

The Senior-Junior Nexus

By Mayank Saxena

From being welcomed on the orientation day with open arms and benign smiles as naive freshmen, to getting teary-eyed and showing symptoms of separation anxiety at our senior's farewell, the senior-junior relationship is too convolut-

ed to be put down in words. The metamorphosis from school to college life is rife with bottlenecks and can be extremely daunting in the absence of proper guidance. From those long chats discussing the most insignificant topics to important

life decisions, calling them and doing RR whenever college life poses the smallest of problems, to trying out new things together and being smothered whenever we commit stupid mistakes, seniors are what makes college feel like a second

home. Read on as a recent junior turned senior pens down how to play the role of a good fuccha and how he wishes he comes off as a senior, in the upcoming years.

Giving auditions for a fest to organizing those fests, juniors make up the backbone for any event happening in college. With the race for those coveted PORs always on, one has to come out as the ultimate fuccha. With a year's experience, the author presents 7 Commandments of being a good junior that shall serve as the ultimate guide for surviving this college of competitive clime.

Thou shalt acknowledge every message with a 🙌: Long texts from seniors on WhatsApp, stating a meet is scheduled should always be acknowledged with a 🙌! It is hardly a 2 second job, but will help you achieve the title of the quintessential "acha bacha".

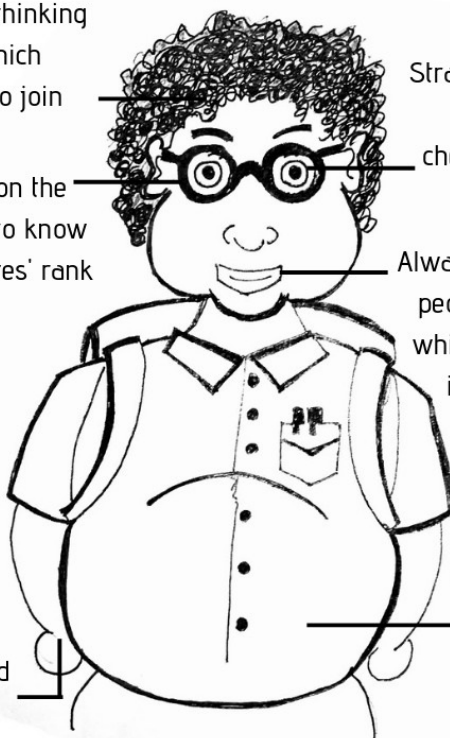
Thou shalt never address them as bhaiya or didi: Even though your seniors might treat you as their younger siblings, but never do the unforgivable mistake of calling them bhaiya or didi. Nothing irritates them

ANATOMY OF A 'JUNIOR'

Always thinking about which society to join

Always on the lookout to know classmates' rank

Scribbled on with "recommended" books' names



Strained with always checking out seniors

Always asking people about which coding institute is better

Filled with fattening ghar ka khaana

more and puts off their mood.

Thou shalt pester your seniors when faced with a difficulty: Your seniors have gone through the same problems and have survived them, be it the monstrous gatekeeper of your hostel or a subject that won't fetch you marks. Give them the opportunity to save a junior in distress and be your knight in dirty shorts.

Thou shalt save your senior's contact: Needs no further explanation. Would you ever want to be on the other side of "Nu phone, hu dis?"

Thou shalt arrive at meets on time: Goes without saying that everyone needs to arrive at the scheduled time (lol, spoken like a typical senior), but arriving before the majority, with the tasks completed, sets you apart from the rest and brings you one step closer to earning that coveted title of the

ultimate fuccha.

Thou shalt drag your friends to society events: Societies are always organizing seminars, workshops

As the year progresses, the fuccha comes out of its cocoon and transforms into a Sir/Ma'am, seeking validation from everyone. Uncertain if they themselves are being too desperate while calling them for auditions and apprehensive of if he/she comes off as a badass and cool senior or a workaholic-boring one, the journey is not easy. Well into his second year, the author lists down some commandments he saw his seniors comply with.

Thou shalt never seen-zone cries for help: Juniors are usually very confused about everything, and require the assistance of their seniors on various topics, be it attendance related issues or tips on how to cope up with the challenging syllabus. To hear your juniors say the treasured "I want to become like him", always respond to their texts with - "Haan bacha, pucho."

