Two weeks ago the United States bore the tragic loss of one of its greatest jurists. Antonin Scalia, a legal icon served with distinction on the bench of the Supreme Court for over a generation, helping the country maintain its faith in judicial processes as well as maintaining his own personal standards of integrity and faith in the State.

A staunch conservative, Scalia's jurisprudence was, more-often-than-not, controversial during his tenure. He was perhaps the most political member of the bench: known best for his style of questioning -both domineering and shrewd- which attempted to whip votes from other justices to his viewpoint. His views could be described as a mixture between right-wing and originalist, with the over-arching view that the US Constitution was a static institution. In his countless majority and dissenting opinions over the years, he defended federalism, upheld the Second Amendment (legalizing civilian gun ownership), railed against abortion and homosexuality and fought for continuance of the death penalty. These views went on to mould America from the latter 20th Century onwards in some of the court's most notable rulings. In the famous case of Printz vs. United States of 1997, Scalia joined the majority in striking down a provision of the famous 'Brady Act', one which put in place background checks on gun purchases. Conversely, he dissented from the majority in a number of other important cases, such as Morrison vs. Olson in 1988 where he opposed transparency in the investigation of public officials for corruption, the Planned Parenthood vs. Casey and Obergerfell vs. Hodges rulings which reduced restrictions on pregnancy termination (or 'abortion') and gay marriage (his dissent a result of his Catholic faith) and the Thompson vs. Oklahoma case, where he contended that the death penalty could apply to offenders from the age of fifteen, and in a separately (in Roper vs. Simmons), for the mentally ill as well. Perhaps the two most important cases where he joined the majority were Citizens United vs. FEC, which created the 'Super-PAC' - an organization which can accept undisclosed donations for political campaigns, and the world-famous Bush vs. Gore case, which settled the narrow and much disputed election of George W. Bush as President by preventing a recount of votes in the state of Florida.

As Scalia established a formidable mark on American jurisprudence, his demise has fired up the already hot political mood in the country. As per the Constitution, the President is supposed to appoint federal judges with confirmation of the Senate (the nation’s upper legislative house). While President Obama, a Democrat, has pledged to nominate a successor, his Republican rivals with their Senate majority have promised to block any such appointment, arguing that the new judge should be appointed by Obama's successor after he leaves office next year. This staunch measure is interpreted by many as a partisan one, whereas the Republicans hope that a new President (of their party) will appoint a conservative justice; securing their dominance over the court for another generation. The situation is quite ironic, for in 2008 the Democrats had on the same grounds opposed (and Republicans supported) the appointment of Justice Samuel Alito to the court by President Bush in his final year. Though such an appointment has legal precedent (with six judges confirmed in the 20th century alone), the issue has sparked a constitutional crisis in the country, which is already deep in the midst of Congressional and Presidential elections.

Conclusively, Scalia leaves behind one of the greatest legacies in American politics: having shaped the country to his whim and, in the end, made history by prompting the rarest of election years ever, where control of all three branches of America's government lies in the balance. A legacy unlike any other.
Cricket

The School Senior and Medium Cricket team played a match against Sports College on February 21, 2016. In the seniors’ match, Sports College batted first and made 198 runs in 30 overs. The team lost by 100 runs. In the mediums’ match, Sports College made 135 runs in 25 overs. The School team lost by 15 runs.

The Junior School Cricket team played a match against Welham Boys’ School, Dehradun on February 21, 2016. The Junior School team made 126 runs in 20 overs and won by 26 runs. Arihant Lohia scored 50 runs.

Congratulations!

UNQUOTEABLE QUOTES

Who will tell me?
MPT, quite authoritative.
Let me try that settle.
Samarth Mehra, settle your grammar first.
You better be shut up!
Vedant Mehra, says who?
Nobody hears until the bell rings!
ARD, good sentences, and well pronounced.
There is the corpse of a butterfly.
Raghav Saboo, making new discoveries.

