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The Doon School WEEKLY

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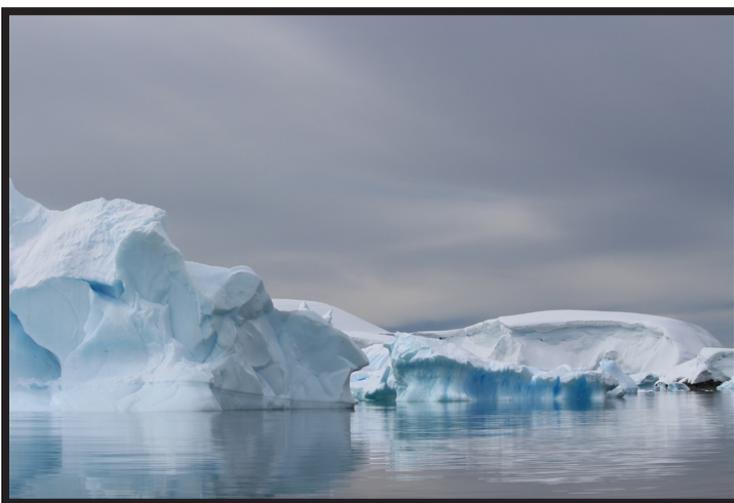
Antarctica Report

Vivan Sharma writes about the expedition to Antarctica that took place over the winter holidays.

"We still do not know one thousandth of one percent of what nature has revealed to us."

- Albert Einstein

This was my feeling as seven other boys and I set off for the first ever expedition to Antarctica by any Indian High School. We were all extremely ecstatic for what was ahead of us. After 8 months of preparation and waiting, the day finally came. On December 5th we all assembled at the IGI airport, bags packed and fearing the long journey ahead. To get to Antarctica we were to catch a ship at the southernmost port Ushuaia in Argentina, which meant a flight first to the autonomous city of Buenos Aires. After 26 hours of flying we reached the small, quaint port city of Ushuaia where we would spend a night before embarking the next day in the afternoon. We explored the town and found out a lot about the culture and society of Argentina.



The next day arrived and we were all ready for embarkation. The company running the expedition, Polar Latitudes, was very organized

and in less than 2 hours they got all passengers onboard and we embarked. Our destination, which was the Antarctic Peninsula, was a one and a half day journey. To get to our destination we would have to pass through the much dreaded Drake Passage. The Drake Passage is the passage between South America and the Antarctica Peninsula and there is no other landmass at the same latitude. This means that there is no obstruction for the wind. The ship rocked against the waves both and we were constantly sent side to side. Over the next two days many passengers were not seen at any meals. Some of us were luckily not affected by the motion and were able to attend some of the educational lectures the expedition's crew had to offer. They spoke about the nature, history and wildlife of Antarctica.

As the days passed, more and more people were spotted throughout the ship and finally in the evening we got the best news in days. Our expedition leader announced that we had arrived in the Antarctic waters and that we would disembark after dinner for a late night landing. Our first stop was at Livingston Island, which is a part of the South Shetlands islands (So it wasn't actually the Antarctic landmass). The island was home to a great number of elephant seals which were moulting in the sunlight. We only arrived back into the ship at around midnight but it seemed like it was only 4 o'clock in the afternoon. The sun was still blazing and it wasn't going to set for another 3 hours! Over the next few days we kept on relocating at night and by the morning we were ready for the next landing. We completed at least 2 landings a day, one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

On the third day we reached Neko Harbor which would be our first landing onto the Antarctica continent itself, which made it my 7th continent I have been to. Amazing views of the enormous icebergs and the sightings of penguin's rookeries' brought out the big DSLR cameras from everyone's bag. A lot of the boys were sighted posing for their much required display pictures. Neko Harbor would also be our campsite for that night. Camping on the land itself was a great privilege to experience such an exposure to nature. Most of us did not sleep that night as we were admiring the late night dusk and the sounds of the ice shelf cracking.

