

Vasant Valley

March, 2013

T O D A Y

SCHOOL WATCH

1st Team Tennis Inter School Tournament at Modern School, Vasant Vihar
Under 14 boys team comprising of Utkarsh Hora, Shaurya Vardhan Singh, Angad Dev Musafir and Hung Jun Chang won the 2nd place
English Loud Reading Competition- Class-5
1st - Nirvair Singh, Manya Malhotra and Esha Varma
2nd - Ananya Roach, Devaki Jayal, Nehmat Mann and Jai Kapoor
3rd - Aryaman Kapur, Armaan Gandhi, Armaan Dube and Naira Chopra



CONGRATULATIONS!!

The Tragedy of Afzal Guru

On the banks of the River Jhelum is a small town by the name of Supore. Insignificant until now, it was home to a youth, Afzal Guru.

At the tender age of 10, Afzal lost his father. This loss inspired him to make something of himself; to chart a new course for himself and his family. A small town boy, he desired to be a doctor. When he passed the entrance exam for Medical College, the whole town celebrated. His father used to lovingly call him 'doctor' as a child, and it was his dream for his son.

Around the house Afzal would willingly help his mother with daily chores, all the while making sure not to neglect his studies. His teachers, friends and family paint a vivid image, poles apart from the one we all have witnessed. His professor at Medical College fondly reminisces about guru as being jovial and loving.

He was to bring name and fame to Supore...

December 13, 2001. *Five gunmen infiltrate Parliament House. 18 injured, 5 policemen killed along with Parliament security guards. The ministers and MPs escape unhurt. The mastermind behind this attack, a man named Afzal Guru. At the end of a 5 year trial he was convicted by the Supreme Court and sentenced to death.*

8th February, 2013. *Afzal Guru is hanged*

The Kashmir Valley mourns the death of this 'martyr' while the rest of the country believes a terrorist has served his sentence. The tragedy of Afzal Guru has breathed new life into the debate on capital punishment and its disregard of basic human values. The family including his young son was not allowed to see him for the last time.

"His last words to his son Ghalib echoed those which his father had spoken to him on his death bed; 'Go on for higher studies, make a man of yourself and always stand by your mother.'

Let Ghalib's journey be nothing like that of his father."

It is believed by many, that Afzal Guru never got a fair trial and the judgment was presumptuous, based on circumstantial evidence. Moreover, it was nothing but political opportunism by the Congress; to appease the Hindus and also the Hindutva lobby within the party, before the oncoming 2014 elections.

However, others argue that "a terrorist convicted by the Supreme Court for the attack on the sanctum of Indian democracy, has been executed." There should be faith in the Indian Judicial System and its verdict regarding the issue. The facts against Afzal Guru are hard hitting and the evidence overwhelming. Furthermore it has been suggested that those caught red-handed in acts of violence and convicted by a judicial system in which we have faith do not have an impregnable right to 'tenderness'.

In my opinion, even if he had been incarcerated in a cell for life instead of being hanged, his life would still have ended in a sense. Afzal's tale is the tragedy of so many other young boys whose minds are seized and influenced into subversion.

Supore and its adjoining areas have become a strong base for militants from Pakistan, Afganistan and Sudan. They lure the youth with lucre and rhetoric, proudly displaying weapons seized by them in encounters with Indian security forces. This paves the way for the obsession with becoming a Mujahideen and Afzal too fell prey.

His last words to his son Ghalib echoed those which his father had spoken to him on his death bed; "To go on for higher studies, make a man of himself and always stand by his mother"

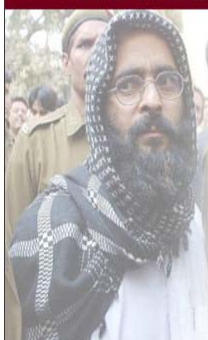
Let Ghalib's journey be nothing like that of his father.

Mallika Kishore, 11



'Afzal Guru: Justice served or Political tool?'

