

volume one - issue three, march/april mmxx

meraki

Goa

Summer
Soul
Mayhem

Meraki - to leave a piece of yourself -your soul, creativity, or love- in whatever you do.



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(Autonomous)



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COURSE

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

COURSE INSTRUCTOR

ASST. PROF. ANDREW BARRETO



ISSUE EDITORS

Asst. Prof. Andrew Barreto

WRITERS

Ms. Ashwini Sequeira
Ms. Rucha Prabhudesai
Ms. Ruchira Kasagita
Ms. Rukma Kanolkar
Ms. Rachel Dias
Mr. Jeff D'cruz
Ms. Jesselyn Fernandes
Ms. Liza Vaz
Mr. Nathan Colaco
Ms. Mizia Dias
Ms. Adalin Colaco

FACULTY-IN-CHARGE DESIGN & LAY-OUT EDITOR

Asst. Prof. Andrew Barreto

email me
asb002@chowgules.ac.in

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Photo by Anna Shvets from Pexels

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meraki

editorial

The last issue of the semester, and what a... break?... we are having. Literally. No one can say that this absurd dis-associative state could have been perceived, or even prophesied. We are free floating through our existence, right now.

It's a pause for many, but a break for many more. Think about it. For a large majority, this period of time is a forced break, and it is destroying us. Those that live hand-to-mouth, those that need aid, those in the lowest strata of our society. We see this conundrum of lives v/s livelihood, just consume us. Kudos, to all those in the frontline - those who are aiding society in these times. Kudos, to those who are also staying in and avoiding the spread. Thank you to all the good samaritans, who are helping. Thank you to the teachers and the students, who are learning to cope with the forced distance, as well.

Meraki, was created by this year's batch of Writing for the Media Students. A really cool idea to create a magazine to put in their coursework. They already have Aether, their tabloid styled newspaper, which by the way has finished ten issues this year!! Congratulations students! Meraki has completed three issues! Amazing! This was the target that I had given them, when discussing this idea. There has been lots and lots of writing in this course- news,

magazine writing, writing scripts and stories for their short movies, podcasts etc. Phew. I am grateful that you have really taken to the challenges that the course, and I have thrown at you. This is your baby, and you have given it some really awesome baby steps. I hope that the next batch nurtures this great idea of yours.

So, here we are. Seemingly the end of the semester, but not. In a pause, I hope. Within this pause, we are finding ourselves, or not. No pressure. I hope that we all meet on the other side of this ... safe.

Andrew Zannito



SUMMER WITH CORONA

ASHWINI
SEQUEIRA



The semester has almost come to an end and it's already summer, the most awaited season of the year. Everyone already have lots of plans in mind, with some enrolling themselves in learning something new, going on a vacation, some using this time for completing their internship while others just relaxing at home. But most of the dreams are scattered as the deadly virus COVID-19 has already made up plans to ruin all our plans. While some of them still decide to stick to their ideas of going on trips, in the hope that they will avoid large gatherings, others have just scrapped all their plans and have decided to spend the summer relaxing at home.

Some people have already made up their dream trips and so cannot resist. By taking the risk of going overseas or outdoors, you could get easily infected by the virus. Trips can be rescheduled. One wacky mistake of going on journeys may ruin you as well as the lives of you near and dear ones. Also if the outbreak of the virus is worse, you would have to spend your vacation in quarantine bringing in no good. One can rather spend the vacation by learning and reading something new, which would be helpful to them in the future or just watching Netflix. This is the best excuse to just stay at home and spend this quality time with family. Avoiding social gatherings like picnics and parties could be of great help. Keep distance from persons suffering from cold.

This summer is indeed not going to be like the one we've dreamt of but this one sacrifice could save lives of a thousand others. Stay at home, be healthy, save money and then plan a trip next summer to your dream location. For now, stay home stay safe!

Photo by Flo Dahm from Pexels

LOCKDOWN. NOW WHAT?

RUCHIRA
KAGITA



Covid-19 has entered and affected many in India and the government has enforced a strict lock-down in all states. I'm presuming that a lot of people do realise the importance of this measure but nonetheless, many might agree that staying at home with your family for so long a period can be frustrating. To get a better perspective of what some students of our college are doing to pass their time, I've asked around and I found that most of them are spending time in more or less the same ways.

- Something everyone seems to be doing is completing their assignments. With college being closed for quite a while, the burden seems to have increased and almost everyone is busy catching up with their work.
- Some others are busy doing household chores. What with any help not arriving, people are getting everything done themselves. Cooking is also something some have been doing quite frequently to change the complacent pace a bit.

One of the Second Year Undergraduate students said this,

"I fortunately live in a house and have a garden, so I don't really feel constricted like many people who live in flats told me they feel".

- Being able to spend more time with your family is one of the perks this stay-at-home situation gives us. Along with their regular work, some students are spending more time with their siblings. Some are happy that they get to play with their pets more.

- Reading. This is something that many have been doing. With travelling to college and spending so much time outside, one hardly gets to finish their reading lists. This had given many the time to pick up the books they had long kept aside.

Another student said,

"I try to keep myself entertained by watching web series and anime.

With all this free time, I finally found time to read books that I bought but didn't read".

