

EDITORIAL

feedback from you all and we'd glad The Roque is something you where pretending to do homework-outs and opening the fridge 200 times are the highlights of most of your days...

For me, I think that peak boredom hit when I found myself reorganising the cutlery drawer a few weeks ago, but now I think I'm coming up to the stage where I'm either consumed by work or work is consumed by me. By which I mean, when I'm not going insane doing school work, SAT prep, applying to universities or trying to maintain some grasp on how to communicate with actual humans, I'm so bored, I'm doing chores I didn't know existed. Take steam cleaning the carpets for example. I had to double take when my mom asked me to steam clean my room. What? People actually do that? Aside from the fact that I feel like purposefully covering the carpets in water is weird and wrong and steam cleaning, if ever actually done, should only be done on hard floors; isn't steam cleaning just one of those things that you've seen on those dumb TV commercials at weird hours, meant for pensioners or maybe my dad when it's way past his bed-time but he's glued to the couch and can't find the remote or the will power to get up and change it. Do people actually buy them though? I don't know, but apparently in my house, it's either this, or we're cooking...

You might be thinking, didn't you just write an article about food?

Hello and welcome to the latest Well, yes, but hear me out. My younger selves which I found edition of the Rogue! Lately dad is an Ophthalmologist which we've had a lot of positive means he's an eye surgeon. breaking, Vlada, another one However, in another life, he was of our regulars has given us like to say thank you! We're so some big-time chef with a degree her thoughts on Marvel vs DC. in 'Yelling At His Sous Chef' who Although I respect her opinions look forward to during a time is usually me, and a masters in and she has the right to choose 'Calling People Useless When whichever universe she likes, I They Don't Follow The Instructions He Clearly Explained Through Telepathy'. Anyway, so because my dad's escape from the crazy hospital scene is cooking, the rest of us are trying to escape from him. Don't get me wrong, he's an amazing chef! However, unless my parents are planning on adopting 6 kids I don't know about, it would seem my dad is preparing for a siege.

> I'm trying to convince him to open some sort of restaurant after he's saving lives every day or whatever, but his usual response is, 'stop chewing my brains and go find me the remote'. So, for now, my efforts in finding a home for all this Pad Thai and enchiladas are futile, but if we come out of quarantine and I've gone up a dress size or two, tell me I look good or suffer the consequences!

This week's cover photo is by the talented Alexandra Huggett who has now contributed in more ways than one! Previously, she's written about the beloved Tony Stark and this week she's sharing her thoughts on Capitalism vs Corona. An arts student in the making, I'd say.

Shiraz is back again with his perspective on the 'Greatest Person of All Time', Ms Pringle has given us some more great book recommendations that are sure to make you laugh. Mr Dureau asked his Year 11 students to write a letter to their

both heart-warming and heart will be filing a law suit very soon. Finally, some buddies of mine from Southern California have kindly sent us their perspectives on the current situation.

Happy reading my friends! I hope to see you all on campus very soon. I never thought I'd say this, but I think I'm missing the tram? Or maybe it's just the enchiladas taking their toll...

P.S. If you, or someone you know, regularly steam cleans their carpets, please contact me. I have a multitude of further questions.

> **EDITORS:** Zoya Lulu Kirmani **Ella Westland**

CONTRIBUTORS: Vlada Medvedeva Shiraz Kirmani Alexandra Huggett Mr Dureau Rozhan Hamed Servaise Ratnayake Ms Pringle

> LAYOUT: Ella Westland

COVER ART: Alexandra Huggett (taken before social distancing measures were imposed)

ROGUE NEEDS YOU!

We're looking for contributors, whether that's weekly or just a one off, no journalistic experience is required we're open to all! Please email: 14westlande and 14kirmaniz

BY ZOYA LULU KIRMANI

CAPITALISM VS COVID-19

Ever since capitalism became the dominant This begs the question of how much longer political ideology in the 19th century, a new are we willing to follow an ideology that picks way of life has been established – school until and chooses when to help poor people? Our government's austerity is nonsensical and 18, a degree by 21/22, a career and a nuclear only benefits the self-aggrandising rich. family by 40, and then you work until retirement (if you're not dead by then). However, this ideal has been shown to be unstable, and it's While economists have estimated that been proven that under capitalism a recession coronavirus is going to have a devastating is guaranteed every decade. effect on the economy - Jeff Bezos (CEO of tech giant amazon), is set to become the world's first trillionaire. How did he do this? By profiting off of cheap labour.

