

Letters to the Editor4	Hindi Section5-6	The Doon Derby7	The Structure of Power9
------------------------	------------------	-----------------	-------------------------

Editorial: Conspicuous Contempt

Arjun Singh

In our School, there exists a certain order – a construct of the boys and by the boys – which dictates the way we really behave and act. With Doon being my second boarding school, I know that this phenomenon isn’t limited to Chandbagh, but includes certain ‘codes’ that go against the very objectives of our institution. Patently, they outlaw telling teachers about misdemeanors (i.e. *sneaking*), dictate blind loyalty to the Houses and establish a hierarchy between seniors and juniors. Unwritten as it stands, all students are expected to know and obey this hereditary code *or else*.

As this ‘student code’ dictates, juniors are supposed to follow their senior’s words to the letter without open opposition. These orders often target (and indeed have targeted) their free will as individuals. While making the ‘occasional’ Iced Tea and surrendering food are but common on campus, other orders under this code have been far more difficult for juniors to carry out. The student readership and Old Boys will know exactly what I refer to. Regardless of the nature, however, the issue remains the same: seniors lack the right to give such orders (or *favours* as they’re euphemistically termed), for they are exploitative and unjustified – holding the very virtues of empathy and ethicality in conspicuous contempt.

So, when the School Council this month chose to end the practice of ‘compulsory cheering’ during sports matches, the responses left me both dismayed yet unsurprised. A practice long-established (and swept under the rug), all students of a House would be called upon by their SC-Form (without choice) to witness sports matches played by House XI Teams. In attendance, these boys would be forcibly made to cheer for their House in an organized fashion. Those who didn’t ‘shout loudly’ enough in their seniors’ judgment would be berated and punished *ultra vires* for this so-called ‘offence’. Although the problems with this practice have been self-evident, the Council intervened to protect the interests of boys at the receiving end. However, the very hour after the Council’s decision saw these same bands of students organizing themselves to cheer. In a blatant fashion, the S-Form led the ‘cheering squad’; those ‘not loud’ enough were punished through squats and press-up positions; juniors were forced to say they cheered “optionally”; and those arriving late or repeatedly failing to shout were given Changes-in-Break, Punishment Writings and so on. Despite full knowledge of the order, the seniors didn’t care.

Some may dismissively label this as a ‘minor issue’, but it indeed reflects our attitude towards the elected representatives of this School and the larger issue of our own conduct, which reeks of hypocrisy, to say the least. Such defiance and disregard of the Council’s measure hold that body and all its members (including the Headmaster) in great contempt, which is neither permitted nor honourable. Worse, however, it reveals the apathy of seniors towards our juniors – who in their earlier years suffered the same unfair coercion they now practice. In 2014, the School Council under Dr. Peter McLaughlin defined an ideal Dosco to be ethical and trustworthy – virtues that are abrogated when we use the threat of force to compel a facade of loyalty (i.e. ‘House Spirit’) – which should be a component of free will. On the whole, however, these actions show that students cannot be trusted with seniority and adhere to norms derived by consensus – like an uncivilized society we operate at our own whim to exploit others for our own interests. Sadly, the complicity wasn’t exclusive to boys, for such forced cheering took place under the very noses of staff members as well.

In a larger context, however, this resistance reiterates the steep hierarchy that exists on campus. While this has become less rigid in recent years, it hasn’t vanished completely – with older boys still adopting an overbearing presence on their younger peers, as was apparent on the fields while cheering for matches. This, effectively, erodes the rights of younger students to their own autonomy – which is something they are legally and morally

(Continued on Page 3)



Regulars

Musical Maestros

The following are the winners of the **Inter-House Music Competition**:

Dance: Kashmir House

Band: Oberoi House

Piano: Jaipur House (Zoraver Mehta)

Drums: Hyderabad House (Anirudh Bazari)

Instrumental: Hyderabad House (Vedant Gattani)

Vocal: Tata House (Harrsh Dewan)

Tabla: Tata House (Amogh Tiwari, Harveer Kochar and Rajveer Kochar)

Choir: Kashmir House

Winning House: Tata House

Well Done!

Socratic Dialogue

The Doon School participated in the **J. L. D'Souza Inter-School English Debates** held at **St. Joesph's Academy**. The team comprising Karthik Subbiah, Shourya Agarwal, and Armaan Verma won the debate. Karthik Subbiah was adjudged the **Best Speaker** in the finals.

The Doon School A and B teams participated in the **Kamla Jeevan Memorial Hindi Debates**. The A team won the **final** against **The Daly College, Indore**. Abhyanshu Uttkarsh and Shikhar Trivedi were adjudged the **Best Speaker** and the **Most Promising Speaker** in the final respectively. The B team reached the **semi-final** and lost to **The Doon School A team**.

Congratulations!

Quizards

The following are the winners of the **IPSC G.K. Test**:

Juniors Category: Ivor Ismail

Mediums Category: Bhavya Rajgarhia

Seniors Category: Kanishkh Kanodia

Congratulations!

