



Established in 1936

# The Doon School WEEKLY

Saturday, November 26 | Issue No. 2452



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## Editorial: To Read or Not to Read

Arjun Singh

In a vote of thanks at Chuckerbutty, I spoke of a brewing anxiety, one that exists before we take on new duties with the hope for success. Such anxiety, as I've begun to realise, hits harder as one is handed the reins of leadership and all its pressures. For a publication as old and illustrious as the *Weekly*, to be at its helm makes this anxiety overwhelming.

I'm not alone in this: we at the *Weekly* have always been anxious each time an issue is published. As with any publication we have a readership, which is the School. In short, you are whom we publish for, and aim to satisfy with the turn of each page. In this endeavour, the *Weekly* has long maintained a standard format. We report and comment on the happenings within this bustling campus, while educating our readers on matters of the world outside it; joining these are creative pieces and humour in the form of Unquotable Quotes and Cartoons. This format has been our strategy for long, one through which we've hoped to spur both thoughts and laughter that warm up every Saturday morning.

But as time passes us, so does the efficacy of strategies, and over such time we've seen a growing disinterest in major portions of the *Weekly* – with Doscocs leaving issues at their tables, many times after only a brief skim of the humorous parts. An impression has grown that the *Weekly* has reduced itself to elitism: with a myopic focus on political pieces and with only a few sections that interest the School community. Furthermore, it's been mentioned that the *Weekly* has shut out its readership: serving as a forum dominated by its own Board Members to write on matters pleasing them, and thus becoming a 'shell of itself'.

These are problems, and we value their mention as constructive criticism. But with any criticism, it becomes necessary to respond – and our response is a subtle change in our strategy to make the *Weekly* more engaging. As the School's flagship publication, we are not constrained by one genre or theme as others are - a thought which was previously untendered. It is our plan to change this – to print more articles that cover a wider range of subjects than before, such as sports, or science, or even popular culture – topics which have previously passed unwritten in our pages. This Issue is a stepping stone in that endeavour, which includes a Letter to the Editor, more creative pieces, and an Under the Scanner which for the first time explores the subject of music, along with a special version of the classic Week Gone By. In the future, this is not to say that we'll abandon our contemporary pieces: they too form an important part of our mission to educate readers. But to achieve high standards and healthy readership in any publication, a balance must be struck, one between popular demand and suitable press, all while maintaining high quality. It's a strategy with which, in the coming weeks and months, we shall experiment, and we invite more constructive criticism along the way.

But as we initiate this change, we on the Editorial Board also have a request for you, since change is a collaborative effort. We ask for your greater participation in this publication in the form of your own writing. The *Weekly* is, after all, a forum for discussion within the School, yet we often see too little of our School community represented on its pages. Our engagement needs to extend both ways, which can only be supported by an active and writing student body – one that doesn't just read, but writes for itself. That is the key to improvement. If you have apprehensions about writing, or fears that your article may be rejected, then let me assure you these are unfounded. The Board will always be available to help, and all your submissions will be properly considered and, if necessary, improved. It is nobody's place to 'reject' your creativity, but it is our duty to help you enhance it.

Lastly, amidst this change, we hope that as the *Weekly* is picked up from tables, it is put down by a newly thinking mind. After all, we live at a School, and to educate ourselves we must always keep thinking. To that end, I hope as we embark on another year together while the *Weekly* improves, it may continue to enrich its readership, and continue keeping these Saturday mornings warm.

Happy reading!



## Regulars

### Specialists

The following boys have been awarded **activity prizes** for the year **2016**:

**Ramanan Trophy for the Best Motor Mechanic:**

Aditya Oberoi

**Sunil Rawley Prize for the Most Promising Swimmer:** Adit Chatterjee

**Sunil Rawley Prize for the Most Promising Tennis Player:** Avyukt Kochhar

**Ravindra Dhawal Prize for the Highest Marks in the IPSC GK Test:** Priyanshu Raj

**Ravindra Dhawal Prize for the Highest Marks in the IPSC GK Test:** Priyanshu Raj

Well done!

### Castled

The School participated in the **3rd Open School Chess Tournament** held at **Doon Chess Academy, Dehradun**. The following are the results:

In the **Open Category**, Aryan Kasera was declared the **winner**, while Anuman Goel stood **3rd**, Devansh Sharma stood **5th**, and Naman Jain stood **6th**.

