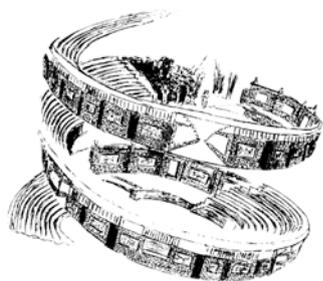


Established in 1936



The Doon School WEEKLY

"I sketch your world exactly as it goes." -Arthur Foot
March 24, 2018 | Issue No. 2498



THE STRUGGLE OF LIFE

A short creative piece on the struggle for survival.

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THE GHOSTS OF OUR PAST

The second in a two part episodic story by Varen Talwar.

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A BRIEF HISTORY OF TIME

An obituary to the late scientist, Stephen Hawking.

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Vox Populi, Vox Dei

Ansh Raj analyses the importance of opinion polls in School.

After having spent almost two years working as part of the Editorial Board of the School's flagship publication, I can confidently say that there is no other activity on campus that is more rewarding. However, often there are moments when even the most rewarding work can take the form of menial drudgeries - the most prominent among them being conducting opinion polls. Before you frown at this brow-raising assertion though, allow me to clarify. Conducting opinion polls is, undoubtedly, a cornerstone of a democratic institution; it holds even more relevance in an institution such as ours, where our minds are being trained into forming opinions on issues that directly or indirectly affect us. However, after having conducted multiple polls, I have observed a set of responses that have recurred periodically, almost to a point where they can be qualified under the category of a 'trend'. Regrettably, not in the least do these trends speak highly of the democratic nature of our School.

Because these polls aren't binding, we tend to dismiss them aside with an apathetic shrug of our shoulders.

One important feature of these polls is that the results arrived at are not binding: the authorities may or may not - which is usually the case - act upon them. Herein lies the crux of the problem that puts the democratic nature of the School at risk. Because these polls aren't binding, we tend to dismiss them aside with an apathetic shrug of our shoulders. However, this indifference per se is not as worrying as is its unpredictable nature. Following this mathematical expression, this indifference in our School can be explained as a function of seniority. While the D

formers, who are assumed to be the most immature among us, show active participation in these opinion polls, the SCs, who are expectedly the most mature lot, are, in reality, the least concerned with them. True, these statements are not applicable to every individual; however, they stand true (as empirical evidences show) in the majority of cases.

A logical explanation that may answer this anomaly is that SCs presumably begin to lose their connection with this place, as they immerse themselves in college applications and other endeavours that they wish to pursue after they complete their schooling. This assertion can be attested by the reluctance with which they participate in activities, or their general disregard for School rules. This argument - 'excuse', if you please - however, is in no way justified. Apathy, of any kind, is the most vicious foe of democracy. The decisions taken by the authorities have a direct or indirect effect on every student; therefore, it is only reasonable that everyone should participate in the decision-making process as long as they hold the identity of a student of this institution. Certainly, the results of the polls conducted, as already stated, would not be binding for anyone to act upon those; however, they mirror the community's general opinion. This mirror will, with absolute certainty, prompt responses from the authority, even if it comes at the cost of 'lost time'.

A more pressing issue that has arisen, in light of a recent poll conducted, is that of voter suppression. Voter suppression implies the use of coercion on the voters, in order to sway the results of a plebiscite. Voter suppression, thankfully, is not a malaise that continually plagues our institution; however, there are instances, where opinion polls on sensitive issues cause "groups" to resort to various means, in order to further their own agenda. To address voter-suppression in a school like ours, where not every element is democratic, is difficult, but not impossible. While a step that the *Weekly* can take is to make the opinion polls a secret ballot procedure (like the

(Continued on Page 3)

TOP TEN PLACES TO STUDY AROUND SCHOOL

1. The swimming pool stairs.
2. The benches in the lawn behind the AMC.
3. The CDH during tea and Brunch.
4. Between the 'Fiction' shelves in the Library.
5. Top stair of the Rose Bowl.
6. Isolated classrooms in the Main Building.
7. While cooking in various House pantries.
8. Gazebo hotspots all over campus.
9. The home of the teacher who teaches the subject you're being tested on tomorrow.
10. The Main Building bathroom.