Around the World in 80 Words

Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi will miss next week's UN General Assembly meeting discussing the Rohingya Crisis which has intensified over the last week. Hurricane Irma, ranked 2017's most severe hurricane, finally dissipated on Tuesday. Edith Windsor, a world-renowned LGBT rights activist, passed away at 88. A seven year-old student was murdered at the Ryan International School, Gurgaon, with the case scheduled to be heard by the Supreme Court on Monday. Apple unveiled its tenth anniversary iPhone edition, iPhone X.

"It always seems impossible until it's done."

- Nelson Mandela

Science Savants

The following are the winners of the **Dipankar Sen Science Quiz**:

Juniors Category: Agam Bhatia

Seniors Category: Siddharth Mishra

Congratulations!

Playmakers

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

Juniors

1st: Hyderabad

2nd: Jaipur

3rd: Kashmir

4th: Oberoi

5th: Tata

Seniors

1st: Jaipur

2nd: Hyderabad

3rd: Tata

4th: Kashmir

5th: Oberoi

House Positions

1st: Hyderabad

2nd: Jaipur

3rd: Kashmir

4th: Oberoi

5th: Tata

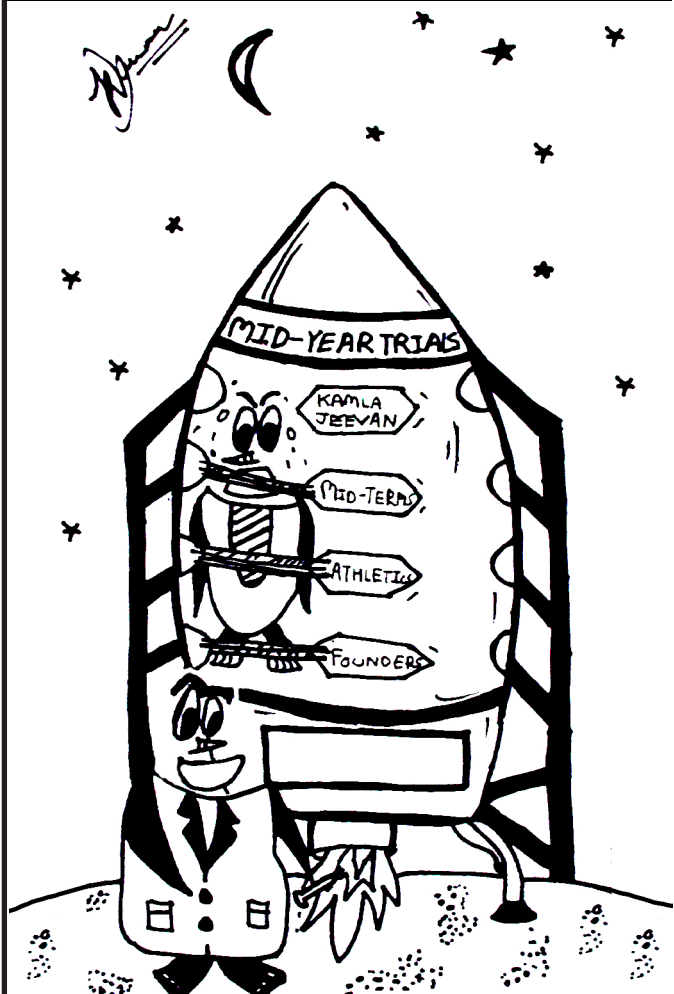
Most Goals: Unnat Sodhi, Pranav Sachdeva and Keshav Singhal (Six each)

Most Cleansheets: Anish Bhide (Two)

Well Done!

Dosco Doodle

Too Much?
Krishnav Singhal



(Continued from Page 1)

entitled to. There exists no logic to justify why an age difference of a few years gives seniors unaccountable authority that they currently hold. In the real world, such actions are tantamount to extortion or forced servitude, which are criminal offences. For a school like ours, this example is a dangerous one to set.

To conclude, it is important for us to treat all equally with the rights they deserve, and above all, follow the enacted rules that guarantee the same. While it's no secret that some may still resist (or even flare up after this piece is published), expressing dissent through proper channels is the right course of action – the alternative resembles an element of anarchy. I hope that in the coming Basketball Season, the School Council's decision is respected, and in coming months we think about the morality of our positions. Such would be a step towards improving the quality of life in our School, and prepare us to be better citizens in the wider world.

A Web of Lies

Karan Sampath *comments on the rise of fake news.*

Over the past few years, the world has been overrun with emotions such as hatred and fear. Such emotions have not only come from the radical ideologies that are espoused by leaders, but also from the 'news stories' seen on social media. These stories highlight statements made by world leaders, often incorrectly, with the sole intention of sensationalising and although they grab attention, they also misinform and misguide the ever-credulous user. Fake News, as the term suggests, is the reporting of news containing misinformation. It can arise in any form, from simple news bleeps to intricate video recordings. More importantly, though, fake news is designed to resemble factually-accurate news. This means that many people cannot distinguish between the two.

