

BEST OF THE BETHS



THE BEST OF NOVEMBER

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Edited by Edwin 11C

WORLD KINDNESS DAY

RONNIE 11H



World Kindness Day is an international observance that is hosted on November 13th of every year. Colloquially, the day aims to encourage everyone across the world to, for one singular day, put aside all of their grudges and personal views in order to spread nothing but positivity onto those around them. Whilst this initially doesn't seem like anything bad or just a simplistic idea, it makes us beg a few questions.

The first thing that came to my mind after reading all about this topic was this: do some people deserve kindness? We've all had interactions with people who are purely, and at their core, rude. This day encourages that we should disregard this and try to be the bigger person, which is, generally, mature - but some people may, including myself, struggle with this. Should there be exceptions for this day?

Another apparent question is the actual definition of kindness - what is it? What I might view as kind - e.g. paying someone a compliment on how they look - may not be what you view as kind - e.g. someone randomly paying you a compliment may make you feel uncomfortable or unnerved. Therefore, the term 'world kindness day' is extremely vague, and gives us little to no instruction on how to actually be kind.

Also, the whole concept of the day implies that we should only be kind for a singular day, or that we are not regularly kind. This also makes us question.. how far has humanity actually come if we need to organise an actual international event for human decency? Don't get me wrong, I'm all for the day: it just seems rather unnecessary.

VAR: SHOULD WE GET RID OF IT?

NNAMDI 10B

VAR was trialled for the first time in July 2016 in a friendly with PSV and FC Eindhoven, after the International Football Association Board (IFAB) wanted to “implement a system that could serve as a backup for referees in case they made a mistake.” But unfortunately, it has been getting a lot of negative feedback recently from players, managers and pundits alike, including shouts from fans that they should get rid of it altogether.

The goal of incorporating VAR into football was to eradicate human error but, although the refereeing decision accuracy went from 92.1% to 98.3% in 2021, it often seems that officials aren't unanimous over decisions. This leads to VAR disrupting the natural flow of a football match by interrupting games with delays and stoppages as officials go over and over decisions to confirm that the correct call is made, and still the wrong decision can be made that can cost the team on the receiving end of one the game and can affect the fans negatively as it creates unnecessary controversies.

Overall, the use of VAR has completely failed. It gets as many, and sometimes more, decisions wrong than before its use. Football fans were misled, being told VAR would be used only in “clear and obvious” circumstances. As we have seen so far this isn't the case whatsoever.



REMEMBRANCE DAY 2023

ALASTAIR 10H



Remember, remember the 11th of November. Saturday November 11th 2023 was the Day of Remembrance to commemorate those who died fighting in WW1. This day can be used for people to show respect but also to remember loved ones who sadly lost their lives fighting. At 11am, the United Kingdom went silent for 2 minutes as we all paid our respects. The first Remembrance Day took place in 1918 as the battle came to a ceasefire and the First World War came to an end.

The tradition of a silence originated on Armistice Day in 1919 when an Australian journalist suggested a silence; King George V was made aware of it and introduced a period of respectful silence.

Once WW2 had ended, plans took place to make sure those who had fallen were also remembered as the date 11/11 was highly associated with WW1. The Archbishop of Westminster proposed naming the second Sunday in November as Remembrance Sunday while Armistice Day became known as Remembrance Day.

A national service of remembrance is held at the Cenotaph War Memorial in London each year on Remembrance Sunday. The two minutes of silence has taken place on both remembrance days since 1995.





The tradition of poppies was due to many of the battlefields having lots of poppy flowers on them. A poem was later written by a Canadian poet named Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae called 'In Flanders Fields'.

Black poppies represent the contribution of black, African and Caribbean communities to the war effort.

While purple poppies are worn to remember animals killed in service.

White poppies are worn by people who want to commemorate those who lost their lives, but also show a commitment to peace.



CHELSEA COMEBACK?

EHIMEN ONOABHAGBE 8W

Well, Chelsea have certainly had a good November, from progressing to the Carabao Cup Quarter Finals to thrashing Spurs at their home ground 4-1, to drawing with Treble Winners Man City 4-4 at home, putting up a good challenge against Pep's Side. You may be thinking "Well, they're still 10th?", but Chelsea have managed to put up a fight against top teams, even drawing with Arsenal 2-2 earlier in the season as well as a Liverpool 1-1 draw, which certainly shows a sign of improvement and a possible comeback.



