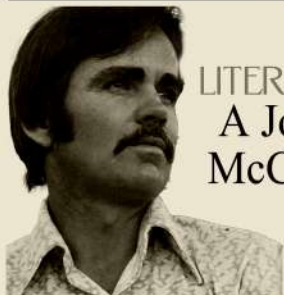


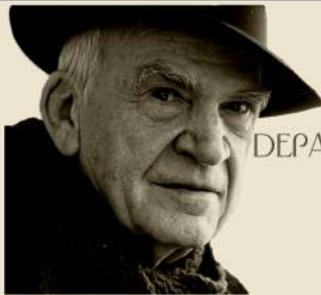
PASTICHE

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER : ISSUE-I



LITERARY REVIEW
A Journey Along
McCarthy's Road

GO TO PAGE 07



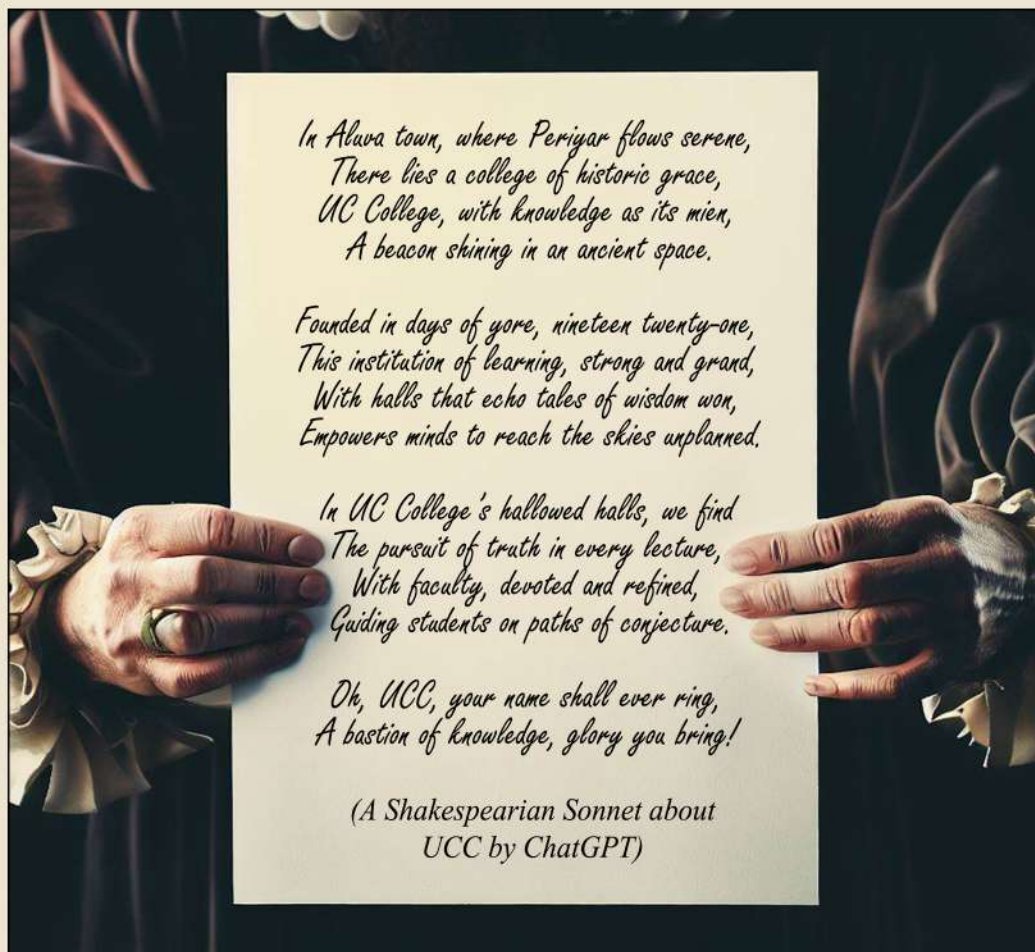
DEPARTMENT BULLETIN
Remembering
Milan Kundera

GO TO PAGE 13

OPEN PAGE
Prometheus,
Freed.

GO TO PAGE 04

Making It ^{Net} Work



*In Alava town, where Periyar flows serene,
There lies a college of historic grace,
UC College, with knowledge as its mien,
A beacon shining in an ancient space.*

*Founded in days of yore, nineteen twenty-one,
This institution of learning, strong and grand,
With halls that echo tales of wisdom won,
Empowers minds to reach the skies unplanned.*

*In UC College's hallowed halls, we find
The pursuit of truth in every lecture,
With faculty, devoted and refined,
Guiding students on paths of conjecture.*

*Oh, UCC, your name shall ever ring,
A bastion of knowledge, glory you bring!*

(A Shakespearian Sonnet about
UCC by ChatGPT)

Sreelakshmi V
II BA English

An erudite scholar of English language, with his linguistic expertise and suave expression, would probably not have been able to match the literary acumen, the latest addition to AI has demonstrated. Even a 'seasoned student' of literature can only marvel with envy at the lucid and nuanced description of the college and its picturesque landscape. The mythical genie couldn't have foreseen that a mere AI model like ChatGPT would imbibe the true sense of the term 'your wish is my command' better than himself.

(Image generated from Dall-E 2 AI system that can create realistic images and art from a description in natural language with the prompt Shakespeare holding a blank paper.)

The influx of online platforms has proved to be a double-edged sword for humankind. Even as these have served as a springboard for increasing efficiency and accuracy of performance, they are also feared of causing erosion to the human intellect. One might rather choose to read a piece of fiction on a light mobile device in the comfort of a reclining armchair than risk the labour to hunt it down among the musty books in the library. This whimsical notion of having the world shrunken into the palm of our hands makes us wonder if we are living in a world where printed books are turning into relics and libraries to obsolete museums.

