

Established in 1936

The Doon School WEEKLY

"I sketch your world exactly as it goes." - Arthur Foot
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Editorial

The Path of Progress

Arjun Singh

We're all familiar with change: it seems to be happening so quickly nowadays. The sleek renovation of classrooms after an 80 year-staple, a new curriculum after 44-years of ICSE; a new schedule, Chairman, Headmaster, faculty, infrastructure, calendar...the list goes on and on. It seems overwhelming, but this change is important, especially for the oldest institutions, where systems demand refurbishment at times. It's also our natural instinct: the constant drive to 'improve' and lift ourselves and constructs to a higher pedestal, being part of the endless journey called 'progress'.

Remaining constant throughout the history of this institution, and perhaps becoming one itself, the *Weekly* now seeks to change as part of progressive momentum. It began over ten months ago, where Amal sent me a proposal for a 'new and refined' design to replace that of our existing Issues. While having served us well, the former design often reduced our flexibility to arrange and exhibit content, both textual and graphic. Plus, across-the-page rows of text had imposed a strain on reading horizontally – a practice which has been phased out by most major international publications. While there were certainly areas that were erroneous, things didn't have to necessarily be 'wrong' to invite change. Since progress is an end of itself, we chose to push the

boundaries of our design – with the focus bringing higher quality.

Thus, after months of reviews, feedback, changes and the whole process all over again, we've arrived at and present the new and redesigned Doon School *Weekly*. On the whole, the result is a modern, minimalist style while infusing figments of traditional formats, which in our opinion, produces an Issue less visually dense and more elegant. The most marked change you've already witnessed is our Masthead – the flag-item of that caps each edition. Redesigned, we've included the Rose Bowl from last year's Founder's cover, which to us symbolises the spirit of Chandbagh in its confluence of holistic pursuits - that're only too visible at this time of year. Additionally, we've included our motto "*I sketch your world exactly as it goes*". Set out by Arthur Foot in the *Weekly's* very first volume, it encapsulates our duty to represent the School in truth, and enshrines the free speech we've strived to maintain. As you flip through this Issue, such changes will be evident.

Perhaps the biggest departure with this move is the removal of across-the-page lines, being substituted by two or three-column pieces that make for easier, quicker reading – aided by refined font and descriptive elements at the ends of each page. Complementing this content, we've also aimed to

reduce our usage of previously unnecessary elements to maintain elegance, and thus redesigned article headers to reduce blotchy colours. Substituting them, more icons and graphics will ensure these sections remain as intriguing as before. In this issue, our signature satire 'The Roving Eye', Under the Scanner, and Point-Counterpoint have been reworked along these lines, with more to follow.

But throughout this momentous effort, the labours of the entire Board have been at the highest notch. Each figment of this design has been included after their patient thought and deliberations over long-days and nights in the Publications' Room. For me, in my last weeks as Chief Editor, it piqued me to see the loyal resolve of our Board to this exercise that'll redefine the *Weekly* for the foreseeable future. Their exhaustion defines the sacrifice that serving on this publication often entails - offering their selfless service without question. To them, as to me, the *Weekly* is something special demanding not only work, but fidelity. In that spirit, as we seal our efforts with this Issue, and (hopefully) leave you in anticipation for Founders', we're certain to have elevated the *Weekly* to a higher platform, knowing this constant path of progress is long, tiring and inevitable, but evermore upward.

NOTE TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Kudos for the editorial ('Conspicuous Contempt' in Issue 2479)! Threats like these don't really work in the long run.

In Delhi University, in the 'good' old days, the *dadas* and *mahadadas* from other colleges would use friendly persuasion to get us to cheer for their college in the tournament - after giving us a glimpse of the daggers they were carrying.

An apocryphal story about Stalin was that, after the great man spoke, there was loud and continuous clapping. The guy who stopped clapping first would be shot!

There are, of course, less painful alternatives. You can hire 'applauders'. The French, trust them, have a word for these people, *clagues*.

Perhaps the seniors were looking at more cost-effective options.

Yours in sorrow,

Bhartendra Baswan (180-H, Batch of 1961)

Around the World in 80 Words

A shooting at a Las Vegas concert left 58 dead and over five hundred injured. Spain's autonomous region of Catalonia held a self-legislated independence referendum, with the result in favour of secession. Three militants were killed in a suicide attack in Srinagar. Elon Musk unveiled his plans to reach and colonise Mars by 2022. Manchester City beat Chelsea 1-0 to retain their spot on top of the Premier League. Saudi Arabia's King lifted a ban on women's ability to drive.

“

It is during our darkest moments, that we must focus to see the light

—
Aristotle

AQUATIC ACCOLADES

The **School Swimming Team** participated in the **7th Wynberg Allen Swimming Meet** held at the **Wynberg Allen School, Mussoorie**. The team was adjudged the **runner-up**, with Tarun and Anish Bhide being adjudged the **Most Promising Swimmers** in their respective age categories.

Well done!

BETWEEN THE CROSSHAIRS

The School participated in the **14th All India IPSC Shooting Championship** held between **September 27 and October 1, 2017** at **The Daly College, Indore**. In the **U-19 category**, the team comprising Akshat Jha, Varad Mann and Shourya Aggarwal won the **bronze** medal. Shourya Aggarwal secured a **individual silver** medal in the **U-19 category**.

Congratulations!

UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

Michael Schumacher is in a state of a vegetable.

Ranvijay Singh, in a critical condition.

The date was very here.

Arjun Singh, making history.

How can you assume my sister's gender?

Raihan Vadra, politically correct.

Udaya Goel is the best cyclist in school.

Aarnav Sethy, downhill, certainly.

I beg for you for your cello-tape.