The best thing about the expedition was witnessing the wildlife in their natural habitat. We have all seen penguins and seals in zoos but to see them in Antarctica is completely different. Almost every day of the expedition there was a sighting of a whale and the passengers would rush onto the upper decks to witness such a rare sight. Another highlight were all the visits to the various historical sites within Antarctica. We visited a shipwreck site

(Contd. on page 5)



Regulars

Accessions

The following have been appointed captains for the following sports for the year 2016:

- Cricket:** Ashwin Agarwal
- Hockey:** Angad Singh Shergill
- Football:** Tushaar Sharma
- Athletics:** Ishaan Kapoor
- Swimming:** Raghav Kumar
- Basketball:** Arhant Khullar
- Table Tennis:** Kanav Agarwal
- Tennis:** Leonardo Pamei
- Squash:** Nikhil Fatehpuria
- Badminton:** Vansh Agarwal
- Boxing:** Sashyak Pattnaik
- School Senior PT Leader:** Ujjwal Maheshwari

The following have been appointed as Boys-in-Charge of various activities for the year 2016:

- Archives:** Ashish Pande
- Cycling:** Arpit Chadda
- Science Society:** Raghav Kumar
- Trophy Squad:** Priyanshu Raj

Congratulations!

Music

Below are the Music Appointments for the year 2016:

- School Music Captain:** Anuvrat Choudhary
- School Orchestra Leader and Secretary, Music Society:** Madhav Singhal
- School Percussion Leader and Boy-in-Charge, Trinity Music Examination:** Anant Mohan
- School Choir Leader:** Vihan Bhatnagar
- School Popular Band Leader:** Dhruv Madhav Johri
- School Dance Captain:** Archit Barthwal

Kudos!

"A goal without a plan is simply a wish."

Calamus Works

UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

Listen this!

MTS, listening ma'am.

Half of whole the SC Form.

Naman Khurana, okay....

From love.

Karan Sampath, not with grammar.

The opposite of futile is fertile.

Abhudaye Gupta, indeed it is.

I am smart very much.

Aditya Vikram Singh, thank you very much.

Meet me after CDH after lunch.

Rahul Das, choose one.

I got a good!

Kushagra Kar, on your English, not possible!

Why is it for?

Raghav Saboo, why indeed?

Opinion oll

Would you rather watch 'Bridge of Spies' or 'Unbroken'?

Bridge of Spies 57%

Unbroken 43%

(402 members of the School community were polled)

AROUND THE WORLD IN 80

WORDS

Real estate mogul Donald Trump and Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders have won decisive victories in the New Hampshire Primary. Speculation has increased about the reason for the collision of two trains in Germany. South Korea halts its joint venture with its northern counterpart after the recent nuclear tests. West Ham has surprised many in a dramatic win over Liverpool, even tipped to be 'one of the greatest'. Police in India's state of Haryana have begun using slingshots to control protesters.

Dosco Doodle

Wedding Grooms

Dhruv Pais

I would rather have life
throw a brick at me...



But it knows that 'Baarathi'
music hits harder.



Blind Sight

Aayush Chowdhry

Stumbling, fumbling and tripping, the hapless blind girl crossed the road. The girl had bore 22 years of taunts, snarky comments and shots; but that day was different. Some time ago she had met someone, someone she was not sure she loved but who truly loved her. They were perfectly happy together, but the girl was unsatisfied with something. Despite loving him for over a year, today she had truly had it. She was exasperated and annoyed at the universe for cursing her with the inability to see the love of her life.

She could touch him, embrace him, breathe in his distinctive musk, and listen to his loving yet robust voice but she could not see him or get lost in his eyes or cherish his expressions of undying love. She felt that she could never properly love him unless they could share a relationship not hindered by her eyesight, or rather lack of it. All the beautiful places he would take her would be enjoyed by listening to the faint croon of animals and rustle of leaves or sensing the fragrance of the water mixing with land. Her soul longed to view the world in all its primal beauty, and see the man who had made her life so much better.

