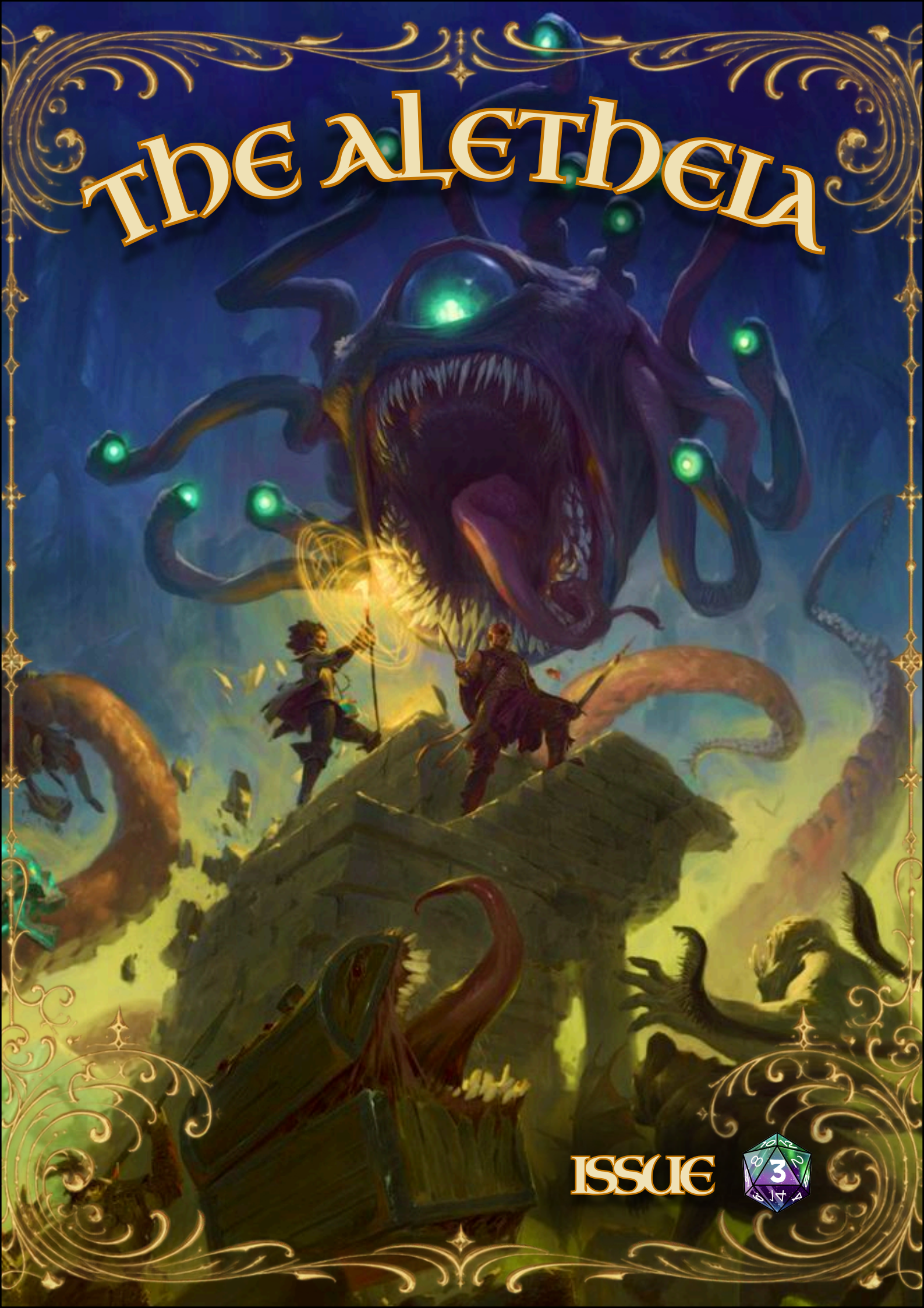
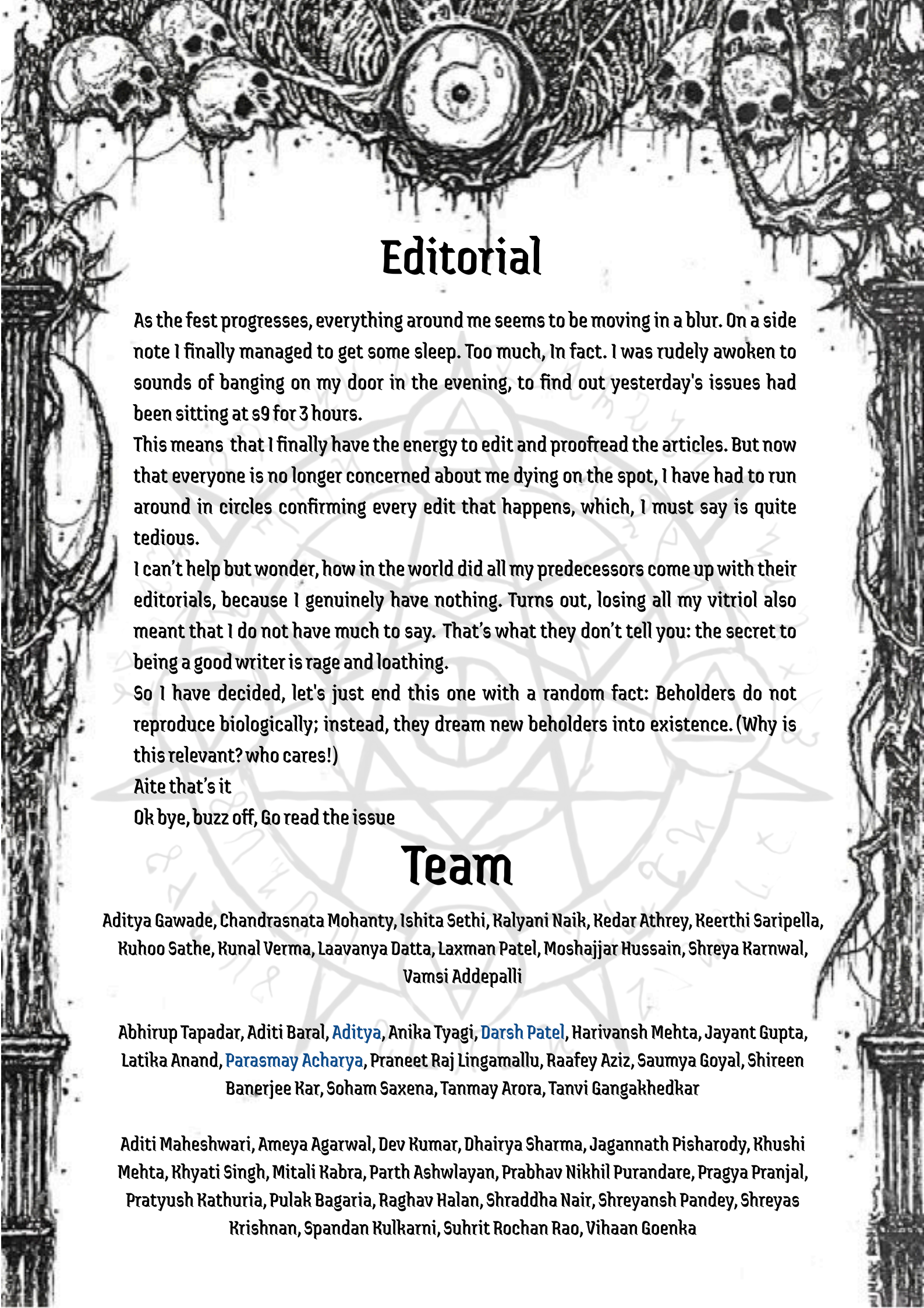


