

Established in 1936

The Doon School WEEKLY

"I sketch your world exactly as it goes." -Arthur Foot
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The Best Versions Of Ourselves?

Moulik Seth *reflects on the importance given to 'face-value' in School.*

"Man is the only animal who refuses to be what he is"- Albert Camus

Reading that quote over and over again, it really struck me. We are, as I like to term it, "creatures of mystery". From the outside, we are everything under the sun. Whether we change into a "Rhinoceros", evolve to a "monstrous vermin", or be the reflection in the mirror, it doesn't matter. Quite literally, the smirks on our faces, the sarcastic nudges here and there, the long faces are everything we put on to get what we want and often, what we need. The degree to which we show our emotions is largely subjective, but at the crux, these faces don't reflect all that we are from the inside. The matter of the fact, however, is that we have always heard this ideology, right? The entire idea of the falsity of human beings is not new to us. Yet, this ability to look good on the outside and be different on the inside is hurting our community and its prevalence only hinders our progress.

Before I begin, I believe it is imperative for the community to understand that I do not intend to break down this "occurrence" and point fingers at certain institutions or individuals (for it is something we all inevitably do). While meeting someone for the first time, will you ever abuse that individual? Will you comment on his or her looks? No, right? Even if don't like the

person at a glance, morality steps in and forces you to take a step back. You simply greet the person and shake his/her hand, with the brightest smile you can put on. However, what disturbs me is the doomed ideology of "face value" in our community. To those of you not familiar with the idea, I call it the "collectively conceived" perspective of a person on the basis of how he/she presents themselves. Think of it like a profile, or maybe a CV. As you achieve certain things, you add them to your profile. Be it your academic successes, sporting benchmarks or extracurricular achievements. People around you acknowledge you, criticise you, understand you, blame you, but at the end you have a holistic perspective of yourself from the world around you. So, what is the problem?

Let's put forward an example. Say, there is person called X. X takes pride in what he does and likes to tell people about them. X claims he is an excellent debater and an incredible badminton player. At this point of time, your brain registers these activities and begins to formulate an image of X. However, you don't affirm this impression fully, because of the lack of proof or even credibility to a certain extent. Now, say X goes to another person and tells him the same things. And another person and another person and slowly

you will notice that a majority of the School believes that X is an excellent debater and badminton player, irrespective of whether they have any proof of X's being one. This, ladies and gentlemen, is the power of words. On the other hand, we have Y, who is an extremely talented individual, yet extremely shy and does not speak much. In comparison to X, very few people will know of Y's capabilities. In the long run, X has the edge over Y, simply because of how he presents himself to the outside world, irrespective of what he can really do or achieve.

The degree to which we show our emotions is largely subjective, but at the crux, these faces don't reflect all that we are from the inside.

This "occurrence" is extremely relevant in our community, simply because of the fact that we have individuals always achieving some feat or the other, and it becomes very tough for one individual to be highlighted and to build

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CULTURAL CONQUEST

The School participated in the the **Annual Mile-stone Cultural Festival** held at the **St. Georges College, Mussoorie**.The results are as follows:

In the **Popular Band Category**, School secured the **First Position**.

In the **Quiz Category** Shivendra Singh and Ranvijay Singh were adjudged the **Runners-up**.

Bhavya Rajgarhia and Vansh Gandhi participated in the **Short Film Category** of the festival and their film was adjudged **Runners-up**.

Congratulations!

TOP SPIN

The School participated in the **District Table Tennis Championship** which was held at the **Sports Complex, Parade Ground, Dehradun** from **August 10-12, 2018**. In the **Under-14 Singles Category** Raghav Sharma was **Runner-Up**. In the **Open Doubles Category** Kanish Aggarwal and Shyamal Singhal stood **Runners-Up**.

Well Done!

OPINION POLL

Should the funds for the Founder's Day Dinner be redirected towards providing relief for the Kerela floods?



(446 members of the School Community were polled)

“

Don't let the noise of others' opinions drown out your own inner voice.”