Mode of presentation and clarity of content which were considered incipient characteristics of the print medium were challenged by the introduction and proliferation of digital media. With the advent of platforms like Twitter, Threads, YouTube, Instagram, and Facebook we see content unfold and manifest in myriad ways. The widening arena of the various forms of expressions offered by these platforms has also led to significant alterations in the perception habits of the target audience. For instance, full-fledged, lengthy videos of an 'aesthetic and honest day in the life' of our favourite influencer no longer trend on YouTube these days. Instead, short videos of durations less than thirty seconds have begun to gain traction. The apparent obsession with shorter and precise content becomes evident when one might even find an otherwise short story too long if it exceeds the average number of scrolls it takes to navigate from one page to the next.

To draw a parallel with literature, micro-fiction has become the new vantage ground for literary enthusiasts, where complex ideas and emotions are delved into even as structural precision is maintained. Features like 'Threads' on the other hand offer a wider stage for think-tanks, policy wonks and armchair critics.

The current fad for 'short is beautiful' however, is not necessarily a fallout of social media. An average millennial or Gen Z would be bemused to know

that the earliest and most popular works of fiction in the world were short pieces compiled together. They existed even before the invention of printing and the onslaught of social media. These were already experimented in works as old as *One Thousand and One Nights*, *Vikramaditya*, *Kathasaritsagaram* and *The Canterbury Tales* where shorter narratives were used to engage the readership.

Ever since the first fragment of technology was unleashed within the human intellect, there have been a million conjectures about its devastating impact on humankind and humanity itself. Such pre-conceived assumptions are perhaps the singular reason that deter us from finding healthy possibilities within the digital media. The array of opportunities it offers should not be foreshadowed by unfounded speculations. We have witnessed hundreds of instances where this apparently invasive medium has emerged as a saviour, especially for the differently abled community. Their amalgamation into mainstream society has been made possible by the tremendous capacity of the digital media.

However, even as one may extol the pastures yet to be explored in the virtual world, one shouldn't overlook its flip sides as well. As a society that consumes a deluge of information, the possibility of 'fake news' and 'misinformation' creeping into our psychological system cannot be ignored. We are often surrounded by a network that is constantly in a bid to feed and acquire more information. In this meaningless and dangerous race, people unwittingly get lost in the pursuit of viewership and likes, and even maliciously indulge in content creation to garner attention.

It is no secret that all of us, in one way or the other, are integral parts of the prestigious 'WhatsApp University'. The hierarchy can be disputed; we certainly have freshmen, sophomores, graduates, potential entrants, content creators and fake-fact-checkers.

From seemingly harmless information to news that ignites riots across the nation, we have innumerable instances of irreversible damage that have been caused by the circulation of fake news via popular media like WhatsApp and Twitter. The nation hung low its head in shame as a video of two women, stripped, assaulted and paraded across the streets of Manipur surfaced on social media. Why did it happen? What was the trigger? As unsettling as it may seem, fake news is the answer. It all began with the wide circulation of the photograph of a

body wrapped in plastic, a young woman lying next to a suitcase. Along with it was a message that said it was a Meitei woman raped and killed by a mob of Kuki men. In reality, the girl had

been a resident of Delhi murdered by her own parents. To cite another example, it was not long ago that the nation's conscience was left permanently tainted with riot-stricken Delhi back in 2020 when Islamophobic narratives were peddled to incite communal disharmony. The examples are endless but the larger question on the perils of fake news and how it can be controlled is far from settled.

The only way to save oneself from this potential virtual catastrophe is to be on the constant lookout for authenticity, credible sources and be tech-aware and informed netizens.

In this endless debate, we also get to see the print medium still surviving unvanquished. One can delve into innumerable reasons, as to how the print medium survives and even digress into complex

matters to forge a conclusive answer as to how people have managed to straddle both these media. However, nothing matches the romance involved in flipping pages of an unfolded newspaper, with a lingering curiosity while reading it, and arriving at the last page with a sense of pride of having gotten a grip on the real world or settling down at night reading a good book; the mere sight of the heavy book weighing down the readers' hand is a pleasure to watch.

The intellectual discourse of a large mass of the populace is however steered by a healthy mix of both the print and digital media. An eclectic range of content is provided through e-magazines, e-newspapers etc. However, democratization of data brings with it a potential risk of digital monopoly. In a country like ours where such democratization stands far ahead of any other country, having struck a balance between print and digital, is indeed a giant leap. While making wide-ranging content accessible to people without logistical hassles it also makes the entire experience extremely personal and intimate.

In this ever-evolving virtual world, it is impossible to free oneself from the clutches of digital and social media. It will continue to grow and spread itself in different forms and shapes. Outright rejection of new technologies that are going to shape our future is not a viable option. The way forward would be a healthy engagement with it taking due cognizance of its pros and cons. For instance, how about using the Shakespearean 'pastiche' on UC College by ChatGPT to engage a classroom discussion on the characteristics of Shakespearean Sonnet?

He had seen both heaven and hell.
Edward Rochester, once eighteen and untainted,
now thirty nine and damned.

Bertha Antoinette Mason, with her wild, fiery soul
Which sought escape from the attic that was her body,
Became Rochester's own attic from which he sought escape.
He was Prometheus, tied to Thornfield Hall.
eternally cursed.

His past, red eyed with tongues of fire, was
The terrible eagle that ate at his sanity,
a terrible ghost that haunted him, and
kept company with her.

Bertha. Her laughter keeps him awake.
The clanging of her chains whispered terrible questions.
Is it his fault? Or is it hers? Or where they just pawns for a cruel chess master?

He tried to exile himself from that hell but he was never out of it.
Thornfield Hall's poisoned roots wound too close-
Like snakes, like Bertha's long, beautiful locks, sinking their fangs into him.
Suffocating. poisoning. But never killing.

And then Jane Eyre.
Called otherworldly, unearthly by the man who has seen both worlds.
She touched the soul of a man who had lost half of it.
Became his sacred place of confession and worship,
His own altar of self sacrifice,
His footing on the edge of a precipice.
Her spirit addressed his spirit,
And tightened a red string between his heart and hers.

