Established in 1936



The Doon School WEEKLY Saturday, March 25 | Issue No. 2464



For Auld Lang
Syne

The Heading Hazard

For Days to Climb?

The Holiday Checklist

A Man for All Seasons

Mr Manu Mehrotra bids farewell to Mr Skand Bali on the occasion of his departure from School.

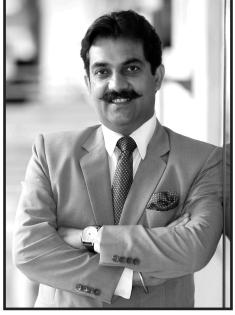
I will remember Mr Bali as a great friend and a humorous individual. Although I, and indeed many others, will miss his warmth and company at School, my experience with him will remain as he leaves our campus, for that is characteristic of Mr Bali – he ensures that friendships do last.

He joined school in July 2005 as a Geography master and, since then, has cultivated a strong reputation in School both as a professional and a kind individual. A hard-worker, he authored multiple Geography

textbooks while teaching environmental education, political science as well as his own subject, not to mention tutorial duties and later on running a House. Additionally, he handled the Career Counselling Department, was the Master-in-Charge of the Stage Committee and worked considerably for the Yearbook, contributing to the success of these activities on numerous occasions.

Above all these, I received a glimpse of Mr Bali's dedication to his duties when we worked together for the IAYP. Always being open to ideas and working in a democratic manner, he was a great person to work with and enabled the activity to progress immensely. The outcome of this is evident- hundreds of students now pursuing the award programme and many masters being trained to be the IAYP leader. These efforts led to his appointment as the Head of the National Training Panel for the IAYP – an honour for both himself and the School.

Simultaneously, his career in pastoral care began at Oberoi House in 2008, when he was appointed the Assistant Housemaster. From there he moved to Jaipur House in the same capacity before finally moving



to Tata House, again as the Assistant Housemaster before his promotion to Housemaster in 2011. As the leader of that House, he has indeed left an indelible mark on multiple levels: be it the fundraising for the Pagal Gymkhana in 2012 or the House winning both the Academic Cup as well as The Doon School Cup. In disciplinary matters as well, Mr Bali admirably held high the rules and spirit of the School. The result of these efforts is the resounding success of Tata House's numerous achievements.

Over the years I constantly heard positive feedback about his work behind the scenes across multiple School forums. I am sure his capabilities and leadership as a Housemaster will assist him at the school he will soon head, improving it markedly as he did Tata House. In this regard, he was especially supportive on my appointment to head Oberoi House, being generous with his time to offer advice that drew from his seasoned experience. Whenever I happened to face any tricky situation, I found him a patient listener and one who assessed matters from all perspectives. He understood the occurrence of disagreements now and then and suggested ways to find common ground that could resolve matters. Naturally, I had come to value his balanced observations and I do hope that he shares more of his expertise at his new school and later in life. It will, as it did with me, help greatly.

Apart from all the work, Mr. Bali was above all enthusiastic and deeply involved with the enjoyable moments of boarding-school life. Be it on a trip to Antarctica or Japan, trekking in the Thar Desert or to the Mount Everest Base Camp, he possessed a tremendous amount of energy to embark on these journeys, showcasing (Contd. on Page 3)



Regulars

Problems are not stop signs, they are guidelines."
-Robert Schuller

IAYP

The following have been awarded the **Duke of Edinburgh's International Award** at their respective levels:

Bronze Standard:

Rana Sunjog Thind Ishaan Agarwal
Devang Laddha Siddharth Gupta
Aditya Goel Anuman Goel
Aditya Singhee Siddhanth Singhania

Silver Standard: Nehansh Saxena

Congratulations!

Wired-In

The International Informatics Olympiad, organised by the Silver Zone Foundation, was conducted on November 3, 2016. Over 1.5 million students across 7000 schools worldwide participated in the olympiad which tests computer science aptitude.

The following students received awards for their performance:

Gold Medals: Abhiraj Lamba, Aditya Oberai, Samarth Kapila, Shreyas Minocha, Vagarth Dvivedi

Silver Medals: Keshav Tiwari, Rahil Vohra, Vansh Gupta

Bronze Medals: Anay Shah, Viraj Gulati, Yatin Gour

In the **second round** of the Olympiad, Shreyas Minocha was ranked **3rd** in **India** and received a cash prize of **Rs 5000**.

Well done!

UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

You are not so too cool.

