

Established in 1936



The Doon School WEEKLY

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Editorial: To Edit, Not Censor

Arjun Singh

Last week, the Editorial Board received feedback that critiqued the *Weekly* for publishing pieces that opined on the systems within our School, with similar remarks directed at the *Week Gone By*. While the Board welcomes being held accountable for our publication, it is necessary to find common ground with our critics and respond to their apprehensions through a two-way dialogue. Isn't that, after all, what the *Weekly* is: a forum for commentary and discourse?

As I'd mentioned in my first Editorial, the new leadership of the *Weekly* has sought to change the manner in which this publication had been previously run. For one, the *Weekly* in the past had been reluctant to publish articles that expressed the real attitudes and opinions of students – however controversial they may have been. The *Weekly* had slowly become a forum where articles on current affairs would dominate our pages, with a few creative pieces and, practically, no other genres. Not only had our readership declined, but we neglected to fulfil what we see, as journalists, one of the *Weekly's* most important duties: to represent the beliefs held by a wide section of students as well as the truth, regardless of public opinion.

Indeed, we have made efforts in this direction, which has contributed to the perceptible uptick in readership since our term began. The increased number of articles by non-board members on sports, technology (vide Shreyas Minocha) and many short stories; and increase of the standard Issue size from six pages to eight (this one is ten) are our steps in that direction. Indeed, not every article is well-received, and not every piece read by all readers; but that is a fact of journalism, since nothing ever printed can be universally appealing. Our aim is not to create a watered-down eight pages that is acceptable because it evokes no response, but one that may be both liked and disliked, remain a pleasure to read as well as create discussion and debate.

In this context, I draw your attention to the article which occupied this very front page on our Issue last week (No. 2468). The article certainly created much of the discussion and debate we'd hoped it would, and while not listing all evidence (as it should've), it represented what this publication should stand for: expressing the real opinions shared by members of our community, and engaging with the democratic institutions (i.e. The School Council) that exist at our School. While one may disagree with the author's call to disenfranchise juniors for various reasons, the proper response should be a Letter to the Editor expressing disapproval. Calling for articles to entirely “not be published” is both intolerant and counterproductive, for it prevents us from finding common ground on major issues, which would be helpful in seeking solutions. Intuitively, such can only be reached if all opinions are expressed. I'm sure we'd be worse off having these attitudes festering beneath the surface, frustrated at their lack of voice and expressing their discontent not through dialogue, but divisive action.

Moreover, the *Weekly* and its Editorial Board do not seek to control the opinions that exist on campus. As all journalists, our primary role is to facilitate speech, expression and improve the quality of writing; quoting my first Editorial “it is nobody's place to ‘reject’ your creativity, but it is our duty to help you enhance it.” The same goes for one's opinions. Surely, we will postpone articles that lack proper reasoning and facts until they are mentioned; but we will always allow views to be expressed however unconventional they may be. They may not always be popular, or even those shared by the Editorial Board, but they deserve a chance at being voiced as any opinion should. That is real democracy.

In writing this Editorial, I ask that we tolerate the views of our fellow Doscors, and direct our responses in an appropriate manner – which is through the publication itself. You will find this adequately presented in

(Contd. on Page 3)



Regulars

Übermensch

The following students have been awarded **Reading Awards** for the year 2016:

Juniors

Silver

Ivor Ismail
Yatin Gour

Seniors

Gold

Advait Ganapathy

Aryan Chhabra

Silver

Devansh Sharma

Mediums

Gold

Srijan Agarwal

Silver

Shantam Gilra

Shourya Agarwal

Ujjwal Jain

Bronze

Amol Singh

Keshav Pransukha

Sachin Gautam

Well done!

Wordsmiths

The Doon School Weekly conducted a **creative writing contest** open to all students. The results are as follows:

Winner: Suyash Chandak

Runner Up: Ishita Bharadwaj

Kudos!

Around the World in 80 Words

The ICJ postponed the execution of Kulbhushan Jadhav by Pakistan until further notice. The Supreme Court reserved its verdict on the Triple Talaq case. India was listed as the country third most affected by the global ransom-ware 'Wannacry'. Maria Sharapova was denied a wildcard entry to the French Open. Robert Mueller was appointed Special Counsel to investigate ties between the presidential campaign of Donald Trump and Russia's Government. Japan's cabinet approved a bill that would allow Emperor Akhito to abdicate.

I have learnt to seek happiness in limiting my desires, rather than in attempting to satisfy them. - John Stuart Mill

Centre Stage

The following are the results of the **Inter-House Dance Competition, 2017:**

1st: Kashmir

4th: Jaipur

2nd: Oberoi

5th: Tata

3rd: Hyderabad

Congratulations!