In the **Special Blitz** event, Anuman Goel was declared the **winner**, while Aryan Kasera stood **4th**, and Hridansh Khaitan stood **5th**.

Congratulations!

### Dynamic Duo

The School was represented by Shourya Agarwal and Karthik Subbiah at the **AC Deb Memorial Debates** held at **Raja Ram Mohan Roy Academy, Dehradun**. The School emerged the **winner**, with Karthik Subbiah being adjudged the **Best Speaker**.

Kudos!

*"Wise men speak because they have something to say; Fools because they have to say something."*  
- Plato

### Appointments

The following appointments have been made to various Publications for the forthcoming year:

#### The Doon School Weekly

**Editor-in-Chief:** Arjun Singh

**Editor:** Aryan Chhabra

**Senior Editors:** Nehansh Saxena, Omar Chishti and Salman Mallick

**Hindi Editor:** Shubham Dhiman

#### The Yearbook

**Editors-in-Chief:** Deep Dhandhanian and Aaditya Shah

**Chief-of-Production:** Vedant Mehra

**Editor:** Jehan Jhaveri

#### The VIBGYOR

**Boy-in-Charge:** Ranvijay Singh

#### The Echo

**Editor-in-Chief:** Vatsal Bora

**Chief-of-Production:** Chaitanya Gulati

#### The Infinity

**Editor-in-Chief:** Chaitanya Gulati

**Chief-of-Production:** Adityavardhan Agrawal

We wish them a fruitful tenure!

### In Memory

The *Weekly* wishes to honour the memory of all those who lost their lives in the tragic attack in Mumbai on this day eight years ago.

### Dosco Doodle

**Knocked Out**  
*Aryaman Saluja*



| Point-Counterpoint |

## A Timely Change?

A debate on the proposed daily schedule and its potential benefits.

### Point

Kanishkh Kanodia

A week ago, two enormous sheets of paper grabbed everyone's attention; the new weekly schedule was finally out. The problems with the current schedule, as had been persistently highlighted, were mainly pertaining to sleep deprivation and lethargy. I will show you how the new routine has successfully solved these problems along with other boons.

The first major change comes in the form of classes: having two pre-breakfast classes instead of two post-lunch. Having PE classes after lunch is one of the most major problems Doscoc face. One does not need a diploma in science to figure out that doing physical activity immediately after a meal is not only detrimental to health but also results in poor performance. Moreover, the decrease in the number of schools results in more time being given to each subject at a stretch resulting in a better momentum. The increase in total teaching time as well would resolve the predicament of not having sufficient teaching time, which most teachers face. There has also been an increase in the number of 'Toyes' in a week, giving us more time to study.

Moving on to the most important parts of any Doscoc's life: food and sleep. One cannot help but notice the huge enclosed space on a Sunday given for brunch. The new idea of having a three hour continuous meal on a Sunday would provide more sleeping time for us after a hectic week. Not only Sundays, but given that there would be no first two schools on Saturday, would result in more sleeping time. Moreover, every weekday breakfast would be attended by individuals who already have their brains and bodies working which would result in us eating more 'healthy' food.

As far as the problem of sleep deprivation is concerned, there is more rest time given with the addition of a rest 'half-an-hour' in summers. Following the French system, the number of schools on Wednesday and Saturday have been reduced (although not completely abolished), resulting in more free time. Of course, the musicians, writers, actors and dancers would still drive themselves towards the edge, but given that an hour and a half is set aside exclusively for these activities, one should not face trouble. More boons include having two slots for Society Meetings instead of only one and having activities such as Yoga instead of PT in the morning when the competition isn't looming.

All in all, the new design would result in a Doscoc not tiring himself out and working efficiently in every sphere: academics, sports and co-curricular activities, something we've always strived to achieve.

### Counterpoint

Aayush Chowdhry

The news of the 'proposed weekly schedule' spread with such swiftness throughout School that before most people could glance at it, they chose to opine with such fervour that an animated debate had already broken out. The merits of the schedule clearly strike the eye but it is of paramount importance that some of the disadvantages be discussed, the foremost being that the gravest concerns of the School community have still not been adequately addressed.