So where does COVID-19 come into this?

It's revealed that capitalism's insistence on Capitalism is a grievous parasite that leeches us working ourselves into the grave isn't necessary, and more importantly is avoidable. off the backs of hardworking labourers -Many people have taken to social media to notably immigrants and people of poorer report the effects that quarantine has had on backgrounds. Economic life in a capitalist them, particularly those with mental health system is based on compelling people to go problems or physical disabilities. The flexibility to work and spend their wages, which is a of being able to work from home at a pace vicious cycle of the labourers getting stuck in the blue-collar jobs, and never progressing up that is more suitable to them has increased their productivity, notably because the stress the corporate ladder. of a set timetable is gone.

The Peasants' Revolt that followed the This pandemic has caused a worldwide 14th century Plague ended feudalism; will shutdown. Every business deemed 'non-COVID-19 be the end of capitalism? essential' was subsequently shutdown and 2 million people lost their jobs. Britain has therefore had to create a furlough scheme which will cost around £80 billion to pay workers a substantial amount, and yet 22% (14.66 million) people are below the poverty line. If the government is able to provide £80billion to help stimulate the economy during a pandemic, then why aren't they able to help the poor the other 95% of the time?

Their unwillingness to help the poor, anyone that isn't the 1%, unless it provides them with incentives like labour, has put the spotlight on a fact that we've always known: that capitalism only benefits a select few people, and these people are fine with reaping the benefits as long as their lavish lifestyle remains untouched by the dreadful realities of their heinous actions.



SOCRATES

When I consider the question of who deserves with a question, his answer would always be the title of greatest person in history, I feel the answer depends on the impact of their different from other thinkers and philosophers actions, how their ideas and teachings have because even though they too knew nothing, endured over time and how many people they believe they knew everything. they have affected.

requirements.

teacher and philosopher who lived in Athens. He was born in 470BCE and died in 399BCE at the age of 71 of hemlock poisoning after understand it fully. This pursuit of knowledge being convicted of heresy and of corrupting drives us to learn more, to chase our curiosity, the minds of young Athenians.

He taught other famous philosophers of his time such as Plato who taught Aristotle who went on He was interested in the meaning of life and to tutor Alexander the Great. He is most famous disapproved of the many wars being fought for his contributions to ethics and epistemology. by Athens in its quest for power. He thought It is generally believed that the concept of logic they were a waste. He also disapproved of in western philosophy has its roots in Socrates' teachings. These were based on reason and who were considered of noble spirit, beautiful on questions rather than information and came objects, even foreign coins. He wondered to be known as the Socratic Method. Since what the point of all these things was without the study of logic forms the basis of computer love and happiness. He wanted to figure what programming languages, we could say it meant to live well and die well and thought that Socrates set the training wheels of the a lot about what the right thing to do was. technological revolution in motion because it was his 'grand' student Aristotle who eventually In my opinion, this positive influence on formalised the study of logic and reasoning as humanity, to try to force people to think about it is used today in the study of philosophy, math their actions, makes him the most unique and computer science.

beliefs about the meaning of life. In his for a conversation with Socrates as he had opinion the 'unexamined life is not worth the most creative, open and intelligent mind living.' Wisdom, he says comes from and not because he had solved the equation knowing oneself, working towards a 'good' E = mc2 or invented the lightbulb. He knew life of honour and being true to one's own the extent of his own knowledge and was principles. He also believed that intelligence passionate about asking questions, looking is the ability to admit you know nothing. What for answers. he meant was that he did not pretend to know things and acknowledging his own ignorance He believed in questioning everything down gave him the courage to question others. This to its very core, finding its sole purpose. This attitude opened Socrates' mind to a whole might be why he was so interested in the new world of thinking as when he was faced purpose of life. How do we live a successful

"all I know is that I know nothing". He was

This straightforward process is behind almost I believe Socrates fulfills all three of these all decisions we make in our everyday lives. When learning math, science or English in school, we try to understand how algebra Socrates was an ancient Greek scholar, works, why algebra works and then how to use it for our benefit in life. We try to make the most of each and every discovery and to the same way questioning motivated Socrates to try to understand our true purpose in life.

