

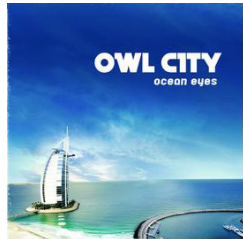
# Vasant Valley

May, 2010

T O D A Y

## ADAM YOUNG – DIARY OF AN INSOMNIAC

I'd like to make myself believe,  
That planet Earth turns slowly.  
It's hard to say that I'd rather stay  
Awake when I'm asleep,  
'Cause everything is never as it seems.



They say the lyrics are a window to the writer's eyes. A pathway to his world. When we talk about Owl City, the story behind the band probably gives reason for all of their work. It is the story of Adam Young. The story of an insomniac.

What's one supposed to do in the early morning hours and sleepless nights to keep oneself occupied? Adam Young, who goes by the now famous name Owl City, made music. Adam Young is an insomniac. And he says his sleep disorder has helped propel the track, *Fireflies*, to Number 1 in the UK, the US and around the world.

The 23 year old singer said: "I have a bit of a problem falling asleep. Strangely enough it is when I can't sleep that I tend to find most inspiration."

Adam, who sings "It's hard to say that I'd rather stay awake when I'm asleep", added: "It's still the case that I'm an insomniac. It's been going on for a few years now. I tend to lie awake at night and it's when I am having trouble falling asleep that I have the ideas for new songs. That's when they formulate. It's kind of a blessing and a curse in a way because inspiration strikes the most at the point I am about to fall asleep."

It all began for the Owl City star in his parents basement in Owattana, rural Minnesota, in the USA, while he worked at a Coca-Cola warehouse, turning to music as a result of his insomnia. The Young man has come a long way from there, whose album's release, "Ocean Eyes", was actually brought forward a whole month due to the phenomenal pre-order demand.

*Fireflies* has already sold over three million copies in the US alone, topped the Billboard chart twice and the iTunes chart in seven countries.

Young admits that he owes his success to the internet after posting songs onto his MySpace page. More than 10 million people heard *Fireflies* before record labels caught on.

Adam said. "Looking back, the internet and MySpace were responsible for doing a lot of the work for me in terms of promotion. That's how the record label found out what I was doing. I wrote seven or eight songs and put them on MySpace about two years ago. People discovered them and shared them around. I was amazed at how my music was connecting with people in an organic way. If it hadn't been for the internet and social networks like MySpace I wouldn't be here and as successful as I am now."

The latest MySpace count is 50 million, in addition to the

incredible sales of the song. It is the fastest-selling electronic/alternative track of all-time.

Leave my door open just a crack  
'Cause I feel like such an insomniac  
Why do I tire of counting sheep  
When I'm far too tired to fall asleep

"Making music was always a dream of mine but it was such a dream that it seemed unreachable. I had almost given up on it because it seemed so far out of reach. Needless to say when the music started to take off I was speechless. When it happened I was blown away. I still can't come to grips with it."

Insomnia didn't stop him from becoming one of the greatest synthpop successes today. He's shown the world how nothing really is impossible. He made his problems into his biggest success. A true rags to riches story; he's an example for everyone with a dream.

Just shooting at you, as a kid, he didn't watch T.V.