Shantam Gilra, a sticky situation.

Hold on one second, five minutes.

Kanishkh Kanodia, time constraints.

Every people die.

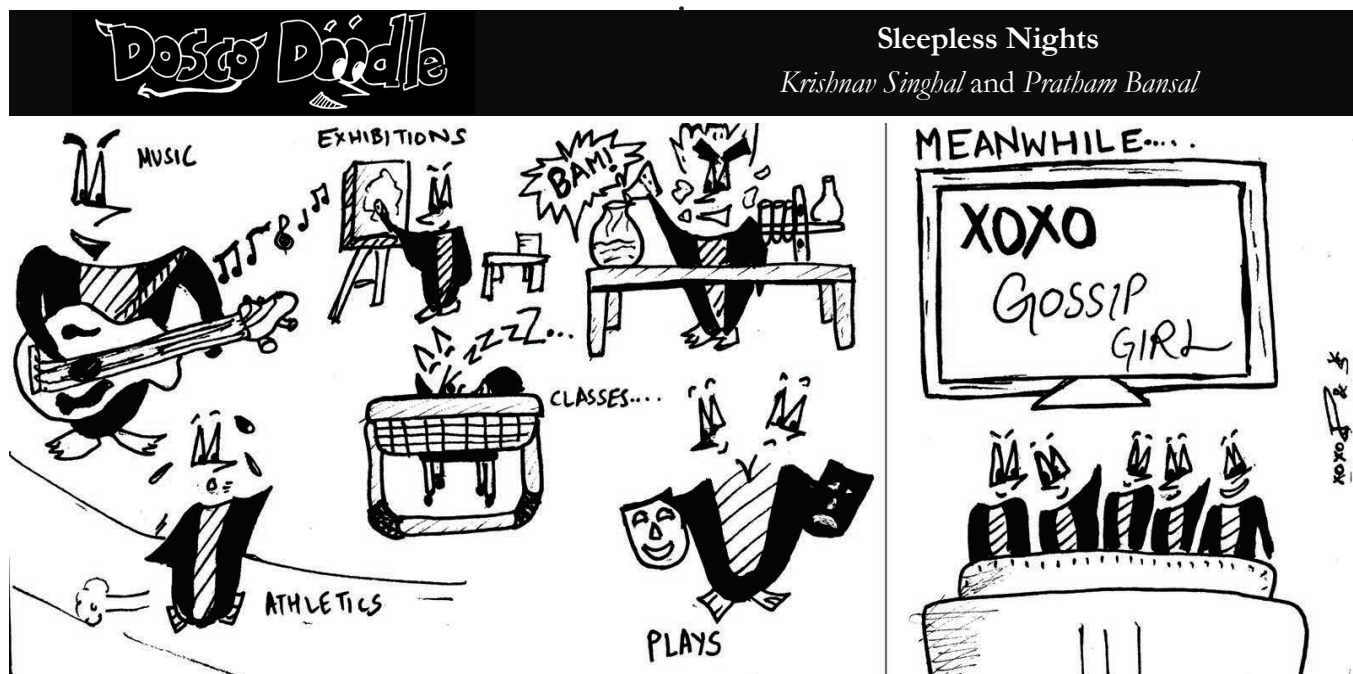
Arjun Singh, Amen!

How can someone purposely jam-up grammar.

Lakshman Santhanam, rhetorically!

My accent was brown.

Devang Laddha, dark humour.



Behind the Scenes

Ethan Chamberlain recounts his stay at Chandbagh and the problems faced by him.

I came to Doon School to get my GCSEs. It was a second chance for me but things have not gone to plan (as you may know). However, before I leave, I want to get a few things off my chest and talk about being the only openly gay boy to have ever been in Doon.

I didn't know much about India before I came. My biggest surprise was when I found out that it's illegal to be gay. When I first arrived at The Doon School, my appearance (and yes I know, my attitude) was not what the School expected. My hair was too long, my nails were too fake and I think people felt like my personality was just the same: way too loud. Back in Wales I had not been in school for two years because I didn't feel accepted. So when I came here it was a big shock. I felt like I wasn't allowed to be like myself again.

It's hard to explain how difficult it was at the start. Imagine someone telling you that you cannot be who you want to be. I saw that the Sikh boys were allowed to keep their hair long and thought that it was unfair I was not. I spoke to the Headmaster and he was understanding. I am grateful to him because he really listened to me. He let me keep my hair long, but I had to get rid of the nails and make-up.

Has anyone ever wondered why my hair is so important to me? Ever since I can remember, I have felt like I was born into the wrong body. I don't feel like a boy. As I have grown up I've been criticised for being like a girl. If you look at photos of me as a kid, I was never a typical boy. I never played football or enjoyed doing the things boys do. I was different. My family always knew who I was and have always accepted me at home.

My hair was too long, my nails were too fake and I think people felt like my personality was just the same: way too loud.

However, school in Britain was still tough. This is why I'm grateful to everyone at The Doon School for trying to accept me. However, it has still been a tough journey. I have tried to fit in and have never been attacked here like I have been in my old schools. I have been given a chance to learn without being scared at The Doon School. This has been amazing. But because of what happened

to me in the past, I always expected the worst to happen again. Mr Raggett said to me that because of my fear I can sometimes be defensive and even aggressive. I agree that I have not always helped myself, but I think I'm getting better. I'm grateful for everything the School has given me. I have found academics hard but I have learnt a lot about myself which is why I do not regret my decision of



coming to Doon.

Being here has made me realise the importance of holding onto your identity. I think I understand why all of us have to dress the same and follow the same rules. Some boys at Doon have lots of money, but there are others who have much less. So it's good that everyone can feel equal when they are here.