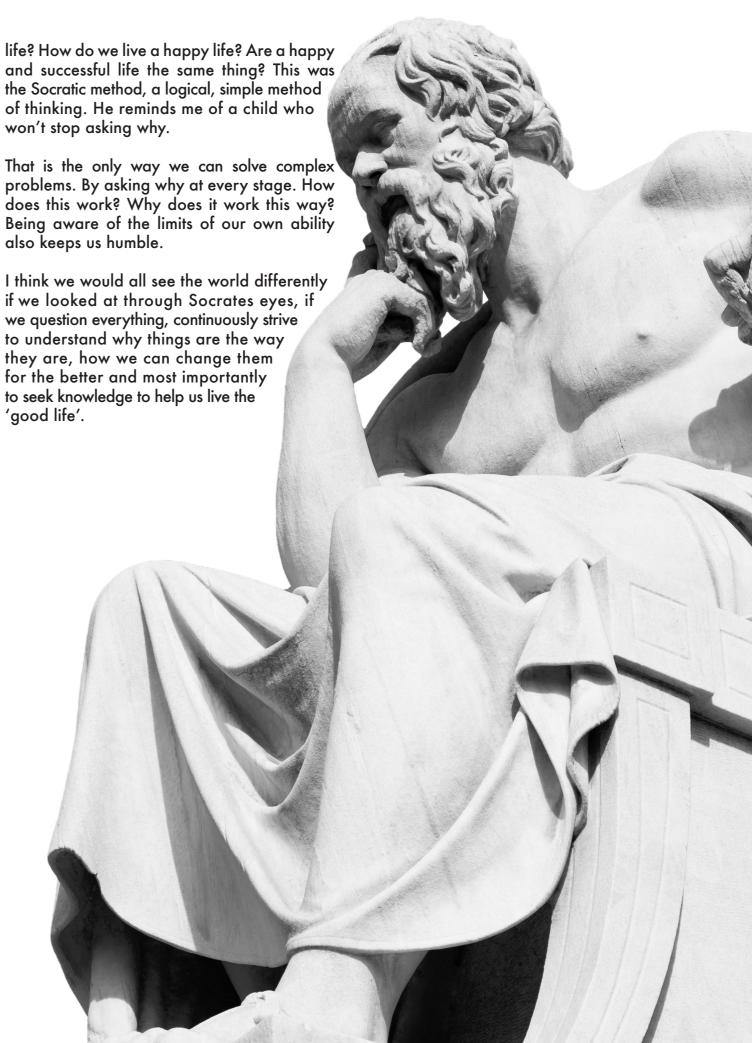
its obsession with beauty. Beautiful people

philosopher and the greatest person of all time. Steve Jobs, the co-founder of Apple, But I am more interested in Socrates strong once said that he'd trade all his technology

and successful life the same thing? This was the Socratic method, a logical, simple method of thinking. He reminds me of a child who won't stop asking why.

problems. By asking why at every stage. How does this work? Why does it work this way? Being aware of the limits of our own ability also keeps us humble.

I think we would all see the world differently if we looked at through Socrates eyes, if we question everything, continuously strive to understand why things are the way they are, how we can change them for the better and most importantly to seek knowledge to help us live the 'good life'.