THE DOSCO BOOKER PRIZE

Devang Laddha has been awarded the **first prize** in the **Bakhle Literature Essay Contest** for the year 2017-2018. Armaan Verma was adjudged the **runner-up**.

Congratulations!

UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

A famous guy who nobody knows.

Bhai Kabir Singh, not likely.

Open the keys.

Samarth Kapila, opening new doors.

To your empty brain.

Kabir Subbiah, slamming the door shut.

He was a good student at studies.

Raghav Grover, you're getting there.

French is a rich country.

Avi Soni, bilingual.

I will do a suicide.

Kartik Singh Rathore, please do.

“

Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value.

—
Albert Einstein

THE WHO?

Who is Peter Gene Hernandez?

Samarth Kapila: A scientist

Anant Kakkar: A tennis player

Aradhya Jain: A philanthropist

Peter Gene Hernandez, professionally known as Bruno Mars, is an award-winning American singer-songwriter, famous for his albums '24K Magic' and 'Unorthodox Jukebox'.

MATCH POINT

Rishank Kala has been awarded the **Games Blazer**.

Congratulations!

WORTH THE WORDS

The following are the house positions of the **Inter-House English Debating Competition, 2017**:

1st: Oberoi House

2nd: Tata House

3rd: Kashmir House

4th: Hyderabad House

5th: Jaipur House

Congratulations!

Around the World in 80 Words

Israel has for the first time confirmed that they had destroyed a suspected nuclear reactor being built in Syria in 2007. Putin was re-elected as Russia's Prime Minister, claiming 76% of votes. Mark Zuckerberg issued a statement formally apologising for Facebook's part in a data harvesting scandal. Eleven men from the state of Jharkhand have been sentenced to life imprisonment for the lynching of a Muslim meat trader last year, the first ever action taken by India against "cow vigilantes".

Dosco Doodle

SC 'Leavers'
Anant Ganapathy



(Continued from page 1)

School Captain elections), true riddance from voter suppression will not be possible until the voters are able to voice their own opinions. Here, “own opinions” imply voters voting without fear of any undue repercussions.

One criterion to gauge the democratic nature of a place is the real participation of the people residing in it; in Doon, it is not only a right that we enjoy, but

a duty that we must perform. Only then can we fulfil the mission statement of our School, as laid by our founding fathers, which is to “become exceptional boys to serve a meritocratic India; to be just and ethical citizens; and to be wise and principled leaders”. So should we squander away the opportunity and the privilege of being all that was envisioned for us? Should we not act?

The Struggle of Life

Bhavtegh Singh Gill

Teetering on the edge of the void. It seems like so many days, he has been trekking, through the endless dunes. His throat as void of water as the air that surrounds him. His lips prickly like that of the cactus he so tries to avoid. His legs burning like the sun that has been staring at him for days. His shoes torn, the burning sand biting at his feet like broken glass. He cannot even trust himself anymore. His mind playing tricks on him, his eyes deceiving him when he thinks there is hope ahead. A non-existent village or lake coming before him as mirages, only to disappear when he is upon them. The occasional snake or scorpion scurrying away as he approaches, surrounded by the sure aura of death.

The sudden realisation of the unthinkable settles upon him. He shudders despite the ever intensifying heat. He, unlike many, sees how he will go but still will not give up. He craves for the sweet release of death but knows that he cannot give in to temptation. He dies for a breeze, but he knows that it will only be dry and arid. Every element in this never ending desert is out for him. It has corrupted his very mind. He fights two battles: one with the desert and the other with himself. His body wants to give in. His mind knows that he is fighting a lost battle, but his heart believes that he can make it.

He craves for the sweet release of death but knows that he cannot give in to the temptation.

He walks on, not knowing what will become of him. He squints to shield his eyes from the piercing sunlight. His blistered feet carrying him to places unknown. Cuts, bruises and scrapes all adding to his immense challenge. The sand burning his eyes. His vision blurring. The intense heat slowly taking him towards his final hour. Minute by minute his temptation increases. He knows he must not, but still wants to. It will be so easy just to give in. All the pain

forgotten and the suffering ended. Both battles are being lost, but none of that matters now. He will just be delaying the inevitable. But to delay it long enough might just save him. He feels as if he is sinking into the sand with every step. His will going down with him. A ray of hope is all he needs. He must save himself. He doesn't know when help will come.

