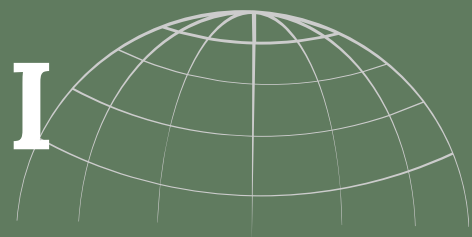


DAY 2

THE CHEMUN CHATTER XVII



CHEMUN XVII

Balancing Power Dynamics

NOVEMBER 17-19, 2023



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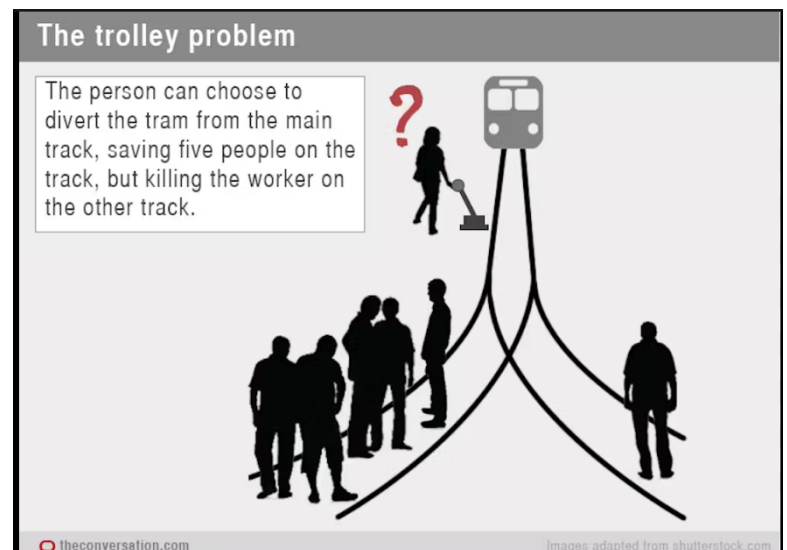


Harvard's Most Popular Course

Aparna Anand

Harvard University: the world's most infamous Ivy League, the dream of many aspiring students from around the globe. You would think that for such a competitive and strenuous college, those who do get in would storm into stereotypically arduous courses such as "Math Honours" or "Organic Chemistry". . But this assumption would be incorrect because the most popular course at Harvard is a philosophy one, though many consider philosophy degrees easy or useless.

However, as you can see, Harvard students disagree, in fact, the course became so popular the University published it free to watch on YouTube for anyone to view. The course itself, aptly named "Justice: What's The Right Thing To Do?", debates the political philosophy of many different controversial questions.

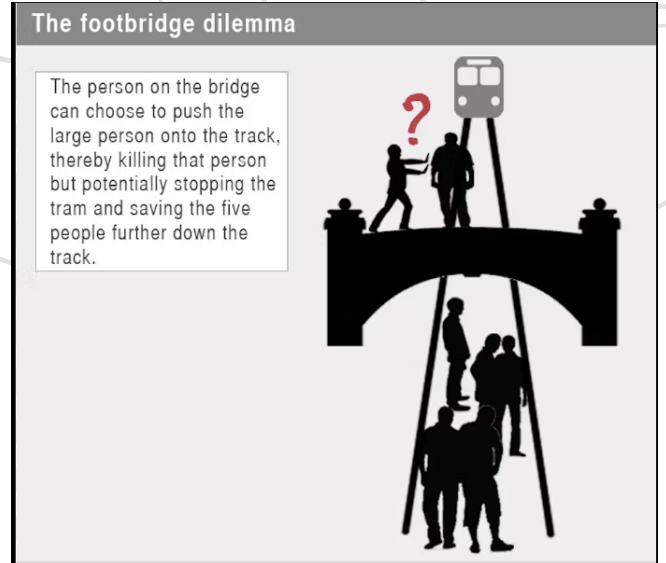


The introductory episode discusses an intimidating idea, "The Moral Side of Murder", by bringing in one of the most debated topics in moral philosophy, the trolley problem. In the trolley problem, you are watching a cart speed towards five people on a track, but you have the option to pull a lever and divert the cart to kill only one person.



