



Established in 1936

The Doon School WEEKLY

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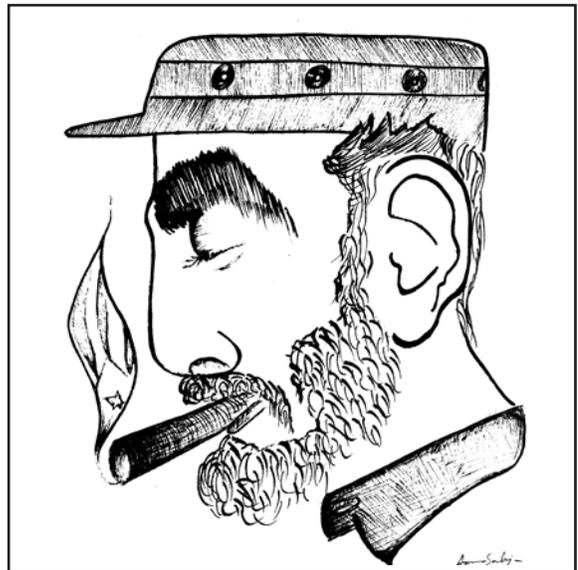
The Man Who Couldn't be Moved

Aditya Bhattacharya (Ex. 657-K '15) remembers the life and legacy of the late Cuban leader Fidel Castro.

2016 has seen the end of many eras. David Bowie, Alan Rickman, Leonard Cohen and the faith in American and British voters were many of those who succumbed to the ravages of time this year. Most recently, however, came the demise of a man who defied not only the odds, but also 638 reported assassination attempts by the CIA. Having relinquished power eight years prior, *El Comandante* felt he had seen enough of this world, and on November 25, ended the era of Fidel Alejandro Castro.

It seems somewhat ironic that my first article for the Weekly as an Old Boy is one about Castro. The irony lies in the fact that the last thing I did as I left my room in the House was write a quote on a poster, before passing it on to the new owner. The quote read, "Condemn me. It does not matter. History will absolve me." It was a typically naïve thing to do as an SC Leaver, to exaggerate the extent of one's journey in Doon. Yet those words had a deep personal meaning to me. My admiration for Fidel Castro did not arise purely from the communist state he ran, or the effectiveness with which his regime survived. Yes, these factors did play a great role in developing it, but it was his life before his accession to power that intrigued and fascinated me.

Fidel Castro had a mixed upbringing. Born out of wedlock, he spent two years living in pathetic conditions in Santiago de Cuba, before continuously changing schools - often due to his disruptive behavior. He paid more attention to sport than academics, but eventually studied law at the University of Havana, where he transformed from a political outsider into an ardent activist. One of his greatest influences was Jose Marti, who was a great figure in the Cuban struggle for independence. Thus, he was very outspoken against American involvement in the region, as well as the corrupt regime in Cuba at the time, and he joined the Orthodox Party in 1947. He soon began to receive death threats, but nonetheless, he and a group of friends armed themselves to ultimately join an attempt at overthrowing the Trujillo regime in the nearby Dominican Republic. US pressure forced an end to the invasion, but Castro successfully evaded arrest. His marriage to a girl from a wealthy family showed him the disparity between the classes of Cuba, and he found himself moving far left on the political plane, even going to the extent of saying that without Marxism, he had been 'like a blindfolded man in a forest.' In 1950, Castro set up a legal firm to cater to poor Cubans. It was a disaster financially, but while his utilities were cut off and belongings repossessed, Castro continued to take part in protests and movements against the corrupt regime. In 1952, Fulgencio Bautista seized power in a coup, and Castro was intent on removing his regime. The Cuban Revolution, as it is now known, began formally thus in 1953 with the failed attack on the Moncada Barracks, which had him sentenced to fifteen years' imprisonment. An early release allowed him to continue the struggle with a gureilla war. American stance-shifting and popular support allowed Fidel Castro's revolution to be successful, and on February 16, 1959, he was sworn in as Prime Minister.



