

The Doon School WEEKLY



"I sketch your world exactly as it goes." -Arthur Foot
March 16, 2019 | Issue No. 2530

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Opening a Window

Amal Bansode

The other day, I made the brave decision of letting the night-time winter wind enter my room. The aroma of *kathi* rolls had infiltrated the room, and it was impossible to work surrounded by the alluring scent of oil, *masala*, *maida* and chicken. I'm not one of those people who sprays deodorant in the room to mask a particularly smelly odour or the evidence of a feast, so I resorted to opening the windows. With the rush of cool air into the room, my mind wandered away.

I was reminded of the unique set of benefits and drawbacks presented by living in Oberoi House, tucked away in a corner of School. The extra five-minute commute to anywhere around School has been painfully endured, but the House's proximity to the world outside has served us well too. On a bad day, we are bombarded by numbers from Dehradun's *baraats* performing at a wedding. On a good day, the wedding hosts play music from this century. Or even better: there is no wedding, and we study in peace.

Chakrata Road brings to my ears the typical set of sounds from an Indian street. The hustle and bustle of people as some return home for the night and some head to work for the night. The incessant honking in the distance is like a static sound that helps me focus on

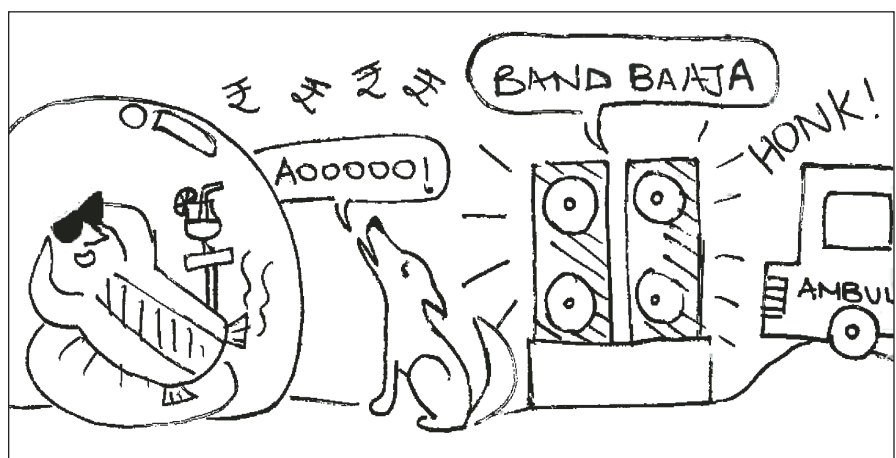
this essay instead of my overdue Theory of Knowledge essay. Amidst the honks of Maruti-s, Mahindra-s, and Scooty-s, comes a sharp and bold honk from what sounds like a BMW. The BMW must be destroying itself on our pothole-ridden roads, blinding onlookers with its unnecessarily bright LED headlamps. Do I want to grow up strapped in the seat of an extravagant BMW, or do I want to be a part of the *aam aadmi*?

Then comes the roar of a bike hurtling down Chakrata Road. Somebody is probably having the time of their life. Within the blink of an eye though, things can go awry. The rider endangers the lives of many, but I guess that is the cost of an adrenaline rush. Is it worth the risk?

As usual, a car with a squeaky pulley-belt system drives by. The entire neighbourhood is notified of the passage of this worn out car. Perhaps it is representative

of us too, as we work day in and day out. Why do I exhaust myself every day? For 45 points in the IBDP and a spot on a Forbes list? What about you?

I am interrupted as a siren pierces the air off in the distance. My overloaded physics brain reminds me that a moving source of sound like an ambulance causes the Doppler Effect. But the ambulance is also a reminder of the fragility of human life. Out there, somebody is probably in severe pain, waiting for it all to end. If there is a complication, the bills will amount to a sum that will make death look *sastaa*. The kin, if they exist, must be in extreme distress. The worst I've had to deal with till this date is a "severe" case of diarrhoea. Within a century, humans have successfully doubled their average lifespan so they can continue to stuff their stomachs, repay loans, bask in love, release frustration, and acquire more.