Thou shalt shower them with treats: You know the rule! Treat them good so that they treat you good.

Thou shalt not misguide them about attendance: Stop propagating that "yeh society join karle, 25% attendance milti hai". You

& speaker sessions, and supposedly a lot depends on the number of people attending it. Want to be termed as an asset to that society? Drag your entire

class to it!

Thou shalt sacrifice your own love life: Perhaps the hardest of them all, if a senior has eyed one of your

classmates as a potential 'interest', leave the path for them, however heartbreaking it might be for you.

overshot the deadline thrice and got themselves in trouble? Reprimand them a little but tell them it's not an issue. Be the ever-smiling senior and come off as the most understanding one.

Thou shalt not force them to try out stuff: Never be the senior that says "Ek sip se kuch nahi hota, try karke toh dekh". Let them be the judge of what is right and wrong for themselves.

Thou shalt impart your tricks of the trade: Be it getting a file passed through the demented hallways of admin or scoring a research internship with a professor, impart such tricks onto them. This chain of passing sacred knowledge from generation to generation needs to be preserved.

This nexus of seniors and juniors, though universal in nature, is something which is unique between every junior and their senior. In these four years of college, you meet thousands of people, interact with hundreds, but only remember those chosen few who were your beloved juniors and your caring seniors.

ANATOMY OF A 'SENIOR'



might have been fooled by such promises, but don't let your juniors fall into this trap.

Thou shalt help them cover syllabus under 12 hours: Tell them what to study and especially what not to

study. Rather than snickering at their below 7 GPA, be their saviour, their messiah, their prophet.

Thou shalt not be very strict with deadlines: They overshot the deadline? Smile and say it's okay. They

NSUTictionary : Andha Phoda

A stage where you overachieve to an extent that overachievement seems like an underachievement.

The P Word

By Priya Chugh

Let me introduce you to someone. This someone is very unlike you and me. He wasn't born according to the 'conventions' of the society and hence was termed 'abnormally' normal right from the day he first breathed. As abnormal as it may sound, for years he has lived with conscious self-defiance, a persistent non acceptance of his 'misfit' individuality and an indispensable pressure of struggling with a conundrum that he knows can never be resolved. He prefers to live with an ocean of bottled emotions, for they seem less suffocating than the hostility that awaits him on the revelation of his long-suppressed identity. He is suffering from what people call an incorrigible 'disorder', but ironically, he is not conceived as a needful 'diseased' but shrugged off as a barbaric 'demon'. Sympathising with him already, are you? Wait till I give him a tag, for you will disapprove of your own sympathy. He deserves all rightful contempt for being who he is, for having the audacity to exist, for giving in to choicelessness, for being anything but a paedophile.

Paedophilia is the new buzzword that is doing the rounds for all the wrong reasons. It holds a strong negative connotation and the victims of paedophilia are additionally victims of mass detestation and public scrutiny.

The Oxford Dictionary defines it as "The condition of being sexually attracted to children", which in a commoner's uninformed dictio-



nary translates to "A condemnable transgression that distorts the conventions of a non-accommodating society and outrages the modesty of prepubescents, despite inaction". The concept, no doubt, is widely misconstrued. Very often the words 'sex offender' and 'paedophile' are used interchangeably, thus justifying the vehement hatred associated with it. Unlike the popular belief, all paedophiles are not child abusers and not all child abusers qualify as being paedophiles. The thin line that demarcates the two dwindles the moment this harmless inclination changes to an irresistible urge to act on these interests. It is then that a paedophile degrades and becomes a child abuser.

The views of the experts are divided over this condition. Some cite biological connections and claim it to be an innate sexual orientation while others are of the opinion that psychosocial factors play a pivotal role in shaping an individual's interests. Dejections during childhood, social isolation, desire to dominate in bed,

'victim to victimiser' theory are some of the reasons that are deemed as being instrumental in contributing to this unusual preference. An opinion that terms paedophilia as a mental illness or an upshot of a paranoid obsession is also prevalent among the masses, though it clearly lacks any scientific evidence.

