

Established in 1936

The Doon School WEEKLY

"I sketch your world exactly as it goes." - Arthur Foot
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IN TRANSITION

Perspectives on the transition from S to SC-Form.

Aviral Kumar *B-Form*

As the end of the year approaches, it begins to dawn upon me that very soon, many on this campus will go into their final year in School, and consequently, take up various positions of responsibility across the activities that School has to offer. The excitement that precedes these appointments is always a highlight of the School calendar, as numerous hopefuls aspire to be present in the next roster of Captains, Boys-in-Charge and Editors-in-Chief. Unfortunately, it is what follows these appointments that, I believe, is a cause for concern.

Without a doubt, assuming a position you have aspired for since a long time is a great sensation, but the fact is that these captaincies are tools and mediums through which the quality and values of an activity are meant to be upheld, and not mere badges of power. The reality, however, is often different. While boys may work tirelessly for the great majority of their School life within their preferred fields, once they are handed a position in that field, they often tend to undergo a drastic change. The kind, approachable senior who was once an inspiration, is replaced by a boy who is lackadaisical and indifferent, revelling in his newfound authority and swimming in arrogance. This arises from the idea that now that the position is acquired, nothing can challenge it.

While in no way am I suggesting that this problem exists in every case, it has shown itself on several occasions and therefore needs to be addressed.

Archit Barthwal *SC-Form*

Disclaimer: Since I am writing this after having sent 90% of all my college applications, I would like to make it very clear that these are all my heartfelt thoughts, and are, under no circumstances, written with an ulterior motive. Also, if, for any reason, someone is offended by anything I have to say, I do dearly apologise in advance.

Making the jump from A to S form was quite big enough, or so I thought. Teachers began treating you with a little more respect, as if to acknowledge your adulthood; and the system in general, gave you your well-deserved space. The transition from S to Sc form, however, is far more dynamic. Besides respecting you more, teachers also start to factor in an individual's accountability; you'll see masters beginning to trust

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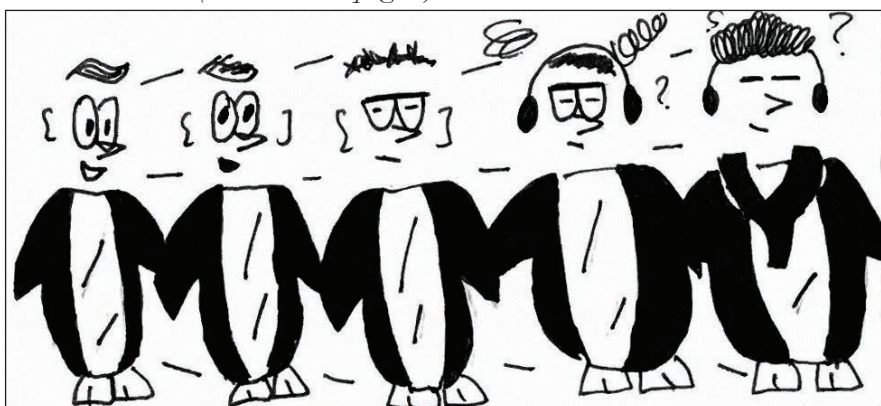
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Editorial

Kushagra Kar

Another term comes to an end, and with bitter-sweet memories packed off into our trunks, the *Weekly* bids the School Happy Holidays!

The year has been turbulent, both in the world and in Chandbagh, but that's nothing new. What is new though, is the chapter the Batch of 2018 has added to the pages of our history. From the games fields to the toys, they have continually given School more than expected, reminding us time and again what it means to serve. They strove for excellence in all they did, which is what made them special. We will remember them as mentors, friends and fellow Doscors, for that is what they stood for. As their final Golden Night grows ever near, we bid them well in all to come, and thank them for their guidance and love.

The *Weekly* too has also seen turbulent times this year, and such incidents have made me realise something. The *Weekly*, a team which works together every week for years on end, characterises the potential School has for forging everlasting friendships. When these relationships get compromised for the sake of issues too trivial to give so much weight to, we fail ourselves as a cohesive group. Now take this on a macro-scale: The Yearbook, the Audio Visual Squad, the School Orchestra and Choir and so many other places where we work with the same people day-in, day-out. So when we quarrel over positions and power, we end up limiting ourselves to the bounds of School in everything from body to mind. We develop unspoken rivalries for the sake of prefectship, sometimes allowing it to degenerate to loudly spoken face-offs at obscure hours. Relations built over years can be, and have been, so easily splintered for the sake of a tie.

