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The Minority Report

CC Chengappa writes about the gradual disappearance of ethnic minorities around the world

“It is through this mysterious power that we too have our being and we therefore yield to our neighbors, even to our animal neighbors, the same right as ourselves to inhabit this vast land.” - Sitting Bull, Red Indian Chief

About 150 years ago, the last of the Red Indians surrendered to the European settlers. Great leaders like Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse, who had lead huge resistance movements to curb the power of the invaders were either dead or captured. This was one of the first prime examples of an actual destruction of one race by another.

Now, the sole reason I chose to write on this topic was to highlight the plight and helplessness that tribes around the world face due to the ever increasing destruction of land which has been inhabited by them for thousands of years. I have given the example of the Red Indians who were almost annihilated yet somehow managed to survive despite facing constant setbacks. Even now, they do not have basic rights, and the worst is feared for other minorities and tribes around the world which have not been given equal rights despite their constant protests and appeals.

I come from a district named Coorg, which until a few years ago was a remote and desolate area in the Western Ghats, known for its forests and landscape. Some call it the 'Scotland of India' due to the similarity in landscape and the native tribes who have resided there for thousands of years. While Coorg is known for its natural beauty and picturesque landscape, it can be said that this district or hill station as some might call it, will diminish in a few years time, partly due to its recognition as a tourist destination and also due to the 'much needed development' which is taking place. Owing to the fact that most landowners in the past few years have sold their estates for enormous amounts of money, Coorg is slowly fading away and turning into a land ridden with guest houses and hotels, something which was unheard of until a few years ago. Over the past few years, natives have given away their estates to live what they think is a better life in cities, the land is always bought by an outsider who ultimately settles down or clears out acres of forests to set up a hotel.

But the blame can not always be on the outsider. Year after year, there are fewer people who follow the traditional dances and songs which have held our land together for centuries. As land is cleared up and people move away from their native place, the old traditions which originated centuries ago have gradually faded away. Except for the regular festivals that are celebrated time and again, even weddings which took place with great pomp and festivity earlier on have diminished into simple low cost affairs. When elders are asked to recollect memories of the past, they go on to explain the fact that earlier, festivals saw the participation of thousands of people and above all, Coorg was not recognized as a tourist hotspot which helped immensely.

There is nothing that can be done to stop this catastrophe except to preserve what will be left of the tribe once everyone has gone. The same can be said for other tribes around the world which have fought to preserve their traditions and have failed miserably. Every minority in the world today knows that there will be a time when their tribe will be eradicated and will cease to exist. People have not understood the fact that every place on earth does not need factories, malls and industries to run and generate a proper economy as well as promote employment. Man has done this for centuries and will continue this prolonged habit until he will realize his mistake, but by then it will be too late. As Kim Stanley Robinson said: *“Life is insanely robust, though we can make species go extinct, and this is the bad thing. So I always make the point that you can't say, 'Is it too late?' That is the terrible question, because either answer promotes inaction. If it's too late, you don't need to act; if it's not too late, you don't need to act.”*

“ There is nothing that can be done to stop this catastrophe except to preserve what will be left of the tribe once everyone has gone. The same can be said for other tribes around the world which have fought to preserve their traditions and have failed miserably. ”



Regulars

Athletics

Following are the results of the **Inter-House Athletics Competition, 2014:**

Best Athlete: Rishavraj Das

Most Promising Junior Athlete: Viksit Verma

House Positions:

1st: Tata

2nd: Hyderabad

3rd: Oberoi

4th: Jaipur

5th: Kashmir

Congratulations!

Swimming

The following have been awarded **Colours** for **Swimming:**

Full Colours: Vinayak Choudhary

Half Colours: Raghav Kumar, Nihal Singh Mann, Nehansh Saxena, Rishabh Goel, Arunabh Uttkarsh and Josh Pasricha

Half Colours (Re-awarded): Pratyaksh Parmar, Uday Nath Bahl and Abhishek Pai

Congratulations!

Dramatics

Madhav Bhardwaj has been awarded **Drama Colours.**

Congratulations!

IISPSC

The School was represented by Tejveer Kohli, Nihal Singh Mann, Amol Pajni and Smrithi Nair at the **IISPSC 2014**, held in **Hong Kong** from October 16-21. Smrithi Nair secured the **fourth** position in the **Interpretive Reading** category.

Congratulations!

Editorial Board 2014-15

The following appointments have been made to the Editorial Board of the *Weekly*:

Editor-in-Chief: Arnaav Bhavanani

Editor: Devansh Agarwal

Senior Editors: Anvay Grover, Rishabh Agarwal

We wish them a fruitful tenure!

UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

Put the desk in the drawer.

Arjun Singh, compartmentalized

I am blowing off my nose.

Yashvansh Chawla, with a running cold.

Within the night gets over.

Shrey Raj Kapoor, rap star.

He don't know how to spend it.

Suryansh Kainthola, on your grammar, maybe?

I am learnt to sleep in shoes.

Rishabh Sharma, this Dosco's got talent.

Did you know time what I woke up tomorrow?

Devansh Agarwal, at 4 am.

I honest and hardworking every single day.

Manan Pradhan, not really evident, is it?

Athletics training straining legs lot.

Ranvijay Singh, take a break and study!

I have reading this book since five months.

Samrat Rawat, overly avid reader.

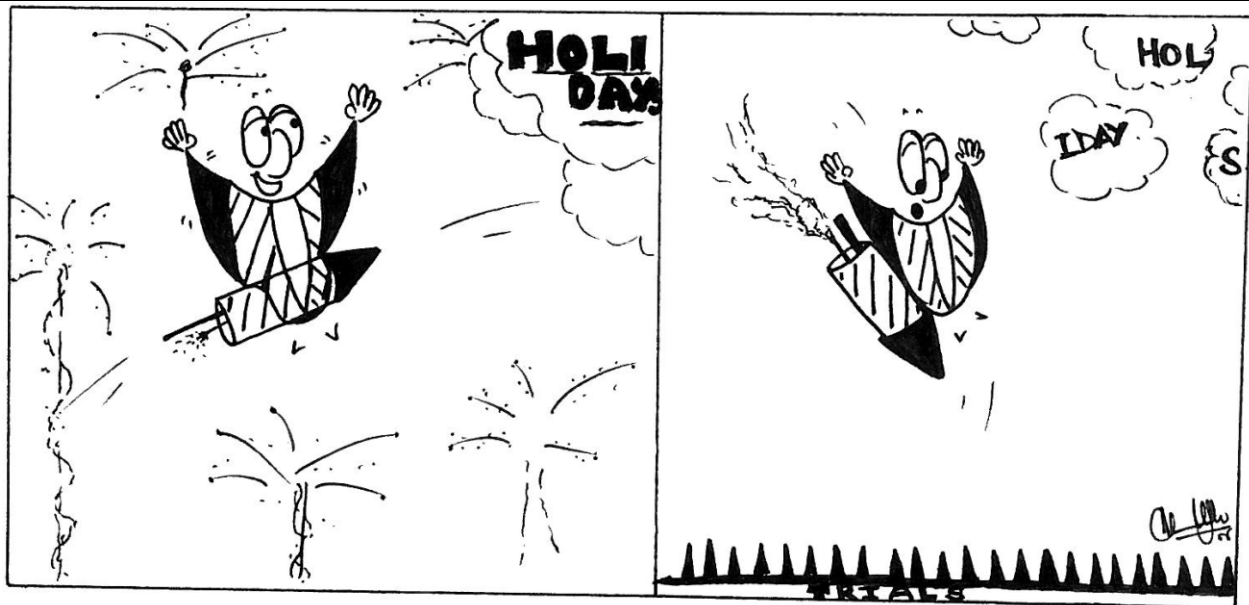
Are you applying to A-Form?

Udaivir S. Jaijee, please apply your brain.

Dosco Doodle

D-Day

Anirudh Popli



School Council Minutes

Tuesday, October 7th 2014 - 3:00 P.M. in the Kilachand Library

The following were present for the meeting:

