

The Doon School WEEKLY



"I sketch your world exactly as it goes." -Arthur Foot
November 3, 2018 | Issue No. 2518

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The Diary of a Cool Dude

Varen Talwar

Had I been endowed with the fiery boldness of the Honourable President of the United States of America Mr. Donald Trump, I would have written to your faces that we adolescents are nothing but façades over our long-forgotten selves. I would have said that all of us have succumbed to the 'cool' powers from above; and I would definitely have expressed my sadness on seeing young people waste their potential by conforming mindlessly to a flawed society.

Mind you, I am not talking only about our school - that would be very myopic and selfish of me. I am referring to all adolescents as privileged as me throughout the globe, the ones that belong to the community of 'elite' schools. Moreover, considering that we are the generation which is going to have to solve problems that threaten human existence, it is frightening to know about our lack of creativity, and the worldwide suppression of those who can innovate.

However, God just didn't grant me either the audacity or the impunity, and that is why I am going to save myself the humiliation, hatred and the layers of logic the debaters are going to trample me under - the inevitable consequences to articles that tell the truth about such 'powerful' entities in naked, fiery words.

So, instead, let me tell you a harmless little story...

Part 1 - The Introduction

Dear Diary,

Today was a very important day, for today was the day of my introduction to 'The Cool School', the world's leading group of institutions for mastering the arts of conformity and mindlessness. Just so you know how big this, is let me tell you that it has campuses more widespread than McDonald's!

Today has been a pretty long day because of the Induction Ceremony, which entailed a lot of tedious formalities. All 80 of us new students were made to stand in a line behind a large counter, and one by one, our brains were deftly taken out. The officers opened up our heads at the left temple, cracked open the skull, pulled out the brain, placed a tag with our name on it, and finally threw it into the gigantic basket beside them.

The line then moved on to the

next section, where they inserted a sponge the size of a brain inside our open heads. On asking the official what it was for, I was told that the sponge contained a miniature blank brain in its centre. It's alright - I didn't mind replacing my brain with a sponge because they taped up our skulls and temples later.

At the Brain Bashing Ceremony, the basket full of brains was brought and one by one a brain was taken out. The name was read from the tag, whereupon the person approached the dais. There, he was given a mallet, with the instruction of bashing his brain in, which was placed neatly on the steel table.

I, too, bashed my brain. It was rather uninteresting. There's really not much fun in fragmenting your brain into squishy remains with a mallet.

Now I must go to sleep. I'm sure you can fathom now how

exhausted I must right now!

Part 2 - The Classes

Dear Diary,

It has been a month of extremely interesting, albeit rigorous classes. We all have the same combination of four subjects- General Brainwashing, Bullying, Abuses and Linguistics, and lastly, Ideologies. I must tell you that the curriculum here is very liberally coordinated among the various other branches of the group, as they are given the freedom to innovate their own new ways of going about the four subjects that one must master to get his/her degree.

In the 'General Brainwashing' class, we learn the various famous theories and concepts made by the great 'cool dudes' of the past. They are so awesomely evil that you can't help but read them over and over again. We have all kinds

(Continued on Page 3)

INTO THE BLUE

The School Swimming Team participated in the **33rd All India IPSC Championship** held at the **Rajkumar College, Raipur**. The team emerged as the overall **runner-up** in the **Under 17 and Under 19** categories. Following are the results:

In the **Under 14 category**, Aryan Prakash won a **Silver** in the **200 metres Breaststroke** and Neil Bulchandani won a **Bronze** in the **50 metres Breaststroke**.

In the **Under 17 category** Jayaditya Dahiya won a **Silver** in the **50 metres and 100 metres Breaststroke** and a **Bronze** in the **200 metres breaststroke**, Aditya Jain won a **Silver** in **200 metres backstroke** and a **Bronze** in the **100 metres Backstroke**, Raghav Kediya won a **Bronze** in **100 and 200 metres Butterfly**, Tarun Bhide won a **Silver** in **50 metres Backstroke** and Adit Chatterjee won a **Silver** in **100 metres Backstroke**.