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ERRATA

In the Around the World of Issue No. 2529, it was stated that Toni Kroos has agreed to go to Manchester City. It was later discovered to be a rumour.

The *Weekly* regrets this error.

MUSICAL MINDS

The Music Department is pleased to announce that School is now an **independent registered examination centre** for **Trinity College, London** and **Pracheen Kala Kendra, Chandigarh** for **Western and Hindustani Music Diploma programme** respectively.

Kudos!

UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

Put some English in you.

Adi Jain, ironic much?

Tears were coming from my mouth.

Rishab Jain, drooling.

How many ellipses is there!?

Ahan Jayakumar, this many...

I am a very dumb.

Aryaman Kakkar, having an epiphany.

Let's make a sukodu.

Shreyan Mittal, puzzled.

He told me to got the food for him so I got it.

Jahaan Sahgal, getting things done.



The most dangerous creation of any society is the man who has nothing to lose.

— James Baldwin

ROCKIN' AND POPPIN'

The following have completed their respective grades as part of the **Trinity Exam**:

Intermediate Level:

Rock and Pop Vocals (Grade 4): Anant Kuriyal

Piano (Grade 5): Sriman Goel

Advanced Level:

Drum Kit (Grade 6): Rishav Misra

Rock and Pop Bass Guitar (Grade 6): Anay Shah

Drum Kit (Grade 8): Shashwat Bansal

Rock and Pop Vocals (Grade 8): Harrsh Dewan

Rock and Pop Guitar (Grade 8): Sanyam Gupta and Ishan Mauli Mishra

Congratulations!

DISTINGUISHED DIPLOMATS

Following are the appointments for **DSMUN '19**:

Secretary General: Vikram Jain

President: Nandil Sarma

Deputy Secretary Generals: Agastya Khanna and Shiv Sharma

We wish them a fruitful tenure!