WAS AFZAL GURU'S FAMILY INFORMED?



FAMILY

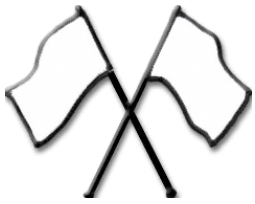
We got no letter regarding the execution.

Let the Govt show us the proof.

DG, PRISONS

Letter sent through Speed Post on Feb 6

We have the Speed Post receipt.



Inter House Track



'The Oath'



'Medalists of the Class 11 & 12 100 mts Race: Perfectly at Home'

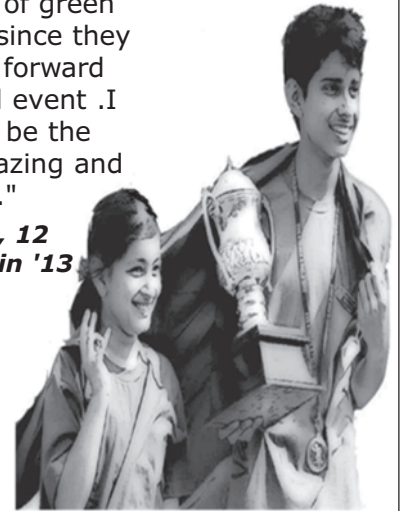
Abhishek Dhawan of Class 12 (Games Captain '13) made Vasant Valley history with a record 100 mts timing of 11.68 seconds. How did it feel?

"Its the best end to 10 years of running on Sports Day. I hope the record remains unbeaten for a while, but when it's finally broken I hope its by someone from Blue."

And for the third year in a row, Green House takes the cup.

"Every single member of green house deserved to win since they all put their best foot forward regardless of class and event .I feel honoured to the be the Captain of such an amazing and talented house."

**-Mrudang Mathur, 12
Green House Captain '13**



One Last Time

The Inter House Track and Field Meet has been the one thing I've looked forward to every year. Every single student cheering, screaming and all hoping for the same thing (victory for their house). Cheering during the march past, screaming when we'd win a race and running the victory lap when we'd win are all memories that I cherish.

The feeling of standing on top of that victory stand is great, but it is the adrenaline rush and the long journey to achieve that spot that I will sorely miss. The feeling when the wind blows in your face and you can suddenly hear your house cheering when you finish the curve of the 200m race, the joy experienced when you find out your position and the cheers you hear for you are just some of the things that make this day special.

Abhishek Dhawan, 12

*Ransher Manhas
Athlete of the Year '13*



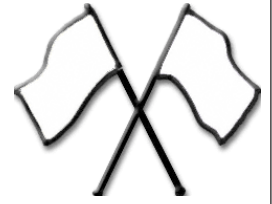
*Jaahnavee Venkatraman
Gold Medalist, High Jump*

*Pia Kochar
Games Vice-Captain '13*



*Abhishek Dhawan
Games Captain '13*

& Field Meet '13



WHICH HOUSE DO YOU ACTUALLY BELONG TO?

RED
YELLOW
Blue
Green

Q1. You found the answers to a test, what do you do?

- a) Be a goody two shoes and give it to the teacher
- b) Keep the answers, take it home and not tell anyone
- c) Share them with your bff's under a solemn oath
- d) Be a knight in shining armour and tell everyone in your class to keep them from failing

Q2. What is your role as an onlooker on sports day?

- a) Try to keep up the house spirit despite the knowledge that it is pointless to do so
- b) Yell, shriek and scream and beat up the members of houses who beat yours
- c) Try to get everyone in your house to cheer despite their obvious disinterest
- d) Convince yourself and others that you will try coming third this year

Q3. You just found out that your house lost, how do you react?

- a) In the same way as last year; it's become a ritual now
- b) Go around telling everyone that it doesn't matter because you're the best anyway
- c) Start shedding tears of unhappiness because your beloved house didn't succeed
- d) Smile at everyone and think, "Atleast we tried!"