The danger fake news poses is grave to say the least, as it can be misused to achieve ulterior motives. This has been seen in the 2016 US Presidential Election, where fake news stories (notably, that 'Pope Francis endorses Donald Trump') were circulated around 38 million times on social media sites like Facebook and Twitter. This phenomenon is not only local, but has expanded to the global arena as well. Following the announcement of demonetisation in India, fake news spread on WhatsApp that the new notes came with a spying technology, allowing bearers to be detected as far as 120 metres underground. Being suspicious of the government, many readily believed this false statement, adding to the hysteria and panic already present at the time.

It is important to realise that fake news as a concept has existed since early times; during the Nazi era, the sole purpose of such news was propaganda. However, with the rise of social media, the power of fake news has grown exponentially. With the advent of internet giants like Facebook and Google, one does not need platforms such as news channels when they have a far more effective medium right at their fingertips. Through these, falsities have spread like wildfire; and humans - usually believing what they see - are therefore easily duped by fake news.

Interestingly, many pundits also believe that the advent of fake news has helped usher in a 'post-truth' world, where opinions are not based on facts, but on passion and prejudice. It is a sad truth that the benefits of social media, such as the ability to communicate *en masse*, is its own Achilles' heel. These anonymous and wide platforms allow for anyone to use it for their own nefarious purposes and not be easily brought to task. It is this chink that American far-right news organisations like The Daily Stormer exploit. Through the spread of fake news stories, they have played a significant part in ensuring their preferred candidate sits today in the Oval Office. Hearteningly, the world has not sat idle in response to this looming threat, with many taking the initiative to combat such news. From WikiTribune - a fact checking website created by Wikipedia founder Jimmy Wales - to Factmata - an anti fake-news start-up using artificial intelligence - individuals have taken the fight to this malaise. However, is this really the solution? I wouldn't agree, because these initiatives do not have a global impact. Any real solution has to include the vast majority to be truly effective. I believe the solution lies in the awareness of the common man. Moreover, this change has to be championed by social media itself, being the media that allows these message reach their total 1.5 billion users. Finally, it is vital for the common man to know which sources are credible, to ensure that the spread of lies which can cause irreparable damage is stopped in its tracks. There has been headway made in this fight, with the addition of 'disputed' signs next to some Facebook stories, but that is not enough. Action needs to be quick, for the longer we procrastinate, the worse this problem gets.

Governments across the world are usually unable or unwilling to take action against this issue, mainly due to obstacles like political opposition and 'Freedom of Speech' laws. The ball, therefore, resides in Silicon Valley's court. These social media giants must control the rise of fake news to ensure the 'information age', doesn't descend into information anarchy. Mr Zuckerberg, over to you.



Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

This is in response to the well written article by Aryan Chhabra titled “Questioning Legacy”. My immediate reaction was of pride in both The Doon School and *The Doon School Weekly* because in true democratic tradition, there is debate and discussion on sensitive topics like legacy admissions. This is essential for any vibrant community where a free flow of ideas is encouraged.

With specific regard to the article, I had some observations. My opinions have been formed as a non-legacy admit to Doon (372-K, 1986), then as a teacher (I taught Physics at Doon from 1993-1994) and as a parent of two current boys studying at Doon. First, the “legacy benefit” is available not just to Old Boy’s sons but also to brothers of existing Doon students. The reason institutions worldwide have legacy admissions (as also pointed out by Mr. Chhabra in his article), is that the culture and ethos of the institution play a vital role in defining the success of the institution.

When creating any high quality institution, be it the Army, a company or an educational institution, the quality of talent is of vital importance (this is equivalent to the quality of new admits at Doon). However, the secret sauce is also in the culture and value system that prevails in the institution. This is where “legacy” becomes so important. You need an appropriate blend of legacy and non-legacy admits to get a talent pool that is constantly improving in capability and yet one which continues with the ethos and culture that defines the institution. It can certainly be debated as to what is the relative percentage advantage legacy admits should get over non-legacy admits. However, that is a decision that the Board of the Governors is best positioned to make. The key point here is that one of the reasons why so many parents are keen to send their boys to Doon is the ethos, the culture and the amazing Old Boys’ network which acts as a lifetime support system. This is possible only because of the strong bonds that graduating boys maintain with the School. They want to stay connected and they want to give back to their Alma Mater. It is a unique bond and there is simply no other school in India that boasts of such a close knit community.

Yes, there are instances where legacy admits perform at a lower level than the class average (though it would be dangerous to paint all legacy admits with the same brush. As a matter of fact, a number of our top performers in School today are legacy admits). However, it is also true that the legacy admits do well in sports and extra-curricular activities and the Doon experience is a combination of all these academic/non-academic experiences.

Mr Chhabra also touched on an important topic of

“fund raising” from the Old Boys. I think it is very important for us to understand that the incredible infrastructure at Doon supports ONLY 540 boys. There is simply no way the capital needs of the School can be met through the School fees alone. So, having a robust fund raising mechanism in the institution allows us to continue to invest in the campus facilities, development of faculty, student bursaries etc so that we remain the premier institution in the country. This bond is due to the culture of the School and the balance between legacy and non-legacy admits plays a key role here.