However, I also feel that Doon should let people be themselves more. My identity is who I am but when I cannot express it, it makes me sad. Whenever I was sad I did not want to be here and did not want to learn. I have been speaking to some boys at Doon and I have found out that I am the only ever openly gay boy at the School. I don't think that this is right. I have wondered why there aren't any other openly gay boys.

Our teenage years are when we are finding out who we are and if boys feel scared about being themselves, it is painful. I have missed the support of my parents while I have been here. This has made me think that if you are gay at The Doon School it must be really scary.

I do feel good about the future of our School. Mr Raggett let me keep my hair long. This is a good sign and even though I found it hard to fit in here, I have made some very kind friends during my time at Doon. I'm glad I attended The Doon School and am proud to be the first openly gay Dosco.

I hope I won't be the last.

'I Am The Danger'

Divyansh Nautiyal writes about Antiheroes and their prevalence in the current cinematic age

As the film and television industry continuously progresses in every aspect ranging from acting to directing, it is more importantly to evolve in ensuring the media represents its audience. On that note, every generation has its own fascination with a particular actor or character style, with an example of this being the 'angry young man' played by Amitabh Bachchan a few decades ago – symbolizing the dissatisfaction with the License Permit Raj era and incremental bureaucracy in India. Today, the idea of an Anti-hero is presently the burning rage of these industries with characters like Deadpool and Wolverine only a few.

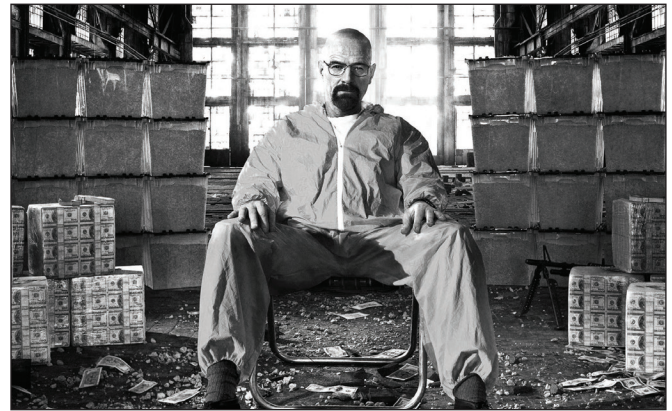
While the idea of an anti-hero was prevalent in these industries decades ago - seen through F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* and Salinger's *Catcher in the Rye* - it has recently seen a large gain in terms of popularity, especially through televised media. An anti-hero is essentially a protagonist lacking classical qualities of courage, idealism or morality and is different from the archetypal 'hero'. He or she might do the 'right things' but their motivation for doing so might not be driven by the right reasons. Anti-heroes essentially do what they do out of self-interest and aren't driven by any moral cause.

It is also important to note the distinction between vigilantes and anti-heroes. Vigilantes are essentially characters that take the law into their own hands on feeling that the authorities are incapable of solving an issue. Batman, a prime example of a vigilante, saves Gotham from Bane and the Joker and in doing so, overrules the authorities of Gotham. While a vigilante is generally an ideal and moral figure, it is not necessary that the traits of an anti-hero may not be found within a vigilante.

The 'perfect' and flawless heroes of the past are neither true nor appealing anymore.

However, what exactly has made these pop culture figures extremely prevalent in the current times? Anti-heroes are complex characters who are multifaceted and have several layers to their personality. They are unlike the conventional heroes, whose uprightness and morals become predictable over the course of time. The moral ambiguity of an anti-hero is much wider than that of a normal protagonist, which allows them to take unpredictable actions that add to the show's suspense and thrill for viewers. The phrase in the title which had dark connotations is very unexpected to be used by a protagonist(in

this case the protagonist, being Walter White from *Breaking Bad*). Furthermore, the change in societal conditions has been another large factor. For instance, Frank Underwood from *House of Cards*; although being a protagonist; is selfish, hungry for power and crushes his enemies to rise to supremacy. The audience can make a connection with such characters, as they wish to see more realistic elements in cinema as the 'perfect' and flawless heroes of the past are neither true nor appealing anymore. We feel



better about ourselves on watching these anti-heroes because we can relate to these flawed characters that actually mirror human nature. Moreover, we see a change of motives within an anti-hero over the course of time. A tragedy struck anti-hero fighting back for redemption cannot become a more appealing storyline: Walter White from *Breaking Bad* initially started as a drug manufacturer to fund his family. However, conditions change and one sees him transform into a drug lord for his own selfish interest. It is easier to sympathize with such characters as they have a larger space to evolve and develop. Anti-heroes are also liked because of their rebellious nature towards social constraints and their confidence in eroding them. With increasing desensitization across the globe for numerous reasons, these anti-heroes who are often insensitive are extremely appealing to the masses. Furthermore, with a social climate that allows one to espouse his frustrations rather than contain them, anti-heroes become perfect figures to represent and promote it.

With all of this, the ideology of an anti-hero remains up for still up for debate. On one side, anti-heroes are considered to be mirrors for human nature. Contrarily, another belief states that the methods of anti-heroes are unrealistic as they carry a negative influence with them. However, with the shows of anti-heroes like *Sopranos*, *Dexter*, *Breaking Bad* and *Sherlock* becoming the most loved shows ever, we know that a dawn of a new age of cinema is now upon us.

Campus Commercialised

Should there be a Doscobilia store in School?

