

Established in 1936

# The Doon School WEEKLY

"I sketch your world exactly as it goes." -Arthur Foot  
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## REGULARS

Recognising the achievements of  
Doscors in various fields.

Page 2

## MOVING MELODIES

A report on the recently held Inter-  
House Music Competition.

Page 3

## THE WEEK GONE BY

A recounting of the events of the  
past week.

Page 4

## The Spectrum of Prejudice

**Mr. Matthew Raggett** *explains the impact of the Supreme Court's judgement on Section 377 on School.*

In our travels across the United States last week to meet graduates of the School, old and recent, from the West Coast to the East, the question I was asked most frequently was, "What will the Supreme Court's judgment on Section 377 mean for The Doon School?"

Well, that is an easy question to answer because, in many ways, the answer is that it means nothing at all. The other answer, perhaps the more important one, is that it means the School, like the Constitution, has always ensured that every member of the community is made to feel an equal. The School has always strived to cultivate a culture of equality in School.

When the five-member Constitutional Bench of the Supreme Court (SC) unanimously struck down that part of Section 377 that defined gay sex as unnatural, they also recognised the idea of equality that is firmly enshrined in Article 14 of the Constitution. They also recognised the SC's ruling last year on the constitutional right to privacy. Given that the Constitution was adopted in the year 1950, this is a measure of how long it takes prejudice to undergo a shift. It is also a measure that the Constitution is still something that society needs to be compared to on a regular basis to check that the laws of the land are not anachronistic. By saying that consensual adult gay

sex is not a crime, and that sexual orientation is something that people have no control over, the SC has come down on the right side of the equality that gay men and women around the world have vociferously advocated for decades. This is why the answer to the question of what it means for the School is, in one way, a moot question.

The Doon School is, and always strives to be, a place of equality. Now, that does not mean that the School has necessarily been free of prejudice or of behaviours that could be called discrimination of any form, harassment or bullying. Like many organisations, our School too has some the remnants of the past, but equality of opportunity, diversity and meritocracy - all of these mean that any member of the community can expect equality. Like the Constitution, we have always been ready for this day; but we need to live up to it.

As the SC judgment recognised, sexual orientation is natural and innate. I have not chosen to be heterosexual, just as my friend Kirk, who visited the School twice last year, never chose to be gay. The choice was never there for the young gay men who have passed through Doon and who will continue to do so. Now, however, they will know that their very nature is as natural as anyone else and there is nothing to be ashamed, frightened or sad about; we are all, in our variety of

ways, perfectly normal.

The judgment opened with the words of Goethe, a fellow Leipziger; "I am what I am, so take me as I am." This is something that we, as a community, need to be better at doing and this is where we need to put our best effort so we can foster a better understanding of how we can adapt ourselves to the terms of the judgment. To ridicule someone because they are themselves, to comment on someone's behaviour, appearance or characteristics is a form of bullying. As a result of this judgment, to use the derogatory language that has caused tremendous hurt and shame over the years will now be seen in a different light.

It has never been funny or kind to call someone gay, queer or a pansy because of their demeanour or because they react differently, but now it is as hateful as any other caste, race or gender based reference. I think that this is probably what the judgement means most for our School. It means that there is now national and legal recognition of the term discrimination as well as the bullying and hateful treatment that gay men and women have been subjected to. We need to ensure that the vocabulary of prejudice, cruelty and ignorance is as unacceptable in School as it is in the universities and countries where many of our students choose to study.

*(Continued on Page 3)*

## POLITICAL PROWESS

A delegation of eleven boys represented the School at the **4th Welham Model United Nations Conference, 2018**.

**Best Delegates:** Ansh Raj, Aryan Bhattacharjee and Armaan Thapar

**Most Outstanding Delegates:** Janak Prajapati, Raghav Kapur and Vikram Jain

**Honourable Mentions:** Moulik Seth, Rishabraj Verma, Arjun Bajwa and Nandil Sarma

**Verbal Mention:** Amulya Aggarwal

Nandil Sarma was also awarded a **Verbal Mention** in the **Parliament Crisis Committee**.

The delegation was awarded the **Best Delegation Trophy**.

Congratulations!

## CLEAN SWEEP

The School participated in the **Council's Football Tournament** held at **St Joseph's Academy** from **September 1-11, 2018**.

The School Football Team emerged as **Winners**, remaining undefeated throughout the tournament.

Well done!

## GLOVES OF GLORY

The School participated in the **IPSC Boxing Tournament** held between **September 11-13, 2018** at **Dholpur, Rajasthan**.

