Kushagra Kar addresses the construct of ‘S-Form’.

The walk from Chakrata Gate to Kashmir House is a very interesting one. Most Sunday evenings, students from all forms return to the serene campus we live in, find their way to their dorms, and exchange tales of the day. It seems like such a picturesque community; all smiles for the cameras. The façades which automatically replace our inner intentions and emotions have become who we are, and in doing so, have forced us to lose ourselves. There is a grimmer reality which students here have no intentions of facing.

We live in a day and age where hyper-competitiveness governs most decisions we make. It is this need to get into a good college and earn a good salary that drives us to do what we do. People are innately ambitious, something society feels entitled to look down on. You see, society builds structures to shackle potentially uncontrollable growth and development. It is considerably easier to rationalize someone else’s development to be a superficial alteration for the sake of a personal agenda, than to praise their achievement. This logic is what creates notions such as ‘Scoping Season’, and eventually results in the generalization of people in society. This is the issue at hand: the fact that the Dosco construct of S-Form can shake the very roots of our School.

Firstly, and let this be clear for the rest of my article, I do not believe in the existence of a ‘scoping’ season, hence its reference as a ‘construct’. The batch under scrutiny is in reality misunderstood, but simultaneously entirely deciphered. This paradox is the ugly child of assumptions and ‘previous evidence’. Where we are misunderstood is when the entire batch is put under the umbrella of ‘lends’, and are consequently stripped of any credibility. The assumption goes that any effort made by an S-Former is for the sake of a grey and yellow tie. Those who are genuinely hard workers are labelled as ‘lends’ and sycophants and further pushed to politic for the security of whatever position they ‘scope’ for. Though we are naturally ambitious, we are not innately inclined towards the desperate acts of politicking or lending. Still, we must go through this year repeating what our seniors have done because, “bhai, there is no other way to become prefect.”

The question still remains though, how are we deciphered? I would be mistaken in claiming to be the first person to attempt to debunk the concept of scoping season. Every now and then, someone will step up to address the topic, providing ample evidence of his stance, but to no avail. The fact that it is easy to predict the futility of this piece means that an understanding of the batch’s (any batch to have gone through this stage at any point of time) behaviours exists. Because we are told there is no other way, it is inevitable that the cycle continues. There will always be a quintessential School Captain hopeful who organises an extensive network of lackeys to plunge their hands into the filth for him. They will exist because they expect a nomination, by virtue of having been told so for years, and intend to win the election. Even if the nominees aren’t officially revealed till you reach the booth, at least two of the names would have fought a long and hard battle to find a place at the back of your head.

The effects of this generalization aren’t limited to the S-Form. The godlike SCs will make sure the flames remain hot through their late night conversations about potential House Captains or Secretary-Generals. Pawns are pitted against each other for the entertainment of the bourgeoise. I leave you to draw the parallels.

Walking back to the House after an outing is especially interesting because the change in behaviour is that

(Contd. on Page 3)
Regulators

Knighted

The School participated in the 2nd IPS Inter School Chess Championship which was held at the Indian Public School on August 4-5. A total of 12 teams from Mussoorie and Dehradun participated in the tournament. The team, comprising Anuman Goel, Amritansh Saraf, Sanjum Dhaliwal and Tanmay Kucchal stood Runners-Up, missing the overall trophy by just one point.

Anumal Goel and Amritansh Saraf remained unbeaten throughout the tournament.

Well done!

Sterling Sportsmen

The School participated in the Dehradun Inter-School Badminton Tournament held in the Parade Ground Stadium from August 5-8. Aadita Chauhan reached the Semi-Final in the Under-15 Girls’ category while Krish Agarwal reached the Quarter-Final in the Under-15 Boys’ category. Aradhya Singal and Kabir Kocher reached the Semi-Final in the Under-17 Boys’ Doubles category and Jehan Jhaveri and Atrey Guruprasad reached the Quarter-Final in the Under-19 Doubles category.

Kudos!

Beating the Buzzer

The School was represented by Advait Ganapathy, Omar Chishti and Pritish Dugar in the Mrs Russell GK and Nature Quiz organised at Welham Girls’ School on August 5. The team emerged victorious and won the competition after a decade.

Congratulations!