POINT	COUNTERPOINT
Zoraver Mehta	Ranvijay Singh
<p>A few days back, a majority of School left for midterms. On our return, we found that the old Video Club room in the Library was turned into the ‘Doscobillia Store.’ The opening of the store saw several Doscos indignantly dismissing the idea, the famous first impression of many, when they witness any new development in School.</p> <p>The idea of having memorabilia is to keep objects for their association with memorable events or places. Having a store in School gives easy access to such items as clothing, lamps, stationary and more, bearing the Doon School lamp. This allows Old Boys, parents or visitors to purchase these items easily that they will take back as genuine memories of the campus as reminders of their memorable experiences with Chandbagh.</p> <p>Importantly, all the work, as well as resources that has gone into making the store is supplied by Old Boys. The costs that have gone into building the store have been paid by the DSOBS, who have also enlisted the help of designers such as Tarun Tahiliani to curate the product line as well as to design the scarf, tie, buttons and cufflinks. Samrath Bedi (471 T- 1993) of Forest Essentials is making an exclusive ‘Dosco Essentials’ fragrance for the store that will remind Old Boys of their Schooldays. He is exploring several options for the fragrance including ‘the goodly smell of rain on dry ground’. The shop made a turnover of around one lakh rupees on the first day of its opening! Part of the earnings of the store go to School. The clothes in ‘Doscobillia’ are of good quality, what Doscos would wear outside of School. The General Store does not have the range nor the quality of memorabilia that this store offers, and for the sake of variety, such a store is needed.</p> <p>Also, school puts in considerable resources for advertising. Doon School jackets and t-shirts being worn by proud ex-Doscos all over the world would surely serve the purpose.</p> <p>Frankly, after the Video Club abandoned the room, it didn’t seem to be of much use. The store has made it a pleasant corner in School. The boys, when their parents are around, can purchase items which can be used during midterms, classes, in their study etc. However, the appropriateness of selling whiskey glasses and ‘USB lighters’ bearing the School Lamp is surely indecent something that requires more reflection.</p>	<p>The opening of the Doscobilia Store has raised many eyebrows. This is due to the fact that the store leans very close to being pointless. The first of the many reasons why it is so, is the very fact that the G-Store already exists for the purchasing of Dosco Memorabilia. The Doscobilia Store, I feel, is quite the waste of space. In terms of demand, memorabilia is mostly bought during Founders, when a stall is always set up to sell them. The Ex-Dosco’s and other customers who come any time other than Founders, could easily purchase the memorabilia from the G-Store. Creating a store, which will have few customers other than during the period of Founders, is no doubt a waste of space that could have been used for something the students actually needed. While on the thought of the need of the students, another reason why the Store seems forced upon School is the very fact that its establishment was never discussed in any student forum.</p> <p>Secondly, there is the issue with the type of memorabilia being sold at the Store itself. The utility of many of the memorabilia being sold at the Store has been questioned throughout the School Community (Selfie Stick, USB Fan, USB Lighter). Of course, the issue of utility is highly subjective, what can be questioned for sure is the usage of our School logo, the Lamp of Knowledge, on products such as these. Another issue with many of the products being sold is their appropriateness to their surroundings. Selling whiskey glasses and ‘USB lighters’ so openly on a School Campus is surely going to send the wrong message out to the School Community. On a campus with 560 students that can imbibe in themselves habits very quickly, such kind of memorabilia being found on campus is sure to do harm.</p> <p>Lastly, the actual design and positioning of the store is very conspicuous. Although this might be highly successful in terms of the marketing strategy of the Doon School Old Boys’ Society (DSOBS), seeing a board of a memorabilia shop as one of the first things when you enter an 80 year old institution, is not quite telling of what School actually stands for. I feel that the Doscobilia Store is just a waste of space and the funds of the DSOBS. As current students of The Doon School, we really have no say on the usage of these funds, but this should be kept in mind by the DSOBS while creating other such projects on campus.</p>

| MIDTERM REPORTS |

Hiking to Hemkund Sahib

Kamvalethu Sabela

In the early hours of Monday morning, I, along with the B-Form of Jaipur House, embarked on a journey to Haemkund Sahib to explore the Himalayas and the religious places resting in its shelter. The overall experience was one which pushed us to our limits emotionally, mentally and physically. The first part of the journey comprised a twelve hour bus journey which seemed endless. The road, full of bumps and sharp unexpected turns, gave us a tough time, but we ultimately managed to reach our first destination where we resided in Hotel Bhagat.

Unlike the high expectations that had been set for our stay, we had to survive the first night by sleeping in cold rooms and taking a shower in freezing water. The meal was also not satiating. We were woken up the next day by loud bangs on our doors by DKM who got us ready for a long day ahead. After

a brief breakfast we set out for a long trek that loomed ahead us. We trekked for approximately six hours. The trek was filled with interactions with the local people of the area. I was asked about my nationality very inquisitively by the local people and was also asked for a few 'selfies'. If not this, then I was blatantly stared at by the other people. On reaching our second hotel, we found to our disappointment that the rooms were less spacious with combined beds. The lack of TVs in our rooms added to the misgivings. However, this didn't dampen my mood as I got engaged in a card game with the B-Formers. Through the course of this, I also got to know some of them personally.

On Wednesday, we reached Hemkund Sahib and the scenic view presented to us a number of temples nestling in the cradle of snow-capped mountains. I also

acquired some information about the Gods residing in the sacred Himalayas, some of which was also hard to swallow. The trek back was comparatively longer and, interestingly, a barren of mules trekked with us simultaneously.

On Thursday, we trekked further down to Hotel Bhagat and also visited the sacred place, Badrinath. We again encountered many locals and the experience was pretty much like the earlier one. Friday was the day that marked the end of our journey.

The trip taught me to be grateful and appreciative of the smallest of things and to recognise the effort that goes into providing even the smallest of help. However, most importantly, these midterms made me mentally stronger, and taught me to believe that I can overcome anything. I will truly cherish these memories for the rest of my life.