In the **Under 17** category, Shreyansh Shukhla and Inderveer Oberoi reached the **Quarter-Finals**.

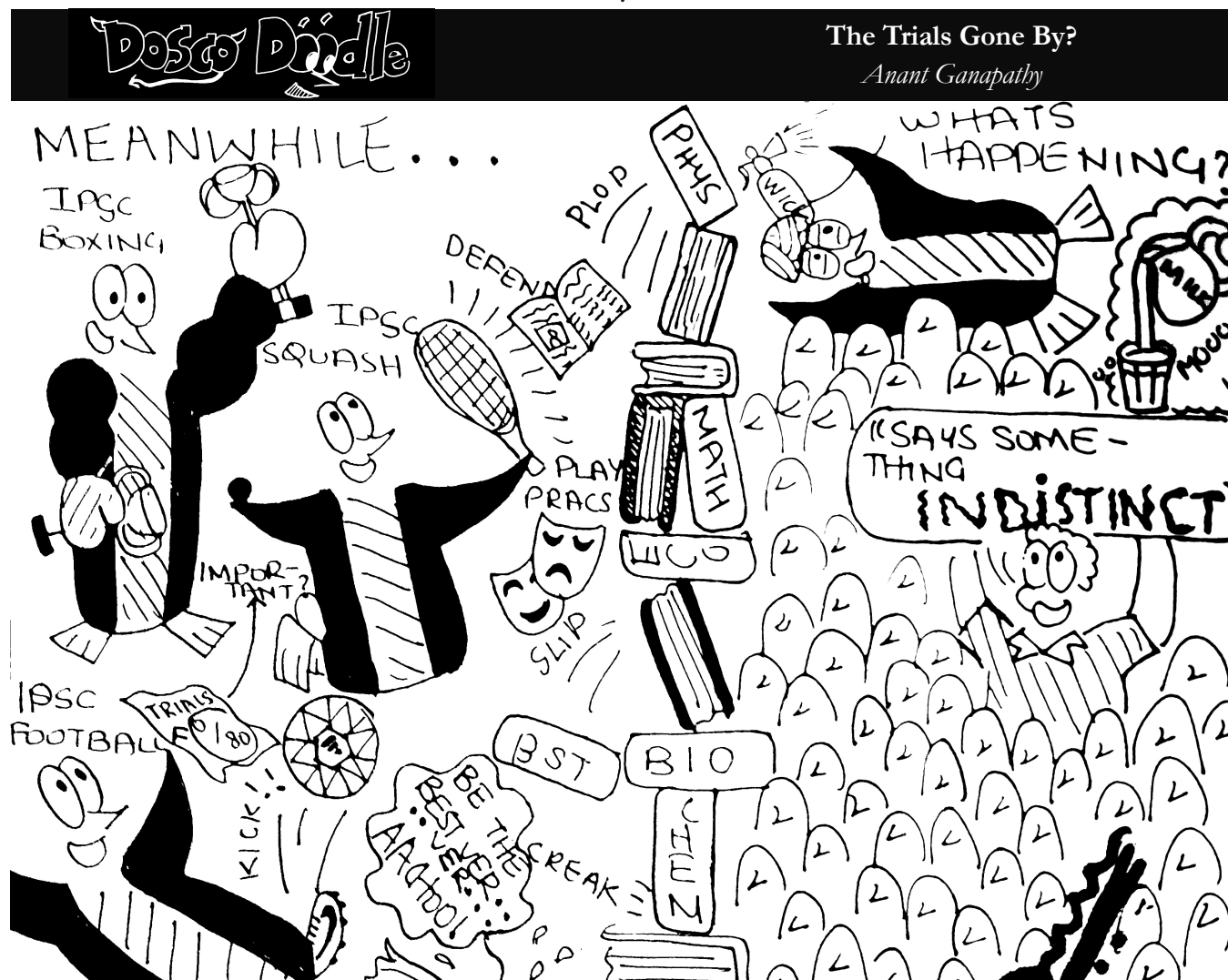
In the **Under 19** category, Naman Khurana won a **Bronze Medal** in the **52 to 56 kg** weight category.

In the **69 to 75 kg** weight category, Arjun Bajwa won a **Gold Medal**. He also won the **Best Boxer's Trophy** for the second time in a row. He was also selected to represent the IPSC at the **SGFI National Games**.

Well done!

