A Dosco discusses a phenomenon in our School’s community.

In a closed-community like our own, teenagers tend to form groups of friends. While this is but natural, it has led to the rise of a particular type of group whose behaviour harms those around them: in essence, a ‘cool gang’ of students that creates an undesirable culture in our School, the gravity of which is the reason for this article. Let it be clear: this piece doesn’t intend to rant, but to shed light on the effects of such behaviour that has become a cause of concern for all.

To understand this issue, it is important to know where its first seeds are sown, which is in D-Form. In the first few months after joining School, those who show promising talent in sports gain instant recognition, being quickly labelled as “the studs of their form” by seniors and form-mates alike and becoming the first ‘popular’ kids. The rest of the batch, young and impressionable, starts viewing these ‘studs’ with certain awe, for they are the first boys to form an identity. It must be understood that in D-Form, students try to find their footing and understand life in a boarding school. While some search for a passion or two, others seek easy popularity by clustering around the cool kids, since conformity to them increases one's popularity and leaves one unperturbed by the rest of the Form. As more students are attracted, the peer pressure for the unaffected to join increases and the ‘gang’ begins to grow.

Later on, usually between C and B Form, the negative effects start setting in. For one, the gang’s members continue their tussle for popularity among themselves, and usually (often intensely) stoop to politicking to position themselves on top. At the same time, the gang begins to become more watertight than ever and starts sealing itself off from the rest of the Form. Other students become ‘outliers’ or the ‘un-cool’ folk, and are often bullied and sometimes boycotted from the Form’s social circuit. Though some non-members remain immune because of their merits, the larger segment of the Form remains excluded from these students and is viewed with indifference. The passage of time also causes members develop large egos and an arrogance that others often suffer from since the gang seeks to impose its opinions on everyone else. Fearing a violent backlash and isolation, other students don’t dare to speak out against them and the Form remains suppressed.

The journey of the gang then continues into A and S-Form, where seniority and power play enter the picture. Seniority creates a sense of audacity to test the system, and the bad habits of jumping walls, peling juniors and disrespecting Masters soon set in. Surely, every Dosco knows those who – when not bunking - stroll in late for class to their favourite seats in the back row, throw sarcastic remarks and crack jokes that disrupt the sanctity of a classroom and waste the time set for academics, leading to them being most responsible for the gross cheating in examinations. Along with audacity, there also comes a point for the gang where bad habits replace talent as the new way to be ‘cool’. Members, under peer pressure, indulge themselves in vices and every known illicit indulgence. While this is bad enough for them, the far worse problem is the example these boys set for their juniors, who look up to their seniors for the guidance they need. In this manner, their bad habits trickle down and fester amongst younger Forms.

By now, it is clear that everything mentioned has harmful effects on both the gang and the larger
Akshat Jha and Yuvan Jaidka scored
Netherlands
held at
Intershoot Air Pistol Shooting Competition
Akshat Jha, Yuvan Jaidka, Shourya Agarwal, Varad
General Assembly:
Heads of Crises
Vice President:
Harshit Bansal
Devang Laddha
Archit Barthwal
Chairpersons
Conference, 2017:
Hindi Dramatics STA
The following boys have been appointed to various
positions for the year 2017:
Rhaptis Bansal

Adityavardhan Agarwal
Ishaan Jhawar
Archit Barthwal
RAihan Vadar
Arjun Singh
Shikhar Trivedi
Arnav Vaish
Vatsal Gupta
Aryan Chhabra
Vedant Mehta
Devang Lakdhi
Yuvan Jaidka
Harshit Bansal
Zoraver Mehta
Vice President: Ojas Kharbanda
Heads of Crises
Committees: Salman Mallick
General Assembly: Bharat Choudhary and Omar Chishti
The Perfect Shot
Akshat Jha, Yuvan Jaidka, Shourya Agarwal, Varad
Mann and RAihan Vadar participated in the 40th
Intershoot Air Pistol Shooting Competition
held at Sporthal Ockenburgh, The Hague, The
Netherlands from February 1-4, 2017.
Akshat Jha and Yuvan Jaidka scored 542/600 and
531/600 respectively in the 10-metre category,
and qualified for trials for the Indian Shooting Team.
Congratulations!

