storyline after Chadwick's passing. Given the circumstances, the movie does a decent job of creating a new future for the Black Panther franchise.

However, T'Challa will remain my Black Panther. Rest in peace Chadwick, long live the king. Wakanda Forever.

Chadwick Boseman (1976-2020)

A Sit Down with RP the Band

Interviewed by Hamsitha Choudhary & Shriya Rao

Manikanta Reddy, Editor-In-Chief

Riding high on their recent successful musical performance in Tarang as well as their first gig in one of the famous café's of the city, the RP band has been the talk of the college. We did not miss a chance to sit with them for a candid interview.

Ronak Oinam, who decided to venture into the music industry, inspired by his friends, says, "I had a keen interest in music since my childhood playing tabla and guitar."After joining the college, he met Dibyo Chatterjee, the lead guitarist who had similar aspirations as him. He recollected their earliest discussions, "We talked for nearly 1-1.5 years about forming our own band. We pushed very hard for it last year but it couldn't happen. Thankfully we were successful in forming the band this year." Looking

back at his journey with music, Raywant Beniwal the drummer had mixed feelings towards it, "I did not take it seriously in the beginning, but I eventually grew into it. I joined a band and performed in an Inter-School competition just for the sake of it. But experiencing the performance on the stage, getting out there in front of the crowd, that made me start playing my drums seriously."

Rithvik Kripanad, the bass guitarist's interest started from home. He got a tiny guitar as a gift from his father which set off a spark in him. "I was just playing randomly in the beginning. Once I reached 10th grade, I wanted to seriously start doing music, it was just very interesting to hold a guitar and play whatever you could," he said.

Karteek Akshinthala the co-singer had trained in Classical Carnatic music for around five-six years. "I always wanted to be part of the music club once I got into college, it was finally possible last semester. I've been spending most of my happy time within this music room," he said.

Their jamming sessions usually start as the day ends and lasts throughout the night. The band tends to select songs that will pull the crowd's attention and a maximum of four-five songs that they want to perform of their own interest.

Performing at Bird Box, their most recent appearance, is a proud achievement for the band. As it was their first gig outside the college environment, nervousness accompanied them throughout. "There was not a point during our performance where we were comfortable on stage, but we went with the flow." said Karteek.

After taking over the responsibility as the band manager, the first task Rohith had was to call up every major café and bar around the city that organise gigs.

"I introduced myself and our band but the usual response was 'so what' which was not at all encouraging." Although some cafes did give a good response asking for sample videos of the band, "They either don't revert back or respond rudely". In one such instance, Ronak exclaimed how he was able to manage all this, "It's not like playing a guitar, managing a band is tougher" says Rohit, lighting up the mood of the interview. Finally Bird Box did accept and overcoming some initial hassles, the final dates were fixed and the gig was set up. "We are still in disbelief that we got a gig and performed it."

From the upcoming semester, the band aims to perform two-three gigs per month. The members of the band are excited for what the future holds, and believe there is a lot of improvement necessary for the upcoming performances.

Ronak Oinam, Raywant Beniwal, Anirudh Sharma, Rithvik Kripanad, Rohan Reddy(Keyboard), Dibyo Chatterjee (Left to Right)

The Demise of Melody

Rohan Tank, Staff Writer

Good music is like meditation. It should take you into a different world, and give you peace. I've heard various genres of music from different eras, and a lot of you already know my love for music. What is it about old music that intrigues me more than modern music? My answer would be one word – melody. Even if we look at the technical aspect, old songs, especially those composed in the 70s, had melody, creativity, and a mix of all the difficult chords played on your guitar or keyboard. This was challenging for the singers with every song they sang. It's different today. Queen or Pink Floyd, some of the most popular bands of the 70s, didn't hesitate from tweaking around with their music.

They changed their scales and chords without hesitation, which turned out to be a treat to your ears. I'd say that melody is almost obsolete now. The more monotonic the song is, the more boring (and noisy) it becomes, which is exactly how modern music is created – especially rap. How could someone appreciate a song if it doesn't even have a tune? Rap is complete nonsense. It's basically electronic noise which gives me anxiety. People praise rappers for their lyrics and for the themes they try to portray, but I'd rather listen to a tune that could bring the buried emotions out of me. The 70s songs had lyrics in parallel with the melody, the melody matched the audience's emotions, and they in turn were in line with the melody; a perfect love triangle, I'd say.