Having said all the above, I must add that there is a concerted effort at Doon to diversify the student base so that there is more balanced representation from all parts of the country. It is for this reason that Hindi was dropped from the admissions test (though it continues to be a subject in the core curriculum up to Class 10). A diverse student body with a constantly improving talent base which also continues to uphold the ethos and culture of Doon is what will make us achieve the objectives of our Founding Fathers. A healthy debate in *The Doon School Weekly* is definitely an integral part of that journey!

Warm Regards,

Pavan Vaish (372-K, 1986)

Dear Editor,

This letter refers to the article “Size Matters” authored by Aryan Bhattacharjee published in *Weekly’s* Issue (No. 2477). While I sympathise with the issues short people face, I have found that some often complain about their own height without fully understanding the plight of a person with just the opposite problem. This letter reflects my personal perspective, with the aim of complementing the message of Mr. Bhattacharjee’s article.

Let us first explore the very expectations that the title induces. When we say ‘Size Matters’, it is necessary to seek the counterargument, which is what I seek to present. The entire argument, perhaps due to his being ‘vertically challenged’, indicates the need to take a well-rounded look on this matter. As a rather “tall” person myself, it is quite difficult for me to accept that my confidence and ability to converse is merely thanks to a genetic factor not within my control. Furthermore, the claims made by the author were not founded on any research on human psychology, which would be needed to prove the author’s points. In conclusion, I write this in pure spirit of reason and healthy interaction and hope that we realise that both tall and short people have problems, they are just different.

Warm Regards,

Aditya Reddy Mannur

जाती थी कोई डगर

• शुभम धीमान

खोया सा एक किस्सा होगा
जिसमे होगा हमारा जिकर
बातों में ही कही गम जायेगा
होगी न किसी को फिकर
पराये से कुछ अपने भी होंगे
न होगी जिनको कदर
उन तक ही हमारी दुनिया होगी
वो ज़िंदा रखे अगर

बड़े बुजुर्गों की बातें भी होंगी
चमकते सितारों की रातें भी होंगी
जगती मुर्गों की बाँगें भी होंगी
नदियों के गोते-छलांगें भी होंगी
होगी वो मिटटी की सौंधी सी खुसबू
जिसमे बारिश की बूंदों की छम छम
भिगाती थी मेरा यह घर
नहलाती थी मेरा यह घर
शहरों में बसके कहा याद होगा
कि गांव को तेरे जाती थी कोई डगर

खेतों में गाते थे पुरखों के गाने
आंगन में कबूतर चुगते थे दाने
चूल्हे में पकती थी मक्के की रोटी
माँ के हाथों की मीठी सी रोटी
क्या बोलेगा उस माँ को पगले
तुझको दूँढे जिसकी नज़र
तुझको चाहे जिसकी नज़र
शहरों में बसके कहा याद होगा
कि गांव को तेरे जाती थी कोई डगर

पीपल के पत्ते गिरे होंगे छत पे
यादों के आंसू टपकेंगे खत पे
रोयेगी मुन्नी चुपके से छत पे
जब भी लिखेगी नाम तेरा खत पे
मीलों तक होकर लौटेंगी नज़रें
होगा जब भी तेरा जिकर
तुझ को याद हो अगर
की गांव को तेरे जाती थी कोई डगर

जाती थी कोई डगर

सामाजिक विघ्न

• हर्षित गुप्ता

दुनिया में कदम रखते ही सामाजिक विघ्नों
से घिर गए,
होना क्या था हम भी ऐसे कामो में मिल
गए ।
भ्रष्टाचार के नीचे हम दब जाते हैं,
पैसे चारों ओर देख कर हम घुट घुट कर
मर जाते हैं ।

लड़का लड़की के बीच अंतर करना
भगवान् ने नहीं सिखलाया था,
यह सारे इंसानों ने ही आरम्भ किए थे।
हमे क्या पता था कि हम श्याम-जन्म लेंगे,
हमे नहीं पता था कि परिवार ही हमारी
शर्म का कारण बनेगा ।

पैदा हुए थे हथकड़ियों के बिना, किन
विघ्नों ने फाँस लिया,
इन तुच्छ चीज़ों में ज़िंदगी का रस ही चला
गया।

माँ

• हर्षित गुप्ता

यह शब्द जैसे ही जुबाँ पर आए,
सारे दुःख-दर्द दूर हो जाए ।
माँ, एक पत्नी, एक बहन, एक सहेली,
उसकी ज़िन्दगी जैसे एक पहेली ।

माँ खुद भूखा रह कर,
हमें भर पेट खिला देती है
खुद अपनी बात छोड़,
हमें अपनी बात करने देती है
स्कूल से थक कर जब हम घर आएँ,
तो प्यार से हमें सुलाती है ।

माँ न हो तो हमारा क्या होगा?
माँ के बिना जीवन का यह सफ़र नहीं हो
पाए,
माँ, तेरा बस नाम सुन सब ठीक हो जाए !

