



The Doon School WEEKLY

"I sketch your world exactly as it goes." -Arthur Foot
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THERE'S A MONSTER IN THE WOODS

A creative about the dangers that lurk in the woods.

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The Point We Miss

Varen Talwar sheds light on the community's response to change.

It is normal, and beneficial, for a community to have conflicting views on certain key subjects, and to extensively argue on them till an acceptable solution is reached. One such subject in School, among both students and masters, is the viability of the wave of changes regarding the reduction of punitive authority among students. It has seen a lot of heated debate and rather aggressive feedback, and has resulted in a withdrawal of seniors from active participation in mentoring juniors, impacting senior-junior dynamics over the past few years.

However, over time, the community here at Chandbagh seems to have moved from constructive criticism to an inescapable mire that reeks of distrust, miscommunication, and misconception. There have always been differences of approach and opinions amongst various members, but the polarisation seems to be very evident now. While it appears that the SMT lacks faith in the students' ability to be responsible leaders, the students, in the rebellious nature of youth, tend to get defiant when they don't agree with the policies set by the authorities. In the midst of all the sarcasm, anger, grudges, and detestation, we, as a community, have ended up missing the point.

The point that the administration misses is that in a system that

has existed for decades, where seniors were entrusted with actively mentoring their juniors, the sudden denial of such a role has created a sense of antagonism among the students. It changes the way we interact with each other, organise our events, and maintain discipline. To adapt to the proposed system, all we need is time and an understanding attitude that gives everyone the space to evolve. The metamorphosis needs to happen gradually, one step at a time. It is unfair to expect people, especially youngsters, to seamlessly adjust to and embrace change all of a sudden.

**When you change
a way of life, it
is difficult for
both the people
implementing the
change and those
accepting it.**

Unfortunately, this understanding seems to be missing. The students have not been given the time and space to adjust to the new expectations; and this, obviously, has resulted in the shabbiness inherent in hastily executed

paradigm shifts.

Such chaos is already evident in School. The immense dissatisfaction caused by the repetitive reminders of the students' imperfections could drive a wedge between the students and the adults on Chandbagh.

However, while the students feel that the implementation of the new system is heavily flawed, I feel that the idea itself is correct, and that is the point that the students miss.

In response to these changes, the students object to their inability to punish, and not to the real problem: the implementation of the change. What we must understand is that it is finally time to move on from our system of omnipotent prefects handing out changes-in-breaks and extra-PTs like candy, to one where discipline is an inherent quality of the Dosco, and not one that needs to be so extensively monitored. A few months ago, we heard an Assembly talk by Kanishkh Kanodia, who asked what should be done if the same person is repeatedly caught talking during Assembly if the prefects have no agency to take action. As valid as that question is, it reveals a striking flaw in our current paradigm – why does the boy relentlessly talk during Assembly, even when he is not meant to?

It all comes down to the reason we

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FASTER, HIGHER, STRONGER

Following are the results of the **Pentathlon** held on the **October 26, 2019**:

- 1st:** Udbhav Tomar
2nd: Sanjum Dhaliwal
3rd: Angad Sanghera

Well done!

UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

He won the Nobel Peace Prize for Art.

Vihan Ranka, multi-tasking.

Arabian traders came to India to sale their horses.

ARD, teaching Economics.

The lizard is an insect.

Aryan Prakash, biology markers.

Wood is made out of metal.

Vir Mehta, pioneer in D&T.

I don't insulting you.

Prabhav Jain, don't nice guys finish last?

Murder the lights.

Samayak Jain, dark thoughts.

I conspiracy against you.

Aadi Jayaswal, a force to reckon with.

I can hear two musics at the same time.

Adit Chatterjee, clearly.

Switch off the curtains.

Avi Bansode, awfully dim.

We made triplets of three people.

Kartavya Jain, genetic engineer.

All students are old people.

Harsh Agarwal, having a mid-life crisis.

I will break your glasses through your eyes.

Anushtup Giri, living in the Matrix.

Are you a no-brainer?

Sriram Alluri, brainless.

“

The books that the world calls immoral are books that show the world its own shame.

—
Oscar Wilde

Around the World in 80 Words

Lebanese Prime Minister Saad al-Hariri resigned from his post in the wake of mass protests. The infamous former leader of the ISIS, Abu Bakar al-Baghdadi, committed suicide during a raid conducted by the US government in Barisha, Syria. Over 40 people died following a landslide in Cameroon due to heavy rains. Prime Minister Narendra Modi successfully launched India's card payment scheme, RuPay, in Saudi Arabia. Leicester City beat Southampton 9-0 to record the biggest away win in Premier League history.

SYMPHONIC SUCCESS

The following have been awarded **Music Colours**:

- Anant Kuriyal
 Anay Shah
 Aryaman Kakkar
 Karthik Subbiah
 Nikunj Bansal
 Raghav Singhal
 Samarth Mehra
 Sanyam Gupta

Kudos!