I say this for two reasons. Firstly, when we return from the Holidays, a new set of prefects will be appointed, a day historically known for its destruction of friendships. Secondly, after a year of pettiness, we now have a chance to start afresh, in the New Year, as better people. So take this month to reach out to those you haven't spoken to in months. Take this month to remember that everything is forgivable, and everyone can improve. Realise that the tenth chance can be made the eleventh, because no person is worthless enough to be given up on. Above all, remember that the people you will meet here could continue to be your friends and guides years after they've left Chandbagh. As a very close friend of mine keeps reminding me, "if we stay friends for seven continuous years, statistically speaking, we would remain friends for life."

So Happy Holidays, and enjoy the New Year (but not 'too much').

See you next term!

BLAZING LAMPS

The following have been awarded **Scholar's and Games' Blazers:**

Games' Blazer: Anish Bhide, Harshit Bansal and Udaiveer Jaijee

Scholar's Blazer: Salman Mallick

Congratulations!

A WAR OF WORDS

The following are the results of the **Inter-House Hindi Debating Competition, 2017:**

1st: Tata

2nd: Kashmir

3rd: Jaipur

4th: Oberoi

5th: Hyderabad

Kudos!

BUZZER BEATERS

The following are the results of the **Inter-House Basketball Competition, 2017:**

1st: Hyderabad

2nd: Jaipur

3rd: Kashmir

4th: Oberoi

5th: Tata

Well done!

IMPRESSIONISTS

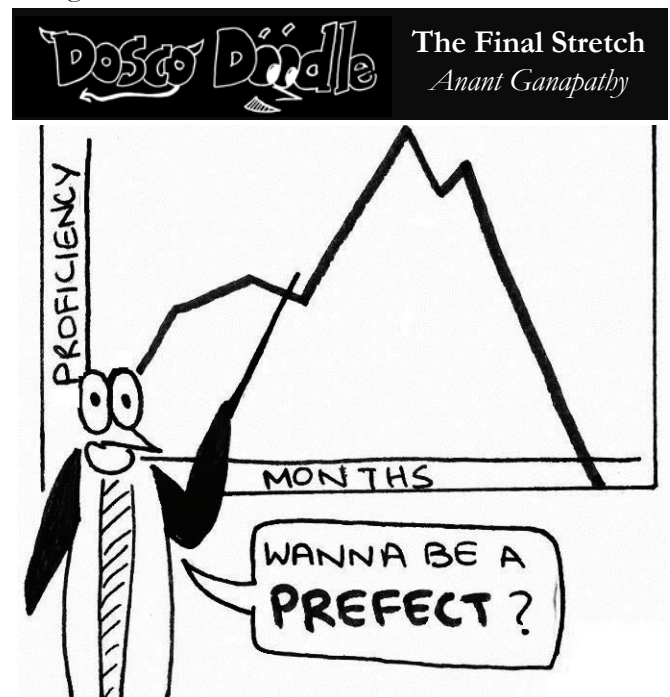
The following are the **Art** appointments for the year **2018-19:**

School Art Secretary: Kushagra Bansal

STA Boy-in-Charge: Raghav Grover

SUPW Boy-in-Charge: Aradhya Singhal

Congratulations!



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you more. Among other things, they will let you take outings and forgive you for skipping a meal every now and then because they trust you and they believe that you are doing this for a reason, and that you only defaulted because you really, really had to. On the flip side, there are individuals who will typecast you into particular roles, and quite ruthlessly, carry that preconceived notion that you are not responsible, cannot be trusted and are incapable of making your own decisions.

Because of the trust, or lack thereof that one builds as an SC, a lot of personal bonds with people are formed; masters start feeling like parent figures - some even feel like big brothers. At the same time, though, because people assume that you have taken up

the role of an adult, they will always expect you to act like one, forgetting that as a high school student, you're bound to be reckless. It can be annoying how people just become very unforgiving, and almost leave a sour patch on your relationship with them. In S form, they just make a judgement and let you be.

In actuality, our S and SC forms are quite the same. Where a blunder in S form will be ignored because people are 'assessing' you, in SC form, they will ignore a blunder either out of empathy, or just mere indifference. Where you can fix a mistake in S form by apologising, it seems that doing the same in SC form just won't have the same effect. Perhaps, in SC form, you have really grown up.