THE ALETHEIA



ISSUE





Editorial

As the fest progresses, everything around me seems to be moving in a blur. On a side note I finally managed to get some sleep. Too much, In fact. I was rudely awoken to sounds of banging on my door in the evening, to find out yesterday's issues had been sitting at s9 for 3 hours.

This means that I finally have the energy to edit and proofread the articles. But now that everyone is no longer concerned about me dying on the spot, I have had to run around in circles confirming every edit that happens, which, I must say is quite tedious.

I can't help but wonder, how in the world did all my predecessors come up with their editorials, because I genuinely have nothing. Turns out, losing all my vitriol also meant that I do not have much to say. That's what they don't tell you: the secret to being a good writer is rage and loathing.

So I have decided, let's just end this one with a random fact: Beholders do not reproduce biologically; instead, they dream new beholders into existence. (Why is this relevant? who cares!)

Aite that's it

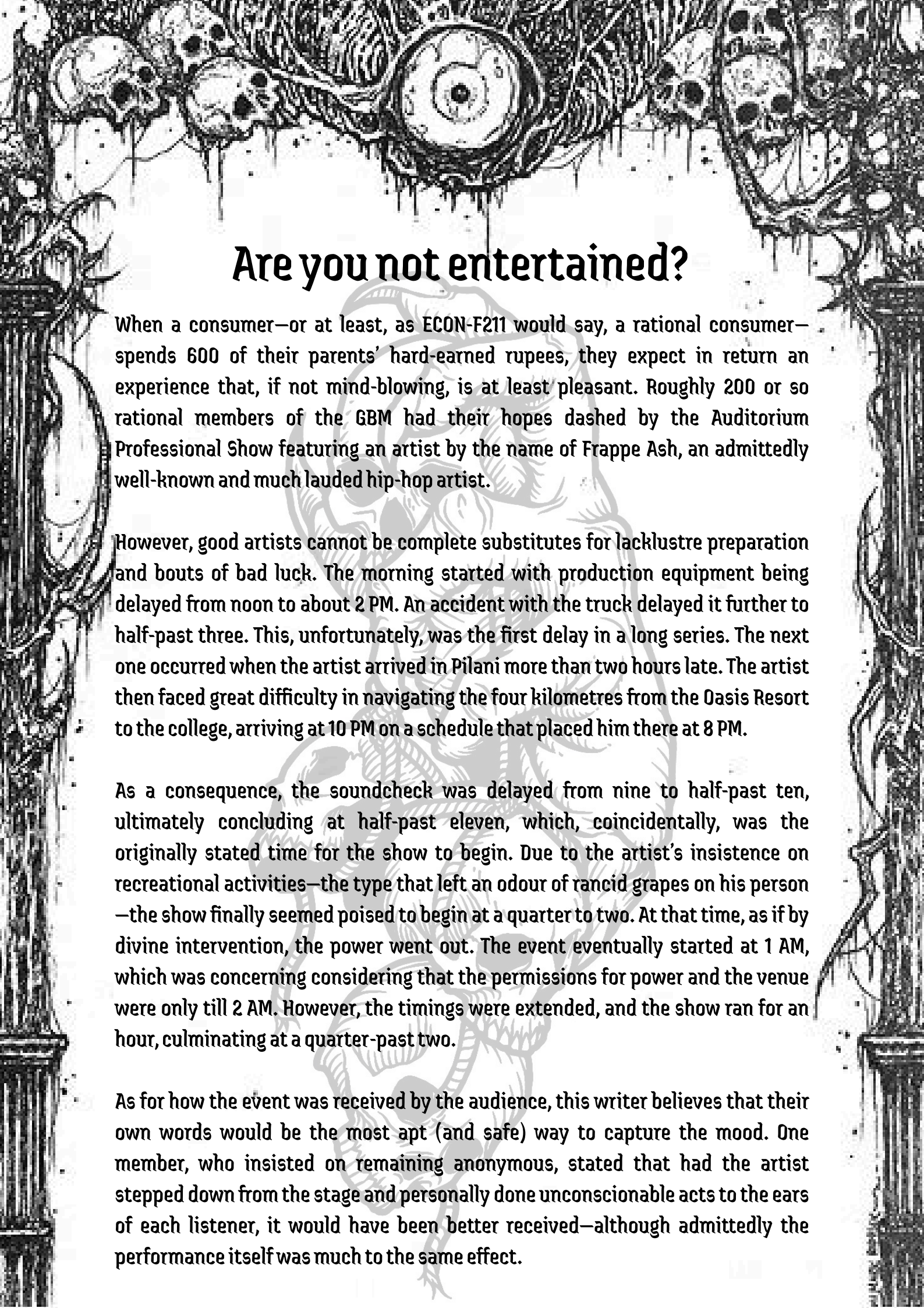
Ok bye, buzz off, Go read the issue

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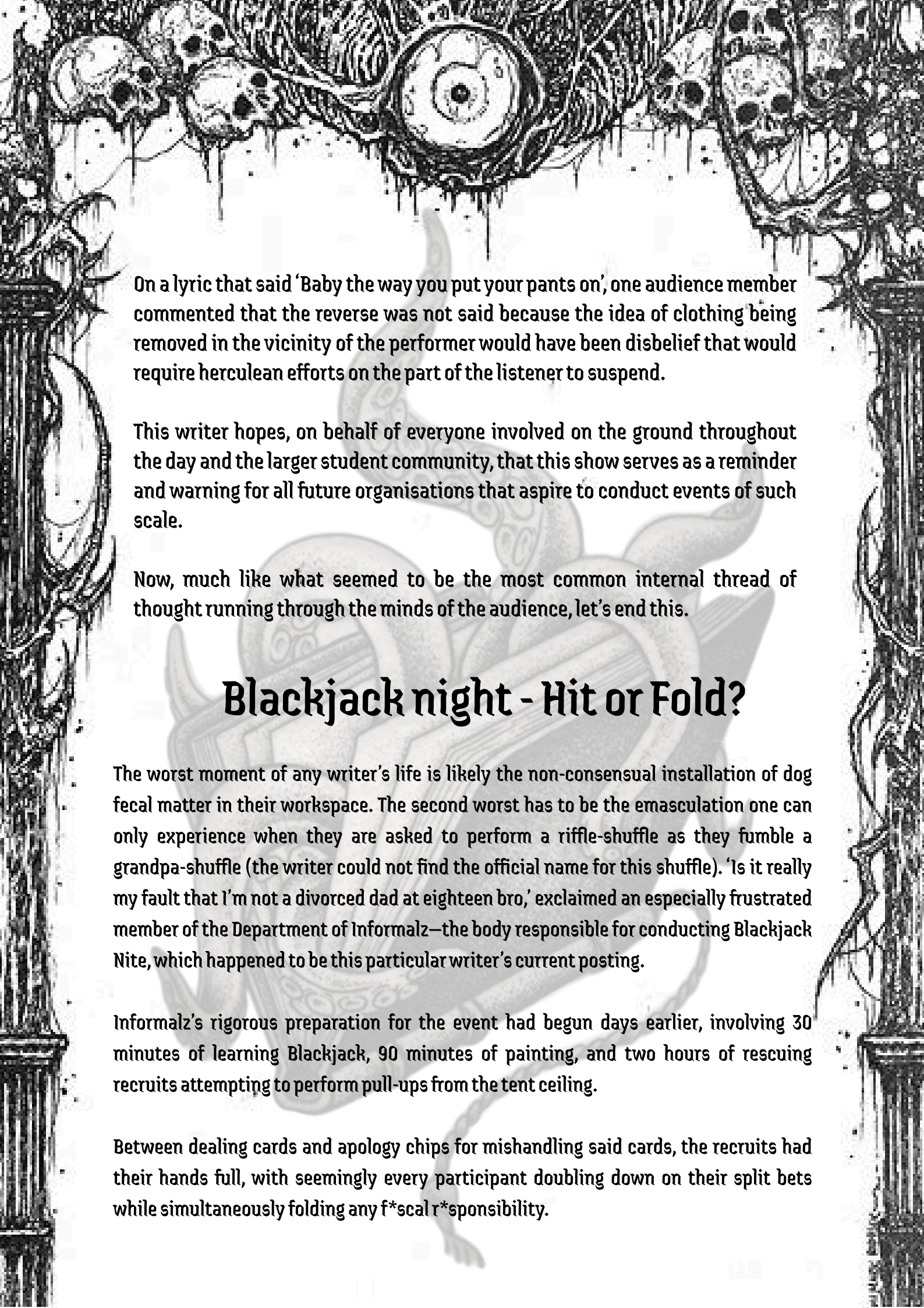
Are you not entertained?

When a consumer—or at least, as ECON-F211 would say, a rational consumer—spends 600 of their parents' hard-earned rupees, they expect in return an experience that, if not mind-blowing, is at least pleasant. Roughly 200 or so rational members of the GBM had their hopes dashed by the Auditorium Professional Show featuring an artist by the name of Frappe Ash, an admittedly well-known and much lauded hip-hop artist.