Kedarnath Pilgrimage

Shivya Majumdar

The B-formers of Kashmir House and the tutors decided to undertake the trek to Kedarnath for midterms this time. The disaster of 2013 caused the trek to change from a 14 km route to an arduous 22 km.

On the second day we packed our lunch and took off at 7:30 am from Gaurikund with a lot of enthusiasm. The trek, itself, was a sight to behold. The huge mountains, covered with dense green forests, stood out clearly against the rich blue sky which was dotted with white puffs of clouds. A little ahead of Jungle Chatti, we could see the beautiful snow covered peaks shining brightly in the sun. The effect of the bitter wind was nullified by the toasty

rays of the sun. We reached our camp by 3:30 in the afternoon. The next day we trekked for another kilometre to reach the city of Kedarnath where the holy temple is actually located. We visited the temple, went around the city and also met the locals to know the legends and myths of this sacred dwelling.

The temple has separate halls: the outermost hall consists of the statues of the *Pandavas* (who were believed to have built this temple), mother Kunti and their wife Draupadi. The sanctum sanctorum (*Garbhagriha*) has the holy pyramidal *Shivling* which is worshipped by pilgrims. The temple is full of people during the evening *Aarti*, all wanting their

prayers to be heard. During this time, one is completely mesmerised



by the utter devotion towards God.

Those who like a good trek that leads to a beautiful destination, the trek to Kedarnath is a dream. The strenuous 8-hour trek leading to the ancient temple elegantly nestled between the snow-covered mountains of Himalayas, radiating the true piety to God, will rejuvenate not only your body but also your heart.

The Climb to Roop Kund

Shiven Dewan

In the wee hours of Monday morning, a group of five enthusiastic S-Formers ventured out to tame the once-sought after land of Roopkund and Junargali. An exhausting 12-hour drive to the apparent 'base camp' of Wan witnessed frequent stops to tend to one of our members' motion sickness. Nevertheless, we arrived at our GMVN by dusk.



We commenced our trek the following day with Bedni Bugyal as the destination for the day. The innocuous climb after the

descend to the river soon became our biggest tormentor and the lush meadows were only seen after a five hour toil. The *bugyal* was a stunning place to camp with exquisite views of 7000 meter peaks, which included the fabled Trishul climbed by Mr Gurdial Singh. It was here that we ran into our Oberoi House Juniors. Luckily for them, we had loads of hot chocolate!

The next day would prove to be much more challenging as the path to Bagobasa was laden with loose rocks and soils and extremely steep climbs. Leaving the sanctuary of Bedni, the only respite was at the scenic campsite of Pathar Najoni. The route after Najoni was extremely challenging and painful with endless meanders. The ridge loomed in the distance

and somehow, we kept on plodding to Bagobasa.

The sudden ascent had taken its toll on us and I was down with a severe headache. Nevertheless, the 'mountain fever' took over and we began 'summitting' the next day at 4 am. The rocky and steep terrain was at its extreme now and trekking in the dark presented its own challenge. We huffed and puffed in the harsh cold and were eventually greeted by the infamous skeletons at Roopkund. With almost diminished will powers, we carried on to the ridge and were rewarded with, perhaps, the most beautiful views of our lives at Junargali. Overlooking the cloudline and, at the same time being dwarfed by the humungous snow-capped peaks was a sight to behold.

Scenes from Rudraprayag

Jaiveer Misra

Our midterm excursion took us to the scenic town of Rudraprayag. The town is at the confluence of the Mandakini and Alakananda rivers, which merge to form the Ganges, and is thus home to many significant Hindu temples.

Arriving after a long and winding bus journey on the first day, we arrived at the scenic Alakananda and Mandakini, which were of different colours (the Mandakini being brown, and the Alakananda being teal) and merged at a single point (where Hindu deity Rama is said to have stood). The unusually large force of these rivers reminded us of those who lost their lives in the Uttarakhand Floods, and in the auspicious presence we offered a silent prayer.

We spent the second day at Taxila Junior High School, which is financially supported by the School.

Teaching students basic English and Mathematics, and singing to them was a lively memory. At the same time, we learnt about their hard lives, especially after their homes were lost due to the floods. Moments like these helped us exit our bubbles of privilege to empathise with the majority of our country. Indeed, it was a humbling moment.

Wednesday saw us trek up to Devariya Tal. Both rocky and beautiful, the silent green forest was quite pleasant, and the overview of the Saari Village's paddy fields was indeed scenic. As we reached the lake, our jaws dropped at the sight of crystal clear water that reflected the Chaukhamba Peaks. Sitting by the lake to observe the beauty, coupled with the silence, was a breathtaking alpine-esque pleasure.

On the last day we trekked from Kanakchauri village through the forest, to the the Kartik Swami Temple, which was dedicated to deity Shiva's elder son, Kartik. The views of the snow-clad mountains from the temple were breathtaking, with the constant chime of bells adding to the serenity. In another breathtaking moment, we had the privilege to watch Mount Nanda Devi against the backdrop of sunset.

Overall, our mid-terms were memorable in many ways: playing cards, long bus journeys and intimate conversations which gave us great moments to bond. Thanks go to our escorting Masters for planning a unique midterm, one that we are sure is the first of many to come!

Roving Eye

By Socially Intelligent Beings

As we type this with our own laptops (knowing 'the Mac' is back), the annual entertainment segment of 'The Doon School Scoping Hunting Season' enters its last act as all the rats gear up for the final leg of the race. But, before many successes are made and hearts are broken, it's our responsibility to keep the transparency in the school community intact and update you on the foibles, manoeuvres, hypocrisies and other attempts of the current S-Form – this being one 'humble effort' to assist the judges (and thereby increase certain prospects), with only time telling us who emerges as the lead canine amongst this pack of 'roving' wolves.