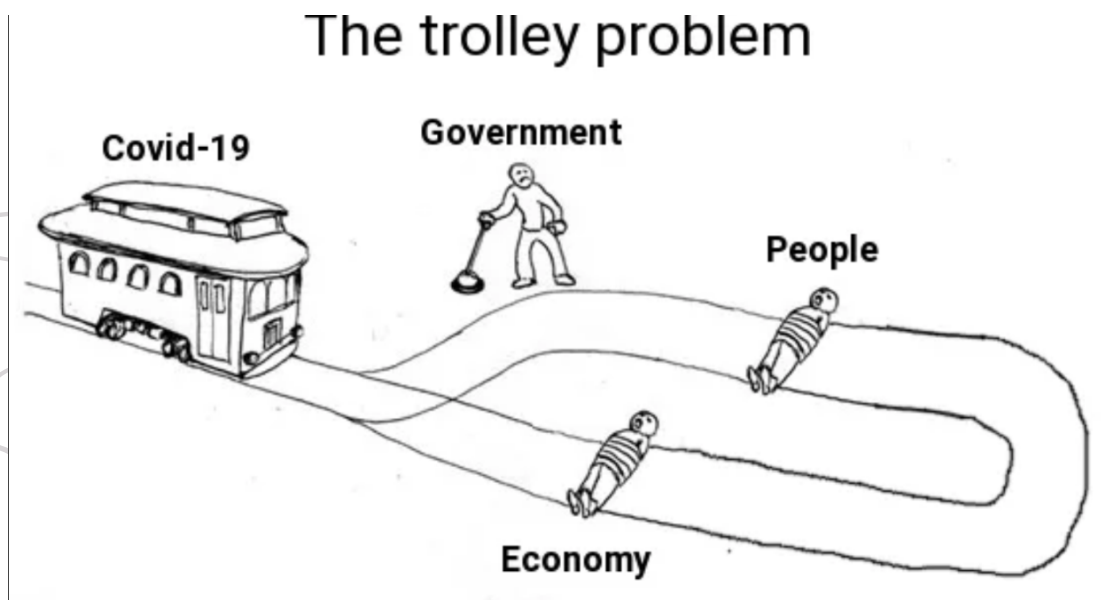
So who do you choose?

This was the same question Michael Sandel asked the class, with most people choosing to divert the cart. However, the thought experiment proved even more difficult when he changed the situation but kept the same consequences.



This is the main idea of a lot of debates throughout the course. You can start to see the real-world applications of the discourse, especially when they begin to examine scenarios that were debated in court, where the jury had to make an informed decision on whether the convict was guilty of their crimes or not, an example of this being a cannibal case that was actually held in court. The lives of the convicts depended on the moral viewpoint at which the jury decided they were guilty or innocent.

This is one of the main examples of the relevance of this course, and probably why it got the title of being one the most popular courses at Harvard, and why it is a course there at all. The thinking behind philosophy is applicable to many different real-life situations ranging from political to ethical, and more, making the fact that a philosophy degree might not get you a job still worth studying the subject.



Interview: Adesh Roberson, Deputy Secretary

Uwe Maher-Mabie



How would you describe your journey through MUN and CHEMUN, from your first year to now being Secretary General?

When I was in sixth grade, I had just started MUN and I didn't know how to talk very well. I was in Mr. Carlos' classroom with a bunch of other kids, and we were just kind of put there. At the time, Ms. Mac only referred to me as "Rohan's Brother" for an entire year which was really funny, but over time I kind of honed in my skills of public speaking and gained more of an independence on being able to control my vocabulary and understanding bigger issues. I began to make my way up the ranks from delegate, to an officer, to head student officer, and from there I finally gave the application for secretariat last year, on top of the role I had as HS MUN club leader. I got accepted for it after a few interviews and so for nine months I have been preparing for CHEMUN XVII.

Why is this year's theme an important subject of discussion?

Well, we reached the topic of Balancing Power Dynamics around the time the Russia-Ukraine conflict began. We were trying to get people to discuss and understand the importance of power imbalances around the world, and that's why this topic is significant - it allows the delegates to learn about the world around them.

What are your hopes for this year's conference?

I hope that people get the chance to experience what it's like to have a sense of community, as well as learn more about the world around them and the people that they're with.

What skills are essential for delegates to be successful?