Photo Courtesy of Wikimedia

The Watchlist
-BY DIVIJA AGARWAL

BIG LITTLE LIES
DIRECTED BY JEAN-MARC VALLÉE & ANDREA ARNOLD
CREATED BY DAVID E. KELLEY

GENRE
Drama, Mystery, Black comedy

THEME
The soap has adapted three sub-themes to shape the narrative, primarily domestic abuse, deception, and family diversity.

PLOT
"Big Little Lies," based on Liane Moriarty's best-selling novel of the same name, crafts a darkly humorous tale of crime and mayhem in the peaceful coastal town of Monterey, California. There is a community fuelled by rumours and split between haves and have-nots, exposing damaged relationships between spouses and wives, families, friends and neighbours. The narrative of the series analyses society's assumptions about excellence and its romanticized notion of marriage, sex, motherhood, and friendship through the viewpoints of three mothers: Madeline, Celeste, and Jane. First-grader mothers who appear to have it all go apart to the point of murder. Reese Witherspoon, Nicole Kidman, Shailene Woodley, Alexander Skarsgard, Laura Dern, Adam Scott, Zoe Kravitz, James Tupper, and Jeffrey Nordling round out the excellent cast. Despite this, the production is well-acted and typically well-written, and with only 14 episodes, there is little room for the plot to sag. Be up to roll your eyes a few times in between marvelling at the majority of the chilly content.

2 SEASONS & 14 EPISODES

MU Badminton Beats VNR and Narayanamma Colleges

Saketh Bettakonda , Sports Editor

Aishwarya, Srihita, Sreeya (left to right)

Narayanamma Engineering College organised the "10th National Level Inter-college Sports Meet for Women," celebrating their run of 25 years in the field of education. The Women's Basketball, Volleyball, Throwball and Badminton teams of Mahindra University participated in the tournament. The Badminton team secured first place in the tournament led by Srihita Chaparla, the captain, Sreeya Somal and Aishwarya Bojja.

The game against VNR college went all the way to the third match in the semi-finals. Shreya lost two sets in the first singles match, followed by a close win in the second match by Srihita and Aishwarya (Doubles) with the scores 15-13, 15-12. The third singles match was comfortably won by Srihita, scoring 15-9 and 15-12 . Her victory sealed the round, winning by 2-1 against VNR and leading the team into finals.

The final was played against the host team, Narayanamma College. Shreya won the first singles scoring two sets out of three at 15-12, 14-16, 15-13 which was a close encounter. Srihita and Aishwarya played valiantly in the second match, winning the first set at 15-13 and the second at 17-15. This marked the victory for Mahindra University, as the badminton team emerged victorious in the tournament and received the trophy for their splendid performance and sportsmanship.

Home Game or Not, MU Football Makes a Comeback

Gomathi Challa , Staff Writer

MU Boys Football Team

Mahindra University's football team has seen an era of success since its establishment, carrying countless stories of victories and defeats. The team played ten games in the past few months, including three tournament representations. They kicked off their season with two strong victories in the Reliance Tournament, scoring a whopping six goals in the opening match against ISL Engineering college and defeating Lords college in the second match by 3-1. Unfortunately, MU conceded two goals in the third match, losing by 0-2 against Anwar-Ul-Uloom College. They won the first round of BVRIT tournament but faced an early exit. "Fatigue and injuries had taken a toll on us, a goals drought had the team on the ropes for quite some time," recalled Siddhant Yadav.
The team showed confidence and determination in the Malla Reddy College sports tournament winning their first match against IARE college by 3-0, followed by two penalty wins in the quarter and semi finals against MLRIT and Methodist Colleges. The final match was ultimately won 1-0 against the host team, Malla Reddy College. Harshit Reddy scored a glancing header in front of the goal from a direct set piece taken by Khurram Ghori.