Speaking of canines, the jackals roaming School at night have had some loud company recently during the mishap between two neighbours in deciding the ring leader of next year's pack. This has caught the entire School's attention, from the Headmasters right down to the D-Formers. Indeed the 'Virtuvian' Man, long seen as the blue-blazed favourite, has held sessions to 'Physically Train' younger students in preparation for next February; for a better outcome in both competitions. Although his chances seemed shaken, ironically, with an off-late extra PT, he still holds firm backing from all politicians in the House of Lords, who (like a certain judge) seem deeply impressed with his Eton College chronicles iwn this very publication. Across the quadrangle, the Topper seems to have encountered Yellow caution lights as he and a Red Comrade have frequented the road to Martyn House. In spreading their manifestoes, a supposed campaign violation prompted a home visit from the Blue Policemen that led to a ~~FOYE~~-room courtroom-style

Although his chances seemed shaken, ironically, with an off-late extra PT, he still holds firm backing from all politicians in the House of Lords, who (like a certain judge) seem deeply impressed...

drama featuring the Kingmaker(s). Meanwhile, the lone Eagle has been flying in empty skies recently; and should perhaps play himself some piano blues. Despite this, he has been eager to keep a soaring position in this race, employing his House Captain and former campaign committee with experience in such pursuits, as well as the Upset Actor/Director

from Kashmir House, for whom 'everything seems to be going wrong'. Like a certain American candidate, he too has relied on family support in hopes of a emulating a surprising victory.

Not surprisingly, other campaigns across the

...'Okay' stands ahead of the curve, with plans to keep this Dark Horse from a dark tie next term.

campus have been equally feisty, of which Lone Eagle hopes for bright prospects with his repeated attempts to please. In the arena of diplomats, he currently runs against his 'Okay' form mate, whose skills with diplomacy are too well-known. Indeed, after a very visible presence during this year's General Assembly, word has it that he is pegged to assume the role of Chief Diplomat at the year's second-biggest political event (much to the dismay of our Associate Editors). Parallel to this runs the Presidential race, where Maharanjan seems to have created a red romance to take this high post from the 'High' Man, who'd hoped his legacy quota would suffice. Busy as these hopefuls may be, their involvement in the publications realm has been intentionally vigorous. 'The *Weekly* itself sees a fair share of competition amongst the Three Debaters (who engagement in some fiery rhetoric over cybersapce leaves the results uncertain), while the two 'contributing' Eagles practically flew away long ago. Again, from these two, the Lonely Zero's opportunism has drawn his hopes upon the sporting subsidiary, but faces near annihilation from 2K. Like Ms Clinton, his email controversies on both publications may consign him to the same fate. However, the annual picture book, set to appear at Founders', is caught in a Cold War between some of the MUN-hopefuls previously mentioned. In yet another field, the Topper's top rank has been under threat by the royal opponent seeking to save his Presidency and please the 'Dark power' controlling both. As expected, 'Okay' stands ahead of the curve, with plans to keep this Dark Horse from a dark tie next term.

Coming to the meat of this piece, the hallmark competition for prefectship has seen twists-and-turns as the form wriggles its way through the grime. In the nest, the House Captain of Berry House (Mr Kamel) seeks to add an Eagle's feather to his cap after a star Basketball performance, but lacks favour with the powers that be. Once again, the Lonely Eagle has

hoped that ‘Bloody Joker’ will keep his seat warm. To quote last year’s piece, the prospect of five prefects roaming the halls has got this Assistant Housemaster working harder than the rest. Otherwise, his namesake has been running for a lower post after sharpening his political skills at I-Parliament. Across the field, though, the Black Swan seems to have locked up the race. If a wildcard ensues, he is expected to secure at least one-of-two School Captaincies come February. *Gulabo* and the Mathematician, on the other hand, seem to be trying very hard (joined by the Lonely Eagle) to also scramble a spot at the table. From there, a short walk back to ‘School’ finds us at the House of ‘Gentleman’ at the centre stage of this year’s activities, where for months Big Brother has been watching all. The Maharajan seeks to establish an upcoming reign amidst the Topper’s aims to beat everyone again in this examination of leadership. Yet, the present Captain K’s Snapchat stories starring the Red Devil, however, have recently tinted this race. On that note, the Red Corner of campus hasn’t ceased to surprise us, (especially after some scandalous ‘midterm reports’), with the Bad(minton) player and the Junglee currently employing guerrilla tactics to control these wild lands. Once again, Khaansaab (the

**To quote last year’s piece,
the prospect of five prefects
roaming the halls has got one
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Red Comrade) has been playing the stakes on this domestic front – seeking to outmanoeuvre the ‘High’ Man like his climbing partner.

Meanwhile, back in the House of Lords, where strangely, the politics and pandemonium of other houses ceases to exist. With nearly everyone’s votes in the ‘V for V’ column, the four-man-mafia are shamelessly working to push the confirmed Captain upward and add a fifth. Should that happen, the Badshaah seeks to rule the Nizams but faces some competition from the S-Form Starboy. The Kingmaker, on the other hand, has redefined the term *for the hand grasp of a friend*, and seems permanently affixed to the King and being his Eye-of-the-Storm campaign manager. Elsewhere, the junior Nepali has been using his country connections to curry favour with ‘the Maan’, and has of-late developed a taste for bananas.