Kanishkh Kanodia,

I am not so dumb as you think.

Aditya Singhee, really?

Go to the Oberoi House.

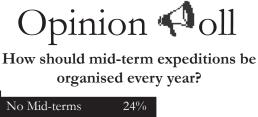
Salman Mallick, eager to get back.

What date is 16th March?

MHS, losing track of time.

Lets hideous it!

Aradhya Singhal, playing hide-and-seek.

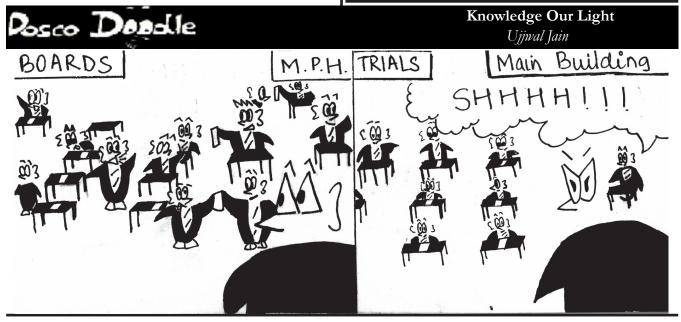


| 37% |
|-----|
| 39% |
| |

(382 members of the School community were polled)

Around the World in 80 Words

Yogi Adityanath, Trivendra Rawat and Amarinder Singh were sworn in as the Chief Ministers of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Punjab respectively. Telecommunication giants Vodafone and Idea had a merger. UK announced the trigger date for Brexit. Failed North Korean missile exploded seconds after launch. Elsewhere, an air raid killed 33 at a Syrian refugee shelter. FC Barcelona made history with a 6-1 comeback win over PSG. USA and UK banned cabin laptops on certain inbound flights from the Middle East.



(Contd. from Page 1)

the more amiable, human side of himself. Meanwhile, he maintained considerable grit and determination in dealing with adversities. I still remember the time when he was admitted at the Hospital with a serious condition, yet recovered quickly and was on time for his duties. Limitations are what you make of them, and for Mr Bali, no problem was too big for him to handle.

In the end, it is not so much his varied achievements, but his forthright nature and his quick wit that will be remembered as he departs Chandbagh (and of course, the signature moustache). I regret that he is leaving which will now deny me company of a fine gentleman - but understand that things are rarely constant, and we must accept the changes that occur. It leaves me to wish him the very best at his new institution and future endeavours. They are indeed lucky to have a principal like him, and I'm sure, with time, will come to regard Mr Bali with the fondness that we have at Doon.

The 'Cyber-Crime' Crisis

Shreyas Minocha discusses the threat of crime in the cyber realm.

Technology is a queer thing: it brings you great gifts with one hand and stabs you in the back with the other. - Charles Snow. It is evident that technology is ubiquitous in modern life. As individuals, we are growing increasingly reliant on the internet and its boons. We have Quora for life advice, Facebook for our social needs as well as Siri to give us the answers whenever we need them. A bigger question, however, remains unanswered: what happens to this data? Where are all our Google searches, Instagram photos and Siri questions sent, and how are they processed in a manner that protects the user?

Unfortunately, the answer is straightforward: no protection exists. One perspective on this can be found from a UK Lawyer who recently rewrote Instagram's privacy policy in simple language. While most of us blindly click 'Yes' to quickly begin using the website, what we actually agree to is indeed disturbing. Officially, we own the pictures and videos we post, but Instagram is allowed to use them anywhere around the world and can let others use them too. A similar case exists for other social-media platforms like Facebook, who usually sell your data to others without paying you anything. That's why companies like Google have enormous revenues when

most of its popular services such as Search, Gmail, the Play Store, In this set-up, we are YouTube and others are free. In this set-up, we are not the customers who use these websites; we are the product they sell.

Yet, as we rely more on technology, we unwittingly create an online bank of personal information about us: things we'd prefer to keep use these websites; we private, or better yet, wouldn't even upload online. Lists of our are the product that they friends, our online obsessions and data on one's likes and dislikes over years are remarkably easy to collect and analyse, the prime

not the customers who

users of which are advertisers. If they know one's preferences online, they can bombard you with highly personalized advertisements. I'm sure you've often searched for something online and shockingly received advertisements associated with your tastes and preferences. It turns out that you aren't alone.

