

# THE MARIAN

**THE  
MARIAN**

Your Voice Matters

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# A LETTER FROM THE MARIAN



At The Marian, we strive to get the word out to everyone. We believe in spreading knowledge, but we also serve as a platform that welcomes and represents the voices of our school. Our newspaper welcomes fellow students, teachers, as well as parents that are a part of the Sancta Maria community. We ensure that we provide well-organized and sufficient knowledge for the reader to take away from each of our issues. Our team of creative and earnest writers work hard each month in order to carefully craft and incorporate their articles in each issue. The Marian sincerely hopes that our readers gain insight into the issues we have highlighted in our articles. Happy reading

*- The Marian Team*

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## PRIDE MONTH— RADHIKA

AS WE'RE IN PRIDE MONTH, IT IS FITTING TO DISCUSS THE HISTORY AND CULTURE OF LGBTQ+ IN OUR COUNTRY. LGBTQ+ CULTURE IS VERY RECENT IN INDIA, WITH MANY ANTI-LGBT LAWS BEING STRUCK DOWN AS RECENT AS 2018.

THE STIGMA AND OPPOSITION AGAINST HOMOSEXUALITY ARE VERY PREVALENT IN INDIA. DESPITE ITS ILLEGALITY, CONVERSION THERAPY IS STILL PERFORMED IN INDIA, AND MANY PEOPLE RESORT TO VIOLENCE AGAINST HOMOSEXUAL PEOPLE DUE TO THEIR HOMOPHOBIC VIEWS. SEVERAL REPORTS SUGGEST THAT SOME SCHOOLS OSTRACIZE HOMOSEXUAL STUDENTS, BULLYING THEM UNTIL SOME ARE DRIVEN TO UNIMAGINABLE DECISIONS. HOMOSEXUAL COUPLES ARE BEATEN AND HUNTED REGULARLY (DESPITE THE LAW). THE CRAZE TO 'CURE' HOMOSEXUALITY IS RUNNING RAMPANT WITH PEOPLES' OLD-FASHIONED VIEWS AND THE DEEP-ROOTED BELIEF THAT HOMOSEXUALITY IS UNNATURAL TO THEM.

CONTRADICTIONALLY, THE INVOLVEMENT OF SOCIAL MEDIA HAS NO DOUBT STREAMLINED THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE MOVEMENT. MANY SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS LIKE 'LGBTHISTORYINDIA' ENCOURAGED THE APPROVAL AND CELEBRATION OF AN LGBT-FRIENDLY INDIA. THAT IS NOT ALL - IN TODAY'S FILM-CRAZY WORLD, FILMS DEPICTING LGBT CHARACTERS HAVE COME OUT; SOME OF THESE INCLUDE 'BADHAI DO' AND 'NAGARKIRTAN' AMONG OTHERS. INDIA'S CULTURE HAS MATURED FROM GIVING HOMOSEXUAL PEOPLE LIFE IN PRISON TO ENJOYING FESTIVALS WHERE PEOPLE CELEBRATE THE VERY THING. 'THE BANGALORE QUEER FILM FESTIVAL' AND 'KASHISH MUMBAI INTERNATIONAL QUEER FILM FESTIVAL' ARE LONG-STANDING EXAMPLES OF THIS.

IT IS NEVER EXPECTED FOR CHANGE TO BE EASY, BUT THE TIDE IS SLOWLY BUT SURELY TURNING TOWARDS A POSITIVE RECEPTION OF HOMOSEXUALITY IN INDIA. IN THE PAST FEW YEARS, LGBT DECRIMINALIZATION AND ACCEPTANCE HAVE EVOLVED DRAMATICALLY IN INDIA, WHICH IS BETTER THAN NO CHANGE WHATSOEVER.

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# Mars

-Gauhit

The fierce sun scorches through protective glass, drilling a hole through Joe's eyes, waking him up with a million hot needles on his face and quickly rolling to safety. He is the first person to conquer the red planet and make humanity a multi-planet species, but clearly something has gone terribly wrong. He went through the communicator and sent a distress signal but nothing, shattered like his spirit, the cracked monitor kept showing the same, hopeless message 'No signal'. No way for him to go home. Hold his daughter for the last time. Kiss his wife for a final time. He falls to his knees accepting his fate with utter despair.

We have always dreamt about exploring the mysteries of our universe and bringing the infinite emptiness to its knees. This curiosity led to the creation of the Mars mission; at the ripe age of 30 combined with his brilliant military record, Joe was the perfect if not only candidate fit to conquer Mars.

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Months after launch he could finally see the behemoth staring at him, it was beige. Joe felt a screaming emptiness inside him and it only grew as he got closer, it was just him-millions of miles away from everything he'd ever known, left to suffer the wrath of the grey world he calls home now, he could feel the furious sunrays stabbing his skin, but he just stood there as if God was punishing him for abandoning his family, his world, and tears raced down his face.