In the distance he sees a village. Small but near. But he doesn't know what is real anymore. That was the last straw. That was the last trick his mind was going to play on him. He collapsed. His body limp and numb. All the pain he felt, now forgotten. In the distance, through half closed eyes, he sees two figures approaching. He wondered whether they were real, but it was too late. He shut his eyes and for a moment there was darkness and then he was met with a different light. One of comfort and relief. He knew his struggle was over.

For Hills to Climb...



The Team: Ranvijay Singh (536 K), Samarvir Mundi (502 T), Shivendra Singh (483 T) and Stanzin Namgyal (524 T)

During this midterm break, a team of four boys, will go on an expedition to the Bali Pass, located on the Bandarpoonch Massif. This expedition has been organised to commemorate Major Narendra Dhar Jayal's 60th death anniversary. Nandu Jayal (Batch of 1942), is a legendary figure in Indian Mountaineering, who was the founding Principal of the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute. He perished while on an expedition to Cho Oyu, the sixth highest mountain in the world.

For more information, please get in touch with Mr. Arjun Bartwal (arb@doonschool.com)

The Ghosts of Our Past

Varen Talwar

Harry sat in the bleak light. It had been a week since he had received the letter, and he hadn't stepped out of his flat since. He hadn't eaten in the past week nor had done anything other than sit at the table, or aimlessly roam around his flat. His physique had reduced to a skinny figure, which looked so pale that he seemed to have aged twenty years. His face had lost colour, and the wrinkles only made it worse.

He couldn't stand it anymore. He knew what he was going to do. This immortal suffering and trauma could only be conquered by his mortality, he thought. However, despite all his belief and desire, he just couldn't get himself to do it.

Suddenly, his phone rang, and gave him a start, and you could see the pain it gave him to even flinch involuntarily. He slowly picked up the phone and pressed the button and got the phone to his ear, hearing hard, and mustering all the power he had, he said, "Hello,"

"Hi, Harry. It's Steven here. Are you all right? You haven't been to work for a week now! What happened? Why haven't you been answering my phone calls?"

Harry was just about to say that he's fine and keep Steven away, but his desire kept him from it. Instead, he said, "Steven, could you come by my house now? Not after work, but now- right now?"

"Why, what happened?"

"I'll tell you once you come here. Don't come upstairs; just wait outside the building and I'll tell you from my window, all right?"

There was a momentary pause on the line, after which Harry heard a faint murmur of a consent. Harry smiled a feeble smile - the time had come.

He felt energetic for the first

time in a long while. He stood up, and walked to his wardrobe. He picked up his favourite clothes, and kept them on his bed. He then went to the shower, and had a good, long bath. He then wore his clothes, and walked to the window, and peered outside.

Just a few minutes later, he saw Steven turn round the corner and enter the street. Harry smiled, and reached the drawer to pull the box out. Holding it in his hand, he beckoned silently to Steven. Once Steven saw him, he opened the box, withdrew the gun, and with the smile still on his face, he shot himself in the head, leaving Steven on the street, his mouth open, staring at the blood-stained window.

This immortal suffering and trauma could only be conquered by his mortality, he thought.

(The next day - Harry Selznick's mother's house)

"Are you fine, Mrs Selznick?" Steven asked. She had been in great shock when she heard about Harry. She had just stopped crying, but she started again.

"It is all my fault." She said after a while.

"No, ma'am, how can you be blamed for his....." Steven started, confused at what she was saying. In fact, she had said this for the third time now.

"I knew that this was going to happen; yet I did nothing to prevent it."

"I don't understand, Mrs Selznick. How could you have done anything?"

"I know exactly what happened to Harry and why he committed suicide. Actually, I have been anticipating this; I have always been scared that this might happen. There is something about him and his sister that has caused this - the special bond they shared. They were completely inseparable. When Mary died, Harry would go to the well every day, and sit beside it, staring inside, for hours together. He even attempted to enter it and look for Mary once, and I had to keep him inside the house after that, otherwise he would have ended up killing himself by jumping into the well.