All of this is pure business, which leaves us at the risk of malicious threats. Keep in mind, this is not just any piece of malware that may slow one's work down; these are real threats from real people anywhere around the world, who professionally steal data across the World Wide Web. Cyber fraud, credit card fraud and 'phishing' scams are all too common, and often harm the user very gravely. I write this article after having recently read a case where cyber bullying had forced a young girl our age to commit suicide – cases which are becoming more frequent in the digital age. Following this, as an experiment, I conducted an online survey across the School community, which showed that 73% of Doscos claimed they valued their privacy and safety on the internet. Yet, a majority of those surveyed were shown to be only moderately aware of the risks of careless browsing. If we wish to avoid unfortunate cases like the girl I mentioned, this needs to change.

For this, a bit of common sense is needed. We were all once taught that strangers might be dangerous in the real world. We have been warned to always lock the front door and not roam on isolated streets, while the probability of a crime against us is quite low. Currently such an attitude towards cyber-crime doesn't exist, and is what must be tackled. Rather than thinking of online dangers as innocuous, we need to know that everyone is vulnerable - from the elderly lady to tech columnists. Our data can easily be hacked, stolen and used against us. Greater awareness of these risks will lead to more safety through cautious posting and using secure software. With this, all of us can avoid cyber-crime and spread awareness of its looming threat to all those around us, who in a digital age will desperately need it.

For Auld Lang Syne

The following is an extract of the speech delivered by Mr Jaswinder Singh Bull, the President of the Doon School Old Boys' Society, at the Old Boys Induction Ceremony for the outgoing Batch of 2017.

The great thing about Doon was that you didn't have to be a Jaano or a Jock to discover glory. Whether it was motor mechanics, aero-modelling, photography, electronics, dramatics, music or art, you were given ample opportunity to seek your interest and excel in it. You have truly been a beneficiary of a well rounded education. And for that, you have the many traditions that will make your days in Doon unforgettable. The mid-terms played a great role. Each trip was an adventure and would have taught you what to achieve what you had set your hearts on.

With seniority, came your opportunities to seek glory on every field. It didn't matter whether you were a centre forward or just a guy screaming your head off during an Inter-House Competition, the bug of House Spirit and School Spirit infected each one of us. It is what drove us to train harder, run longer and swim faster. The sound of running on the bajri while doing a change-in-break, the spontaneous roar of the audience between every round during the Boxing Comp, the crescendo as you drew towards the end of a match and the slow Dosco clap that you heard when you walked up during Assembly to receive your Colours from the Captain, or maybe later today from the Headmaster – these are sounds that will always be close to our hearts.

Many things will change for you and will never ever be the same again. The first of these - waking up to the cacophonous and inharmonious sound of the First Bell, at the crack of dawn in the sharp and bitter Dehradun cold to get your attendance marked at chota haazri, and the half-hearted motions of morning PT.

There is much that you will miss about Doon: from the chime of these bells, to the midnight raids on juniors during the Study leave, giving the security a slip and busting bounds against all odds for a Kathi roll. About that,

I believe some of you are now caught busting into school (laughs). Along with these, you'll remember playing soccer in the rain, the months of polishing shoes and being good to all while scoping; the end of a match or the managing to hide your cell phones despite overwhelming odds and waiting for the swimming pool to open (or taking a dip when it's slow closed). Other things too: the night caps - the making of excuses to you your Housemaster for lemonade at Eddy's - or that late night coffee Assembly - these sounds after rehearsals at the Rose Bowl; waiting to withdraw money for an outing, and (especially) the rubber chapaatis of the CDH! You can't will remain close to our miss those.

Dosco walked up during

A family that eats and lives together is one that stays together. hearts.))

You have done this all this, and more, together for six years. I don't think you would have eaten so much with your families back home at the dining table. Your bonds have been forged and strengthened with innumerable experiences.

At this, please don't feel disheartened as you leave, for there is another 'Dosco Life' after Doon: that is the DSOBS. We endeavour to keep the spirit and memories alive. Your alumni society helps bind and herd generations of Doscos together under a common umbrella. It organises events all over the world: golf, soccer, hockey, cricket and squash competitions are some of those sporting events. There are also get-togethers all over the country and internationally as well. The Class and Regional Reps play a very important role in this.