Let the Games Begin!
Pratham Bansal

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3. The Doon School Weekly Saturday, February 25

Let the Games Begin!
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5. The Doon School Weekly Saturday, February 25

### Return to the Ashes

Devang Laddha comments on the French presidential campaign of Marine Le Pen and its implications for Europe.

France has always been one of the countries at the core of political change and volatility. It was the first country to raise the cry for the modern political ideal of 'Liberty, Equality and Fraternity'. Its ideals have always looked up to and have been emulated innumerable times. The country has constantly displayed these ideals, especially after the horrifying terror attacks in November. However, today these ideals stand at the precipice of total collapse. The race for the French Presidency is underway and the current forerunner, Marine Le Pen of the National Front Party, threatens to undo three centuries of French history.

Topping rival contender François Fillon, Ms Pen has stormed through the polls, riding the recent wave of right-wing populism. Fillon, mired in a corruption scandal surrounding his wife, has been relegated to third place. This has left Emmanuel Macron of the En Marche! Party, the only major liberal candidate, at second place. With the current President, François Hollande, choosing not to stand in the election, the ruling Socialist Party has been relegated to the fifth position, giving Ms Pen a wide lead.

Ms Pen stands against immigration, abortion, free trade and wants France to leave the European Union. Blaming globalization and Islamic fundamentalism for the problems in France, Ms Pen echoes the words of US president Donald Trump and promises 'France-first' policies. Using the radio and television to gain popularity, she promises the French people to uphold French values and secure French jobs. Ms Pen threatens to cause major problems in Europe through her campaign rhetoric of the removal of refugees in France.

Firstly, her policies of 'liberating' France from the European Union will critically fracture the already crumbling body. With the heavy debts of Greece, Portugal and Spain foundering on the precipice, if France were to leave the Union, the revamping of these economies would be near impossible. France contributes nearly 19 billion Euros to the EU and without that money, EU projects would be doomed. The Euro itself would greatly weaken and this would lead to other strong economies like that of Germany moving out of the EU. This would not only break the Union, but also make the debt-ridden countries akin to failed states with high rates of unemployment and heavy debts. Having to default and with no money from the EU, along with no support from their neighbours, total chaos would ensue in Europe.

Ms Pen's victory however, will also strengthen the right-wing stand in Europe. With all major far right conservative parties rising in Europe, she will give a boost to a more conservative Europe. If France were to adopt a French-centric policy, disregarding the bigger problems of Europe, other countries would follow suit.

With no united stand against these problems, countries will want to adopt selfish policies just to safeguard their own economies, leading to a situation of international crisis. This mess will only be furthered by the massive influx of immigrants. With harsh policies against immigrants, right-wing politicians like Ms Pen threaten to aggravate the immigrant problem in the EU, leading to the deportation of refugees from Europe itself. The new refugees will be forced to use extreme measures to survive, aggravating the chaos.

However, besides all this, the support of Ms Pen has shown something much darker. Her campaign has challenged the ideals established by France, which have been a pillar of strength promoting tolerance and equality. For three centuries, France had been the country that the world could look up for its exemplary humanitarian and democratic ideals. These ideals have been shaken at their roots, if not broken by Marine Le Pen. The right-wing populism emerging across the world is making the world more vicious and malevolent than ever before. With people not looking to others and being selfish, they are inviting trouble for others and themselves. After the attacks in November, a lot of hate and anger was seen against Muslims. This, however, never really showed up in France, due to President Hollande's calls for tolerance. However, with Marine Le Pen as President, this anger would re-emerge and manifest itself in the executive. She might indeed take up measures like Donald Trump against Muslims from various countries. As Salman Malik wrote in the *Weekly*, this is what makes people look towards radical fundamentalists. With right-wing politicians rising, the burden falls on us, the people, to show our tolerance at every instance possible. In the end, we can hope that like previous scenarios, the pollsters do turn out to be wrong, for Trump is more than what the world can deal with.

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### A Dramatist’s Tour

Aryan Bhattacharjee reports on the recently concluded school trip to the National School of Drama, Delhi.