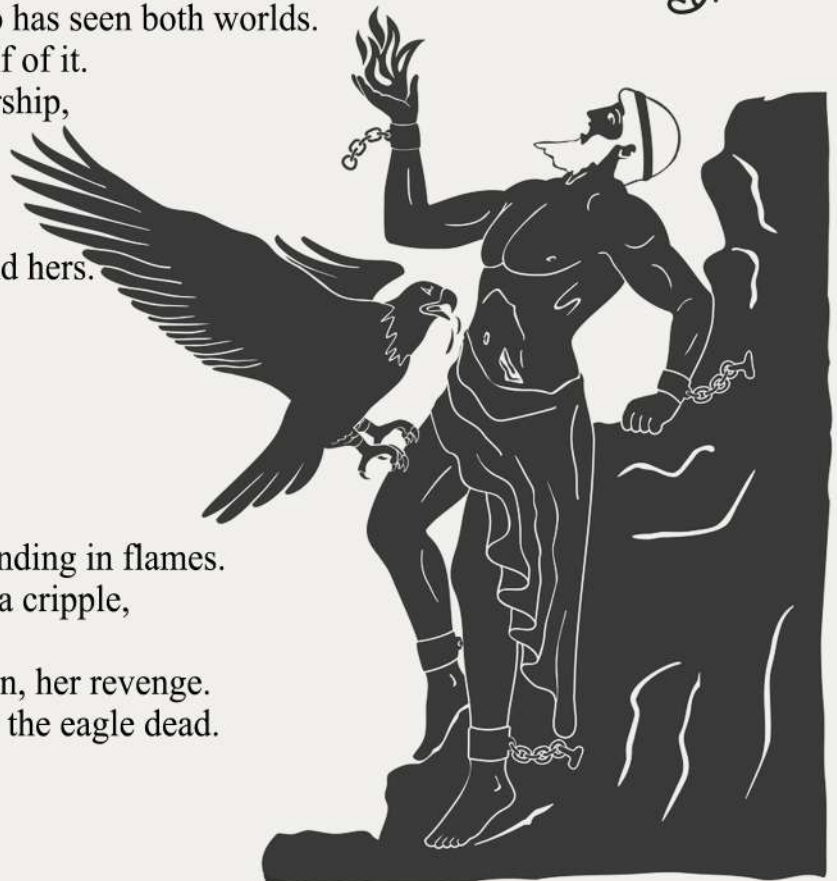
One his heaven, One hell.
One tricked by him, and one he was tricked by.
What was his punishment? His redemption?

Bertha's death.
Her soul, finally freed of her body, her world ending in flames.
Rochester, who tried to save her from it, made a cripple,
His sight fed to fire.
His punishment, his redemption, her redemption, her revenge.
Thornfield Hall burnt to ashes- the curse lifted, the eagle dead.

And Prometheus, though broken, finally freed.

PROMETHEUS, FREED.

Sara Padma Das
II MA English

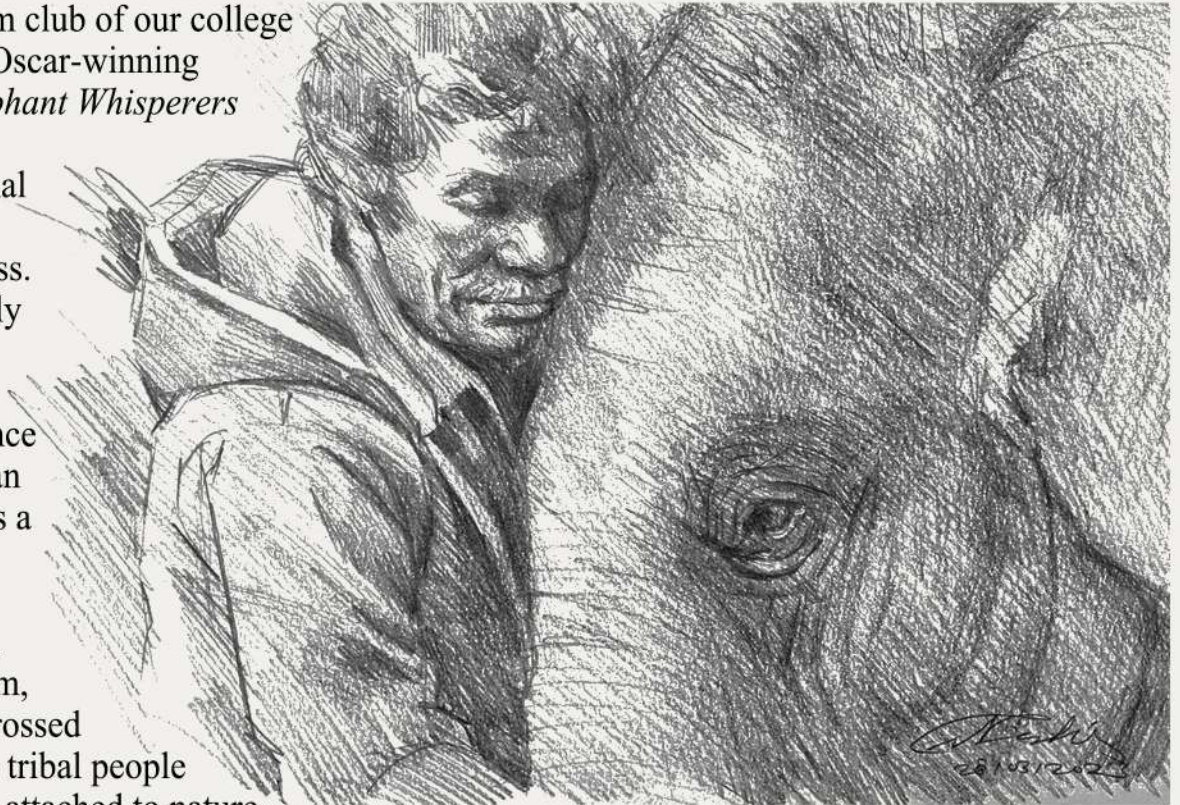


WHEN WHISPERS TURN CHANTS

A few days ago the film club of our college was inaugurated. The Oscar-winning documentary, *The Elephant Whisperers* was screened.