Sleep deprivation and the general lethargic behaviour of Doscoc was the reason for the inception of this schedule, but this schedule keeps the same sleep routine. We still get six hours of sleep per day which is two hours less than what an average teenager requires. Along with this, the half an hour given to us during the summers is rather redundant as pragmatically, it will be used as extended working time. So essentially, we will still have the everyday sleepy Doscoc in classes. To aggravate this, classes would be before breakfast, early in the morning, with us having a mere fifteen minutes to brush, get ready and for some, to bathe as well! Say a Doscoc survives these two schools without standing outside class or getting shouted at, he still has to deal with the next five daunting 45-minute schools. As a matter of fact, numerous studies have shown that beyond the thirty minute mark, the human brain needs a change of setting to sustain its cognitive peak. Students too, in a study conducted by *The Telegraph*, believe that the ideal duration for a class should not be more than thirty minutes.

Another concern for the community is in fact the prospect of dwindled sports practices such as Basketball (especially in winters). Because P.T has been shifted up, the time for practices the School Team used to get in the morning has now been cut down to a maximum of 45-minutes, which is half of what it is now.

Another concern that most Doscoc have is the excess of 'Toye' time. The fifteen hours of mandatory 'Toye' per week right now is what causes students to grouse, so imagine 23 hours of 'Toye' in the middle of terms right after September Trials. This will in fact decrease the productivity of the Doscoc in 'Toye' as it will seem too monotonous, excessive or candidly, a drag.

All these arguments notwithstanding, the proposed schedule does have its positives and with a little amendment, I think it could successfully maximise the productivity of the school community and improve the overall attitude of Doscoc, further improving ourselves as the best boys' boarding school in India.



# A Dose of Diplomacy

*Printed below is an interactive session with Mr Tariq Karim, a Bangladeshi Diplomat who visited the School recently.*

**Q: Do you think that India made a mistake by involving itself in the Terai region of Nepal that affected Indo-Nepal relations?**

**Tariq Karim (TAK):** I have always believed that proximity in a partitioned world creates dynamics of its own. While Nepal was not a part of India, it was still being governed by the British. Moreover, the region adjoins Bihar and parts of Uttar Pradesh. Hence, a special relationship exists amongst these regions, which gave some credibility to India's involvement. Nepal has its own problems such as the inequality between the aristocracy and the monarchy and the common man living below them. Currently, the Madhesi people agitating in the Terai are in a position that is uncannily similar to ethnic Bengalis in Bangladesh, with the region currently unstable. If the Terai region descends into chaos, the ambers will fall down towards India. Hence India had to get involved because it does not want the effects of a destabilized Nepal to spill across to its borders. Ultimately, I do not think that such a decision was a 'mistake', but also believe that there is much work to do in terms of Nepal's political stability, which India must pay attention to as well.

**Q: How does the UN ensure equality and justice to smaller nations, keeping in mind the fact that the P-5 nations have 'veto' power in the UN Security Council?**

**TAK:** Let me draw an analogy. It pleases me to say that in the United States, and in Europe, there is an insurgent movement against the establishment which has been in place for the last 50-70 years. The political orders put in place following the end of World War II are the order that we have been living in. Now, you have insurgencies taking place against the political orders both inside nations and on the international sphere as well; you have insurgencies taking place against the perception of some oppressing the others. This is something in which your generation will be actively involved. The youth in these small nations are going to power such movements and are going to change their demographic electorate. Increasingly, it will be the new generation which will shape the future. For example, you can see the discontentment within America, in both the parties, which has given rise to a number of insurgent candidates and movements. This phenomenon has been happening all over the world, including at the United Nations, where influential blocs of smaller nations have been formed that the big powers are now compelled to reckon with.

**Q: Where do you exactly see India and Pakistan ten years down the line, and what do you think is important to resolve this issue?**