CHOOSE YOUR FIGHTER

Superheroes weren't my cup of tea when I and superspeed, and perhaps it holds too was younger because I thought it was too many plots in one because of links between unrealistic, however, now I have constant different series and appearances of many evil marathons on Netflix with series like The characters every episode, whereas in Marvel, Flash and Arrow. Though, there has always there is one focus and most of the time one been this massive debate about what is main evil character. better, DC or Marvel, to which I have never paid attention to until recently. I wondered I think I was always into DC because I used to why people had to pick sides and fight for them, but then I found myself more attached to the DC's series and movies, though I never books on my phone. Honestly, I feel that DC understood why.

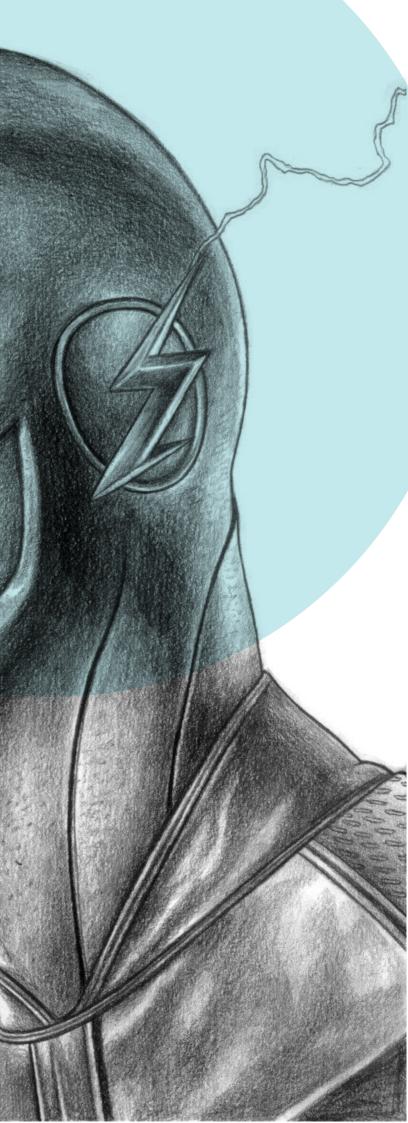
group, and honestly, I met so many people who look down on DC films and series, but I never knew why they just thought Marvel was better without presenting any arguments. Well, I think that Marvel is more emotionally invested and that is why people tend to like in the DC characters, that aspect of their it more, but I find myself hard to concentrate character makes me want to watch it more on these types of films because I get easily because it does not reveal in the space of an distracted, therefore I prefer to watch series hour, it goes as long as the whole season or over movies as it only lasts for 40 minutes even more. and I usually take breaks in between each episode. That way the whole plot lasts longer It's not just in the movies, even in comic books, and each season is related to each other to I think DC is more interesting to even read help us figure out clues about new villains. Considering Marvel content is usually in the form of a movie (which to be honest, I did not watch many, perhaps three to four) I find myself on my phone rather than paying actual attention to the movie, which, admittedly is because I'm not much of a movie person.

interesting to learn about because of how their deep rooted storylines and background character development. We also gain new knowledge of space and time in series such as that each superhero holds a specific purpose Green Lantern, Superman, Supergirl and The to bring out to the audience, for example, Legends of Tomorrow, so technically they're educational too! Additionally, all of these DC makes sure to highlight these aspects in characters are linked together and feature in cross-over episodes of them banding together and saving the universe.

collect comic books about the Justice League, and I still do find myself now reading comic is more creative and imaginative in the final battles of superheroes and villains, because I tend to be the only DC fan out of my friend's of both sides having superpowers, resulting in more epic fights, whereas in Marvel, I noticed it either shooting or simply beating them to death. Perhaps, many people would be emotionally invested in the plots of the Marvel films, I am more attached to the darkness

about than Marvel. Characters in DC comics seem to be more empowering and unique, two greatest examples are Batman and Green Arrow who trained themselves to become the vigilante of their cities, and they are known for that to the fans. I think that these superheroes have lots of positive impact on society and in the real world. For example, I have done On the other hand, DC characters are more some research on some DC superheroes, and one source said that Wonder Woman was published in 1941 to inspire the allies to fight for their country, and to that addition, I think love, hope, truth, courage, destiny, in which their superheroes.