Slam Dunk

The **School Basketball Team** participated in the **Dehradun district Council's U-19 Basketball tournament** held at **Cambrian Hall School, Dehradun**. Over the course of the tournament, the team remained undefeated and emerged the **winner**.

Well done!

UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

Cancer is good because you get to fight it!

SRT, Amen.

I have never watched comics in my life.

Arjun Singh, English HL.

I don't did anything.

Krish Goyal, please don't!

My pockets were in my hands at this time.

Rishin Khandelwal, nowhere.

He is speaking analogically.

Rahul Singh, don't speak.

Let me do some self study alone.

Dilip Maurya, you need it.

People make mistake!

Kushagra Kar, and so have you.

I not do it for the tie!

Ranvijay Singh, eyes on the prize.

Jaipur not my house!

Armaan Verma, Ajmer maybe?

Dosco Doodle



Closing Time!

Ameya Shawak

(Contd. from Page 1)

the Letters on Page 4, which exemplify the freedom of speech we have on campus – where articles aren't censored, but edited for improvement. Hopefully, we shall continue to exercise such freedom responsibly, and treat the *Weekly* as a forum open to everyone with views in mind and keyboards at hand, writing for the greater good of us all.

“What Others Think”

Devansh Sharma addresses the fear of criticism prevalent in society.

A while back, an article titled “The Cool Gang Conundrum” appeared in this publication. The article intended to describe the formation of popular and powerful groups within students which have had detrimental effects on others as well as group members themselves. It is commendable that the writer performed such an analysis of the issue. What was not so praiseworthy was the writer's anonymity. A person who took the pains to take on the student establishment should also have the courage to defend his views in front of everyone else, no

“We should be able to voice unpopular opinions no matter what society might think about it.”

matter how much others might confront him. It is evident that the writer's decision to mask his identity stemmed from something which we all have: fear of criticism.

We wax eloquently on how our freedom of speech is being curbed today by repressive governments, notorious censorship, and suppressive strongmen, all the while forgetting that the biggest threat originates within ourselves: our own fear of criticism. It is a sad state of affairs today that we are unable to defend our opinions from their critics. We are too scared about what others think, our image in front of the society, about being “judged” and are too timid to acknowledge our mistakes. What worries me is that we lack a firm conviction in our opinions and the willpower to guard them against their most vociferous critics. This is a most pernicious characteristic of modern society which prevents free flow of opinions and dialogue.

It is high time that we stopped caring so much about “what others think” about our viewpoints. We should be able to voice unpopular opinions no matter what society may feel about them. Going back to the “Cool Gang Conundrum” example, the author should have withstood all the criticism and stood up for his views publicly by taking responsibility for his views rather than hiding behind the cover of anonymity. When we start worrying about what people will think, we are letting others set the agenda. It should be the other way round. What does all of this originate from? I think it is because we simply don't have a firm belief in our opinions. In the “Cool Gang Conundrum” instance, it might be because of the norm - being part of the herd. However, if we actually believe that are truly right, no matter how bitter it might be, then we should voice those thoughts openly. In this regard, a verse from Chanakya's *Niti Shastra* comes to my mind:

“By the power of truth the earth moves, by the power of truth the sun shines, by the power of truth the wind blows, indeed truth is the most powerful force.”

People who are not afraid of being criticised are the ones who move ahead in life. Take the example of Uttar Pradesh's new Chief Minister, Yogi Adityanath. It is undeniable that he has made several controversial statements in the past. He was dismissed as a “fringe element” by his own party and condemned as a communal figure, yet he continued to speak his mind. Yet, he has demonstrated the boldness to take tough decisions like the formation of the anti-Romeo squads and the crackdown on illegal slaughterhouses, no matter “what the others think”.

“When we start worrying about what people will think, we are letting others set the agenda.”

On a personal note, I have been routinely censured for my personal ideological beliefs, but heavy criticism has not weakened my convictions.

Rather, it has hardened my stance. Such criticism helped boost my confidence; I am now a person who remains firm on his stand.

Ultimately, it is up to us to safeguard our thoughts and ideas from our fears. If we continue to be scared of criticism, then our opinions won't be voiced and hence we shall become irrelevant. It is our responsibility to stand up for what we believe is right and not to be cowed down by others. Of course, we should accept our mistakes when required but that is not the same as buckling under pressure. There will always be people trying to bring us down but that doesn't mean that we get intimidated by them. To end, a dialogue from the Game of Thrones series comes to mind:

“Never forget what you are. The rest of the world will not. Wear it like armour, and it can never be used to hurt you.”