*Rishabh Prakash*

### SCHOOL WATCH

#### Science Just a Minute Competition (Class 8)

1<sup>st</sup>- Ojasvi Goel and Pranav Hari Singhania

2<sup>nd</sup>- Preenon Majumdar and Indraneel Roy

#### Speed Math 4 (class 10)

Winner- Pia Chatterjee

#### 1st Robotics Challenge

1st - Ashrant Kohli, Shreyas Kadaba and Tejas Sharma

2nd - Shaurya Dhir, Anish Asthana and Tushar Aneja

3rd - Ronak Bansal, Nirvaan Bharany and Nikhil Judge

#### Sociology Power Point Presentation Class 12

1st : Nikhil Pandhi and Sanjoli Sakhuja on *Social Effects of HIV*

2nd : Amerah Dolson and Helen Benton on *School Violence*

#### English Intersection Debate

**Class7:**1st - Rishab Chatterjee, 2nd - Avanti Diwan, 3rd - Saaieesha Sethi

**Class8:**1st - Shaurya Abhi, 2nd - Pranav Hari Singhania

## MUSIC SPECIAL

## मुझे अच्छा लगता है!

मानव ईश्वर की सर्वोत्तम रचना है। मनुष्य हमारी इस धरती पर सबसे श्रेष्ठ प्राणी माना जाता है। मगर इस जन्म के पश्चात् की जिन्दगी स्वर्ग सी होती है। इस जिन्दगी का हर अंग, हर पल अनमोल होता है। हर व्यक्ति, वस्तु, दृश्य व स्थिति जो हमारे जीवन का हिस्सा होती है, यादें बनकर वीत जाती है। मानव का जीवन एक अतिसुन्दर पुरस्कार माना जाता है। इसका हर भाग प्रसन्नता, आनन्द व उल्लास से भरा होता है। यहीं खुशियों जो मनुष्य के मुख पर मुस्कान ले आती है, उसके शौक होते हैं। इन्हें निभाना मनुष्य को अच्छा लगता है अर्थात् यह उसकी रुचि बन जाती है। हर मनुष्य की तरह, मेरा जीवन भी आनन्द से भरा है। मुझे कई चीजों का शौक है चाहे वह प्रकृति, खाना पीना, जी तोड़ मेहनत करना हो या केवल मेहनत करना हो। यह सभी मेरी जिन्दगी को प्रसन्नता का नाम देते हैं। मुझे प्रकृति द्वारा प्रस्तुत सौंदर्य बहुत पसंद है। सूरज की किरणें हर ओर प्रकाश व गरमाहट फैलाती हैं। यह सभी के जीवन में अपनी उपस्थिति से आनन्द कठिनाईयों को सकारात्मक तरीके से सोचने व जीवन में कभी हार न मानने को सिखाता है। लहलहाती खेतियों व खूबसूरत फूल मुझे अच्छे। इन्हें देखते ही मन में चल रही बातें अंत हो जाती हैं व उनकी सुंदरता को देख मुहें खुला रह जाता है। दूसरी ओर आकाश में चमकता इंद्रधनुष जीवन के हर रंग का महत्व समझाता है। प्रकृति का हर अंग मुझे बहुत अच्छा लगता है। हमारी दुनिया में वातावरण का हर भाग मुझे उल्लास महसूस कराता है। मुझे पशु-पक्षी भी बहुत पसंद है। यह नादान, मासूम जानवर मेरे दिल के बहुत करीब हैं। मेरा कुत्ता सचमुच मेरा सच्चा मित्र है। कोई साथ दे न दे, वह हमेशा मुझे मदद व सहायता करने के लिए तैयार रहता है। मेरे परिवार वाले व दोस्त भी मेरे बहुत करीब हैं। मैं उनके बिना लिखना तो खत ही नहीं कर सकती। वह मेरे लिए अतिमहत्वपूर्ण हैं। उनके बिना जीवन के बारे में सोचना भी कठिन है। मुझे खाना-पीना भी बहुत अच्छा लगता है। कुछ लोगों के अनुसार खाना खाना समय बरबाद। यह काम में रुकावट के रूप में आता है। खाना तो केवल जीवन में स्वस्थ रहने के लिए खाया जाता है। वरना उसका क्या महत्व? क्या फाएदा? मगर मेरे अनुसार यह विल्कुल गलत है। मैं तो इसका विल्कुल उल्टा सोचती हूँ। जहाँ कुछ लोग जीने के लिए खाते हैं, मैं खाने के लिए जीती हूँ। शाही पनीर, दाल मखनी, गोबी आलू, चन्ना भटूरा, गोल गप्पे आदि के बारे में सोचते ही मेरे मुहें पानी आ जाता है। मेरी जीव कुत्ते की तरह लपनपाने लगती है। अच्छे खानों की सूची तो चलती जा सकती है। जिन्दगी की इन मुख्य जरूरतों के अलावा मुझे मेहनत करना अच्छा लगता है। परिश्रम द्वारा किए काम में मैं बहुत रुचि लेती हूँ। इसका नतीजा या फल हमेशा मीठा होता है। हर काम वखूबी निभाकर उसे सर्वश्रेष्ठ से पूरा करना, उसे सर्वश्रेष्ठ से पूरा करना, मनुष्य को बहुत दूर ले जाता है। यह हमें जीत के पथ पर अग्रसर करता है। और मेहनत करने के पश्चात् जीतने का अनुभव कुछ और ही होता है। यह जिन्दगी को सुन्दर भावनाओं से भर देता है। परिश्रम के पश्चात् जीतना मुझे अच्छा लगता है। जीवन में अच्छी लगने वाली चीजे तो अनेक हैं। यह तो उनमें से बस कुछ ही हैं। मैं इस सब में रुचि लेती हूँ। मनुष्य की यह जिन्दगी बहुत कठिनाई से मिलती है। हमें इसको हर पल मजें से जीना चाहिए। हमें कोई भी बात दिल पर नहीं लेनी चाहिए। हमें हर बात का सकारात्मक पक्ष देखना चाहिए और कभी दिमाग पर बोझ नहीं लेना चाहिए। जीवन में हर पल खुशियों से भर देना चाहिए। मेरा जीवन, मेरा स्वर्ग है। इसका हर पल अनोखा और अनमोल है। यह यादों के रूप में हमेशा रहेगा। जीवन का हर पल मुझे अच्छा लगता है और हमेशा रहेगा।