Appointments

The following activity appointments have been made for the current year:

**Hindi Debating**
School Hindi Debating Captain: Shikhar Trivedi
Secretary of Bharat Vani: Arunav Vaish

**Model United Nations**
Secretary-General: Ishaan Kapoor
President: Rahul Agarwal

**Poetry**
The Doon School English Poet’s Society: Atrey Bharagava
The Doon School Hindi Poet’s Society: Vishesh Khetan

We wish them a fruitful tenure!

Chess Colours

The following boys have been awarded Chess Colours:
Atharva Shukla, Anuman Goel, Shreshth Mehra, Raghav Bagri and Akshat Jha

Kudos!

This Week in History

- **1570 CE**: Elizabeth I, Queen of England, was excommunicated by Pope Pius V.
- **1732 CE**: George Washington, the first American President was born.
- **1916 CE**: Heavy fighting took place in the Battle of Verdun.
- **1948 CE**: Communists take power in Czechoslovakia.
- **1984 CE**: Last US Marines leave Beirut.
- **1997 CE**: Schindler’s List was shown uncut on television for the first time.

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**The Winning Stroke**

Leonardo Pamei
The fight for privacy and the fight for security have always clashed, and will do so in the same manner in the foreseeable future. This clash is no different. One wonders where the doubt actually is, about who should win this bout between the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Apple. After all, the safety of the entire world lies at stake here, as this particular terrorist’s iPhone has crucial information on how the Islamic State has managed to do all its propaganda. This information would allow the FBI to obstruct ISIS’s online recruitment program.

One does not have to look far to see the hypocrisy in Apple’s argument. Apple says it is fighting for consumers’ rights, but ordinary consumers’ rights are not at stake here. The rights of the consumers who are proven criminals (to be precise, criminals accused of manslaughter) are at stake here, which in any case are non-existent, as this category of people have no rights at all (in terms of privacy). After all, what is the FBI asking for? It is simply asking for software to be able to unlock that particular iPhone. Apple, on the other hand, have blown that demand out of proportion, saying that the FBI are asking for the creation of a ‘backdoor’ (loophole) in the software of all iOS devices.

Also, Apple says that this court ruling would become a precedent to other similar cases involving their technology, leading to a compromise on privacy, something that Apple is not willing to allow. In other words, this precedent would then force the courts to rule in the government’s favour in all such cases. This logic is then somehow twisted by Apple, to make it a cause for concern for consumers. The point here is that this is no ordinary consumer we are talking about. We are talking about a proven criminal, who is incidentally a customer of Apple. Mark the word ‘proven’, as this case will not act as a precedent in cases in which the person is accused, but not acquitted. Thus, this case will have no impact whatsoever on the ordinary consumer. This is simply a capitalist demand from Apple, to protect its image of being secure and safe from government intervention.

It has always been maintained that one man’s life cannot be chosen over a million others, whether that one man is the President of some country, or a lowly peasant (in any case, it is almost always the former). So, how does the image of some big tech company manage to take precedence over these lives? How is it even debatable? There are people dying in Syria and Iraq. There are people who are taking themselves to death’s mouth itself (and along with them at least a couple of innocent bystanders), by buying into the Islamic State’s propaganda. On the other hand, we have a precedent in the American law system, which would allow justice to tap into proven criminals’ phones and other electronic devices (and may possibly leave a tiny crack in Apple’s pristine image). It is my belief that this particular dispute is simply a no-brainer for the courts.

“In matters of style, swim with the current; in matters of principle, stand like a rock.”

It’s been a week of days ending in –days, which means an attack on our societal liberty is underway at one corner of the globe or the other. The case referred to here is combated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Apple, where Apple has challenged a judicial decision ordering them to grant the FBI access to data from the San Bernardino gunman’s iPhone. Apple’s decision to challenge the FBI’s right to a backdoor into the iPhone has been heavily ridiculed as a “marketing gimmick”.

I willingly concede this point in the argument, for the unbridled capitalism Apple represents looks no further than the bottom line for its policies on both morals and business. Apple has hypocritically only recently changed its former policy of unrestricted aid to federal investigation, perhaps in light of flagging iPhone sales this past quarter and the well-known weaknesses of the competing Android system in such matters.