Letters to the Editor

Dear Weekly,

Your iconic column “The Week Gone By” continues to befuddle brains like mine, weakened by many summers in Chandbagh. The column keeps playing judge, jury and hangman with spell-binding ease, bringing within its magisterial gaze an astonishing range of subjects, ranging from the acts of commission and omissions of ex-Headmasters, to officiating Headmasters, to Masters, to School boys and of course the administration.

Could you please elucidate why *Eke Tha Gadba*’s victory in the Inter-House One Act Play was a “stunning upset”? Who exactly was upset and why? Where is the evidence? Could you also clarify the parallels drawn between “administrational issues” and “the Hyderabad House One-Act play, *Bhukkad*”?

While proffering the above clarifications do please refer to “The Journalistic Code of Ethics for The Doon School Weekly” in the Codes and Policies Handbook, #9: “The pursuit of the news is not a license for judgmental commentary”.

I do not expect to hear that old excuse for irresponsible journalism: “the writer’s views are solely his own” when the author is a Senior Editor on the Board of The Weekly and there is no such disclaimer that the column carries traditionally. Such escape hatches are only available to guest authors, traditionally.

Warmly,

Priyanka Bhattacharya

Dear Editor,

Quite recently, the hockey season kicked (cracked?) off, and the playing fields have begun to resonate with the organised cheers. The polite and encouraging sounds of ‘*Bheja Fry, Bheja Fry; Nice Try, Nice Try*’ now accompany those of the matches. More interesting, however, is the increased number of changes and essays given out, with most juniors claiming the escalated punishments are because they “didn’t cheer loud enough”, leading to the team’s loss.

This has led me to wonder whether cheering squads are there to actually cheer up the team, or really exist so the house could shift the blame of a loss onto the cheering squad. Many juniors are coerced into showing up to display their ‘House Spirit’, and the knowledge of punishments for absence ensures full attendance. Following this, juniors are placed in neat organised rows (with most unable to even see the match) to scream monotonous cheers which negates the whole purpose of watching the match. Any member of the cheering squad who appears to not shout loud enough is told that affection for his house is shown by how loud he can scream.

Should the team bear a loss, the cheering squad is

lined up back at the house to receive its quota of the punishment and blame for failing to ensure the team won by shouting louder.

It is these instances that reveal the whole concept of cheering has become obsolete, as the main focus of those watching (or rather, trying to watch) the match is hoping the team wins. They wish not to face the consequences of any loss, rather than having an actual desire for the House to win. The system of passing the buck down to mere spectators under the pretext of ‘house spirit’ is a weak exercise that kills the enthusiasm of an Inter-House Match Day.

What’s more, though, is that the compulsory attendance for the juniors means those uninterested in the match effectively waste their time at the field; whereas, they could be doing some productive activities to use their time better, rather than waste it for the personal agenda of seniors.

As I seem to have come to the end of what some would call a ‘rant’, I hope that in the future cheering is continued with actual passion and not just as a forefront to shift the blame onto someone else. Everyone’s losses are their own to bear, and the sooner one realizes it, the better.

Yours sincerely,

Adit Chatterjee

Dear Editor,

Being a Dosco who looks forward to the School Captain elections every year, I would like to write this letter with reference to the article ‘A Tale of Two Mafias’ in Issue 2468 of the *Weekly*. My aim today is to shed light on the topic and show what elections truly are, which run contrary to the aforementioned article that portrays this process to be evil itself.

We all go to boarding school because it mimics society as a whole, whilst controlling the environment as required. Our school attempts to do just that: it prepares us for a better life outside the walls of Chandbagh, of which elections are a distinct part. Yet, as the first sentence of the concerned article aptly states “Perhaps the most democratic feature of this institution is giving students the right to choose their own leader.” How, then, can we do away with something that forms a part of the core mission of this very institution?

Some facts stated in the article are that junior boys (i.e. in D, C & B Forms) vote without having the right frame-of-mind to do so. I would like to point out that C and B Formers are very capable of choosing their leader because they have spent two to three years in the School and the understand the way it functions. This also gives them the perspective of who is best suited to run the institution. The reasons given to support the point of

Junior boys not voting highlights rampant corruption in the School community, but the author seems to forget that the ‘electorate’ are but young adolescents who just want a fair and just leader. The author also highlights the problems with canvassing on behalf of the candidates. I completely agree with him, but must note that this is just the way a democracy works. If we remove such elections for the sake of campaigns, then how would we prepare students to deal with the same in the future? To add, the removal of elections further promotes the ‘Scoping Season’, and will cause students using every means – including sycophancy – to flatter the top guns. Questioning the democratic process of elections is like questioning the working of this institution. If the people truly feel that we boys are not capable of choosing our leaders, then there is no point of having elections even for School Council members, or having a Boys Bank which tries to educate us about the big problems of the real world at a smaller level.