It was such an emotional and phenomenal film that it left me speechless. The raw feelings vividly captured transcend regions, languages and cultures. The essence of humankind tied by an invisible thread weaves a sense of togetherness and love and has been portrayed wonderfully. While watching the film, a significant thought crossed my mind as to how the tribal people are so in tune with and attached to nature.

They consider nature as part of them, and at the same time are aware of their boundaries. They take what they need without depleting the nature of its essential entities. I often wonder about the people dwelling in the woods closely observing nature and reflecting upon themselves. I firmly believe they are the key reason why ancient India was intellectually robust, making it a reservoir of knowledge. Their ways of life are so simple, sans rushes, anxieties, discriminations, and enmities.



The only threat the tribal people face is the prejudice and oppression by the apparent "upper classes", whose materialistic mentality is worth nothing but disdain. The tribals are after all the key players in preserving India's biodiversity. Even as they take from forest, they keep it pristine.

How can people ever look down upon them? The indigenous population holds a rich history, a diverse culture and a vast set of beliefs. They are mysterious, morally prosperous and mesmerizing, all at the same time. India is indeed a whole different world in itself with so many facets still remaining unexplored. I realize the pride in being able to be born into this culturally, ideologically and morally rich land where I hope every Indian carves a niche for themselves.

C S Lakshmi Priya
I BA English

Prof. G. D. Gabriel

C.V. Mariamma
(Alumnus of UC College, 1968-73 Pre-degree & Degree)

(1932-2023)

Remembering our dear Gabriel Sir, the great Guru who was a source of inspiration and motivation to the student community, with reverence and affection. I was blessed to be one of his students for five years from 1968 to 1973. He taught us how to speak good English with accurate pronunciation and accent. He talked, walked, dressed and smiled like an Englishman. He was an actor teaching drama and a poet in his poetry classes. He was a silver tongued orator and a good storyteller which made attending his classes a pleasant and unforgettable experience, as his teaching style was lucid and inimitable. His vast knowledge of English, both language and literature and proficiency in speaking the language made him adorable.

Gabriel Sir was an absolute gentleman with an unshakeable faith in God. He stayed humble and grounded his whole lifetime on the firm rock of faith in God. He possessed certain lasting Christian values. According to him, "Every genuine person is God's masterpiece." Gabriel sir belonged to that genuine group, who believed that "the ways of God are different. Man's intellect has limitations and we should not measure God with our parameters." I remember his active participation in prayer meetings and chapel services regularly held on all weekends.

I can frankly say teachers like Gabriel Sir, whose words matched their deeds were our role models at UCC.

This is my humble and sincere tribute to Gabriel Sir from the bottom of my heart. No doubt he deserves more than what I said about and I am sure that Heaven has already accorded a warm welcome to our GDG Sir.



(Prof. G D Gabriel during 'Smarananjali': Golden Jubilee Commemoration of MA English Batch held on 20 December 2018)

A JOURNEY ALONG McCARTHY'S ROAD

Nihara Binduraj
II BA English

The Road, a captivating novel penned by Cormac McCarthy, takes readers on a journey alongside a young boy and his father in a world filled with terror and desolation. Set in a post-apocalyptic era, the story unfolds amidst a bleak landscape lacking sustenance and benevolent souls.

Devoid of a permanent abode, the boy and his father are in constant pursuit of food and safety. The duo have to act vigilant because ruthless marauders roam the desolate wasteland, guided by their lawless principles and willing to commit unimaginable atrocities to stay alive.

The boy and his father share a strong and profound understanding of each other. Their mutual affection fuels their determination to shield one another from the horrors of the harsh reality. They engage in heartfelt conversations, sharing their deepest thoughts and emotions. The father assumes the role of a protector, sparing his son from the horrifying elements of their surroundings.

Throughout their journey, the father and son face many challenges and are confronted with tough choices. Occasionally, they meet kind-hearted individuals who offer assistance, but more frequently, rely solely on each other.

Enduring perpetual hunger and chilling cold, they somehow manage to survive, in the hope of a better tomorrow.

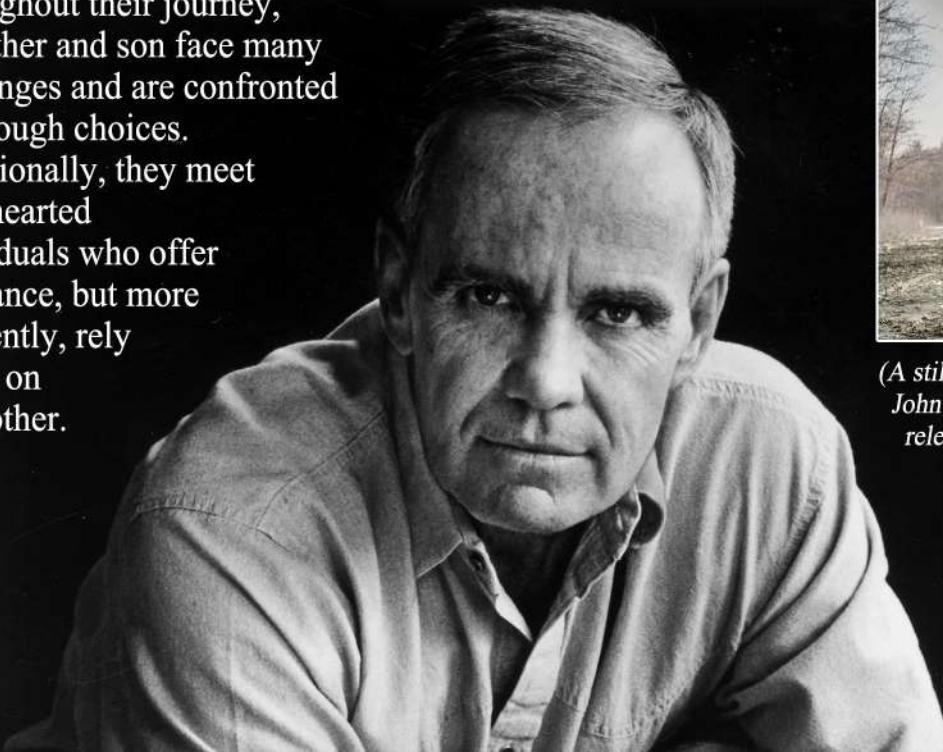
The novel's prose is distinctive, void of traditional chapters and abundant dialogue. Instead, McCarthy employs concise, yet expressive sentences to vividly portray the pair's trials and tribulations. It feels like you're right there with the boy and his dad, experiencing their struggles and emotions.