Definitely having the ability to speak, you need to be able to talk and express yourself when delegating.

Describe CHEMUN Behind the Scenes in 5 words

Chaotic, Organisation, Stressful, and (a lot) of fun

Empowering Futures: The Case for Mandatory Personal Finance Classes in High Schools

Gaangey Goenka

In the ever-changing landscape of the 21st century, equipping high school students with the knowledge and skills to navigate the complexities of personal finance is no longer a luxury; it's a necessity. The argument for making personal finance classes mandatory in high schools is rooted in the profound impact such education can have on the lives of students as they transition into adulthood.

One of the most important reasons for introducing mandatory personal finance classes is the immediate applicability of the knowledge gained. As students prepare to embark on their journeys beyond the classroom, understanding fundamental financial concepts such as budgeting, saving, and investing becomes paramount. These skills are not just academic, they are practical tools that empower students to make informed decisions about their finances, setting a solid foundation for financial success in adulthood. Financial illiteracy is a pervasive issue, and addressing it begins with education. By making personal finance classes mandatory, we take a proactive stance in breaking the cycle of financial ignorance. Students graduate with not only academic achievements but also with a practical understanding of how to manage their finances effectively. This knowledge becomes a powerful asset in navigating the complexities of adulthood and mitigating the risks associated with financial mismanagement.