Given the amount of momentous abnormality that has come to be associated with the issue, it is natural corollary to conjecture that paedophilic individuals are abnormal aliens comprising breeds of psychopaths, sociopaths and sadists who derive pleasure out of hurt. But what fails to be registered with a large chunk of the population is that a paedophile is one among us - socially charismatic men, embodiments of the angelic world or a resident of our own bodily manifestation, it can get as implausible as one thinks it can't. Of course, no one in their right senses would want to be a paedophile, except for the fact that there isn't really a choice.

The enormity of the issue

has attracted its share of well-deserved attention along with an undeserved lot of hateful stigmatisation. The vocal shamers of this issue have sprouted majorly from bandwagon effect without delving deep into the complexities that exist within an oppressed body and mind of the sufferer. A considerable amount of people approach sex experts to vent out their sexual dissatisfaction despite having someone who can provide them with a fulfilling partnership. Recreate this scenario in the case of paedophiles. They cannot afford a partnership in the first place, let alone a sense of fulfillment that comes along with it. A state of perpetual dissatisfaction clubbed with sexual frustration that arises due to self-suppression of their non-executable emotions, seems a perfect combination for someone to give in to the forbidden. To make it justifiable on their part, we are responsible to give them a reason. For every time they try to vocalise their concerns and reach out for help, we penalise them, push their frustration to a level that it can find relief only in the form of an abuse.

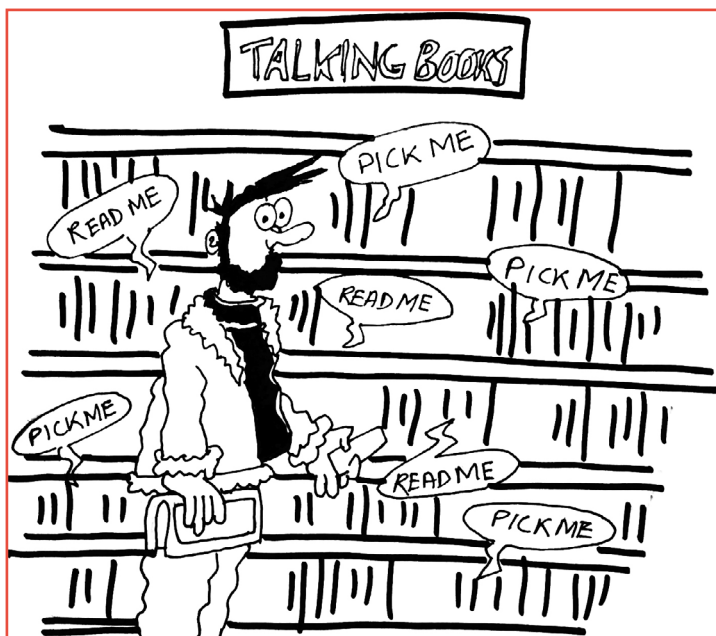
One cannot choose not to be a paedophile, but we, as a society, can choose not to transform a potential offender into a habitual abuser. If we cannot be mature enough to give paedophiles the space that they deserve, we need to realise that the victims of their vengeance will be none but our own children.

Musings from the Bookshelf

By Pranay Bora

Each and every day, I lie waiting in a cold dark corner gathering dust, wondering about my purpose, whether I'm more than what my creator intended me to be or if I am simply another title in a category. Are there elements of non-fiction hiding behind the made-up names and fantasies? Does my cover really scream out about my rough childhood and abandonment issues? Maybe I will never know but as I gaze at all these people who pass by, not even looking up from their screens to acknowledge my existence, there's one thing that I know for sure. I'm waiting for "the one", somebody who completes me, literally. Every time I feel a gentle caress on my spine, my insides flutter a little, vainly hoping it to be my "bookworm in nerdy glasses". The one who won't leave after just reading the back cover, who won't give up on me before completing at least the first chapter and give me some 'closure'. I'm now past the age of one night stands and flings, so if you're someone who leaves stains or folds the corners, we're just not meant to be.