The rest is history, of course, but what is Castro's legacy? Will he forever be remembered as the terrible

(Contd. on Page 4)



Regulars

Appointments

The following have been appointed **Boys-in-Charge** of various activities for the forthcoming year:

- Lost Property Office:** Zohravar Bhati
- Stage Committee:** Naman Khurana
- Aeromodelling:** Raj Sankla
- Video Club:** Aneesh Choudhary
- Photography:** Raihan Vadra
- Social Service:** Ishan Jhavar and Nehansh Saxena
- Audio Visual Squad:** Talin Agarwal, Rushil Goyal and Prakarsh Gupta
- Science Society:** Atreya Guruprasad
- Junior Chemists' STA:** Eeshan Mehrotra
- HAM Radio:** Ravshaan Mangat
- Astronomy Society:** Kartik Mohan
- Srijan Prayas:** Mihir Gupta (**Editor-in-Chief**)

Senior English Debating Society
School English Debating Captain: Arjun Singh
Boy-in-Charge: Devang Laddha

Junior English Debating Society
Secretary: Raghav Kediya
Recording Secretary: Adit Chatterjee

We wish them a fruitful tenure!

IAYP

The following students have been awarded the **International Award for Young People**:
Gold: Rahul Bhagchandani, C.C. Chengappa, Dhruv Ahuja
Silver: Ishita Bhardwaj
Bronze: Arjun Singh Bajwa

Well done!

"As long as you hate, there will be people to hate."

- George Harrison

Craftsmen

The following have been awarded prizes in their respective forms for **Design and Technology**:

D Form

- Best Utility Design:** Hardik Sharma
- Most Innovative Design:** Bhai Kabir Singh
- Most Promising Designer:** Ivor Ismail

C Form

- Best Utility Design:** Tameem General
- Most Innovative Design:** Ali Hussain
- Most Promising Designer:** Tegbir Singh Chandok

Congratulations!

Game Point

The results of the **Inter-House Tennis Competition, 2016** are as follows:

Juniors:

- 1st:** Jaipur
- 2nd:** Kashmir
- 3rd:** Hyderabad
- 4th:** Tata
- 5th:** Oberoi

Mediums:

- 1st:** Hyderabad
- 2nd:** Kashmir
- 3rd:** Jaipur
- 4th:** Oberoi
- 5th:** Tata

Seniors:

- 1st:** Hyderabad
- 2nd:** Kashmir
- 3rd:** Tata
- 4th:** Jaipur
- 5th:** Oberoi

House Cup:

- 1st:** Hyderabad and Kashmir
- 3rd:** Jaipur
- 4th:** Tata
- 5th:** Oberoi

Viksit Verma was declared the **winner** of the **Sardar Mohammad Tennis Tournament, 2016**.

Well played!

Dosco Doodle

Mannequin Challenge Ujjval Jain



The Roving Eye



The Ch. Ed and working S.Eds

The 'scoping season' was unofficially inaugurated by one of the authors of this piece in a talk delivered over a year ago. While his has successfully ended, and the S form 'third term' also draws to a close, it's time for us to review the machinations conducted by the Batch of '18 in their race to be appointed members of the 'core team' of the School. Of the five newly-appointed senior Board members, the presence of two shall be missed in the making of this article. The two are presumably 'busy' scrambling to secure positions after their missed opportunity on this very publication.

Moving to the form in general, let us start with a quick look at our ongoing presidential race. On one side we see a battle between Warriors for a nomination, while on the other a lone eagle flies sky 'high'. The Gentleman stands slightly aloof at the moment, hoping to pick up some last minute steam with his discourse on 'politics'. Let's hope this race doesn't end prematurely with a false-start disqualification. After the turn of pages this Founders, many prospective 'hard workers' were disappointed by the announcements last week. In our less illustrious school publication, the 'Bombay Boys' conceded a shock defeat to the dark horses. Meanwhile in the scientific publication we saw a heated dispute settled between the two lead researchers, with the Nobel prize going to one whose work had apparently 'vanished'. The true king of publication politics, however, ran a smooth campaign owing to the lack (or removal) of all opposition. However, the cards are yet to play out in a magazine where the supply far exceeds demand.