I would encourage you to attend these get-togethers as some of you depart to foreign lands. You will meet interesting senior Doscos, and some of them will instinctively take you under their wings and mentor you. Over here, the fine art of "scoping and lending" will be a useful asset. It also supports, undertakes and initiates service projects to the society. The seeds of SUPW that were sown in us in School have now evolved into STA or Social service. The society's involvement with the The Delhi Langar Sewa Society, the Nepal earthquake fund raising and service, Madras Floods Relief initiatives and the John Martyn Memorial School are but a few examples of this. We try and do our bit for society as responsible citizens as envisaged by the founding fathers of this great Institution. As Doscos you are expected to behave like the brand ambassadors for the fraternity and school. You are expected to carry that lamp and spread its light in every dark corner of the globe. With these words, you boys will walk out of Chandbagh with stars in your eyes and dreams in your hearts. Little do you know what the future holds for you! You kids of the future have been through a gruelling preparation to reach where your dreams and hard work will lead you to.

And so, after your last examination, I expect you all to wear the uniform one last time with a sense of pride and gratitude like a dignified Dosco. This will perhaps be the last time you will wear it formally, so make the moment memorable - as you step out of the gates of Chandbagh, and into the journey of life ahead.

The Heading Hazard

Anay Shah evaluates the recent banning of heading in Football.

Although football may not be the first thing when America comes to mind, a recent move by the US Soccer Federation to ban the practice of heading in the game has stirred up a feisty debate. Currently, two sides have emerged, and much like a football game itself, have clashed on the matter. The move comes in light of recent studies that have brought unforeseen health repercussions regarding the practice, which fans and veterans of the game have dismissed. For them, it would indeed be a strenuous task to imagine an *El Clasico* climax without maestros like Ronaldo, Ramos or Pique making an attempt to head the ball into the net, and the latest ban which could be adopted globally by FIFA - has increased the chance of making this illustrious scoring style redundant.

For a bit of background, the practice of 'heading' is today recognised as one of the most difficult skills in football. Used by players on all parts of the pitch, it is most convenient for the high-jumping player to defend

and clear the ball or score a goal, and has been in practice for many decades. Thus, the recent ban came as a surprise. However, the US Soccer Federation supported its claim with scientific evidence concluded from recent research, which indicated the (potentially permanent) hazardous implications that result from heading the ball. Biologically speaking, the researchers demonstrated how heading accumulates an abnormal protein known as 'tau' in the brain, which in sufficient amounts breeds a rare disease called Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE). This disease is quite harmful and the side-effects include concussions, memory loss, and old-age dementia.

While these effects did not enter the limelight when first discovered, the very recent injuries



of top-notch players such as Fernando Torres, Hector Bellerin and Ryan Mason attracted much attention towards this issue. These three players sustained spontaneous concussions that led to them being confined to hospital beds for as long as a week. Yet, these were only instances of on-the-spot injuries sustained due to heading, and the long-term effects of CTE often arrive much later. One of the most tragic victims of this disease was the English legend Jeff Astle (1942-2002), renowned for his exceptional heading skills on the pitch. His unexpected death had caused inquiry, the results of which revealed that his frequent brain traumas, resulting from frequent heading, indeed led to his demise.

However, the other side of the pitch argues quite differently. In their opinion, times have changed, and the equipment used in professional football nowadays is markedly different from Astle's era, which has contributed in enhancing the safety of the game. Earlier, leather balls were used to play, which were comparatively heavier and much more dangerous. In fact, it was Astle's unexpected death, along with many other injuries and traumas, that compelled football authorities worldwide to introduce the plastic ball. These were later replaced by rubber balls, which have almost ruled out the possibilities of head injuries and concussions due to the forceful, high-speed impacts common to an exhilarating football game.

In addition, they argue that every sport has its own - and usually - numerous risks. Aggressive play is what adds colour to every sport, and furthers the challenges posed to the participating athletes, who push themselves to the limits of human endurance at the level where they play. The fact remains that heading is one of the key elements of football, and also gives the sport its exuberance. It is a special technique which - like the game itself - requires immense practice and perseverance to develop skill, and improves the standard of the game. To ban heading from football would deal a blow to the crux of this game, which would cease to exist, and may pave the way for other practices such as 'tackling' to be banned - all under the campaign of 'more safety for players'. From this point of view, which I share, the essence of this different sports is being harmed; injuries are indeed a significant constituent of any game, and should not be used as a hindrance to the game's substance. The debate, however, carries on, and the football fans of the world monitor this clash eagerly to see how (in this case not which) players will now score.

| Point-Counterpoint |

For Days to Climb?

A debate on the duration and number of mid-term expeditions in a year.