In the **Under 19 category** Shiven Dewan won a **Gold** in **50, 100 and 200 metres Breaststroke**, Karan Sampath won a **Silver** in the **100 metres Backstroke** and a **Bronze** in the **400 and 1500 metre Freestyle**. Zoravar Bhati won a **Silver** in the **50 metre freestyle and Butterfly**, and Ritwik Saraf won a **Bronze** in the **50m Backstroke**.

The team comprising Rishit Thakur, Karan Sampath, Bhaimeer Singh and Zohravar Bhati won a **Bronze** in the **4x100m Freestyle relay**, while the team comprising Rishit Thakur, Karan Sampath, Shiven Dewan and Ritwik Saraf won a **Bronze** in the **4x100m Medley relay**.

Kudos!

“

Simplicity is the ultimate form of sophistication.

—
Leonardo Da Vinci

ON THE RIGHT TRACK

The School participated in the **72nd Annual District Athletics Meet** held at **RIMC**. The team won the **Under 20 Championship**. Following are the results:

In the **Under 18 category**, Arijit Sanamanda won a **Bronze** medal in **Long Jump**, Darsh Garg and Ananya Shukla won a **Bronze** in **200 metres**, and the **4x100 metres relay team** comprising- Arijit Sanamanda, Aditya Singh, Udbhav Tomar and Darsh Garg won a **Bronze**.

In the **Under 20 category**, Angad Sanghera won the **Bronze** in **High Jump**, Nandil Sarma won a **Bronze** in **100 metres**, Viksit Verma won a **Silver** in **100 metres and 200 metres**, Adhiraj Palaitha won a **Gold** in **Shotput**, Ram Attri won a **Gold** in **Long Jump**, Ajaypratap Singh won a **Gold** in **800 metres** and a team comprising Ram Attri, Nandil Sharma, Pradyut Narain and Viksit Verma won the **Gold** in the **4x100 metres relay**.

In the **Men's Category**, a team comprising Darsh Garg, Nandil Sharma, Aditya Singh and Viksit Verma won a **Silver** in the **4x100 metres relay**, Adhiraj Singh Palaitha won a **Gold** in **Shot Put**.

Well done!

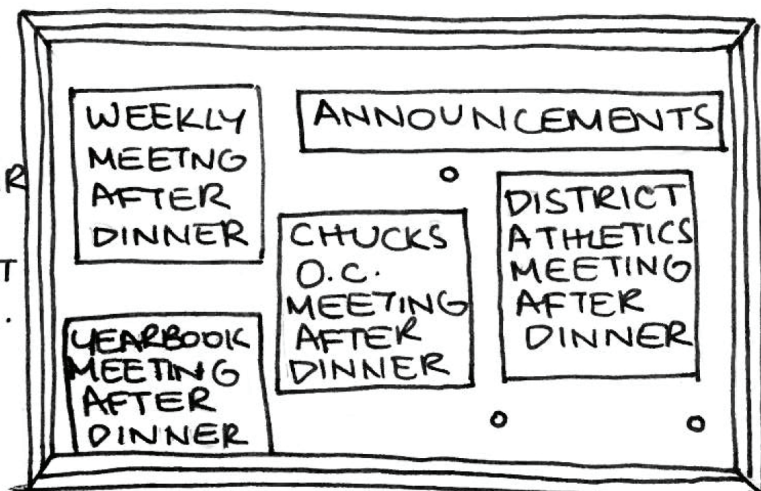
Around the World in 80 Words

The Sri Lankan President Sirisena replaced Prime Minister Wickremesinghe with former President Rajapaksa. The details of the murder of the Saudi Journalist, Jamal Khashoggi, were made public. Asia Bibi, a Christian woman sentenced to death for blasphemy in 2010, was acquitted by the Supreme Court of Pakistan. Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a statue of the Independence leader, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, which claimed the position of the world's tallest statue. In the La Liga, FC Barcelona beat Real Madrid 5-1.