Many people would argue it's too unrealistic because of them having powers like flying



An envelope. With your name on it. Written in your own handwriting... Would you open it?

There's a wonderful moment in Back to the Future when Doc Brown is handed a sealed envelope containing a warning of his future demise. His immediate reply is to reject it unopened, claiming he does not wish to know or alter his future. While we may not wish to know our future, would we take the opportunity to have shaped a different present for ourselves?

As part of the buzzword of mindfulness, we are often reminded to celebrate the present and to live in the moment, often to escape the darker episodes of the past that might shackle us and hold us back. But, our past has had the power to shape us and even our regrets and mistakes mould us into the individuals we are. So, if you could change your past, would you? What would you advise that earnest, impressionable younger version of yourself to have done differently?

Year 11 were tasked with writing a letter to their Year 7 selves - a chance to reflect upon their journey through school, offer advice and perhaps even avoid some moments of cringe along the way. I braced myself for a deluge of cynical, "Don't bother revising, there'll be no 2020 exams!" - I get it - but was fairly moved by how many chose to offer simple words of reassurance, encouragement and support. Self-penned survival guides, complete with words of wisdom: "Don't worry about school being cancelled, it's just a minor blip in the timeline of your life," "Stay with your friends, be loyal, but accept change," "You are going to need to get a haircut. Trust me."

Pick up a pen and consider then. Reflect on the power of the past. Write the letter and seal the envelope. Would your younger self actually read it and would you really want them to anyway?

DEAR

YOUNGER

SELF...

BY MR DUREAU

DEAR ROZHAN,

If I were to tell you right now that at some will be affected by their mental health. The point in the next few years there will be a worldwide pandemic, I'm sure you would be the same way that one infected person will confused, distressed and startled. If I were to tell you that this pandemic will happen during your GCSE's, I wouldn't be surprised if you I don't know. So far, I can say that you will not are not utterly shocked; I know your mind would be overflowing with questions instead. Will it affect my exams? Will many people suffer? Or will I suffer? These may just be a against fear before fighting against the virus. fraction of the things on your mind. To you this whole thing is a mystery. Every day it will still 2020 will have the strangest start than any a mystery. But fortunately, I can give answers other year in your life has had so far. You will to some of your questions.

Yes. The pandemic will affect your exams. You will work until you are weary, attend revision sessions even after your brain is battered from a long day at school, and know that it will all be worth it because you will have the most relaxed, enjoyable summer of your life. But what you know could be wrong. First of all, you would have been looking forward to going on holiday and seeing more of the world, which you love doing. However, there may not be any flights. Secondly, you would have been looking forward to spending countless hours with your friends and feeling nothing but joy. However, you may have to be stuck at home for countless hours instead. You may have to do this while you look out of the window and hear birds chirping, see sure to look out for yourself. Stay at home were hoping to be the one to feel the sun's together. Finally, do not give up. You will sparkles on your skin.

your exams will be cancelled. I'll leave you about it.

very unfortunate and unhappy time for almost everyone. Even those who aren't suffering from the virus or from mourning will suffer in other ways. The NHS will be overwhelmed, some will have financial problems, and others

pandemic will lead to a chain of problems in lead to a chain of many more infected people.

suffer, but no-one knows what will happen. You may be lucky, but someone else will be unlucky. However, you must stay strong. Fight

not be able to sum it up in one word; it will be so crazy that it will leave you speechless. You will have those days where you look back to the beginning of March. It was your birthday. You celebrated with your friends, you went out to London with your family, and there was no need to social distance or wear a mask or gloves. Life was taken for granted. One week after this, England will have its first case of the virus. It will be the beginning of something serious. Another week later, schools will close. The country will be in lockdown. Hundreds of people will die each day. You will not believe anyone who tells you that they would have expected any of this to happen.