Chelsea has had several problems from injuries to crucial players, 3 different managers with varied playstyles in 1 year, buying too many players and ruining chemistry and Final Third not being clinical enough but the main problem that seems to be sticking out is consistency. Chelsea have the ability to demolish (at the time) top of the table Spurs away from home but not be able to beat the likes

of Bournemouth, West Ham, Brentford, Nottingham Forest and more. Considering this, in November, Chelsea have shown BIG improvement and have seemed like a team to watch and right now the sky is the limit for this Chelsea team but all they need to do is keep this consistency and NOT let it slip.



TAEKWONDO CHAMPIONSHIPS

GABRIEL 9W

On Saturday 14th October, I had the opportunity to compete against some of the best Taekwondo Poomsae players across the UK and took home a total medal count of 2 Gold, 1 Silver and 1 Bronze.

I started the day early at 6:00 in the morning, stretching in preparation for the day ahead of me.

Though I was able to maintain a calm demeanour before I entered the venue, I began to feel a twinge of unease – signalling the start of the competition.

At 11:00 am, I began my first event of the day: Teams. As I walked onto the mat along with my other team members, I settled my nerves and started my pattern. After performing, my team and I waited off to the side, anxiously waiting for our results. As the judges beckoned us onto the mat, they announced the medallists and revealed we won Gold in the finals against 3 outstanding teams from other clubs: a positive start to the day.



At 1:00 pm, I competed in my second division, that division being Pairs. I looked around the group and grew worried at the sight of the familiar faces of the stronger competitors. Over two rounds, my pair and I managed to keep up with the pair in the lead, attaining a high score of 6.97.

Despite our best efforts, we ended up with a Silver medal out of the 12 other pairs, some of whom were also members of the GBR National Squad.



At 3:00 pm, I entered my Individuals division, competing against 21 other athletes over the course of three long rounds. I scored a respectable average score of 6.52 and placed 3rd (Bronze) nationally. I also became a National Champion for the Family Team Dan, Male Black Belt category which saw me and my family win Gold against 4 other exceptional families in the finals. This event happened during my Individuals which resulted in the comedic scene of us having to run across to the other side of the venue!

THE KIDNAPPING OF LUIS DIAZ'S PARENTS

FAVOUR 10C

On October 28th, Luis Diaz was preparing for a must-win match vs Nottingham Forest, when he received the news of his parents' kidnapping. According to Columbian news site Semana, armed men on motorcycles had taken Luis Manuel Diaz and Cilenis Marulanda as hostages. Many high authority Columbian police were sent to work on the case in the hope of finding the parents of the Columbian international. Later that day, Luis Diaz's mother was eventually released, but it was not the same for Luis Manuel Diaz. This quickly turned into a nationwide operation, with forces like the military getting involved. Although he was given the green light to return to his home country, Luis Diaz believed that if he returned to Columbia, it would only make things worse; all he could do was wait. It was soon revealed in a statement by the government that the kidnapping was carried out by ELN, a dangerous terrorist group in Columbia. In contrast to this kidnapping, the commander of ELN, Antonio Garcia had stated "The retention of Luis Diaz's father was a mistake".



This took things to a new level. Despite this, Luis Manuel was still being held captive. By November 7th, there were more than 150 military personnel involved in this situation. But despite their best efforts, Luis Manuel was not found yet. On November 9th, 2023, the 12-day wait was over, and the father of Luis Diaz was found.



AN INTERVIEW WITH MR PORT

EDWIN 11C

Science is an integral part of everybody's curriculum, from going out into the school garden in Year 1 to look at wild plants to studying cell biology in Year 11 and the immune system in Year 13. So, for some of our teachers, they've been involved with science for their whole lives. This is the case for Mr Port, the subject of this month's interview. Here's what we spoke about:

What is your typical day like?

I get in at 7 o'clock, and I spend most of my mornings preparing for the day. Occasionally I'll mark in the morning, but that's usually for after school. I teach during the day, and most days I teach fully throughout the day but sometimes I get free periods. After school, I do some marking and catch up on some work. Then I try to go home and chill. Emphasis on the word "try".