Dosco Doodle

Caught in the Crossfire

Anant Ganapathy



(Continued from Page 1)

of theories in our syllabus, like the one about how reading books when you are free instead of playing is a sign of mental illness. Then there is the theory about how studying at any time before one week of the examinations is a symptom of the disease 'Care for Learning and Marks'. There is also another theory which says that not watching porn, drinking alcohol when you are underage, and smoking are all signs of mental retardation. However, my favourite theory is the one about how giving respect to teachers and paying attention in class is unethical according to the 'Manual on the Mastery of the Arts of Coolness'. I mean, it literally gives you the license to make a man's workplace hell for him, despite the fact that he is there for your benefit! Isn't that just great?

In the 'Bullying' class, learning is more practical based than theoretical. There are approximately 80 other creatures (who look like us physically but we are told that they mentally unwell) stored in the storeroom behind the class. During class, each of us gets one of these creatures and we have to follow the teacher's instructions. However, we are allowed to use them even after class! Imagine if you can torment those little maggots just for your general amusement on Saturday nights! Anyway, till now, we have learnt the art of stealing important text-books and notes and are currently on the largest chapter of the syllabus- 'Making Life Hell'.

The 'Abuses and Linguistics' class is probably the most innovatively derogatory experience one can have! Actually, according to the 'Manual on the Mastery of the Arts of Coolness', abusing is one of the fundamental duties of a 'cool dude', and rightly so. We learn all kinds of abuses- on relatives, non-living things, English abuses, Hindi abuses, you name it. We have a

workbook for practising the use of abuses according to circumstances, mood, type of victim, etc.

Lastly, the 'Ideologies' class is actually a kind of subsidiary of the 'General Brainwashing' class. We learn about ways of thinking that are actually in-built in us, like how studying is a waste of time, how giving respect to others is a sign of weakness, and how helping or talking to teachers is an example of the condemned art of decency.

You take the night to digest this information overload! I must go to sleep now. We have a long day of classes before us tomorrow and also a test on bullying those pathetic weaklings from Bullying class.

Part 3 - Graduation

Dear Diary,

Today was a very important day, because today the Graduation Ceremony brought to an end my tenure at 'The Cool School'. We were told that with the help of our education, we will be able to socialise with anyone anywhere in the globe; that we will be seen as 'cool dudes' everywhere, and people will bow down to us because we are above them. They also reminded us and the students from nearby 'Cool Schools' to keep the façade we have built about ourselves intact.

Over the years, I have mastered the arts of indecency, disrespecting others, and speaking in the most uncouth manner imaginable. I have never had more fun in my life! I'm telling you, making a person

cry never fails to make my day, despite being a part of education. Now that it draws to an end, I feel confident of my ability to thrive in the world outside, since I have all the knowledge and skills I will ever need, and alumni support throughout the globe.