So I have some advice for you. Look out for your friends and your family, but also make trees dancing to the warm, gentle breeze and and appreciate the little things in life. Stay leaves sparkling under the sun. Instead, you positive because everyone will be in this during the entire GCSE course, and although Oh, but the most unexpected part of all is that your exams will be cancelled, your reward will not be. You will need to carry on thriving to decide whether you will be happy or sad to get the best grades you can possibly achieve because they will benefit you in the future. You might not be smiling while you do Yes. Many, many people will suffer. It will be a schoolwork, but you will be smiling on results day in August, if you put in effort beforehand.

DEAR SERVAISE,

A lot will change for you. That's inevitable. into the crowd. You will think to yourself why You will meet people, good and bad, that will should I try if they're not? But that's not you. You want your parents to be proud of you and your achievements, not your so-called-friends being proud of you and the unpleasant shape you into the person you are today. You may not see it right now, but the next 5 years at Royal Russell will change your life. person you're becoming. Although, you will The best piece of advice I could possibly give come to your senses fortunately, and learn to you is to be happy in yourself. I know I that impressing 'those' people won't get you spent one too many years doubting myself and anywhere, except maybe a detention. Looking trying to impress others. Now, I know people back now, I regret some of my choices, but may argue and say, 'That's what growing up is they have made me realise a lot of things about, finding yourself and finding happiness about myself. I shouldn't try and impress within yourself,' but there are still adults out others, and I certainly shouldn't stress all the there struggling to find their own identity. So time. As long as I know I have given my all please don't stress. Do not compare yourself and have remained positive along the way, I to others. You are your own competition. Just can honestly say that I have grown up to be try and become a better version of yourself the best version of myself, which is something every day, and over time you will find that I will always aspire to be.

becoming comfortable in yourself is more important than impressing other people. The Love from, people that surround you each day at school Servaise (Year 11) are most likely experiencing the same thing, so you are not alone.

However, one thing I can advise you not to do is stress. Stressing doesn't help in any situation, because when you do come and address the problem, you will be putting yourself through it twice. Every detention and every fallout will happen for a reason. So, let it be. Accept it and move on. All of the people you spent so much time stressing over, won't be important anymore, because you will have moved onto the next chapter in your life, and it will be a far bigger and better one! I can promise you that everything will work out in the end.

The final piece of advice I can offer is to always work hard. Right now, I'm writing this and thinking what's the point?! A global pandemic will strike in 2020 and result in you not having to do GCSEs even though you have spent years and years working hard to achieve the best grades possible, but you must keep working hard. How hard someone works says a lot about a person. I know in a year or two, you will slack off slightly, as a way of impressing others and trying to fit





THE CONSOLATIONS OF LITERATURE - PART 2

Feeling a bit lost these days? Not really sure what's going on in the world? Does everything feel strange, perplexing, and perhaps as if it's all a bit of a cosmic joke? Would you just like some answers? Maybe this could be the book to console you:

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams

Imagine that you've got a problem – the council want to knock down your house to build a new road, and you would really rather they didn't do that, what with it being your house and all. Then your friend, Ford Prefect, tells you that you need to have a bit of a chat. It turns out that your friend Ford Prefect isn't actually human, and he's about to tell you that an intergalactic council have decided that planet Earth needs to go in order to make way for a new hyperspatial express route. Might put a bit of a dent in your mood, mightn't it?

This book is the first part of a trilogy oddly containing six books - recounting the adventures of the rather put-upon and stressed Arthur Dent who goes from a fairly predictable life to travelling around the galaxy, and finding out a supercomputer called Deep Thought which has been pondering the answer to the 'Ultimate Question to Life, the Universe and Everything'. Arthur is an everyman – a fairly mundane person, who values the important things in life, like getting himself a decent cup of tea - so reading about how he copes with not just a changed world, but an entirely new galaxy is certainly illuminating.

Do you ever wish that you had a friend or companion who could, in the blink of an eye, resolve all your problems? Who could make even the most difficult situation disappear? Who could deal with all the people who seem sent to bedevil you? Then it sounds like you need a 'Jeeves'.