At that very moment, as her thoughts got the better of her she fell face first on the zebra crossing to a cacophony of sniggers and an audience of unsupportive passers-by. That was it. All the magma built up from the years of ostracism and frustration erupted, resulting in a lot of screaming and kicking as the girl vented her anger. Her rage was such that a couple of people even joked about her being the Hulk (which was of no help whatsoever in calming her down).

That night, in a casual date at her paramour's house, her loving boyfriend was found consoling her after the humiliating and viral public scene. But the girl couldn't stop thinking about how much better her life would be if not baulked by her eyesight. As she asked of her boyfriend, "I wish road-crossing and other menial tasks were easier for me." To this he simply replied, "Anything you want, honey." Little did she know that her boyfriend had plans of his own.

Through the whole night, the girl kept on grouching about being sightless and unfortunate which made the boyfriend doubtful about carrying out his plan. He finally decided to jump in the cold water. As the girl was rambling about her problems he held her hand and said, "Honey, for me you are as perfect as anyone I would ever wish for. Your blindness doesn't affect me, it only makes you even more loveable and it makes our relationship such that we have to be there for each other. So, I have been thinking..." and boyfriend fell on one knee and said, "Honey, I know you can't see me or what I am doing, but with my heart in my hand and on one knee, I am asking you to do me this favour. Will you marry me?" Overwhelmed by this, the girl said, "I will! Oh gods, yes! I will."

Overjoyed, the boy put on some romantic music and lit the candles to complement the evening's mood. As he took his betrothed into his arms and twirled her around (a move that took a lot of practice) the girl was a little reluctant. The boy observed this and asked, "What happened honey?" The girl apprehensively replied, "I have only one wish before I marry you." An 'Anything honey!' was more of a reflex than a reply. "I... I... I only wish to see you once before I marry you."

The boy was crushed. How on earth could he possibly find an eye donor and that too on such short notice? However, the next day the girl was told to go to the hospital. Jubilant, she reached the place and was informed that a donor had been found, and she was to go in for surgery immediately. Eagerly and hurriedly she came to the hospital at their opening hours.

Three hours later, as she opened her eyes, she was ecstatic! She could see her fiancé behind the glass, and make out every detail, down to his curly blond hair, and the missing left ear. She motioned to him from behind the glass, but he didn't respond. As the doctors told the fiancé that he could visit his betrothed, he started coming in. But there was something off. By his gait, the girl guessed that her fiancé was blind too. Fearing for the future, she told the boy, "I am not strong and educated like you. I am a simple woman, with no future, who just regained her vision; I cannot marry a blind man. I am sorry, truly I am."

Her lover was heartbroken but he never protested and the girl too, was unwavering in her decision. After an hour or so of weeping the boy trudged away sullenly. As the girl watched him go she knew he would never look back and not because he couldn't but because he knew that her love was not true.

Following a day of recovery, the girl's elderly parents had been called, the same parents who had given up on her, but now had hope for her future, and whom she had no choice but to forgive. As she left the hospital, still marveling at the indescribable beauty of the colourful world, she asked the receptionist something.

"Excuse me; is it possible to know the name of the kind soul who donated his eyes for the operation that occurred yesterday?"

"Of course, he was a lovely gentleman. The first one I've ever seen to donate his eyes while still alive. I can't find his name at the current moment, but he was here yesterday. Good looking guy with curly blond hair, brown eyes and a missing left ear. You couldn't miss him."

The Doon School (DSW): What inspired you to start your organization?

Mr Kartick Satyanarayan (KRN): What inspired me to start this organization was that though we started really small, we were able to make a huge impact. Initially when I came to Delhi in 1995 there was no one to rescue people from snakes and I would have had to drive the ambulance at night when people would call and say 'ghar me saap aa gaya hai'. As soon as I would reach there, I would try to persuade them not to kill the snake. Most snakes are usually non venomous. Whenever I was called for my duty I tried my level best to save them. This helped both the snakes and the people and I realized that with very little effort I could make a huge difference. This drove me to do the same in a lot of other places. I also believe in another thing that 'nothing is impossible'. If you put your mind on something you can do it. I believe that the word impossible doesn't exist. When people would tell me that there's a problem in Bangalore or Rajasthan, I realized that it was a problem of understanding and if we could bridge the gap and get the support, the process didn't take long to happen. So that was the inspiration to start the organization. We connected with the State governments and created a 'memorandum of understanding' documents that would lay out what we would do and they would do. It is then that we requested their support. We soon won their support and cooperation and that's how we established our organization.