The Road is an indeed melancholic and occasionally distressing narrative. However, it also imparts valuable lessons on love, hope, and the firm resilience of familial bonds. It emphasizes the significance of compassion during the most difficult times. The book ends in a way that is sorrowful yet promising, prompting introspection on the essence of humanity.

I wholeheartedly recommend *The Road* to mature audiences, including older children and adults who love tales of adventure and survival. It's a book that will make you appreciate what you possess now and remind you of the power of love.



(A still from the movie 'The Road' directed by John Hillcoat, adapted from McCarthy's novel released in 2009)



A LITERARY GENIUS UNRAVELLED

Niranjana J
II BA English

The renowned American writer and Pulitzer prize-winning author, Cormac McCarthy was born on July 20, 1933, in Providence, Rhode Island and grew up mostly in Tennessee. McCarthy attended the University of Tennessee in 1951 but dropped out later to join the airforce and started writing after returning from the service. The themes and the writing style he made use of made his work stand out among his contemporaries. With a career that lasted around four decades, he has left behind twelve incredible novels and two plays.

Going through Mc Carthy's works is indeed a difficult journey as his works are different from other popular writers. The central characters in his stories are usually

outcasts who find themselves very distinct and strange from others. Unlike most of the stories where writers portray the protagonist as the embodiment of perfection and selflessness, his main characters are usually complex, morally corrupt and violent. His works give us a portrayal of the complicated and unexplored human emotions due to which his concepts takes the reader on an intellectual rollercoaster. The twelve novels he has written can be divided into two sections; the former lasting from 1965-1979 and the latter from 1985-2022. His early works consist of southern, gothic and modernist fiction whereas the latest ones revolve around lives of outcasts and misfits of the society. His first novel, *The Orchard Keeper* was published on 1965.

It is about the young John Wesley Rattner who goes through adulthood in the remote areas of Tennessee mountains. The novel explores the independence that can be achieved in the remote and primitive areas of the mountains through three major characters. The William Faulkner Foundation selected it as the Best First Novel by an American author in 1965. His other works of the period include *Outer Dark*(1968), *Child of God*(1973), *Suttree*(1979) and all of them come under southern gothic fiction.

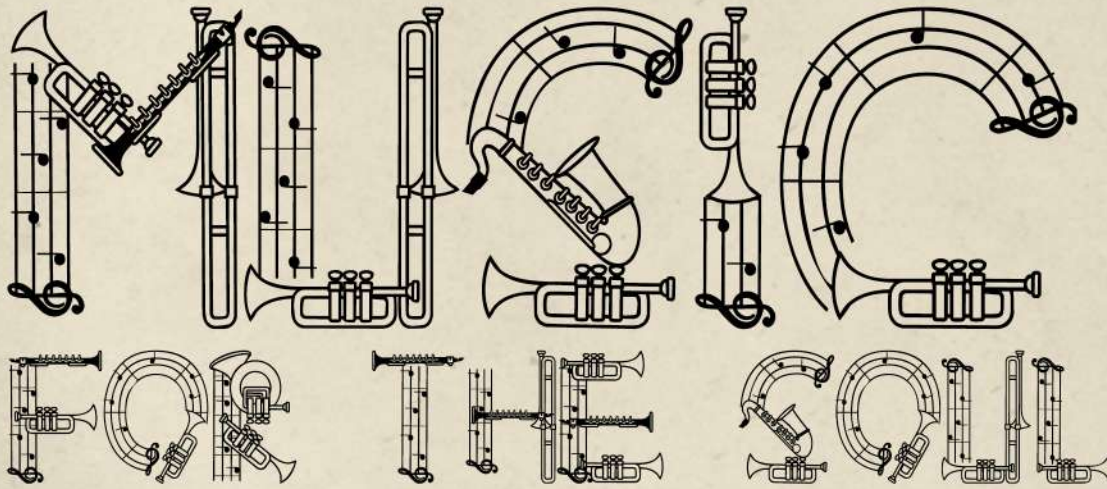


The second period of his works was inaugurated with his masterpiece, *Blood Meridian*(1985). It revolves around John Glanton who is a scalp hunter. This novel introduces us to the character of Judge Holden. He is a mysterious sadist figure, capable of horrific acts of violence and is a cold-blooded killer. The border trilogy by him includes *The Pretty Horses*(1992), *The Crossing*(1994), and *Cities of the Plain*(1998). The cowboy John Grady Cole is the most notable character of the series where McCarthy shows his respect for the skills of the frontier, but at the same time, exposes America's idealisation of its cowboy past. *No country for Old Men*(2005) was adapted as a movie by the Coen Brothers.

This novel contains aspects of a thriller and majorly revolves around the unstoppable hitman Anton Chigurh and his pursuit of Llewelyn Moss. The film was widely acclaimed and won a total of eight Oscars that year. McCarthy's best-known and Pulitzer prize winning novel *The Road* (2006) is his only future-set tale that tells about the struggle a nameless man and boy have to confront in order to survive in the post-apocalyptic America. Along with the end of the society, it also represents the end of humane values in the society. It brings out the rawest emotions from the readers through its gut wrenching story-telling and minimalistic style. McCarthy's final two novels are a pair. *The Passenger* (2022) which describes the identity crisis faced by a salvage diver in the face of deep waters, loss and his longing for death. *Stella Maris* (2022) is his final novel which covers the conversation between the mathematics genius Alicia Western who admits herself into a psychiatric hospital and her therapist.