आस्था कामरा 9-व

## American Idol

This season American Idol started off with a bang. It first aired on January 12th, having given many things to look forward to, and now giving us many things to look back at: The now-famous Larry Platt's 'Pants On The Ground', the re-incarnated 'Idol Gives Back', Ellen DeGeneres as judge and it being Simon Cowell's last season. Once again Ryan Seacrest took us through the season, with Kara DioGuardi, Randy Jackson, Ellen DeGeneres and Simon Cowell for judges. We encountered new and talented people. A mushy banana (Ellen's words) better known as Alex Lambert, 'Teflon' Tim Urban and his marvelous smile, Andrew Garcia and Lee DeWyze's too close for comfort friendship and little Aaron Kelly with his huge voice are only a section of them. With brilliant mentors including Miley Cyrus, Usher, Adam Lambert and Alicia Keys, this season was mainly focused on artists: The Rolling Stones, Elvis, The Beatles, Sinatra, etc. With Shania Twain as guest judge in the regionals, they decided to adapt her songs for the Top 6 with her as mentor.



Choosing her seemed to hit it off quite well as none of the judges had ANYTHING bad to say about any of the participants. Shy and nervous Lee DeWyze can take almost any song and turn it into a hit if he smiles a bit and moves around more (instead of getting a bagpiper to do that for him). That's exactly what he did, making sure he had no problem with *You're Still The One*. 'Big Mike' Lynche went next and spun, *It Only Hurts When I'm Breathing* and put a bit of R&B soul in it, making it into the music we all love and he seems so comfortable with, yet somehow landing up in the bottom three with no 'save' to help him! Casey James was in the bottom-three last week and somehow managed to get shot down in there again. Even after the much needed wakeup call and absolutely jaw-dropping performance where he sang *Don't*, finally finding where he belongs, America didn't seem to find him at the expected level. Brilliant and happy Crystal Bowersox, 'Rocked Our Sox' with *No one needs to know* dedicated to her boyfriend and brought out the real country girl in her. Aaron Kelly made sure he didn't get too comfortable with the bottom-three post-he gave us a heart stopping performance with *You got a way*, not one of her more famous ones but a good song nonetheless. Extremely emotional, this song portrayed the feelings he has for his mother, changing a few of the words around (to make it more appropriate) so that it would seem like he had written it for her. Siobhan Magnus, who has an amazing voice, was expected to have a few problems - Shania has a much lower voice than Siobhan and the 'dramatic' singer with her deep, smoky voice needed to show us what she can do these last few weeks. In fact, when Tim Urban was voted off Siobhan became number 1 in 'Vote For The Worst' the website which decrees who is the worst in the show and encourages people to vote for the person the producers would least like to see winning the show! The website guessed right, she was the next to be voted off. They now have Michael Lynche as number 1 on their list.