STERLING SHUTTLERS

The School Badminton Team participated in the **All India IPSC Championship** held at **B.K. Birla School, Pune** from **October 21-24, 2019**. Following are the results:

In the **Under 19 Team Event**, Krish Aggarwal, Mayank Kukreti, Sparsh Garg and Abhisar Sudhakar won the **Bronze Medal**. Kapil Thapli reached the **Quarter-finals** in the **Under 17 category** and Krish Aggarwal won the **Bronze Medal** in the **Under 19 category**.

Congratulations!

DoGo Doodle

Prison Break

Saatvik Anand

SAATVIK



(Continued from Page 1)

You can compromise on the views of others in their inattention or absence, but you can never compromise on your own principles and not feel terribly guilty.

need prefects to use the deterrent of consequence in the first place. If all Doscos could be intrinsically disciplined to behave properly in a given situation, and live up to the standards they are expected to, then not only would the need for such power cease to exist, but the ultimate goal of leadership

would be achieved, which is to see your vision embodied in your subjects. However, when we stick to the medieval way of wielding the stick, we just continue the vicious cycle we have been trapped in since the very beginning. In the long run, consequences are not as effective as personal morals can be in promoting discipline. Consequences are just ways the world ensures that you live up to the expectations of society, while morals are standards you set for yourself. You can compromise on the views of others in their inattention or absence, but you can never compromise on your own principles and not feel terribly guilty.

Therefore, we should strive towards a mindset where we are capable of self-discipline. In an Assembly talk earlier this term, I talked about how my exchange school has been able to do so, and how it thrives without a punitive

system. I said that the Dosco himself/herself decides what a Dosco is. Let's make the Dosco a respectful, responsible, disciplined, and empathetic person, and not the dependent and irresponsible being that he/she currently seems to be.

I hope the readers take away something from this piece, and that they won't allow grudges to blind them from reason. When you change a way of life, it is difficult for both the people implementing the change and those accepting it. Therefore, we must appreciate that and give each other the space to adapt. We are in this together. This is our school – not just of one entity – so we all have to work together and understand each other to contribute to its progress.

So let's turn a new leaf, where we work with each other and not against. We have the right ideas in mind. We just need to find the right route for them to take.

There's a Monster in the Woods

Anant Kakkar

It was the 29th of October 1998. My sister and I were playing outside near the woods next to our house. Our parents were in the backyard, cooking food on the grill. We were playing hide and seek, and I was the seeker. I counted till 30 and then opened my eyes. I asked her to give me a hint, I heard her giggle, she was in the forest. I told her that we were not allowed by mom and dad to hide in the forest, but she just ignored me. I started to look for her. Her giggling became louder and louder, then she screamed, the scream froze my blood in my veins. I ran towards the screams, hoping that nothing had harmed her. Oh please, oh please, please, nothing please happen to her. I was too late, when I arrived, she...she...she had been ripped to shreds. Her mangled remains were scattered all over the place.

Her entrails were in the trees, her body or what was left of it was crucified to a tree. Then I saw her. She had a humanoid body, with a strange smooth, black, metallic mask. Her clothes were splattered with the remains and blood of my sister. Her hands were these horrific black talons that were dripping with blood. I should have run, but it was too late. Her talons had wrapped themselves around my throat, she picked me up and flung me aside like a rag doll, I was smacked against a tree. She walked forwards and removed its mask, her face was featureless except for a huge gaping maw running across her face diagonally. She opened it and first devoured the remains of my sister, with inhuman speed she climbed up the trees and devoured the parts of my sister hanging from the trees. She came down

and pinned me against the tree, and asked a simple question, "If I spare your life, will you lead me to the others?". Fearing for my life, I nodded. I led her to my parents; she forced me to watch as she brutally slaughtered my mother and father. She first slammed my dad's face into the grill. I could hear his face sizzling on the red hot grill, she picked up my mother and then proceeded to rip and tear into her and feast on her. She ran towards me in the blink of an eye she had me hanging off a tree by my jacket. She threatened to drop me if I didn't give her directions to the nearest town, I didn't have a choice, did I? She went on a rampage and went through town after town, until she came back for me — her last meal...

Microfiction

Eeshan Mehrotra

Travelling

“Where’s your husband?” the neighbour asked Janet as she was stuffing the parcels into the boot of the car.

“He’s travelling”, she answered.

“Where to?”

“Well, everywhere” she said, wiping the blood stain off of one of the parcels as she further pushed the parcel into the back of the car.

Revenge

Ross had waited fifty years for revenge.

Searching the hospital wards, he found Ted napping, feeble.

“For what you did to me at that party” Ross sneered.