In the end, I would say that two mafias may not be desirable, but are the only ways to ensure that this institution finds a leader who is worthy, and has the people’s backing.

Yours faithfully,
A Proud Voter,
Bhavya Rajgharia

Dear Weekly,

It is my privilege to be writing to you on behalf of Kashmir House. Recently the Kashmir house production *Ek Tha Gaddha* won the Inter-House One Act Play competition in a “stunning upset”, as reported in the ‘Week Gone By’. Seeing that the author has a keener understanding of theatre than the invited judges, I now feel that the Board of Weekly should be held responsible for judging the Inter-House One Act Play competition in the years to come.

After having read the ‘Week Gone By’ for almost six years now, I was convinced that the column was merely a reflection of what is happening in school. After reading the column in Issue 2468 (and many others that have been published this year), I am convinced that the writers believe that the column is a personalised part of the Weekly where the Board is allowed to pass its own biased comments to attract more readers

Furthermore, the *Weekly* this year has narrowed its scope and has focused primarily on the SC-Form opinion. They have constantly ignored the fact that the “Weekly is a forum open to all members of the community”. This community, fortunately or unfortunately for the Weekly, includes teachers and students from the junior forms. The sole message that I am trying to give to my dear *Weekly* board is to include everyone, and pass remarks once there is a common consensus around School.

As Taylor Swift said “We don’t need to share the same opinions as others, but we need to be respectful.”

Regards,
Bharat Choudhary

Editor’s Note: On the last point, the Editorial Board agrees with Taylor Swift yet finds unfortunate the author’s view that the Weekly has ‘narrowed its scope’. The Editorial Board has always and will continue to ensure the views of juniors, seniors and Masters are represented. Such an effort can be clearly evinced from this Issue, *and many others that have been published this year.*

A Leap of Faith

Jaiveer Misra chronicles C-Form’s shift to the Main Houses.

This term has been a roller-coaster ride filled with new events and change. For C-Form, moving from Foot and Martyn to the Main Houses was the most important change of all. This big move has been a significant turning point in our lives at Doon.

Our orientation helped us understand what being in our Main Houses would be like, and gave us a chance to ask the many questions we had. Our Headmaster, the Management, Housemasters, the School Captain and Prefects together played a very important role in making us feel comfortable and confident during this time.

Our best orientation however, probably came in the form of the 81st Inter-House PT Competition! The hard work and constant practice followed by “crew cuts” that made us look uniform was the best way to settle into our new routine. Walking out onto the main field on the day of the competition, we felt a strong sense of belonging to “The House”. The highs and lows once the results were declared were shared as a part of a team, and since then there has been no looking back.

The House itself is different with its big dormitories, well equipped common room and a pantry. There are many more people to share these spaces with, and this makes for good company and conversation. It is also an important step in learning how to live in a larger community. Our friends are also our family, and with the advice and guidance of our seniors, we are learning how to settle into our new environment. Meeting with our tutors is a big support as we share our thoughts and chat about the events of the week.

There is a long journey ahead, and the Inter-House Hockey, Popular Band, Dance and One-Act Play competitions are the beginning of the many events in which one we’ll participate. Hopefully, this will be with true house spirit where each gives his best. It is a new beginning and a leap of faith towards a new chapter of our School lives: one that, I am sure, will make for an interesting read in when we reflect on them as we progress through to SC-Form.

The Clash at Cardiff

Aviral Kumar and Rahul Singh preview the upcoming Champions League final.

Last week, Real Madrid secured a 4-2 aggregate victory (after two matches) over their city-side rivals Atletico Madrid, advancing into the finals of the world's most prestigious club-level tournament. Just a day earlier, Juventus, Italy's leading top-flight club, faced France's AS Monaco and also won 4-1 on aggregate. Two weeks from now, they will face each other at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff for European Football's greatest prize – the UEFA Champions' League Trophy.

From continental giants such as Barcelona and Bayern Munich, to emerging clubs like Leicester City and AS Monaco, 32 teams took to the pitch in an attempt to qualify for the Champions' League's knockout stage. Over the course of several weeks, the world witnessed matches of immense quality – from the game with the highest goal tally in the competition's history (Dortmund won 7-4 against Warsaw), to Barcelona's historic comeback against Paris Saint Germain (6-5 on aggregate), the build-up to the finals has been nothing short of spectacular. Nevertheless, this year's final once again sees football's crème de la crème face one another.