"It took him a lot of time to move on. He finally forgot about it and went on with his life; until recently, when he came to my house over the weekend. We were going through some old family albums, when he saw Mary's picture. I didn't expect its effect to be so drastic. Harry grew totally silent after that, and cut short his stay after a few hours and went back on Saturday itself. His dreams started from then."

"But how did he get the letter?" Steven interrupted her, flabbergasted by her story.

"You see, it wasn't Mary who did this. It was Harry himself! After he saw those pictures, that old desire to go to his sister returned. It was he who haunted himself, and he didn't know it. The trauma had returned after twenty years, and its effect was so strong, he totally fell apart. Their unbreakable bond could be put to sleep, but never broken.

"It might seem stupid to you - you cannot be blamed for that. After all, you haven't seen their

(Continued on next page)

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childhood, but I have, so I can believe it.”

Steven was silent. He was confused about what to believe. Apart from the supernatural element, everything else did make sense. Presently, he got up and took his leave, and thought about what he had just heard. He did not want to believe it.

“I don’t believe it.” He finally said to himself, and walked away.

He was running in the fields as the bright blissful sun shone in the sky and the wheat plants turned golden. As he reached the well, he saw a figure in front of him. He smiled.

“Dear Sister, I am here.” He

said.

Harry had united with the ghost of his past. He had given in - he had lost. Your ghost is coming too.

The question is: what are you going to do?

The End

A Brief History of Time

Sairajan M.S. pays tribute to the late scientist, Stephen Hawking

January 8th, 1942 marked not only 300th death anniversary of Galileo, but also the day another luminary in the field of science was born. Stephen Hawking initially seemed to be a typical ‘average student’. As he himself claimed, he was unable to read until the age of eight, but these characteristics were certainly not what defined him. His passion for and contribution to the field of cosmology and quantum gravity are outstanding. Besides, of course, his numerous books that made science not only more accessible, but also shaped the understanding and impression of science in the minds of readers.

What made him extraordinary however was that paralysis, which is popularly seen as a drawback, is what made him better. He was not forever sitting in corner, disheartened or bemoaning his condition. On the contrary, he remained cheerful, with his famous sense of humour and his attitude of unflagging commitment towards his research as well as his achievements - all the traits that made him so special. He experienced zero-gravity, wrote international bestsellers and won numerous awards. He was never held back by his disability, unlike most people. He lived for 53 years longer than he was expected to and achieved so much in this time which proves that unlike most of us, he made the most of what he

had, and more. The obstacle that keeps many of us from excelling is the fact that we reassure ourselves that some things are impossible but, for a person with degenerative motor neuron disease to achieve as much as Hawking did not seem impossible to him. He did not think of it as a ‘big deal’, he simply did what he enjoyed doing and continued despite his problems and did not convince himself that his problems were an impediment to achievement. There truly is a lot one could learn from him, from his uncompromising dedication to science to his optimistic attitude and outlook. The way he never saw himself as disabled, showed how he was ‘differently abled’. His major achievements include ‘Hawking Radiation’ and the mathematical formula for the entropy of black holes that he

derived.

His death is undeniably a huge loss to the field of physics as well as to humanity in general. His understanding of physics made up for his inability to move and his intellect won him his success. His loss was not only sudden, but had evidently affected many who only connected with him through his books. It all seems like too much of a coincidence that he was born on the same date as Galileo’s death, lived 53 years more than he was expected to, achieved all that he did, and died on the day of Einstein’s birthday, but it is his intellectual achievements that makes his life truly remarkable. “It is true that our experiences shape us, but we could choose the ones we want to be shaped by”. Stephen Hawking lived to prove it.



Stephen Hawking at Princeton, New Jersey, in 1973.

The Week Gone By

Keshav Raj Singhal

Highly overdue attention was finally given to academics this week as the School settled down with books, with the fear of trials forcing us 'all-rounders' to become hardcore academicians. The campus remained reserved as the boys endeavoured to live up to the efforts of the masters and strived to achieve many of their much coveted Marker Cups. B and S formers were seen working unremittingly with a motive of

enhancing their transcripts after delving into their new curriculums.