With a performance at Founder's and the Inter-House One Act Play around the corner, a bus containing sixteen drama enthusiasts set out for the nineteen Bhurat Rang Mahatma at the National School of Drama, New Delhi, escorted by SNA and DKM.

The first evening we saw a phenomenal autobiography - *Oautais*, directed by Randhik Kumar revolving around Sharankumar Limbale, a Dalit activist fighting for Dalit rights. It showcased the inhuman conditions subjected upon the Dalits in rural Maharashtra and revealed a different aspect to equality - a right taken for granted so often and by so many of us. The play possessed impeccable screen-play and direction with scenes progressing in the most cohesive manner and without any complete black-out. We were still coming to terms with the harsh realities of an unequal society when we made our way to another auditorium for the second play of the evening - *Tamasha-e-Nautanki*.

With the rapid rise of television and video sharing, it seems to many that traditional Indian Drama or *Oautais* is fast approaching extinction. The play showcased how *Nautanki*, the Indian folk theatre has been forced to modify and reduce itself to vulgarity and cheap comedy, forgetting its essence of spreading awareness on important issues and mirroring common man’s problems *Ms Tamasha-e-Nautanki*, directed by Sajuda and written by Mohan Joshi set out to change just that. Set in rural India, it captured the wit and wisdom in traditional *Nautanki* and its various elements such as its music and *shayari* centred humorously on the victory of purity over vulgarity.

The next evening we met again to watch *Blakbecue* which is the British slang for a criminal. Written by David Harrower, it moved our attention towards child abuse and significant psychological destruction caused by it to both the victim and the criminal. It did so through an intense 80 minute dialogue between Una, a 28 year old woman who was abused fifteen years ago by an elderly man Rajesh. It left us gasping for breath during the three hours we had before the next and final play by the Turkish duo Kian, *The Dream of the Phoenix*.

Written and directed by Mohammed Khaidi, it was a silent and heavily symbolic play involving the conflict between an artist and his conscience. It touched on the notion that all success in the world follows the bell curve and leads inevitably to a fresh start. This requires all of us to rebuild ourselves, much like what the phoenix does as it is reborn from the very flames that burnt it to death. In every scene, the protagonists struggles with his integrity and at every end emerges victorious, symbolizing our own resolved conflicts.

As a result, most of us pondered upon the truths of existence on the Nanda Devi Express back to Delhi.

Inspired and stimulated, we entered Chandbagh the next morning, determined to put all that we had learned to use at the One Act Plays, Junior Summer productions and improve as actors and directors. Our excitement for the activity grew inexorably after the day and hopefully the many productions ahead will be testimonies to that.

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### I’m a Workaholic

Mr G Gyaneshwaran

A candle is alight on a table top.

Time consumes it at a steady pace.

The book on the table top asks the candle –

“*How are you?*

Why are you burning away all the time?

Why are you becoming tinier every minute?

Slow down; take rest.

Listen to me, if you care for me.”

The candle replies –

“I want to burn bright.

In brightness I shine in glory.

If I’m not alight, my world will

Plunge into darkness.

The demons of loneliness

Will haunt me in the darkness.

So, while I last, let me burn bright

And bask in the joy of your sight.”

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### Toye Frenzy

Raghab Kediyal

Once there was a little boy,

Who came into the School

Had a hat time picking a Toye,

So he made an utter fool.

He sat on it,

Stood on the other

Looked through ‘about a ton’,

After an hour he left the Toye to say nothing but ‘Oh Brother’

His form-mates came in one by one,

Laughing at the boy.

They picked their desks till there were none,

And he was left without a Toye.
A Scholarly Session

Professor Nandini Sundar is a member of the Board of Governors and Sociologist at the Delhi School of Economics. She is also a social activist, and despite facing threats to her life, was the plaintiff in a Supreme Court case that outlawed state-sponsored vigilantism. Recently, the weekly sat down with Professor Sundar to discuss her work and efforts.

The Doon School Weekly (DSW): It has now been nearly 50 years since the North-East and Kashmiri areas under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act have been accused of violating human rights. In response, what is necessary to reduce such atrocities?