DSW: What experiences have you had that have impacted you as a person and the vision of your organization?

KRN: I think each time you make a difference to an animal it impacts you quite deeply like releasing the bear (that was showed on the video earlier) and putting an animal back in its habitat makes a huge difference too. It fulfils you and it also shows you that with a little bit of effort you can change the life of that one animal which has suffered for an extremely long period of time. This is reason enough for his rescue. I've rescued snakes from toilets and from people's 14th floor apartments and things like that. We've rescued cubs from poachers. We have encountered some really dangerous situations rescuing elephants is another daunting task altogether. These incidents made a huge impact on my life and they drove me to see the vision of organization as something which has to live beyond my lifetime and so I am determined to find young people like you to be a part of wildlife and take this cause further. It's not just an organization, it's a movement. We want people to plug in and take this forward to make a difference. As your assistant headmaster mentioned that global warming is hitting us quite badly, I'll say it's all interlinked to human greed, lack of tolerance, not wanting trees and not wanting bigger roads. Development doesn't always happen at the cost of conservation but bad planning makes it that way. So, my vision for the organization which has been inspired by animals and wild animals that I have been able to put back into communities and been able to rehabilitate is for a more sustained conservation plan moving forward. People are

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In 2006, Julian Assange established the worldwide Internet phenomenon: WikiLeaks. In 2010, he released a video of American soldiers gunning down eighteen Iraqi civilians from a chopper. Coming to the point, in the ten years that have passed since WikiLeaks first went live, what all has happened? From his ascension to the forefront of global media to his rape accusations by the Swedish police force, we are going to cover the decade of Julian Assange.

WikiLeaks began as an online drop box for people willing to anonymously provide information about political scandals and cases of corruption in their countries. With the help of a team of highly skilled hackers, Assange managed to gain access to certain emails, files and other documents, which brought him on the radar of the United States of America..

Later in the same year, Sweden issued an international arrest warrant for Assange on allegations of raping a woman and sexually assaulting another woman. Assange, fearing that he would be extradited to the US from Sweden, took refuge in the Ecuadorian embassy in London. Julian Assange has been living in the Ecuadorian embassy for the past three years. If he were to leave the embassy, at any time, he would be arrested by British police and be extradited to Sweden to face charges.

Assange not only received support from Ecuador, but Russia also expressed its support. This was due to the fact that Assange's political ideologies greatly matched Putin's ideologies. Their alliance goes beyond simply this incident. It has been noticed that nothing about Russia has cropped up on WikiLeaks in the ten years since it started. According to The New York Times, it is unlikely that the Russian Government is devoid of corruption. Based on that observation, it is possible that Assange's political allegiance lies with Russia.

In 2012, reports of Assange's deteriorating health began cropping up. The Ecuadorian embassy began requesting the safe transportation of Assange from the embassy to the hospital but the request was not granted. In a conference at the Embassy in 2014, Assange denied these reports and stated that he would not need any medical treatment. Later that year, Assange turned to the UN for help. He pleaded to the panel stating that he had been 'unlawfully detained' and that he could not leave the embassy without being arrested.

On 5th February, 2016, the UN panel voted in favour of Assange and passed a directive stating that he had the right to move freely and that he should be compensated for his inconvenience. Despite this directive, the United Kingdom has stated that this will not change anything because this directive does not bind it.