McCarthy wrote in great depth about peculiar human characters and nature. He illustrated the darkness, violence, horror and chaos he has witnessed in the world through his works. His style is minimalistic, simple and often includes declarative sentences and scattered pronunciations. The word 'and' has been called the most important word in McCarthy's lexicon. Most of his works give a clear picture of how the past affects the present on a large scale. The protagonists crafted by him were majorly drifters, thieves and prostitutes in forbidden landscapes, unable to escape their predetermined fates which widely varied from the conventional protagonist of a novel. McCarthy laid bare the violence and terrifying rage that lay beneath the sophisticated and polished American stories. Millions of readers around the world have embraced McCarthy's works, his complicated characters, complex themes, and experimental language. He will forever remain one of the greatest and most significant figures of modern English literature.





Aneena Sabu
II MA English

World Music Day, celebrated every year on June 21, aims at propagating the spirit, essence and power of music. The English Department of UC College gathered on World Music Day, 2023 recognizing the importance and the potentiality of music. The theme chosen this year was “Music for Peace and Communal Harmony”. Three Assistant Professors of the Department- Dr Akhila Narayanan, Alwin Alexander and Feneena S Mohamed- along with the final year postgraduate students and a few undergraduate students were part of the discussion which began at 2:30 pm.

After an introduction from the teachers on the purpose and the relevance of such a discussion and gathering, the students were encouraged to share their views on the power of music, the role of music in their lives and the effects it has had on them. Alwin Sir pointed out his view that music becomes meaningful when it prompts people into positive actions. He added an experience from his own life when he rose to action influenced by a movie song. The uniqueness in essence, feel and spirit each music embodies was also brought to light during the discussion. Everyone agreed on how these varied essences evoked wide-ranging effects within the listeners. Some students told how they could overcome their boredom and feel more enthusiastic by hearing energetic music or their favourite songs while doing monotonous activities. Mithra, a fellow student enunciated how listening to certain songs can soothe us, give us more energy and have a palpable impact on us.

How the spirit of a song transfers the same kind of spirit into the listeners was an important point many seemed to agree upon. Akhila Ma’am went on to say how music for her was something that would stir our thoughts. The ability of the lyrics of certain songs to make listeners think was the point she presented. The next idea discussed was how patriotic songs had a special power to make the listeners feel part of a collective identity, feel proud, get goosebumps and also recollect their heroic past and ancestors. This point was made by students when Akhila Ma’am added her own experience about having heard the song “Aye Mere Pyaare Watan” from the film *Kabuliwala* which had expressed a sense of longing and love for one’s nation. Later, the song “Blowing in the Wind” by Bob Dylan was sung by Abhijith which was followed by a description of the context in which the song was produced. It was recalled that the song was a protest which questioned the unending oppression, violence and Civil War. Students were also asked to share their experiences and journey through music. Ann Mariya shared how everyone in her family was related to music, how she overcame her stage fright and how music transported her into an imaginary world away from harsh realities. Helen shared how music had been always a part of her from childhood since her family consists of musicians.

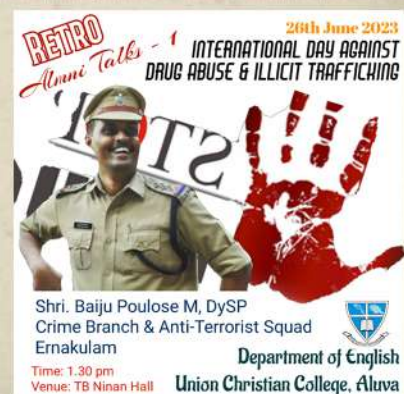
Prince remembered how the Malayalam poem “Maambazham” written by Vyloppilli Sreedhara Menon had made him think deeply about the mother persona’s emotions after her child’s death and how he extended the poem with lines he penned later. He emphasized the point that music and poetry can have an impact on us and make us think deeper. He also mentioned how music has had great importance across cultures specifically mentioning the ‘Koythu Paattu’ or the Harvest Songs which made the labourers forget their weariness of hard labour. During the discussion, students were encouraged to sing a few lines from any songs of their choice and Ann Mariya, Helen, Beneeta, Sneha, Mithra, and Drina sang the songs “Munbe Vaa”, “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”, “Oru Mazhayum Thoraathirunnitilla”, “Alliyaambal Kadavilannarakku Vellam”, “Ini Varunoru Thalamurakku” and “Oru Raathri Koodi” respectively.

One of the songs sung and mentioned “Ini Varunoru Thalamurakku” was taken as an example of a song with a powerful tone calling on people to act and with so effective a lyric, showing the urgent need to save nature. All the songs referred to or sung during the gathering were from different languages, with unique tones, and conveyed distinct messages and varied emotions. The combination of such diverse types of music sung in the discussion showed how despite the diversity of tastes in music and the differences in our choices, there could be harmony.

The gathering was successful in spreading various ideas and perceptions about music, in showing how the beauty of music doesn’t end with just the enjoyment of it but also in the power of the lyrics or the spirit of music that leads us to positive actions and reflective thoughts. The great importance of music and its role in our lives, its power to influence listeners, invoke certain emotions in them and its ability to transform the world were highlighted in the discussion conducted as part of World Music Day.

ANTI-NARCORTICS DAY

The Department of English observed the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on 26 June 2023. In connection with this Shri. Baiju Poulouse M, DySP Crime Branch & Anti-Terrorist Squad, Ernakulam addressed the UG and PG students of the department. By sharing experiences from his case diary, the speaker highlighted the alarming rise of drug abuse and related social crimes from both global and local perspectives. The session helped the students realise the gravity of the situation and the need to scale-up the fight against this serious malaise. The talk was followed by a lively interaction.



TOODALOO!

Adieu to 2021-2023 P.G Batch

Drina Biju Jacob
II MA ENGLISH

Farewell Parties are always exciting and kindle a lot of happy memories. On 23 June 2023, the first year MA English class arranged a farewell party titled "TOODALOO" for the final year outgoing students.

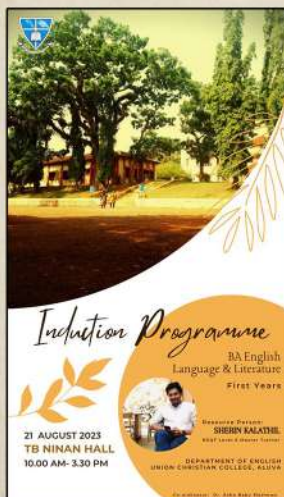
The party was held in the Reading Room of the Department of English.