As exciting as this match-up may seem, it isn't the first time these two have faced each other

in the tournament final. In 1998, Real beat Juventus 1-0 to clinch the cup. In an ironic twist of fate, amongst that Juventus Team was Zinedine Zidane, who currently manages Real Madrid and makes the final a means of redemption for Juventus. Boasting the best defensive players who conceded only three goals in the tournament, Juventus believe that their luck will last for this crucial game. With the likes of Leonardo Bonucci, Giorgio Chiellini and 'The Italian Wall' Gianluigi Buffon; the Italian stallions have established an impenetrable wall around their goalpost. Moving up, the deadly duo of Gonzalo Higuain and Paulo Dybala has cut its teeth with a combined tally of 50 goals in all competitions this season. Assisting them in the midfield are Miralem Pjanic and Claudio Marchisio, who are reputed for 'playmaking' or creating scoring opportunities. All in all, Juventus have a fair shot at the championship. If they do succeed, it could be the first 'Treble' in the club's history, as they've already won their domestic cup and are on course to win the Italian league too.

On the other hand, defending champions Real Madrid seek to replicate last year's feat, not to mention becoming the first club to win two years consecutively in the tournament's history. Real Madrid is also on course to secure a 33rd Spanish League title - their first in five years. Firing up the forward line is the world-renowned Cristiano Ronaldo, who has

“...both Real Madrid and Juventus are teams renowned for their ability to deliver, even when the stakes are tremendously high.”

been in perfect form this season. From being the first player to net 100 Champions League goals, to becoming the first to score 400 goals for Real Madrid, the Spanish club's premier winger will pack a hard punch (or kick). Former Juventus forward Alvaro Morata looks favourable for the starting line-up with him, having scored 20 goals in all competitions this season. Like Juventus, Real also boast a strong defence with Sergio Ramos and Marcelo, topped off by the technical game-play of Luka Modric and Toni Kroos. However, their weakness is on their right flank, as the revered Gareth Bale seeks to recover from a recent calf injury. While his replacement Isco seems to be a reasonable alternative, having scored the goal which pushed Real to

the finals, the odds are seem tilted against the team – to which the manger would agree. Zinedine Zidane has insisted his team is likely to suffer defeat in this year's final: “Real Madrid are absolutely not the favourites. It's very difficult to score against this Juve side,” said Zidane at a press conference. If he's proven wrong though, he'd be equally pleased: it would be his second Champions League title as a manager.

As the days go by and the final inches nearer, pundits and fans alike debate and make their bets on the winning side. However, amidst all the statistics, most have forgotten that football isn't played on paper, and anything could happen on the pitch. There are innumerable factors that contribute to one's performance on the field, and all of these cannot be measured in figures. This has always lent a sense of unpredictability to each game, and this year's final will be no different. Fortunately, both Real Madrid and Juventus are teams renowned for

their ability to deliver, even when the stakes are tremendously high. From a neutral standpoint, we can only hope that they do so. Regardless, one thing is certain, on June 4th, Cardiff will host a sensational game of football where only one of two teams will earn the coveted title of 'European Champions'. Either way, a victory by either side would be historic.

'Sporting' Inequality

Aryan Bhattacharjee *comments on the inequality of pursuits in school and suggests corrective measures.*

I believe that there are certain pursuits which are more respectable than others, in the mind of the average Dosco. This mind-set is planted in the infant stages of one's D-Form, where the glory and fame of sportsmen seems to supersede that of those engaged in all other pursuits. While I feel that sports play an important role in a student's development, the equality of pursuits is also something we must pursue.

As the young Dosco enters A-Form, he begins take note of the vast world outside this School. He realizes that there may be pursuits, although not popular in school, that he has an aptitude for. It is at this point that the, now slightly experienced, Dosco faces a major dilemma: how is he going to invest the time required for progress in these fields?

To someone outside the campus, the solution may seem rather straightforward: in finding time between class and bed-time. Yet

every Dosco recognises the fact that there are often activities that one is forced into doing. One such major activity is the house games practices for those whose inclinations lie outside sports. Yet, they have to attend practices for two hours in the evening, even if it is spent sitting on the sidelines due to presence of better players.

It is true that School, like any premiere public school, strives towards providing us with an integral development and identifies that physical exercise is necessary for good health. Yet, a Dosco is exposed to almost everything the School has to offer by his A-Form and has recognised where his interests lie. Moreover, he gets his physical exercise from morning P.T. or Yoga and physical education classes which still remain mandatory for everyone. Considering this, it seems quite legitimate to limit the house seasonal sports practices to those who are interested in it for two reasons; firstly, because the smaller group of people attending these practices now will get more opportunity and more attention in a sport they enjoy, which will increase the net productivity of these practices; and secondly, because those inclined towards other things, even if it is another sport, now get this time to pursue their interests.