(Contd. from page 1)

located in Paradise Harbor, a whaling boat which had run aground nearly 40 years ago. On our last day in Antarctica we visited Deception Island which was famous for its whaler base. Deception Island was also an active volcano that destroyed the base a few decades ago. It is still an active volcano today, so the expedition crew decided that this would be a good site for the polar plunge. We explored the base wreckage and soon, after all the passengers assembled near the beach shore, we jumped into the water! The feeling in the water as soon as we jumped in was numbing and you wanted to depart from the subzero temperature immediately. It was a truly a unique and indescribable experience. Upon reaching back to Argentina, the trip was not yet over, we were to spend the next 3 days in the beautiful city of Buenos Aires which has an abundance of History and Culture. We went on a full tour across the town experiencing the different cultures in each part of it. From the Italian influence in Boca to the French influence in Recoleta, it was a very diverse city.

I would sincerely like to thank Mr. Bali for escorting us, the School for giving us this opportunity and Avan Goel and his team from Edvour for organizing such a marvelous trip. To sum up, this expedition was a once in a lifetime opportunity for the boys and I really hope that this expedition would be available to boys in the future.

Thank You Amma

Aryan Bhattacharjee writes about Jayalalitha's use of propoganda in Chennai.

"Loyalty to country ALWAYS. Loyalty to government, when it deserves it."

- Mark Twain

The countless posters of Jayalalitha which are graphically modified really do portray, to a large degree, her insecurity and also wreck the splendour of the city. These posters are also an overstated version of her labours. They also take help of graphical software in order to affirm her supremacy over other influential world leaders. Jayalalitha's unscrupulous means and her being a hypocrite are clearly observed from the immaturity of these posters. The objective of this article is to make readers aware of the facts and realities of the issue but give them enough room to take their own stance.

The population of Chennai has a split view on this matter, citizens of Chennai are divided into three major groups. The first group is the one that supports Jayalalitha and her party, it supports her political propoganda through posters and advertisements by Jayalalitha and endorses them too. The second group has those people who oppose her style of politics. The last group of people are the majority of the population. This group feels that the disagreement does not affect them and hence do not give it much thought. This group has the potential to make a change if they resolve to take a stand. 'Amma' has played a crucial role in the growth and improvement of the city. Her party has provided extensive help to the underprivileged. The misuse of technology has created a certain impression, hurting religious sentiments and hypocrisy. A recent poster of hers shows influential individuals like US President Barack Obama and other significant world leaders bowing down to her as she stands with authority. Jaya has also hurt many religious sentiments by modifying an image of the Hindu Goddess Lakshmi and replacing the face of the Goddess with her own. Although it is fairly justified for a politician in a democracy to inform the general public about the reforms and betterments which are being made, its usage to show an exaggerated picture of affairs is simply unethical.

During the disastrous floods which hit Chennai, Jayalalitha used the media and advertising to politicize the natural disaster and received money from the central government in order to provide relief and help the city bounced. She began to take action a couple of days after the floods had subsided and provided insufficient quantity of relief, although she placed quality at a premium. This helped her gain coverage especially in the media and the front page on every newspaper. The city has faced many such instances where the state may have gained popularity although nothing, for the residents of Chennai, has changed.

While what Jayalalitha is doing may be legitimate to some, the fact that it is unethical does not change. This reflects badly on the people of Chennai who voted her into power. Publicity and fame are two very necessary things for a politician and are legitimate unless they violate code, conduct and the sentiments of other human beings. Individuals who take a stand against Jaya's graphically modified posters are arrested, permitting Amma to go on without facing much opposition. Suppression and the deprivation of the freedom of speech and opinion hit the very back bone of the ideologies of democracy. None of this can be changed unless the last group of people which has been mentioned earlier decides on what their position on Jaya's politics and polices. All problems, however small, affect us at some point or the other and it is essential that exercise our freedom of choice and opinion for the greater good of our people.



(Contd. from page 3)

more tolerant, society is more tolerant and biodiversity is protected.

DSW: What advice would you give regarding following your dreams and making a difference?