“Science is organised knowledge. Wisdom is organized life.”
- Immanuel Kant

Striking a Chord

The School Band and Dance teams participated in the Milestone Cultural Festival held on August 5, at St. George’s College, Mussoorie. The School stood first in the band category.

Kudos!

The Golden Streak

The School Table Tennis team played friendly matches against Welham Boys’ School on August 8, 2017. The School won 3-2 in the Under-14 category, 3-1 in the Under-17 category and 3-0 in the Under-19 category. Ishan Jhawar, Raghav Saboo and Arjun Vaish remained unbeaten throughout.

Well done!

Around the World in 80 Words

Venkaiah Naidu was sworn in as the 13th Vice President of India. An exchange of heated rhetoric occurred between U.S. President Donald Trump and D.P.R.K. Leader Kim Jong-Un regarding the use of nuclear weapons. The Sichuan Province of China was hit by a 6.5 magnitude earthquake, which killed thirteen people. The year 2016 was declared the warmest year in human history. American athlete Justin Gatlin defeated Usain Bolt in the 100m Final at the ongoing World Athletic Championships in London.

Unquotable Quotes

He is the most busiest man in campus.
Salman Mallick, IB English.
Those without a male son would be seized by the British.
MHS, a ‘lapse’ in language

Crush’ing Dreams
Pratham Bansal

2. The Doon School Weekly Saturday, August 12th
much more noticeable. While the exteriors of Chandbagh allow us to have a laugh about our last rejection, the road by Skinners features conversation exclusively about School politics. Honestly, it is a disturbing, and highly disconcerting phenomenon. What I have spoken of till now is the effects of the tag ‘Scopat’, but what comes next is even worse. The rat-race for positions becomes our life, and occupies every corner of our minds. We revel in the attention gained by the ‘House of Cards’ like term because the limelight is warmest then. When the season supersedes all other actual seasons, replacing incentive to play for fun with playing for points, the essence of School is lost.

Upon completion of the first draft of this piece, I asked a few people to review it. Their natural response was to tone it down so as to avoid delegitimizing my own work. Naturally, what you are reading is a watered down version of a previously blunt(er) article. The reason for this is the natural denial which would enthuse apparently aggrieved parties to reduce this to S-Form propaganda. Sadly, though, ‘A Tale of Two Mafias’ will inevitably repeat itself and this piece will be ignored and be worth nothing more than cheap ink on a Weekly, which would be buried under banana peels and wasted breakfast. But before you completely discard my arguments, consider this: what warrants doubt in an individual, the irregularities associated with their behaviour, or the constants which truly characterize them? It goes without saying that discerning them is a process which takes years. Honestly, workshops on leadership and what to expect in such a position will not be entirely helpful. But remember, there will be some, like the quiet kid in the corner, who will remain the same; unafraid and unscathed by the change in atmosphere.

The Motherland

Aryan Bhattacharjee

The sky lit up to a hue of red, synonymous with pain and joy, death and freedom; they stood by the ferocious river in unending lines, red coats and ammunition. One particular Red-Coat, drowned beyond recognition in the sea of men couldn’t help but fret. He’d always glorified the idea of war as a tool for the expressing the voice of a nation, as a statement more powerful than words could ever dream of articulating. Countless nights had been spent dreaming about the honour of fighting on the first line of combat, for an ideal with your life at risk. This time, however, he stood against Her, the Motherland, cursing his own sedition, awaiting his own damnation.

In the distance was visible, like scattered beads, his enemy: his family, his own ideals. Yet, he poured in the gun powder, awaiting orders from the very men he’d grown up cursing; the very men he’d seen looting their homes. All around him seemed unmoved, silent as if nature itself mourned and condemned his finger on the trigger, and those of the thousands of Indians who surrounded him. In his mind, they too were treacherous beings, men who placed their own safety above all else - even if it were found under the corpse of their Motherland. In the far distance, he heard a war cry and suddenly a thousand men came charging down like moths towards the light, for the momentary pleasure that preceded endless and definite death.