The ship fell still. No one had considered the difference in gravity, the weak force wasn't going to pull Joe's ship and let him land; he had to be closer to the planet. Joe slowly started to make his way closer, a small step at a time, a few meters every second, waiting for the planet to do its job, he kept reciting the saying 'slow and steady wins the race' - his comfort mechanism. He pushed a little bit by little bit, but he knew he went too far; he could feel it. The space ship nosedived in rocky ground, with alarms blaring left and right and warning signing flashing in what seemed like a thousand monitors, red light blinding and fizzing as he made his last desperate attempt to correct the vessel but all his efforts were in vain. He crashed. A loud sonic boom deafens the planet for a second and the noise is beige again. His spaceship has crashed.

"RUNNING UP THAT HILL" - KATE BUSH



**RIDDLE: WHAT IS SO FRAGILE THAT SAYING ITS NAME BREAKS IT?**

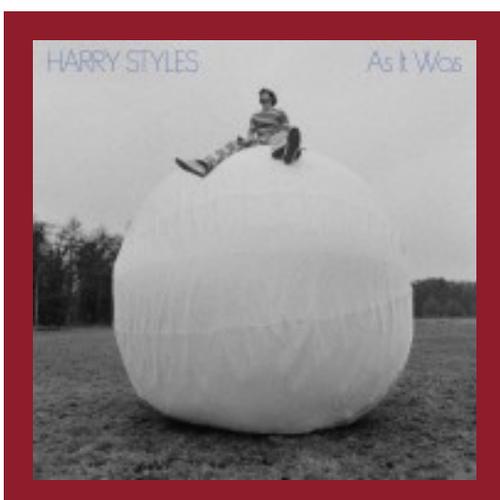
*\*Disclaimer: This is NOT an article against the army. The Indian Army's sacrifices and service must never be forgotten nor devalued. My own grandfather is a decorated officer and I myself am a proud cadet of the NCC. This is simply an introspection into what the army once was and what it now is.*

## FROM MANEKSHAW TO RAWAT: AN ARMY IN DECLINE

-Bilal Qadri

There has been a noticeable fall in the ethical standards of the army. Actions speak louder than words. Though the uniform and laws are the same, the morals seem different. The Indian Army has always taken pride in its values and upheld them sternly.

### "AS IT WAS"- HARRY STYLES



Let us start at the root. The National Defense Academy prides itself in producing the officers of the army. Where Gentlemen cadets become officers. However, it is no longer the institution that produced the greats like Manekshaw and Cariappa. There has been a steady increase in the number of misdemeanours committed by cadets. Stealing, bullying, lying and cheating are at an all-time high. According to former Admiral Arun Prakash, the most worrying is the tolerance of these misconducts. Violations that could have had cadets expelled 30 years ago are now commonplace and have led to a culture of dishonesty. Cadets now feel the need to be 'smart' and achieve this through being cunning. This not only puts into question the calibre of cadets but is also eroding the Army itself, causing dysfunction.

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The decline is also strongly linked to the decrease of Indian values as we know them. India has seen a worrying increase in religious violence since 2014, which also affects the Army. After all, they too are members of society and are socialised the same way.

Recently the army is being accused of committing atrocities, ones that are practically unthinkable. There are too many to dissect in a single article. Allegations include rape, torture, murder and many more. Kashmiris now say “Don’t beat us, just shoot us”. The army has also conducted multiple internal enquiries into the killings of civilians in Nagaland.



The army is rotting and the stink is starting to get repulsive. The army’s leadership is also not nearly of the same calibre as it once was. The late General Bipin Rawat’s tenure was one of blithe controversy. For instance, he outright denied the clampdown on Kashmir despite activists, foreign media and ground reports saying otherwise. He also claimed that the “All India Democratic Front” party was increasing because of illegal Muslims being pushed into India, to destabilise the country. General Rawat has also said that the army isn’t a place for women, with a list of reasons why. He has also said “No place for homosexuals in the army.” Further, he supported the use of the Kashmiri people as human shields against terrorists, claiming that they need to fight dirty to win. He even went as far as to award an officer who tied a young Kashmiri craftsman to the bonnet of his jeep whilst passing through hostile territory. His service will never be forgotten nor should it go unpraised, however, he was not nearly the man Sam Bahadur was. .

Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw was the epitome of an Indian soldier. He boasts he long list of achievements which include; Being the first Field Marshal of India, being a veteran of five wars including world war two, being the architect behind India’s win in 1971 against Pakistan (which resulted in surrender in 13 days),

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survived being shot 9 times, being one of the strategists when both Kashmir and Hyderabad were made part of India. Not only was he known for his military prowess but was known throughout as a man of integrity and character, as an officer should be.