Mr. Anjan Chaudhary

Housemaster

When I was requested by the Editor-in-chief of the *Weekly* to express my views on the transition of a Dosco from an S-former to a SC-former, I tried to place myself in the shoes of a student to better relate to this experience.

During a recent Assembly, a student spoke about the importance of choices. Sitting there, I could visualise why my predecessors had reinforced the value of student leadership in the SC form. The strength of this institution still lies in this fundamental belief. I have also seen that this transition allows you to execute choices cautiously amidst all your individual needs. This transition entails implementing your leadership, giving you time and showcasing your control quietly, often going un-noticed. The transition is that of leading your School in a direction with a vision; upholding some traditions and yet challenging others. It is not always about getting yourself noticed but rather, letting others benefit from

your strengths. The transition compels students to do their bit for the community; with a sense of profound love for this place - with laughter and kind faces. This transition is about preparing yourself to reach the highest level in music and stepping into the ring within minutes to face your opponent. The list is endless. This transformation is about stepping up to the journey without a mask. It is about being who you truly are and freely express what you want to say. An anecdote I often use to explain this remarkable journey is that of flying a kite. It gives you the power of both releasing and stretching on. It is about challenging your own discourse and not being a yes man for a temporary period. Above all, quoting from Ms. Malvika Kala's article in the Founder's day issue, it is about ensuring how to build an empathetic tomorrow.

It becomes clear, therefore, why the Headmaster has changed how we appoint our leadership, and it reminds us that transition is

difficult and one has to self-reflect. One student, in his submission of the application form, mentioned, "It is difficult, sir!" Transition entails risk. The risk of working independently yet inclusively and sometimes, mutually exclusively. Most importantly, this shift requires the experimentation of new ideas, often with far-reaching goals, which are not always appreciated by the current community. It allows you to do things freely knowing everybody is watching you. It is about your own moral compass. As pointed out by a student "to finish your race and not to let off in between."

Transition is often about convenience. One does notice that it is at the peak in S form and slides exponentially in SC form; often with good reasons. Interestingly, everyone wants to take the task. As one student stated, "The hunger for responsibility often leaves others starving." On further investigation, his views and observations on the transition turned out to be very different. He noticed in his junior forms that the convenient path was collective punishment and as he took responsibility in his SC form, he figured out how mentoring and giving time were far more essential.

At the end of the day, transition should never come as an obstacle to your call of duty and above all, your friendship, your moral compass and your sense of gratitude towards this place. It often happens that we take this place for granted, and only start enjoying it when our days are numbered.

As mentioned in the book mark of the Chuckerbutty debates this year by Hillary Clinton: "What we have to do in this transition.... is to find a way to celebrate our diversity and debate our differences without fracturing our communities."

The Terms Gone By

Aayush Chowdhry and Kanishkh Kanodia

The second edition of the modified Autumn Term, with the Diwali speed breaker in the middle, began with the full momentum as the future leaders returned from places across the country and abroad. Post a tranquil ten days in July, various aspirants prepared themselves to showcase some exceptional diplomatic finesse during DSMUN. The effort put in during the late night sessions did bear fruit, as the DSMUN team managed to pull off the best one in the recent past.

From the classy suits and sassy kurtas, DoscOs jumped into their swimming trunks and dove into the pool for the Inter-House Swimming Competition. The blues extended to September as the much-awaited Soccer Inter-House was hastily done with. The School also hosted its first-ever Infinity Mathematics Quiz and its traditional Kamla Jeevan Hindi debates, with the home team bagging both trophies (no surprises there!). As our boys moved from the field straight to the examination hall, the SC-Form (and the S-Form IB) worked longer and harder for their college. As the SCs went home to further their collegial endeavors, the rest of the School slid into their frigid sleeping bags at higher altitudes. Midterms proved to be physically exhausting, more so for some than others, as boys returned from the pleasures of the outside to either glory or punishments.