What did you study at university?

I studied Biology. I got a BSc (Bachelor of Science) degree at the University of York.



Did you always want to teach?

It wasn't something I thought about until I went to university. It was towards the end of my first year that I started to think about what I wanted to do. I knew I didn't want to do further education. I feel different now, but I knew I wanted to stay in my subject and teaching just came to mind. In my second year, I did some teaching work experience at schools in York – two local schools, for the year. In my third year I applied to do my teacher training to begin the year after that.

How did you revise at school?

Not very well, I don't think. If I could go back I'd change it. I was guilty of a lot of things I tell my students not to do. I made notes, made flashcards, did lots of exam questions. I was happy with my grades, but if I could go back and change it, I would.

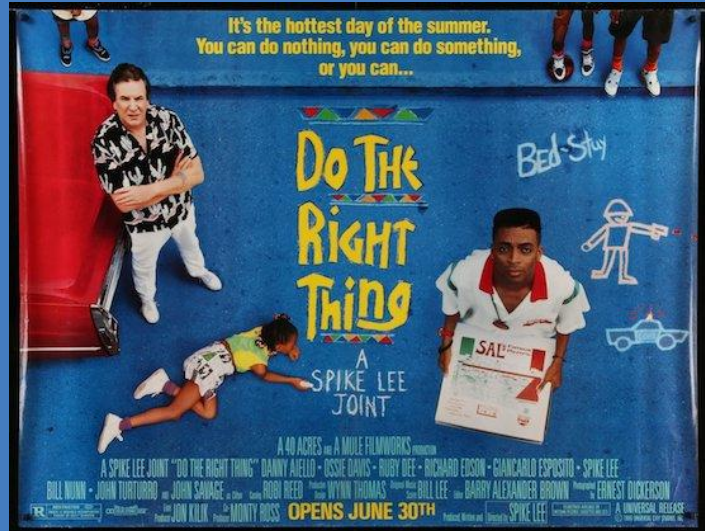
What is your favourite field in Biology? Why?

When I was at university, my favourite was microbiology. Mostly bacteriology and cell biology. However, as I've left university and done a little bit more of my own reading and teaching, I quite enjoy genetics, and some molecular biology. I'd perhaps like to, one day, go a little further with that. Maybe go back to university and do some genetics if I can find the time.

THE MONTHLY FILM REVIEW

TOLU 12C3

FILM TITLE: DO THE RIGHT THING
DIRECTOR: SPIKE LEE
GENRE: COMEDY DRAMA, THRILLER
LENGTH: 2 HOURS
YEAR: 1989



SUMMARY: In Bed-Stuy, Brooklyn on the hottest day of the year, different lives (who contribute to the vibrant life of Brooklyn) are explored in detail. Through all characters, the comedic and serious aspects of Bed Stuyvesant society are explored, making audiences laugh and also causing them to form their own opinions on social issues. It is clear from the beginning of the movie that there is a simmering tension of racial tension among blacks, Italians, and Hispanics; the residents' hate speech and bigotry eventually leads to a barbaric eruption of violence. In spite of this, characters (such as Sal and Da Mayor) emphasise the strength of community, beyond racial differences, to keep Bed-Stuy a constructive place for everyone. This is something Spike Lee wanted to highlight in 1989, and is still discussed to this day in topics such as police brutality and effective protests; this film holds its relevance even now as it calls audiences to "wake up" and strive for unity and understanding across racial boundaries.

FAVOURITE MOMENTS: My favourite scenes in this film would have to be the comedic breaks that frequently take place here: the older residents of Bed-Stuy, specifically the corner-men, are first presented as friends for possibly over decades of years together, who are able to make fun of each other as if they were in their youth still, yet also converse with each other on topics such as the analysis of immigration and the inclusion of African-Americans in the retail economy. A mentionable scene I label as incredibly significant in this film is the 'Stereotypes' scene, where characters of different races say insults directly to the camera about another race they most likely have a distaste for. I believe that Spike Lee included this scene because stereotypes were a prominent part of the American and global mind, which is still part of today's society.