He was once asked as a Major-General what he thought of his General by a minister. He replied sharply by saying:

“Mr. Minister, I am not allowed to think about him. He is my Chief. Tomorrow, you will be asking my [subordinate] brigadiers and colonels what they think of me. It's the surest way to ruin the discipline of the Army. Don't do it in future.”.

“The Field Marshal firmly believed in equality and treated every man under him with the utmost respect. According to the ministers at the time he famously treated the Pakistani prisoners “like his own sons-in laws”. Providing high-quality food,

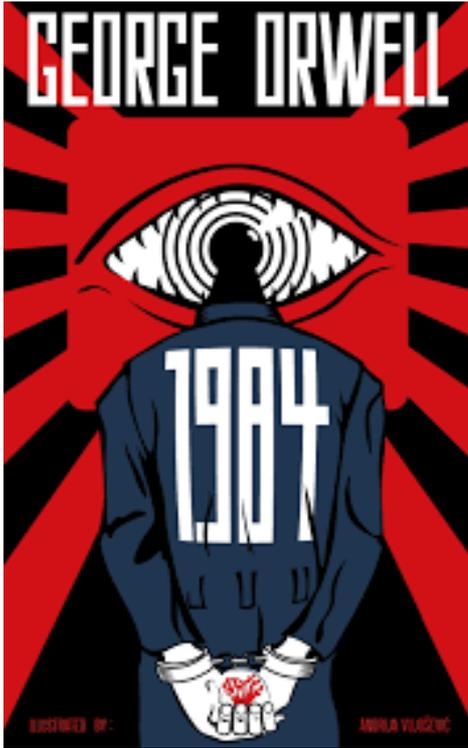


bedding and even Qurans and prayer mats. There was no torture against them. When questioned about it he replied by saying that they were soldiers who fought extremely well and unfortunately lost. As a General, he claimed he did what any General should. These are just a few examples of his conduct. Sam Bahadur has achieved legendary status. There is no dispute about it. However, his life should be an example to serving officers.

“There is a sickening absence of men like Manekshaw today. Though there are many more reasons for the army's decline, these are some of the biggest ones. The Indian army is India's pride and joy. This is a warning to our generation; Do not let the bough fall, there remains time yet to salvage it.

**A REVIEW OF GEORGE ORWELL'S 1984**

-Anvita Bhamidipati



*"1984" by George Orwell*

George Orwell's 1984 is based on what a dystopian future would look like. He addresses the possibility of a bleak future of a world under a totalitarian government. Written in 1949, title 1984 was meant to represent the very real possibility of such a turn of events occurring in the near future. Orwell draws upon his own firsthand experiences with communism and fascism while living in Spain. He strongly opposed these ideals and his hatred is reflected in his work.

Winston Smith, is the anti-hero protagonist who is disturbed by how the government controls every aspect of the lives of the people of Oceania. Winston's lover, Julia, is a rebellious young woman who shares a hatred of the Party with Winston.

The story follows 39 year old Winston Smith, a low ranking Party member. The Party controls everything in Oceania, and even developed a language called Newspeak, based on English, which eliminates certain "rebellious" terms and language. Free speech is punishable, and even thinking rebellious thoughts, or Thoughtcrime, is considered a crime. Winston uses a diary to express his hatred toward the system. This in itself was a dangerous act of rebellion as keeping a diary is punishable by death. While working at the Party office, he meets Julia, a 26 year old machine operator and member of the Junior Anti - Sex League. She comes across as a passionate member of the Party, supporting their ideals, but she secretly hates the government. Initially, Winston doesn't like her, but slowly grows to do so. The two begin an illicit affair, which if the government found out about, they could be killed.

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“War is peace, freedom is slavery, ignorance is strength” These words are the slogan of the Party. This propagates the idea of doublethink, the belief that contradictory statements or ideas should be accepted without question. These ideas are propagated by the party, and it shows us the extent to which the government has penetrated into the minds of the citizens. A major theme in 1984 is mind control, which ensures that none of the citizens even think about something unlawful and conform to a strict code that strips them of all individuality and independence.

“Big Brother is watching you” Big Brother is the supreme ruler of Oceania, he makes no appearance in the book however. This quote is almost always on display on telescreens (devices that can let the government monitor the actions of the citizens in their own homes) and it gives a feeling of government omnipresence as they control everything. The people of Oceania are constantly under surveillance and never get any privacy, even at home.

“Freedom is the freedom to say that two plus two make four. If that is granted, all else follows.” Winston is tired of the government’s brainwash and gathers the courage to write down all his thoughts in a diary. He writes these words in his diary as well. This is to express his desire for freedom, and he wants to break free from the Party’s regime. Winston makes the  $2 + 2 = 4$  reference to make it clear that he wants to defy the Party, who establishes that  $2+2=5$  which must be accepted by the people even though they know very well that it’s false.