The scope of this case, however, goes far beyond that of a corporate giant and a deranged minor terrorist, for the ruling in the case, one way or another, shall dictate the future dynamics of the established conflict on our right to privacy. Yevgeny Zamiatin first envisioned the dystopian trope of absolute State power and humanity without privacy in ‘We’, published in 1924 in Bolshevik Russia. The book served to inspire Orwell’s ‘1984’ and the time is now at hand when a single judicial decision may tilt the scales forever in the favour of the ‘Big Brother’. There are several precedents to the case, considering that the National Security Agency of the USA has been trying to insert backdoors into encrypted data since the time of Enigma, when it covertly dealt with Crypto AG to install backdoors into the machines they manufactured and supplied to certain hostile countries, but this might perhaps be the single largest case of its kind, potentially affecting billions of smartphones users across the world and establishing a precedent for the 12 other ongoing similar cases in the US.

A huge leap to make, you protest, from the probing of a proven terrorist’s phone to dystopias where every thought and action is under the surveillance of the State. But as Franklin put it, “Any society that will give up a little liberty to gain a little security, will deserve neither and lose both.” Ironically, it is a law from Franklin’s time which is being cited to force Apple into accessing the demands of the FBI, which does show how archaic and inflexible the argument being put forward by the State is.

To conclude, are we really ready to sacrifice a little of our liberty to gain a little security, come what may? A ruling favouring the State in this case will establish a precedent which shall fundamentally undermine data encryption and allow further exploitation by cyber criminals. It will, in short, spell an end to the concepts of individual privacy in this digital age, a former cornerstone to democratic ideology, and leave us members of a society which increasingly values absolute state authority and judicial infallibility over liberty. Remember, Big Brother wants to watch you, always.

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| The fight for privacy and the fight for security have always clashed, and will do so in the same manner in the foreseeable future. This clash is no different. One wonders where the doubt actually is, about who should win this bout between the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Apple. After all, the safety of the entire world lies at stake here, as this particular terrorist’s iPhone has crucial information on how the Islamic State has managed to do all its propaganda. This information would allow the FBI to obstruct ISIS’s online recruitment program. One does not have to look far to see the hypocrisy in Apple’s argument. Apple says it is fighting for consumers’ rights, but ordinary consumers’ rights are not at stake here. The rights of the consumers who are proven criminals (to be precise, criminals accused of manslaughter) are at stake here, which in any case are non-existent, as this category of people have no rights at all (in terms of privacy). After all, what is the FBI asking for? It is simply asking for software to be able to unlock that particular iPhone. Apple, on the other hand, have blown that demand out of proportion, saying that the FBI are asking for the creation of a ‘backdoor’ (loophole) in the software of all iOS devices. Also, Apple says that this court ruling would become a precedent to other similar cases involving their technology, leading to a compromise on privacy, something that Apple is not willing to allow. In other words, this precedent would then force the courts to rule in the government’s favour in all such cases. This logic is then somehow twisted by Apple, to make it a cause for concern for consumers. The point here is that this is no ordinary consumer we are talking about. We are talking about a proven criminal, who is incidentally a customer of Apple. Mark the word ‘proven’, as this case will not act as a precedent in cases in which the person is accused, but not acquitted. Thus, this case will have no impact whatsoever on the ordinary consumer. This is simply a capitalist demand from Apple, to protect its image of being secure and safe from government intervention. It has always been maintained that one man’s life cannot be chosen over a million others, whether that one man is the President of some country, or a lowly peasant (in any case, it is almost always the former). So, how does the image of some big tech company manage to take precedence over these lives? How is it even debatable? There are people dying in Syria and Iraq. There are people who are taking themselves to death’s mouth itself (and along with them at least a couple of innocent bystanders), by buying into the Islamic State’s propaganda. On the other hand, we have a precedent in the American law system, which would allow justice to tap into proven criminals’ phones and other electronic devices (and may possibly leave a tiny crack in Apple’s pristine image). It is my belief that this particular dispute is simply a no-brainer for the courts. | “In matters of style, swim with the current; in matters of principle, stand like a rock.”