Epilogue - Twenty Years down the Line

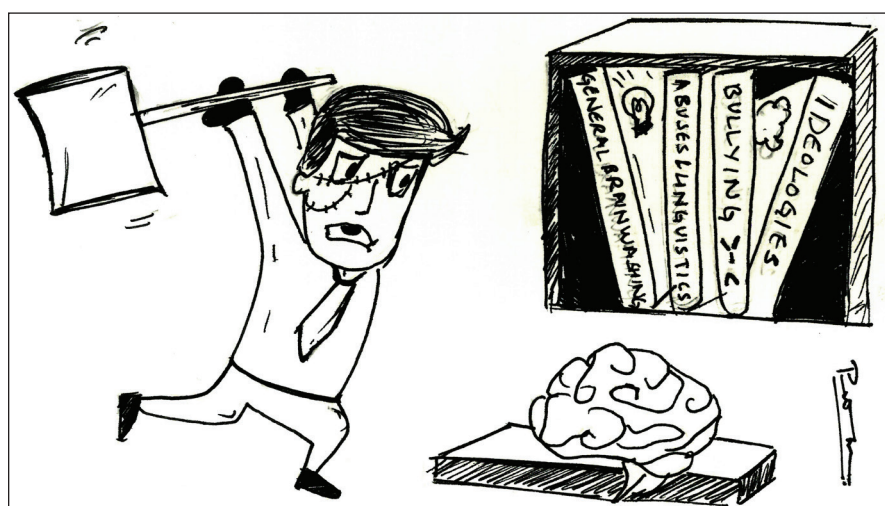
Dear Diary,

I have realised that any sprawling Cool School campus is the biggest swindle in the entire world! Not only did that school leave me fit to only do jobs that require no mind, it even failed to make me sociable at all. I mean, weren't arrogance and indifference supposed to be fundamental virtues that act as social magnets? Apparently not!

I did all that because I thought something so popular must be the path to success. What would you think if there were such popular schools all over the world for such an education? I did not know then that bashing your brain into pieces was NOT the world's idea of 'cool', but since you had to do it for popularity, I did it. It's not entirely my fault, is it?

All I can do now is to caution all who are in shoes similar to the pair I was in 20 years back: The real Cool Dude does *not* have his brain addled so that he leads a mindless life of conformity and insularity. The real Cool Dude *does* have a conscience and lets other be. I'm sorry, but I must go. I have a long day of dreary work ahead.

The End



The Fourth Pillar of Democracy

Keshav Singhal *provides an insight to how media influences our society positively.*

It would not be wrong to say that many are contemptuous of the media's involvement in the state's affairs. While this debate goes on incessantly, many recent events have triggered a change in this attitude. From my viewpoint, people who are disdainful of this major terminator of ignorance are purely imbued by self interests.

To talk about the first point, it is imperative to establish the two disparate sections of this bifurcated society that we live in when considering this debate. This society consists of people who have been trampled on by injustice and people who haven't. While corruption among officials and politicians is prevalent in our nation, abuse of power and money can't simply be ignored. Hence, media acts as a remedy to the poor and helpless ones stuck in this hegemony, simply desiring some impartiality. Media has indeed led to tumultuous repercussions in the past. Of course, on the one hand we have the old adage that media boundlessly exaggerates facts and offers propaganda, but on the other hand, we also can't help noticing that it opposes and even stops quite a lot of criminal affairs in a country, many a time involving key politicians too. This robust stance of the media stands unparalleled today in our country, with families of lost and helpless ones seeking vengeance against brutal injustice.

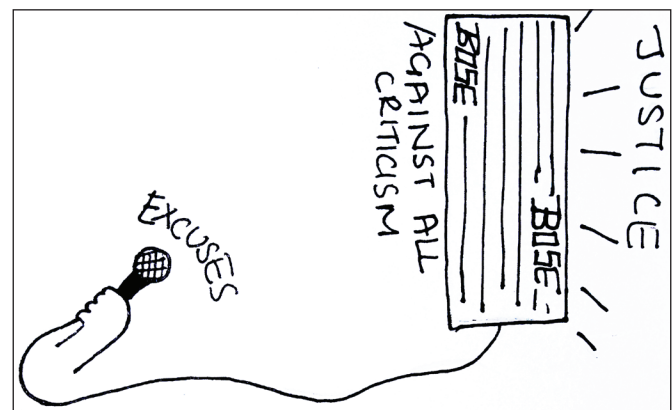
Media has this innate quality of having unprecedented power...