NDS: Even though the Supreme Court has declared the ‘Salwa Judum’ illegal and banned vigilantism, the government has continued to support such groups. There have been organisations which have the same leaders as this movement that have intimidated political activists, researchers, journalists and others. This has been a great embarrassment to the Court. The Court had also ordered that the police not employ adalats in combat operations. But the government countered this and changed the name of what were called Special Police Officers or SPOs to Armed Auxiliary Officers. It’s a complete slap in the face of the Court.

DSW: Our efforts to abolish the ‘Salwa Judum’ vigilante outfit in Chhattisgarh have led to the Supreme Court outlawing the group. In spite of this, do any elements still remain, and if so, then to what effect?

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DSW: Security forces in Northeastern and Kashmiri areas under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act have been accused of violating human rights. In response, what is necessary to reduce such atrocities?

NDS: I think that Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act should be repealed. It is a colonial act, which violates international conventions and is completely anti-democratic because it makes a section of the population live under emergency rule. Anybody can be shot at sight and their houses can be invaded without a warrant. Hence, I think it’s completely unconstitutional to have such an act, and our priority should be to repeal it. I also think it’s necessary to look at the causes for the conflict and address them through dialogue, and confidence-building measures. It’s shocking to note that for 58 years issues in the North-East haven’t been resolved, which means that present measures obviously haven’t been working.

DSW: In defying the Chhattisgarh Police, you faced multiple threats and legal action. In the face of these odds, especially in the Indian legal system which often lacks due process, what kept you going?

NDS: I think that the State’s attempts to intimidate people don’t really work. The violations they charge you with are too big to be true. Anybody who goes to Bastar in Chhattisgarh and faces such situations is not going to give up, because one is committed to the people there. I don’t think I have any special form of bravery or commitment; it’s just that what the government thinks or tries to deter me with does not bother me at all. Also, I have my own separate life teaching, which helps me keep going forward.

DSW: Lastly, as a sociologist and academic, do you have any advice for Doschos who wish to pursue an academic career and/or social activism?

NDS: I am frankly think there is any ‘advice’ to give for students entering academic life. It’s just that you have to decide if that kind of life is right for you. It is not instantly fulfilling; for instance, when you do your PhD, it consumes about five to six years and there is no visible reward on a daily basis. It is indeed a very challenging life in that sense. Also, it is not very well-paying compared to other jobs, but it is certainly satisfying if you like teaching or research, and the level of freedom it gives you to pursue your interests is immense.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I have seen a contradiction in the School’s judgment this year. Our School has since time immemorial followed a system of seasonal games in which all major sports – namely cricket, hockey, football and athletics – are played for over two weeks in a calendar year and are compulsory for all boys not involved in minor sports. The idea of this system is to give the boys an exposure to all the major sports practiced in School.

This year, however, the Senior Inter-House Cricket Competition began after a mere two weeks of practices and ended very early due to the A-Form Preliminary Board Exams. Because of these changes, hockey practices are being held for the seniors during the normal cricket season, even as juniors play their cricket Inter-House matches. This has left boys who love both sports (and there are many) stuck between the pan and the fire. I wonder: does an Inter-House competition mark the end of a sports season? Do we really play all sports just to win Inter-House competitions? I strongly disagree.

Some houses have even made hockey practices compulsory for the boys who aren’t on the School Cricket Team. This is a major blow to those who love cricket but do not play for the School team. Adaptation of its kind has also been brought in to PE schools. Why then is there no option to play cricket in parts of the year apart from the cricket season? Even in November, there were full-fledged hockey training sessions for the seniors. We clearly see that this contradicts our School’s balanced sports system.

Agreed, the IPSC Hockey Tournament is coming up, but if this is really the rationale behind the juggling of seasons the sake of one sport, then the School should let football, cricket and athletics teams to participate in their tournaments in any part of the year – which as we know, doesn’t happen. Most other School teams play only one or two major tournaments a year, subject to their falling under seasonal limits.

Some have often thought there’s an increasing aversion to their falling under seasonal limits.