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The Grammy's

Zoraver Mehta reviews music's biggest awards ceremony.

The 58th edition of “music's biggest night” at Staples Centre, Los Angeles was, like every year, a grand affair. The ceremony recognizes the best musical compositions, technical proficiency and significant collaborations within the eligible time period, which was from October 1st, 2014 to September 30th, 2015. It was a night when some of music industry's biggest names - Lady Gaga, Taylor Swift and Bruno Mars as well as music icons - Lionel Richie, Stevie Wonder and Bonnie Raitt vied for various awards across categories. The Grammy Award, originally called ‘The Gramophone Award’ is an accolade given by The National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences. Since its inception in 1959, The Grammys have always been one of the most prestigious award ceremonies for musicians and instrumentalists alike. The Grammys are known for their drama, extravagance and most of all- exhilarating live performances. Lady Gaga, who attended the ceremony as Ziggy Stardust paid tribute to David Bowie with a high powered performance which went viral within minutes over YouTube. Though she did successfully encapsulate him in terms of physical appearance, I believe it lacked his spirit and energy that ‘inspired a generation.’ Blues singer Bonnie Raitt, Chris Stapleton and Gary Clark Jr. honoured the blues great B.B. King with a spirited rendition of his hit “The Thrill is Gone.” The trio ‘bluesifully’ summed up the musician’s signature guitar style, with its mournful vibrato and eloquence.

‘Uptown Funk’ - a common room favourite in Doon won the best record, while ‘Thinking Out Loud’, with its high pitched vocals, (another number which several Doscas are heard cat-calling in and around school) won the best song of the year. Alabama Shakes, Kendrick Lamar, and Taylor Swift also received multiple awards.

The evening however, wasn't without controversy. Recording Academy President Neil Portnow took the stage to condemn online streaming services like Spotify which have completely dismantled the traditional, immensely popular method of making money from selling music. We can then infer, from this recurrent theme just how terrified the music industry is. This message was followed by an impressive performance by the youngest nominee; a talented twelve year old jazz pianist who received a standing ovation after performing Eddie Harris' Freedom Jazz Dance composition.

The guidelines to be eligible to win the accolade state that the album must be "available for sale in the United States through a broad distributor and not just an artist's website." Due to this one criteria, several musicians don’t quite get the recognition and praise they almost certainly deserve, leaving the field open to a fewer number of musicians. Moreover, it has also been observed over the years that winners of various awards are those who enjoy a level of mass popularity rather than musicians who might have excelled in performance or composition but don't enjoy mass following.

The Grammys are still held in high regard and are seen as the ultimate platform for an artist to be appreciated for his/her contribution to music. Having said that, the awards do need to make adjustments and changes if they want to remain - not just relevant, but credible in the face of so many dissenting voices.

Under the Scanner

Agitation in Haryana | Devang Laddha

On the 20th of February, the entire town of Rohtak in Haryana erupted into violence over the Jat protests, something that has been going on for quite some time. For the last few years, the Jat community in Haryana, despite being economically influential, had been actively protesting for their inclusion in the OBC (Other Backward Classes) quota. After receiving initial inclusion with the UPA Government just before the 2014 General Election, the Jat community’s inclusion in the OBC quota was rejected by the Supreme Court in 2015. The Jats have been one of the most dominant castes in Haryana, constituting 29 percent of the population. Most Jats also have their own land which they cultivate and are economically well off. Politically too, they have been important as seen by the fact that seven of the past ten Haryana Chief Ministers have been Jats. However, despite being dominant, they have persistently asked for their inclusion in the OBC quota, something that was promised to them by the BJP government during their campaign during State elections.

However, upon coming to power, the BJP government took no significant action in the case and protests broke out in Rohtak on the 14th of February. At first the protests had been mild. The fuel that was added to the fire was perhaps the anti-Jat demonstration that had been carried out by the other castes. The incident escalated the situation with protesters blocking railway lines and roads, burning shops, damaging vehicles and also burning the State finance minister’s house, with economic loss running up to almost 3 billion USD. The State Government tried to grapple with the issue and offered solutions to the Jats by including them in other quotas. However, all proposals were refused; forcing the Government to intervene and send military and paramilitary forces into the state to quell the unrest.