I recognise the importance of physical activity and sports as integral for students, but simply believe that it is more effective for everybody if these practices are made optional. Once these practices are made optional, it will be doubly important to ensure that everybody is engaged in productive work. An efficient method to do this could be to prevent students from entering their Houses between four o' clock and six o' clock in the evening, while games practices take place. The student administration could also ask those senior boys, opting out of house games practices, to present how they spend their time during this period. This would ensure that the system aids nobody in wasting their time in the evening.

Perhaps, this will also educate us in the art of 'managing our time'. The freedom that will be provided would instil the intrinsic motivation for progress. The prefects and student administration will also be handed more

“I recognise the importance of sports but simply believe that it would be more effective for everyone if house games practices were optional.”

responsibility to inculcate this intrinsic motivation. This is something that can only be done through example and not by imposing negative consequences to incorrect actions. Furthermore, it would also aid the School's mission in its pursuit to produce 'just and ethical citizens' through developing a culture of acceptance.

In a democratic and free society that we strive towards within Chandbagh, it is essential to have the courage to pursue interests despite the conformities that surround us while remaining accepting towards those who choose to do different things. Since our School, is a microcosm of the 'outside' world, this may also be the precursor to acceptance of different professions in society at large, while simultaneously witnessing the successful authors, actors, musicians and artists, amongst others that this positive environment will help create and take our School 'to its position among the world's pre-eminent educational institutions for boys aged twelve to eighteen years.'

The Normality Illusion

Jai Lakhanpal *comments on the effects of 'fitting in'.*

Normality is an illusion: we often tend to get lured into thinking that being 'normal' is being like everyone around you. We tend to follow what others do and classify 'normal' as being like the rest. However, this is a misconception; in fact it makes one change his or her actual personality to fit in and blend with the people around them. This attempt to fit in completely changes the beliefs and ideas the person follows, and converts it into something unoriginal.

Whenever we are outside our comfort zone, the notion of normal is challenged. In return, this causes us to link the behaviour of the outside community to our inner, true selves. When this happens, we undergo changes and begin to do things – such as think, talk and behave – in a different manner so that we can blend in with the rest. If one fails to do so, they either circumvent the people who've 'changed' or mistake themselves for being inferior. This in return can cause a series of issues that can damage one's well being.

Here at Doon, especially in Senior Forms of the School, people suffer from this problem. They behave in a certain manner they wouldn't chose to, just so that they could be accepted by a certain friend circle, commonly the one that contains the 'popular', 'cool' and 'studly' people (refer to 'The Cool Gang Conundrum' in Issue 2460). However, in attempting this, they forget that they are trying to be accepted in a group that neglected and isolated them for their actual personality. What's worse is that they lock out their feelings for people they cared about because those individuals are disliked by that certain group. In the process of 'fitting in', they get strongly influenced by their peers, and indulge in wrong practices. This puts the person on a path that would lead them into living a miserable life ahead, filled with guilt and regret. These people also begin to feel under confident and are scared to display themselves in front of others.

On the contrary a healthy and courageous person would feel open to discuss any matter with anyone. They wouldn't change themselves under pressure, and would be confident enough to speak up if they felt the need to put across a point. Most importantly they wouldn't be afraid to express their emotions.

I would like to leave you all with one question, are you being your true self, or pretending to be someone else just to 'fit in'? Do think about your answer, for it means a great deal to your life and the future ahead.

Greed's Punishment

Suyash Chandak | *Winner of The Doon School Weekly Creative Writing Contest*

"Damn it", said Arvind, pacing up and down the room. He regretted giving his son, Rohit, such an exorbitant sum of money as a housewarming gift last week. Now with his daughter asking for a BMW series 7 as a birthday gift, he was stuck in a tight position. Reluctant as he was to spend so much, he was not going to let his daughter down. As he was fiddling with the blue silk curtains, pondering over what had to be done, a sinister smile crept onto his face. He called Altaf, the most feared gangster in town, and said, "I have a job for you. Find a BMW and seize it." Once Arvind had explained the task, Altaf called his men Javed and Gaurav. They drove through the town, their eyes scanning for a BMW.

"There it is!" Javed shouted. The street was rather isolated. It had nothing other than a few pubs. A black, elegant BMW was parked close by. There was a man leaning against the car. He was tall with narrow shoulders, thin lips and a sharp nose and seemed to be in his early thirties. He was wearing an olive coloured suit and had a cigar in his mouth. Altaf and his men concealed their faces with black masks and got out of their car. They motioned for the man to move aside but he did not budge. They motioned again. He remained adamant. He began to pull out his phone but Javed and Gaurav charged and knocked him on the ground. Before they could restrain him, he was back on his feet. A fierce fight ensued.