Steve Jobs

SCHOLARLY SUCCESS

The following students received **Scholarships** for securing the **highest aggregate marks** in the **Promotional Trials** held in **March, 2018**:

C-Form: Mayank Agrawal

B-Form: Rushil Choudhary

A-Form: Pranav Goel

S-Form (ISC): Anirudh Bazari

S-Form (IB): Aayush Chowdhry

Rushil Choudhary and Pranav Goel qualified for the **Honor's Certificate and Scholarship from the Mahindra Trust** for winning the Scholarship award more than once.

Shourya Agarwal won a **Scholarship** for securing the highest marks in **English in the Grade 10 ICSE exam**.

Pranav Goel won a **Scholarship** for securing the highest marks in **Maths and Science** in the **Grade 10 ICSE exam**.

Pranav Goel, Paras Gupta and Nikunj Bansal won the **Jaidev Singh Memorial Award and Scholarship** for scoring the highest marks in **Science** in the **Grade 10 ICSE examinations**.

Kudos!

The *Weekly* wishes all Masters a very happy **Teachers' Day!** Thank you for all your effort and dedication to making the world a better place.

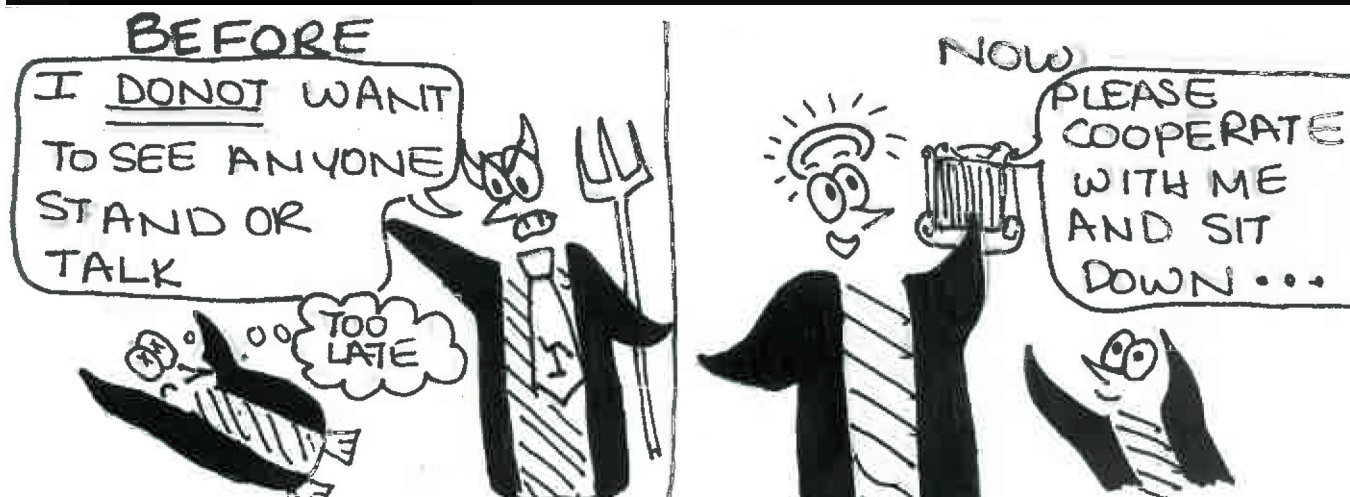
Around the World in 80 Words

John McCain, a United States senator, politician and war hero passed away. Following his removal as PM of Australia, Malcolm Turnbull announced that he will quit parliament. US and Mexico revised NAFTA, and threatened to leave Canada out. RBI claimed 99.3% of demonetised currency returned to the banks. Police arrested multiple Indian activists in connection to caste violence. At the Asian Games, PV Sindhu won a silver medal in Badminton, while Manjit Singh won Gold in the 800m track event.

Dosco Doodle

“Sit Down, Be Humble!”

Anant Ganapathy



(Continued from Page 1)

credibility. The community we live in is a reflection of what we do, individually. Often, attaining fame, and consequently power, seems so attractive that one can change himself in order to obtain what he/she wants. In fact, fantastically written stories by some of the greatest writers talk about society and its evils by essentially portraying humans as some creature or even a non-living thing (what is known as absurdism). Not being recognised or even duly appreciated for one's efforts is not only frustrating, but depressing, to an extent. It is motivation that keeps us going and if a person is

snatched of that "right", then it becomes nearly impossible for one to prosper.