The past few weeks have seen the sportsmen of our form being awarded colours for their 'hard work and dedication'. A shock half colour awardee has soared high above the bar, beating out both the runner and the thrower. Other captaincies remain the subject of speculation with the equitable distribution of colours between candidates. On the other side of the MPH, the form's gym squad has been busy trying to 'muscle' their way past all opposition, with their impressive collection of protein bars, whey powder, protein shakes, gym gloves, and tight shirts in tow.

On the subject of blazers, certain 'Scholars' aspirants can be seen juggling the Codes and Policies with their textbooks and 'recommended readings' day and night, chanting the mantra of the scheme and living by its ideals. The Games Committee has already bestowed their own award on certain candidates while others are left hanging. Infusing colour into the uniform, a slew of ties have been awarded for several of the 'arts'. The heir sports his new tie rather diffidently, thanks to a reversal of the usual S form relationship between master and student.

Moving to the meat of this piece, the age old competition for prefectship saw an unorthodox selection criteria being instituted this year. The optional (and aptly named) 'So You Want to be a Prefect' workshop was a wake up call for some, while for others it provided a stellar performance arena with all judges in one room. As we take a campaign tour outside the School, we see one of the stiffest fights for the other 'school' captaincy ongoing between the baby, the baller, the musician, the keeper and the 'dark horse' who, as we mentioned earlier, has already proved his leadership credentials. Across the field, the 'nest' has been rather tight-lipped on internal affairs as usual. News of the badminton player's clash with the debater has leaked to the School community while the table tennis player is busy with his 'extra Cafes'. The tantalising possibility of five prefects roaming the halls for the third year in a row has got one assistant housemaster working harder than the rest. Earlier in the season, there was a surprise intervention by his second School captain to stop the kind of campaigning only possible on weekends after a spat between the pirate and the third Warrior. Incidentally, the latter has also sustained battle scars from a recently delivered controversial assembly talk.

In the red corner, the position of fourth Warrior may see a well contested bout between the boxer, the twins and the don. In the blue corner, the swimmers (One of whom hits harder than the other) hope their strokes will suffice in this final lap. The Blazer awardees we mentioned earlier continue their domestic feud while King Midas sits back on his omnipresent laptop to watch the show while both his roommates are at work. The Gentlemen next door have been rather ungentlemanly in their exploits, with a sibling rivalry between two Lannisters who sparkle yellow in the King's eyes stealing the show. Meanwhile, the melo'dramatic' one continues his charade and the pair of the server and the served (sporting several different colours) anxiously await the appointments.

That brings us to an end of this comprehensive review of the annual Doon School rat race. As the year draws to an end, let's just hope Doon doesn't see its very own Donald Trump(s) come to power next year. One parting piece of advice: unlike our missing authors, do remember to forgive and to forget!

The 'SC-Form' Gone By

Ishaan Kapoor

Please be seated...

When not one who has applied to the oldest institution on the planet gets a rejection, you know you've bought yourself into some seriously messed up stuff.

Please be seated...

While the world curses the passing of this dreaded year, Chandbagh as we knew it faced its own set of changes. Well, changes would be an understatement. At least the only deaths we witnessed were those of certain attendances, midnight birthday bashes and social service initiatives, which, when compared to those of Cohen, Fidel, and Bowie seem almost merciful. Surprisingly though, we held up rather well. Save of course the spontaneity which materialised in a trip to Mussoorie and running a change at the height of winter, we upheld a sensibility that broke most academic boundaries.

In the wake of Trump, Brexit, and just general crises, some of us did cook up about two home-grown "Project X"s, at least one of which passed unnoticed. We also managed, rather successfully, to shift our focus beyond just Dalanwala, officially making our batch 'the single one' that least awaited the socials. Some may just describe this as the "focus" we have exhibited on college admissions and academics, but our attendance sheets would beg to differ. That being said we did garner an unprecedented number of black coats, ACT 35s, and marks in any and all curricula.