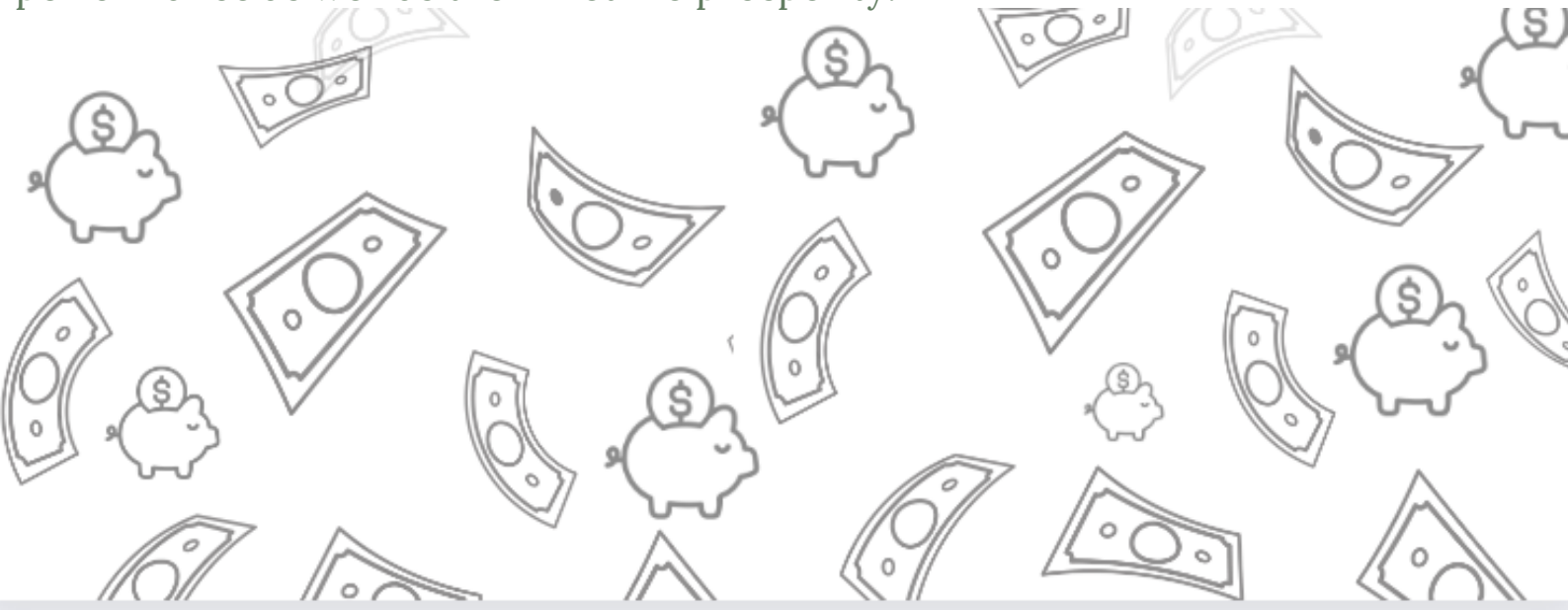


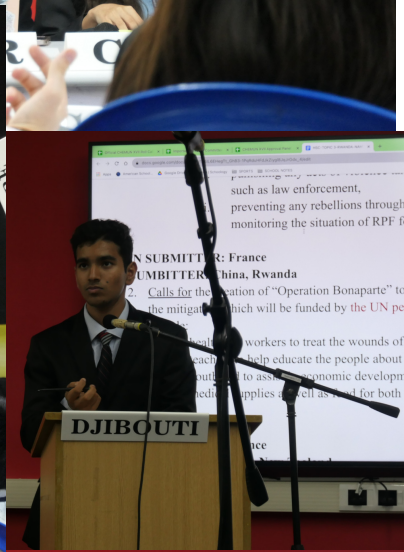
Furthermore, mandatory personal finance classes foster a culture of responsible financial behavior. Students learn not only about the positive aspects of financial management but also about the consequences of poor choices. From understanding the impact of credit scores to grasping the importance of strategic financial planning, these classes instill in students a sense of accountability and prudence in their financial decision-making. As the economic landscape evolves, adaptability becomes a crucial skill. Mandatory personal finance classes ensure that students are not only aware of the changes in the financial world but also possess the skills to navigate them successfully. Whether it's understanding the implications of digital currencies or deciphering complex financial instruments, these classes provide a versatile toolkit for students to face the dynamic economic challenges of the future.

In conclusion, the argument in favour of mandating personal finance courses in high school stems from the conviction that learning should include real-world applications in addition to academic prowess. We can stop the cycle of financial illiteracy, enable the next generation to make informed decisions, and promote a more economically equal society by making financial literacy a priority. It is now time to acknowledge the critical role that



personal finance education plays in influencing high school students' academic performance as well as their lifetime prosperity.





Interview: Carlos Adelantado Faura, MUN Advisor SSIS

Anya Reddy



What is it like being a CHEMUN advisor?

What does your typical CHEMUN day look like?

In the morning, we do a quick review at breakfast about what we hope for the day to look like. During CHEMUN, the other directors from my school and I, we divide and conquer. We separate and go to different committees and see how our delegates are doing. We spend 15 to 20 minutes in each committee to see what's going on – to see whether they are participating or not. If they are not, we send them notes to encourage them to speak. So, for us it's very important to have advisors in the room – we actually have a plan on how to do that. In the evening, the students and us advisors sit down and debrief the day. We talk about highlights of the day and things we could do better for the next.

What do you hope to take away from the conference, for yourself or for the delegates?

Basically for the delegates, I want them to walk away from the conference feeling like they did the best they could, that they challenged themselves enough. Some of our students are not very outspoken, so we try to emphasize that even if they did not participate much, as long as they did more than the last time, that's already an achievement. I want them to have a sense of accomplishment and that they're boosting their confidence. I have to say that so far, we have achieved this. Our delegates are loving CHEMUN and getting out of their comfort zone a lot – whether it be through debate or interacting with other students from different backgrounds.

How does it feel to be back at AISC after a long time?

It feels great, it feels like coming back home. The last time I came here was in 2019. It was pre-pandemic, so many things have changed – the school has changed, the city has changed. However, there's always this special feeling when reconnecting with former students and colleagues. It's really great, so I'm thankful for this opportunity to be here. Hopefully, I'm able to come back on a more regular basis, but it feels fantastic.

How would you describe CHEMUN (behind the scenes) in five words?

Inspiring. Energetic. Humble. Passionate. Caring.

Committee Reports

The Historical Security Council (HSC) is a specialized committee which delves into key historical events that have happened before the present day. Today, the Historical Security Council accomplished an interesting round of debate on the Rwandan Genocide of 1994. These passionate delegates explored and discussed the historical context of the Rwandan Genocide, with measures to prevent such drastic issues in the future. The committee debated a resolution submitted by the delegate of Rwanda, clause by clause, with multiple co-submitters including the delegates of France and China. During this time, the HSC delegates presented speeches regarding their position on each clause, engaging in back-and-forth discussions and challenging one another on their individual stances. The committee also encountered some instances of vetoing, where delegates were challenged to strategically negotiate and compromise with each other.