The situation has also brought to light the entire issue of the OBC quota. It seems that the OBC quota, which had been started as a tool to give people of backward castes more social and economic empowerment has severely digressed from its purpose and is now being used as a tool for vote-bank politics. Moreover, it comes across as ludicrous that the Jats, despite being politically and economically well off and influential are willing to exploit this political loophole, not for any social upliftment, but for a stronger hold on the political and social setup of Haryana. The OBC quota’s objective has always been to make the lives of poor people better, yet today, it is being used as a tool to make the lives of others worse. This tool is further being employed by the State government as it tries to bring out bills for the Jats’ inclusion, the situation in Haryana becomes more fragile. One caste expressing its feelings and getting what it wants has set a precedent for other castes as well. Hence, while some may not stand up now, accepting the situation as created by the Jats sends out a message to everyone, and it is only a matter of time before we see another protest by another group who fuel they deserve a quota.

4. The Doon School Weekly Saturday, February 27
गुज़र भी नींद ओके गौरिपूणम म दश मने य तन गुणों भ्रष्ट देह िंत ददय।

“जब आप चैन की नींद सो रहे होते, तब आपकी रसा के लिए भारतीय सेना के जवाब सीमा पर तैनात पहरा दे रहे होते”। यह पंक्ति भारत की सेना की तरीफ में अक्सर इस्तेमाल की जाती है। मगर असंतुष्ट ताजा कार्य अफसरों के अतिरिक्त कम ही को होगी। अपने लेख में मेरा स्वयं आपकी सेना के वैकास के किसी सुनाना नहीं, बल्कि उसके सबसे लंबे अभियान की पूरी कहानी तथा उसके मूलतंत्र को बताता हूँ। इस अभियान के जन्म-कसरी को न सिर्फ पाकिस्तान की, बल्कि चीन की गिरफ्त में जाने से भी बचा यिया। ज़ाकर पदवियों के भी आगे, ऐसे क्षेत्रों के जहाँ पर बहादुर से बहादुर मुन्यू ने भी जाने का ख़याल नहीं उठाया, वहाँ पर हमारी सेना ने 1948 में पहली बार कमद रखा। इस दिन से लेकर आज एक भारतीय पोर्ट पर सैनिक पहाड़ी देश के पास निकाह रखते हैं। इस अभियान को नाम दिया गया था मेघदूत, याती बदलों पर नजर रखने वाला। वे वीर, अमर जवान बदलों के उर्फ़ एक ऐसी जगह गए जहाँ भारी जरबबाई, चितके हुई खबरों तथा खड़े पाड़ घरेलू लगाये गए। इनको अपनी गोद में लिया था हिमालय सिंधिया प्रसाद ने।

1948 मैं पाकिस्तान ने अपने नवीनतम नकार छप्पयाये थे। इसकी जीच-पहलाव करने के लिए दिस्तली ने कई सारे नकार छप्पयाये और अस्तिम में यह जाना गया की भारत की सीमा में एक अचानक बदल आया था। भारत ने अपने राजदूतों की मदद से कई बार इस समस्या के हल निकालने की कोशिश की। इस बदलाव भारतीय क्षेत्र ‘सियाचिन’ और ‘शहसमाग वादी’ को पाकिस्तान की जमीन बना रखा था। वहाँ की स्थायी पतलाओं ने भी शीत के बीच कई मुग़लीय रखवाले, मगर कोई फायदा न हुआ। धौर-धौर, अपने कुछ सारी में सेना ने राष्ट्रस्व अभियान वहाँ की हालत पता करने के लिए रखवाले। यह पहली बार था जब किसी भी आर्मी ने उन सुनाने इलाकों के कमद रखा था। उन्होंने पाकिस्तानी तथा चीनी उन्हें जोड़ते लगे। इनकी अन्यता को गोद में लिया था हिमालय सिंधिया प्रसाद ने।
अभिमान भेजने का हुआ और काव्यिकता हो। हमें तो छोड़िये, किसी ने आज तक अपने देश को सुरक्षित रखने के लिए ऐसे वीडियो के बारे में कभी सच्चा भी नहीं था। सियासत दुनिया की सबसे ऊंचा रणभूमि कहलाने लगी।