The AT-Form marched towards their last two board examinations with triumph, after writing a surprisingly effortless Chemistry exam. This week also witnessed the departure of many SCLs post the completion of their ISC exams and finally finishing their tenure at School.

However, on a lighter note, the incumbent SC-Form appeared contented after shifting into their new rooms and getting their own space. On the sporting front, Jaipur and Oberoi shared the Junior Cricket Trophy while H House made an emphatic entrance in the CDH after clinching the House

Cup. The Main Field, though, is still buzzing with energy, as the School Hockey Team continues to practice with vigor and dedication.

Considerable enthusiasm was seen amongst C and B formers as an 'intra-school MUN' was introduced. The event promises to act as a selection and training ground for the B formers who hope to represent the School at DSMUN. Wednesday saw unexpected rainfall, with many claiming it as a sign about their examination performances. However as we move towards the last phase of the final trials, let's hope that Doscocs remain dedicated and end one more stressful academic year on a good note!

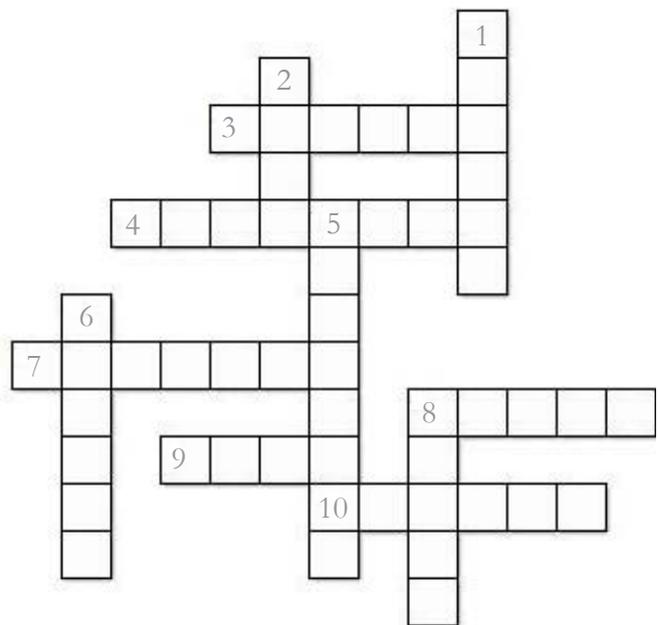
Crossword | From Riches to Rags

Across

- This famous rapper had a global hit in 1990 with his song 'You can't touch this', but filed for bankruptcy in 1996 and was reported to be in heavy debt, after buying a 12 million dollar mansion.
- This former Baywatch star declared bankrupt in 2009 when she received a tax bill for having construction done on her mansion.
- This American businessman inherited his father's vast real-estate empire, but six of his businesses filed for bankruptcy in the 90's.
- This famous American singer-songwriter rose to fame in the 70s and 80s, but lost all of his wealth when his brother-in-law mishandled his money.
- This American entrepreneur had to file for bankruptcy after his investors pulled out of his company 'Laugh-O-Gram'. However, he later went on to create a multibillion dollar mass-media company.

Down

- This Zimbabwean cricketer fell into depression after sustaining heavy financial losses caused by political turmoil in the country.
- This actor bled his money away often on eccentric purchases and had to declare bankruptcy in 2009.
- This 'Smokey and the Bandit' star faced foreclosure on his Florida home.
- This Bollywood actor has 225 films to his credit. In his last days, he battled acute poverty and went bankrupt, unable pay his medical bills.
- This famous boxer filed for bankruptcy in 2003, after spending all his fortune on a \$2 million bathtub and buying millions worth of jewellery.



Note: All answers to this crossword are the concerned persons' surnames.

Answers to This Week's Crossword	
Across	3. Hammer
Across	4. Anderson
Across	8. Trump
Across	9. Joel
Down	1. Strang
Down	2. Cage
Down	5. Reynolds
Down	6. Hangal
Across	10. Disney
Across	8. Tyson

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

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