Q4. Your friends are in different houses; how do you treat them on sports day?

- a) I do my best to spend all my time with them so I can spend as much time as possible away from my house
- b) Glare at them and give them dirty looks. They're your enemy as far as today is concerned..
- c) What friends? You don't have any friends in the other houses
- d) Talk and giggle with them but then secretly plot revenge behind their backs.

Mostly A's - Yellow: You are used to failing and will do anything to prove to anyone who looks your way that you're admirable. Though you pretend in front of other members of your house that you love it, you secretly don't want to be associated with it at all. It's certain that your luck will change in the future but for now, sit back and enjoy fourth place.

Mostly B's - Blue: For you, winning isn't everything, it's the only thing. Medals don't mean anything to you unless they're gold and just participating might as well be suicide. Aggression and competition come to you so naturally it's almost terrifying and you'll do whatever it takes to get yourself standing on that No. 1 podium. While you might not win the race, you get an A+ for sportsman spirit!

Mostly C's - Green: You are known for being a groupie and your life revolves around your house. It is very important to you and you would give your life to defend its pride. Relax, it's not the end of the world if you come second in relay.

Mostly D's - Red: "jitega bhaj jitega red house jitega!" say it a few more times and maybe you'll believe it. You belong to the almost house. You're not quite as good as blue or green yet you're not quite as pathetic as yellow. So keep painting those ridiculous red hearts on your faces. It's... cute?

Aakanksha Jadhav, 11

Inayat Gill

Athlete of the Year '13



The Last Word - Batch of 2014



Sharanya Thakur - It was amazing even though I felt a bit sad when I saw the oath for the last time.

Anjani Gupta - It was an overwhelming day, but I think we made the most of it. Even though we may not have won Blue is still the best house ever!

Saumya Goel - I'd always dreamed of leading the march past and when it finally actually happened this year it felt amazing.

Sanjna Surya - I was emotional because it was the last Sports day but I think the one thing I'll miss most is Mr Pande's commentary.

Dhruv Mishra - Its difficult to pin point one feeling because there were so many but I'm definitely going to miss it..

Namrata Narula - Yellow may never win on Sports day but our spirit is amazing and that is what makes us special.

Abhishek Dhawan - 10 years of competing on Sports Day ended with one memorable sprint. That moment was indescribable.

Winter Woes

Winter is just so cold,
Dripping roses, chattering teeth,
Woollens covering me completely,
I can hardly see my feet.
Winter morning are so foggy,
I feel lazy to get out of bed,
I hate going outside,
I want to cover my head.
Winter makes me sad because I
can't swim,
I can't enjoy ice – cream,
Mom says, " No cold drinks",
Shorter playing hours make me
scream.
Winter is difficult for the poor,
They face the chill without a home,
Freezing water, no food, no clothes...
Lets all lend a hand and not leave
them alone.

Armaan Singh V - A

I have many winter woes
And I shall tell you some of those
It's too cold to play outside
And it feels like North Pole even inside.
Heavy woollens that weigh you down
Which sometimes make you look
like a clown!
Can't have cold drinks and ice – cream
Winter is worse than a bad dream
Always have colds and nasty flu
Oh! It makes me so blue
Wounds take longer to heal
And horrible is what I feel
I have many more winter woes
But it might be an over dose
So I have only one thing to say
Winter winter go away!