One might argue that it is very hypocritical of me to make such claims as I would, at some point in my life, have had preconceived notions of certain groups or individuals. I believe that is inherent human nature to associate certain things with each other on the basis that seems most appropriate. However, what I stand for is equal opportunity and meritocracy. In a hypercompetitive community, judging on the basis of "face value" can prove to be detrimental to every aspect of our formative years at Doon. Through

this piece, I urge the community to understand the relevance each person holds in this context. Working towards establishing merit as a tool for success should be our goal, not glib talking and posturing. In simpler words, let us not be taken in by judging people on just their face value. Often, we might, intentionally or otherwise, judge a person on the basis that seems the best fit for us. However, it is only when we begin using the right colours can we paint the picture that serves the "greater good". In the end, all I can say is to try and look beyond the "best versions" of someone, for it is these versions which are the worst.



UNDER THE SCANNER

Michael Cohen's Confession | Varen Talwar

On Tuesday, August 21, 2018, Michael Cohen shook the world by pleading guilty to committing campaign finance violations during Donald Trump's bid for presidency in 2016. He admitted to the fact that Donald Trump had instructed him to pay 'hush money' to the two ladies he had been indulging himself in- Stormy Daniels, an adult film star, and Karen McDougal, a Playboy model, to avoid a negative impact on Trump's publicity in the run up to the elections.

So, as you can see, this whole issue has been, much like Trump's presidency- overly dramatic. But the question arises, who is this Michael Cohen, who might have started the end of Trump's tenure?

Michael Cohen was the son of a Holocaust survivor who migrated to America to start a new life. As Cohen grew up, he began idolising Donald Trump, whom he considered a 'great' and 'successful' man. As Cohen grows up, he tried to associate himself with Trump. He moved with his family into an apartment in one of Trump's buildings, and also encouraged

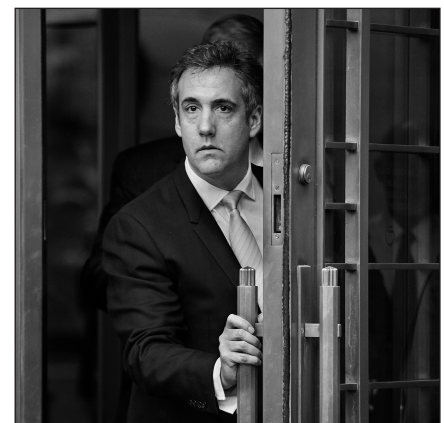
others to do so too. He eventually gained his idol's attention, and was invited into his circle.

Michael Cohen has since been one of Trump's closest confidantes- that is, until August 21, 2018. As Trump's personal lawyer, he defended Trump through thick and thin. However, when the FBI organised a raid in his office on April 9, 2018, things started to change, and Cohen was soon replaced by Rudy Giuliani in May.

Then, of course, came August 21, which saw Michael Cohen's life come to a standstill. He pleaded guilty to his charges, and testified positively to the involvement of Donald Trump in the campaign finance violations. Thus, not only did he reveal his own misdeeds, but also dragged along the American president and his campaign chairman, Paul Manafort. Manafort was found guilty of eight of the eighteen charges pressed on him, because of only one juror who prevented the conviction on ten counts.

So, what happens to Trump now? The Democrats are surprisingly

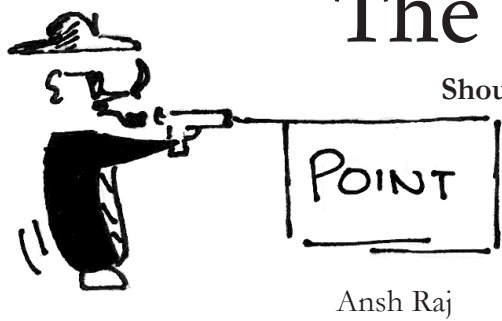
silent about Trump's impeachment. It is supposed that they are waiting for the midterm elections in November to do the talking. Trump, meanwhile, in his characteristically nonchalant manner, said that his impeachment would crash the stock market and felt that it was outrageous to impeach someone 'doing such a great job'.