कमला जीवन वाद-विवाद प्रतियोगिता

- अभ्यांशु उत्कर्ष

इस वर्ष के कमला जीवन अंतर विद्यालयी हिंदी वाद-विवाद प्रतियोगिता में ग्यारह विद्यालयों ने भाग लिया, जिनमें भारत के अलग-अलग हिस्सों के और दूसरे देशों के विद्यालय भी शामिल थे। प्रतियोगिता में कुल बारह दल थे, जिनमें द दून स्कूल दल ए, और द दून स्कूल दल बी, भी शामिल थे।



प्रतियोगिता के पहले चक्र में दलों को चार समूहों में बाटा गया। हर समूह में तीन दल थे। दूसरे चक्र के विषय अत्यंत रोमांचक थे जैसे: 'फूल नहीं रंग बोलते हैं', 'जो मेरा है वह हमारा है' इत्यादि। हर समूह से प्रथम और द्वितीय स्थान ग्रहण करने वाले दल क्वार्टर फाइनल के लिए आगे बढ़े, इस चक्र का विषय था, 'परम्पराओं की भूल भुलैया में एक भारतीय अस्तित्व खो देता है। क्वार्टर फाइनल जीतने वाले दलों ने सेमी-फाइनल की ओर बढ़े। सेमी फाइनल तक पहुँचने वाले दल थे: मेयो कॉलेज गर्ल्स स्कूल, अजमेर, डेली कॉलेज, इंदौर, द दून स्कूल ए और द दून स्कूल बी। इस चक्र का विषय था, 'दिल तोह पागल है'। द दून स्कूल ए, द दून स्कूल बी को हरा कर और डेली कॉलेज, इंदौर, मेयो कॉलेज गर्ल्स स्कूल, अजमेर को हरा कर निर्णायक चक्र में पहुँचे। द दून स्कूल ए का प्रतिनिधित्व शिखर त्रिवेदी, मिहीर गुप्ता और अभ्यांशु उत्कर्ष कर रहे थे और डेली कॉलेज, इंदौर का प्रतिनिधित्व शौर्य

सिंह, प्रद्युमन मालपानी और ईशान जैन कर रहे थे।

निर्णायक चक्र का विषय था, 'सिनेमा समय का प्रतिबिम्ब है'। द दून स्कूल इस विषय के पक्ष में, और डेली कॉलेज इस विषय के विपक्ष में था। विषय को पूर्ण रूप से समझने के लिए दोनों दलों और श्रोताओं को सत्यजीत रे की एक छोटी फिल्म, 'टू' दिखाई गई। इसके बाद निर्णायक चक्र को प्रारम्भ किया गया। दोनों ही दलों के वक्ताओं ने अपने वक्तव्य सभा के समक्ष प्रस्तुत किये। शिखर त्रिवेदी निर्णायक चक्र के संवेदनशील वक्ता घोषित किये गए और अभ्यांशु उत्कर्ष निर्णायक चक्र के सर्वश्रेष्ठ वक्ता घोषित किये गए। पूरी प्रतियोगिता के सर्वश्रेष्ठ वक्ता डेली कॉलेज, इंदौर के ईशान जैन घोषित किए गए। द दून स्कूल दल ए इस प्रतियोगिता के विजेता घोषित किये गए।

इसी के साथ कमला जीवन अंतर विधलयी हिंदी वाद-विवाद प्रतियोगिता २०१७ समाप्त हुई।

हर वाद विवाद के बाद वक्ताओं का विवेक बढ़ता गया, दल खुद को पहले से बेहतर पाते रहे। प्रतियोगिता में खेल भावना भी बहुत देखने को मिली। सभी प्रतियोगी अपने विवेक और ज्ञान को दर्शाने में सफल रहे। किसी भी प्रतियोगिता का लक्ष्य जीतना नहीं बल्कि ज़्यादा से ज़्यादा सीखना होता है। मुझे पूरा भरोसा है कि इस साल की प्रतियोगिता इस लक्ष्य को हासिल करने में सफल रही है।

The Doon Derby

Jaisal Nath and Vir Bhatia *report on the recently concluded Inter-House Football Competition.*

This year, all of the five houses came together for the 82nd Edition of the Inter-House Football Competition with the classic, annual hunger for glory. Save for rainy days which had matches cancelled, it was enthralling for spectators and players alike – be it at close penalty kicks in the dying moments of House XIs, goal-upon-goal scored by teams or players cutting through defence lines like butter. All in all, each house brought novelty to the tournament, making this year's Inter-House notable in recent memory.

In chronicling this year's competition, it's only fair to look back on the performances of the five rival houses. This year's winners – the Nizams of Hyderabad House - returned from the holidays with much confidence for this season. Their Captain, Udayveer Sekhon, was sure he could count on the likes of School Team leader Ajatshatru Singh, Viraa Gaur, Ram Attri and Viksit Verma to earn back the Cup after five long years. Mid-season, however, the House XI line up was dealt a blow by Singh's injury (giving credence to rumours of a 'curse' surrounding the football captaincy) – leaving the House without its prime striker and experienced skipper. Yet, the team performed well throughout the tournament: with one win, two draws and a last-breath loss to Tata House costing the Seniors' Cup. A stellar performance, however, was noted by the Junior Teams,

who won the cup with a record 22/24 points. Boasting the likes of Captain Rahul Singh, Paarth Tyagi, Narit Pattnaik and Unnat Sodhi; the teams met expectations. With the overall victory of the Football Shield, the Nizams' season has been quite successful, who now have two-out-of-three Grand Slam trophies in their cabinet.