Tia Goculdas V - A



'Me... Myself'

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Class I - B

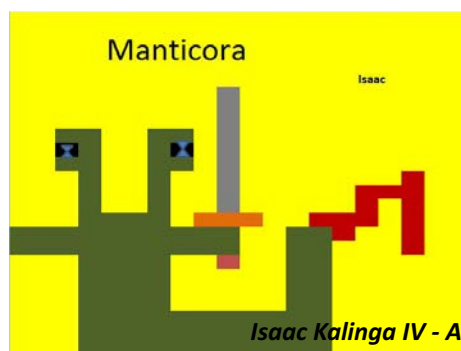
Pets Matter

I had a pet who died when he was just five years old. We played with a ball and had a lot of fun. I took him for a walk and I used to feed him. We both slept together. When I came back from school he used to jump on me and I would give him a bath. We enjoyed all that we did. He died in my grandmother's garden and lay there like a statue. I will not forget him all my life. I wish he comes to life.

Armaan D' Rozario IV - A

I have a dog, his name is Pop. He plays with me with a red colour ball. He jumps with me and on me. He goes for a walk with me. I have a fish also; my dog guards the house and the fish because when a cat comes, it can eat the fish. Oh! I forgot to tell you the name of my fish here, it's Tiger. Tiger and Pop are friends. That's why Pop guards Tiger. Every day when I come home Pop jumps on me and Tiger claps and smiles. I have very good pets!

Harsh Verma IV - A



'Math Art' Using Microsoft Excel



Nikita Gupta and Shyla Khattar IV - C

वाह! मेरी प्रकृति

वाह। प्रकृति तुम कितनी सुंदर हो! इतनी सारी चीज है पर मैं समुद्र के बारे में लिखूंगी। समुद्र के किनारे जब भी मैं बैठती हूँ तो सोचने लगती हूँ कि वाह प्रकृति आपने कितनी खूबसूरत चीजों का आविष्कार किया है। मुझे तो सिर्फ समुद्र के किनारे कूदना अच्छा लगता है। छोटी बड़ी सीपियाँ इकट्ठा करना मुझे पसंद है। वाह। प्रकृति आप तो सबसे अच्छी हो। धन्यवाद।

अनाहित बिंद्रा पाँच व

बर्फ की चोटी

नियंता ने बहुत कुछ बनाया है। उसमें से मुझे बर्फ की चोटी सबसे ज्यादा पसंद है। मैं चाहती हूँ कि मैं बर्फ की चोटी से प्रतिपल खेलूँ और वहाँ रहूँ। मुझे बर्फ के गोले बनाकर एक दूसरे पर फेंकना बहुत अच्छा लगता है। सर्दी के मौसम में जब मैं विदेश जाती हूँ और बर्फ गिरती है तो मैं बर्फ में खेलने जाती हूँ। जब मैं बर्फ के साथ खेलती हूँ मुझे परियों के साथ खेलने जैसा लगता है।

श्रीप्रिया जिन्दल पाँच स

The 'Little Verditer Flycatcher' Caught In A Storm

It was a cloudy afternoon in Sydney. The radio of the ship glider on the ocean, crackled to the coast guard, "Cyclone ahead!". The coast guard got worried. When the life guard came in his cabin with 'Little Verditer Flycatcher', he asked the coast guard, "Why are you worried?" The coast guard replied that a cyclone was going to hit Sydney at night at about half past nine. Suddenly the 'Little Verditer Flycatcher' saw a fly and flew and ate it. At 9:00 p.m while the flycatcher was finding food for his chicks, the cyclone hit the coast. As the cyclone moved forward destruction spread through the city. The 'Verditer Flycatcher' had detected danger but didn't know what to do. Then the cyclone came to that part of the city where the 'Verditer Flycatcher' was and blew him away. The next morning all the trees had fallen and everything was damaged

Jehan Vir Singh Bhandal III - A



Daaniyal Khizer III - B

VVIQ



Science Day is coming up. So, our question was, What is Fulgurite?