RATING



MASS MEDIA INTENTIONS

VICTOR 11H

Mass media plays a pivotal role in shaping public opinion, disseminating information, and influencing societal perceptions. This can be seen in the outcry that has happened from the Ukraine War, and more recently, the Israel Palestine Conflict, as a result of intense coverage by Mass Media. However, the intentions behind the media's actions have been a subject of debate, with concerns raised about its role in either informing the public or detracting from the truth – for example, opinions on both conflicts have been very one-sided, even though the countries which are in the public's favour stand for completely different things in this conflict. This article delves into the intentions of mass media and explores the factors that contribute to the perception of information detraction.



One of the primary concerns regarding mass media is its profit-driven motive. In the competitive landscape, media outlets often resort to sensationalism to attract a larger audience, thus boosting advertising revenue. Through the quest for higher click-through rates and social media shares, the pursuit of higher profits can compromise the accuracy and depth of information, as sensationalized stories tend to prioritize shock value over factual reporting. The digital age has further ushered in a new era of media consumption, characterized by the prevalence of clickbait headlines and content tailored for maximum audience engagement.

Additionally, the sheer volume of information available through various media channels can contribute to information overload. In an attempt to simplify complex issues for mass consumption, media outlets may oversimplify or selectively present information, leading to a distorted understanding of events. Additionally, individuals may succumb to confirmation bias by seeking out information that aligns with their pre-existing beliefs, further contributing to the detracting nature of information dissemination. The increasing prevalence of Cancel Culture only adds petrol to this fire, as channels that do not support the 'majority' view often get shut down by the public, further increasing the confirmation bias of the public, pushing opinions further into one corner.

Lastly, the 24/7 news cycle and the pressure to break stories first can compromise the accuracy of information. In the race to be the first to report, media outlets may rely on incomplete or unverified information, contributing to the spread of misinformation and detracting from the truth.

In conclusion, while mass media plays a crucial role in shaping public discourse, the intentions behind its actions are complex and multifaceted. The profit motive, political biases, audience engagement strategies, information overload, and competitive pressures all contribute to the challenges of maintaining accurate and unbiased reporting. It is essential for media consumers to be critical and discerning, seeking out diverse sources of information to form a more comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the world around them. As media continues to evolve, the need for ethical journalism and responsible reporting becomes increasingly paramount to ensure that the intentions of mass media align with the pursuit of truth and public enlightenment.

FOOTBALL: THE WORLD'S SPORT

FAVOUR OJEBIYI 10C



Football, also known as soccer in some regions, stands out as a great sport due to its universal appeal, simple yet strategic gameplay, and the passion it ignites globally. Its structure, with two teams aiming to score goals, creates a dynamic and engaging experience for both players and spectators. The continuous flow of the game and the strategic nature of play contribute to its widespread popularity.

One remarkable aspect of football is its ability to unite people from diverse backgrounds. The World Cup, for instance, showcases a global celebration of talent, fostering a sense of camaraderie among nations. The sport's simplicity allows it to be played with minimal equipment, making it accessible to people of all ages and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Football has produced iconic players who have left an indelible mark on the sport. Legends like Pelé, Diego Maradona, and Lionel Messi are celebrated for their extraordinary skill, vision, and goal-scoring prowess. These players not only excel individually but also inspire future generations with their dedication and love for the game.

The sport's ability to create unforgettable moments, the thrill of a last-minute goal, and the drama of major tournaments contribute to its enduring popularity. Football's structure and the brilliance of its players make it a captivating and timeless sport enjoyed by millions worldwide.



BEST OF THE BETHS



A Note of Thanks



Thank you for reading this edition of the newsletter!

In this edition, we've explored controversial events like the necessity of World Kindness Day, as well as many sporting triumphs and occurrences. Each article is unique, with the multitude of writers' different viewpoints being apparent in their writing.

We hope you enjoyed our takes and recounts of everything that has and will happen in November of 2023

Looking ahead to next month, we can't wait to tell you all about what's going on in December.

Please let us know what you liked about this month's newsletter and what you would like to see more of in the next one by contacting Miss Stevens on Teams.

-Regards from the Best of the Beths Newsletter team.