Post the excursions academics were still on the backburner as Founder's was just round the corner. However, with preparations crunched into just ten days, zombies could be seen running around the campus tirelessly preparing for the grand celebration. Naturally, due to the lack of practice, the English play went completely wrong with

mispronounced words, missed cues, wardrobe malfunctions, and broken sets. Many parents also found themselves in the face of a tragic dilemma: to attend between our Founder's or to attend that of our sister school. However, the spectacular Hindi play, the opportunity to see our boys showcase their thespian skills in the English play, and the chance to interact with our Chief Guest proved to be the deciding factor. With Founder's coming to an end, many boys didn't have the heart to wish their companions happy holidays as they were disheartened by the prospect of returning in just a week.

No sooner did the boys return from the "vacations", than the Headmaster ignited the 'vicious rumour' of No Shave November. The new appointees of the Yearbook faced their first challenge as their hopes of a clean and elegant picture hid under the facial fur of the boys. However, even a bigger obstacle was confronted by the new Editor-in-Chief of this publication due to the distribution of uncanny pamphlets by his predecessor on one "calm morning". Talking of hindrances, the S-form faced their fair share on the road to the infamous Rs. 8000 tie with this year's Prefect's Workshop being supplemented with research questions, discussions, plan formations, activity reports, and the letter of application. Let us hope that this elaborate process is successful in producing the true leaders of tomorrow.

Moreover, in November, our much awaited Inter-House activities faced claustrophobia as badminton, tennis, squash, table tennis, English debating, basketball, Hindi debating, quiz, athletics, Shanti Swarup, poetry recitation, golf, and boxing

were stuffed in just one month. However, the Doctor's assemblies and students' extensive use of the walk in sessions with Ms. Naila Grew did help the boys to not take stress or committing suicide. The relaxation and no stress led to some tardiness and absenteeism in boys, causing a hike in the number of Yellow Cards being handed out. However The CDH also tried to break the monotony of School by introducing a new sound device. Talking of new things, the School hosted its first TEDx event with eminent people "from around the globe". We also celebrated our victory in the Chuckerbutty Debates; however, the event sparked off a more contentious parallel debate regarding compulsory attendance for events in School. Before the grand and infamous S-Form second term came to an end, our future leader put up an entertaining show last night— which was all in good humour of course!

As the SCs went home to further their collegial endeavors, the rest of School slid into their frigid sleeping bags at higher altitudes.

With such a comic end to a rather stretched yet crammed, eventful yet monotonous, exciting yet tiring, and diplomatic yet fiery term, many boys embraced happily their deserved holidays. We too hope that our boys have a productive but relaxing winter and let the New Year bring in the new set of leaders and happenings in this institution.

The Gamble for Gujarat

Ansh Raj comments on the Gujarat elections 2017, that begin today.

As Gujarat enters its first phase of legislative elections today, almost a three-month long struggle for power comes to a halt. Unlike other major states in India which usually see another formidable player in the form of a regional party, Gujarat's politics has mainly been dictated by the two behemoths Congress and BJP; and this time, the tussle has been stronger than ever.

It can confidently be claimed that Gujarat has been the BJP's home turf. Right from its inception in the 1980s, BJP has been contesting state elections in Gujarat. After initial attempt where the BJP failed to form a government till 1995, it managed to sway the electorate majority in its favour, and has been dominating Gujarat with a clear majority ever since. Moreover, when the reins were handed over to Narendra Modi, Gujarat, from being a state whose growth rate had been lower than the national average, blossomed into one of the most flourishing states of India. However, his reign was blotted by the 2002 Gujarat riots. Cited as one of the deadliest communal violence in the nation's history, it was believed to have in fact been instigated by the incumbent BJP-run state government. However, far from having its reputation tarnished in Gujarat, BJP continued with its victory march, winning the next two state elections with similar majority. When Modi finally became the Prime Minister of India, the Chief Minister's throne was handed over to Anandiben Patel, who resigned after a brief two-year tenure.

Admittedly though, BJP's hold over Gujarat has weakened ever since Modi left to fulfil his Prime Ministerial dreams. However, in the run-up to the Vidhan Sabha elections, Modi's departure from state politics has had greater implications than foreseen. In a recently-released opinion poll by the Times of India, the disparity between BJP and INC has drastically decreased. From a difference of almost a hundred in August, the opinion poll now predicts that the difference may, in fact, have been reduced to single digits. The reasons for this monumental change in opinion are not too far to seek. First among them is the dissatisfaction among the Patidar and Dalit communities. The Patidar community, with Hardik Patel at its helm, has been contending for reservations for a long time. On the other hand, the Dalit community is also known to have shown discontentment over negligence by the state government. In fact, many argue that Anandiben Patel's resignation had come as result of the Dalit agitations.