He got a marker and marred Ted’s face with a moustache and glasses.

Framed

Margo used to wonder about her friend Ellen’s strange requests.

“Would you mind picking up some industrial-sized trash bags?”

“Can I borrow your duct tape?”

“Want to hold my new pistol?”

“Can I take your dog over to my place for the night?”

Now, sitting here in prison, it all makes perfect sense.

Ellen wasn’t her friend after all.

Kidnapped

“Officer, I left her to nap in her room and then I came out. I checked on her after an hour, and my baby was gone!” she cried helplessly.

“That’s better. So much more convincing.” She thought with a smile as she finally dialled the cops.

A Whole New Ball Game

Aryan Agarwal examines China’s recent role in the NBA.

On the many Basketball courts of China, a player will often be seen donning the red, maroon-lined jersey of the *Houston Rockets*. China loves Basketball, and the *Houston Rockets* even more, for the Chinese legend Yao Ming spent his entire NBA career with the franchise. However, the fragility of this fandom was exposed when Daryl Morey, General Manager of the *Houston Rockets*, tweeted in support of the Hong Kong protests.

Chinese broadcasters responded to this by severing ties with the League and the *Houston Rockets*. Superficially, this may not be obvious as NBA pre-season presentations were held in Shanghai and Shenzhen this very month, but the hostility between both the bodies became more ostensible through their recent, less visible actions. Following the provocative tweet, two official matches were not televised and advertising posters for the NBA games were removed hastily as the broadcasters began to re-evaluate

the broadcasting deal with the NBA.

For the NBA, this could mean the loss of an emerging retail market. Admittedly, the USA was the original source of the fan-following that continues to be a stable audience for the NBA; but in China, the league envisions a significantly larger scope of viewership. China has the largest population in the world, and is destined to become the leading consumer market in a few years’ time, which makes it a much more alluring market for not only the NBA, but virtually all other companies.

Under ideal conditions the League would have enjoyed the combined consumer-base of both these countries, but a single tweet has altered conditions in such a way that the NBA is now under pressure to pick between the US and a potential market – China. If the League apologises for Morey’s tweet it would symbolise a de-prioritisation of its member’s

freedom of speech. As can be understood, this is not likely to align with the values of American viewers, and would diminish the NBA’s reputation in the US. On the contrary, if the League decides not to apologise, any possibilities of a future with China would vanish immediately, although it will also send out a potent message declaring the NBA’s firm moral stance. Many companies, including the likes of *Nike*, have submitted in one way or another to the force that the sheer consumer-base of China provides them.

As insubstantial apologies from the members of the NBA surface, alongside opposing statements such as “We are not apologising for Daryl exercising his freedom of expression” by the NBA commissioner, Adam Silver, the dust that blurs the relation between NBA and China has not settled yet. We shall wait to see the decision that the NBA settles on, the relevance of which extends far beyond the sporting community.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

After reading last week's article, several of my colleagues and I were left somewhat perplexed regarding the objective of Karan Sampath's piece. We realise, of course, that "Bringing a Balance" cannot be an end in and of itself; therefore, for the School to actively pursue such an objective, it is necessary that this objective provides some sort of tangible benefit to School, and with reference to Karan's article, particularly to the students. While gender balance is often regarded as something that is inherently beneficial, it actually only constitutes a means to achieve certain things in society, such as tolerance, impartiality and eradicating oppression. In this "microcosm of society", or any problem with the *status quo*, I don't see why we would want to compromise on these requirements simply with the aim of achieving "balance".

One of the main justifications in Karan's article for this proposed reform was made with regards to Doscoc's interactions with women. He contended that with an increased number of women teachers, Doscoc would be better equipped in their social interactions with people of the opposite sex. However, what he misses here is the fundamental difference in attitude between speaking with a teacher, and speaking with a peer. In this respect, School ensures a certain

decorum and code of conduct is observed when speaking with teachers; this does not translate to us respecting or being sensitive towards one's peer, since we perceive her to be of equal rank. The dynamic here is so different that a change in one of these spheres would have little or no impact on the interaction taking place in the other sphere. A far more effective solution would be for School to hold more social events where boys can be exposed to members of the opposite gender, in a setting where both see each other as equals. Such a scenario is a far more accurate representation of the real world.

While I certainly believe that both male and women teachers should be treated equally and have the same opportunities, I don't think that School needs to modify the teachers' gender ratio exclusively with the objective of "bringing a balance". The teaching body of School should not be constructed with the sole aim of having a balanced gender ratio, but rather with a focus on maintaining a teaching body that values the attributes essential to School's mission - no matter what the person's gender, ethnicity or religion. That, in my eyes, is a much fairer, balanced and impartial scenario than the other, and is one that upholds the ideals of equality that School tries to instil in its boys.