**TAK:** I have come to an age where I have grown really cynical as to whether the region is going to go anywhere at all. That's why my focus for the last 25 years has been on what is doable in the other regions, because there was so much gridlock in the mentioned region. I did not believe that South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) had any future, and even today, I am hesitant to answer in the affirmative. The only way SAARC would go forward is if we start focusing on areas of common ground, which unfortunately this area does not have on key issues. What is necessary to resolve issues in this region seems difficult to answer, yet it is not so difficult. The answer, in my opinion, involves the issue of democracy. We have doctrines of democracy everywhere, but they often don't work as we intend them to. The idea of democracy was thrust upon undivided India by the British who ruled it for over 200 years. It's not a philosophy or an idea indigenous to the region. For the past 3000 years, it was been ruled as an empire with many principalities and states. Now, democracy is not something which can simply be lent or borrowed: it is an evolutionary process and both India and Pakistan are yet to adjust themselves to it. If you take England's famed Magna Carta of 1250 - a charter which formed the base of modern democracy - it took more than 800 years for such principles to be absorbed by civil society. Eventually, it was the demise of the very authoritarian Queen Victoria that allowed democracy to finally take affect. Currently, both India and Pakistan have about 70 nascent years of experience with democracy, during which both have not yet absorbed its core principles, and thus have no firm common ground to cooperate on. For such cooperation to occur in the future, this progress of principles must occur. If we were to measure this progress of democracy on a scale of 1-10, I would give India a seven, Bangladesh around four, and Pakistan next to zero, the case of the latter being due to the strong influence of the military. It is the strongest and most well organized political entity in that nation. Until this situation changes, the democratic process cannot come into full play that will allow both India and Pakistan to share similar ideals that can form the basis of cooperation. I really do not know when this will happen, but we have seen Latin American countries go through similar cases, where it has taken them about 30-40 years to stabilize. Notwithstanding the time it takes, for any future cooperation between the two nations, democracy will be a common factor.

# From the The Editor's Desk

Aryan Chhabra

Upon learning of my appointment as the Editor of the *Weekly*, a surge of emotions flowed through me. These emotions primarily had to do with being the 'second-in-command' and the fear of not leaving a legacy behind. However, on further introspection, the realization that the *Weekly* is much bigger than myself dawned on me. The *Weekly* is the flagship publication of this School and has the responsibility of reporting School events and entertaining its readers.

However, in recent times it has often been branded 'monotonous' and 'morbid' due to its sheer seriousness and this is what we hope to change. We realize that with the amazing pace of life at Doon, the *Weekly* is cathartic for many readers. From articles relating to diverse issues like science and music, there will now be a vast genre of issues covered in the *Weekly*. The usual Week Gone By and the Dosco doodle will continue to tickle the funny bone of Doscos; life shouldn't be taken too seriously. While more of these issues are talked about at length in the Editorial, there is one issue that needs mentioning: ignorance. Ignorance, according to me, is the single biggest problem facing the world today. Be it the election of a certain demagogue or the decision to leave the European Union by the UK, the lack of informed opinion has always been and will continue to be a concern for the world at large. Apart from entertaining its readers, the *Weekly* has a far important role to play in the lives of Doscos, which is to present opinions and information that keep us informed. To that end, we will continue with our Under the Scanner and other relevant articles written to inform the Dosco community of various happenings around the world.

Another issue that irks me is the lack of enquiry and follow up of facts in School. It is important to realise that enquiry leads to answers, doubts lead to clarifications, and these struggles lead to success. They widen our horizons and shape our new perspectives that make for a more knowing being and empathetic individual. That being said, I would urge the School community to assume nothing. The outgoing Editor-in-Chief put it best in his Founder's Day Editorial, "Nothing must be termed as the truth as long as any and all endeavours to prove it otherwise have failed."

To conclude, for all those who term *Weekly* to be 'monotonous' and 'boring', I say give the *Weekly* a chance and it is with this chance that we hope to have a great year ahead.

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## Under the Scanner

The Global Citizen Festival | Karan Sampath

From Aamir Khan's speech, to Farhan Akhtar's recital, the Global Citizen festival has made ground-breaking progress in its India debut. The association of several large sponsors and celebrities with the festival has led to its popularity worldwide. Being organized by 'The Global Poverty Project', it falls in line with the UN's goal to end extreme poverty by 2030. The proceeds of all tickets sales are dedicated to poverty alleviation programmes. Furthermore, if one contributes directly to charity, they are entered into a sweepstakes for coveted free tickets. With Chris Martin, the lead singer of Coldplay, as the festival's creative director for the next fifteen years, the festival promises much more for fans across the globe. This year, the festival was held in two locations, New York City and Mumbai, with the latter concluding last week. The festival attracted countless fans from India and around the world, with as many as 80,000 turning up for the Coldplay concert. In addition, the stage was shared by Amitabh Bachchan, Jay Z and Shah Rukh Khan, among other prominent personalities.

Being a celebration of pop culture, this festival of light and sound is a unique way of bringing people together from all around the world, apart from its primary goal of poverty. This concert, true to its name, also seeks to promote the idea of a global citizen: a person who looks past national identity and has a more globalized outlook. It also features artists who come from different backgrounds and ethnicities, which promotes multiple cultures and their art forms on a global limelight.