However, the Nizams were indeed given a run for their money by the runners-up team – Jaipur House – who came short of just two points of the Overall House victory. The Eagles soared high with expectations this year, being the defending champions and with a glamorous squad of Keshav Maliah, Ishaan Roy, Aditya Vikram Singh and Shiv Sharma. With this line-up, they



cruised to victory of the Seniors' Cup with performances on the pitch that out-smarted the toughest of defences, with their own keeper Anish Bhide conceding just two goals. Likewise, the Juniors with Aryaman Khosla and Pranav Sachdeva operated well as a unit against most Houses on Skinners. After proficient gameplay, it was only a matter of bad luck to walk away without the coveted prize and an established streak. Again, their closeness to the winner deserves high commendation.

In third place was Kashmir House, who had hoped to garner some silverware after a considerable drought on the pitch in the past few years. Needless to say, they boasted the best team on paper, being heavily armed with Rishank Kala, Aryaman Saluja, Bharat Choudhary and Manan Agarwal to name a few, putting doubts to rest that the Shield was out of reach. In the dying moments, however, they came off with close losses, and after a shortfall of performance took home bronze. As with the runners-up, they too suffered the rut of bad luck: most markedly at their infamous Leagues rematch with the tournament's winners. In the end, although they came short of glory, the quality of gameplay by Kashmir House had a noticeable uptick in play from previous years, leaving future teams of Gentlemen to be reckoned with.

Many questioned whether Oberoi House would handle the pressure of being the underdogs, but the four squads did play satisfactorily all throughout the competition. Leading them was Captain Salman Mallick: the School Team Goalkeeper whose presence was crucial near the net. Unfortunately, though, their senior team lacked important experience when up against the heavyweight houses, placing them fourth. The same went for their Junior Teams under Ajay Pratap Singh, which despite losses showcased team spirit and chemistry.

At the bottom of the table was Tata House: a surprising fact, given the successes of their House XI with only one loss. Conversely, their Junior line-up – packing weight on paper – historically couldn't amount to much. However, they managed to deny the Nizams their second clean sweep of the year after a well-contested tournament finale. Perhaps a better performance next year would quell any disappointment that may linger.

All in all, however, the competition was one of sportsmanship – of being humble in victory and generous in defeat – and all players can hold their heads high for adding quality throughout this season. Across a football-frenzied campus as ours, this competition is always promising with high standards, and was a pleasure to play at and witness - providing invaluable exposure to future House Teams and School-level players. All players for their efforts, and are wished good luck for the eagerly awaited next season!

The Resilient Revenant

Varen Talwar *pays tribute to Maria Sharapova on the occasion of her return to tennis.*

Entering the stadium after a fifteen month ban with a world ranking of 148 and beating the current World No. 2 is no ordinary task. So, when Maria Sharapova accomplished this feat at the Arthur Ashe Stadium in New York at the US Open this year, she proved that she was certainly not ‘just another’ player.



The Russian’s career comprises many spectacular performances. At seventeen, she won her first Grand Slam singles title at the Wimbledon, defeating Serena Williams in the final, leaving the tennis world in shock and awe. A few years later in 2006 she clinched her second Grand Slam title, winning the US Open, beating Justine Henin in the final. After a gap of a few years due to injuries and personal struggle, she won the Italian and French Opens in 2012, accomplishing a Career Grand Slam. That year, she also won the Silver Medal at the 2012 London Olympics, losing to Serena Williams in the final.

However, on March 7, 2016, Sharapova tested positive for ‘meldonium’ at the Australian Open, a drug taken by athletes who train under a lot of strain. This drug is said to help the consumption of oxygen in the body more efficient. When she learnt about this, she said that she had been taking this drug for ten years under the name of ‘mildronate’ and was unaware about the drug being banned under the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). As a result of this, she was banned from playing tennis for two years. However, on appealing to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) reduced her ban by nine months, saying that she had “no significant fault”.

Now that she is back, her fans have flocked to the stadiums to witness her powerful volleys and her dominance on the court. It is too early to say if she will be able to match the hopes of her many fans, but considering her performance in her recent games ‘Maria Mania’ will certainly return soon.

In my view, despite all the controversies, Maria Sharapova stands a classic example of resilience and determination. Facing the unimaginable amount of harsh criticism in a doping controversy with such dignity and character and then stunning the world no. 2 in her first match after a fifteen-month ban is unheard of. She has done all this with the whole world watching, and that is what makes her ‘Maria Sharapova’.

| Spoken Word |

A Sunflower

Vir Bhatia

Ladies and Gentlemen of our world today...

Do not be a sunflower.

A sunflower is among the most destructive and damaging entities present on our planet.

It is the blip on our existence that is responsible for failing to acknowledge the obscure brightness in the individuals who do not wish to extravagantly express their light.

Or perhaps, those who cannot find their light.

So sunflower,

Graciously give dullness a chance because true brightness is found far beneath the surface in a layer of humanity only visible and accessible to a few.

Brightness isn’t about looks or status because brightness is not a gift. It is not what is shown but what is found when you dig a little deeper.