Next week is dedicated to Frank Sinatra with Harry Connick Jr as mentor. Sinatra's forte was diction and phrasing. That being Crystal's specialty, she should be able to pull it off just fine. But what about the others? Guaranteed to be a poppy, jazzy and brilliant show, this will be one to look out for.

-Pia Kochar

## MUSIC SPECIAL

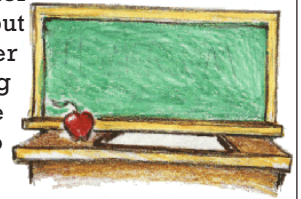
## TINY BATTLEFIELDS LEAD TO THE LARGEST LOSSES

Shadowy ghosts flickering at the end of my vision.  
 So clear, peripherally,  
 Yet not quite there when I turn my head.  
 Nagging softly at my consciousness  
 But shying away from direct contemplation.  
 A shaft of light, gleaming,  
 Briefly illuminating the dark walls  
 As it disappears, quicker,  
 By the errant movement of the curtain  
 Fluttering gently in a motionless breeze.  
 And it makes you think.  
 Casting my mind back,  
 To when ghosts were rather less ethereal  
 And curtains rather more stationary  
 And depression threatened to overwhelm  
 Folding arms around me  
 Like the white walls of an egg  
 Cup the yellow yolk.  
 Except the walls surrounding me  
 Were black, black, black.  
 And in those days,  
 When insanity groped at me  
 With hungry hands,  
 Thirsting for a new victim  
 With slathering fervour,  
 There was but one guiding anchor  
 Steering me through troubles anew.  
 And that anchor was you.  
 But suddenly,  
 When troubles and worries had been laid in their grave  
 The loathsome corpses stirred  
 This time dividing head against heart  
 Rationale grappling against emotion  
 And suddenly,  
 The topic of scrutiny,  
 The cause of worry, was you.  
 When your heart wants one thing  
 And your head another  
 Is there ever any hope of winning?  
 Because suddenly,  
 The heart and the head  
 (Traitorous beings)  
 Switch sides  
 And leave you wondering  
 For both speak sense  
 But there is a gleam of inanity in both too  
 And I know, I just know  
 That I cannot escape unscathed  
 'Tis true  
 And I hope (knowing otherwise)  
 That the one to emerge unhurt  
 Is you  
 And I know, I just know  
 To forgive anyone would be easy  
 'Tis true  
 But how can I forgive  
 When I am the sinner  
 And the one I have wronged  
 Is you?

-Vani Shriya II B

## ANOTHER DAY IN CLASS

With books in her hand, a stern expression on her face, she enters the classroom. I have no choice but to acknowledge her presence. She picks up her weapon from the teacher's desk and starts writing down my fate. She scribbles down something on the board, and then turns towards us. She starts to speak.



I don't know what it is, but sometimes when she starts to speak, my ears just refuse to listen. It's not only my ears, but my eyes too start to wander. As soon as she starts to explain her point, it is the cue for my mind to pack its bags. The brain is now ready to go on a little trip.

My eyes wander out through the window. Over the murmur of my teacher's voice, I can hear the children in the field screaming, and the familiar sound of the PE teacher's whistle. That reminds me of my standard test. I hope I have done well. Except for cricket ball throw, I did quite decently in the other activities. I wonder how cricketers get that power in their arms to throw so well. Thinking about cricketers, the IPL season has been quite controversial this year with the Lalit Modi and Shashi Tharoor scandal. It's a hundred times more interesting than this drudgery.

My eyes are now off to their next destination. But there is a problem. They need to make a stop. Two pairs of beady eyes are staring right back at me. Maybe if I nod my head and scribble something down in my notebook, I won't be in trouble. Okay, so I may have been saved this time round, but it's time I focused. Concentrate, concentrate! So what diagrams is she drawing on the board? I must copy them down now because the diagrams in the NCERT are too tough. NCERT is so confusing. I cannot fathom why Kapil Sibal has introduced this CCE system. What is CCE? Compulsory - sive Cruel Evaluation? He is going to kill us using his only weapons - NCERT textbooks. Every finger we lift, every word we say, every breath we take is now going to be assessed. Thinking about assessments and grades, I really should pay attention now. Why can't I get my mind to focus? Why am I so distracted?