The function began with a lunch at 1.00 pm followed by formal functions. The hosts of the event Arya and Mithra gave a hearty welcome to the gathering. Dr Sonia Chacko, Head of the Dept. of English addressed the students with her inspiring words. She wished them all the best for their future endeavours. As a parting note, she reminded that students must consider the past as a lesson for their future. Dr Akhila Narayanan, class teacher of the final years, shared her experiences with them. She advised the students to cultivate positive thinking and to do smart work to become successful in their careers. A video montage prepared by the juniors made everyone emotional, reminding them of their yesteryears and home away from home. Fun games such as 'Fire in the Mountain', 'The Whisper Challenge', 'Biscuit Challenge', 'Musical Chair', etc. were arranged by the juniors to make the day more fun and memorable. The seniors displayed lots of excitement & curiosity while participating in events. They enjoyed the games session to the fullest. Refreshments were arranged during the programme. Later the final-year students were asked to share their experiences and memorable anecdotes. Juniors sang a group song for their beloved seniors to express the irreplaceable void they would create in our hearts upon parting. After games, the Department gave away a bunch of gifts as a token of love to the ones who were to bid farewell to our campus. There ended a beautiful day marked with both happiness and sorrow and an immense amount of love. A formal vote of thanks was delivered by the hosts.



INDUCTION PROGRAMME

First Year UG students had their one day Induction Programme on 21 August 2023 from 10.00 am to 3.30 pm. The students had an engaging session with tasks and team activities. The resource person was NSQF level 6 Master Trainer, Mr. Sherin Kalathil.

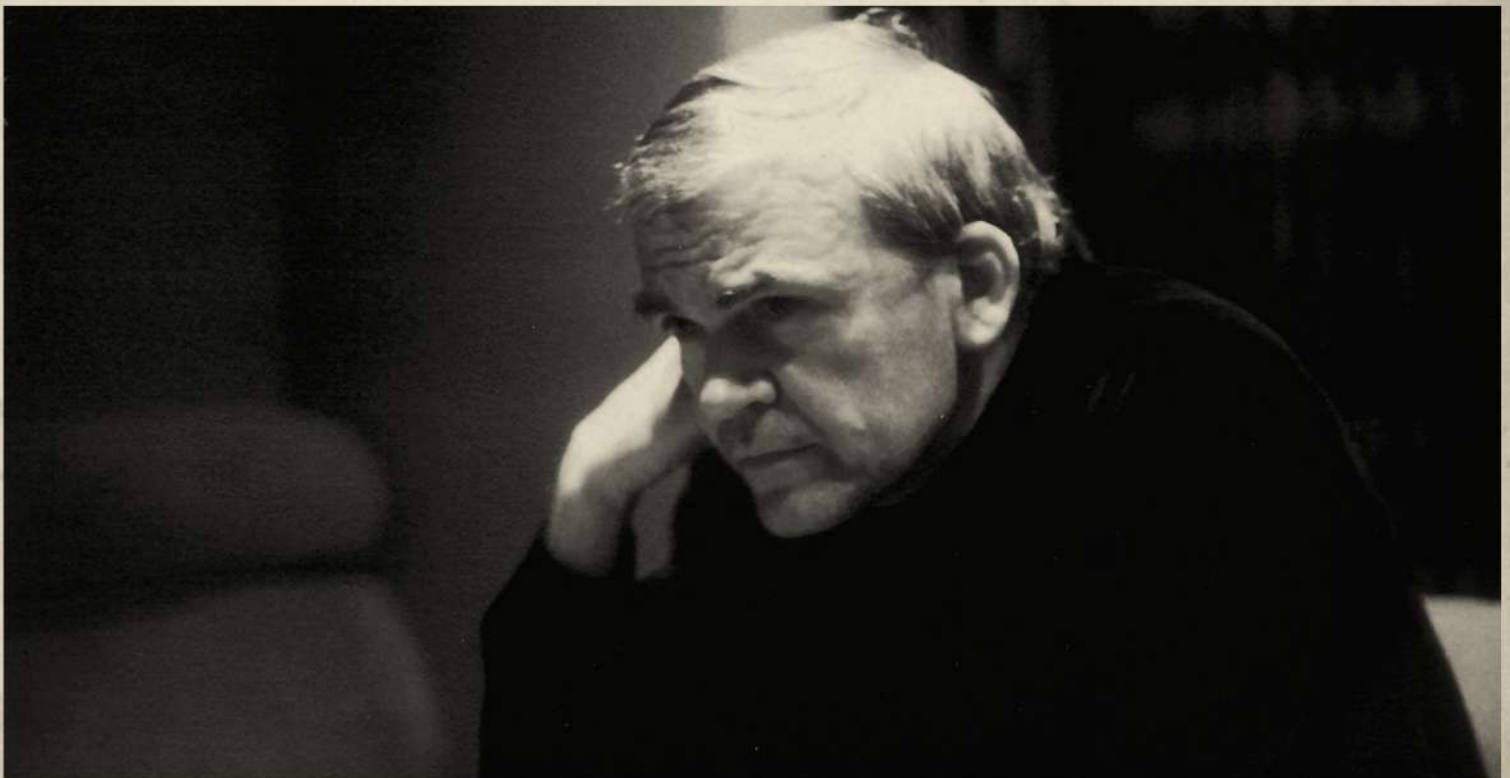


REMEMBERING MILAN KUNDERA

Arya R Nair
II MA ENGLISH

The Postgraduate and Research Forum of the Department of English, organized a book review session in commemoration of Milan Kundera on 19 July 2023 in the Reading Room. Kundera was a Czech-French novelist who was best known for his works that often explored philosophical themes, human relationships, and the complexities of existence. Amongst his prominent compositions, the book *Laughable Loves*, a collection of seven short-stories was taken up for the discussion. It was an informal discussion that centred around three short-stories from the collection- "Nobody Will Laugh", "The Hitchhiking Game" and "Eduard and God", with the active participation of first and second-year PG students.