While all these activities are not extraordinary, this pretty much all majority are doing to keep themselves entertained or to say the least, a little active.

THINGS I HAVE BEEN DOING DURING THE LOCKDOWN

ADALIN
COLACO



The lockdown imposed by the government of India due to COVID-19, has made many people do nothing at home.

People create a lot of drama when they hear just a small issue which is not related to them at all but they try to relate to themselves. Instead of creating chaos at home about the lockdown due to the COVID-19, one could remain calm and do various things like simple exercise at home, or may be do something more they would love to do in their pass time or something else. Well, here are some things I would like to share that I do during this lockdown.

If you're a college student just like me, you would want to complete all your submission before the deadlines so that there isn't any tension about anything. I would practice different songs and even try compose new ones as well, doing some music videos at home only for fun.

I would complete all my pending submissions from college. Helping my mom in the kitchen and learning cooking since I don't know to cook. I learnt to make some new dishes by going through YouTube videos and it turned out to be good. There are many competitions open out there on the internet where one can participate and who knows if you're lucky enough to win something. I took part for an online competitions for short story writing, this is some weekly competition and monthly competition, which is then later might published by those companies; and I also took part in Konkani singing competition where the contestants had to only sing songs by Alfred Rose.

So, Instead of just sitting idle, may be you could also do something useful and fun during the lockdown. I did something which helped me, now it's time for you to try something that could be helpful in the future.

2 weeks in Quarantine

Jesselyn
Fernandes



So it's been two weeks since college has been suspended, we're all to complete our work from home, *play Work from Home by Rihanna*. So as I'm trying to complete all my due submissions (like this one), while also trying to stay alive, here are a few other things I've been trying to do, trying being the key word. Instead of checking the news 15 times a day, this is what you can do. This isn't going to be a cliché read a book, though you should.

WASH YOUR HANDS CLEAR YOUR EMAIL

You've not looked at all those promotional advertisements, all those tags and mentions and the ten thousand notifications, not to mention all those websites that ask for your email and you put it in and subscribe without thinking twice.



PLAY BOARD GAMES

All those games you played as a child, if your mom was nice enough to not give it to the neighbours kid, then go get the family together, they can't they're busy anymore. Also most of these games have now moved online too.

WASH YOUR HANDS

BINGE SHOWS

isn't that what you actually prepped for and wanted all along? About time you got a Netflix subscription. Here's few shows you can watch.

WASH
YOUR
HANDS

VIDEO GAMES

The people you miss the most are just a beep away, video games are out here bridging gaps and letting us all have fun together. As I said before, all board games can be played online, bully your friends into downloading them and have a wholesome experience



WASH YOUR HANDS

NETFLIX LOVERS

- House of cards
- Narcos
- Demolidor
- Jessica Jones
- Os Defensores
- Punho de Ferro
- Luke Cage
- Suits
- Breaking Bad
- Better call Saul
- Orange is the new black
- Prison Break
- Sense8
- Stranger Things
- The Walking Dead
- The Killing
- That '70s show
- The Vampire Diaries
- Lie to Me
- Arrow
- Orphan Black
- The 100
- Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt
- Mad Men
- Bloodline
- Dexter
- Marco Polo
- Friends
- Grey's Anatomy
- Supernatural
- Gilmore Girls
- 13 reasons why
- La Casa de Papel
- The Crown
- Black Mirror
- 3%
- Fuller House
- Justiceiro
- Grace & Frankie
- Batendo Novamente
- Gossip Girl
- Vikings
- Lost
- Dr. House
- Brooklyn Nine-Nine
- Dark

By @lunkassiqueira



PHOTOSHOOT

a fun activity, and takes up a surprising amount of time. Take a random object and shoot the perfect product image for it, try editing it to make it cooler, try it with all those packed food supplies that you have hoarded.



Ew homework- Doing mine right now.

BAKE!

that is only if you have enough resources for the next month or so, now's not the time to try baking for the first time. But in case you've baked before, that would be really nice to do.

WASH YOUR HANDS

DIY

finally time to go through all your Pinterest and Instagram saves and start working on it. Tie dye a shirt, origami a fighter jet, paint a canvas, and use all those cardboard boxes you're saving.

WRITE A BOOK/ POEM/ JOURNAL/PODCAST/VLOG

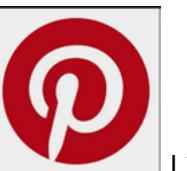
The last time the world a pandemic, they didn't have the means of communication, you can leave behind a message to the future generations, or it could be a nice way to put our emotions and feelings out there, because there is always someone feeling the same.



CLEAN YOUR CLOSET

It's time. Just do it, clean your room while you're at it too, and the living room, and the dining room. This will take a while. Oh and finally "Wash your hands"

Images Courtesy -Pinterest



Coronavirus Is Spreading And So Are the Hoaxes and Conspiracy Theories Around It

⚡ BORED PANDA • 4 MIN READ

Satellite Images Reveal A Dramatic Drop In Pollution During The Coronavirus Quarantine
The guy who ate the bat:



Liza Vaz



Fight Coronavirus!

Eat five cloves of garlic every day. It does absolutely nothing, but keeps everyone else at a safe distance.



which the common cold does not. It can cause severe breathing problems thus leading to deaths.