What allowed these men and woman to do so? To leave behind all comfort of life and gaiety and salvation with death staring at them through the barrel of a gun? Perhaps they were madmen, men who cared not for their families who would languish behind them, for friends who’d eternally miss the company of another dead and gone. Perhaps they were lunatics who didn’t care even for their own lives or were so terrible regardless, that it made them no difference. Or were they men of the strongest resolution who’d rather spill their own blood incessantly, even that of their family’s, to see the land they inhabited, in command of its own volition? Either way, all he had to do was to pick one of them as they charged ahead and point his barrel at their dream, then wait for them foreigners to command them to shoot it down.

In the distance he saw a young boy, of not more than twenty charging towards him. He seemed quite underfed, even sick, but in his eyes there was a kind of firm joy. It was as if his crippled body had been granted a newfound strength, unnatural to a man of his composition. He took aim anyway, possibly mechanically, until from the tip of his barrel he could see the eyes of that young boy. Maybe it was the certainty of death, for a noble ideal, that granted these supposed barbarians the resolve to face the British infantry. In visible restlessness he asked himself repeatedly: why that poor and sick boy would want to throw his life, along with its innumerable possibilities, away to the metal ball that waited in the barrel.

In a sudden burst of inspiration, he stood up and took aim elsewhere. He wanted to see for himself what the source of this power was. As his barrel pointed towards the British Lieutenant, he could feel it for himself, the power of realignment with one’s own ideals. Without waiting for any command, without the slightest hesitation his finger dragged backwards: calm.
In my economics class last week, I noticed the overwhelming number of MacBooks present. Out of 30 people sitting in the room, a mere five did not have a Mac. Come to think of it, almost all of us own at least one Apple product, whether it be an iPhone, iPad, iPod or a MacBook. Most of us buy Apple products because they are supposed to perform and work better. Yet, how many of us actually know the specifications of our machines? Even if we do, how many of us contrast these specifications to other machines before purchasing our Apple product? It seems that the main reason we make buy Apple products is not because of its external features. Rather it seems we buy it for some intangible intrinsic value we associate with it. This begs the question of why do people make the decision to buy Apple products, spending thousands of dollars on them? I believe that the main reason behind people buying Apple products has been the narrative Apple has made us believe. Through its marketing and branding it has given us a narrative of delivering better performance. Within this it has also embedded a compelling message of being different. This was certainly true in Steve Jobs’ tenure during which Apple made products that no one ever did. Despite this fading over the years with innovation going down, Apple’s marketing strategies have grown. They have been able to sustain their narrative and have conditioned us to believe in what was once true. Iconic features such as the all-metal body and the glowing Apple logo has helped Apple do this. Further, marketing strategies such as focusing advertisements on showing experiences with Apple products, rather than highlight specifications has made the company successful. They have helped cement Apple’s message, giving it a special edge over its competitors.

This points to the reasoning of how we as individuals buy things, not for what they are externally, but rather also for what they represent. What makes a product distinct is often not the product itself, but the ideology of the company it represents. Apple has accomplished this brilliantly where its narrative makes one believe that it makes products which are different. This narrative resonates with people, compelling them to buy Apple products. However, Apple is actually not different from its competitors especially in areas outside of computers. Further, it stands as a company that promotes innovation, yet over the past decade there has been no sign of major innovation from Apple. The iPad was a tablet form of the MacBook, with other tablets already present, and the Apple Watch was also not something very new. Despite this, it has been able to influence people and make them believe in their message. This has enabled them to sell products that they don’t even specialise in, such as MP3s and DVD Services.

This is similar to what Starbucks does. Today the coffee sold at Starbucks and Costa Coffee are much alike. Both companies use the same beans and have the same refining process, yet we prefer one over the other. This is because Starbucks, too, has been able to attach some intangible value to its products, making people believe they are better. It does this by having an elaborate assortment of beans and machines, giving the consumer a great experience. This experience conditions consumers to attach value to their product and the company, highlighting Starbucks in their minds.