My eyes have now reached their final destination. Yes, with great effort I have made my eyes look down at my neighbour's notebook, so I can at least copy down some notes. But just look at her handwriting! It is absolutely illegible. Is that an "s" or an "o"? Well obviously it has to be an "s" as food cannot be broken down in your 'otomach'. (chuckle to myself) Ok, since her words are unreadable I might as well ask her what's happening. But just before I can say anything, my ears finally tune into my teacher's voice, "Thank you class" and for the first time I respond, "Thank you ma'am".

-Akhila Khanna

**DON'T MISS:**

- Sports: FIFA World Cup 2010, starting June 11<sup>th</sup>
- Food Festival: Burger Mania at Kitchen, Khan Market - Till May 16<sup>th</sup>
- Exhibition: Indian Factory at Mocha Art House - Till May 29<sup>th</sup>
- Dance: Viennese Waltz Workshop at Club X Cell, GK - Begins May 8<sup>th</sup>

## TIGER STORY

The tiger is the sign of strength and bravery. It is a very majestic and powerful animal. Even though it is fierce and ferocious, it doesn't kill anyone for sport but only as a source of food. It is very royal and grand in appearance. It is a member of the cat family. It is the national animal of India. The species is about 1.5 million years old. Tigers usually live in places close to water and mainly in different types of forests. Normally, tigers feed on larger and medium sized animals like sambar, gaur, wild boar, water buffalo, monkeys etc. Tigers usually hunt at night and generally alone. While they are hunting, they prefer to bite the throat and use their forelimbs to hold on to the prey. Tigers have great leaping ability and have been known to take leaps of upto ten metres. Now- adays the tiger is a very threatened species. "Project Tiger" was initiated in India in 1972 to protect the Bengal Tigers. The project aims at tiger conservation throughout India. It was launched in 1973 in the Corbett National Park. My contribution is to spread the awareness to conserve our tigers. I would also like to make many posters and put them all over to tell as many people as possible to conserve our tigers. I will also tell my family and friends not to buy animal fur because that kills the animals and you spend so much money just to kill animals. If I ever see anyone killing any tigers, I will quickly go to them and stop them as fast as I can.

**Sukhman Singh Dhingra V- B**

## THE DARK WORLD

A world not so bright  
A world without light  
Can you imagine the horror  
Of a world without sight?  
No sun shining bright in your eyes  
No vision of colourful dyes  
I would be so sad and gloomy  
If I couldn't see the flowers blooming.  
No sight of lovely spring days  
My life would like an unsolved maze  
The days would pass in a lustre less haze  
Where my ears would be tuned to the sound of the softest graze!  
But, despite the dark, dark world,  
The spirit to live will always be there...  
To hear, To feel, To touch, To heal, To share  
With the warmth of friends and family who care.

**Manya Berry V- A**

## चतुर कौआ और चालाक लोमड़ी

गर्मी का मौसम था। भूख और प्यास से व्याकुल एक कौआ पानी की खोज में धरती पर उतरा। अचानक उसे पानी से भरा घड़ा दिखा। पानी पीते - पीते कौए को घड़े के नज़दीक रोटी पड़ी नज़र आई। उसने झट से रोटी को मुँह में रखा और एक पेड़ की डाली पर जाकर बैठ गया। पेड़ के नीचे से एक लोमड़ी गुज़र रही थी। कौए के मुँह में रोटी देखकर लोमड़ी बोली "कौए भाई, शाम के समय आपके मधुर स्वर में गाना सुनने का मन कर रहा है।" कौए को चालाक लोमड़ी की बात अटपटी लगी। उसने कुछ सोचकर रोटी को अपने पंजे के नीचे दबा लिया। कौए ने इतनी बेसुरी और भददी आवाज़ में गाना गाया कि लोमड़ी के कान फटने ही वाले थे। कौए की चतुराई की वजह से उसकी रोटी लोमड़ी को नहीं मिल पाई। वाह! चतुर कौआ!