"Something to do with phlegm?" -Sharanya Thakur, 12 (Head Girl's words of wisdom)

"An apple" - Raghav Taneja, 6

"Some sort of 'Kaamya-ology', mujhe nahi pata." - Mr. Trivedi

"A giant flake of dandruff" - Vatan Singh Rajan, 10

"Abhi kuchh nahi. Mere paas time nahi hai." - Sister

"Someone with a mushroom on their head. Because fulgur sounds like fungus." - Arnav Nath, 12

"Something, which is ugly. You know, FUGLY. Like, REALLY UGLY." - Anjani Gupta, 12

"Those little things, which come on my burger!!! The little dots! Do you know what I'm saying? They're SMALL!! AND THEY ARE ON MY BURGER!!" - Kimberly Ireland, 11 (she meant sesame seeds)

"A vulgar parasite" - Aisha Dev, 11

"A type of dinosaur" - Jaya Kang, 11

"Figurites, figurites! There's no such thing as fulgurites! It's figurites! What are you saying...?" - Ms. Dutta

Answer: Fulgurite, also known as *fossilized lightning* is a natural hollow glass tube which is formed in sand when lightning strikes. Red hot lightning instantaneously melts the silica in the ground and fuses the grains together. This process takes no more than about one second, and the cooled product is Fulgurite.

Somebody Seems Sleepy

Here's proof that YOU are sleep deprived. Here's why YOU should be concerned. Here's what YOU can do.

How many of you walk into school cursing teachers for stealing your night's sleep by setting super hard homework questions or a test you're sure you will flunk? Or did you stay up till four am last night trying to figure out how Eddy Currents work or the sub-types of Schizophrenia? With the Board exams around the corner, all-nighters become a common occurrence.



But it's time to put that to an end. All those sleepless nights do more than add to your dark circles. You've all experienced lethargy and a lack of motivation, but you should know that you're not just lazy individuals - the cause extends beyond psychology and into biology.

Sleep deprivation is the state of not getting adequate sleep over an extended period of time. Insufficient levels of sleep for a high school student are less than six to eight hours a night.

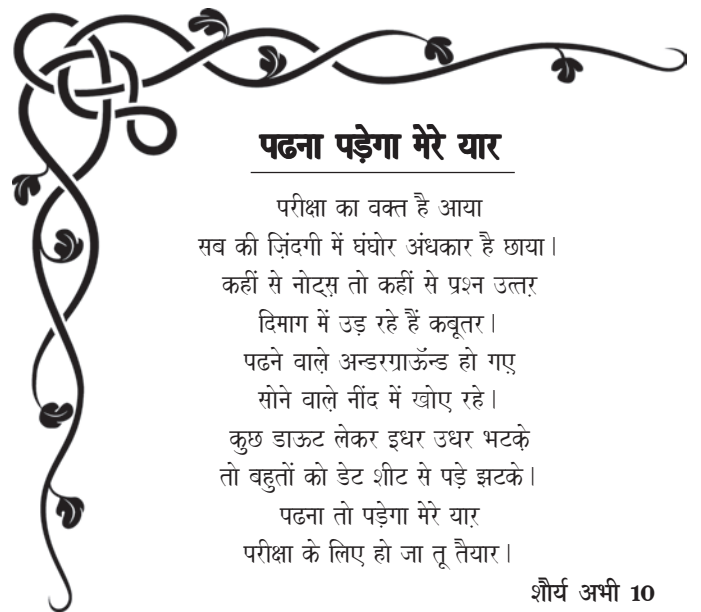
"With the Board exams around the corner, all-nighters become a common occurrence, but it's time to put that to an end."

Sleep debt is like a bank account - the hours accumulate every night until the mantra "Drowsiness is red alert" reaches a critical level. However, you can only make up for recent lack of sleep, tracing back to a few weeks. The rest of it presents itself as obesity or heart diseases later in life. And sadly a large percentage of adolescents are estimated to be sleep deprived.