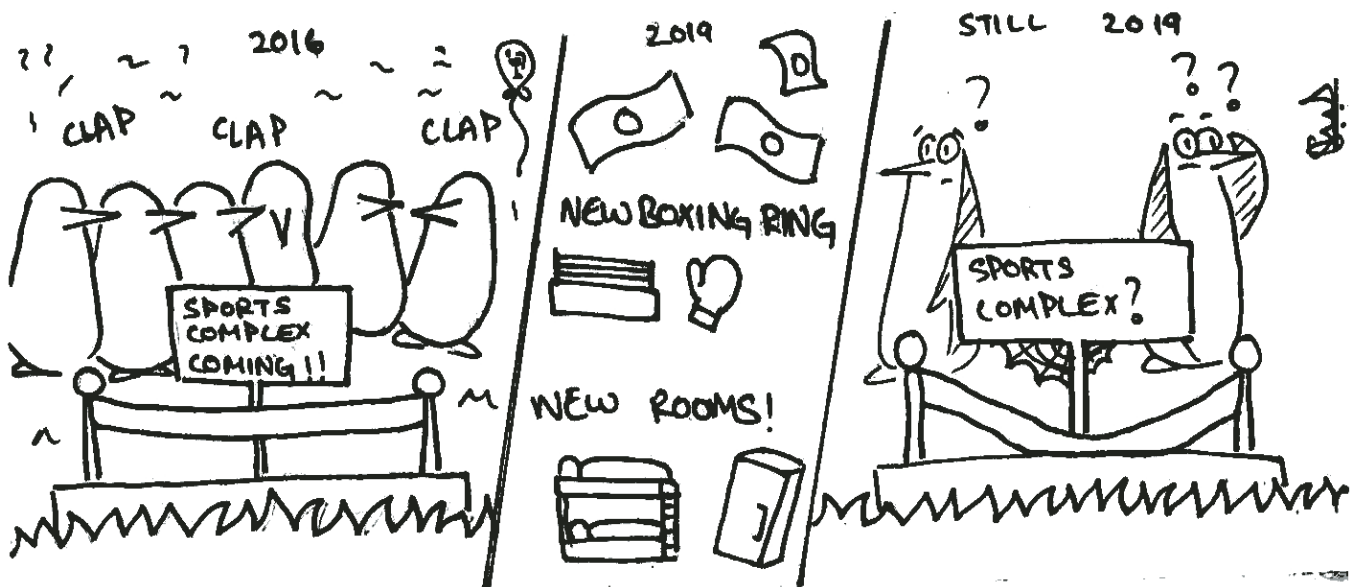
Around the World in 80 Words

Saudi Arabia displaced India as the biggest importer of weapons after eight years. Bollywood films were officially banned in Pakistan. After an Ethiopian Boeing 737 MAX crashed on Sunday, killing 157 people, over a dozen countries grounded the planes. British Prime Minister Theresa May's Brexit deal was rejected for the second time, this time being defeated by 149 votes. North Korea recorded a 99.9% turnout in the recent elections. Cristiano Ronaldo's hat-trick helped Juventus beat Atletico Madrid 3-2 on aggregate.

Dosco Doodle

Development Dilemma

Saatvik Anand



(Continued from Page 1)

Will I live to simply be ‘a slave to money’?

When the vehicles finally calm down, the barks, moos, howls, meows, and yaps from street animals become audible. Are they quipping about the obnoxious honks of that BMW, or are they

lamenting the lack of food strewn across the roads today? Amongst these “animals” on Indian streets also lie our fellow 1.77 million humans — a number that may increase forty-fold, depending on how you define homelessness. As we leave behind 58 kilograms of food on our plates, we also

leave behind these millions on the streets. Is a life filled with the basic necessities for existence reserved for those who win the lottery of birth?

Alas, the window is now open; in three months, I escape the Chandbagh bubble to face this world that yearns for solutions.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

After reading “Knowledge Our Light?” last week I thought I would share two short extracts from a book coming out later this year that is about helping raise kids who love to learn.

General Knowledge; GK? God knows! There is, of course, value in knowing things... knowing what you are talking about, knowing your history, knowing what you want to do... but there is little value in knowing things that others have decided are some arbitrary measure of how bright you are. It is wonderful to spend time with people who are well read, who are experts in their field, or who are really good at playing scrabble, but it is a measure of interest, not necessarily intelligence. It is also the case that accumulating facts does not make you more intelligent or creative unless you are able to make connections in those facts, spot patterns and use those patterns to build original ideas.

A father at a PTM once told me how appalled he was that his son didn’t know who the finance minister of Pakistan was. I asked him if he knew who Bayern’s goalkeeper was... and he didn’t. Who is to judge what fact is important, useful or relevant? I think that there is a great deal of context to be constructed around facts to render them valuable; facts in themselves are like musical notes without a score to be part of.

If I want facts then I can just

look them up on my smart phone or in the encyclopaedia that is languishing at the back of the library. Sugata Mitra, Newcastle University’s Prof. of Educational Technology asked us on a recent visit to the school what the point of knowing anything is anymore when it can be looked up in a fraction of a second. What we need to be teaching children is how to differentiate between facts and lies, truth and half-truth, evidence based conclusions and pseudo-science. That’s more valuable than GK classes! The idea that anyone should be paid to teach general knowledge is ridiculous; a disgraceful waste of professional talent and opportunity.

Curiosity; like enthusiasm, this is something that is very difficult to fake. When we are interviewing staff and students this is one of the things we look for. Curiosity comes in several varieties, and each one is good.

Curiosity in others. What I see more of is the opposite; no curiosity in others. This shows itself somewhere between disinterest and disdain. The belief that some children are allowed to cultivate is that others are either strangers and, therefore, bad, or that they (or we, the family) are a self-sufficient island (like the character Will in Alex Garland’s book *About a Boy*). The tragedy of this lack of curiosity in others is that it sends out signals that you are not interested in trying to establish contact or willing to find a

connection. Curiosity in others is a very good predictor of someone’s capacity for teamwork. People with a high degree of curiosity in others are also those who meet people, find a connection and make things happen around them and others by putting people in touch; you will not find many effective leaders with low social curiosity.