However, what is indeed perturbing, and can possibly be a game changer for the Congress, is discontentment



amongst the middle class. The major share of the population in Gujarat belongs to the business class, to which much of Gujarat's success is owed. However, because of demonetisation and GST, two of the biggest economic manoeuvres undertaken by the Union Government, these businessmen have become greatly discontented. Due to demonetisation, not only did the businessmen suffer immense losses, but farmers and co-operatives also fell victim to it. And as if this tremor wasn't enough, the GST rollout came as an aftershock, sweeping the businessmen, especially the small ones, off their feet. To complement this, unemployment and expensive government education add to the list of the government's failure. To say that Rahul Gandhi's fiery rhetoric in Gujarat has failed to capitalise on this would be ridiculous.

However, BJP hasn't been completely thwarted. To consolidate their standing, they have undertaken carefully formulated plans, the most prominent among them being the recently constructed Mumbai-Ahmedabad high-speed rail corridor. Additionally, even though Hardik Patel has voiced his anti-BJP rhetoric, the upper and the middle-class of the Patidar community, which are mainly involved in the diamond and the textile industry, remain staunch supporters of BJP.

In this closely contested election where the parties stand neck to neck, the results can have a significant impact on the entire nation's political climate. If the BJP manages to retain its position, it will strengthen the message that their hold over the nation is still intact in their fist. However, if by any twist of fate, the Congress manages to oust BJP in its home turf, it will not only bring in a flood of relief to the Congress, which has governments in only four states, but also indicate that BJP's popularity has, in fact, weakened. Further, it may bring the demise of the Modi wave, in the run-up to 2019 General elections. What happens, only time can tell.

Down Memory Lane

Shivya Majumdar

The cool breeze pushed my hair back as I stood by the ocean. The magnificent sky was covered with shades of pink and orange. The sun was gradually disappearing under the horizon and the last lights illuminated the thin slivers of clouds. I spotted a silhouette of a boat far into the ocean, probably returning from the day's work. As the warm tides of the sea washed over my feet I looked up to see the first star in the vast sky. I reminisced about the time with my father; he used to love the beach as much as I did. When I was younger we spent many weekends on the beach. We sculptured delicates and castles, swam in the cold water and by the end of the day, watched the glorious sun set.

I could hear the faint rustle of the leaves as the palm trees swayed to the rhythm of the wind. As the sky grew darker, the gentle hoots of the owls began. I looked towards the horizon for one last time and then turned around to walk away from the beach. The toasty smells of freshly baked bread and the sweet fragrances of rose from the shops nearby reminded me of my childhood.

I walked up the steps of my porch and entered my house. Home never felt so empty. I strolled into the kitchen and brewed a cup of coffee. Taking the steaming cup, I sat on the couch with the television remote in my hand. Taking tiny sips out of the mug I scrolled aimlessly through the channels. Everything here reminded me of him. Out of frustration, I threw the remote across the room and slid on the floor. The coffee mug fell on the ground, shattering into innumerable pieces.

**I walked up the steps of my porch and entered my house.
Home never felt so empty.**

Then the tears began to fall. For the past weeks, I had been bottling up my emotions and now it all began to pour out. Frustration, sorrow, and then finally came the numbness. I picked up the broken porcelain pieces and threw them away in the dustbin. I caught a glimpse of my reflection on the kitchen counter. Wiping the tears away, I opened the window. The moon looked like a white pearl on a black canvas. I heard my father's voice saying, "The greater the storm, brighter the rainbow."

Eccendatiast

Aryaman Kakkar

The memories of death and
fire still haunt these dark days.
They all passed in their slumber.
Like reveurs in the Night Circus, forever dreaming.

I fear for my others while
grieving in the infant hours of
dawn because what better
time than delicate twilight for tears?

For ignorance is bliss for those
lost in the pursuit of the erudite
while others master that which we know
nothing of; raw, tumultuous emotion.

I sing this nightingale song for
those who know the tears trickling
down because knowing pain and love
means having scars for wings and poison for air.

And in the end, as I pen down nightmares
Amongst the dewdrops of dawn on my
Birthday, all of this pain and fear
As always, be hidden behind a smile.

Victory!

Aarnav Chadha

The heart beat raised,
The tingling feeling,
The blood inside me,
Pumped much faster.