Unfortunately, sleep deprivation impacts your general level of functioning and focus severally. This will not only affect your cognitive functioning for school projects, but also impact your alertness while, say, driving a car. Still not convinced? Okay, have you ever PMS-ed at the wrong time, or felt you may have Bipolar Mood Disorder? Good news is that your endocrine system is protected. Bad news is that you have a large sleep debt. Are you blaming your excessive gain of weight on unnecessary snacking? Time to accuse your sleep-deprived physical impulses that also cause a lack of coordination. The worst, however, is the ever-increasing population of students complaining of migraines, most of which are falsely diagnosed sleep debt issues.

Advika Gupta
Stanford University, Class of 2016

Advika is an esteemed alumna of Vasant Valley School. If you'd like to read her paper on Sleep Deprivation, please check the school website.



पढना पड़ेगा मेरे यार

परीक्षा का वक्त है आया
सब की ज़िंदगी में घंघोर अंधकार है छाया।
कहीं से नोट्स तो कहीं से प्रश्न उत्तर
दिमाग में उड़ रहे हैं कवूतर।
पढने वाले अन्दरगाऊँड हो गए
सोने वाले नींद में खोए रहे।
कुछ डाऊट लेकर इधर उधर भटके
तो बहुतों को डेट शीट से पड़े झटके।
पढना तो पड़ेगा मेरे यार
परीक्षा के लिए हो जा तू तैयार।

शौर्य अभी 10

जब मैने हार नहीं मानी



खेल के आखिरी क्षण बचे थे. मुझे उत्साहित करने के लिए सारे दर्शक विल्ला रहे थे। मेरे दिमाग मे केवल मैच का स्कोर घूम रहा था. हम अपने प्रति दृन्दी से एक अन्क पीछे थे। मुझे आभास हो रहा था कि मेरे बाकी साथी वुरी तरह से थक चुके थे अब सब कुछ मुझ पर निर्भर था। मेरा शरीर थक चुका था किसी भी समय मै कोर्ट पर गिर सकती थी।

परन्तु मैने हिम्मत नहीं हारी...

मुझे इस आखरी मैच को जीतना ही था यह प्रतियोगिता का सबसे जरूरी मैच था। हमारी टीम हमेशा इस ही स्कूल से हारती थी। अब 2 मिनट बचे थे हमे एक वास्किट करनी थी। दूसरी टीम ने हमारे हर खिलारी को गार्ड कर रखा था। जैसे ही मुझे बोल मिली मै सारी दुनिया को भुला के तीव्र गती से भागी। मैने न दाए देखा न बाए मेरे नजर मे सिर्फ वास्किट था और दिमाग मे टरोफी।

मैने एक वास्किट कर दी और तभी खेल के समाप्त होने की सीटी बज गई। मै सन्तुष्टि की राहत लेते हुए कोर्ट पर थक कर गिर परी। तभी मेरे सारे टीम खिलारी मुझ पर कूद परे। हम मैच व प्रतियोगिता जीत चुके थे। हार न मारने का फल सच मे मीठा होता है।

पश्या लोचन. 9



Letter to the Editor

Dear Namrata,

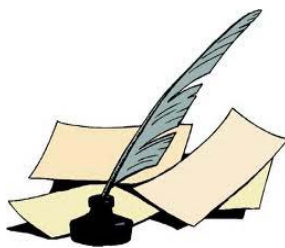


When I first assumed leadership of the twenty entertainingly eccentric, yet impressively capable members of the Editorial Board, I was petrified. More so, because I pictured an Editor as an overworked superhuman yelling for articles, working on Saturdays, attacking the keyboard and obsessively screening for errors. I saw the last year of my school life drowning before it even began. Except, it didn't. Becoming Editor transformed me, motivated me to challenge myself to be able to do everything within my reach to the best of my abilities. Yes, being Editor made me experience a world of terror over any potential spelling error or blurred picture. But being Editor made me proud nevertheless, as I picked up a copy of Vasant Valley Today with utmost satisfaction every fortnight. Yes, being Editor made me chase writers from classes six to twelve incessantly, but it also gave me the most treasured opportunity to interact with them on a regular basis. It's a priceless feeling, being Editor. So don't let your fears overpower your passion for the job.