कई बाहरी के कई सुनने को मिले कि वे अपने आपके और जनता से मिलकर कठिन से कठिन शिकारों पर भी कन्वज किया। यही अस्त्र, गोला-बाल्ट और बुंदू की गोलीबारी 2003 तक चलती रही जब तक भारत ने पाकिस्तान से समझौता न कर पाया। इन तीन सालों में कुल मिलाकर हजारों जवानों और आतंकी ने अपने जान देकर युग्म इंडिया गेट पर जलती दिखाई पड़ती।

यह भारतीय सेना के बाकी पहलुओं में से एक है जिसने पूरी जनता को गर्ब होता है। अब यह जिम्मा भारत के वुम्प-गण पर पड़ता है, कि यदि वह भारत को एक साधारण देश की स्थिति पर छोड़ दे तो वह अपनी सेना की तरह देश की अभिलाषाओं पर खड़े उतरे।

गुरु
• अमूर्तांश सरफर

"गुरु मोहन्त दोऊ खड़े, काके लागू पायः। बहिषप्रारूप गुरु-अपात्, गोविन्दान्तिन्द्रिय दियों बराबर।"

शर्म में कहा गया है कि एक मानव के जीवन में अपने मात-पिता के बाद सबसे ज्ञाता योगदान उसके गुरु का ही होता है। इतिहास गाहता है कि भारतीय समाज व संस्कृति में शिक्षाः को एक ऊंचा दर्जा दिया गया है। दृष्टिकोण को गुरु-सर्वदेश के रूप में दार्शनिक गुरु का आधुनिक मांगने पर एकलक्षण ने शुरु-शुरु-शुरु अपना समझौता समाप्त कर दिया था। उन्होंने बिना किसी प्रश्न के अपने गुरु के आदर साक्षात अपना कर्तव्य निकाला। उन्हें इस बलीद के लिए उनका नाम इतिहास के पन्नों में सुनहरे अर्थों में सिखा गया।

शिक्षक एक विशेष लक्ष्य के साथ पृथ्वी पर जन्म लेते हैं। उनका मकसद मात्र खुद लाभकर नहीं पूरा हो जाता, वे तो उद्धार से प्रभाव लोगों की जिज्ञासा में प्रभाव लाने के लिए मेहनत करते हैं। आकाश्यन पढ़ने पर वे धीरज रक्षक एक ही गोविन्द छात्रों को अंतर कर सफ़रें करते हैं।

वे स्वयं जानी होने के बावजूद छात्रों को बिना किसी अभिमान के पढ़ते हैं। वे मात्र अपने जान की रक्षा करने के लिए भी काम करते रहते हैं ताकि वे छात्रों को अधिक से अधिक जान प्रदान कर सकें। हमारे भरे के लिए शिक्षक अपने निजी एवं सामाजिक जीवन में भी कई बलीद देते हैं।

हमारे साथ वे हमें यथायोग्य हो जाते हैं जैसे उन्हें अपने परिवार, रिश्तेदारों तथा मित्रों के साथ समय बिताने का अवसर ही नहीं मिलता। अद्यावधाक को एक और विशेषता होती है, अनुभाव।

वे बच्चों को जीवन में अनुभाव का मूल्य अपने दर्दहर से, बिना कुछ कहे ही साधा देते हैं। इसके साथ वे बच्चों को अच्छे युग्म देखे हैं और उन्हें प्रेरित करते हैं। वे कषा में अच्छे अंक लाने वाले बच्चों को समझते है कि क्यों जाना एक अनंत महासागर है और कमजोर बच्चों को सदृश यही समझते हैं। यह सत्ता परिणाम से ही वे अपनी मनोज कितने तक पहुँच सकते हैं। वे बच्चों को 'आदर्श' नाम के दान के बीच से भी बचने की सीख देते हैं।