The Security Council was established along with the UN, and its main objective is maintaining peace and security worldwide. The Council is the only committee that provides P5 nations (USA, UK, Russia, China, and France) with veto power and is also the only committee with the power to deploy peacekeeping missions. This year for CHEMUN XVII, the Security Council delegates focused on three main topics - the Kurdish Conflict, the Russia-Ukraine Conflict, and the violent situation in the Sandel region. On Day 2, the committee's delegates each presented their amendment which was sent to the deputy chairs. These amendments are added to the clause to be slowly altered throughout the day, by the process of each delegate supporting an amendment by giving a short speech, and other delegates asking questions referring to that amendment, slowly offering criticism that helps refine the whole clause. This procedure is in regard to building up a draft solution to one of the three main topics the committee focuses on. Some of the suggestions that the delegates made in their speeches (examples in regard to the Kurdish Conflict) include ways to promote open political discussion as well as methods of fostering trust among all the parties involved.

The Environmental Committee is the global authority on the environment, with the aim to help foster climate stability. This committee is responsible for creating, enforcing, and promoting eco-friendly practices. The three main topics that will be discussed during the CHEMUN conference are:

1. The environmental issues that arise due to genetically modified crops (GMCs)
2. The impacts of plastic waste on the marine ecosystem
3. Limiting the proliferation of textile waste due to fast fashion

Currently, the delegates are discussing how to spread awareness of the strategies that manage and mitigate the effects of GMCs. They delve into 3 main strategies: crop rotation, land survey and the use of Nerium Oleander as a natural barrier. Each stance taken during a speech is later questioned by other delegates, in order to assure the right steps will be taken. Afterwards, the Environmental Committee chairs assess each written resolution to make sure they are feasible. We hope to see these constructive discussions and conversations continue on for the remaining days of CHEMUN.

The Disarmament and International Security Council, also known as DISEC, is the first committee of the UN General Assembly. This committee deals with issues of peace at an international scale as well as global security and disarmament, making it an extremely vital part of the General Assembly. This CHEMUN, the committee is focusing on discussing three main topics:

1. Addressing the security and inventory of nuclear weapons
2. Mitigating the escalating threat of cyber warfare
3. Addressing the escalating conflict in Taiwan

Each of these topics explores diverse and highly pertinent manifestations of imbalanced power dynamics, prevalent on a global scale. The unresolved issues of cyber warfare, nuclear weapons, and escalating conflicts in Taiwan serve as critical focal points in the contemporary geopolitical landscape. The threat of nuclear warfare has become an ever-present issue, that guarantees mutually assured destruction. On the contrary, it can also give nations the power they need to strong-arm political changes. Additionally, a cyberattack on any country would not only devastate its technological infrastructure, but also have far-reaching implications for various aspects of daily life, national security, and even the global economy. The interconnectedness of modern societies means that a successful cyberattack could potentially cripple critical systems. The consequences of leaving these issues unresolved are very real and fast approaching.

Through the course of this CHEMUN, the Disarmament and International Security Council hopes to come to a consensus about a viable approach to solving these real-world problems.