We did change tradition and not always the way people might've expected us to. From the play that didn't happen (went 'wrong' to say the least), to the dabs and Macarena that characterised all sport competitions. We even found utility in the revolting organic cafe in starting food fights and hurling it at certain unfortunate individuals. We saw the melting of steel, the death of Nizam's tardiness, Eagles over-daring and just general tempers flare with every passing case of misconduct.

There was too the advent of what, we hope, is constructive change like the new time table and the increased enrolment in the IB diploma program.

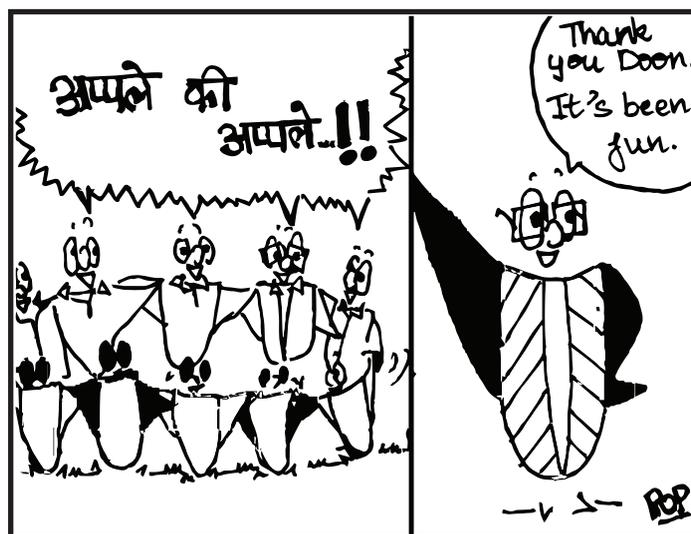
Some habits die hard though, for we did have the same old cases of dishonesty, some of which we're amazed at, for the sheer fact that this still persists in School. These undying habits saw one of our own trek across the Great Indian Desert and another bunk every last IB assignment thrown at him. The names of girls, and indeed boys, did find their way on most of our faces and kurtas during 'senti-change' as relationship struggles defined this year for our Casanovas, the majority of them once again in the House most suspected of shady goings.

Heartthrobs were born at DSMUN this year round too, and almost became a household name around Delhi, Ajmer, etc. The strenuous treks were adeptly evaded as were the tedious talks and punishments in general. These unfortunate habits also led to some of us spending way too much time at home for reasons unknown which weren't "paid" heed to.

Meanwhile, Modi's corruption cleanup led to ad-hoc Agarwal committees being formed and phones being whipped up for emergency family meetings. The 'honest' tax-paying class was overjoyed of course to see that their friends now needing to avail of financial aid, making the others' shot at admissions easier, or so they hoped. Little did one anticipate the takeover of academics by NFS. The academic baton was literally passed on from masters who shall be sorely missed to new faces, whom the SCs as a batch were too late to make acquaintance with but hoped that they will run into, when they return.

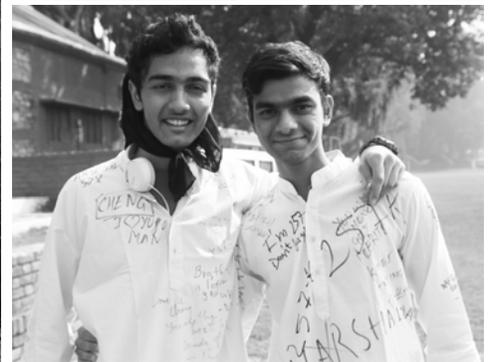
Hope became another trope of this year. It was hope that helped us to bring back the Chuckerbutty Debates trophy and making it to the finals at Mayur. It is hope that we should get into college early to avoid the bloodbath of regular decisions. It will be hope that we will return again to School with memories each of us cherish as we prepare to bid farewell and finally leave the walls within which is enclosed the world we have called home for well over five years. And it is with this underlying hope that we managed, hopefully, to touch and improve whatever we could, to contribute to and make Chandbagh a better place.