KRN: Absolutely, follow your dreams, remember that you have to make the change and if you don't make a change then there is no difference between us, a rodent and a sewer because a rodent also consumes, reproduces and dies and that's what we would have done if we didn't do anything else. I would always encourage young people like you to make a difference and make the planet a better place to live in. We did find the planet, but we have made it messier than it was ever before. It is our prerogative to reverse it.

The Week Gone By

Kanishkh Kanodia

Even though the cold, frosty P.T. mornings continue to strain Doscas, their grit has driven them to leave their beds before sunrise. With P.T. leaders shouting, boys marching and people groaning as the P.T. season begins. The School has finally gotten into the drill of things.

The first major sporting competition of the year is around the corner. The spark and zeal to win is seen in everyone's eyes. All the strenuous hours and sweat 'invested by the players (hopefully not for just the 'currency-conversion) are finally going to be put to the test.

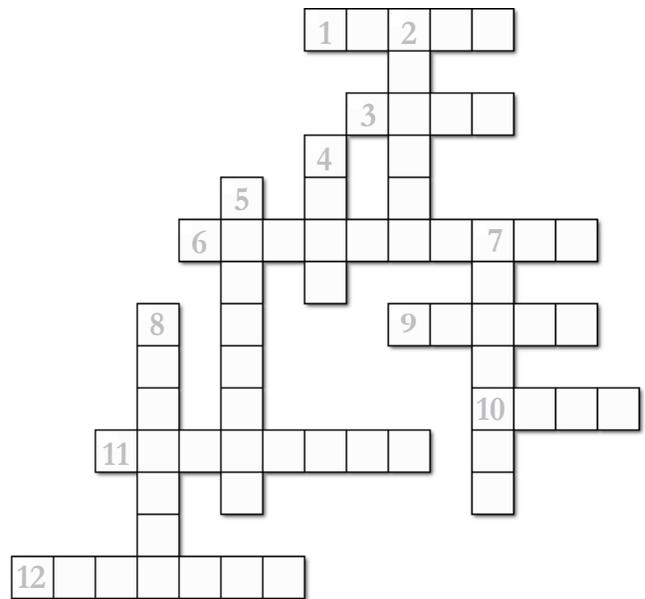
Last weekend also marked the end of the Prefects' Workshop. While some of them are still trying to fit into the shoes of their predecessors (either at the podium in the CDH or at the helm of their houses), the others seem to be up and running. A similar scenario prevails on the field, as the new sports' captains get ready to pilot their "best team ever seen" to glory.

'This House' adjudicated blazing arguments and fierce rebuttals as the Senior English Debating Competition kick started with a completely new format and a lot of apprehensive but convincing faces. Meanwhile, the AT formers, who heaved a sigh of relief as the light at the end of the tunnel approached, are now finding themselves in a more grueling and an impending tunnel. The ISC SCE's, on the other hand, began their final lap on the examination circuit before they head out of Chandbagh. It really is the 'beginning of the end' for them.

As we slowly proceed into the third week of the term, the anxiety levels are rising. The 'Transition Year' is unraveling. The new prefects, new sports captains, new council secretaries, a lot of new faces taking charge of our classes. We hope that the days ahead create wider horizons, and School's transitions only better us.

To all, good luck with Valentine's Day!

Crossword



Across:

- The country hosting the 2022 FIFA World Cup.
- A virus transmitted by mosquitoes, affecting pregnant women, largely in South America and Africa.
- The capital of New Zealand.
- The artist to win the most nominations in the Grammy's 2016.
- Unwanted trash.
- The forest in which Robin Hood lives.
- To move to another country.

Down:

- The only democratic country to speak Mandarin.
- The largest tribe in Africa.
- The first state to ratify to the Constitution of the United States.
- The birth name of Genghis Khan.
- The scale commonly used to measure seismic disturbances.

Answers to This Week's Crossword:

Across

- Qatar
- Zika
- Wellington
- Lamar
- Temujin
- Junk
- Sherwood
- Migrate

Down

- Taiwan
- Zulu
- Delaware
- Temujin
- Richter

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