Initially, he parried their blows but ultimately succumbed to them. He was beaten mercilessly and within minutes, he turned into a gruesome sight. His eyes were swollen and closed, his cheekbones were broken and his clothes were tattered. Altaf's men did not stop. The man lay in a pool of blood, breathing heavily as his lifeline ebbed away. Gaurav checked his pulse. "He's dead", he said.

"Put him in the trunk. Let's go", Altaf replied. Javed found the BMW's keys in the man's coat pocket. As they drove back, Altaf instructed Gaurav to surreptitiously dispose the man's body once they had delivered the BMW to Arvind. Upon reaching Arvind's house, they recounted their fight with the man. Arvind went over to the trunk to have a look at the reeking body. He was taken aback. He looked in shock at the distorted dead body. It was familiar. It was far too familiar. He began trembling. A chill ran down his spine. Yet his suspicions

were still unconfirmed. He called Bhawna, his son Rohit's wife. "Bhawna, where is Rohit right now?" he cried. "He's gone to the pub. Is something wrong?" she said.

Arvind turned pale. Beads of sweat trickled down his forehead. His fingernails dug into his palm. His knees turned to jelly. "What did Rohit do with the money I gave him as a housewarming gift?" he asked Bhawna. "He bought his favourite car, a BMW series 7", she replied. The phone fell from Arvind's hands and he collapsed. He began to sob and scream as realization dawned upon him. He looked at the dead body and shouted, "THAT'S MY SON!"

Editor's Note: *This article has been printed in the exact manner as it was submitted, with no editing of content or grammar.*

For Promises to Keep

Karan Sampath *advocates his views on holding governments accountable for their promises.*

Crimes are committed everyday across the world, and one must have felt its effects at some point or the other. After pitying the victim, some choose to remain content that they didn't fall prey to such a calamity, and keep faith in their guardian: the government. The government, being the writer and enforcer of law, cannot violate it, for that would lead to anarchy. However, can we really trust the government to keep itself in check? The answer is a resounding 'no', and it is due to this that the government is able to commit the most heinous crime of all: betraying the nation by not following the manifestos of grand electoral campaigns.

As is clear, a government in democracy is formed after elections take place, and usually means one party or a coalition gain a simple numerical majority in the Parliament. It's equally clear that this party was elected for a reason: it was given a mandate to govern the nation according to the policies it proposed. These policies were the very basis on which citizens voted. Since democracy enshrines the will of the people, it's strange that some parties blatantly disregard their manifestos after being elected. Even stranger is that a party can go back on these very policies and yet be a candidate at the next election. A public lie is a crime, and this crime casts a sweeping lie that insults the electoral process and the system itself. Before moving on, let me make it clear that these assertions are not just mere conjecture. There is evidence of this treachery occurring today, where across the world nearly every leader has often failed to keep at least one promise. With Narendra Modi, it was the Aadhar scheme. After repeatedly criticising it during his election campaign, he improved and expanded it while in power. Donald Trump went a step further. After an infamous election, this demagogue shocked many by praising NATO and welcoming Chinese investment, all contrary to the infamous rhetoric used during the campaign. I am not saying that the fulfilment of these promises would benefit the country, but that they were what the people wanted, or else these leaders would not have been elected to this office in the first place. Therefore it is the duty of these leaders to carry out these promises, as they are just representatives of a much larger body.



Tony Blair, the UK's Prime Minister from 1997 to 2007, reneged on his promise of holding a Brexit referendum.

So how does one ensure a government acts according to the wishes of its people? One can't expect it to always fulfil every pledge, as there will be obstacles along the way. While formulating such a procedure, it is important to realise that the government is arguably the most powerful institution in a nation. Therefore, only a check on the government could enforce such a law, which in this case would come from the judiciary. Individuals should be allowed to register cases in a court if leaders don't consider the manifestos they published when seeking to govern the nation. To echo the words of the Chief Justice of India, manifestos are becoming 'mere pieces of paper'. If the party truly believes in its manifesto, it will do its utmost to fulfil it. The next aspect of the implementation of such a law is the severity. To what extent should the government be punished in case it commits such a crime? The judiciary, in this case the apex court in the nation, should evaluate the attempts made by the government to fulfil a pledge, or the reasons for not fulfilling it. Following this, if the government is found guilty, only a two-thirds majority decision can punish it. This power to punish would extend to, in the worst of cases, public censure. This, in my opinion, would be a suitable measure, as it gives neither entity an upper hand. Finally, I would advocate for more detail in political manifestos, along with steps regarding implementation should the party come into power, leading to more transparency during the election campaign. It is a fact that a government which acts against what it stood for is a false government. It is a government with no credibility, and will forever be flawed. It is only through the comprehensive execution of its manifesto that a government will truly ever be of the people, by the people and for the people.