1. Dr. Peter McLaughlin	Headmaster (Chairman)
2. Mr. P.K. Nair	Assistant Headmaster
3. Mr. Sameer Katre	Director of Administrative Affairs
4. Mr. Vinay Pande	Senior Deputy Headmaster
5. Mr. Kamal Ahuja	Deputy Headmaster (Academics)
6. Mr. DK Sharma	Dean of Sports
7. Mr. A. Qezilbash	Dean of Student Welfare
8. Mr. Piyush Malviya	Dean of Public Affairs
9. Ms. Stuti Kuthiala	Housemasters' Representative
10. Mrs. Ranjit Kaur	Dames' Representative
11. Jai Ahuja	Secretary
12. Ishan Sandhu	School Captain
13. Suhel Karara	Prefects' Representative
14. Yash Dhandhanian (Stand in)	H-House Senior Representative
15. Yuvraj Nathani	H-House Senior Representative
16. Deep Dhandhanian	H-House Junior Representative
17. Viksit Verma	H-House Junior Representative
18. Ujjwal Maheshwari (Stand-in)	T-House Senior Representative
19. Sayuj Dhandhanian	T-House Senior Representative
20. Milind Khemka	T-House Junior Representative
21. Shikhar Trivedi Goel	T-House Junior Representative
22. Arjun Kamdar	O-House Senior Representative
23. Harshvardhan Singh (Stand-in)	O-House Senior Representative
24. Chaitanya Gulati	O-House Junior Representative
25. Devang Laddha	O-House Junior Representative
26. Sahir Chaudhary (Stand-in)	J-House Senior Representative
27. Hitansh Nagdev	J-House Junior Representative
28. Ritik Chamola	J-House Junior Representative
29. Aditya Bhattacharya	K-House Senior Representative
30. Sarthak Gupta	K-House Senior Representative
31. Vedant Mehra	K-House Junior Representative
32. Mihir Gupta	K-House Senior Representative

The minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by **Arjun Kamdar** and seconded by **Ishan Sandhu**.

1. The number of completed Social Service hours should be displayed on the ERP (Tata House)

Ujjwal Maheshwari expressed his views on how social service hours should be displayed on the ERP in order to enforce constant tracking of one's social service hour requirements. MCJ stated that the number of hours were already displayed twice a year in their SSA forms. The Secretary further stated that if these hours were displayed on a monthly basis, it would help the boys complete their hour requirements efficiently. MCJ agreed to that and said that this would be incorporated into the new SIMS software which was going to be installed in the school.

2. There should be a Rulebook comprising all rules of all Inter-House sports/activities and events. (Tata House)

Sayuj Dhandhanian felt that in the recent past, a lot of confusion had occurred with regards to the constantly changing rules of Inter-House competitions. The School Captain and the Secretary agreed to that and spoke in favor of this proposal. The Chairman thought it was a fantastic idea, and stated that this would be facilitated by PKN asking all masters-in-charge to submit the rules and guidelines of all Inter-House competitions, which would be consequently compiled into a single unit.

3. The Tuck Shop should be open during break. (Tata House)

Sauyj Dhandhanian felt that the Tuck Shop should be open during break as boys rarely visit the CDH to have the fruit provided. The Chairman enquired about the number of boys visiting the CDH. Devang Laddha stated that only people going to their houses through that route eat the fruit given. Sahir Choudhary suggested that rather than the Tuck Shop opening in break, the CDH could provide the boys with snacks

(Contd. on next page)

(Contd. from Page 3)

like cookies and muffins. Mr. Katre felt that this was a valid input and he would update the Council on this matter the next time they met, after discussing it with the Mess Committee.

4. Marker Cups should be awarded by taking the average of all exams throughout the year.(Kashmir House)

Sarthak Gupta proposed that Marker Cups should be awarded by taking the average of all exams throughout the year. He felt that there are many people who perform consistently all year round but miss out in the November Trials and therefore, the criteria for the Marker Cups should be an average of all performances. The School Captain strongly opposed this by saying that some people do not get the time to prepare for one of the exams due to various reasons like MUN's and Plays. The Headmaster took a vote on this matter and the council voted in a 14:11 ratio against the proposal. VNP said that he would take this matter to the Study Council to look into this matter further and then bring it back to the School Council.

5. S – Form entertainment should be restarted. (Jaipur House)

Sahir Choudhary felt that S form Entertainment, which was stopped nearly 7-8 years ago due to questionable content being present in the act, deserved another chance at being restarted. The Secretary expressed his approval and stated that the community had been deprived of this privilege for nearly a decade. He further stated that prior to it being staged, the Assistant Headmaster could approve the S form entertainment. Sayuj Dhandhanian and the School Captain approved of this proposal. The School Captain said that this could be performed at the end of this term, and that he would finalize this date in accordance with PKN. The Chairman approved of the proposal and it was decided that this would be implemented with immediate effect.

6. The library heaters should be made functional. (Oberoi House)

Arjun Kamdar felt that the Library Heaters should be made functional since they are needed in the winter. The Director of Administrative Affairs said that the running costs of this would be a very big burden on the school. The Secretary felt that the Heaters should be made functional during November Trials, February Mock Trials and Board Examinations. It was also decided that the heaters will also be switched on during this period on days when it would get immensely cold. The Director of Administrative Affairs approved of this and said that this would be in place with immediate effect.