Best wishes,
Lorcan Conlon

Dear Editor,

Karan Sampath, last week in his article "Bringing a Balance", claimed that interactions with women teachers better students' ability to interact with girls their age. He also tried to imagine School without any women masters, arriving at a paradigm of extremity. While I am by no means opposed to the idea of achieving gender equality amongst the teaching body in School, I feel that this should be done as an end in and of itself; a balance should be brought about only because it would make the School - that is so often marketed as a microcosm of the outside world - more representative of 'a world where issues of gender disparity are increasingly drawing attention'. I also concur with the benefit of psychological support presented in the article, that women masters often adopt motherly traits when with students.

The assertion that an interaction with women masters is the next best alternative to School being co-educational. Frankly, I disagree with the very basis of the logic that Karan uses in his article. He claims that women masters take up the role of our mothers in School. Many students do have masters that they see as mothers, and they are seen as mothers, not peers. It is imperative to understand that a mother-son relationship differs greatly from a peer-peer relationship. The psychological support that a student

would receive from a mother-like master is definitively different from the takeaways that one would want in a friend-friend relationship, making interactions almost incomparable. It's unlikely that Doscoc's ability to socialise with women of all ages is improved at all.

After making this claim, Karan assumes a much too dystopian view of School as it was. He claims that 'in the absence [of women], School might become an echo chamber for patriarchal attitudes, such as toxic masculinity, which is still largely prevalent among the student community.' At this juncture, I'd like to point out that the first woman master joined School a number of years after its inception. During these years, the School was not the dystopia the author claims it to be. The School is inextricably linked to the outside world, and were the School to have no women masters, it wouldn't adopt the attitudes mentioned in the article, as they are criticised around the world. School's connection to the outside world ensure that the growth of an echo chamber is stunted.

The concept of gender equality amongst masters is important, but it cannot be seen as a means to achieve the benefits presented in the article; I reiterate that it is a goal that our community must strive to achieve.

Best wishes,
Kabir Subbiah

The Week Gone By

Keshav Singhal

The administration decided to finally feast the hungry souls on Diwali with an unexpectedly delicious barbeque dinner on Sunday, hopefully pleasing the boys, many of whom were upset at their failed attempts to impersonate their guardians as parents and grandparents and sneak their way out of school. For the ones who were still dejected, I can say with confidence that the extremely exuberant light and sound show would have given you a chance to dance your dismay out! Nevertheless, the sweet stock of *Coca-Cola* bottles and small talk at our dear masters' houses definitely

rejoiced us all, reminding us of our parents and making us feel like family.

Contrary to what we wanted though, this warm weekend saw its end as DoscOs plunged back into their usual work mode and entered the final lap of this term. Inter-House Athletics concluded last evening with exemplary performances by our athletes, as always leaving the community in awe and setting the bar of expectations for the next year higher. Running beside these athletes probably with more zeal are our S Formers though, who in the final stretch this week endured the leadership workshops and managed to 'be the best versions of themselves'. Only time will tell if our valiant warriors are able to sustain this enthusiasm towards their houses as they have demonstrated throughout this

year, with phenomenal attendance records and punctuality during call overs. The drama, however, doesn't end for the school community here as it witnessed another group of disciplined individuals being invited to a senior office for some much needed pastoral care and counseling.

As the SCs finally submitted their Early applications yesterday, one can only pray that the record of 'unpredicted' meetings with the senior management were of some substantial use. Fortunately, the warning issued through this series of escapades has left my batch buried in our books as we move closer to our trials. For all you budding B and A Formers, I wish you the very best of luck for your PTM this afternoon. Do wear your scholarly caps in classes today for they might help you a little!

Wordsearch | Iconic Athletes

1. This athlete set the world record for the Heptathlon in 1988.
2. She is the first American woman to win three Gold Medals at the Olympics.
3. This transgender celebrity set the record for the Decathlon in 1976.
4. The first African-American woman to win an Olympic gold medal.
5. In 2008, this athlete won the first Olympic gold medal for Bahrain, but was later caught using PEDs by the IAAF.
6. This person is considered as the highest ever paid athlete in Track and Field.
7. This person was the first ever gymnast to score a perfect ten.
8. The first athlete to run a mile in under four minutes, which was previously considered a physically impossible feat.
9. This athlete broke three world records, and tied with another in less than an hour.
10. This American athlete won two Olympic gold medals in 1932 before starting a career in Golf, where she won 10 LPGA major championships.
11. This athlete won two consecutive 100m races with a World Record timing, but was later disqualified for failing a drug test.

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

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

Answers to This Week's Wordsearch
 1. Kersee
 2. Rudolph
 3. Jenner
 4. Coachman
 5. Ramzi
 6. Bolt
 7. Comaneci
 8. Bannister
 9. Owens
 10. Zaharias
 11. Johnson

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

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