Even though life has always been kind of bleak for me, I never really stopped holding out for the one. During my initial release, I suffered from self-esteem issues due to a myriad of reasons but mostly because I didn't think that my cover was an accurate representation of my true self, which is just a fancy way of saying it was ugly. "Did a horse design the cover?" was what you would've asked if you could've seen it except it wasn't done by a horse but something even



worse... A modern art student. No two people have ever inferred the same thing after seeing the cover. It took a lot of good reviews for me to realise I'm actually a good book and beauty on the outside doesn't matter it's what on the inside that counts. Life seemed good and so were the sales. Then one day I overheard the publisher talking about how I would've sold way more if the cover wasn't so ugly. Sheesh! That didn't crumble my remaining self-esteem at all! It was only later that I figured what's on the inside also doesn't matter. That incident changed me forever.

I was merely a young booklet when I saw the horrors myself, perched atop the bookshelf across, someone choosing Chetan Bhagat's child over JK Rowling's. That's the moment when it hit me; the world isn't fair. I spent the entire night comforting the Harry Potter family. The impact this tragedy had on everyone was monumental. All seven Harry's questioned their ex-

istence that day. Sorcerer's stone hung itself, it's tender mind too naive to face the truth. The entire collection was devastated. They would never be whole again. It was only after spending countless hours with the wise family of the "Self-Help" collective did I accept the fact that times were changing.

The dawn of the digital age has particularly been hard for us book-folk. Every day, stories can be heard of books converting to religions such as PDF and EPUB, enamoured by the novelty of the Kindle. Their offer, to exist forever in the fifth domain and probably get an audience in millions is pretty enticing but what's the point of existing forever anyway, just so that we perpetually keep on getting rejected in favour of some dumb cat videos? Honestly, vilification doesn't change the fact that very few people even visit the library anymore and even the ones who do will do everything with a book except read it. The realisation that several

friends of mine have been reduced to merely being paperweights weighs me down every day.

It all would've been so different had it not been for the iPhone. I still vividly remember the day I first met the iPhone. It was like the manifestation of Steve Jobs' ego and arrogance. So incredibly vain and proud, it stood there flexing every other second. Honestly, had we known it's global takeover plans we wouldn't have made fun of its small screen so much. Who knew it'd befriend bullies like Netflix and Youtube. They've brainwashed everybody to the extent that they can't be seen for who they truly are. A bunch of commitment-phobic, emotionally unavailable, manipulative players, who'll leave you at the slightest drop of the Wifi signal.

It's getting harder to imagine that "the one" for me will probably ever come. More than half of the world's filled with nitwits posting Instagram stories with book covers but God forbid if they ever open one. Since when did reading, a basic human function, become such a coveted skill that bragging about it was normalised? Oh, you can read? Would you also like an award to go with all the pretentiousness?

I hope I live to see the day when the scent of my old yellow pages will be desired again. Till then, the only way I'll get picked up is if someone looks at the cover and goes "Woah! A book on how to get free Netflix?"

Normalising Paranormal

By Manad Gupta

The deeper you delve into the Indian psyche, the clearer it becomes that there's a certain form of belief that exists in the supernatural. India's rich heritage, eccentric traditions, and cultural peculiarities make it a fertile ground for numerous strange tales and legends. Some of them are clearly fabricated while others are just so strange that they might be true. The belief in these tales is quite widespread and modern anxieties make more people believe in them.

Terror of the Unknown: In 2002, the villagers from rural Uttar Pradesh were panicked by the alleged sightings of a hawk-like creature with metal claws. Rumour dictates that it swept down like a miniature UFO, aiming to scratch the victim's faces with its nasty claws. Some of the villagers stayed up all night with guns and water cannons to ward off this unknown creature. To stop the town from going into a complete frenzy, the police had to convince the villagers that the existence of the said creature is a rumour and the victims were affected by some unexplained force of nature.

The literate ghost: In the late 90s, Bangalore was not only abuzz with the incoming of technological giants but also with rumours of a witch wandering the streets of the city in the dead of night. Legend has it that she went down knocking on doors and calling out to victims in the voice of their loved ones. Anyone who answered the door, died. The residents of the



city came up with a solution, they wrote 'Nale Ba' on their doors. It translates as 'come tomorrow'. The witch would return the next day, see the sign and this cycle continued perennially. Only Bangalore can have such a polite and educated ghost!