Please be seated (I'm pretty sure it was thrice and not more).





The 'Senti' Change



(Contd. from Page 1)

dictator who killed and jailed thousands and forced even more to flee their own country? Or is he the man who had the courage and gall to dictate his own terms within the United States' sphere of influence? His stance on anti-imperialism was admirable and inspired the likes of Nelson Mandela. He prevented his country from becoming an American trading outpost, something that it was being led towards under Bautista. He nationalized industries, and worked to ensure that Cubans didn't lack any basic necessities, something which citizens of countries such as Venezuela would give an arm and a leg for today. Nor was his country ravaged by a war on drugs, unstable regime changes, international financial crises or even international wars.

That is not to discount the hundreds of human rights abuses he is accused of, or the absoluteness of the power he craved and wielded. Cuba today is in desperate need of modernization and would benefit greatly from international trade. That may be everything that *El Jefe* stood against, but it is no longer his place to dictate the direction of his country. To me, what stands out was his willingness to give up a potentially comfortable lifestyle for the ideals that he so strongly believed in. He freed himself from the trappings of the capitalist world, put his life and freedom at risk time and again, and survived every attempt of the world to stop him from fulfilling his destiny. To me, Fidel Castro will forever be a spirit of defiance, determination, and a symbol of the power of human thought. As he is laid to rest today, the world can be sure but of one thing – Castro may be gone, but the world will not forget him. We can condemn him, or absolve him, but the fire that breathed in him will forever be enshrined in history, wherever he may be.

Taking the Podium

Ishaan Vaish *explores the reasons for youth disillusionment with politics in India.*

Politics, ironically, is a seemingly unattractive career option for the youth of India, despite it requiring youth involvement to a far greater degree than any other professional field. While considering the state of affairs in running a government today, the general reaction is one of hesitation and furrowed eyebrows, since the image of governance in India today makes a political career distasteful.

A multiplicity of reasons can be seen as causes for low level of youth involvement in day-to-day politics. This begins with the popular belief that Indian politics is characterized by overwhelming corruption and bribery, which unfortunately have come to generalize the whole government. The fact is that faults of a few have defined the system as a whole, when in reality such corruption is not as widespread as some may claim. It is this generalization that has caused our generation to loathe politics as inept and corrupt, and thus we refuse to involve ourselves with it, all because of a pretext put in place by both our own pessimism and that of mass media.

Secondly, Indian politics is seen by our generation as a system not of stately governance, but a power game marked by maneuvering and strong-man tendencies. Be it cases of misuse of money during elections, or muscle power to force votes, or even dynastic families, the system has been covered under a veil of unpleasantness. This runs contrary to the ideals of meritocracy and civil decency that our more-educated and informed generation holds dear. In view of that, the private sector seems more promising, with better pay cheques and the incentive for young people to create and innovate- giving their own ideas value and the opportunity to experiment with them. It is no wonder then that the best and brightest young people flock to engineering jobs or the corporate world, rather than involve themselves in statecraft to fix society's problems.

The most relevant issue though, is that of our elders – more accurately 'armchair cynics' – who relentlessly paint politics as an unchangeable institution. 'Honest politics' is made to appear as a skewed, hypothetical concept that can never be achieved. While such statements are untrue, it is the elderly figures of politics too who share some of the blame. There remains today a dearth of inspiring politicians, who unlike young start-up billionaires, fail to project a career journey and speaking abilities that attract the youth towards the field. Modi comes close, but it pales in comparison to the stature of those like Barack Obama, who can energize the youth tremendously.

In order for the youth to realize the necessity of their involvement, both inspiration from existing politicians, as well as encouragement from elders involved in the political process is needed. This is key to rekindling our generations' interest in politics by providing the required thrust of idolization.