वे हमें बताते है कि क्यों जाना मान का कोई अपराध मान्यता में मूल्य ही नहीं हो। गुरुजन दया की भी मूर्ति होते हैं। वे बड़ी से बड़ी गतियों करने पर भी छात्रों को मफ़ करने की शक्ति अपने हद में रखते हैं। वे अपने प्रेम, कर्म का एक अनुभाव के साथ अपने हद में रखते हैं। वे हमें अपने जीव में रखने के लिए ज्ञाता दौरे अलग तरीके से करना सिखाते हैं।

लोग कहते हैं कि महायुव एक आदर्श शक्तिहृदय, इससे में तो उन्हें हर रोज देखना है। अपने अद्यावधाक के रूप में, जल्दी से सभी अद्यावधाक को नमन कर देते हैं।
Confessions of an AT Former

Nehansh Saxena writes about his experience of AT-Form

I am unashful to admit that I have done rather badly on the academic front recently: both my November Trials and my Preliminary Board Examinations. My hopes for the final 'Boards' have washed away. Although my labours over the two-month long holiday did not go in vain, I’d say they didn’t radically change my grades either. They were still not up to the mark. I couldn’t gauge my miss. Angst followed. Stress. Temptation to run away. Run away from this hullabaloo. Such worldly pressures have been detrimental to my brain. A transcript: a bare representation of my capacity. My chances of being successful in life were dashed. Evidently, what I aim to write is an expression of my wrath against the prevailing educational system which has made a victim of me (obviously for scoring badly), but even more than that, a confusion. I hope that while writing on such a matter I am able to share my opinion with at least a majority of those who are giving the Board Examinations in the near future.

When I entered the four walls of this highly esteemed school, I knew I had been blest with the best of opportunities laid out neatly on the table. Before joining school, I should be truthful to say, I did not care much about taking initiative in things outside the purely academic. However, at school, my horizons widened. It was not just my course-book that brightly shone in my eyes. Sports, publications, conferences, social service, various competitions; they seemed more important to me all of a sudden. I was on a high; I had begun to find myself focusing more on those activities than my studies. Sometimes, they gave me more recognition and respect too rather be in the company of those who praised than with my drab-looking books and making an effort to learn every day. Gradually, without my realization, I had struck an imbalance between the two priorities. Studies were not at all the source of my motivation. My marks consequently began slipping. When I found myself rolling down, in terms of grades, perhaps it was too late to hold myself. Time that was lost had been lost. Probably, it would take me double the effort to ace the upcoming Boards. Or maybe triple, I do not know. Undoubtedly, the fault is with me. However, the cause of the fault is something that makes me wonder. Am I to suffer off low scores because I found solace elsewhere, which seemed equally productive? Am I to suffer because academics curriculums are not designed to be interesting for the student?

Had I been somehow convinced that the books I carry to class each day are not as colourless as they seem they are, I am sure I would have left all at hand and have been sitting down to study. More often why is it that the other things in school caught my eye, and not the books? This exasperates me. But I agree to this, to some extent; it is a bitter truth I have learnt to swallow. Perhaps it shall ensure a better college admission for me, but nothing more or nothing less. I think that the real vision of educational systems was to explore, consolidate knowledge, spread knowledge and have a deeper comprehension of the everyday occurrences in a manner that should be beneficial for all. Today, each student, as far as I have observed, 'studies' for his own selfishness; so that he can leave his fellows behind in terms of scores, or so that his seat in college is secured before others. Where is the will to learn? Today, we are not learning; for when did learning take the form of cut-throat competition? Having Boards just round the corner, I could have gone endlessly pitying over my sufferings along with pretentious rational explanations, had time not being constraining upon me. After all, even I am a hypocrite, being a part of this blind race, finding myself unable to turn back. Worse still: this race never ends.

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The Turquoise Memories

Arnaav Bhavanani

(Original version published in the Founder’s Issue of The Doon School Weekly, 2014.)