A relevant example here is Anissia Batra's case. It must be noted that this case was situated in an urban society in Delhi. Hence, both sides were eligible enough to fight for their stance. However, Anissia was being harassed by her in-laws and husband. Although her father filed a complaint in a police station, no significant measures were taken to handle this case. It took Anissia's corpse lying near her house in Delhi to gain the case its due importance. In a nutshell, her husband was pronounced guilty of murder while he pleaded 'not guilty'. Appallingly, this case looked buried before it even commenced. A fact that will perhaps give some useful insight to why I say so is that the SHO of the police was away during the investigation and one of the top five criminal attorneys of India was hired by the defendant. Therefore, any court proceedings were

bound to be unconvincing, let alone putting the convicted behind bars. But once media intervened, recovery seemed possible. Using the pressure the media put on the proceedings of the case, Anissia's family was able to appeal to the Prime Minister for assistance and thus got the case back on its feet. To conclude the first point, Anissia's family, relatives and all the known ones feel privileged to have the media's back. Hence, these affected ones respect its interference in numerous cases.

Media has this innate quality of having unprecedented power that has, to some extent, morphed into fear for many. Be it any business tycoon or politician, media rarely lets them relax. The Vernacular Press Act simply proves this power. Passed in 1878, this act primarily restricted any sort of criticism against the British Raj, thus, in a way proving the fear of media and its dominance. Its power diffuses into almost every sphere of our society. While everyone has their own innate quality, media directs its quality in just the right direction. It does act as a window to the globe and yes, it can tend to tweak the facts sometimes, but firstly, it certainly has its own reputation to take care of. The very foundation of conceiving news and reporting news is trust. If perturbed, a long term relation between the media and its viewers is disrupted. In a fastidious society like ours, catering to all types of needs seems nearly impossible. Due to the same, the media has to adopt clever language and ways in order to maintain a stable stance. This can go against the emotions of one to hear the complete truth but as I said before, the media would not want tumultuous repercussions.

People can differ with what the media has to say. They can also claim that the media is spreading false propaganda, but being radical in a volatile society like ours can indeed be dangerous. It is also true that media has tweaked facts in the past just for its own benefit, but it still remains the main terminator of ignorance of the world outside our homes and classrooms today.



In Memoriam: Colonel E.J. Simeon

An extract about Colonel E.J. Simeon from the book Chandbagh (IV) by Sumer Singh

This piece has been published on the occasion of the 100th birth anniversary of the Late Colonel E.J. Simeon, the fourth Headmaster of The Doon School.

It was while I was teaching at Sanawar that I first met Eric Simeon, at Shomie and Pheroza's home. By the end of the evening, he had offered me a job at Doon, a proposition which in fact I had unsuccessfully put to some of my former teachers at Doon some six months earlier.

I actually joined Doon's teaching staff almost two years after my conversation with Colonel Simeon and worked under him during my first two years as a Doon School master.

When Colonel Simeon became the Doon School's first Indian Headmaster in 1972, he had already accomplished a great deal in the field of education. Even before assuming charge of La Martiniere, Calcutta, he had been the founding Headmaster of the Sainik School at Kunjpura, Karnal. In 1977, I had occasion to attend a reunion of Kunjpura old students with Eric and Jean Simeon. It was an extremely moving experience to see the overwhelming affection and regard showered upon the Simeons by their "boys" who by then were almost all moustachioed Army officers; when the reunion ended; there was not a dry eye to be seen.

For many of us who worked under Simeon at Doon, there was much to be learned from the example set by our Headmaster. Scrupulously fair, Colonel Simeon is a gentle man and a gentleman. We never heard his voice raised in anger, whatever the provocation. I remember one particular stall meeting, at which a master rather rudely informed the Headmaster that he would be away from School on a few days' leave. Simeon said nothing at the time. He later called the master in question to his office and refused him permission, explaining that he had kept quiet at the meeting to avoid humiliating the man in the presence of his peers. For this and many similar incidents, Colonel Simeon will always have my respect and admiration although, regrettably, there were those who interpreted such behaviour as a sign of weakness.