But apart from the positive reception, there has also been widespread criticism due to the negative attitude of the fans. During the concert, many fans started booing actress Freida Pinto while she performed due to the fact that Coldplay was next. While their performance was intended as the festival's highlight, many felt that fans came only for them and thus sidelined the many well accomplished classical musicians in attendance, creating controversy.

Nonetheless, the festival did serve to both entertain thousands, and raise money for millions in poverty. In view of its success at Mumbai, we can surely expect to see more versions of this mega concert in the future.

# Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Section 153A of the Indian Penal Code says-

Whoever (a) by words, either spoken or written, or by signs or by visible representations or otherwise, promotes or attempts to promote, on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, caste or community or any other ground whatsoever, disharmony or feelings of enmity, hatred or ill-will between different religious, racial, language or regional groups or castes or communities, or (b) **commits any act which is prejudicial to the maintenance of harmony between different religious,** racial, language or regional groups or castes or communities, and which disturbs or is likely to disturb the public tranquillity, ... shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both.

It is indeed disconcerting that the article 'Tides of Intolerance' in Issue 2450 of the *Weekly* represented such prejudice by generalising Hindus in a most crude fashion. The article stated that "Hindus have exploited their powers in the country", without providing adequate evidence of such actions. Such words lead to the portrayal of a stereotypical Hindu as an exploiter and thus, characterises them as a person of little moral character. The article thus, not only outrages sentiments without any justification but also fondly ignites communal sentiments. Though the article aimed to highlight "growing intolerance" that has emerged all of a sudden in "BJP-ruled" India, it openly expressed such intolerant ideals on its own, perhaps the writers' biases. While they repeatedly emphasised the rise of the "RSS, BJP and the Shiv Sena" they failed to even produce a single mention of an Islamist extremist party, many which have gained prominence faster than the BJP. Maybe it is because the writers fail to notice Asauddin Owasis's name frequenting controversy in most newspapers. Along with that, while the writers leave no opportunity in targeting the "extremist" Prime Minister, they seem to remain silent on the active efforts of the Centre to get the Uniform Civil Code passed - a legislation that would finally make India a secular country - something which our Prime Minister Nehru failed at doing in an effort to consolidate minority votes. While accusing 'Hindutva' forces for the Malegaon explosions, the writers also failed to acknowledge the charges filed against Muslim groups such as the SIMI for conducting similar atrocities. The writers also portray Muslims as the sole victims of discrimination ignoring the 1984 Sikh riots (3000 Sikhs Dead), the expulsion

of Kashmiri *Pandits* (500,000 people expelled) and the 2008 anti-Christian pogroms, all of which have been of a much higher scale than the Dadri lynching (one person dead) and the Malegaon bombing (37 dead), all of which suggest that the non-Muslim population has also suffered overwhelming discrimination in the country. The article used the term 'Hindu nationalist' in a derogatory manner. I personally, do not see anything wrong with a Hindu being a nationalist. The article also stated that Islamic terrorism is simply a reaction to discrimination at the hand of media. However, it did not mention other kinds of terrorism. An interesting inquiry would be if the massacres of minorities in Pakistan and Bangladesh, both Muslim majority countries, is the cause of marginalisation of the Muslim majority at the hands of the media. I would conclude by writing that such an article has no space in a secular institution like The Doon School and more importantly in a secular nation like India.

Sincerely,

Advait Ganapathy

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| Humour |

## Price Paid in Stew

Armaan Verma

Nearly all were silent in the Toye,  
Save the antics of a single boy,  
Who twiddled his thumbs and idled about,  
He was dark-haired and short and stout.

Tore out a paper ball did he,  
And scribbled something hurriedly,  
He threw it high and it took flight,  
Far from the vengeful Toye Mon's sight.

It crashed onto a nearby head,  
Which wrote and threw back, on it said,  
"I care not if you're bored, buddy,  
Stop passing chits and let me study."

The boy chucked it with a light shrug,  
And opened his locker to pull out a mug,  
And along with it a kettle too,  
To cook up some nice hot Maggi stew.

By which time, the smell had travelled,  
The boy knew the plot had unraveled,  
When the Toye Mon, with wrathful fury, spake,  
"Methinks I smell a Maggi cake."