I rode through broiling, cresting waves, at times was lost and ranted, raved, But none could hear me breaking o'er the cosmos of my misery. Was parched for water's luxury, (ironic, being ensconced in sea!) To row ahead I'd lost resolve, being weighed down by my apathy…

…but hold, the shore, Its form outlined! O taken far too long to find, It brought with it the promises of hope and life sans mystery! I tugged at days and nights to reach, whisp'ring sands on a sunlit beach, While shoring hope, it came to be the sands hazed into turquiose sea

And I, yet lonely, lost in thought, fought Sirens of those sands long sought Their honeyed tongues played on my mind, their forms sublime, like naked rhymes Perhaps my hopes and dreams were naught but cold disease that I had caught But paddling on? The paradigm of Life, the finest cold design.

Cresting waves with wishful thinking, knew not I the boat was sinking, Down far below to greet the ship; Titanic, of forgotten lore. Of the world I wonder'd often, leagues below was still my coffin, Of Living I had craved for more, but Life had outlined Circe's shore.
Constructive changes are what our School aims at promoting. Another 'revolutionary' change as part of the focus on academics was undertaken in the past few days with the rechristening of 'Test Week' as 'Exam Week.' The new name hopes to instill in us the fear of exams which, I'm afraid, is like preaching to the converted. While some may question the relevance of this change in academic parlance; like other decisions made in the past, this one too shall endure and will soon become a part of the Dosco lingo.

Moving on to more perennial matters, the Inter House-Cricket competition came to a close in the seniors' category. For some Doscos it was the last time they would don their whites for the house, others still have a long way to go. The last few days of the competition witnessed some nail biting finishes, including one in which a bold individual managed to score a six of the last ball of the match; thereby leading his house to victory. This will surely go down as a big disappointment to other houses who were fervently hoping for a different result.

Sentimentality was fairly palpable as various house feasts were held to bid farewell to our SC leavers. The speeches made would surely be remembered for a long time, just as they are when old friends leave behind memories of their presence and contributions made to the house as well as School. Everyone spoke about their long journey that has led them to the end of an eventful School life and a lot of gratitude was shown to those who had tutored and mentored them through their School life. A certain house even had speeches a day before their house feast, changing the system, but in now taking away anything from the aura of the house feast.

Prize giving is round the corner and the music school is all geared up with its performance which, like always, will not only be mesmerizing but also moving, with Sc Leavers leaving the Rosebowl to the strains of Auld Lang Syne. As for the prize winners, certain people are awaiting the long list of award recipients that will be released later this month, a few hopefuls will want their efforts to be recognized. Meanwhile, there are people who are also awaiting the Oscars, another form of awards that does not involve lengthy speeches and at the same time, keeps the suspense going.

Our boarders begin their long journey into the same time, just as they are when old friends leave behind memories of their presence and contributions made to the house as well as School. Everyone spoke about their long journey that has led them to the end of an eventful School life and a lot of gratitude was shown to those who had tutored and mentored them through their School life. A certain house even had speeches a day before their house feast, changing the system, but in now taking away anything from the aura of the house feast.

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Our boarders begin their long journey into the unknown this week as they go headfirst into their exams. This is a moment that a lot of us have gone through, and the only piece of advice that I have to offer is to believe that the quicker it comes, the quicker it goes.

10. Benjamin Franklin’s invention to help people with presbyopia.
11. The world’s first mass-market laptop computer was produced by this company.

**Across:**
1. Created the first Recombinant DNA molecules.
2. This Indian made the first public demonstration for the use of radio waves for communication.
4. Inventor of the famous selfie stick.
5. Ancient ___ women were the first to develop beer.
6. The Angles, Saxons and Jute tribes are credited with the discovery of this modern day language.
7. She found the compound called Kevlar used to make bulletproof vests.
8. This company invented the Tablet PC.
9. The world’s first mass-market laptop computer was produced by this company.
10. This avidly used clothing device was first wrought in the Indus Valley civilization.

**Down:**
1. The world’s first mass-market laptop computer was produced by this company.
2. This India made the first public demonstration for the use of radio waves for communication.
4. Inventor of the famous selfie stick.
5. Ancient ___ women were the first to develop beer.
6. The Angles, Saxons and Jute tribes are credited with the discovery of this modern day language.
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