**आनिरुद्ध कौशिक तीन अ**

## TEN REASONS WHY I CAN'T WRITE A POEM

I give up!  
I cannot write a poem  
I twisted my wrist  
And anyway what's so great about writing a poem?  
I don't have any pencils  
There are many more important things to do.  
My dog ate up the paper I was using  
I have to go for cricket practice now  
I think children should spend their childhood playing  
I also think homework should be banned so we don't have to write poetry  
Children feel threatened by demands such as writing poems  
There are no words good enough for me to rhyme.

**Sumer Grewal IV- C**



We loved cutting sandwiches into shapes because at home I am not allowed to make them.

**Ishika Singh I-C**

I made Shape sandwiches for the first time.

**Arshya Gaur I- C**

I love butter and had put lots of it in my star sandwich.

**Prithvi Mehta I-C**

## NUMBER RIDDLE

I am a **three digit** number.  
The number in the **tens house** is the **sum** of the numbers in the hundreds house and the number in the ones house.  
The number in the **ones house** is a **number less** than the number in the hundreds place.  
The **sum** of all three numbers is 14.

**Arusha Nirvan III- C**

Ans.  
473

## Celebrating "Shapes Week" FDN- Class II



## IAGO



He personifies evil,  
 Manipulation.  
 Wicked has found his face.  
 Malevolence running through his veins.  
 Anger and jealousy  
 Took over his mind,  
 The day Othello  
 Named Cassio his lieutenant.  
 Vindictive ever since,  
 Ready to ruin the happiness  
 Of those who took his,  
 Plotting and planning horrendous sins.  
 To deceive Othello,  
 Claim his lovely wife unfaithful,  
 Disturb the peace of his marriage,  
 And accuse the honest Cassio.  
 So viscous,  
 Causing the death of others  
 Without blinking an eye,  
 Nor the slightest poke at his conscience.  
 He has deceived every,  
 Caught them in all in his convoluted web of  
 trickery,  
 Manipulating them all,  
 Feigning honesty and sincerity.  
 Perspicaciously belies the face of the honest,  
 Ruins the peace of the ingenuous,  
 He's wicked and angry,  
 And his obsession with revenge has taken over his  
 sanity.

- Tanvi Tandan

## SCARS

In the hollows of her eyes,  
 The ghost of her past cries.  
 Her skin - peaked...  
 Despair into it seeped.  
 Fiery hues,  
 Look within them, lye the blues.  
 She stands there, silent, numb,  
 Frail, to pain she succumbs.  
 Anger rips across her frame,  
 Tearing through, bursting up into a flame.  
 Wasting away,  
 Crumbling, she hopes it won't delay.  
 Her body, scarred,  
 Her thoughts with fury charred.  
 Her heart parched with pain,  
 Barely lives...there is no rain.  
 Wherever she goes,  
 It finds her, inside her it flows.  
 She basks in her imperfection,  
 Eaten away, she wants no direction.  
 She plays with anger,  
 Silence is her friend...  
 Like the rays of the black sun they linger,  
 Her life with pain they hinder.  
 She welcomes them, with arms wide open,  
 They cling to her; she saves them in her bosom.  
 She sits there, her thoughts they churn.  
 Silent wails, there, she burns.



-Sharanya Thakur

## THE BET

It rained down hard on the streets of Dublin and the fog hung in the cold winter air. Only street lamps lit the dark and empty road. I could still remember the great times we had and the last words he said to me before that fateful night. The night of his accident. I waited there at the corner of O' Connelly's Lane for the bus to arrive, just thinking... remembering my long lost friend. A voice called out to me, "Laddy, you goin to Lutyen's Square?" "Yes", I replied and got into the bus, leaving my best friend's resting place, 'Saint Patrick's Home Abode', behind me. The bus was empty, well almost; an old lady sat in one corner seat. She seemed scared of me; it may have been my black hat and grey overcoat, making me look like an agent from Scotland Yard. So I found a seat close to the door and placed myself there. The bus would take about forty minutes to home, giving me ample time to reminisce about my long lost friend or get some much-required sleep.