"For this, I'll have to punish you,  
And confiscate your lovely stew",  
He snatched the mug with a speed so sheer,  
And wolfed it down with a cruel sneer.



| Creative |  
Sanity

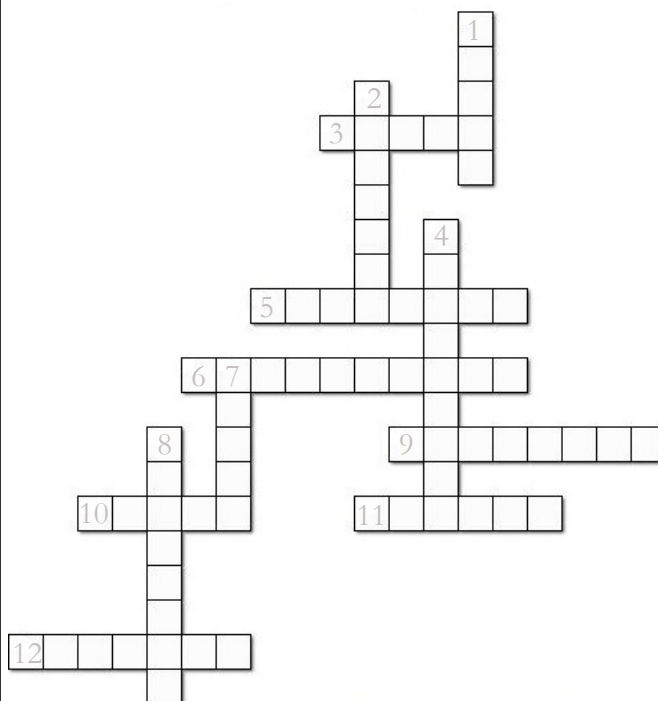
Kushagra Kar

The Hotel Blue, one of the most prestigious hotels in town, today stood at the heart of a murder. The victim was the head chef and all I know, is that he was killed in the working hours of the day. When I was given the case file, I was warned that this might involve psychopaths, but I decided not to worry too much. I was escorted to the chef's office where I saw the scene of the crime. The room had a rack with some crockery and cutlery in the corner. Then I saw the body. The chef had bled from his right arm and abdomen, and his chest had bruises. I walked out to the dining space only to find it swarmed with police and reporters. Everyone was going about their own business. The reporters, though, seemed a bit more excited than everyone else because this was big news and each was trying to get the juiciest bite. I decided not to pay much heed to their constant buzzing and began to look around for something to investigate. This, I found, when I looked at the row of informants and suspects who were getting cozy on the couches. A boy, who was around the age of seventeen, was looking at people frantically, with utter terror in his eyes. As I went closer, I began to notice that he was sitting away from others and was covering his ears. Before I could go to him I was called back to the kitchen to look around a bit. I looked at the boy one last time and returned to the kitchen. When I got there, I was surprised to learn that the only possible evidence of a struggle, was a fork that was found on the floor, with a red tinge on the tines. This was the only evidence and so I decided to pack up. I safely placed the fork in an evidence bag and noted the names of the suspects. When I got to my office, I sat down at my desk and pulled up my sleeves because I knew what awaited me for the coming night. Before I could do anything else, I had the burden of finding out what was wrong with that kid. I took out his file and began to read it. The first thing I noticed was the term schizophrenia. I researched the word and was intrigued by what I found. I found that 'Schizophrenia is a condition in which people are plagued by delusions and hallucinations. The affected were described as having speech problems and an aversion to emotions or any motivation. When I thought about this, I realized that the kid who I saw could potentially have been the killer. Assumptions are not always the right thing to make in investigations, but this piece of information was strong enough to support it. The boy could have thought that the chef was insulting him and taken a fork from the rack and assaulted him. I went back to the hotel but it was deserted. I took a round of the place and found that one of the windows was open. I entered the hotel through that

open window and found myself in the kitchen area. I started to walk toward the office when I suddenly heard a scream. I ducked behind a counter and was shocked to see the boy. He was screaming and in the corner of the room. I tried to go towards him when I realized why he was screaming. The dead chef was coming at him with a fork. All I could do was scream, because if the chef was dead, what was I seeing?

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## Crossword



Note: All answers related to persons in this crossword refer to their surnames.

**Across**

- 3. Indian-origin CEO of PepsiCo.
- 5. Capital of Hungary.
- 6. Location of the World Bank's Headquarters.
- 9. Greek god of parties and festivals.
- 10. He is known as the 'Iron Man' of India.
- 11. The first Indian to receive a Nobel Prize.
- 12. The world's highest paid sportsperson.