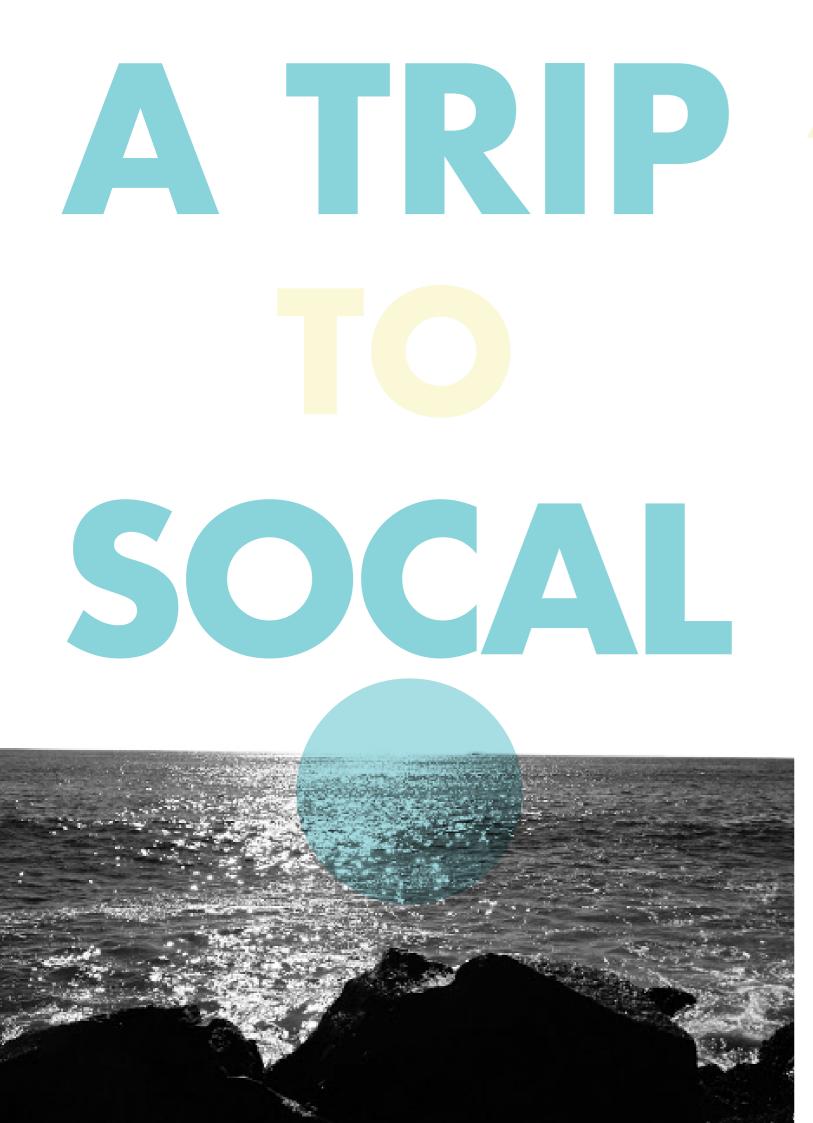
My Man Jeeves by P G Wodehouse

Jeeves is an astonishment. At first, he seems like someone you would barely notice, so unobtrusive he is. Indeed, in these short stories, Jeeves often 'shimmers' into view, like a welcome mirage of calm and reason. Jeeves is Bertie Wooster's 'gentleman's personal gentleman', i.e. his valet. A valet is a kind of personal butler, who would run your bath for you, bring you breakfast in bed, organise and take care of your clothing, and generally attend to your needs. But Jeeves is so much more than a simple valet. You see, young Bertie Wooster is a bit of a fool. A nice enough chap, but somewhat prone to getting into all kinds of scrapes. On more than one occasion, Bertie has found himself engaged to be married to various women, or in trouble with the law or one of his many terrifying aunts, or the victim of an elaborate scam. To whom does he turn to extricate himself from these situations? To Jeeves. Jeeves can break off an engagement without breaking a sweat. Jeeves can out-scam the most determined scammer. And Jeeves can even concoct you the perfect restorative beverage if you've had a particularly jubilant night after the annual boat race. It would be a dream to have your own Jeeves, always at your elbow, ready to save the day.