Point

Ranvijay Singh and Stanzin Namgyal

the 'Dosco experience. Quoting the School website, "It helps (sic) to build qualities such as leadership, responsible behaviour, and care for the environment and respect for the local culture". There is no doubt about this; after all, many ex-Doscos give credit to mid-terms for imbibing these qualities in them. Although the tradition of mid-terms has remained in school for the last 82 years, the five day slots we get for mid-terms really aren't enough.

Of these five days, two are spent travelling between our destination and Dehradun. That only leaves us with three days to actually hike. Looking at the number of mid-terms that a boy will now go for in his entire six years (eight in total), the time spent in the Himalayas is not enough. This will occur despite our School claiming to have mountaineering embedded in its ethos. Additionally, students will begin to - as some have already - not value the experience anymore. Many look at mid-terms as a difficulty that one must 'get through' at the end of a hectic term, or must try to bunk by going for other School trips instead of mid-terms. With this, we sidestep the positive learning to be gained from being out in the wild and tackling the discomforts we encounter.

If we were to extend mid-terms to ten days, that would give us more time which would enable us to go for longer and more challenging treks. To be out there in the open, exposed to the dangers of nature really does help in not only physical but also mental development. Giving us ten days would also prevent Doscos from embarking on 'easy mid-terms', as the destination list could now be revised to include more challenging treks. On the whole, a ten day midterm trek would not only make the boys learn about the Himalayas, but would also educate them about rural India - which is something we rarely see in our urbanised lives. It would also help in rekindling the spirit of adventure in school that has suffered a downfall in recent years

Conclusively, mid-terms have always been a quintessential experience but it is slowly losing its value, which can be revived with a ten day excursion that gives such an activity the appropriate time required. We need to remember while in the mountains, character, strength, and grit are all tested at the same time-qualities which hold a vital place in our curriculum, and indeed, the Dosco experience.

Counterpoint

Aayush Chowdhry and Zoraver Mehta

Mid-terms have always been considered at the crux of Like the authors on the left claim, we agree that midterms are a valued tradition of our School. As both students and later on as old boys, they contribute to the memories we'll hopefully cherish. We feel that reducing the number of mid-terms would be counterproductive. To quote Edward Abbey "growth for the sake of growth is the mentality of a cancer cell". The same goes for change, which in this case, is devoid of growth.

> The first and the rather obvious concern is that currently the two short mid-terms give us a much needed break after our examinations. Coupled with the future prospect of the April holidays being cancelled, the need for a mid-term break in the transition between academic calendars is compounded. We also need another such excursion in the Autumn Term to serve as a transition from September Trials to the period preceding Founder's Day.

> Secondly, due to various reasons such as standardised testing, exchange programmes, debates and the other numerous events we participate in, many boys miss out on mid-terms. If a boy were to miss the one long midterm break so proposed, they would lose out entirely on the enriching experience it offers. Additionally, since the first private mid-term for a boy is held during the second term of A-Form, only one mid-term in a year would mean boys' lose opportunities to adventure into the mountains on their own, and build the leadership skills that School holds in high regard.

> Furthermore, mid-terms enable us to hone knowledge about people from different regions of our nation. Those opportunities would be reduced to half if there was just one long mid-term. In the event that a party doesn't reach it's hiking goal, the current system allows boys to learn from their experience and try again in the second mid-term of the year. This issue should also not just be viewed from the perspective of an archetypal Dosco, as practical considerations cannot be ignored: currently, it is hard to pack our rucksacks when midterms last for five days. One can only imagine how Doscos would manage their space when packing for a ten day mid-term! The effect would surely be felt by the boys during their trek, and the administration would bear a greater cost for extra space and transportation.

> To conclude, the current system gives us a break from the hectic schedule we follow, and boys the chance to embark on these treks part of our venerable set of traditions. Their essence is important to maintain, for they are, as claimed on the left, vital to the Dosco experience.

A Game of Seats

Ranvijay Singh comments on the demise of the Indian National Congress and the rise of the BJP.

The Grand Old Party of India is a sinking ship: The Indian National Congress is now just a mere shadow of its glorious past. The recently held Assembly elections in Uttarakhand and UP have confirmed this bitter truth. Once considered as the only political party which had a pan-national appeal, the Congress of today remains in power or part of the ruling coalition in only seven Indian states (one of which will be going to vote later this year). It has a mere 45 seats in the Lok Sabha and 60 in the Rajya Sabha, a far cry below its mammoth majorities during the 1980s. But, while the golden days of the Congress are long gone, in its place comes the Bharatiya Janta Party, which has successfully filled the power vacuum left behind by the Congress and redefined itself as



the political party which India requires.