However, good artists cannot be complete substitutes for lacklustre preparation and bouts of bad luck. The morning started with production equipment being delayed from noon to about 2 PM. An accident with the truck delayed it further to half-past three. This, unfortunately, was the first delay in a long series. The next one occurred when the artist arrived in Pilani more than two hours late. The artist then faced great difficulty in navigating the four kilometres from the Oasis Resort to the college, arriving at 10 PM on a schedule that placed him there at 8 PM.

As a consequence, the soundcheck was delayed from nine to half-past ten, ultimately concluding at half-past eleven, which, coincidentally, was the originally stated time for the show to begin. Due to the artist's insistence on recreational activities—the type that left an odour of rancid grapes on his person—the show finally seemed poised to begin at a quarter to two. At that time, as if by divine intervention, the power went out. The event eventually started at 1 AM, which was concerning considering that the permissions for power and the venue were only till 2 AM. However, the timings were extended, and the show ran for an hour, culminating at a quarter-past two.

As for how the event was received by the audience, this writer believes that their own words would be the most apt (and safe) way to capture the mood. One member, who insisted on remaining anonymous, stated that had the artist stepped down from the stage and personally done unconscionable acts to the ears of each listener, it would have been better received—although admittedly the performance itself was much to the same effect.



On a lyric that said 'Baby the way you put your pants on', one audience member commented that the reverse was not said because the idea of clothing being removed in the vicinity of the performer would have been disbelief that would require herculean efforts on the part of the listener to suspend.

This writer hopes, on behalf of everyone involved on the ground throughout the day and the larger student community, that this show serves as a reminder and warning for all future organisations that aspire to conduct events of such scale.