A minute for an hour,
And a nervous brain,
Deciding its fate,
By the 'hour'.

The flags up,
The whistle blown,
The music begins,
As triumph is welcomed,
With a hearty laugh.

To those victorious men,
The survivors of the battle,
The clash of swords,
The rain with the heat,
What else is the feeling of victory?

The Small Things Do Matter

Yash Johri shares his views on the School's adoption of the 'No Shave November' campaign.

Just last week I came across social media posts on School's Facebook page commemorating a month of the students and faculty not having shaved their facial hair to raise awareness for men's health issues in the spirit of the Australian and American cancer awareness campaigns of 'No Shave November' and 'Movember'. Since I spent my undergraduate years in the United States, I am quite familiar with this tradition of growing beards and donating the saved money from shaving expenses to funds directed at helping cancer patients who unfortunately lose hair while undergoing therapy to cure themselves. While I don't for a second dispute the noble intention behind this initiative to create awareness about the issue, I do think there are alternative ways to raise such awareness than to indulge a lazy habit and use unkempt visages as a way to express solidarity with individuals suffering from serious illnesses. At college as well as after seeing these Facebook posts, I have found the relation between men's health and a disheveled appearance highly paradoxical. And my very thinking like this, to a large extent, is a result of my rearing at School from 2007-2013 by numerous masters and seniors.

I do think there are alternative ways to raise such awareness than to indulge a lazy habit and use unkempt visages.....

Therefore seeing this activity take

place at Chandbagh, a place I will forever consider my second home, prodded me to write on the matter.

Keeping our cuffs buttoned, top button closed, a correct knot for the tie, black socks with winter clothes and shoes polished were pre-requisites to surviving life in School. Just as there was an expectation to be punctual, to keep our beds made, toys well stacked and the curtains drawn open in the mornings and drawn in, in the evenings. Although many of us, including myself, often skirted these unwritten rules, there would almost always be lurking apprehensions - which would sometimes become reality in the form of sanctions (change-in-break, extra PT, lines etc.) ensuring that we abide by these customs that had been created by the masters and students before our time in School. Many of my classmates who regularly featured on 'The Weekly's Post Socials' Roving Eye column, would grow short stubbles only to be supremely disappointed after Saturday breakfast when PBR would ominously announce names at Assembly of the august list of SCs who had to get a shave to be able to attend that evening's festivities.

While in School one often wondered as to why our seniors and masters were so particular about these small things, it is only in college, and as we start our professional lives, that we start appreciating the value of these invaluable lessons. It is important to understand that following these practices doesn't only serve a purely aesthetic value, not only does it endow one with tremendous confidence and self-worth but also makes people around you value you

more. Therefore, when I notice certain practices such as the 'No Shave November' campaign being practised by students and being encouraged by teachers, some of whom have taught me as well, I think it's thoroughly important to remind ourselves what School has been endowing its students with, and whether or not we're deviating from the path. I believe it to be incredibly important for School to continue to emphasise certain characteristics that have set it apart and allowed it continue to be the best version of itself.

Keeping our cuffs buttoned, a correct knot for the tie and shoes polished were pre-requisites to surviving life in School.

While I certainly believe that School shouldn't be stuck to orthodox practices, and that it needs to evolve with the times, I also believe that there are certain practices, which are innate to what makes School unique, and that have had a lasting impact on building the character and fabric of a Dosco. For example, I think soon enough students will be allowed to keep phones, just because in today's hyper-competitive information age it is important for us to be up to date with the rest of the world and have data at our fingertips. However, I also strongly believe that being presentable and disciplined are some of the small things definitely on the list of items that make a Dosco unique.



NO SHAVE NOVEMBER

Our favourite moments from the photoshoot
Picture Credits: Dr. Vidhukesh Vimal and Ms. Kritika Jugran



A Walk To Remember

Aarsh Ashdhir and Moulik Seth share their experience interviewing Old Boy Sugato Choudhary (Batch of 1947)

In a tranquil corner in Rajaji National Park, Sugato Choudhary, an old boy (Batch of '47) sat sipping his tea and reminiscing his life. A retired man, he now spends his time farming and working towards creating a better future for children. Over the last thirty years he has built various schools in Anaki (a village in Uttarakhand). Instructing us on the value of education, he tells us how it has completely transformed the children of Anaki. He says- "The same children who used to pronounce biscuit as *bishcut* are now speaking in flawless English". Whilst speaking about education, he recounts the profound impact that School had on him. He speaks about the 'good old days' when he used to run change-in-breaks before Chotta Hazri and 'hog' on Sunday meals.