It had been a good five years or so since I first met Rodger O'Henry. He was a fun loving guy, cared more for his friends than himself and yet only had a few. Rodge (that's what I would call him) and I were closer to each other than to our parents. An unbreakable bond. However that was soon to end. Rodge really fancied a girl at school, Lora Robinson. In case you're wondering how a British girl came into this story, it was because we both studied at University College London or U.C.L as it's known to many. Rodge fancied Lora and her him but if you knew Rodge like I did you would know that he was too shy to ask her out on a date. Once on Saint Patrick's Day, he was too shy to ask the bartender for a pint because she was sitting there and he didn't want to make a fool of himself by saying something stupid. But he was one heck of a great guy and I wanted to help him.

Which is when I dared him to ask Lora out to dinner.

It was Saint Patrick's Day once again and the green Irish festivities seemed to linger in the air. It was decided. If he did it Rodge would get my 'Leprechaun Louie' hat and if he didn't he would buy me a pint. Yes, the stakes were childish, but it was a chance to see whether Rodge could finally face his fears. If you're wondering why I said fears, it was because Lora was the Dean's daughter and if she took it the wrong way he could get expelled. So no pressure!

We met up at my house and decided to hit the bars early, as he knew he wouldn't be able to go in a normal state of mind. We had spent a good hour there when we came across Lora. It was the moment of truth, but, as expected, he chickened out. I laughed and asked, "Where's my pint?" when I heard the last thing I expected to. He turned around and yelled out to her as she walked away, "Lora! Lora Robinson! Would you find the time in your busy schedule to go out to dinner with me?" She said nothing, just stopped and turned around with a puzzled look on her face. As she began to walk away Rodge looked sadder than I had ever seen him before until he heard those five words that put him on top of the moon, "Pick me up at eight" she yelled back and walked away.

"Rodge you'd better hurry up or you'll get late." It was seven thirty. Half an hour from the happiest moment of his life. "How do I look?" asked Rodge. It was the first time he had worn a tuxedo in his life, and it looked good on him. "Great. Now get a move on!" "Hey do you need me there? 'Cause we could double date if you want" (yup, I had a date too) "Nope. This time I'm on my own" he said as he walked out.

I woke up the next morning late for college. Yup, I was dead. But when I got there I wasn't the only one who had overslept. I saw Lora walking in with a cast on her arm and stitches on her forehead. She burst into tears the second she saw me, and that's when I realized something was wrong. I comforted her as she told me about everything that happened. The nervous wait before the date, the romantic dinner and the fiery car crash on the way back home. It was sad but true. My best friend was no more. I was frustrated and in disbelief. I walked around in circles and punched the wall closest to me. She stopped me before I seriously hurt myself. I felt no pain, even as the blood trickled down my now red hand, but only sorrow, one feeling that could not be taken away. Tears rolled down my cheeks and on to my chin, tears of frustration, tears of the pain of losing your best friend, tears for Rodge. All I could remember was hearing him say, "Nope. This time I'm on my own"

Rodge's grave became smaller and smaller in the distance, and those last few words were echoing in my head while I tried to shut my eyes and sleep...

- Ashrant Kohli

## THE LILITH FAIR – 2010

The Lilith fair, also known as the 'Girlapalooza', an exclusive All-girls tour that existed between 1997 and 1999. It managed to raise over \$10M for women's charities, and is now all set to make its comeback in 2010! It will travel across Britain and North America from Sunday, June 27th to Monday August 16th. The line-up reads like a 'Who's Who of barrier-smashing pioneers and genre-bending newcomers'; with well-known artists including Rihanna, Mary J. Blige, Kelly Clarkson, Gossip, Corinne Bailey Rae, Selena Gomez, Colbie Caillat, Miranda Lambert, Janelle Monae, A Fine Frenzy, Ingrid Michaelson, and some second timers like Indigo Children and Tegan & Sara, and the inevitable, Sarah McLachan.



McClachan, the initial creator of the fair, along with Dan Fraser, Terry McBride and Marty Diamond in 1997, is all set to get the show on the road, and probably to sing her hit single 'Angel' at every show (as she did the last time). In 1996, the Canadian singer became frustrated with the attitude of concert promoters who were against featuring two female musicians in a row. The first show consisted of performances by the founders, Paula Cole, Lisa Loeb and Michelle McAdorey (of Crash Vegas) hosted in McClachan's hometown of Halifax, Nova Scotia. She named the tour Lilith, after the woman who was allegedly Adam's first wife in the medieval Jewish legend.