Long gone are its days of 'Hindutva' and the demolition of the Babri Masjid. Over the past decade, it has radically changed its Brahmin-Bania upper class image to a one which carries a pan-caste appeal: keeping Hindus in the loop while becoming more inclusive of other groups. The person largely responsible for this is Narendra Modi, who along with the help of Amit Shah, has redefined how the party in power works. The BJP is always in election mode, which journalist Rajdeep Sardesai aptly described as "Modi 360". Whether it be government

schemes, promotional posters, the PM's rallies or any other kind of party propaganda, Narendra Modi is now omnipresent - presented as a leader of action and always progressing. After the ten years of inefficiency of the UPA Government, this approach creates an effective contrast where Modi's image is clearly elevated. That is why the people now have faith in the Modi Government and more importantly in Modi himself.

The recent state assembly elections are testament to this. Both Modi and Shah, along with a number of senior BJP leaders, campaigned relentlessly in all five poll-bound states. Modi himself remained in Varanasi (his 'adopted home') in the run up to final stage of voting in UP, while a number of rallies were held in all other polling states. On the other hand, the Congress was never able to project any one figure to attract votes, other than (of course) Rahul Gandhi, who didn't stand a chance against Modi's well-established charisma. Besides, the BJP was always ahead of all other political parties due to the fact that it started the formal campaign for all state elections more than a year before them. In this regard, party president Amit Shah's ability to garner the support of the party cadre and transform the party into an election-winning powerhouse is unquestionable.

These assembly elections have shown that the BJP has the support of the nation. While the results may have masked the doubts over the real progress of the Modi government, it has shown that the party is on the right path to the 2019 General Elections. Along with this, it has successfully been able to reinvent itself as the substitute for the Congress and is now recognised as the pillar of political power in India. Modi has been able to retain the momentum of his wave, and comparisons between him and Nehru and Indira Gandhi - who are

remembered for their mandates and formidable characters - **66** The Congress Party must are not considered far-fetched.

that the BJP has already sealed its victory and the Congress card is not the only one it can only aim to be an effective opposition. The latter has a lot of work to do if it does not want 2019 to be another should play.) >

But as the General Election slowly comes closer, it seems realise that the Gandhi family

failed cause. For this, conventional wisdom would suggest radical change is required. The party must realise that the Gandhi family card is not the only one it should play, and it has to groom new leaders to bring back its political dominance. It has to revamp its image of a political party run by the embattled Gandhi family to a party which is capable to guide India into the future. It will have to look at either the possibility of forming alliances with regional parties (like in Bihar), or increase its own appeal and adopt an ideological framework that can rival the BJP. In doing so, it will be up to the Congress and other regional parties to come together and give the BJP a stiff resistance in the upcoming State elections and in 2019. Failing to do so will only have one result: the BJP will be unchallenged, and a one-party state is dangerous indeed.

The Holiday Checklist

The best things to read, watch, play and listen to this April Break.

Movies

Badrinath Ki Dulhania March 10
Jagga Jasoos April 7
Aftermath April 7
Colossal April 7
Smurfs: The Lost Village April 7
The Fate of the Furious April 14

Music

Number 1 Angel Charli XCX

More Life Drake
The Afterlove James Blunt
Triplicate Bob Dylan

Memories... Do Not Open The Chainsmokers
God's Problem Child Willie Nelson



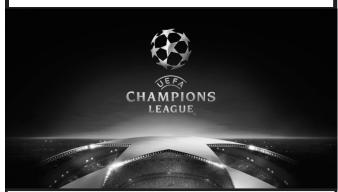
TV Shows

X Men: Legion February 7
24: Legacy February 15
American Crime (Season 3) March 12
Iron Fist March 17
Veep (Season 6) April 16



Video Games

Resident Evil 7: Biohazard January 24
For Honor February 14
Horizon Zero Dawn February 28
Ghost Recon: Wildlands March 7
Mass Effect: Andromeda March 21



Sports

Indian Premier League April 5- May 29
Chinese Grand Prix, Shanghai April 9
Champions League Quarterfinals April 11-12
NBA Playoffs April 15- May 29
Monte Carlo Masters, Monaco April 17-23



Books

Lincoln in the Bardo
Autumn
Ali Smith
Proof of Concept
Norse Mythology
Exit West
George Saunders
Ali Smith
Gwyneth Jones
Neil Gaiman
Mohsin Hamid

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