The session was set in motion by Rekha Ma'am who introduced Kundera's personal and political life followed by major themes that recur in his short stories. A slide show prepared by Prince T Samuel (II PG) was played alongside the discussion. The conflict between faith and modernism in the story "Eduard and God" was highlighted by Alwin Sir. He raised a thought-provoking question- "Why should one 'believe'?" The students pitched in their thoughts and views based on their reading of short stories. Akhila Ma'am carried the discussion to a wider realm featuring the unique and peculiar writing style of Kundera, characterized by its intellectual depth, humour and profound insight into the human psyche. This session opened up a platform for students to get a taste of Kundera and his works. The session that commenced at 12.45 pm concluded by 01.30 pm with an assurance to have more such platforms for future discussions.



VIDYAKIRAN: Extension Activity



Ganga Muralidharan
II MA English

The journey of academic pursuit is complete only when we engage in ventures outside the classroom environment. As students of the Dept. of English, we were fortunate to be part of many such exciting endeavours. The extension program named 'Vidyakiran' was one among them. As part of this initiative, the II MA students got an opportunity to teach communicative skills to the students of the Viveka Chandrika Sabha School, Puthenvelikkara. It is a higher secondary School where students from lower-income belt study. Earlier this year, we made our first visit to the school and had a fruitful interaction with the higher secondary students. We wholeheartedly engaged with them and played a few language games. We also guided them through a session on creative writing.

Our second visit to the school, under the guidance of Ms. Rekha Nair and Dr. Asha Baby Mathews, was made more memorable with four Japanese students who joined us. They have been on the campus for the past month as part of the International Student's Exchange in Service-Learning (ISESL) programme. Haruka, Mizaaki, Momoco and Seuyon from International Christian University, Japan made our extension activity even more vibrant with their enthusiastic participation. After our interactive session with students, they taught the students Origami, the Japanese art of paper folding. The students also got to interact with them and explore their curiosities about Japanese culture, educational system, food habits, climate etc.



Discussions about cultural differences between India and Japan were enlightening. They explained how there were no stringent religious practices in Japan and there were many Japanese who did not subscribe to a specific religion, even though Christianity and Buddhism were practised by some. Mizaaki, for instance, doesn't follow any religion. Haruka expressed her delight in the manner Indians treated their guests. She explained how people in India had a positive outlook even to strangers. We also had interesting conversations about the traditional attires of Japan like kimono. Haruka showed us a picture of herself and her mother clad in a beautiful kimono. They were also curious to know about similar traditional outfits of Kerala like the saree. They also spoke about their immense love for English pop music and admiration for artists like Taylor Swift and One Direction. Seuyon was interested in international affairs and asked us about the existing political tensions between India and Pakistan.

The dialogue about India and Japan helped us in keeping up the spirit and enthusiasm of the students at the school. They were extremely active and excited. For the Japanese students too, it was an enlightening session where they learnt a lot about Indian life and culture. The one-day event organised by our department turned out to be an extremely helpful session for all those who were part of it. It was equally beneficial for the students of the school as well as the students from ICU.

Campus Visit



Twenty-five students along with three teachers from Emirates National School, Sharjah visited our campus with their Director Shri. Ravi Thomas on 27 July 2023. The Department of English along with the Department of History hosted the group at Mithrapuram Hall. The students and faculty interacted with the Head of the Department Dr. Sonia Chacko, Ms. Rekha Nair and Dr. Akhila Narayanan. The discussion was on the relevance of Liberal Arts in contemporary times. That a background in liberal arts is indispensable to holistic education was a point emphasised during the discussion.

Union Christian College Aluva
 Proudly welcomes the students and teachers from Emirates National School, Sharjah

CAMPUS VISIT

- Interaction with English Dept.
- Visit to Archaeology Museum
- Hockey Demonstration

27-07-2023
 11.00 AM

www.uccollege.edu.in

World Environment Day

The Department of English observed World Environment Day on 5 June 2023. Ms Rekha Nair addressed the UG and PG English students on how environmental consciousness is reflected in literature and visual media. A documentary screening was arranged as part of this. Umar Minzab of III BA English recited Ayyappa Panicker's "Kaadevide Makkale". This was followed by an interaction among faculty and students on the issue of environment and climate change.



June 5th, 2023
WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

Venue: Reading Room
 Time: 11:30 am - 12:30 pm

POETRY PERFORMANCE:
 UMAR MINZAB (V SEM, BA ENGLISH)

DOCUMENTARY:
 "ARE CLIMATE DOOMERS RIGHT?"

OPEN DISCUSSION

Union Christian College, Aluva
 100 Years
 1923-2023
 The Truth Shall Make You Free

June 5th, 2023
WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

Venue: Reading Room
 Time: 11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Aluva, Kerala, India
 486M+5R9, Aluva, Kerala 683101, India
 Lat 10.125641°
 Long 76.334654°
 05/06/23 12:08 PM GMT +05:30

Placements



Adithya P

(MA 2021-2023)

Organization - Exam Winner Learning Solutions Pvt. Lmt

Position - Training Faculty, English



Oajaswini S. Prabhu

(MA 2021-2023)

Organization - Winspire IELTS academy

Position - Spoken English and IELTS Trainer



Krishnenedu P. Nair

(BA 2020-2023)

Department of Posts, Govt. of India

Position - GDS BPM Gramin Dak Sevak Branch Post Master



Hanan Yousaff Ansari

(BA 2020-2023)

Organization - Accenture Solutions Pvt. Ltd.

Position - Packaged App Development Associate

Scholarships



Bhagya G

This year's Inspire Your Future- Ms. Rajalakshmi Memorial Endowment was awarded to Bhagya G of III BA English. The Endowment was instituted in the memory of Ms. Rajalakshmi who was a student of the English Department (2007-2010 Batch) by her classmates. A scholarship of Rs. 10,000/- was handed over to Bhagya G by Shri. Jacob Alias who came on behalf of the batch, in the presence of faculty from the Department.

Achievers



Malini M

(MA 2020-2022)

*Qualified National Eligibility Test (NET)
June 2023*