Letter to the Editor

Divyansh Nautiyal

One day, he matured enough to realise he was an orphan. Coming to terms with parental abandonment isn’t an easy journey, and it’s one complicated by the wait to be adopted. The orphans around him had their coping mechanisms, from mere indifference to morbidly depressed musings. He fell into the latter camp. Swamped in the orphange, the tough restrictions and monotonous routine of life soon made life hardly bearable. The food they were fed was pathetic; stark and cold like the meals he’d had with his family. He cursed every second of continued existence and brooded for hours on where to pin the blame. Who had landed him in this penitentiary, his parents, himself, or Fate?

Looking back, it had been the brightest of days. He had returned from school, had a comforting meal with his parents and he was heading off for a nap; life was going on as it always had. The sudden sight of his packed luggage and expressionless faces of his parents as they stood his room’s door and gave him nightmares. He ended up in that miserable orphanage the very same day, and his parents only met him once after that abandonment. The meeting was brief, with helpfulness all around. The tears and sobs as they left for the last time. He felt like a distant shadow. One felt like a distant shadow.

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One felt like a distant shadow.
I thought this week was the one. The one that keeps columnists up late at night, sweating in anticipation of running into a form of writer’s block. The week where absolutely nothing worth a tongue-in-cheek mention seems to happen in Chandbagh. The week (and there are several in the Spring term) which might be erased from record with barely any protests from our collective consciousness. Looking at what’s to come, however, it’s safe to say I was quite mistaken.

The weekend was rather quieter than previous ones, with many of the ISC candidates having departed for their last phase of ‘studying’ back home. The annual cricket fixture with Pilibhit was an enjoyable Sunday distraction, and ended with both teams at par. The concept of cricket draws was an alien to many of us, but the now three-week-old brunch (insert obligatory WGB brunch compliment here) felt as familiar as long running traditions like PT. On that issue, there’s an informal new punishment system: absent marks will result in the taking away/denial of whatever you love most within this campus. Speaking from personal experience, this new system is shockingly effective and certainly not to be taken lightly.

Monday saw the Junior Cricket Competition being bowled off in the new format (actually the reinstatement of the old format?) and matches being played over, as long as, four days. Tuesday’s dinner marked the first surprise address by the School Captain to the student body, on the persistent problem of ‘filth’ in the washrooms (No, not the kind you’re thinking about, though that’s an equally serious). With the lightning quick removal of offensive graffiti and a few confessions, the School narrowed avoided what would have been 2017’s inaugural imposition of martial law. The draft schedule for the upcoming final Trials was released this week, galvanising some more reluctant Doscos into academic action. Do forgive the necessary omission of all interesting events from Thursday onwards, the Friday holiday has repercussions on our printing schedule. There will be full coverage of the musical/romantic events of the Friday orchestra and high tea in the next issue with exhaustive detail, since the rest of the Senior Editorial Board (this one will be out of town, sorry ladies) probably wouldn’t have success in other pursuits anyway.

The Week Gone By
Omar Chishti

I thought this week was the one. The one that keeps columnists up late at night, sweating in anticipation of running into a form of writer’s block. The week where absolutely nothing worth a tongue-in-cheek mention seems to happen in Chandbagh. The week (and there are several in the Spring term) which might be erased from record with barely any protests from our collective consciousness. Looking at what’s to come, however, it’s safe to say I was quite mistaken.

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Crossword

Company Tag-lines

Note: The following clues are slogans used by various franchises. Some of the slogans used are newly-adopted by companies or are older slogans currently not used.

Across
4. “Hello tomorrow.”
5. “The happiest place on Earth.”
8. “So good.”
12. “Das Auto.”
13. “Impossible is nothing.”

Down
1. “There is no substitute.”
2. “Taste the feeling.”
3. “Greatness Awaits.”
6. “Just do it.”
7. “I’m lovin’ it.”
11. “A crown for every achievement.”

Answers to This Week’s Crossword
1. Porsche  6. Nike
2. Coke    11. Rolex
3. Playstation  7. McDonalds
4. Emirates   10. eBay
5. Disneyland 12. Volkswagen
8. KFC      13. Adidas
9. Apple

8. The Doon School Weekly Saturday, February 25