Curiosity in the material. A thirst for knowledge, this is what you see in people who have an insatiable desire to find out more, keep moving forwards and link everything together in their and your fields of interest. It is something that you see in young children when they get hooked on dinosaurs, F1 or Star Wars. They know everything there is to know, often to the surprise of their adoring parents who think that they must be some sort of genius. This is also what you see when you visit MIT and talk to a student there about what they are doing. On of the most interesting students I have worked with ended up doing his PhD there and it struck me that this 29 year old still had the drive to learn in his field that my 8 year daughter had at the time for the back-story of her American Girl doll. When I first met this student he was 16, having just arrived at one of the UWCs and he was the same then. I remember talking to him about what his schooling had been like and what his parents had done to create the environment in which

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he found everything fascinating. It turned out that they were both educators who took the opportunity for a sabbatical every seven years and used it to drive them and their sons from one end of the continent to the other. This allowed them to show their sons that wherever you go there are people who are not failed attempts at becoming city dwellers, but are unique solutions to their environments.

Curiosity in consequence. Knowing stuff is one thing but knowing what that stuff means is something else; this is real understanding. The best students are those who are able to piece what they are learning together with what they already know and think about what it means; is their knowledge still consistent? Are there now more questions? What does it now mean for

Dear Editor,

I write with reference to the article “Knowledge our Light?” in your previous issue. Shourya Agarwal makes fighting case for teaching GK. I do not write to undermine his arguments, just to clarify certain issues on the academic front.

The School is aware of the impact on History and Civics with the coming of IGCSE and has taken remedial steps in developing The Doon School Curriculum which is to run from D to B form ending in an interim certification by the School. All this, while the School works with the CIE and other bodies to find appropriate formal certification for Indian History and Governance Studies. What our young author would perhaps be happy to learn is that the School is also investing in planning and developing a reading and writing centre. This centre will focus on developing research skills in our students.

General Knowledge (GK) tests were stopped at

this or that theory or example? Are there now any exceptions that need to be re-examined? The world is not black and white and knowledge is not simply discrete chunks of information that fit into the man-made buckets of the subjects we teach at school. Those with no curiosity in consequence will happily acquire facts, GK and rules, but will not be able to do anything interesting with them; the academic equivalent of learning plain stitch and knitting scarves or learning how to lay brick and then just building walls.

An extract from How Your Child Can Win in Life; The Doon School's Headmaster on raising kids who love to learn. Published by Juggernaut.

Sincerely,

Matthew Raggett

School because there was little formal teaching of GK being undertaken, pedagogically. Knowledge can only develop in a culture of exploration and research; just memorizing events and nouns related to facts may not be the best methodology for “knowing”. GK tests were also stopped because they were reduced to carnivals of ‘cogging’. It was undermining the very fabric of academic assessment at School.

The Society should explore ways and means to make Quiz exciting and attractive rather than treading the uncharted waters of formal education in Quizzing. Shourya's predecessor Kanishkh Kanodia revived quizzing at School and did bring it back to the DOSCO consciousness. Shourya, I am sure will stand on Kanishkh's ‘quizzotic’ shoulders and augment the reputation of the Society.

Sincerely,

Debasish Chakrabarty

Of Immortals and Tyrannicide

Aryaman Kakkar

Dear gods,

You cannot ask me to carve sigils and sacrifices of my body and not dream of murder. A mess of bone. Of something. Of sinew.

You cannot ask for offerings and tomes of prayer and not make me remember the burning cities bearing your name.

Dear God,

You cannot ask me for my Saviors of all, my children and not make me bleed every time a nail is hammered down. Down into splintering skin, crackling wood.

You cannot lead me to believe that your legions of divinities and immortals follow you willingly. Not when their harvested ichor gave way to the worlds you slapped your name upon. The realm of Creation that was the spoils of the War of Seven Days. You cannot

change the reality of your being; a common coward hiding behind the guise of an ordinary emperor.

Dear gods,

When the others tried to help us, did you see yourselves in them? Did you see them; naïve and innocent, trying to change what Olympus, Inderlok, Heaven stood for? To right everything you touched?

Everything you ‘made’ to be?