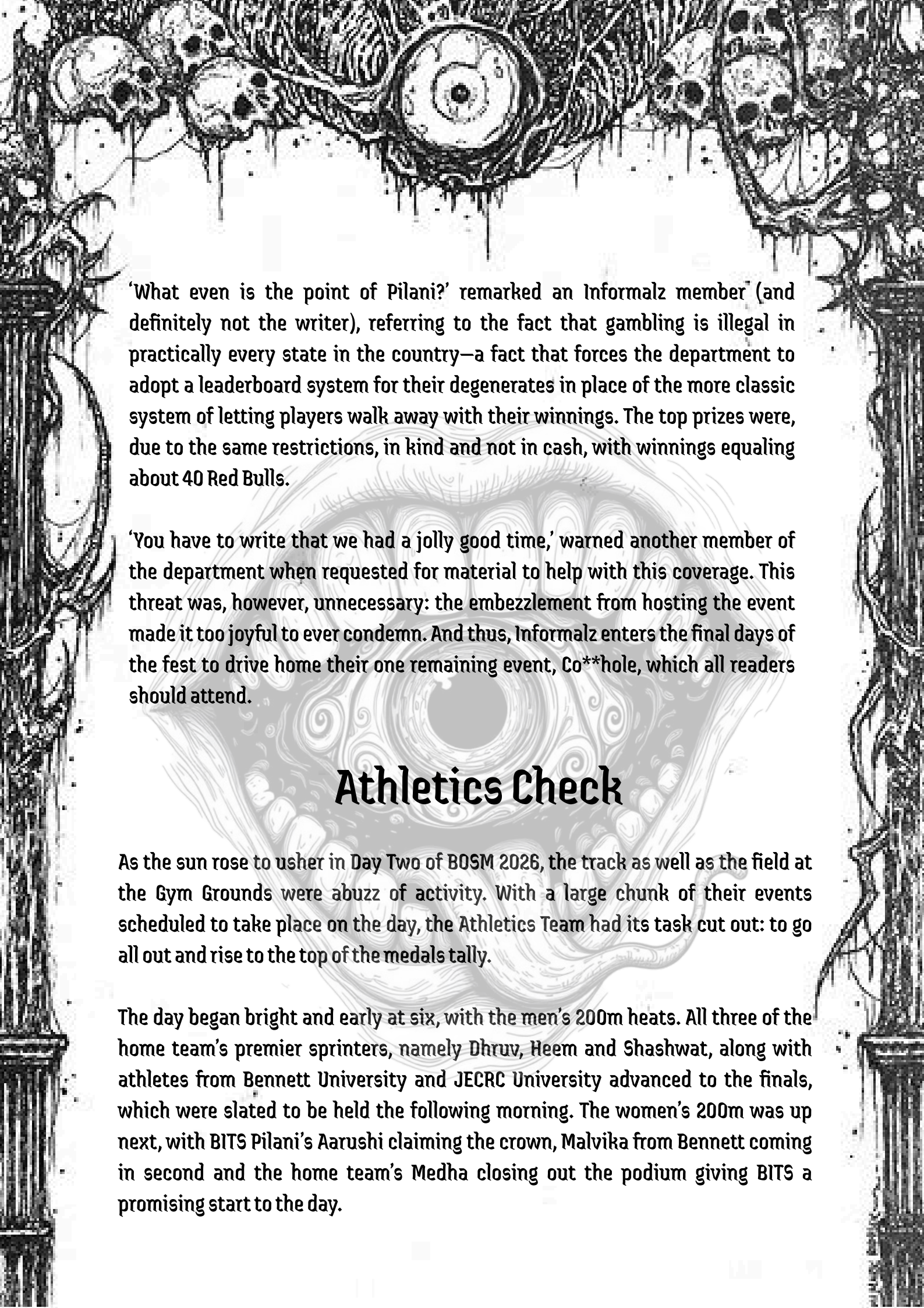
Now, much like what seemed to be the most common internal thread of thought running through the minds of the audience, let's end this.

Blackjack night - Hit or Fold?

The worst moment of any writer's life is likely the non-consensual installation of dog fecal matter in their workspace. The second worst has to be the emasculation one can only experience when they are asked to perform a riffle-shuffle as they fumble a grandpa-shuffle (the writer could not find the official name for this shuffle). 'Is it really my fault that I'm not a divorced dad at eighteen bro,' exclaimed an especially frustrated member of the Department of Informalz—the body responsible for conducting Blackjack Nite, which happened to be this particular writer's current posting.

Informalz's rigorous preparation for the event had begun days earlier, involving 30 minutes of learning Blackjack, 90 minutes of painting, and two hours of rescuing recruits attempting to perform pull-ups from the tent ceiling.

Between dealing cards and apology chips for mishandling said cards, the recruits had their hands full, with seemingly every participant doubling down on their split bets while simultaneously folding any f*scal r*sponsibility.



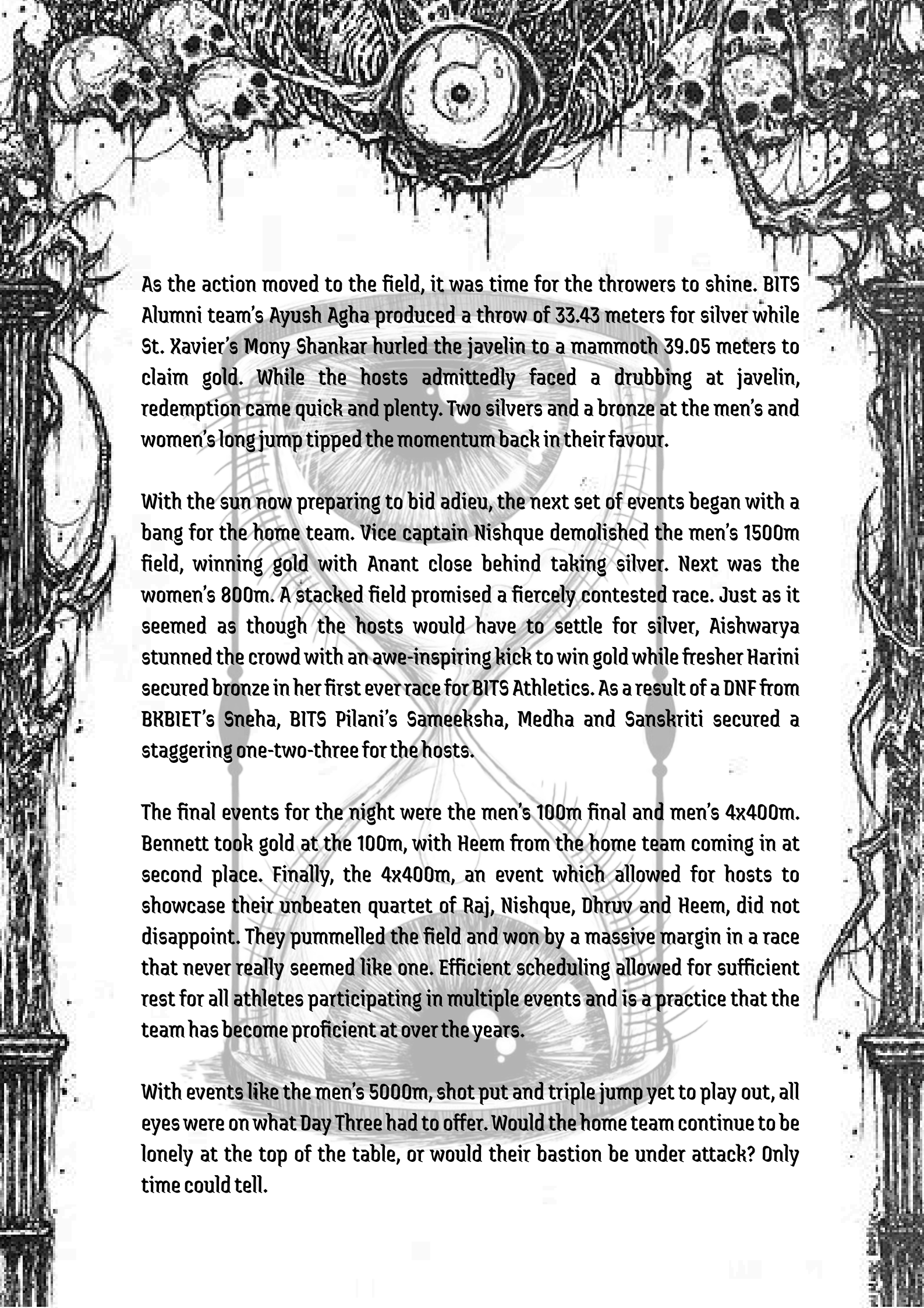
‘What even is the point of Pilani?’ remarked an Informalz member (and definitely not the writer), referring to the fact that gambling is illegal in practically every state in the country—a fact that forces the department to adopt a leaderboard system for their degenerates in place of the more classic system of letting players walk away with their winnings. The top prizes were, due to the same restrictions, in kind and not in cash, with winnings equaling about 40 Red Bulls.