"Be committed enough to report what needs to be known, voice opinions which need to be heard. Make this truly your year."

The Newsletter is meant to be the voice of Vasant Valley School. So make it. Make every issue count. Be inspired enough to introduce something new, something exciting to appeal to the reader, and be committed enough to report what needs to be known, voice opinions which need to be heard and represent every element of our Vasant Valley family. Make this truly your year.

Don't attempt the one-man army stunt by solely shouldering the burden of the entire newsletter from start to end. Lead your team of potential editors every Friday in the small computer lab with new ideas and inputs that stir endless discussions. They are very much capable of getting on your nerves, but they're the ones who'll calm



you down too when you need it the most. Guide them, involve them, and include them at every stage. They won't let you down, I promise.

In the process of brain storming ideas, planning layouts, using the dreadful PageMaker, coordinating, compiling, proof reading and finally sending for printing, be sure that in spite of being sure, there will be mistakes. Don't get hassled; accept it and try to make sure you don't repeat it. After all, as Mrs. Kumar says "It's the people who work, who make mistakes. We're not super-humans!" Aim for perfection, but don't be too hard on yourself when you fall short by an inch of a spelling error.

I don't worry about the Newsletter anymore. Not because I'm no longer responsible for the weekly meetings or proof readings, but because I've passed on this baton of an opportunity awaiting to be seized, awaiting to be molded into a legacy. And it being passed onto you, I know it's in good hands :)

Lots of Love, Vandita



THE OSCARS



It's that time of year once again. An evening filled with glamour and allure, dripping with pretention and fake smiles. The Oscars are back with their famous golden man and here's a crash course in proper decorum for every actor, actress, director or random who will be walking that hallowed red carpet this year:

1. Don't chew gum. Like at all. The entire world does not want to see that piece of candy stuck to your teeth. It's unsightly.
2. A note to the ladies: Wear something that isn't a walking disaster. Seriously. You'll be uncomfortable and so will the rest of the world if a wardrobe malfunction occurs on the most

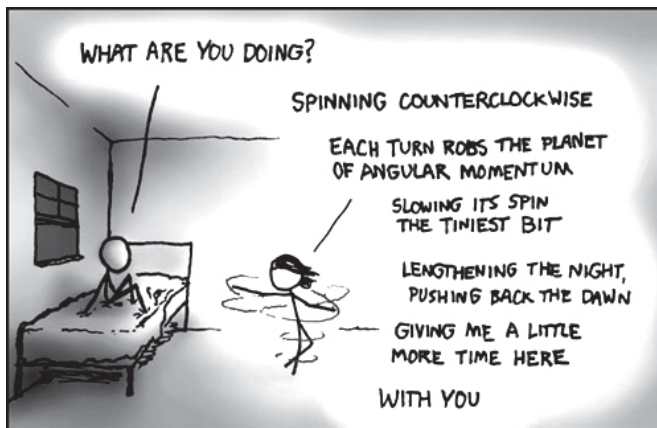
important night of your life.

3. If the camera zooms into your face when they're announcing the nominees, lets hope to god that that carefully orchestrated smile does not turn into a glare if you don't win. That means you Jessica Chastain. Feel free to give Jennifer Lawrence the stink eye when she wins Best Actress in a Leading Role for Silver Linings Playbook. In private.

4. If you can of memorize the dialogues for a movie, it's safe to say that you have the ability to memorize your acceptance speech. Don't flounder through it with awkward jokes. And keep it short. We all know you love your fans and your mother and father and sister. Ain't nobody got time for that. And for heavens sake don't forget to mention the director. That'd just be embarrassing.

5. Do NOT under any circumstances pull a Taylor Swift at the Grammy's after winning your award. It's cool that you won five awards but dropping one of them isn't. It's an OSCAR for crying out loud. Best of luck!

Sarina Mittal, 9



Editorial Board

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