Dear gods,

Did you make Prometheus, Ravana, Lucifer out of the ashes only to condemn them? Only to glorify yourselves as royalty of a despotic paradise up above and as death of everything below?

Not even you can be perfect. After all, you ‘made’ us in your image.

Chocolates are Deadly

Tanay Gour shares his experience from the recently held chocolate making workshop.

You might be thinking – “What are you saying! They’re delicious and we love them.” However, trust me when I claim that they gave me a three-hundred-word essay to write which you are reading right now. All because I wanted to see how my ‘favourite’ type of sweets are made. So well now you know how the ‘deadly’ part came in the title.

Now let’s tell you how chocolates are made. Let me warn you that it will be weird to see what happens around the end. So, please don’t hop down to the end of the page to see what’s weird because then you won’t understand why it’s weird. Getting on to the ingredients, the first and the most obvious is cocoa powder, which gives it the colour and taste and basically makes chocolate what it is. The next one is castor sugar. Cocoa powder has a slightly bitter taste; therefore, sugar helps to make the chocolate sweet. The third one is butter (unsalted) which adds to the texture once the final fusion of ingredients is complete. The fourth is condensed milk which helps

the ingredients attain their consistency and hardness. Last, but not the least, cream. Cream helps the most in giving the chocolate a smooth and silky texture.

To proceed to make the chocolate, you have to first put a stove on the heat and mix the cream, sugar, and condensed milk. After the ingredients get mixed, one has to add the butter and continue to stir the mixture. Once the butter melts, the stirring needs to be continued until the mixture stops falling off the spoon. During this time period, the chocolate will bubble, and one would feel like a witch/warlock mixing a potion in a cauldron. After the mixture starts sticking to the spoon, one knows that it’s ready to be put in the cooking pan. Finally, one has to add the cocoa powder to the mixture and take a dish and grease it with butter (unsalted) so that the chocolate doesn’t stick to the pan. It is then poured into the dish. Wait for twenty-four hours, and you will find something weird has happened - you have your chocolate ready!

True Espionage

The Doon School Weekly interviewed Mr. Alok Joshi, ex-chief of R&AW.

The Doon School Weekly (DSW): The motto of the Research and Analysis Wing is “Dharmo Rakshati Rakshitah”. How do R&AW’s operations align with the motto?

Mr. Alok Joshi (AKJ): The motto’s essence is that R&AW works to protect the nation. This it does through collecting intelligence that is of paramount importance in the nation’s security.

DSW: Looking on the activities of R&AW, we discovered that it had also played a part in the independence of Bangladesh, and the annexation of Sikkim. How exactly does the R&AW operate?

AKJ: We must realise that the decisions on which R&AW carries out its operations are taken by top government ministers and officials behind closed doors. The agency, however, has to carry intelligence operations in order to create opportunities for such decisions to be made. There are no direct interventions from the agency’s side, but yes, our job is more than to just collect information.

DSW: How accurate is the portrayal of the functioning of intelligence agencies in films like James Bond and Mission Impossible?

AKJ: Films revolving around intelligence agencies also use cinematic liberty to lend themselves a sensational character. Therefore, the portrayal in such cases isn’t very accurate. The movie Madras

Café, I think, is perhaps one of the most accurate portrayals of the work of intelligence agencies. The film Baby, in which Akshay Kumar played the lead role, is another such example. In terms of literature, books by the author John le Carre are also valuable in terms of providing accurate insight into the workings of intelligence agencies. I would highly recommend reading his books.

DSW: Does a change in government, and the subsequent change in foreign policy, cause any change in R&AW’s work? For example, if a government striving for very friendly relations with Pakistan were to come in power tomorrow, how would the agency’s work model change?

AKJ: The R&AW is work is fairly clear- to protect the nation and safeguard its interests. The work remains the same notwithstanding which government is in power and what its foreign policy is. Also, the question about Pakistan is particularly speculative.

DSW: How do you think working in intelligence agencies affected your personal life?

AKJ: To be frank, I do enjoy the life of anonymity that I now live. Yes, shedding those two sets of uniform that I wore and the routine that I lived as part of my tenure in the Police Services was somewhat difficult but I thoroughly enjoy the life I lead now.