This intangible value that is dispersed through society, has become a huge influence in our decision-making process. Instead of looking at things objectively, we choose to look at what the product represents. This might be acceptable to a lot of people who believe that the ideals behind a product are more important. While this is not necessarily good or bad, we must be conscious of this as we make our choices. We generally want to make decisions objectively, to try and get the best item for the lowest cost. Getting deceived by this emphasis on the values that a product represents, rather than the product itself, we often do not think of the tangible benefits of a product. Today, whatever we buy is important to us for it seems to be an extension of ourselves. Taking decisions based on intangible value seems illogical. Thus, the next time you are making the decision, question it. Think whether you have considered alternatives and the reason behind your decision. For it is only when you have understood the reasons behind your decisions, can you hope to improve them.
Silent Spectators

Nirvair Singh and Adit Chatterjee discuss the voicelessness felt by juniors in School.

How many times have you heard of a junior representative speaking up in a School Council meeting? The number is miniscule. In contrast, the number of times a senior or a master speaks seem limitless. A discussion that borders on a wide spectrum goes on, while juniors stare into space, offering absolutely no input, thereby failing as representatives. This is quite an unfortunate situation as the premise of such a body is one that involves the entire School community: masters, seniors and juniors. The main issue we aim to look into is why juniors do nothing more than sit in the council, twiddling their thumbs. It is the reasons for this that we aim to bring light to in our article.

Take note, it is not that juniors do not have an opinion; it is simply a lack of confidence that restrains them from showing them publicly. Instead, their views are expressed behind closed doors and are of no more worth than a dormant seed. The reality we wish to put across is that nobody inspires in them the confidence to speak their mind. We believe this is due to them getting conditioned into feeling that their opinions are not valid. It can be seen that this attitude comes mostly from conditioning by seniors. Ironically, it is built in the ethos of School that seniors mentor their juniors and guide them through all aspects of Dosco life. While they might be brilliant leaders on the sports field and great mentors off it, there are some parts left untouched in their guidance. This is what we hope to change.

We believe that seniors should help juniors by inspiring confidence and helping them go about making their voices heard. We suggest that seniors take a more proactive stance in their attitude towards juniors. While juniors may often be wrong, we believe it is more effective to reason with them rather than dismiss them entirely. To dismiss them would be to propagate a cycle of abuse that would only lead to further incursions. To eliminate such a recurrence would be beneficial as we would nip the cycle in the bud. By countering these problems at the beginning of their life at Doon, we would ensure that these concepts are alien to them and are not practised later. This would safeguard a new healthy cycle, one which supports open discourse and logical reasoning among juniors and seniors alike.

However, one of the biggest impediments to a junior's ability to express himself is the senior's inability to understand and accept constructive criticism. As the very problems we look to rectify have almost become a way of life for our seniors, the absorption of this mindset has only led to a close-minded society. However, not every stance towards a junior's opinion is dismissive; instead, some choose to aggressively counter their opinions with threats of defamation and reprimand. It is in these instances that a fear of expression is inculcated, where juniors view any sort of criticism towards seniors as an unapproachable topic. This in turn causes some to resort to anonymity. It is sad for us to realise that Doon, once a pillar of free expression and thought, has reached such a low point that its members can't express their views freely and must resort to anonymity. Maybe this is something the yet unknown author of ‘The Cool Gang Conundrum’ (Issue 2460) felt.

A future where both ends of the spectrum can work together in harmony might seem to be a utopia for many. There shall always be a sense of reservation in matters such as this. However, as the saying goes, one does not learn to run before one learns to walk. Slowly progressing towards our goal is the prudent way forward, and we can already see baby steps being taken. Speeches, debates and articles such as this are examples of this progress. The fact that our seniors are giving us an agency to talk about things logically, teaching us to reason and trying to slowly give us access to forums such as this, is a sign of progress. This shows that the harmony that we seek is not a fantasy, but rather something we can achieve.

Since many juniors present at School wish to share their outlooks, we should encourage such openness. This would ensure that when they become seniors they will not instil the same fear in their juniors. This would give birth to the reformation the both of us think is needed.

In the end, we hope to have brought insight to the School community as to how we may become a progressive society. One which - as our Headmaster stated in assembly last term - is a place where masters, seniors and juniors are treated equally. This is an act of providence we must make for the better.
The opposition to the idea is based on the fact that the Indian Railways, being a vital mechanism of travel, has an obligation to the general public. It has a duty to ensure that the common man can travel. Known as a Public Service Obligation, it is valued to be around 30,000-35,000 crore rupees annually. However, the railways can still fulfill this obligation while being a private company. Through competition in the market prices themselves would fall. Further, with some government subsidies, prices could be lowered even more to ensure that the most economically disadvantaged can travel.