The Boys: A TV Show Review

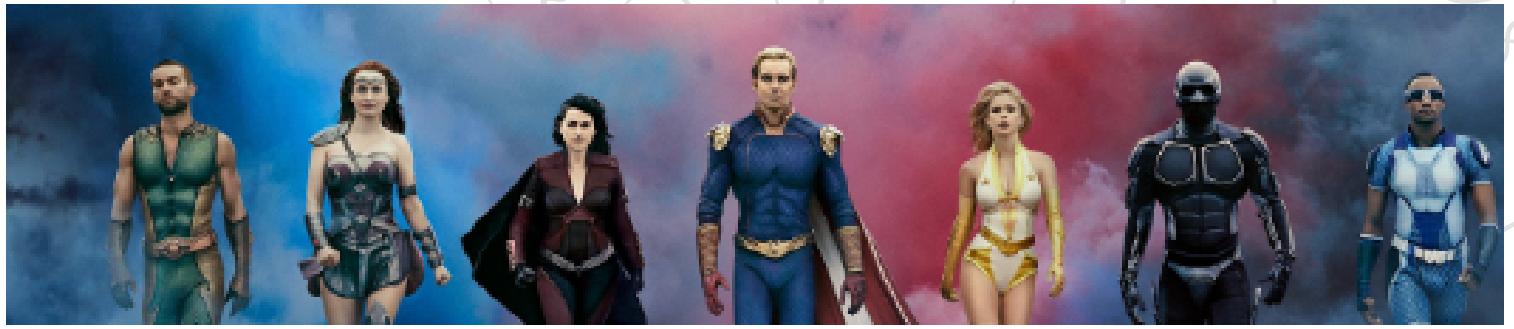
Anchit Sreekanth

"The Boys," an Amazon Prime Video original series, brilliantly contrasts power dynamics within its dark world, delivering a narrative that delves into the corrupt relationship between superheroes and society. This show is set in a reality where superheroes exist



but are flawed and morally bankrupt, "The Boys" plunges viewers into a world where these respected figures are not the saviors as they seem on the outside. Instead, they are manipulated by corporate agendas, highlighting the imbalance of power between these superhumans and the ordinary citizens. The series expertly depicts the consequences of absolute power and challenges the traditional hero narrative by showcasing the consequences of unchecked authority. One of the show's strengths lies in its nuanced portrayal of power dynamics.

The Seven, a group of elite superheroes, wield immense influence thanks to their abilities and corporate backing. However, "The Boys" illustrates the fragility of their superiority, revealing their vulnerabilities, moral decay, and the abuse of their powers. This contrast against the titular Boys, a group of individuals seeking justice against these corrupt superheroes, exposes the struggle of the powerless against the mighty, highlighting the societal imbalance that exists within this fictional universe.



The character development within "The Boys" is outstanding, showcasing the complexities of power struggles.

Homelander, the leader of The Seven, embodies the incarnation of unchecked power, oscillating between a charismatic public persona and a terrifyingly evil figure behind closed doors.

This dichotomy underscores the imbalance between the façade and the reality, demonstrating the danger of placing too much authority in the hands of those who lack accountability. Furthermore, the show's narrative addresses real-world themes of corporate control, political manipulation, and the commercialization of heroism, inviting viewers to contemplate the consequences of concentrated power. Overall, "The Boys" is a thought-provoking series that intelligently contrasts power dynamics, exposing the darker underbelly of heroism while challenging societal perceptions of authority and responsibility. With its gripping storytelling and multifaceted characters, it remains an outstanding TV show that explores the fragile balance of power within a world dominated by superhuman abilities





The Two Fridas

Pettula Jeyakumar

Frida Kahlo, born July 6th, 1907, in Coyoacán, Mexico is a renowned artist known for her emotionally compelling self-portraits. Kahlo has had a history of physical health problems because of accidents and diseases that eventually left her bedridden. The painting was a reprieve to explore and reclaim her identity. At the time, Mexico was going through a post-revolutionary period where artists like Diego Rivera, her husband, celebrated Mexican culture. Her European (half-German) identity and indigenous identity were challenged due to tense political climates with the rise of fascism in Europe and nationalism in Mexico.

The composition consists of two self-portraits of Frida, side by side, one in Victorian clothing head to toe and the other in indigenous clothing. The only thing connecting the twins is their shared heart valves and their embrace of hands. The viewer's eyes are immediately drawn to the blood and half-dissected heart in the left twin. She sits with a locket of her ex-husband in her hand. The composition draws the viewer's attention to the dissected heart which could symbolize the pain and struggle with love, identity and morality Kahlo experienced with her life. One Frida is bleeding out, valve cut with medical pincers, and is in constant pain. The connection valve wrapped like roots around Frida on the right shows that despite their differences, in culture (clothing) and strength (bleeding), they are still one of the same Frida. Hand in hand and accepting.

Her use of naturalistic linework and realistic body proportions both convey her struggles with her physical health truthfully—the woman seen sitting down as Kahlo had trouble walking—but also immerses the audience into the surrealist world she's created. The darker tones function as a signpost to recognize the difference between the twins, working together with Kahlo's colour choices. The value difference could reflect how the shadow of disapproval Kahlo felt over her indigenous heritage.