7. Instead of having a Yellow card for 6 late marks, two late marks in a week should result in a detention. (Kashmir House)

Sarthak Gupta expressed his views on how the current scheme for punishment for late marks, while effective, was rather strict on the boys. The School Captain agreed to this. Sayuj Dhandhanian felt that if a boy could get a detention as a preliminary warning for 3 late marks, a Housemasters Card on 6 late marks and then a Yellow Card on 8 late marks it could deem to be a better alternative than the current punishment scheme. The council agreed to this. It was decided that this matter would first be taken to the Academic Council and action would only be taken after that.

8. The gap between classes and games time should be increased. (Kashmir House)

The School Captain felt that this proposal was one that was redundant since boys already do get enough time to rest between classes and games, with the only possible exception being during cricket season when games begin at 3:30 p.m. The Council felt that the current schedule was apt and unanimously disagreed to this proposal.

FURTHER MATTERS WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

Arjun Kamdar felt that in today's day and age, cell phones were essential when a student went for international school trips since they helped in communication and coordination. Furthermore, in events such as MUNs, Whatsapp groups often aid in bloc formations. The Chairman agreed and felt that cell phones do serve the purpose of a necessity more than a luxury on international school trips, and agreed to this proposal. The Secretary felt that cell phones were often required on various national trips such as Round Square Conferences etc. To this, PKN agreed and said that this could be left to the discretion of the master-in-charge of the trip, depending on the nature of the trip. With that, the council passed this proposal.

As there were no further matters to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned.

Sd/-
Jai Ahuja,
Secretary.

Sd/-
Dr. Peter McLaughlin,
Chairman.

Reviewing the Yellow Card

A debate on whether the value of the Yellow Card should be questioned

Point

Varun Sehgal

When I joined school a little more than three years ago, I rarely heard an announcement during assembly that instructed a boy to meet the Assistant Headmaster during break that day. The Yellow Card was given to boys who were the perpetrators of severe offences only. In fact, there were few boys who had received even one Yellow Card, and the mere thought of receiving a YC gave one the goosebumps. Now, however, it is no longer rare to come across a boy who has received a YC. In fact, it is a common occurrence for even the most highly regarded of boys to have not just one YC, but two or three. Why? Because YC's are now handed out for offences that three years ago, would have been no more than a House Card. To illustrate this point, it was only just recently that four boys were called up to the Assistant Headmaster's office, all on the same day- an event unheard of a couple of years ago.

Let's look at the facts: the possession of money, which used to be an HC offence, has now become a misdemeanor that can book you a free ticket to the Assistant Headmaster's office. Sure, smuggling non-permitted money from home is an offence that demands justice, but it isn't one that should be dealt with so severely that in punishing a large number of offenders, the value of the highest form of punishment depreciates. The YC's value can simply be represented by that of a commodity: more the supply, less the price.

Now by no means am I trying to imply that offenders should not be punished. Of course they should. The value of something like the YC, however, is something that demands to be questioned, because change is the only thing that keeps one a cut above the rest. We cannot sweep progress under the carpet for the sake of preserving tradition. The system should ensure that the YC is so much more than just a card, that it signifies the authority of this School, and if this authority encompasses such trivial issues, there is no doubt in my mind that the authority will begin to lose some of the value it purports to have.

Taking this into account, there is another reason for this loss in value. The number of Yellow Cards given to students has seen a rapid increase in recent times, and it is due to this increase that its value has decreased. Students should indeed be punished when needed, but this does not mean that the value of authority should be questioned as it is being questioned now. The system requires change, and I feel that this change is inevitable- it's only a matter of time. But time is of the essence, for we need to cut our losses before nobody can remember what feeling of disgrace the YC carried with it.

Counterpoint

CC Chengappa

Since its inception as a form of punishment in school, the YC has been debated incessantly. In past years, some boys in school viewed the Yellow Card as a form of punishment which must be avoided by any means possible, while others felt that receiving the Yellow Card should entail a sense of pride and honor; something that must be received by every boy before he passes out from school. It is one of the few aspects and traditions of school that has existed for a long time, and continues to be effective without veering away from its intended purpose. In my school life, I have seen boys receive the Yellow Card for several reasons, a few common offences being: possession of money, phones, violation of the IT policy and of course, albeit controversially, late marks.