Third, people believe that the virus is a bioweapon engineered by the Chinese government (or the CIA) to wage war on America (or China). Unfortunately for conspiracy theory-mongers, there's "absolutely nothing in the genome sequence of this virus that indicates the virus was engineered," Richard Ebright, a professor of chemical biology at Rutgers University, told the Washington Post, adding that "the possibility this was a deliberately released bioweapon can be firmly excluded."

Fourth, the cure for the virus. There is no confirmed cure for the virus. WhatsApp forwards forwarded by Aunties and Uncles are not going to help us cure this thing. Mixing baking soda, bleach and a billion other ingredients is not going to help you in any way, it may lead to some new health conditions. Not everything that you see on the internet is true. In times like these it is crucial to trust reliable sources. Maintain social distance and stay at home.

The virus isn't the only thing spreading fast these days, hoaxes and made up theories are circulating and spreading faster than the pandemic itself. Kindly note that the following statements are not entirely true, they are made up by people stuck at home in quarantine. Even if you do choose to believe the following, it is entirely up to you.

The first is the most popular theory of all, the origin of the virus. Because most coronaviruses originate among mammals, and because the current working theory is that COVID-19 originated in a live animal market in Wuhan, many on social media have jumped to the conclusion that some Chinese people's preference for eating bats is putting global health at risk. This assumption has been supported by a number of viral videos portraying people eating bats and bat soup. There is no evidence that eating bats was the source of the coronavirus outbreak; authorities have stated that many people who tested positive for COVID-19 did not have any contact with live animals prior to contracting the illness.

Second, the symptoms of the virus were believed to be not much different than those of the common cold. However, it is important to note that COVID-19 is not the common cold, for numerous reasons: aside from having completely different symptoms (fever, cough, etc.), it also has a mortality rate of about 2 percent,



THE FEAR IS MORE FATAL

I was half asleep when my mother rushed inside my room showing me a message someone had shared with her through whatsapp, the message read, 'Father Salvador saw Mother Mary in his dreams and asked everyone to add holy water in plain black tea and consume it.' She asked me if it was true and I didn't have a proper answer as it sounded so bizarre. Indeed it was fake, as the priest himself confirmed that it was a rumor. Since the chaos started, the stupidity of the masses never failed to baffle me.

The outbreak of the novel Coronavirus COVID 19 has caused the turmoil of the century. Social gathering is a threat to life. Compulsive use of hand sanitizers is now considered normal. Excessive hoarding of toilet papers and other essentials is no longer surprising. Paranoid whatsapp users now rule the world.

There is a buzz of notification every second or two. 'Use these spices to cure coronavirus', 'drinking warm water will get rid of the virus', 'China planned to eradicate the majority of the population with this virus', 'Donald trump possesses the vaccine against coronavirus, but is keeping it a secret from the world.', 'the virus will be the doom of mankind.'

All these rumors not only create an unnecessary panic and hysteria, but it could do more harm than good. People who indulge in 'panic-buying' are causing a shortage of important items for those who are really in need of them. Many people living in the cities are traveling back to their hometowns in fear of being infected. This is posing more danger, as instead of staying in the safety of their homes, they are risking a possible transmission of the virus. Some people are even gathering in groups, chanting 'Go Karuna', like the virus is obedient enough to comply with their demands.

All this is a result of being misinformed through various social platforms. Social media is considered to be the best tool at our disposal in times like this, but people will always find a way to misuse and bring out

Mizia Dias



the worst by it. Everyone is circulating the information about the deaths and the number of people affected by the virus, but no one talks about the recovered cases. The World Health Organization states that the mortality rate of this disease is only 3.4%, which is not that high compared to other diseases that have been encountered in the past. Also most of the people, who have caught the virus, suffer from mild symptoms and are cured within a short time. Sadly, a majority of our country is falling prey to these false rumors, resulting in utter mayhem.