Frida Kahlo uses intense, vibrant colours to paint her indigenous clothing. The use of the contrasting colours of blue, yellow and green juxtaposes the white and grey of her Victorian wedding clothing. This colour palette also draws the viewer's attention to the gore of the crimson blood. With her choice of colours, Kahlo celebrates her Mexican heritage to emphasise her identification with her indigenous roots. The contrasting colours such as blue, yellow and green juxtapose the white and grey which creates a sense of visual tension and draws the viewer's attention to the painting's symbolism of opposing identities and her relationship with belonging to either of them. Particularly the crimson blood, which represents suffering and life. The balanced and symmetrical composition could also reflect the harmony Kahlo feels about belonging to her opposing identities.

This painting is symbolic of the artist's emotional pain experienced while getting a divorce from her husband, Diego Rivera, whose nationalism made Kahlo increasingly salient in her indigenous identity while feeling disconnected and unbelonging to her European one. The recurring imagery of blood represents both her mental anguish with opposing identities and longing but also her physical pain in her body. We see her bleed profusely without the connection to her husband that her (right) twin has with the locket with his picture in her hand. Kahlo's emotional pain during her divorce from her husband as well as identity and political turmoil inspired the painting "The Two Fridas"

Harmonic Scale: A Poem

by Shania Penker

Power, so sweet and enticing,
for one to hold, is not at all compromising.

This and that, we are to share,
yet conflict arrives, stranding everyone in despair.

Sharing power is not at all an easy feat,
still, doing so will leave us complete.



Kerala's Kitchen

Kerala Sovak

Pound cake is a simple and versatile baked good. This recipe makes one loaf of a delicious, fluffy cake that can be enjoyed warm or cool.

INGREDIENTS

- 3 tablespoons milk (skim, low fat, or whole)
- 3 large eggs
- 1½ teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1⅓ cups cake flour, spooned into measuring cup and leveled with a straight edge
- ¾ cup sugar
- ¾ teaspoon baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 13 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened (no need to cut it in pieces)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Preheat the oven to 350°F and set an oven rack in the middle position. Lightly grease an 8-in x 4-in x 2½-inch loaf pan with butter or nonstick cooking spray. Dust with flour, shaking off any excess. (Alternatively, use a nonstick cooking spray with flour in it, such as Baker's Joy or Pam Baking Spray with Flour.)
- In a medium bowl, whisk together the milk, eggs, and vanilla until just combined.
- In the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with the paddle attachment (or with a hand mixer), place the flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt. Mix on low speed for about 30 seconds or until blended.
- Add the butter and half of the egg mixture. Mix on low speed until the dry ingredients are moistened. Increase the mixer speed to medium (high speed if using a hand mixer) and beat for one minute. Scrape down the sides of the bowl.
- Add the remaining egg mixture, in 2 separate additions, beating about 30 seconds after each addition to combine. Do not over-mix. (The batter may have a slightly curdled or grainy appearance -- that's okay.)
- Scrape the batter into the prepared pan and smooth the top with an offset spatula or the back of a spoon. Bake for 45 to 55 minutes, or until the cake is golden brown and a thin wooden skewer or toothpick inserted into the center of the cake comes out clean.
- Place the cake on a wire rack to cool for about 10 minutes. Then remove the cake from the pan and cool completely on a wire rack.