Brightness is what you work for to define yourself and what gives us true significance.

It is what comes after passionate effort and time, like a final product.

It is an abstract element, present in the soul of every identity, hidden only by the finder’s will to seek them out.

So why don’t you.

Seek out the light in all that you missed while your head was turned.

Recognize that the sun’s shine has shown you far less than what it has blinded you from.

You will find that nothing is dull but too much shine can be a danger.

Shine is the unnecessary inclusion added for all the wrong reasons.

You don’t need to impress anybody because it’s not about anybody but you.

Embrace your brightness and appreciate that its luminosity will not be apparent to everyone

But at the same time be patient. Because everyone can see the light, if only they are guided to it.

The Structure of Power

Ansh Raj explores the idea of a Presidential form of Government in India.

After seven decades of Independence we are immensely proud to call ourselves the world's largest democracy. However, why is it that India is still far from developed, lagging far behind the West? The problem, I believe, lies within the democratic framework that we have adopted. Even after all these years, India is enslaved by flawed democratic institutions, which have caused growth to remain bottlenecked and inefficiency to run rampant.

Our country's current structure of government is a replica of the British - established on the premise that India would attain the same democratic achievements as the British did at that time. However, what our founders failed to realise was that Britain had instituted democracy almost seven centuries ago, when King John consented to the formulation of the *Magna Carta*. Britain's development happened on the foundations of slave trade, colonial exploits and the Industrial Revolution. In contrast, democracy was a newfound institution which had been 'gifted' to India amid the ashes of partition and economic ruin. These fundamental differences ensured that the implications of seven centuries of parliamentary democracy on Britain would not hold the same in a newly independent India.

Regardless, a parliamentary democracy is still not the most effective political set-up to usher in development, especially in a nation like India. The primary reason behind this is the absence of a clear separation between the executive and the legislature. Under the *status quo*, the people elect the members of Parliament, from which the majority party or coalition form the Ministry which performs executive duties. Here lies the flaw: for an executive to be truly efficient, it must be held accountable for its actions, not only by the people but also by the legislature. Thus, if the executive is derived from the legislature, there is no such accountability. A no-confidence motion would have low chances of success since it would mean the Government would have to turn against itself. While these chances would be higher in coalition governments, it would, again, be marginal at best.

In fact, these coalition governments are one of the primary shortcomings of democracy. Due to the pluralistic nature of India, parties with different ideologies and manifestos are sometimes elected, with no one party holding a clear majority. In these cases, coalition governments are formed for parties to take power. Later, though, these governments suffer infighting which leads to incompetency. The largest party would take certain decisions to meet the demands of the coalition partners, rather than focusing primarily on the people. To quote Shashi Tharoor, "our system has also produced coalition governments which have been obliged to focus more on politics than on policy or performance".

Further, the anti-defection law ensures the grip of the ruling party is solidified in the executive and legislature. Under this law, if the party publishes a stance on a particular Bill, all party members are obligated to vote with the party, else face disqualification. This effectively makes it impossible to keep proper checks on the two branches of the government, leading to over-activity of the judiciary. Such a set-up has plagued India on several occasions. That is why for India to have effective decisions and governance, it must move towards a presidential form of governance, something along the lines of the United States. The presidential system's fundamental feature is a separate executive which is headed by a directly-elected President separate from the Parliament, allowing for more accountability, thereby resolving a primary shortcoming of Parliamentary governance. Furthermore, the state's efficiency increases manifold for such a leader may issue Executive Orders and is elected on the sole criteria of his or her ability to perform executive duties. The Presidential system also provides an answer to the problem of coalition governments. Such a system would compel parties with similar ideologies to align together and field a singular candidate to win the Presidency. For example, a party like the BJP, which upholds the ideals of conservatism and Hindu nationalism would form a permanent alliance with Shiv Sena, whose ideology runs along similar lines. This would ensure smoother and more effective governance and would oblige other parties to stick to their ideologies. The biggest apprehensions regarding a Presidential system is the "winner takes all" problem (whereby the voters of losing parties have no voice). However, I feel that these reservations are unfounded. Taking the Americans' example, Donald Trump's manifesto of repealing Obamacare has failed to pass repeatedly, even though his own party has a majority in both the houses. This, if anything, shows that there is not much difference between "greater among equals" and "the greatest". Even more, it shows that under the Presidential system the President may can be held accountable from within his or her own party – a boon for democracy.

While it is near improbable, shifting to a Presidential government is what would suit India's political needs. For now, when there is turmoil both within and beyond borders, strong governance is the need of the hour. A Presidential government holds the remedy for that.