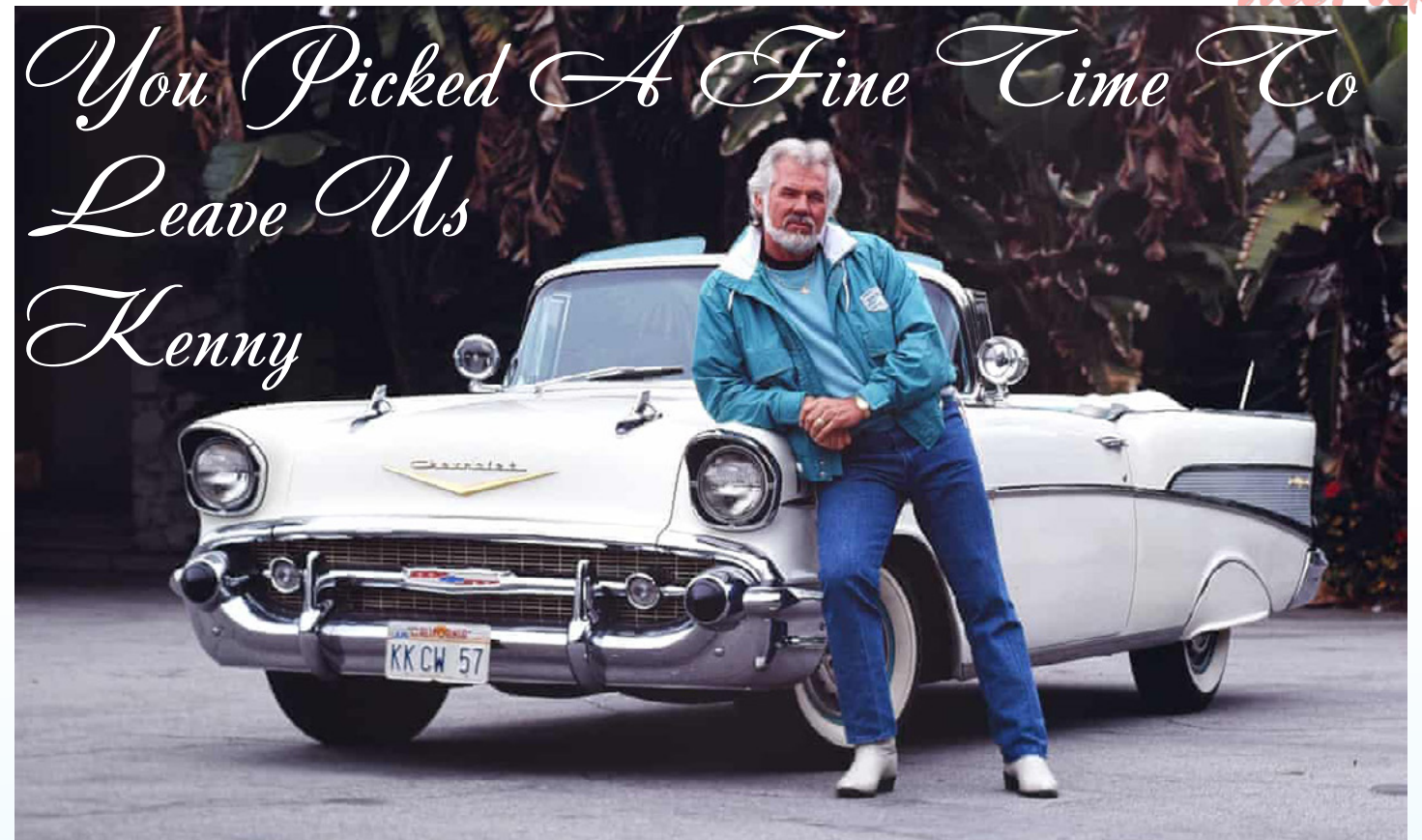
The reason for people to spread these fake rumors or hoard things up is that, that they feel scared and want to take some action that would make them feel ensured and controlled. It is a psychological response to the chaos that is happening in the world, which is not in their control. But people fail to understand the importance of being calm and logical in times like these.

As the disease is new and unheard of, the health authorities around the world are still in the process of finding the ultimate solution. This means that we as responsible citizens need to take effective measures to contain and avoid it. We need to undertake the required precautions, but that doesn't mean that we give rise to panic and anxiety. The world is already suffering and our unnecessary actions could worsen the situation.

But what can we do to avoid it?

We must rely on good and truthful information from sources like the World Health Organization. We should follow the rules laid down by the government and local health authorities. Staying indoors as much as possible is the best solution. Last but not the least, do not blindly believe in what you see on social media and definitely don't spread or create false rumors. Be smart, be safe.

You Picked A Fine Time To Leave Us Kenny



On a bright summer eve's day, a train bound for the heavens above left, carrying with it several thousand human beings, one of them being a man with long straggly hair, with a moustache that grew down into his beard. He was not any ordinary man, for he was and will always be one of the greatest country singers of all time, Kenny Rogers. That's right, you heard it, Kenneth Ray Rogers, who is more popularly known by his stage name, Kenny Rogers, died on March 20, 2020 at the age of 81. He died of natural causes. Born on August 21, 1938 in Houston, Texas to Edward and Lucille Rogers his music career spanned six decades. In total he recorded 65 albums and sold over 165 million records. In the year 1977 he topped the US Country Chart for the very first time with Lucille. This paved the way for songs such as The Gambler, Coward of the Country which become Rogers classics for the years to come.

Among his countless accolades were six Country Music Awards, three Grammy Awards, 24 No. 1 hits, eight Academy of Country Music Awards. In the year 2013, he was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame. He was also an accomplished photographer and released several books. He received an honorary degree from the Professional Photographers of America (PPA). Whether he was performing, writing or singing duets with Dolly Parton or Dotty West, Kenny Rogers will always be remembered for being a good man, even greater performer, one who impacted many a musician's career and one who entertained generations of people till the very end. Should I dare to say, "You picked a fine time to leave us Kenny"



Nathan Colaco

in memoriam

MAX VON SYDOW

Max von Sydow, hailed as one of the greatest and finest actors of his generation passed away at the age of ninety. Max von Sydow was a tall, six-foot-three and blond Swedish actor and had a striking figure in American movies although he was mostly known with the signature of a fellow Swede, the director Ingmar Bergman. Sydow became an elder pop culture star in his late years, appearing in a 'Star Wars' movie as well as the sixth season of 'Game of Thrones.' He even lent his deep, rich voice to 'The Simpsons.' Max von Sydow also had a grim presence in popular movies such as William Friedkin's *The Exorcist*, Steven Spielberg's *Minority Report* and Woody Allen's *Hannah and Her Sisters*.