In conclusion, 1984 explores and showcases a chilling alternate reality in a beautiful yet exciting way, and is definitely worth a read. It addresses themes of mind control, physical control, totalitarianism, rebellion, and ultimately, submission. The book caters more toward a slightly older audience due to some sensitive themes and content, which could be slightly disturbing, but to the mature reader it’s a wonderful piece of literature.

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# THE UKRAINIAN CONFLICT

-Pranayini Sharma

Conflicts between people, governments and nations have always been an integral part of history and have often ended with wars. No matter how insignificant, wars result in a reset – in terms of development, the way governments work and most importantly, the way people think. Evidently, wars do more harm than good. Being the cause of several issues in society, they can also harm individuals on a personal level. Wars harm economies, cause social damage, result in displacement of people and have a long term effect on their psychological well being.

## ***The Crisis:***

The Ukrainian Crisis is one of the most recent conflicts that should be talked about, and awareness should be spread about its consequences and impacts. If we take the crisis, a recent conflict between Ukraine and Russia, as an example, you would notice that not only has it had an effect on people in those countries, but also others all over the world.

## ***Consequences:***

Initially, Ukraine was the second most powerful country in the Soviet Union. Its role in trade, commerce and defense manufacturing resulted in consequences internationally. Although this conflict is not officially a war, it is said to be a potential trigger to one. The crisis has caused displacement of people, violent protests and far reaching implications for the global economy. Attacks on highly populated areas such as Kyiv have led to thousands of deaths and many more seeking refuge. Oil prices have risen, inflation is rising and services have become more expensive. In fact, the health industry is no longer recovering from the pandemic at the rate that it was before. Not as many COVID-19 cases are being reported, but it is almost impossible to provide Ukraine with the medical resources they need. Ukraine has faced a collapse of its economy and Russia's GDP is predicted to be reduced. Trade throughout the world is being disrupted as well. Usually, during wars, governments increase tax rates in order to reduce demands from civilians.

## ***Causes:***

The major causes of the crisis are economic, geopolitical and strategic factors. This issue started in 2014, and escalated in March 2022. Russia expected Ukraine's support in the Eurasian Economic Community in 2015. Ukraine's growing industrial and agricultural output made it an important member of the community, however Ukraine declined the offer. Furthermore, Russia believes that the expansion of the North Atlantic Treaty organization (NATO) is a threat to it.

Economies struggle to make up for losses that happen during these wars. The introduction of new wars also has ill-effects on pre-existing ones. Due to the crisis, international efforts for Syria have gone down. As many of you may know, Syrian wars have continued for approximately 11 years now, and started in 2011. The EU and United States are focusing more on the current crisis and calls for support from Syria are being ignored. In Ukraine, 7.1 million people have been internally displaced according to the International Organization of Migration. Furthermore, 5.1 million refugees have fled Ukraine. Displacement increases unemployment, resulting in a burden on economies. There is also a significant increase in diseases and health problems. These health related problems can have a long term effect on people



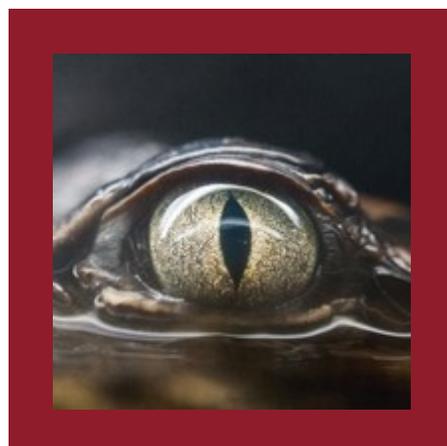
### ***Ongoing Efforts***

The World Health Organization has continued to deliver the medical attention required by people in Ukraine. Doctors and supplies needed by them have been a priority for the WHO. The United Nations has clarified that protecting civilians is their number one priority.

Organizations have also made donations to help refugees and civilians. For example, The Indian National Disaster Response Force has sent tents, medicine and medical equipment to Ukraine. The American Red Cross contributed \$12 million to the crisis relief efforts.

As of May 2022, it appears that Russia has withdrawn its troops from a few major regions in Ukraine. According to BBC News, Russia is now focusing on gaining control of the east and south regions of the country.

"GLIMPSE OF US"--JOJI



# IMPORTANT DATES/EVENTS

**JULY 1- NATIONAL DOCTOR'S DAY**

**JULY 4- AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY**

**JULY 12- WORLD MALALA DAY**

**JULY 17- WORLD DAY FOR INTERNATIONAL  
JUSTICE**

## SCHOOL EVENTS

**SMIS MUN 2022**

**IT INTERHOUSE COMPETITION**

**INVESTITURE CEREMONY**

**ANSWER:  
SILENCE**