In no way is privatisation a perfect solution to the problems our railways face today. It is, however, the best one we have. It is imperative, therefore, for it to be enacted as soon as possible to revive this failing industry and, more importantly, to bring back the prestige and honour that the Indian Railways once possessed.

I propose privatisation of the railways as a solution. As lighting, camera angles and the setting of the movie. -After the session, the members of the event were shown a movie and the special effects in a movie. -Aa

The ‘Silver Fiesta’

Aarnav Sethy and Kartik Rathore report on the film critiquing competition held at the Kasiga school.

A team of four members comprising Naman Agarwal, Akshat Jha, Aryan Singla and Aneesh Choudhary represented the School at the 2nd Silver Fiesta held at the Kasiga School. The Silver Fiesta is an event in which schools from all over the Doon Valley participate to compete and critically analyse and review a movie.

The Chief Guest at the event was Ms Jaskiran Chopra, who is an author and is currently teaching at the Doon University. She held a session in which she talked to the participating teams and members about a few classic movies of the past. One of the most interesting movies that she talked about was ‘Gone With The Wind’. She described it as a classic love story and what made it even better was that the movie was set in the time of the Civil War. She also talked about that the main component of the movie should be its natural acting and the realistic setting. She went on to talk about the director’s vision and the special effects in a movie. -After the session, the members of the event were shown a movie and the objective was to analyse it and present it. The name of the movie was ‘BEKAS’ which means ‘helpless’ in Kurdish. The movie revolved around the life of two orphans in Iraq during the rule of Saddam Hussein.

The two had been influenced by the movie Superman who is an author and is currently teaching at the Doon University. They embarked on a journey to find Superman without actually having any knowledge of where America is. At the end of the movie, they realised that they did not need Superman to fix their lives; instead all they needed was each other.

A total of 8 teams talked about and discussed the movies. They talked about the technicalities of the films such as lighting, camera angles and the setting of the movie. Though our School did not win any award, we really gained knowledge about film making and critiquing.
Covered in Currency

Jai Lakhanpal writes about the disappropriate investments made in sports.

“It is not just about the money, it is about what you achieve on the pitch.” - Ronaldinho

On August 2, FC Barcelona forward Neymar Jr. completed a transfer that saw him move to well-known French Club, Paris Saint-Germaine. A whopping 222 million Euros were spent on the Brazilian’s transfer, setting a new world record. The transfer was worth more than double of Paul Pogba’s move to Manchester United for 105 million Euros last summer. This astounding amount has left many commentators aghast at the rampant inflation in football transfer fees, with new records being set every year. However, this rise is not restricted to football but rather is seen across the board. Recently, four-time NBA MVP, Lebron James’ new deal saw his wage increase to 100 million dollars. Further, Formula One racer, Sebastian Vettel’s annual wage rose to 40 million Euros last year. With such huge amounts of money being spent in sports, some say that ideals that sports represent are degrading. They believe that sportsmen now play more for money than for their passion for the sport, degrading sports.

Many sport-related magazines and reports feel that the absurd amounts of money channelled into sports has drastically increased over the past two years. Many sport critics feel that the hefty sums being invested has changed the mindset of the athletes. Over time, the purpose of sports seems to have been defeated. The main reason why followers watch matches is because they believe that the players on the pitch play for passion and thus, influence and inspire the fans. Unfortunately, due to the absurd amounts of money being pumped into the game, sports has become extremely similar to a company. Each player fulfils his ‘job’ by performing better not because he is motivated by the game but because he is motivated by the money he will be rewarded after the match. This has also had an effect upon many fans as the entire purpose they felt players were supposed to serve was defeated. A perfect example that displays this would be the transfer of former Chelsea FC mid-fielder, Oscar to ‘The Chinese Super League’ (CSL). He followed the example of many others before him, saying that he had accepted the offer as he was now receiving 400,000 pounds a week. Several fans and supporters of Oscar were disappointed by his move and, hence, felt that the purpose of football was altered.