Max von Sydow was born Carl Adolf von Sydow on April 10, 1929 in Lund, Southern Sweden. He attended the Cathedral School in Lund, where he learned English, and began his acting career in an amateur theater group he founded with friends. He adopted the name Max from the star performer in a flea circus he saw while serving in the Swed-



ish Quartermaster Corps. After his military service, Sydow studied at the Royal Dramatic Theater in Stockholm, from 1948 to 1951, and made his screen debut in "Only a Mother" (1949). In 1951 Sydow married Kerstin Olin, an actress, with whom he had two sons, Clas and Henrik. The marriage ended in divorce after forty-five years.

Max von Sydow began his long association with Ingmar Bergman in 1955 when Sydow moved to the city of Malmo and joined the Malmo Municipal Theatre which Bergman was associated with. A couple of years later Sydow appeared in many Bergman's films, becoming an important member of the Direc-

tor's production. He acted in *Wild Strawberries*, *Brink of Life*, *The Magician*, *Through a Glass Darkly* and *The Virgin Spring*. Major or Minor roles Sydow's presence was always felt.

In Ingmar Bergman's film "The Seventh Seal" Sydow played Antonius Block, a brawny medieval knight who returns from the Crusades to his plague ravaged homeland only to encounter the harsh, eerie pale, black-hooded figure of Death. Antonius challenges Death to a game of chess and in the long intervals between the moves he searches the countryside for some shred of human goodness. The two grim figures hunched over a chessboard in a desolate north-country countryside made an unforgettable cinematic image, which has been both imitated and parodied. Sydow was always typecast as a stereotypical bad guy, thanks to his imposing physique, strong features and Scandinavian accent.

The Exorcist (1973) was Max von Sydow's most commercially successful film. It was an adaptation of Peter Blatty's best-selling novel of the same name. Sydow played Jesuit priest summoned in the film's last scenes to rescue a girl possessed by a demon. But it was not until his later years that Sydow could range widely in American movies. In "Hannah and Her Sisters" (1986) he was the possessive lover of the youngest sister. In the science-fiction thriller "Minority Report" (2002) he was Tom Cruise's calm and efficient boss, the Director of a police force that benefits from telepathic powers to stop crimes before they are committed. Beware there is a twist in the movie.

Jeff D'cruz



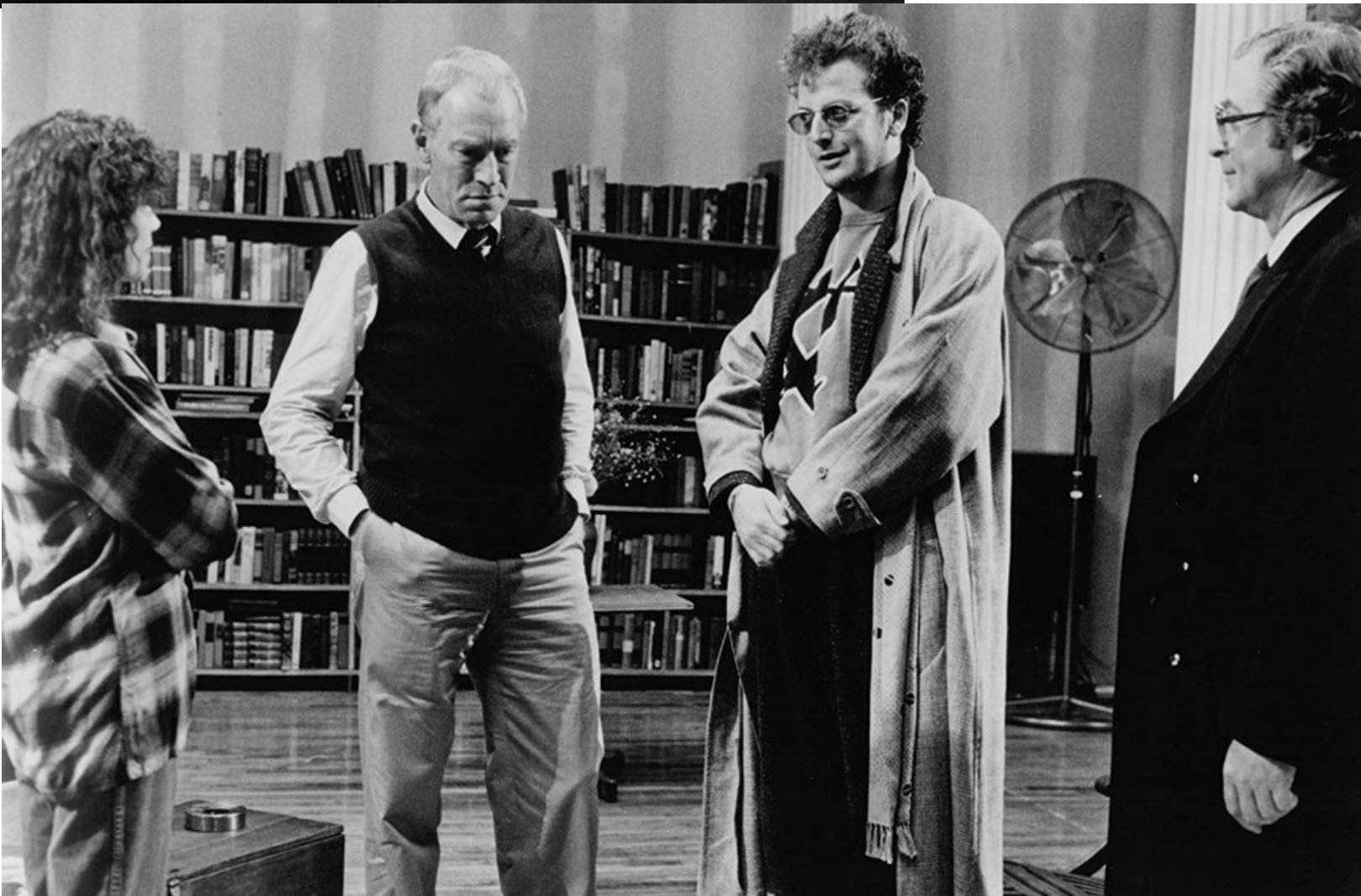
Max von Sydow earned his first Academy Award nomination in 1988 forty years after his film debut, for his work in "Pelle the Conqueror." A Danish film directed by Bille August, it told the story of Lasse played by von Sydow, a down-at-heels widowed Swedish laborer who brings his young son, Pelle, to Denmark at the turn of the century in search of a better life, only to encounter still more hard times. Sydow received his second Oscar nomination, as Supporting actor, in 2011 for his performance in the critically mauled "Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close," in which he played the mute companion of a boy whose father had died in the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center. No role was as emotionally charged for him as the one he played in the French film "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly" (2007): a frail, elderly man whose emotional defenses collapse when he learns that his son's paralytic stroke is irreversible. The role reminded him of his relationship with his own father and of all the unresolved issues between them.