This victory was a momentous occasion for MUFC, making their college proud and adding more achievements under their name.
MUFC boys team captain Yashwanth Reddy talked about the player's flux rate, "Since last year, we have lost two important players of the team. Filling their positions was difficult but that's just part of the process. Every year we lose a couple of players and at the same time newcomers have an opportunity to find their spot in the team."
The Women's football team started off the season with a match against WFF. Sahithi, the women's team captain talks about her experience playing football on campus. She recalls that she got over her intimidation with the support of her seniors and a positive attitude. "Team spirit and co-ordination glue the team together. The friendly against WFF significantly was a good assessment of the overall prowess of the team," she said.
She urges interested students to not be hesitant or let intimidation stop them from exploring the football community on campus. Both team captains expect their players to be disciplined and passionate about the community.

MU Girls Football Team

2022 World Cup: Tournament of Upsets?

Jatin Raj, Staff Writer

The FIFA World Cup is an international football tournament that takes place every four years. The current edition of the tournament is held in Qatar. This is the first time the World Cup is being held in the Middle East, which has been the subject of controversy due to the treatment of migrant workers by the Qatari government. The importance of this particular tournament is highlighted by the fact that it is the last world cup for the greatest rivalry in the history of the sport: Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi.
The world cup started off with a rather dull match between Qatar and Ecuador which proved to be quite a one-sided game for the home team, who conceded two goals to the Ecuadorians. Post the dull opening, the audience witnessed some huge upsets such as Saudi Arabia winning a magnificent game against their fan-dearest, Argentina. Likewise, Japan won against the four-time World Cup Champions, Germany.
If this trend continues, we can name this edition of the world cup as "Tournament of Upsets".

In the history of football, we have witnessed teams from Europe and South America dominate the international stage, but surprisingly, in this World Cup, the Asian countries are taking the lead. The 2018 edition introduced Kylian Mbappe, the top-scoring player of the World Cup-winning squad of France. In this edition of the World Cup, Mbappe started off where he left off previously, scoring three goals in two games. Spain has looked dominant in their initial 2 games with their golden boy Gavi looking in great form. Brazil won a dominating game against Serbia with Richarlison scoring the soon-to-be goal of the tournament. The most shocking thing for Brazil is Neymar Jr picking up an injury yet again in a World Cup. Portugal won a close encounter against Ghana who looked well-settled. In the goalless encounter between USA and England, fans are still confused about whether to call it football or soccer. Despite the harsh restrictions on the liberal populace of fans, there is undeterred support and love for their favourite teams. The enthusiasm and the atmosphere of the stadium still remains the same as this World Cup is setting itself to be a memorable one.

India vs. New Zealand: Series Highlights

Krishi Raju, Sports Editor

India and New Zealand, two of the most dominant teams in men's international cricket, faced each other in mid-November in India's tour of New Zealand. The tour included a three-match T20I series as well as a three-match ODI series. The first match of the T20 series was abandoned without a ball being bowled due to rain. The second match was played under clear skies which had some spectacular performances, notably from Suryakumar Yadav who scored a century against the kiwis, continuing his impeccable T20I run as the world's best in the format. India posted a total of 191-6, to which the kiwis could only score 126 and bowled out. The third match saw the kiwis fight back in the series, in a must-win game they posted a total of

160 all out, however, due to rain once again India had to stop when the score was 75-4 and the series was declared a tie.

Moving into the ODI series, the kiwis were the confident ones ranked at number one in the ICC ODI rankings. Ranking at number four, India played very few ODI matches throughout the year compared to kiwis and were clearly the underdogs. The first ODI match saw India post a total of 306-3 with Shikar Dhawan, Shubman Gill, and Shreyas Iyer scoring 72, 50, and 80 respectively. However, it wasn't enough as Tom Latham and Kane Williamson had a 200-run partnership, chasing the total with relative ease. Tom Latham scored an unbeaten 145 and Captain Kane scored 94 not out. The second match saw India score 89-1 before the match was called off because of rain. Bad weather conditions continued with the third match as India posted a total of 219 all out and the kiwis were batting at 104-1 before the match was abandoned due to overcast weather. Notable performances in the third match were Shreyas Iyer and Washington Sundar, where Iyer scored 49 and Sundar scored his maiden fifty.