With that, we’ve come to the end of this progress report on The Doon School Rat Race. Do expect more developments to follow all that’s written. Yet, given the current climate on the campus, we advise S-Form to be wary of things heating up too much as

we enter a cooler term. However, be prepared for the final stretch, for as one successful King said “winter is coming.”

| POETRY |

Day 50

Aayush Chowdhry

Helpless, hapless, and without power-
Day 50- I stand atop a high tower.
The curator moves me to this spot;
The place, unknown to me not.

I, now, see the real world below me:
Tormentors, narcissists, and criminals free.
They all seem like indifferent cattle;
Galore, their endless prattle.

Entrapped by the agonizing game,
The largest mammal piercing my vein,
My heart squeezes one last thump
And I, with my whole life, jump.

A blur of my whiskey-sodden father passes;
Next to him, mama with her disfigured glasses:
Blood riddled, pieces of metal juttied out
As my brother gives a sharp shout.

But,
Another, more defined, image appears:
Father behind bars, no more tears.
Vividly, I recall, mother forcing me to stay strong;
I shall join her after so long.

Then, I see the semblance of my soul: brother
Bright, jubilant; all smiles and laughter.
Yet, I had embraced the whale;
I see, how as an elder sibling, I fail.

I extend a meager hand;
Bleakly, wanting to hug him but can’t.
I see the blind idiot I had been
And he had still, some hope in me, seen.

I, finally, realize my cowardice,
It stands tall, shadowing the other lies.
Desperation was my biggest blunder,
To the truth I now surrender.

Seeking for a cure, I had started the game,
Unthinking, irresponsible, selfish; to my shame.
Drowned in self pity, I just couldn’t see:
All along, panacea was right beside me.

Brother, now, as I fall from the tower high,
In the last second of my life I really don’t want to die.

The Curtain Call

Lorcan Conlon pays tribute to Padma Shri Tom Alter on the occasion of his death.

On September 29, 2017, renowned actor, author, commentator and Padma Shri awardee, Tom Alter passed away at the age of 67. The veteran actor contracted skin cancer early last year, and was diagnosed with a recurrence in September this year, and after a short period, passed away.

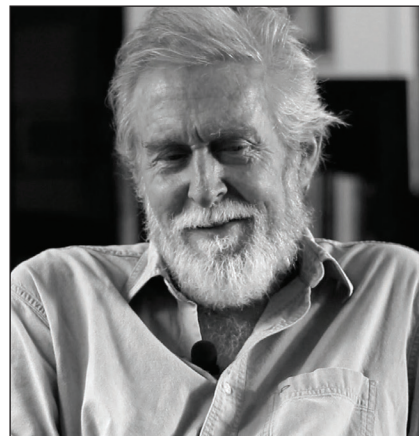
Alter was born on July 22, 1950 to two American missionaries. He was educated at Woodstock and at eighteen, left for higher education at Yale. However, he returned a year later because he had not liked the rigour of studies there. At nineteen, he obtained work as a teacher at Sr. Thomas School, Jagadhri, Haryana. He worked there for six months, simultaneously coaching his students in cricket. Over the next few years, he would teach at a few different schools, leave for America and return home again.

Alter's acting career started taking shape after he saw the movie *Aradhana*. After mulling over the thought for two years, he joined the Film and Television Institute of India in Pune. He studied there from 1972 to 1974 under Roshan

Taneja. After graduating, he made his debut in *Sahib Babadur* directed by Chetan Anand, following which he appeared in over 300 movies. Fluent in Hindi and Urdu, and knowing a little Tamil, Punjabi and Telugu, Alter quickly became extremely popular and well known in the film industry. Aside from being a Bollywood actor, he also performed in numerous plays and in 1977, along with Naseeruddin Shah and Benjamin Gilani, formed a theatre group called Motley Productions. Their first production was Samuel Beckett's play 'Waiting for Godot', performed at Prithvi Theatre in Mumbai in 1979. He would go on to be awarded the prestigious Padma Shri by the Indian government in 2008 in recognition of his services in the fields of arts and cinema.

Shortly after the formation of Motley Productions, Alter married Carol Evans, a Welsh Cricketer. They had two children together: a son, Jamie, and a daughter, Afshaan. Alter wrote many books, including *The Longest Race*, *Rerun at Rialto*, and *The Best in the World*. He also showed a great interest in cricket,

and extensively wrote about it in publications such as Outlook, Sportsweek, Cricket Talk and the Sunday Observer. In 1966, he was invited to Singapore to provide cricket commentary in Hindi, for Indian viewers, on the popular sports TV channel ESPN.



Tom Alter will be remembered by all for his memorable performances on the big screen. He remains till date as one of the largest personalities of Indian cinema and theatre who had the unique distinction of having broken all boundaries. His legacy continues to remain after his passing away and it is one we all must strive to preserve.

Opening the Red Box

Aryan Chhabra writes on the declassification of the files on Subhash Chandra Bose.

Every nation's history is moulded by a few figures who give their lives to a cause greater than themselves. Relentless in their pursuit, these figures were willing to sacrifice everything to further their ideals and objectives. Whilst for our nation many of these personalities have long gone, their honourable deeds have given them true immortality and they stay with us forever in our hearts and souls. One of these personalities is Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

From his efforts to liberate India with INA to his ideological

beliefs propounded through the forward bloc, Netaji's contribution to the freedom of this country is immense. However, it grieves me to think that, as a nation, we are still kept in the dark about the circumstances of his death. Now that it has come to light that Subhas Bose wasn't killed in a plane crash, it is our duty as citizens to inquire into why and how he met his demise. What is more appalling is that there are files existing which document the exact nature of how Netaji died, but these files have yet not been

open to the public. In a democracy, the citizens have a right to know what their leaders, present as well as the past ones, did to safeguard the nation. They also have a right to know what happened to the leaders that we so fervently look up to today. Providing people with complete knowledge about their leaders helps them understand these personalities in a more effective way. Furthermore, it also helps them learn more from the chapters of history.