For all his connection to the land of his birth and of Bergman, Sweden became distant to von Sydow. In the 1980s, he bought a summer house on an island in the Baltic Sea, he lived in Rome. His sons attended American universities. Max stated "I have nowhere



really to call home." "I feel I have lost my Swedish roots. It's funny because I've been working in so many places that now I feel at home in many locations. But Sweden is the only place I feel less and less at home."

Max von Sydow remained among a select group of actors to have formed symbiotic relationships with Directors, in which one helps the other achieve a high level of artistry. He found close spirits in two filmmakers. One was Jan Troell, another master Swedish Director who directed him in seven films and the other, of course, was Ingmar Bergman. Max von Sydow recalled his last conversation with the director, who died in Sweden in 2007 at 89: "He said, 'Max, you have been the first and the best Stradivarius that I have ever had in my hands.'"



*Summer is here!
But are you ready for it?
Here are my six summer tips
to help you enjoy this warm
and beautiful season of summer.*



RUKMA KANOLKAR

TAKE A COLD SHOWER

During the summer season our body temperature is slightly higher than the normal because of the heat present in the atmosphere. Cold shower reduces the heat in our body and improves our blood circulation rate. It has a therapeutic effect on our body as it calms all our senses and reduces our stress level. A cold water shower of 10-15 minutes is one of the best ways to get an incredible night sleep. Exposure to cold water can cause the blood vessels to constrict, which help to reduce any swelling or muscle pain. Cold shower also helps to in tackle the problem of itchy skin.

STAY HYDRATED

Approximately 70 percent of the human body is made up of water. Therefore it's important to continually replenish your body with water, especially during the warm summer months. Our body systems function less efficiently when it is overheated. Our body regulates its temperature through sweating and exhaling. For healthy digestion, it is advisable to drink water 30-minutes before or after eating. Drinking water also improves the blood and oxygen flow to the brain which helps us to focus better with clear thoughts. Sun heat and high winds cause our skin to become dry and less elastic. Staying hydrated can help your skin rejuvenate, thus making it soft and healthy.

6



Tips to Remember!

TREAT YOURSELF WITH SEASONAL DELIGHTS

In the current times most of the vegetables and fruits are available all-year round however consuming seasonal foods have their own charm and health benefits. Treat yourself with some exotic Alphonso mangoes to get the vitamin A essential for eyes, or try a juicy watermelon or oranges to keep the fluid content in body balanced, or have the rich and tangy tomatoes to keep the supply of vitamin C and how can one forget the vividly coloured berries filled with antioxidants. It is advisable that you always pick freshly harvested fruits and vegetables to extract best health benefits from them.

SAY YES TO COTTON AND LIGHT COLOURED CLOTHING

One should prefer wearing light coloured clothes during the summer as it reflects heat and do not absorb or store heat in between the cloth fibres.

Dark coloured clothing on the other hand has exactly the opposite effect of the above, thus raising your body temperature and making you sweat more. It is recommended to wear cotton clothes during summer due to the fact that cotton is a good absorbent and helps to absorb the sweat produced by our body and bring it in contact with the surrounding air for easy evaporation.