## Around the World in 80 Words

After an agreement with South Korea, President Kim Jong-Un announced the permanent closure of the Tongchang-ri missile test site. The Union Cabinet of India cleared an ordinance to make Triple Talaq a criminal offence. Gujarat farmers filled affidavits opposing the land acquisition process started by the State government, for the ambitious Mumbai-Ahmadabad bullet train project. SpaceX revealed the world's first private passenger to fly around the Moon aboard their BFR launch vehicle. At the Champions League, Liverpool beat P.S.G. 3-2.



(Continued from Page 1)

Of course, it's not only our language that we need to mind, it is also what we do, how we respond, the glances we exchange and the meaning we deliver with our actions. Behaviours take as long to change as prejudice, precisely because they come from our beliefs. If a person believes they are superior to someone or that a person disgusts them, then this trait will manifest itself in their repeated behaviour. No matter what the law dictates, people are free to believe what they will. Again, our School, like the Constitution, believes that no one is better than anyone else so our behaviours must conform to this belief system. Gay men and women need the care, support and

nurturing of their communities because they are minorities and as such, are the unfortunate targets of ignorance, misunderstanding and curiosity. Ethan was not the first gay student in School, and he will certainly not be the last. What I need to do now is make sure that we have the resources and information at hand that they need to learn about themselves and the experience of others who have gone before them; we will start with the library.

I think that what some people mean when they ask what this judgment means for the School is what will happen to a boy or boys if they are engaging in consensual, adult gay sex? Well, the majority of the student community does

not fall under the category of adult. The answer is also the same if you replace the word gay with heterosexual. School is, by its very nature, a public place and there are no private spaces as such, on the campus. Any sexual activity among students is prohibited regardless of gender. We need to understand that desire, romance and exploration are human tendencies, but, like masturbation, they fall in the domain of 'private'. The response to any of these is that the respect we have for ourselves and others requires this private nature to be observed. Of course there will be a consequence for those not understanding, but it will have nothing to do with sexual orientation; **nothing ever should.**

## Moving Melodies

Aryaman Kakkar reports on the recently concluded Inter-House Music Competition.

This year, the Inter-House Music Competition bore witness to stellar performances by the boys across all categories. Last term, in the Inter-House Dance and Popular Band, the student choreographies and the crowd's favourite songs won the hearts of many and enthralled all those who were present in the Rose Bowl and the MPH. This kicked off the Inter-House Music Competition on a high note this term (pun intended). Coming to the performances held this term, with many ties shared between the houses, it can be easily deduced that this year's contestants raised the bar ever higher.

The piano solo category left everyone mesmerised with the diversity of pieces, ranging from the Spanish flamenco to Mozart and other classical virtuosos. The quality and techniques employed on the ivories and obsidians of the grand left everyone wanting for more, leading smoothly into the much-anticipated Drum Solo category. With interactive and innovative performances, the beat and bass of the percussion instrument filled the MPH, echoing with its beholders. The themes which the drummers chose for themselves embodied their concert in its essence, with each progression building up the electric atmosphere on stage. The Hindustani Instrumental solo, being the final category on the first day was enjoyed thoroughly.

With lilting bows, a wondrous woodwind, and the sweet melody of the santors and sarod, the audience was left awe-struck. The uniqueness and emotion of the pieces performed was joyfully received by all and ended the first night of the Music weekend. In

the category that resulted in a tied first position, the Light-Classical Vocal solos had everyone's ears keenly listening for the *barkatein* and the multilateral melodies that came with them. With *bhajans*, the poetry of the seasons and despair, the voices of our vocalists left everyone moved with the emotion they sang. In the Tabla solo category, we saw multitudinous taals and their permutations. With the fiery duets of Jaipur, Tata, and Kashmir claiming the stage, it was a concert to behold, the likes of which the School has never seen. Finally, coming to the concluding category of the competition, the Inter-House Choir had enamoured all the masters in the audience with the theme 'Bollywood composers of the 20th Century'. With the rendition of many favourite classics such as *Jaane Kahan Mera Jigar Gaya Ji* and *Meri Samne Wali Khidki Mein ek Chand ka Tukda Rehla Hai*, every choir received standing ovations for their captivating covers of the Oldie Goldies. With Tata house winning the competition overall, the standard of music in School was raised higher by the boys this year; a glass ceiling that will be waiting for its end the next year.

Students are invited to volunteer as Editors for the monthly **Nutrition E-Newsletter** being launched as part of the **School Nutrition Program Initiative**. Interested students can register their names latest by **September 25, 2018**. For more information, contact the nutritionist at [nutritionist@doonschool.com](mailto:nutritionist@doonschool.com).