Jodhpur Boom: On the fine morning of December 18, 2012, the people of Jodhpur were startled by a sudden, deafening boom that came out of nowhere. Originally, everyone speculated that the boom was the work of some IAF aircraft or an ammunition test by the Indian Army but soon, the defence ministry rejected all the rumours that were being propagated in public. This led to a panic wave as many of the residents of this peaceful town started seeing the sonic boom as a beginning of Earth's end. No explanation of this abrupt

boom has been found till date. These booms took place all over the world including countries like the UK and US. Geologists have reported that the seismic readings during the booms were unlike anything ever recorded before. What caused these booms, still remains a mystery.

Death in the sky: In the town of Jatinga in Assam, life in the sky comes to a standstill each year between the months of September and November. The residents witness something that is beyond our wildest imagination, a mass bird suicide wherein hundreds of birds descend from the sky into buildings and trees at full speed, plummeting to their deaths. This bizarre and horrifying incident has baffled the scientists for years. Locals, on the other hand, vehemently argue that this

is the work of evil spirits haunting the area for centuries.

India has its fair share of stories that may not have a logical explanation to them but that doesn't mean there is no credibility to them. A few claim to have experienced them while others think of different reasons to (not) justify their existence. For example, lights in my room go out every night (I hear a Banshee wailing too)! Maybe my friends are trying to mess up with me but undeniably, there's always a disturbing speck of fear at the back of mind. They deny any involvement in the same but isn't this a case of my experience against theirs? I also think that my laptop has been off this entire time and I've just been making this all up in my head.

An Average Student's Guide to Making the Perfect Resume

By Devansh Batra

Creating a resume which has the right blend of some fantastic braggadocio yet substantial legitimacy might seem like a tough task. That's because it actually is. We have put together a flawless to-do list to truly adorn that overrated piece of recycled plum that will never quantify your actual true worth. That being said, it is essential you agonize over each line and each word, because you probably won't find a job matching your true worth.



Understand it's not the same as your CV

We live in a (very) lazy world. A resume is a crisp summary of your education, work history, credentials and skills. It's hardly ever expected to be a full page long. On the other hand, the curriculum vitae (herein referred to as

the CV), are also a summary of your experience and work skills. Except, they are much longer. They are supposed to include information about your academic background, including teaching experience, degrees, research, awards, publications, presentations, and other achievements. So don't pitch in your glamorous resume when the Jobs portal asks you to upload a CV.

Don't use a template. Or make it look like you didn't

After years of cursing their managers and interviewees, the one thing HRs have learned to be good at is identifying templates like pros. They don't even need half a glance (at you or your resume) before labelling you as having a "lack of originality" thanks to the copyrighted layout you ripped off. Invest a sunday into creating a document layout that is originally yours, it will stay with you forever.

So you think you know MS Excel?

You might feel tempted to include skills like Microsoft Excel into your 'proficient' column, after your little

cameo with it from school. Don't do it. There's an almost certain possibility you have virtually no idea of the capabilities this rather excellent piece of software provides (and the months of experience it takes to gain expertise in it). The same stands for Java, Matlab or Digital Marketing and Cloud Computing. However if you manage to get some experience with skills that aren't too mainstream and likely to stump your readers clean, by all means include them without a second thought. Remember there's a reason somebody thought of a 'familiar' column.

Your GPA deserves the right placement

There are several areas on typical resumes which are more visible to the eye than others. That's where the terrific stuff goes. If you have a not so decent GPA, probably place it somewhere down the sheet and not over the top, as most templates suggest. Don't feel shy omitting a section if it isn't presentable enough.

Let the results speak

Past Experience is definitely the most important column

on the page. The headings speak for themselves, it is inherently understood that having held the designation, you performed the wide variety of tasks that come along with it. As a front end engineer, you probably worked on a project's UI design as well. As a manager, you are already expected to manage a bunch of people and a project. Don't squander the opportunity to show you were actually good at what you did by blatantly describing the tasks. Use phrases involving verbs like "Accelerated, improvised, maximised, awarded" over "managed, contributed, hired to, responsibilities included".

Aesthetics please!

Do not forget the basics. A bullet should be at most a line long, avoid colours, definitely avoid typos and grammatical errors. Do get your documents reviewed from your most trusted seniors before applying somewhere.

HIRED!

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