While all these problems with the political system have been identified, what's relevant now is to address methods to solve them. The youth must not be swayed by outward images of politics: it is not a wretched business as portrayed. Along with that, the youth must realize that for any system to change they must enter that system and redirect the change from within. Mainstream political ideas have often espoused the importance of involvement of the elders, the more experienced. The ideology and execution of this needs to be revamped, and for India to have a brighter future, the podium must be taken by the generation of tomorrow.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

My mailbox was recently bombarded with issues of the 'Literary Review' and 'DS Tech', supposed publications which serve as yet another avenue for Doscos to have "Editor-in-Chief" attached next to their name. The purpose of this letter is to spark a wider conversation on the increase in the number of publications in School today. As the year draws to a close I am sure I will not be hurting the sentiments of certain individuals who exploit publications as a tool for CV building and our very own point system, churning up the silliest excuses to instate a publication in School.

It is undeniable that Doon offers an academically stimulating environment inside the classroom and outside-via debating, conferences and publications. However, I feel that the increase in publications in School is diluting our purpose of producing quality -which we often boast of. Are all fifteen publications in School producing quality writing? Do we need two sports journals? Do we need two Hindi publications with absolutely the same content? The answer to all this is a resounding "No". The fact is that the content overlap in these publications has resulted in no clear demarcation of content territory. It is important to note that most of the articles which appear in the "Econocrat" and "Circle" tend to cover the same issues such as South Asian politics or the Middle-east crisis. Of course, as rookies to economics our application of theoretical concepts of economics is limited in our writing. Eventually, we need to recognize that we are not achieving anything by having two distinct publications. Instead, we must work towards instating an "Economic and Political Issue" modeled on the respected Economic and Political Weekly, which will actually provide an enriching experience to its readers and cut down two publications.

This content overlap is not limited here but also extends to our sports publications. The "Score", the quarterly publication that hasn't found its way to my mailbox for the past three months, and the "Grand Slam" are entities' only distinct in their release date. Similarly, our Hindi publications, which have lost their readership over the past years, contain similar literary pieces. Yes, we need to provide boys with opportunities to express their literary side but at what cost. Should we compromise on the quality of publications? Or is quantity expected to overshadow quality?

Yours sincerely,

Dhruv Ahuja

Anfield's Admiration

Anay Shah and Aditya Reddy Mannur pay tribute to Steven Gerrard on the occasion of his retirement.

"When I die, don't take me to the hospital, take me to Anfield." – Steven Gerrard

Half-time. Liverpool 0, Olympiakos 1. Things were certainly not going Liverpool's way, with one goal keeping them apart. Anfield was electric as two substitutions netted two goals to put Liverpool ahead. As the intense match progressed, Gerrard was becoming a formidable force. In the closing minutes of the game, Gerrard received a header which he successfully drilled into the back of the net from 25 yards out! Anfield went into delirium.

Many situations such as these have tested Steven Gerrard's ability to deliver under pressure when needed most during his seventeen-year reign at Liverpool. No player in Premier League history has scored more match-winning goals, in the 90th minute or later than 'Stevie G'.

At nine, Gerrard joined the Liverpool Youth Academy after being spotted by scouts while playing for his local team. Despite an average performance at his debut, he collected a vast number of goals and accolades during his career, earning him the distinction of being one of Liverpool's 'legends'.

In his 504 appearances for Liverpool, Gerrard scored an astounding 120 goals and holds the record for the second highest number of assists in the Premier League till date. Furthermore he became the only player to score in an FA cup, a League Cup, a UEFA Champions League and a UEFA Cup Final and be on the winning team in each.

At the peak of his career at Liverpool, the phoenix soared through leagues and cups. During this time, Gerrard had ambitions, and almost left for Chelsea in 2004 whilst coveted for by Real Madrid. This went on to become a controversy and it took two years for fans to forgive him. During this controversy, in the League Cup Final against Chelsea, Gerrard scored an own goal which led to shocking loss. However, he soon recovered his form and prestige. Last year, he bid adieu to the Reds after a respectable 28 years at the club, before finally retiring last week. Gerrard will be remembered for his versatility on the field as a man who could play equally well in any position.