The Week Gone By

Aryan Bhattacharjee

It is always a moment bittersweet to see a Dosco leave campus a last time, before an 'ex' is put before his number. In my conversations with masters this week, I realised how, from their perspective, it is a moment of immense pride; pride for a chubby D-Former, in most cases at least, as he walks out transformed into a man capable of facing the world outside, 'humbly and victoriously'. As the SC Form rolls out of campus, the S-Form had the first of their lasts with the Inter House Cricket Competition. The Nizams, having won the cup,

now, and like every year, have their hopes for a grand-slam now touching ephemeral heights.

A certain announcement this week created much excitement, and for many a distinct shift in foreign policy. Our beloved School Captain finds himself now (and surprisingly so for the rest of us) in yet another leadership position, and a politically charged one too this time. Hopefully ĐSTH-MUN 2019 will be a tremendous success.

The flu seems to have taken down with it a sizeable portion of the School community. Coughs and colds seem to have become commonplace, the baton being passed on from one person to another the next. Trials, certainly, will see a lot of boys struggling to write long answers while dealing

with dripping noses. A healthy diet ought to keep Dr Lanka away.

Speaking of a healthy diet, the HM this week emphasised on how food is wasted so freely in the CDH. Let us, after this meal, promise ourselves that we will keep in mind so many people in our own country who don't get two square meals a day, and think twice before leaving food on our plates. On a more dull note, yours truly will live henceforth with a scar upon his forehead, the evidence of an impressive collision.

As the SC-IB suffocates under heaps of IB submissions, for the rest of us: Trials have come. All the best!

Wordsearch | Hip-Hop/ Rap

1. Famous rapper whose jaw broke in a car accident. This tragedy also inspired his song 'Through the Wire'.
2. Famous trio that started out as 'Polo Club'.
3. This rapper was bullied as a child and went into a coma at the age of 9.
4. Rapper that dropped out of school to pursue his acting career, known for his recent album 'Scorpion'.
5. Before his breakthrough in rap he worked at a skating rink and also a mascot kangaroo.
6. Rapper who's grandmother inspired him to become a clean rapper.
7. He was shot 6 times on his 21st birthday: 21 _____.
8. Kanye West album that was voted the most underrated and overrated album by Pitchfork readers
9. His song 'Humble' won the best music video of the year award in 2017.
10. This rapper was nominated 13 times for a Grammy.

J Y F Y Z M T G Z S X E E B M O I U X P
 P U I V E V L P A P Z H E Z W K Z X N R
 W P O Z D T R D U Z I R T O O S P T P U
 G D E J W Q U S B S H T L X L D M D Y I
 R D U R S J L U G C M L R S U K F N U J
 Q E Y F K H V H P K G I B J H F M I M V
 I D G F F R M U R F T K O W M X G G J Z
 G R B A F J A O R Y S K B E I U G N O R
 Y V O W V P M V Y S J R P S H R U S A T
 B N M D P A Y C W O K R T A V Z M Z G F
 R Y E E Z U S D C G U P Y N Z I M Z K Z
 L Q N A R P B R Z I H N U W T Z O G P F
 Q D I X N Q A A B M I M N H K Q T C C N
 T Y M O I M E K G D B H H K F H X I D M
 O I E D A Y V E W F J M Q S Q Z L G P X
 W B E L T S E W E G K E G V I G I Z O Q
 H J U E G Z P S Q S R H L H Y Q H V O B
 U Q V T P B D S E G P L D O S N J T Y K
 F H Y S S H J E M Z G H V X C X C U E S
 N B W U S M E J E G L S I O Z M X Z N J

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

1. West	5. Cole	9. Lamar
2. Migos	6. Smith	10. NAS
3. Eminem	7. Savage	
4. Drake	8. Yeezus	

Answers to This Week's Wordsearch

Source: <https://worksheets.theteacherscorner.net/make-your-own/word-search/#top>

The views expressed in articles printed are their authors' own and do not necessarily reflect those of the Weekly or its editorial policy.

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