‘You have to write that we had a jolly good time,’ warned another member of the department when requested for material to help with this coverage. This threat was, however, unnecessary: the embezzlement from hosting the event made it too joyful to ever condemn. And thus, Informalz enters the final days of the fest to drive home their one remaining event, Co**hole, which all readers should attend.

Athletics Check

As the sun rose to usher in Day Two of BOSM 2026, the track as well as the field at the Gym Grounds were abuzz of activity. With a large chunk of their events scheduled to take place on the day, the Athletics Team had its task cut out: to go all out and rise to the top of the medals tally.

The day began bright and early at six, with the men’s 200m heats. All three of the home team’s premier sprinters, namely Dhruv, Heem and Shashwat, along with athletes from Bennett University and JECRC University advanced to the finals, which were slated to be held the following morning. The women’s 200m was up next, with BITS Pilani’s Aarushi claiming the crown, Malvika from Bennett coming in second and the home team’s Medha closing out the podium giving BITS a promising start to the day.

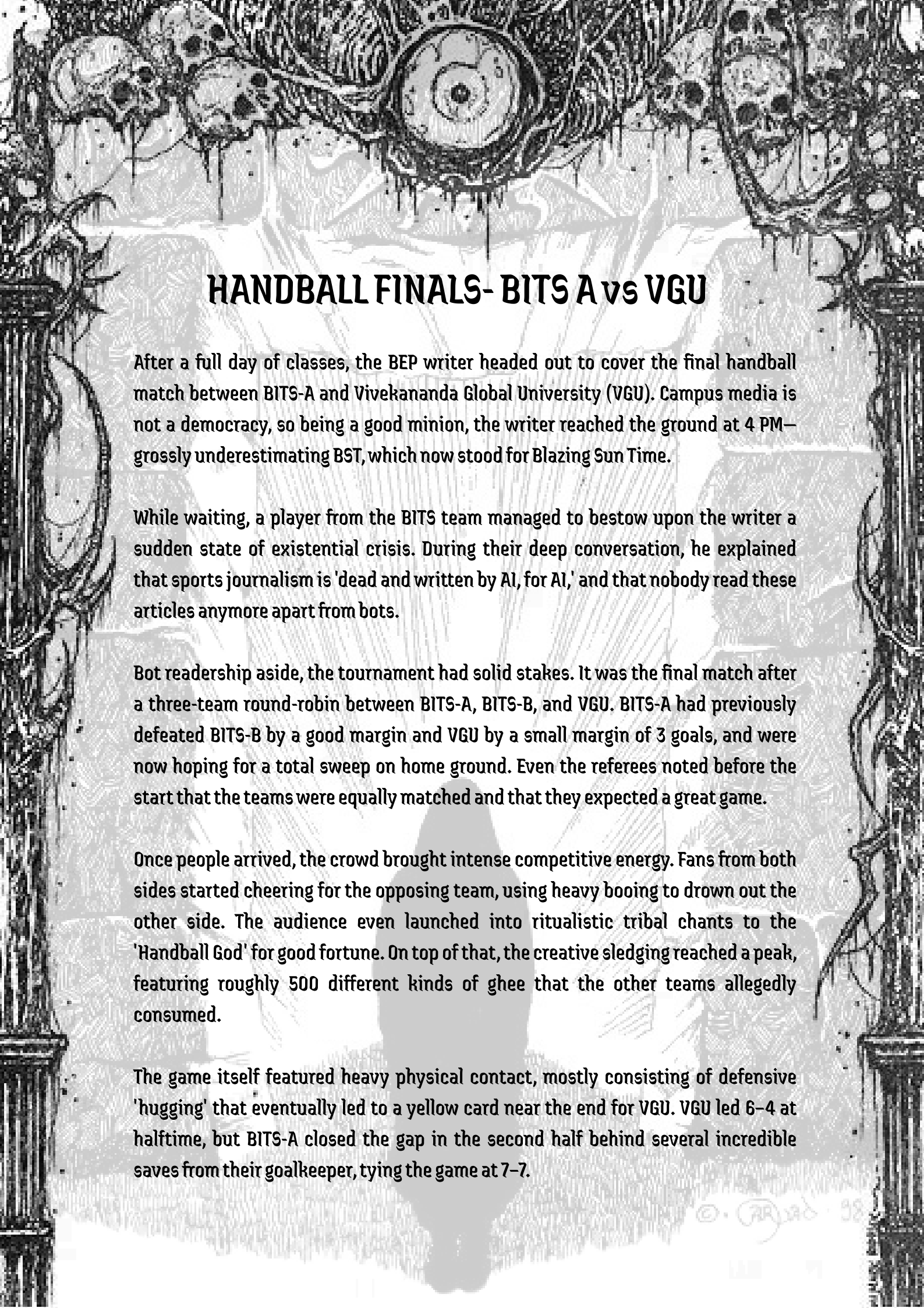


As the action moved to the field, it was time for the throwers to shine. BITS Alumni team's Ayush Agha produced a throw of 33.43 meters for silver while St. Xavier's Mony Shankar hurled the javelin to a mammoth 39.05 meters to claim gold. While the hosts admittedly faced a drubbing at javelin, redemption came quick and plenty. Two silvers and a bronze at the men's and women's long jump tipped the momentum back in their favour.