# The Week Gone By

Aryan Bhattacharjee

An assortment of flashy yellow cards was handed out to a multitude of individuals for the grave offense of having being seen ‘outside the House beyond prescribed hours’ (at approx. 0130 hours). One such set of YCs was given when some loyal friends decided to escort their friend in need to the Wellness Centre without informing the guards on patrol, and went on a prolonged perambulation. Another one was given to a certain ruminative individual strolling around campus, who perilously misidentifying himself, landed in a greater fix (I wonder who it was?). At around the same time that night, the ‘Big Eagle’

conducted a successful airstrike. Having answered his ‘Call of Duty’, he was seen walking back home proudly holding 8 laptops.

The S-Form got a first taste of their respective curricula and subjects these trials. A few changes in academic choices are expected to be in the pipeline. The SC-form was perhaps the most serious when it came to academics this September, recognizing the tremendous significance of these tests for their hopes abroad; we wish them all the best! For everybody else, this weekend will be a great relief and perhaps provide a chance to reflect and re-enter class on Monday with a firmer resolve.

To those who have despised and evaded Midterms thus far, the ringing of the bell at quarter past seven on Monday morning will evoke fond memories and a sense

of nostalgia for them. However, the cancellation is a boon to many whose following weeks are going to be spent preparing for Founders with intensity none but DoscOs and their Masters can possibly fathom. Pleas to conduct the infamous ‘activity week’ after trials have echoed in all parts of the campus, but sadly have fallen on disinterested ears.

As DoscOs are seen releasing their scholastic stress in the evenings with a casual game of football, the IPSC football team performed exceptionally well and was one of the favourites in the tournament. Kudos to them on an enormously successful season.

In the seeming drudgery of the next week, at least C and D Forms have their PTMs to look forward to. The School now gears up for its next big chapter of activity: Founders...

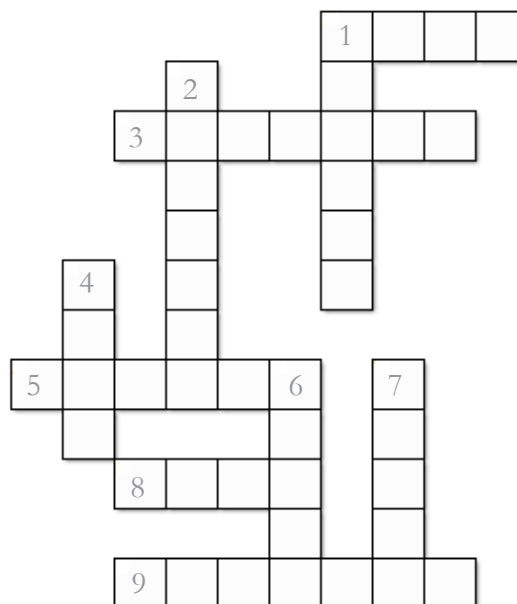
## Crossword | Famous Personalities

### Across

- 1. Johann Sebastian \_\_\_\_ was a German composer and musician Of the Baroque period. One of his famous compositions is the Goldberg variations set.
- 3. Charles \_\_\_\_ was a renowned mathematician who is considered as the father of computers.
- 5. Marlon \_\_\_\_ was an actor famous for his role in the movie ‘The Godfather’ and for the quote “I am going to make him an offer he can’t refuse”.
- 8. Edson Arantes do Nascimento, commonly known as \_\_\_\_, holds the second highest number of goals ever scored by an athlete.
- 9. Leo \_\_\_\_ was a Russian author well-known for his book ‘War and Peace’.

### Down

- 1. Georges \_\_\_\_ worked with Pablo Picasso to create a new style of art known as Cubism.
- 2. Michael \_\_\_\_ was considered as the king of pop and is famous for his best-selling album ‘Thriller’.
- 4. Along with Friedrich Engels, Karl \_\_\_\_ wrote the Communist Manifesto.
- 6. This American field and track athlete was a four-time Olympic Gold medalist in the 1936 Games.
- 7. \_\_\_\_ was a Classical Greek philosopher who founded the ‘Academy’ in Athens – the first institution of higher learning.



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

Across		Down	
1. Bach	8. Pele	1. Braque	6. Owens
3. Babbage	9. Tolstoy	2. Jackson	7. Plato
5. Brando		4. Marx	

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

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