This tour was a 'celebration of women artists.' Siblings Tegan and Sara Quinn find it a regular part of their music career. Tegan said that even though they played in one show, on the smallest stage, on a cold rainy day, "it continues to come up in almost every interview and is something we honestly look back on as a very important event in our career." "I am excited to be part of a tour that celebrates and acknowledges talented women from all genres of music, and am so proud to have the opportunity to join the prestigious line up of past female artists who have performed on Lilith Fair," gushed Miranda Lambert, first-timer in this festival. Sara Bareilles is still pinching herself, trying to believe that 'all of this isn't just a dream.'

With the aim to further empower women throughout North America this tour is ready to take on the world.

-Pia Kochar

## VVIQ

We asked the students and teachers of Vasant Valley School what they think the 'Butterfly Effect' is. Here are some of the answers we got:

*Mrs. Nitya Ram* - If a butterfly flutters its wings in one place, its effect is felt all over the world (with a look of triumph), am I right?

*Nehal Swaroop* - When a butterfly goes somewhere, like , the effect it like leaves.

*Rhea Jain* - When someone gives you a butterfly kiss, the feeling you get.

*Pia Chatterjee* - When you get butterflies in your stomach.

*Zara Adil* - The happy feeling you get when see a butterfly and go run after it.

*Harkirat Badal* - Isn't it like, when the butterflies go extinct?

*Udai Chawla* - An effect where thousands of butterflies surround you.

*Shreya Chadha* - the feeling I get in my stomach, the tingly-ish one.

The butterfly effect is a metaphor that expresses the concept of sensitive dependence on the initial conditions. Small differences in the initial condition of a dynamic system (like a human being) may produce large variations in the long term behaviour of the system. The concept of the butterfly effect is frequently referred to in popular culture in terms of the novelty of a minor change in circumstances causing a large change in outcome.

## NOT THE ONES WHO ARE MEANT TO FOLLOW

One of the last and most eagerly awaited musicals to hit Broadway, "American Idiot", made its debut in April 2010. Featuring hit songs written together by Billie Joe Armstrong, Mike Dirnt and Tre Cool, as well as intriguing and somewhat mysterious characters (including one called "Whatsername"), *American Idiot* explores themes such as the miserable life in American suburbs, drugs, love, relationships, and most importantly, spreads the controversial message of one of our generation's most popular anthems. The punk stylings of Green Day are entwined with all the scenes in the story, being the most apt for the musical owing to the band's focus on a wide range of subjects like the power of the youth, rebellion, drugs, American society, politics and change.

The story is based on three twenty-something friends, Johnny, Willy and Tunny who together share the agony of life in Jingtowntown, the writer's answer to the concept of 'Suburbia'. Their lives finally diverge when they decide to take a trip to the city with the rest of the 'bored youth' of their town, and Willy finds out his girlfriend is pregnant and stays back to support her. Johnny and Tunny go to the city, but soon after, Tunny decides to enlist for the army when he comes to the realization that his generation is completely dumbed-down by television and nothing can excite him anymore.

Johnny is left alone in the city, and the story begins to take us through his experiments with heroin, sex, and finally a raging addiction. He is soon made to realize by his girlfriend that the drugs were just his route to unleashing his anger at his parents and the establishment, and decides to clean up and go back to Jingtowntown, finally admitting that his life has been reduced to nothing. The show closes with Johnny lamenting at the loss of the only love of his life, his girlfriend from the city, "Whatsername".

Soon after its debut, the show has been described as 'invigorating' and 'moving', and has already received multiple award nominations. Following in the footsteps of huge hits like *Mamma Mia!* and *Across the Universe*, it features a brilliant cast and onstage band, recreating some of Green Day's greatest, including Jesus of Suburbia, Give me Novocaine, 21 Guns and Good Riddance, now leading the band to consider a movie version of "American Idiot".

- Noor Singh 12 A

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