The hefty sums of money have also had a great impact on the morale of players who don’t receive such exorbitant wages. They often feel that they don’t receive enough credit for their work compared to others, even though their performance is just as good. This attracts them to leagues such as the CSL, where they get higher pay. Wages in sports like hockey seem minimal compared to that of players in football or basketball, leading to sporting inequality and discrimination. While players in all sports put a lot of hard work and display great skill, there is a huge disparity in what they earn for their skills.

While most people feel that money is degrading sports, the way that this money is made is seen as legitimate. Sports clubs earn a major portion of their revenue from selling merchandise. Last year, the famous NBA professional team, ‘The Lakers’ made approximately 400 million dollars on jerseys and training equipment. This rise in revenue is seen due to the transformation of sports into a culture. It has seen supporters and fans become more ‘die hard’ followers of their favoured idols or clubs. These people are entertained by watching, talking about, playing, buying, living, sleeping and breathing everything related to the sport or the athlete they follow. Sport becomes a part of their identity. This is often seen in the conversations amongst supporters, in which they address the victory of a team by saying “we won that match” rather than say, “Man Utd. won that match”. The use of the word ‘we’ symbolizes their devotion and belief that they are a part of a community and are a part of the team they support.

In contrast, several people still believe that the money being pushed into sports is having a positive outcome. They believe that it is helping to enhance the quality of players and making sport more competitive, thereby raising the standards of sports.

Yet, no one can put the genie back in the bottle. Money has changed everything in sports as it has elsewhere. As supporters and fans we can make a decision or else we can let money make its own decisions be it worthy or unworthy.
The Week Gone By

Kanishkh Kanodia

The usual exchange of umbrellas continued between boys (and even masters) as Chandbagh was greeted with torrential rain last week. The frequent and heavy visits by the grey clouds flooded the campus, with Doscos desperately trying to not give way to the mossy bricks and slippery tiles. While some managed to clutch onto a “close friend”, others were left alone to take the fall. (Quality number 1 for being a “good prefect leader”: always help others). Let us hope for their speedy recovery!

The week started with an abundance of good news, the first of which was the School Captain’s unusually small and celebratory post-dinner announcement regarding ugly graffiti. We would forever be grateful to the mysterious saviour for getting out of bed before sunrise and cleaning the “filth” alone. (Quality number 2: selflessness). An unprecedented number of Doscos also generously volunteered to serve during meals so as to get a closer look at the golden-haired visitors. Even the CDH staff was overwhelmed to see the stream of bowls being refilled. (Quality number 3: serve society without an ulterior motive).

Owing to the rain and the old unpopular system of School games, there wasn’t much activity noticed on the sports field. However, the one place bustling with activity was the ‘center for learning how to score well at MUNs’, also known as the gym. (Quality number 4: always try to beat the odds). Tremors were also felt across the campus on Tuesday morning with the epicenter originating from the Server Room. The Internet shutdown reflected how dependent laptops are on humans for their usage. But certain signals of hope, transmitted by ‘portable Internet providing devices’, dotted the campus. (Quality number 5: do socially useful productive work).

Moving on the “real” competitive front, this week witnessed two culturally enriching Inter-House competitions: Art and Hindi Poetry Recitation. Although they are just the beginning to an array of Inter-House competitions, Doscos can already be seen slogging from dawn to dawn. Slumbering heads, dark-circled eyes and unresponsive brains - all these have continued to define the ‘zombie Dosco’ this week. But, keep calm and continue to slog because (in the spirit of the Season)”DSMUN is here!” (Parting advice: showcase all the above qualities and you are good to be a “leader”)

Special Thanks: Amal Bansode

Crossword

Food in School

Across
2. Brunch          8. Kathis
5. Biryani         11. None
6. Waiwai         12. Roti

Down
1. Nutella
3. Organic
7. Icetea
9. Tiger

Note: All of the items listed below, while subjective, run universal in The Doon School.

Across
2. Best meal in School.
4. The best place to get shakes in Dehradun.
5. The food that is left untouched.
6. The food you eat mostly raw.
8. The guards are always looking for this.
10. The food you eat at 4 am
11. The best kind of pasta in school.
12. ‘Bulletproof’.

Down
1. The most wanted item at breakfast.
3. The best ever cafe served in School (sarcasm intended).
7. Nectar of School; always served chilled.

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