SAVE ELECTRICITY

Lastly reduce the use of electricity during the summer season as during this time of the year the heat and Co2 level in the atmosphere rises significantly due to the emission of heat from electrical appliances. This is one of the underlying causes of global warming. No doubt it is very hot during the summers but avoid using air conditioners all day long and use it only when it's absolutely unbearable to deal with the heat. During the day times of the summer season it quite bright so one can definitely switch off the lights and get the natural sun light and ventilation in their house just by drawing open the curtains and opening the doors and windows of their house or apartment.

USE A SUNSCREEN

Always wear sunscreen, no matter what your skin colour or tone is. It is important to protect your skin by using a sunscreen as sun damage is one of the worst and it takes many months to get yourself the same skin which you had before. Premature aging of the skin which is characterized by a thick, leathery look; discoloration; and a breakdown of collagen leading to form lines and wrinkles can all be prevented by using a sunscreen. Repeated exposure to the UV rays of the sun can also put you into the risk of getting a skin cancer. To avoid this a sunscreen containing SPF is very much advisable to use as it protects your skin from the harmful UV Rays.



A Much Awaited Adventure

After long winter nights, summer, the warmest season of the year was finally here. The sun would rise much earlier than usual. Chirping of birds, fragrance of vividly coloured flowers and a clear blue sky were all part of a pleasant summer morning. My summer break had just begun and my skin was already starting to get tanned. No doubt the summer season looked very exciting from the outside but from within the house it was boring. It was as if one was staring and analysing the details of a landscape picture from a distance. Even during the summers, my parents went to work as they did not have any

escape from it. At times my mom would drop me at my Grandma's house, but most the time I was alone at home

I loved going to Grandma's place. I always thought that it was fun to live in a village. The people there have an adventurous life - fishing, climbing coconut trees, collecting fruits and vegetables from their own farms, milking cows and buffaloes. I considered my cousin *Nihal* lucky in this case. Most of the times he would just wander away in their small village and his mother would go on searching for him all over, asking every passer-by.

One such summer day my mom dropped me at my Grandma's house and told me to be a good boy until she came back.



RUKMA KANOLKAR

I was more than happy to be at her place. I was ready for this much awaited adventure. When I arrived my cousin Nihal was still asleep. Grandma told me to wake him up as she worked in kitchen.

Nihal looked like an amoeba spread all over the bed. I called out to him and gave him some jerks so that he wakes up. After having some poha and milk, we both sat on the edge of the veranda thinking

short story feature...

of a fun game. Just then I saw a dragonfly and we both started chasing it. We stopped chasing it only when I stepped on a fresh patty of cow dung. We went to the nearby stream to wash it off. I washed my feet in the clear stream water. When I finished, I turned and I saw that my cousin had taken off his clothes and was having a nice swim in the low waters with the village kids. I called out to him in my loudest voice and said, "Nihal, Grandma would be searching for us. We should go back to home soon." In response he said, don't worry she knows that I can't stay at one place for more than a minute. Come here, take off your clothes and swim along with me. After swimming for almost an hour, one of the village kids suggested of going to the mango plantation which was on the other side of stream.

The plantation belonged to a rich landlord of the village called Prakash Patel. The village kids called him PP for short. The plantation looked like an endless cover of green foliage which merged perfectly with the adjacent forest. Raw mangoes dangled from every possible

branch of the mango trees. We split ourselves in groups of two and started climbing the trees to collect as many mangoes we could with the help of our little arms and legs. After sometime we all gathered at a place and started to count the number of mangoes brought by each team. While we all were busy looking at the heap of raw mangoes with our dry mouths salivating by imagining its taste, Nihal was worried about his collection of mangoes. He didn't want himself to be on the losing side so he thought of picking up the mangoes of the opponent team and running away. Putting his plan into execution he winked at me, picked up a hand full of mangoes and fled. I not knowing what to do took a moment and then I too started to run. The directions didn't bother me, I just kept on running as fast as I could with my eyes wide awake searching Nihal. I did not even turn back to see if the other kids were chasing me. I called out Nihal's name several times but I didn't get back any response. I was losing my breath but I kept on running under the thick canopy of the trees. Suddenly as

I was running my leg got caught up in one of the traps set up for the wild animals. The steel jaw had captured my left leg in it and I could see blood oozing out from the wound. The more I fidgeted to free myself from it the more I got hurt. The sharp blade of the steel jaw was now going deeper into my skin. The bloody sight made me feel sick and I started to sob. I kept on calling for help but I could see no signs of Nihal or the other kids. I felt terribly helpless as I was stuck in this place with nobody around me besides the trees. The laterite soil under my feet was getting redder with my blood. I thought this is it, this is how I was going die. With sweat trickling down my forehead I could feel that my breathing was becoming slower and the surrounding trees were gradually getting blur from my vision. I was hearing the call of the cuckoo from a distance when suddenly a darkness descended over my eyes and I lost my conscious. I do not know what happened after that but they say that lucky I got saved by a wood cutter who happened to pass by through the forest. My left leg got 22 stitches because the injury caused by the animal trap. These 22 stitches are a part of me now and a symbol of my much-awaited adventure. ***



SOUL OR MAYHEM?