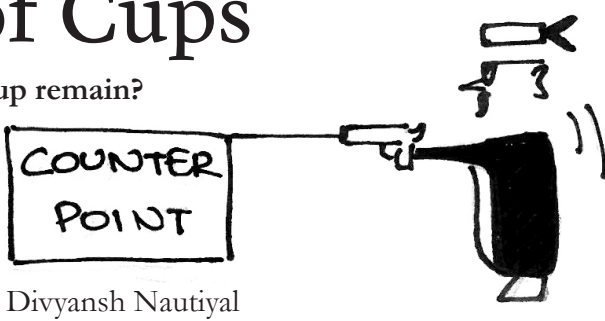
Moreover, Cohen's lawyer, Lanny Davis, tweeted, "If those payments [to Daniels and McDougal] were a crime for Michael Cohen, then why wouldn't they be a crime for Donald Trump?" While these convictions are not related to any Russian involvement in the elections, Donald Trump may have to face impeachment, which, due to the seriousness and authenticity of Cohen's statements, does seem likely to me (despite Trump's questionable beliefs of the future).

The Cup of Cups

Should the Dosco Cup remain?



Ansh Raj



Divyansh Nautiyal

The Dosco Cup, as an award, is not unique to our School. In fact, an award like the Dosco Cup exists in almost every public school whose ethos is structured on the spirit of the house system. Admittedly, schools today are undergoing a paradigm shift. However, there are certain aspects that are so deeply embedded in the system that their removal will only corrode the system. To me, the Dosco Cup exemplifies this line of thought.

My primary claim is based on the premise that a house is the pillar of a public school. The Dosco Cup is the culmination of the efforts put in by the boys involved in a wide array of activities that Doon has to offer. Since the cup takes into account a large number of activities, it cannot be won by individuals who contribute to just a few of them. This acts as a binding force, uniting the different elements of the house for a common incentive, which is the Dosco Cup. The award unites a footballer and a santoor player in a relationship which is based on mutual respect for each other's effort. This engenders a brotherhood which cements itself into a fraternity that School is highly acclaimed for. Discontinuing the Dosco Cup would deprive the School community of an important ingredient, which is denying Doon of perhaps its greatest strength.

My second claim alludes to the equality of activities in School. We are aware of the difference in our attitudes towards the slew of activities in School. There is a palpable difference in our enthusiasm for hockey and poetry. However, to cultivate an equal liking for all pursuits that a School can offer, there appears no better instrument than the Dosco Cup, where winning poetry would acquire as many points as winning hockey. Admittedly, a clear equality between the two activities is neither achievable nor feasible. However, in the absence of such a system, there would probably be no investment in the less popular activities. This may lead to a skewed level of engagement. If Doon has stood for anything, it is creating refined and all-rounded individuals who serve our nation.

Conclusively to sustain the principles School has stood for in the past, the Dosco Cup must remain. And we as the custodians of an 83-year old legacy have the duty of defending it.

DoscOs look forward to Inter House Competitions with much anticipation and fervour. At times, the House spirit students exhibit surpasses the School spirit. The difference between the two is evident from the presence of spectators on a Sunday morning Cricket match and an Inter House football match. The Dosco Cup is essentially a culmination of all the Inter house competitions. Although we may display unswerving dedication towards an Inter House competition, there is also an underlying motive to win the Dosco Cup. There is significant importance which is given to Inter House competitions. The Dosco Cup only serves to further that, but at the expense of the due attention that should have recognised School team matches and events. The Inter House Competitions are indeed essential but their importance (which is only furthered by the Dosco Cup) can never supersede the relevance of School events.

Another important aspect of our curriculum is the Midterm expedition that we diligently undertake and the social service we do to the community. Both do not find themselves included as a part of the Dosco Cup. The Dosco Cup has merely boiled down to the visible achievements of a House and other essential yet intangible components go unnoticed.