**Down**

- 1. Host of the 2023 ICC World Cup.
- 2. The director of 'The Godfather' trilogy.
- 4. Japan's national sport.
- 7. The world's highest uninterrupted waterfall.
- 8. The author of 'Gone with the Wind'.

Answers to This Week's Crossword	
Across	Down
3. Nooyi	1. India
5. Budapest	2. Coppola
6. Washington	4. Wrestling
9. Dionysus	7. Angel
10. Patel	8. Mitchell
11. Tagore	
12. Ronaldo	

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

# The 'Weekly' Gone By

CC Chengappa

Looking into the Headmaster's office this past week, I noticed a couple of youngsters who were in the process of getting their interviews done as part of their admission process into School. I was taken back to the day I sat outside the very same office on the exact same decrepit sofa, staring at the honour rolls, wondering how people with long names got their full name inscribed on those wooden boards. It seemed ironic for someone like me to think of that. After what seemed like ages, a boy walked out of Dr. McLaughlin's office carrying an easel and a set of paint brushes along with a host of certificates. He glanced at me and smirked, probably laughing at the state I was in. It dawned upon me that I had nothing to show. I had no time to respond and I cursed myself for not carrying 'objects that represented my interests'. In the midst of all of this last minute thinking, I was called in. I summoned up the dregs of confidence that was left in me and entered. The sight of three burly men, dressed in suits seated around a table almost made me faint. I felt small in front of what I later realized was a somewhat younger version of Mr. Burret and Mr. Nair. I managed to get through the interview...unscathed. Six years later, I stand here wondering whether the boy who smirked at me ever made it, feeling glad about the fact that I stand about two feet taller than the men who granted me admission into this School. This is my message to the larger section of the School community: learn to constantly question the functioning of the institution you are a part of. This institute was not made to work upon the ideals of those who cannot differentiate between right and wrong. Obedience is only restricted to a certain limit, after which an individual must step in and represent a collective interest. Upon hearing something new, your first instinct must be to question what you have been told and seek to understand whether it is right. It is said that children have the best sense of justice and are the ones who choose best in a tricky situation. It is a value which very few people manage to sustain as they grow older and the School community should learn to dwell on it while there is a chance. Learn to move out of your comfort zone and speak up. "Speak a little truth and people lose their minds". It is here in *Chandbagh* that I realized that the words of the rapper, Ice Cube, were actually true. After two years of constantly questioning decisions and actions by various members of the community – most of all, our decision makers - in my weekly column, there is something I feel which stands out and sets this community apart from the world outside - the ability to preserve traditions and keep alive a unique culture. In a day and age where education is considered more of a business, Doon has no choice but to keep up with the rest on the monetary front. But what we have managed to preserve are traditions that have defined the School in a certain way. These traditions are the backbone of any institution and it is important that they do not die out. My idea of School traditions include mid-terms, cheering, punishments and the bond that exists between the students, staff and support staff of every house. Equally important is the value that Doscocs attach to consequences – to be a man and face the consequences of his actions. These customs exist at other schools as well, but are practiced in a completely different manner at Chandbagh. It is something that we must be proud of.

I once faced heavy criticism from the previous Editor-in-Chief who thought that a certain article needed to be according to what he thought was 'correct English' (read his understanding of IB English). At the same time, a few others praised me for the very same article which got published. This left me quite confused but I eventually realized that I had to learn to take advice from the right people. The community needs to understand the importance of learning to differentiate between what you hear and what is true. Personally, I have learnt more about the world outside from constant interactions with the support staff of our school. My seniors have taught me to toughen up and face the inevitable. As a junior I was told that everything happens for a reason and there will be a point in life when I realize that there is a time and place for everything. My batch mates were smart enough to realize this early in their school life. This too is a gift in itself and is something that is special about any boarding school around the world.

As my time on the *Weekly* comes to a close, I know for a fact that this is a journey which has taught me one aspect of life: The gift of communication. My parents told me that communication was the most important thing that a person should learn when on his own. I have learnt it after living for six years in this 'abode in the middle of tranquillity'. This is the end of my affiliation with The Doon School Weekly. I know what it is to be part of something that you genuinely love, and have to give it up and move on. There is a time and a place for everything. I think it is time I let some other sensible soul take over.

In the words of the much revered John Snow...*My watch has ended.*

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