The Week Gone By

Salman Mallick

The hot May sun has managed to drain almost everyone of their energy, with DoscOs and teachers alike struggling to make it to the finish line. Calls for a 'Headmaster's Holiday' are growing louder and louder, but have fallen on deaf ears. Perhaps everyone is preoccupied with their 'fidget-spinners' that have recently swept the campus.

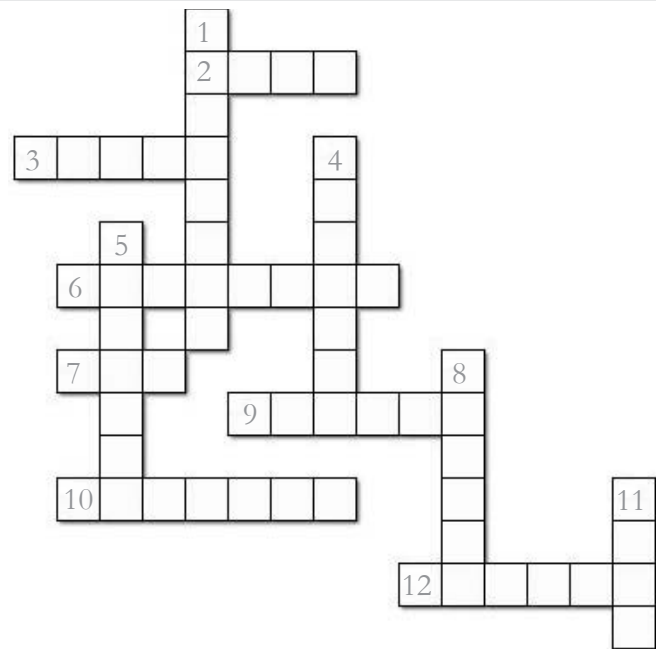
The workloads of DoscOs have still not grown any lighter (most would probably say they've grown heavier), with the Inter-House Hockey matches being played later in the evening and academic work still not subsiding. Remarkably, though, the Nizams were able to deal a crushing defeat on Thursday, with prospects for a 'Grand Slam year' looking more likely. On the other hand, we finally saw the end of one activity, with Kashmir House's versatile and globally-themed dance leaving the audience and judges spellbound, winning the Dance trophy. Other highlights included the 100% student participation in Tata House's display 'Old is Gold', Oberoi House's "dance for dance's sake", Jaipur's *josh*-filled performance, and Hyderabad's touching the hearts of all the lovers around school.

We also saw the first (and we'll have to delve deep into the Archives for proof on that) post-dinner School Council meeting, with many excited about the agenda to finally change the school floaters to something less unpleasant. Maybe that is the reason behind the rather rushed School Council meeting. While hopes weren't high, considering the few results we've got with the past few meetings, we did see the controversial proposal to remove School Captaincy elections being rejected. The Council now wishes to reform the system to remove the excess politicking that is complained about. At the next meeting, we're yet to see what they decide.

On other matters, many feel there is absolutely no stopping the YC wave at the moment in School, with most now saying, "Oh, you also got one?" Then again, with rampant absenteeism from classes, they probably won't subside soon. On a more serious note, it is felt in some corners that the School's punishment structure that involves so many YCs, should be questioned. But that's just my opinion. After all, Uncle Sam knows best.

Crossword

Food Varieties



Across

2. A steamed dumpling filled with vegetables or meat, popular in South Asia.
3. A ball-shaped sweet consisting of flour and sugar, said to be a favourite of the Indian God Ganesha.
6. These puff-pastry balls filled with spiced liquids, are a popular Indian street food dish.
7. An alcoholic spirit flavoured with juniper berries.
9. A yellow Gujarati snack which is spongy in nature.
10. An Italian rice dish cooked in a broth.
12. A Mexican grilled meat dish usually used in a taco.

Down

1. A thick, smooth drink of fresh fruit pureed with milk, yogurt, or ice cream.
4. A dish consisting of a tortilla wrapped around a meat or vegetable filling, of Mexican origin.
5. A variety of pasta that envelopes a saucy filling.
8. A type of soup served during the Ramadan fast.
11. _____ in the hole is a peculiar British dish consisting of sausages baked in batter.

Answers to This Week's Crossword	
Across	Down
2. Panipuri	1. Smoothie
3. Ladoo	4. Burrito
6. Panipuri	5. Ravioli
7. Gin	8. Harira
9. Momo	10. Risotto
11. Toad	12. Fajita

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