Viewing the issue from a logistics perspective as well, in the Dosco Cup there is perceptible disparity in the weightage of different activities. Irrespective of the participation, every Inter House has the same weightage for the Dosco Cup. Owing to the larger number of sport competitions, this ensures that houses put in less effort into extra-curricular activities, as they are less important. And even if this issue is addressed, who would decide what weightage is to be given to an activity? Will it depend on the status of the activity or the participation that it seeks? The answers to these questions are subjective and will evoke different sentiments.

Let the Houses be recognised for what they excel at - be it sports, academics or co-curricular activities. With already enough recognition being given to each Inter House competition, the argument for a 'Cup of Cups' seems threadbare and unconvincing.

My Experiences Down Under

Ananya Shukla reflects on her exchange experience to Australia.

As I arrived back home in Delhi, I felt no regret going so far away from the comforts of home to the land of Kangaroos and Koalas. Diverse as it is, with its enticing mix of many different ethnicities, geologic landforms, and technologically advanced cities, Australia seemed to be a magical land that I was privileged to experience, during my exchange to Australia this summer.

This unforgettable experience was made possible through my two-month long exchange to New England Girls' School - NEGS - an independent, Anglican, day and boarding school for girls only, located in Armidale, a small city in northern New South Wales. From a place where people were sweating profusely in spite of the light cotton clothes for summer, I found myself in a place where people were preparing for bone-chilling winters just 24 hours away was initially a rather rattling experience.

The thought of the vast differences scared me at first, but I soon learnt exchange is all about adjusting to new environments with people from different cultures backgrounds. After studying in an all-boys school for four years, and having never been away from my parents for so long, I initially found it difficult to life at NEGS.

The day I reached, I found out that I had a room all to myself and there was another exchange student from India who was going to join the next day. Luckily she was someone I knew since the Daly College Conference, that I had attended in 2015.

At NEGS, I joined a few drama and textile classes apart from my curricular work; I was also chosen for their school band and got an opportunity to represent their school at a concert. The teaching methods at NEGS is pretty much similar to Doon's, except for the fact that they had more group work, more discipline and less writing in the class. There were no note books or files that had to be carried around by students. I found it very easy to cope up with studies because what they were studying in their class 10, wasalready covered by us in our classes 7 and 8. One of my favourite classes were the science lessons. Not because I'm a science student, but because whatever topic would be studied in class on a particular day, there would always be a related practical based activity in groups after the lectures which helped to better our understanding of the topic.

Apart from studies, NEGS has a very strong culture of sports. So I got an opportunity to play Hockey, Soccer, and Rugby (known as football in Australia) which I couldn't have played here with the boys.

Being a strict vegetarian, it was quite a challenge

getting good food at NEGS but I managed. There I realised the value of home food and even CDH food which most of the people here don't realise. Before coming back to India, I also got a chance to go to Sydney, where I stayed with a student's family.

At the end of my exchange, I'm glad and satisfied that I went to Australia and used every minute of my exchange in learning new things like rugby, netball, baking, designing a magazine and an Australian accent. Despite the obvious issues of adjusting to an entirely new lifestyle, I'm happy that I have made a great circle of friends 5000 miles away from home. Toodle-oo!!



Moon-Mad

Armaan Verma

It is the Moon that
seeks out our lunacy,
draws it like the bow
of Phoebus Apollo. Forth the shafts
of madness fly
when the great white orb in the sky
heaves up the waters
like the lord of horses,
shedding its coyness and bathing the night in silk.

It is the Moon that
the daylily admires, the wolf waits for,
and the tide reaches out to caress.
The night is still in its absence
yet in its light rises the rancor
of a thousand cries,
a thousand howls that
reinforce the age-old decree:
In the moonlight we are free.

Moon-Mad they call me,
and mad for the moon I am,
for madness behooves the grey wolf.
Would it ever behoove the lamb?

The Week Gone By

Aryaman Kakkar

Last weekend started on a grave note with the PTM serving as a reminder to the SC formers on the importance of these Trials. But as the sun set on Sunday, the gates of Chandbagh saw a lot of portly faces, sweet filled stomachs, and wrists which displayed different colours of rakhis. The celebrations of Raksha Bandhan gave us the much needed sustenance to carry through the week. On Monday morning we witnessed Tata House raising the House Cup, having won the Inter- House Art Competition which was celebrated alongside the achievements of our scholarly counterparts. We saw an

explosive end to the Inter- House Swimming Competition. Kashmir House burst into ‘Appalle’ and celebrated their ecstatic victory by ceremoniously hurling their Housemaster into the pool.