His wife, Jean, taught English to the junior-most class at Doon each year and consequently knew every boy in School. She kept an open home and an open heart and we spent many enjoyable hours in her company, for she loves to clown and is an excellent mimic. For those of us who were hungry, masters and boys alike, Jean always had seemingly inexhaustible supplies of delicious food. She actively assisted her husband in many ways, particularly in the several School plays which he produced so well. Colonel Simeon has an almost uncanny knack of casting, and players whom



others might think totally unsuitable, miraculously become the character they are portraying.

Eric Simeon's other loves are boxing and bridge. After he had retired from Doon and before he left to take over Cathedral School, Bombay, three of us, Arun Kapoor, Mira and I, went with him to a bridge party. This party was at the home of the late B.S. Bhagat — Arun, Mira and I were not invited, nor did we intend to play bridge; we went along to sample B.S.'s famous strawberry ice-cream! Colonel Simeon parked the car, hid us behind the hedge and asked B.S. whether there was any ice-cream in the fridge. B.S. said, "Plenty"; Simeon signalled to us, and before B.S. could recover from the shock of seeing us appear out of nowhere, we were in the kitchen.

Eric Simeon retired from the Doon School six years ago and we have not kept in touch, but I hope it is not too late to say, "It was a pleasure and a privilege, Sir..."

OBITUARY

Mr. Hamir Singh (Ex. 303 T, Batch of 1966), taught at Welham Boys' School from 1974 – 1976, after which he worked for a company called Andrew Yule as a part of the export department. He then went on to teach History at The Doon School from 1991 – 1993 before retiring. He passed away on October 14. On behalf of the School, we extend our condolences to all members of his family. May his soul rest in peace.

The Week Gone By

Divyansh Nautiyal

Detectors, sensors and overboard checking welcomed the Doscos (once again) as they arrived at the gates of Chandbagh. While many sailed through unscathed by the check, some others in *chappals* and jeans underwent a three sixty degree wardrobe change.

While the journey in School goes a long way for many of us, our SCs are only left with limited days in School. The added pressure of college applications is manifestly taking its toll. Not failing to break the ancient tradition, the School plunged into a whirlwind of activities yet again. The

athletics season commenced with our athletes clinching the Under-20 Districts Trophy for the second year in a row. With the hundred-metre sprint record already broken, the event becomes the most anticipated for the season with both the Etonians flying down the finish line. However, the time crunch (as many complained) resulted in the House Marching squads falling together in a hasty manner while some barely managed to even do so.

Talking of hurried preparations, S-formers seem to be pulling up their socks as they gear up for the last run. From taking initiatives during 'Monitor on Duty' to giving valuable feedback, no stone appears to be left unturned. While the sycophancy and hypocrisy might escape some, nothing shall miss

the watch of the 'Roving Eye'. Stay tuned for that.

On the academic front, the ACT aspirants faced a shocker with barely a few managing to meet their set requirements. Probably, a timely warning for the upcoming December attempt for the rest of the cohort. On the other front, our home debating tournament goes on as you read this piece with schools participating from all over India. We wish our team the best of luck.

As for the *Weekly* itself, we thank our outgoing batch once again for their unconditional support and unflinching dedication. While the names will change, their legacy shall continue and will be built upon. Otherwise, with a tightly packed month ahead, do be prepared for a marathon of a run!

Sudoku

4	3		9			6		
			7	3			1	2
	1	9		5				7
	8				2	5		3
	5	2	3	9		8	4	
7			8					
	7			4	9	1	5	
8		5		7	6			4
		4					9	

<https://worksheets.theteacherscorner.net/make-your-own/sudoku/>



Key

6	6	7	6	3	8	5	4	2	1
4	4	2	3	6	7	6	5	1	8
8	1	5	8	9	4	2	6	7	3
6	9	2	5	1	8	3	4	7	9
1	4	1	8	7	3	9	2	5	6
3	7	3	5	2	4	6	1	8	9
7	3	7	4	3	8	5	9	6	2
2	1	2	9	6	8	7	3	4	5
4	3	7	9	2	1	6	8	5	4

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