He thanks the School for the discipline it instilled in him and believes that activities like P.T. and marching teach the boys to

lead a routine and systematic life. Even today, he wakes up at four in the morning and does his regular chores.

On recollecting his time with Arthur Foot (Headmaster during his time), Sugato says, "He was a great chap. He acted as a fatherly figure, and never denied help to anyone. He was a man of great moral values and ethics." He describes his trips with the Headmaster, where he rebuilt several houses in devastated areas and provided aid to the needy. "It is these values that truly make a Dosco what he is," says Sugato. Contrary to popular perception, he says, "The bonds between seniors and juniors were like that of brothers." When asked about his time during the World War he says "DoscOs strangely remain unaffected by the events happening outside Chandbagh. We didn't bother about what our classmates' religion was or which party he supported. These artificial differences created by the

world didn't exist in our School." However, what followed was truly shocking. Mr. Sugato told us that he never wants to come back and visit school. He said that despite all that he has learned from this institution there are some unfortunate memories that he just can't revisit.



Amidst all this, he simply smiled and started singing the school song- "*Lab Pe Aati Hai*". His voice echoed his bittersweet journey in this School filled with both good and bad memories, but nevertheless unforgettable memories.

Conserving Culture

Karthik Rathore comments on the fading of tradition in society today.

Are we actually a diverse school? This question comes to mind every time someone talks about unity in diversity in our community. I understand that School has boys from all over the country, but is that the only thing that makes us a diverse school? The fact is that the boys who come from different parts of the country to School quite often lack a proper understanding of their cultures, something we choose to overlook at times.

The whole nation is facing the problem of preserving and protecting its cultures and different lifestyles. Given this situation, I think School should not only be a place which gives

boys the room to spread thoughts and ideas of their community, but also teach them to appreciate and protect their cultures. Any sort of idea or lifestyle can be preserved by spreading knowledge about that culture, not only to members of the community, but also to people who do not belong to it. A major aspect School has always tried working on, but has unfortunately failed in, is making sure the current generation understands that their identity has a larger meaning than just one word. The traditions which have been practised in this secular nation are what make it unique. It is our responsibility as members of the nation or the Dosco community or what? To

prevent the loss of tradition.

I come back to asking the question: as a school what can we do? A culture is a lifestyle and is the social behaviour and norms found in a human society. A culture is created when people of similar thoughts come together and form a society which is based upon similar beliefs and ideas. It is actually ironic that despite the help of technology, which makes it easier to spread our thoughts and ideas, we still face a lack of knowledge about our own cultures. School can promote student research into their roots and hence become truly knowledgeable in it. That is the path to true diversity.

An Excerpt of Human Blunders

Varen Talwar *reflects on the impact of recent human actions on the planet.*

Humans have been the dominant species on Earth for thousands of years now. We have been using our continually evolving brains tirelessly to overpower other species on the planet, while making incredible progress in numerous fields like science, medicine, philosophy and literature. We have come to inhabit the world so densely that it has become easy nowadays to forget that we are not the only ones on the planet. A time has come when people know that a bird called a 'chicken' exists only when they devour one.

We humans are, by nature, extremely hypocritical creatures. We hang people, who kill other people, but are happily killing and eating chickens, goats, pigs, cows, fish, turkeys, etc. because that is 'not a crime as they do not hold an equal place in the world'. When we are questioned, we use terms like 'freedom of choice', 'tolerance' and 'secularism' to justify ourselves.

Yes, say those to the creature in your stomach.

We do not realize that these ideas are not applicable to the beings outside our species and do not validate our monstrous actions towards them. We do not realize that these animals we eat are also living beings. What if we were being slaughtered and eaten by pigs or cows? Why should they not eat us? We are rich in protein, fat, carbohydrates... you name it, and human bodies can provide it. Our ideology is that we can eat any animal we want, but if a tiger eats a human then he is evil.

Like I said, we are extremely hypocritical creatures.