Inter-House Football began on a rather soggy note as torrential rain drenched the players on Tuesday evening. With the swimming competition over, soccer is in hot pursuit to grab the Doscovs’ attention and excitement, making sure that this week, no Dosco will get the rest they require.

Our gifted counterparts in the Western vernacular also find themselves with their hands full as various categories under the Seniors Inter-House English Debating took place this week. The Kamala Jeevan Debates on Thursday and Friday provided a nice dynamic to the inclusive

atmosphere in School which promotes activities across different spectrums.

With Inter-House Music coming up this weekend, choir practises and solo rehearsals can be seen in full swing with melodies waltzing out of the windows of the Music School, providing the perfect farewell for Masters who will be dearly missed - MAK and AGS.

One can observe strict adherence to the Headmaster’s announcement regarding the imposition of Toye. With the apparent change of the CDH into a fish market, hopefully the firm announcement made by KLA and STK will restore the sanctity of mealtimes. With the guillotine of the September Trials hanging over the boys’ as well as the teachers’, all we can hope for is cloudless skies and relatively free weeks up ahead.

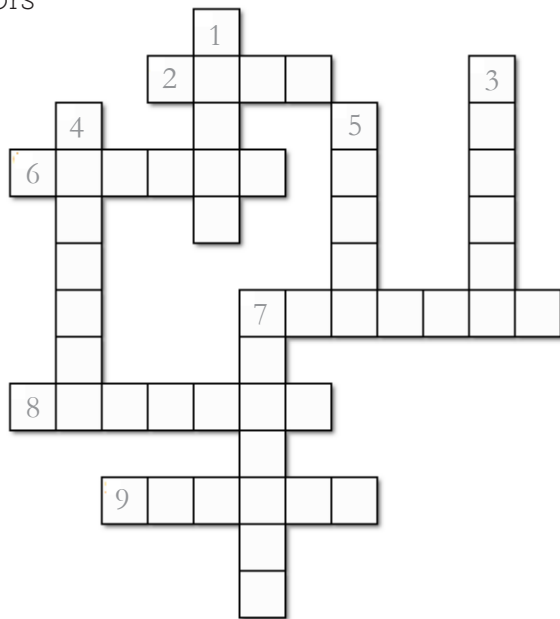
Crossword | Legendary Movie Mentors

Across

- 2. Featured in a 1980 sci-fi series, this character serves as the Grand Master for the Jedi High Council and is famous for his quote “Do or do not. There is no try”.
- 6. ___ uses his family fortune to fund a School for gifted children and has a dream in which humans and Mutants live in harmony.
- 7. Chef Auguste ___, in the movie ratatouille, helps a lost rat pursue his passion for food in the city of Paris.
- 8. In the film Dead Poets Society, Professor ___ teaches at an elite prep school called Welton academy and encourages his students to follow their dreams and seize the day.
- 9. Mr. ___ is a Chinese expert at martial arts who mentors a boy, to beat his arch-enemy at a martial arts competition.

Down

- 1. Miss ___, takes on the role of a teacher and adopts protagonist, Matilda, after which they live happily ever after.
- 3. ___ is famously know for the quote “There’s more to being a king than getting your way all the time”, he also mentored his son take on the position as the king of the Pride Lands.
- 4. This character is a psychiatrist who helps Will Hunting, a mathematical genius recover after he faces an emotional crisis.
- 5. ___ Dumbledore is the Headmaster of Hogwarts, and is one of the most powerful wizards to have ever lived.
- 7. ___ the White was played by Ian McKellen. In the movie, he mentored many characters, including Bilbo and Frodo Baggins.



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

Answers to This Week's Crossword	
Across	Down
2. Yoda	1. Honey
6. Keaning	5. Albus
9. Miyagi	3. Mufasa
7. Gusteau	4. Maguire

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

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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