With the sun now preparing to bid adieu, the next set of events began with a bang for the home team. Vice captain Nishque demolished the men's 1500m field, winning gold with Anant close behind taking silver. Next was the women's 800m. A stacked field promised a fiercely contested race. Just as it seemed as though the hosts would have to settle for silver, Aishwarya stunned the crowd with an awe-inspiring kick to win gold while fresher Harini secured bronze in her first ever race for BITS Athletics. As a result of a DNF from BKBIET's Sneha, BITS Pilani's Sameeksha, Medha and Sanskriti secured a staggering one-two-three for the hosts.

The final events for the night were the men's 100m final and men's 4x400m. Bennett took gold at the 100m, with Heem from the home team coming in at second place. Finally, the 4x400m, an event which allowed for hosts to showcase their unbeaten quartet of Raj, Nishque, Dhruv and Heem, did not disappoint. They pummelled the field and won by a massive margin in a race that never really seemed like one. Efficient scheduling allowed for sufficient rest for all athletes participating in multiple events and is a practice that the team has become proficient at over the years.

With events like the men's 5000m, shot put and triple jump yet to play out, all eyes were on what Day Three had to offer. Would the home team continue to be lonely at the top of the table, or would their bastion be under attack? Only time could tell.



HANDBALL FINALS- BITS A vs VGU

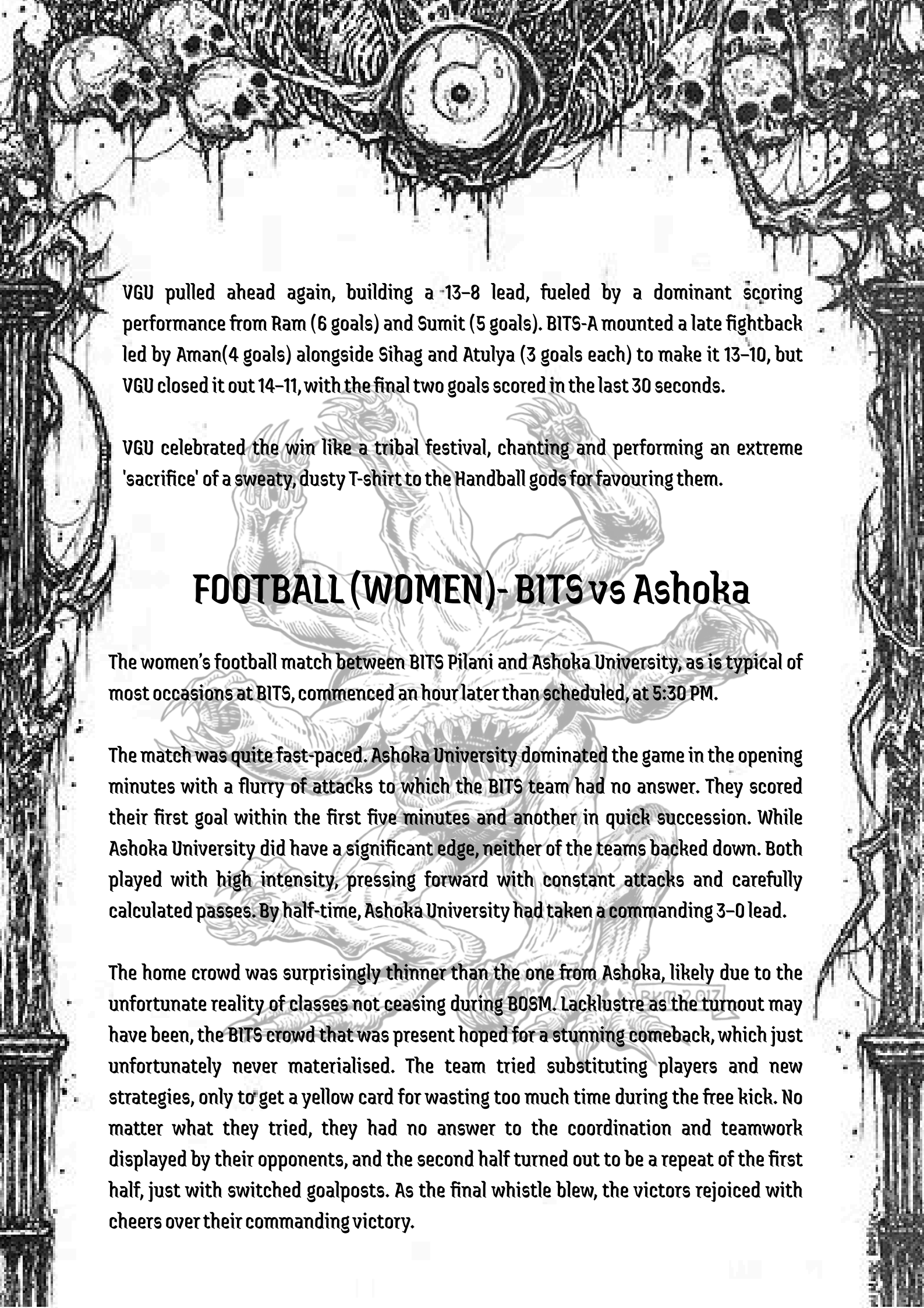
After a full day of classes, the BEP writer headed out to cover the final handball match between BITS-A and Vivekananda Global University (VGU). Campus media is not a democracy, so being a good minion, the writer reached the ground at 4 PM—grossly underestimating BST, which now stood for Blazing Sun Time.

While waiting, a player from the BITS team managed to bestow upon the writer a sudden state of existential crisis. During their deep conversation, he explained that sports journalism is 'dead and written by AI, for AI,' and that nobody read these articles anymore apart from bots.