The Week Gone By

Aayush Chowdhry

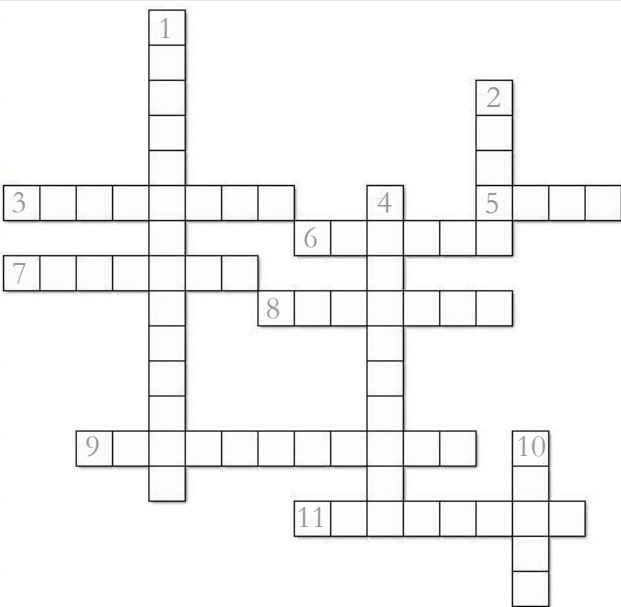
After the *fervent* adherence to School Council regulations over the weekend – during both Inter-School and Inter-House events – one saw how ‘willingly’ Doscocs arrived to cheer on a rainy Sunday morning for their house; and just two nights before their exams - for their School. This spirit may only be compared to the intense drama for the football shield running parallel with the heated Kamla Jeevan debates. While the school won the debates, Hyderabad House bagged the shield; both with their fair share of competition. With a rather poetic penalty save, in House XI, and a *karmic* reversal of the events of the hockey competition, in Leagues, the winners scrambled over the runners-up by two points. The rain played fair; unlike during early morning P.T.

This tide of fervor had to be transmogrified into focus by the school community; especially, by our SCs, as they prepared for their predicting examinations. ‘Not chasing after grades’ (as the Headmaster put it) wasn’t exactly the norm; however, many were seen devoted to only their books. The S-Formers also received their first taste of what was to follow in their respective curricula while our A-Formers began the conventional ICSE stretch that ends in March of the next year. Monday morning assembly didn’t have the usual ‘academic honesty’ sermon but still, effectively, conveyed how paramount it is. The assemblies also provided little relief to the students before their papers as they prayed together for a rather omitted version of Tagore’s utopia on Monday and the exchange from South Africa bid farewell to his batch with a ‘*Banjaoege*’ on Tuesday.

Despite the academia, the occasional football was seen rolling in the main field during the less happening evenings; as some chose to take a break from the loving embrace of Mathematics. The formulation of mid-term plans was the only other agenda for most as they cemented their plans with last minute omissions and additions. While the cyclists were cycling, the School Basketball Team was practicing as their IPSCs start rights after trials. Let’s hope all the post-trials planning leads to an enjoyable break after trials. However, there is another week left for us Doscocs to push through and prove our renowned ability to perform in one area after another, and for that: best of luck!

Crossword

Iconic Cartoon Characters



Note: All answers related to characters in this crossword use their first name.

Across

- 3. This show’s protagonist recently had his catchphrase ‘D’oh!’ included in the English language.
- 5. This mad scientist is the protagonist of an acclaimed show that recently began its third season.
- 6. Charlie Brown’s pet beagle in the comic ‘Peanuts’.
- 7. This child genius was Dexter’s neighbor and rival.
- 8. Captain _____ was Tintin’s best friend.
- 9. The family of modernised cavemen featured in America’s first internationally acclaimed cartoon.

Down

- 1. The leader of the Gaulish village where Asterix lives.
- 2. The shrewd rival of a much bigger domestic cat, featured in a very popular American TV show
- 4. This desert bird was adapted into a ‘Looney Tunes’ character and has always appeared alongside a coyote.
- 10. An academic who was one of Scooby Doo’s four companions.

Answers to This Week's Crossword		
Across		
3. Simpsons	8. Haddock	9. Flintstones
5. Rick		
6. Snoopy	11. Garfield	4. Roadrunner
7. Mandark		10. Velma

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

The views expressed in articles printed are their authors’ own and do not necessarily reflect those of the Weekly or its editorial policy.

Online Edition: www.doonschool.com/co-curricular/clubs-societies/publications/past-weeklies/ weekly@doonschool.com

©IPSS: All rights reserved. Printed by: The English Book Depot, 15 Rajpur Road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand–248001, India. Published by: PK Nair, The Doon School, Dehradun.
Editor-in-Chief: Arjun Singh Editor: Aryan Chhabra Senior Editors: Nehansh Saxena, Omar Chishti, Salman Mallick Hindi Editor: Shubham Dhiman Associate Editors: Aayush Chowdhry, Devang Laddha, Kanishkh Kanodia, Kushagra Kar, Zoraver Mehta Special Correspondents: Ansh Raj, Aryan Bhattacharjee, Divyansh Nautiyal, Karan Sampath Correspondents: Aviral Kumar, Jai Lakhanpal, Nirvair Singh, Varen Talwar Cartoonists: Ameya Shawak, Krishnav Singhal, Pratham Bansal Webmaster: Vishal Mohla Assistant Managers: Anamika Ghose, Purnima Dutta, Arvindanabha Shukla Technical Assistant: KC Maurya Picture Credits: Sonicbound (Page 3), Vidhukesh Vimal (Page 6), Udaya Goel (Page 7), The Daily Beast (Page 8)