It has been years since I last visited Colva Beach. I remember how I used to play the clear pristine sand and the sparkling water. It used to be so clear and appealing. The Colva Beach was once very popular amongst the locals.

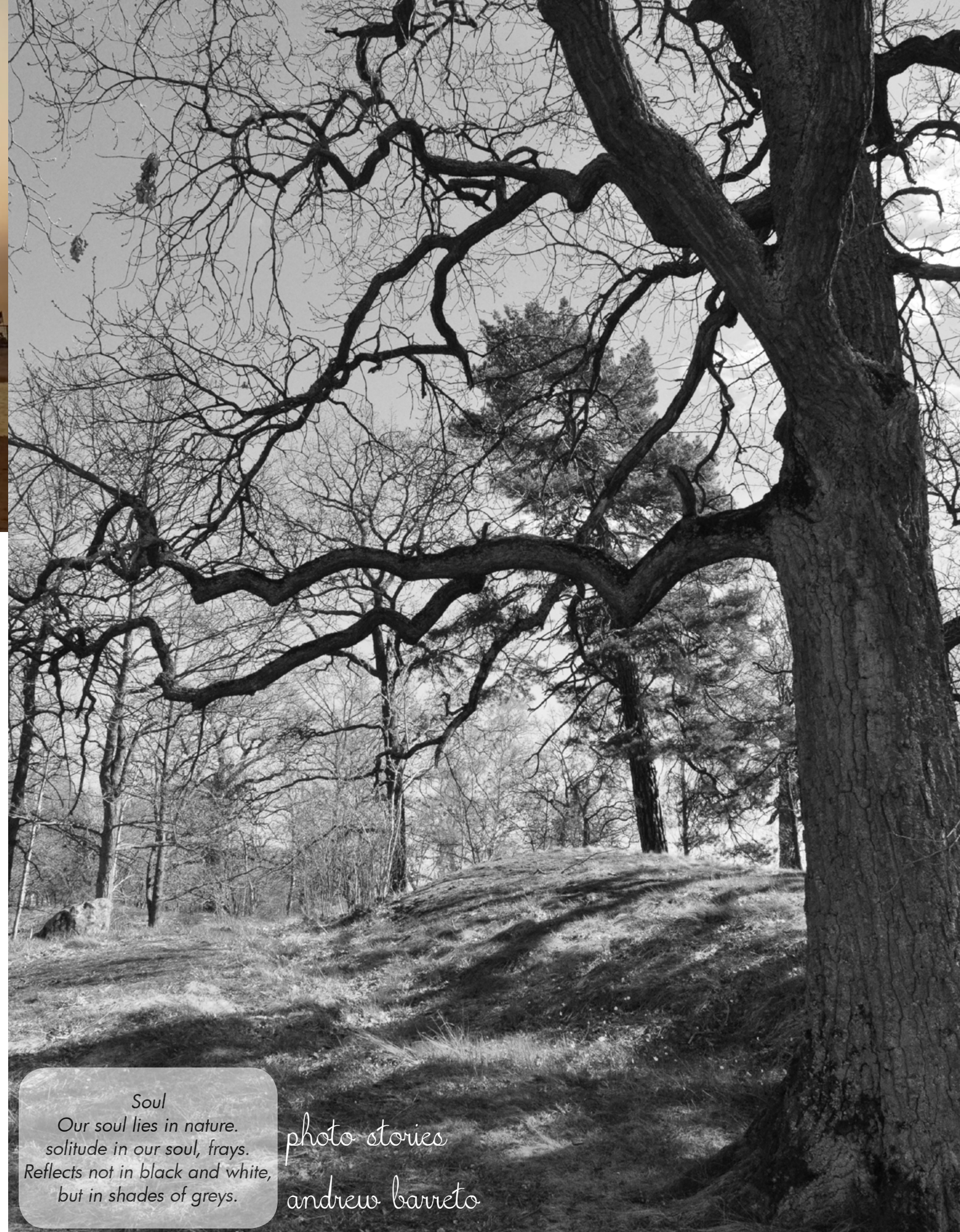
Having moved to Pune for my education, I did not get a chance to visit the beach in Colva for a long time. Upon my return, everyone I knew tried to deter me from going and visiting that beach, but I always wanted to go there since it held a lot of childhood memories for me. Finally, about a week ago, I gathered enough courage to visit the beach.

I was truly disappointed to see the sad state of affairs. From being aesthetically pleasing it has transformed into a nauseating sight. The foul smelling water from the creek has encroached the sandbar, making it difficult for the people to walk towards the water. Moreover the beach is littered with half-used cigarettes and beer bottles; there seems to be more of tables, chairs, and boats hoarding the sand belt and causes a great deal of inconvenience.

The once immaculate beach has now been transformed into a dump yard for commercial waste. We may have lost one of our beaches, but it is up to us to save the few unblemished beaches left in our dear state...



Rachel D. Dias



Soul
Our soul lies in nature.
solitude in our soul, frays.
Reflects not in black and white,
but in shades of greys.

photo stories
andrew barreto



No man ever steps in the same
river twice, for it's not the same
river and he's not the same
man. Heraclitus
Photos clicked in Sweden



*Our soul
takes direction
from what surrounds us.
Andrew Barreto*