Bot readership aside, the tournament had solid stakes. It was the final match after a three-team round-robin between BITS-A, BITS-B, and VGU. BITS-A had previously defeated BITS-B by a good margin and VGU by a small margin of 3 goals, and were now hoping for a total sweep on home ground. Even the referees noted before the start that the teams were equally matched and that they expected a great game.

Once people arrived, the crowd brought intense competitive energy. Fans from both sides started cheering for the opposing team, using heavy booing to drown out the other side. The audience even launched into ritualistic tribal chants to the 'Handball God' for good fortune. On top of that, the creative sledging reached a peak, featuring roughly 500 different kinds of ghee that the other teams allegedly consumed.

The game itself featured heavy physical contact, mostly consisting of defensive 'hugging' that eventually led to a yellow card near the end for VGU. VGU led 6-4 at halftime, but BITS-A closed the gap in the second half behind several incredible saves from their goalkeeper, tying the game at 7-7.



VGU pulled ahead again, building a 13-8 lead, fueled by a dominant scoring performance from Ram (6 goals) and Sumit (5 goals). BITS-A mounted a late fightback led by Aman(4 goals) alongside Sihag and Atulya (3 goals each) to make it 13-10, but VGU closed it out 14-11, with the final two goals scored in the last 30 seconds.

VGU celebrated the win like a tribal festival, chanting and performing an extreme 'sacrifice' of a sweaty, dusty T-shirt to the Handball gods for favouring them.

FOOTBALL (WOMEN)- BITS vs Ashoka

The women's football match between BITS Pilani and Ashoka University, as is typical of most occasions at BITS, commenced an hour later than scheduled, at 5:30 PM.

The match was quite fast-paced. Ashoka University dominated the game in the opening minutes with a flurry of attacks to which the BITS team had no answer. They scored their first goal within the first five minutes and another in quick succession. While Ashoka University did have a significant edge, neither of the teams backed down. Both played with high intensity, pressing forward with constant attacks and carefully calculated passes. By half-time, Ashoka University had taken a commanding 3-0 lead.

The home crowd was surprisingly thinner than the one from Ashoka, likely due to the unfortunate reality of classes not ceasing during BOSM. Lacklustre as the turnout may have been, the BITS crowd that was present hoped for a stunning comeback, which just unfortunately never materialised. The team tried substituting players and new strategies, only to get a yellow card for wasting too much time during the free kick. No matter what they tried, they had no answer to the coordination and teamwork displayed by their opponents, and the second half turned out to be a repeat of the first half, just with switched goalposts. As the final whistle blew, the victors rejoiced with cheers over their commanding victory.

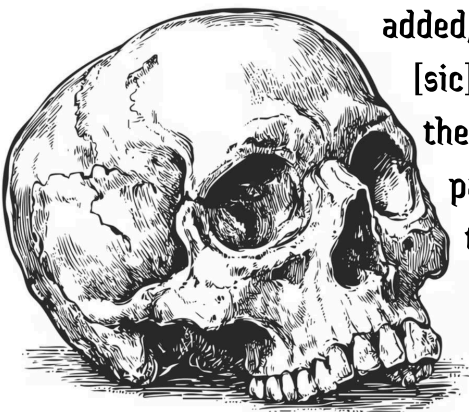
Slippery when shooting

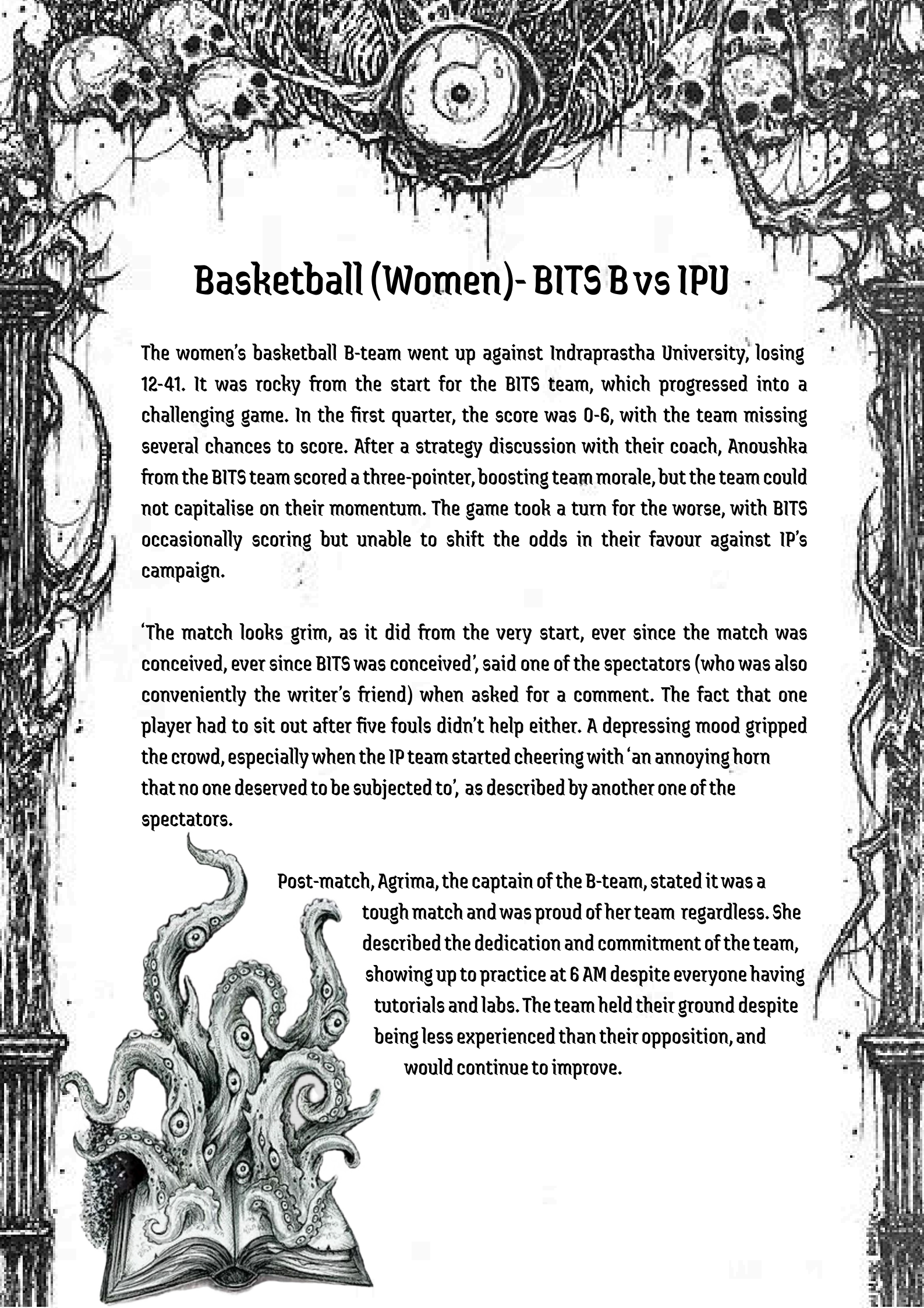
With BOSM 2026 underway, the BEP set out to cover the events organised by the RadioAktiv club—Soapy Football and Paintball.