Several of the stories can be found online, such as this one which will give you a general idea of the miracles that Jeeves can work - and the scrapes that Bertie gets himself into. Just remember that Jeeves is always right, especially when it comes to matters of sartorial elegance.







ADAM CASILLAS

Covid-19 has impacted my life in several those were furloughed/fired from their job ways, but perhaps the most profound is my to somehow pay their normal expenses with social life. Before this pandemic, a lot of my no source of income. Delaying payment and work was done remotely from home so that expecting a lump sum at the end makes no aspect of my life hasn't changed much. I am, sense because where is that money supposed however, a person who deeply values social to come from? It's needless to say this situation interaction with friends and family. With this is difficult to manoeuvre. guarantine in place, it's made it so that we can't visit our loved ones in person, and I feel there are two classes of citizens in this instead has resulted in an increased use of situation. One that realizes the severity and is doing all they can to social distance. The other technology. However, this change has allowed thinks it's a joke and are populating state us to communicate more with relatives that we beaches and partying like there's nothing don't normally keep in touch with. I'm very abnormal going on. My previous comments grateful for things like Zoom that make group will tell you what I think about the latter. communication so easy.

I feel I share the same sentiment as many when To handle the outbreak, I'm practicing social I say it's frustrating, that we can't do what distancing and ensuring I only stay in contact we please, but it's understandable/necessary with those I am living with. When getting groceries, we make sure to sanitize before to take these precautions. I've learned to not consuming, wear masks when we are out and stress about the things I can't control and can now only pray that the scientists working to about and refrain from touching anything end this pandemic do so. Until then I'll have we don't need to. It's impossible to avoid it all those on the front lines in my thoughts and all, but I think it's important to at least put in a concerted effort. Not as much for me, prayers until all of this unfolds. but for my loved ones who are older with There's a lot of discrepancy in our nation as compromised immune systems.

to whether or not our government is taking the necessary measures to deal with this outbreak. Aside from the lack of available testing, the most controversial decisions in my opinion have been with allowing governors to determine what businesses are to be open. For instance, in my hometown of Palm Springs, California several golf courses and tennis courts have re-opened. Personally, I feel that is the stupidest decision possible. I feel it's in our best interest to maintain social distancing and only having essential businesses open until it's safe to reopen, or until our economy requires us to reopen. Keeping leisure businesses like golf courses open is careless.

One thing I think they could improve on is how they're dealing with expenses like mortgage payments. Although I know not paying things like mortgage is extremely detrimental for the economy, our government can't expect



VILIAMI TILLAGE

The corona virus has affected the way I live my life because I am a student, and all my classes have been moved online which makes focusing more challenging. Also, I am an avid gym-goer, and it has forced me to get creative with workouts at home. On the plus side though, my family and I have been able to save money due to fewer travel-expenses. We also are more strategic with how much we go out, for example when we go for groceries, we buy in bulk much more often than before to reduce the number if times we have to go out.

I feel that the situation at hand was completely avoidable but manifested due to a cringe-worthy lack of communication and collaboration between government officials and biomedical researchers. Although I think that they have been doing a decent job given we are in an unprecedented situation, communication could be significantly better between the governmental branches.

I think the first thing they did wrong was believing that the virus was an actual threat, despite a fair warning from the country of origin, and the World Health Organization. Second, they continued to downplay the threat even once we identified the virus as a credible problem. Lastly, the feuding between the White House and Governors has been childish and has resulted in citizens receiving a false sense of hope and a very unclear timeline for how this situation will pan out.

As for the citizens I think initially, their responses were very praiseworthy. In the US, given we had exposure to how the virus was affecting other countries, we did very well in taking responsibility to #stayathome. In a poor effort to offer hope, the president made promises that have been uninformed and complete nonsense, causing people to become disgruntled and confused.

To try to deal with the outbreak, I have been following guidelines as they are issued at

the county level such as limiting time outside of the house, wearing a mask when leaving the house and keeping social interactions to online communication.

BY ZOYA LULU KIRMANI