Rain

Also

Reign

Tearier

Panel

Regalia

Aneurism

Pains

Enemy

Rumba

Chain

Acrimonies

Tango

**Unscramble
the
Countries!**

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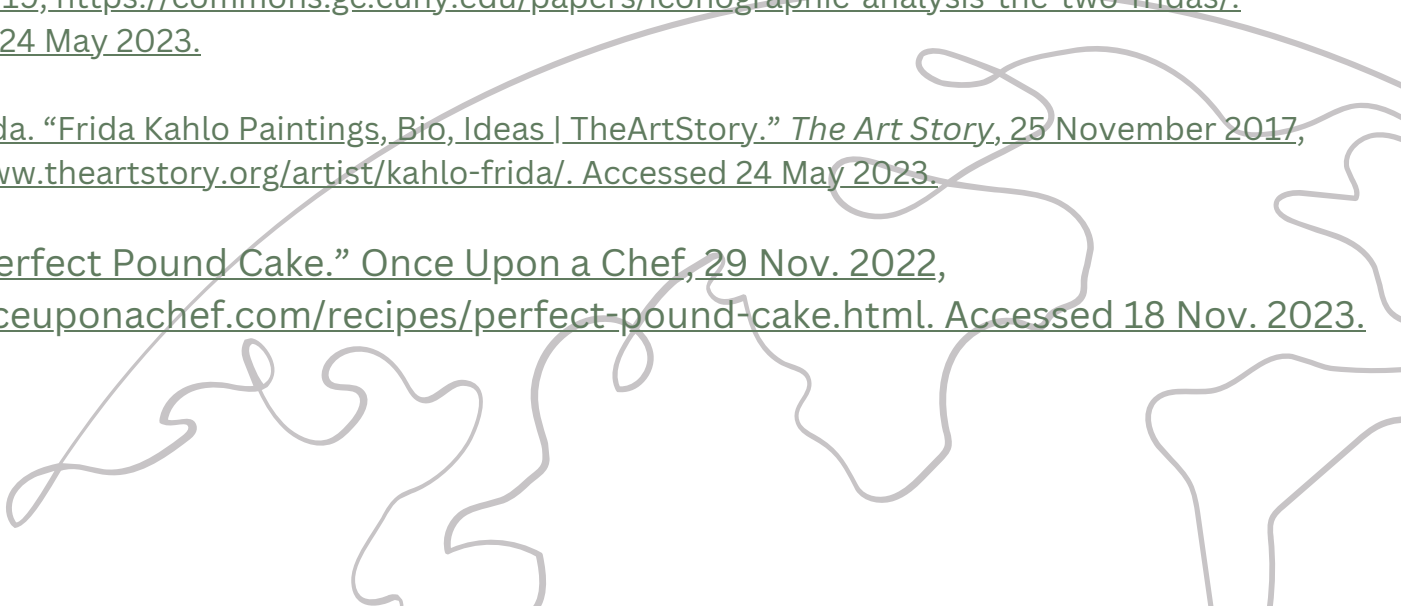
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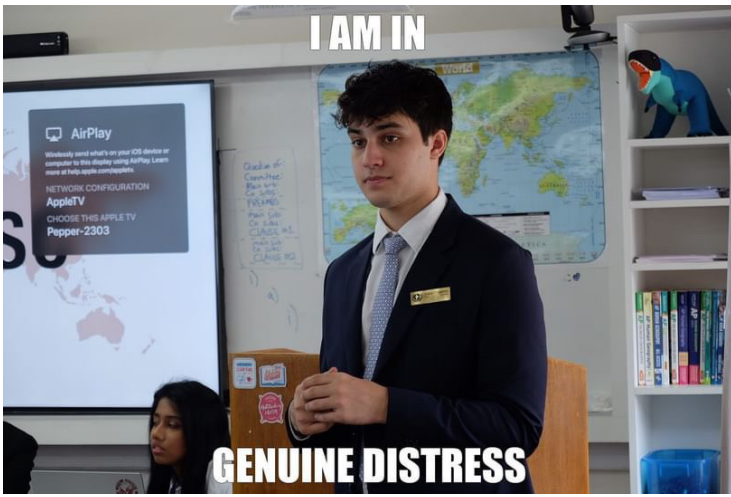
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I AM IN

GENUINE DISTRESS



KILOMETER?

I HARDLY KNOW HER



THAT FEELING WHEN

YOU POINT AT SOMETHING

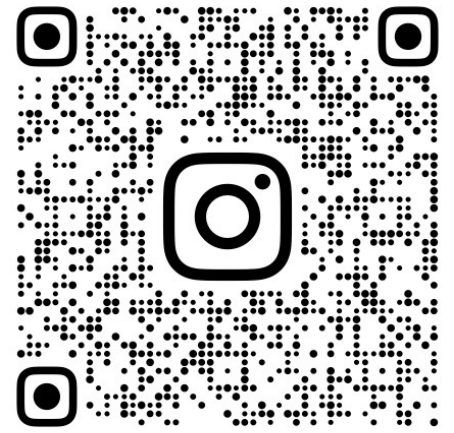


I'VE SEEN HORRORS

BEYOND YOUR COMPREHENSION



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THAT FEELING WHEN

MOM DOESN'T CUT THE CRUST OFF YOUR
GRILLED CHEESE