Another very interesting characteristic of humans is that we are outstanding at making excuses, and with our masterpiece excuse- 'God', we have reached places. This person called 'God', who has no proof of existence, has influenced humans more than anybody anywhere. 'God' has become much more important to humans than themselves. We offer Him food, milk, and even money, but we cringe to give even a rupee to a beggar at our doorstep. This 'God' has made humans slaughter millions of animals as 'sacrifice'. Muslims kill Hindus and Hindus kill Muslims and organisations like the ISIS and Taliban kill everybody and anybody and then use their masterpiece excuse- 'God'. 'God' wants his children to do this and that, a million other excuses and arguments come up as justifications for their actions while 'children of God' kill other 'children of God' and this family feud continues till eternity because some children want to be the bodyguards of their father - who, quite surprisingly- has the power to 'create the world' but is incapable of protecting himself.

We emit all kinds of pollution in huge quantities

everyday. We know that this is extremely harmful for us, but we do it nevertheless, that too legally and 'ethically'. Factories release all sorts of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, mix infinite toxins with the water in rivers, thus endangering countless lives, but this is all right, because they have a wonderful excuse - 'money'.

This second masterpiece excuse made by humans is no less than the first one, if not more. Since the concept of 'money' has been introduced, man has been running after it like a slave. Industries pollute the Earth incessantly, but for us humans it is understandable, because it has to be done for employment so the people earn money and because we want all the fancy stuff and the needless luxuries, which are much more important than the Earth because we can live without it, can't we?

This person called 'God', who has no proof of existence, has influenced humans more than anybody anywhere.

Our pollution enters water bodies, harming marine life, making the water undrinkable, but it does not matter to us, does it? It's no big deal. We need our cars and phones, but we can surely do without potable water, can't we?

I think that it would be safe to say that we humans are in trouble. Our environment is getting damaged beyond repair daily; our population has risen and is continuing to rise exponentially; our resources are depleting too fast to support this rising population; our climate is changing erratically and the water levels are rising while the president of the world's most powerful country disagrees and opts out of the Paris Climate Agreement- just to mention a few problems.

This is just a miniscule excerpt of the infinite blunders that our 'great and evolved' species is constantly making. If we continue without reflection and correction, it is imminent that we are going to face extinction sooner than we can imagine. It will take a miracle to save us, but I believe that this miracle is possible, and if we work in unison as a race to achieve it, I am positive that we will be able to get our act together before it is too late, and thus, as the recently elected French president Emmanuel Macron has said, will 'make our planet great again'.

The Holiday Checklist

The best things to watch, read, play, and listen to this Winter.

TV Shows

Doctor Who (Christmas Special)	December 25
Star Trek : Discovery (Season One)	January 7
Taken (Season 2)	January 12
Riverdale (Season 2)	January 17
Grey's Anatomy (Season 14)	January 18



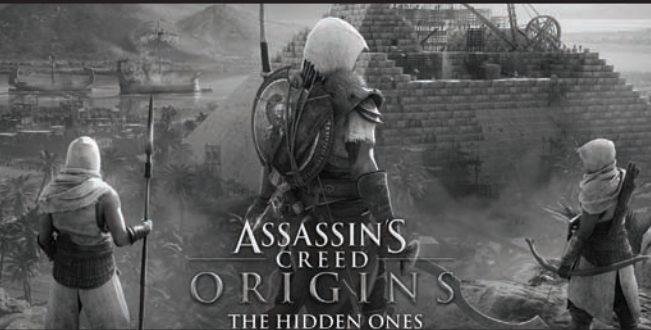
Books

Lincoln in the Bardo	George Saunders
King's Cage	Victoria Aveyard
The Mark	Veronica Roth
When Tides Turn	Sarah Sundin
A Gentleman in Moscow	Amor Towles



Video Games

Wolfenstein II: The New Colossus	October 27
Assassin's Creed: Origins	October 27
Call of Duty: WWII	November 3
Star Wars: Battlefront II	November 17
Destiny 2: Curse of Osiris	December 5



Sports

The Ashes	November 8-January 23
Manchester Derby	December 10
FIFA Club World Cup	December 6-16
Squash World Championships	December 10-17
The El Clasico	December 23

reputation



Movies

Fukrey Returns	December 8
Star Wars: The Last Jedi	December 15
Tiger Zinda Hai	December 22
Paddington 2	January 12
12 Strong	January 18

Music

Reputation	Taylor Swift
Voicenotes	Charlie Puth
4:44	Jay-Z
Everyday is Christmas	Sia
The Thrill of it All	Sam Smith

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