Soapy Football consisted of, you guessed it, soap and a football (which was actually a volleyball “borrowed” from the team) in an inflatable arena. Each match was played for ten minutes (unless the organisers forgot to start the timer), in which the number of cartoonish falls usually exceeded the number of successful kicks. Despite this, nobody complained of any sort of injuries, which was fortunate for the organisers as they had not made the participants sign any sort of undertaking. When asked about the experience, an attendee called it fun, but complained about torn ponchos and exorbitant prices. He also mentioned that the experience could be enhanced if the Sydney Sweeney’s Bathwater Bliss soap was used.

Next, the BEP correspondents decided to step into VR Lawns, where at the far left, one could find the Paintball stall. The event was described as a simulation of a real life battle royale, like Garena Free Fire, because of the mechanics involved and (obviously) the low budget nature of the event. Twelve people set foot in a battlefield, which was large enough to accommodate no more than eight, and shot each other with faux bullets. These bullets, though harmless, could cause minor

injuries, as mentioned by an attendee, who further added, ‘one must have the balls to play paintball [sic]’. On the brighter side, people compared the battlefield and the pricing to that of a real paintball field, and expressed their desire to try it out again.

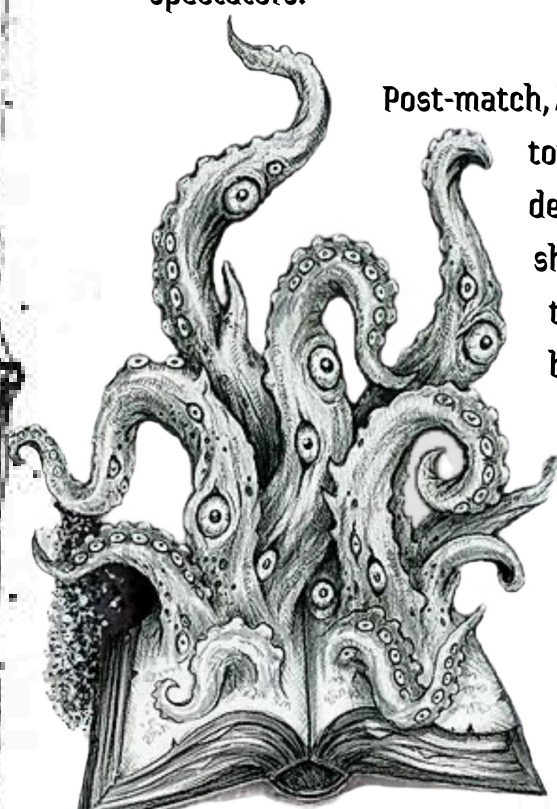




Basketball (Women)- BITS B vs IPU

The women's basketball B-team went up against Indraprastha University, losing 12-41. It was rocky from the start for the BITS team, which progressed into a challenging game. In the first quarter, the score was 0-6, with the team missing several chances to score. After a strategy discussion with their coach, Anoushka from the BITS team scored a three-pointer, boosting team morale, but the team could not capitalise on their momentum. The game took a turn for the worse, with BITS occasionally scoring but unable to shift the odds in their favour against IP's campaign.

'The match looks grim, as it did from the very start, ever since the match was conceived, ever since BITS was conceived', said one of the spectators (who was also conveniently the writer's friend) when asked for a comment. The fact that one player had to sit out after five fouls didn't help either. A depressing mood gripped the crowd, especially when the IP team started cheering with 'an annoying horn that no one deserved to be subjected to', as described by another one of the spectators.



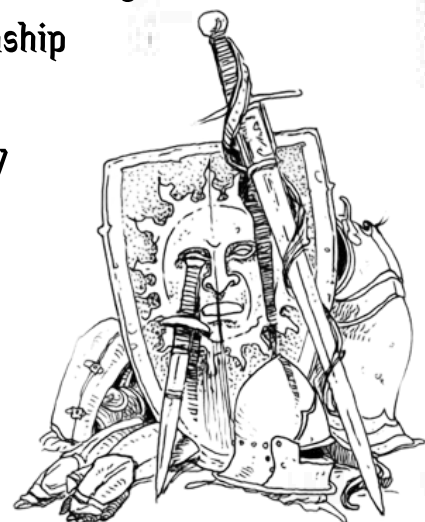
Post-match, Agrima, the captain of the B-team, stated it was a tough match and was proud of her team regardless. She described the dedication and commitment of the team, showing up to practice at 6 AM despite everyone having tutorials and labs. The team held their ground despite being less experienced than their opposition, and would continue to improve.

SQUASH FINALS- BITS vs Hansraj

The squash finals of BOSM '26 was played between Tejaswa from Hansraj College, Delhi, and Aryan, captain of the BITS Pilani squash team. Owing to the plastic nature of the ball, the players spent a few minutes heating it, as is common procedure before a squash match. The game started with Aryan dominating the field until the score reached 4-0. Tejaswa then quickly caught up, and the two players went back and forth until the score reached 12-10, with Hansraj winning the first set with a lead of two points.

The second set followed an opposite trend, with Tejaswa overshadowing the competition until the score reached 10-5. In a series of outstanding performances, Aryan caught up, quickly winning the set with a final score of 13-11. The third set was won by Hansraj with a visible lead of 11-1. Aryan's growing frustration became evident, with multiple shots repeatedly landing outside the court. During the intermission between the two sets, the team, along with the coach, was seen hyping up the captain.

The encouragement seemed to work as the fourth set, in comparison, was significantly more evenly matched, with both players playing confidently till the score reached 7-7. Thereafter, Hansraj took the lead, winning the set at a score of 11-8. The match ended with a fine show of sportsmanship with both players shaking hands as Hansraj College took home the gold medal with a comfortable victory of 3-1.



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