Several boys have questioned the fact that meager issues such as late marks and money should be transferred to the list of Housemaster's Card offences, since boys seem to be regularly receiving Yellow Cards for these two offences. But the fact that our school has disallowed the possession of any money clearly shows that it is an offense worth being punished for, along with informing the school community about the individual's wrongdoings. As for the issue of late marks: while it is considered a worthless offence, it is imperative that we remember why this issue was shifted up from the HC list. A boy continuously coming late for classes does not serve well for the primary reason this School exists: education. Coming late disrupts classes, and further breaks the flow of discussion. While this may seem trivial, it is in fact a very important factor in education. One would be surprised how much grades depend on how late one is for class. This is one of the reasons late marks exist in the YC list, and rightly so. Further, the 'value' of a YC does not wither away if there is an increase in its distribution- that is simply preposterous. If we see this issue from the point of view of the students, a certain amount of ignorance is noticed, which is why this Point-Counterpoint is so important. Students should understand both sides of the spectrum before making sweeping statements in favor of change.

It is true that the Yellow Card was not invented to disgrace. It was to be a controlling mechanism and it is simply being clouded by the students' innate feelings of disgruntlement toward the concept of this punishment. The point is, if a rule is made, it is meant to be followed, and raising one's voice for the sake of self-preservation does not serve for progress. To conclude, it only remains for me to say that Yellow Card is not something that should be questioned, it just depends on how people view it.

Citius, Altius, Fortius

Nehansh Saxena reports on the Inter-House Athletics Competition, held from October 20 to 26

Bearing true to the Olympic motto of “Citius Altius Fortius,” this year the athletes of the Inter-House Athletics Competition ensured that their performances were perfected, their ambition was higher and their determination stronger. Needless to say, the performance this year was arguably the most exciting and also amongst the most momentous to watch yet. The already elevated sense of excitement was increased by the reintroduction various events that had been discontinued in the past. All categories produced phenomenal results clearly depicting the hard work done by the athletes.

The Junior category has always been an excellent opportunity for younger athletes to discover their talent, and this year moreover, a passionate approach by these junior athletes was witnessed as well.

Testament to this was the performance of Viksit Verma in the 100m, 200m and 400m events, making him the 'Most Promising Junior Athlete'. Rishabh Dev showcased his talent in longer distances, winning the 800m event. Across this highly contested spectrum of events, Tata House emerged victorious. Their win was a plain reflection of their consistency across all the events, along with their triumph in the relays.

The Mediums category proved to be incredibly exhilarating. A highlight of the category was Angad Singh Shergill's performance in the 100m and 200m events. Facing a stiff challenge by Hamza Khan in the 400m event, he was still able to hold on to victory. A similar race was the 800m event where a battle of stamina raged on, and it was only in the final strides that Sikandar Suri exhibited a spark of explosive energy that secured his position by a relatively smaller margin. In the 3000m race, Nikhil Chauhan surpassed numerous expectations by emerging victorious. Tata House won the 4x100m relay and the 4x400m relay was in the hands of Oberoi House. Tata House were declared the winners of the Mediums Cup, barely besting Oberoi and Hyderabad Houses in terms of points secured.

The Seniors' category, which was the most eagerly anticipated category, did surely not disappoint for we witnessed spectacular performances by our athletes. Sidharth Sarin, prevailed over all his competitors in the Shot Put, Discus and Javelin events. Varun Narain Sinha, who could be seen practicing throughout the course of the year, had the whole school on the edge of their seats during his 400m event, missing the school record by just one second. His practice also paid off in the 100m and 200m events. Devang Mehra, a long distance enthusiast, ensured his consecutive domination in the 1500m and 5000m events. Rajkumar Vijay put up a stunning show in the 100m events Rishavraj Das astonished all when he broke the 400m Hurdles record by a considerable margin. He also clinched the first position in the Pentathlon event, nearly missing another record and his 200m victory was a memorable one. Arjun Kamdar, who is known for his performance in field events didn't falter the faith of spectators after his win in the High Jump event. Athletes in Pole Vault -an event that was reinstated after quite some time- deserve credit for its comeback in the level of performance this season. Chris Hyslop, an exchange student, won by a narrow margin, beating Arjun Kamdar in the event. The relays, however, proved to be even more exciting than the individual events. Hyderabad House made a decisive victory in the 4x400m event, but unfortunately was second to Tata House in the 4x100m relay. The Seniors Cup was deservedly lifted by Hyderabad House, by a phenomenal lead of points, despite the tough competition.

All in all it becomes almost impossible for one to gauge the amount of effort that athletes put into their respective events. In view of new talent discovered this year, it can be said for sure that Athletics in school has reached heights like never before. Based on this year, the standard of next year's athletics competition is not fathomable; yet however, we can rest assured that athletes will indeed strive for faster, higher and stronger performances.



Rishavraj Das broke the 400m Hurdles Record in the Seniors category.

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