The Week Gone By

Salman Mallick

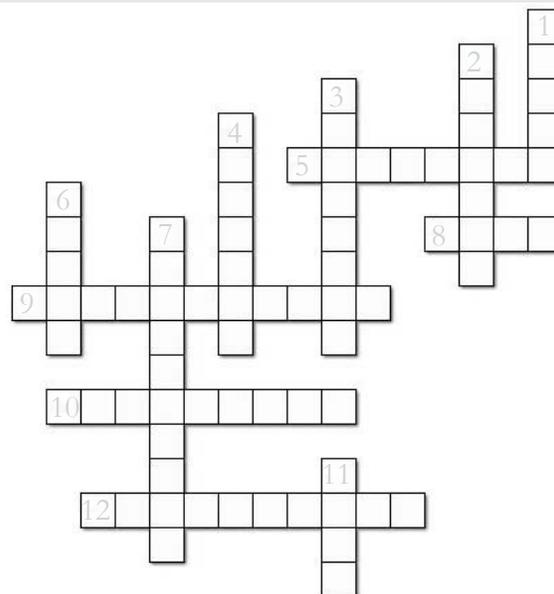
As the 'third term' (as it is now popularly known, even though it's technically the fourth term) draws on, one can find several emotions at play in School. Probably the most prevalent one right now is anxiety, whether it is for the impending Trials for the A and SC Forms, or for appointments and awards (particularly the S Form, but don't leave A Form out of the picture), or for the upcoming SAT and ACT examinations. You might find it heartening to see a mixture of emotions when the SC-formers were running their 'senti' change.

The week had begun with another long assembly (but then, who minds missing a sizeable chunk of first school?). However, one thing that was certainly missed was the Tennis House Cup, which was only remembered on Wednesday. Monday also saw the second batch of S Formers leave for the much-awaited culinary workshop at Welham Girls' School, with many tight shirts (or loose, depending on your physique) and accents being brought out for the sandwich and cutlet making sessions.

The Yearbook photographs began again under its new leadership (with certain Board members missing from the regular meetings; more on that in the Roving Eye). Tuesday saw the SC form run/walk/waddle their last change-in-break. The highlights included the cow, the guitar, and an assortment of pyjamas (see Page 5). The aftermath of this, however, was probably the large numbers of 'missing' markers in the Main Building.

But most DoscOs would probably not have been concerned about missed classes, mostly because Exam Week and not Trials is coming up. This probably applies best to S Formers, who are busy putting finishing touches to both their standardized testing. Speaking of which, about a quarter of the Main Building has been sequestered for repair work (Masters beware: it's a rather convenient reason for us to be late for classes as we search for the reallocation table). As DoscOs begin to excuse themselves to go to the hospital due to 'colds', it's time to bundle up for the December 'chill', for winter is coming.

Crossword



Note: All persons referred to in the crossword are with reference to their surnames.

Across

- 5. The science of using ultra-cold temperature to preserve human life
- 8. A Serbian-American futurist who earned the reputation of being a 'mad scientist' in popular culture
- 9. She is widely regarded as the mother of nursing
- 10. Father of Modern Chemistry
- 12. The scientific study of the moon

Down

- 1. _____ and Englert won the Nobel Prize in Physics for the discovery of 'God Particle'
- 2. The astronomer who discovered Saturn
- 3. The place where Titanium was discovered
- 4. Inventor of Penicillin
- 6. She was awarded the Nobel Prize in both Physics and Chemistry
- 7. Karl Benz is credited with this invention.
- 11. He discovered the nucleus of the atom

Answers to This Week's Crossword	
Across	Down
5. Cryonics	1. Higgs
8. Tesla	2. Galilei
9. Nightingale	3. Cornwall
10. Lavoisier	4. Fleming
12. Selenology	6. Curie
	7. Automobile
	11. Bohr

Source: <http://worksheets.theteacherscorner.net/make-your-own/crossword/>

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