Having said all this, however, it will be unfair of me to say that

the government has not made any efforts to declassify these files. In fact, this year itself the government has declassified about 304 files for the public to assess out of a total of 990 that it possesses. Fifty more of these files were later released, on the pretext of more transparency. What struck me a bit queer about this action, however, was its timing. The declassifying of these files happened to be just before West Bengal elections. This raises a rather important question: is our government withholding information from us and releasing

it on 'key' times for electoral gains? While I am sure that Netaji has his share of supporters and critics, one thing all of us would agree on is not to politicise this issue. After all, the pages of history that encapsulate our proud, glorifying freedom struggle deserve to be greater than daily, petty politics.

Further, the absence of any concrete information on the disappearance of Subhas Chandra Bose has raised many conspiracy theories. From being hunted down by Mahatma Gandhi or Jawaharlal Nehru to being murdered by

the aides of Hitler, there are a plethora of tales one can hear about the life of Netaji. It is this context that it is important to believe in facts, not stories. In fact, such conspiracy theories raise the needs of declassifying these files. Otherwise, there is no end to the false beliefs of people. So to all the naysayers and conspiracy theorists, I say: let there be light. Let us strive to shed more light on the passing of the titan that was Subhas Chandra Bose instead of spreading conspiracy theories about his disappearance.



UNDER THE SCANNER

The Catalonia Referendum | Aviral Kumar

Amidst the political upheavals that Europe has faced over the last few months, yet another has emerged, this time plaguing the Union's second largest nation, Spain. Catalonia, an autonomous community within Spain, located at its easternmost border, has voted for independence in a self-legislated referendum. It is one of Spain's most wealthy and productive regions, and in recent years has perhaps become its most turbulent, with separatist sentiments taking hold over its populace since 2014, when an unofficial poll conducted by Catalonia's self-contained government revealed its peoples' desire for independence.

Since then, a number of campaigns and movements have taken place advocating Catalonia's right to exist as a separate state, with matters reaching a breaking point last week, when the Generalitat of Catalonia issued an official referendum on the 1st of October, asking its citizens if they wanted Catalanian self-determination. This decision directly comes in conflict with the Spanish constitution, which doesn't allow voting on the independence of any Spanish region whilst also deeming

it illegal without the region's consent, and has thus provoked a dramatic response from the Spanish government, who have deemed the referendum illegal and its outcome invalid, with Spanish Premier Mariano Rajoy outright stating that the referendum won't happen.

Opposing this, Catalanian President Carles Puigdemont has boldly claimed that "No other court or political body" has the right to suspend his government from power, and this is a belief shared by many Catalonians, evidenced by the sheer support for the referendum, and the subsequent chaos the region is experiencing. Consequently, the Spanish Police took severe measures to scuttle the voting, issuing fines, threatening arrests, and physically preventing people from voting, with the ensuing riots leading to over 400 injured people.

Regardless, a referendum has taken place, primarily for economic reasons. Catalonia is a major economic powerhouse for Spain, contributing to nearly 19% of the nation's GDP. As such, the region is put under particular strain to provide financial support, one only worsened by the economic crisis

of 2008, and here is where many Catalonians claim their problem lies. For all the contribution Catalonia makes, it feels it is given back much less by the Central Government. According to figures in 2014, Catalonia paid 9.89 billion Euros more into Spanish taxes than it received in spending. On the other hand, Spain argues that Catalonia has been given a fairly large degree of autonomy, and still considerable when compared to other regions. While both arguments have credibility, it's important to ask – does it have the credentials to be called a country? In short, yes. Catalonia has over one thousand years of rich history, and its own culture and language unique from the rest of Spain.

Catalonia has its dreams of Independence and '*Demokrazia*',



against Spain's wishes. As both governments prepare to lock horns, all of Europe holds its breath, eager to witness the outcome, confident in the knowledge that whatever it may be, the Iberian Peninsula will undergo a considerable make-over.

The Week Gone By

Omar Chishti and Salman Mallick

Returning to this column together for one last time after a long hiatus, it falls to one Mohammad to be sentimental and to the other to be funny. With SCs having to churn out college essays faster than they wrote lines in their junior forms (who would've known that's possible?), handing over the baton to our successors is now a bittersweet necessity.

The SC form's absence in school certainly stirred something in the deepest underbelly of school, as the few days before and after midterms were eventful, to say

the very least. But despite all the action the school witnessed (night robbery; the goods have been recovered, but the perpetrator is still at large), life has been as unforgiving as is during Founder's. Entering classrooms after almost a month's 'break' (and a three day weekend for good measure), faces are actually drowsier than ever. In fact, with the loss of a week's worth of work due to Founder's being earlier than usual, many of the activities in school are, along with the people involved in them, are walking the tightrope, physically and mentally. While stage setup is taking up a large chunk of the limited time on offer for the English Play, the Hindi Play is stuck between Gandhi Jayanti and Founder's. Music, as usual,

is running late, late nights, with Martyn House probably suffering the most. Meanwhile, designers are wanted on the publications front, as the present ones are burdened with infinitely (one poor bloke having to do FIVE different publications).

Speaking of affairs, some young Warriors do come to mind.

On that final controversial note, our last words will humbly differ with Jonathan Swift's century old admonition against the enjoyers of satire and satirists - through our journey with this column, and through the sardonic humour permitted to the Weekly, these two editors have discovered a great deal both about everyone else, and about themselves. It's truly been a pleasure to serve this readership.

Crossword

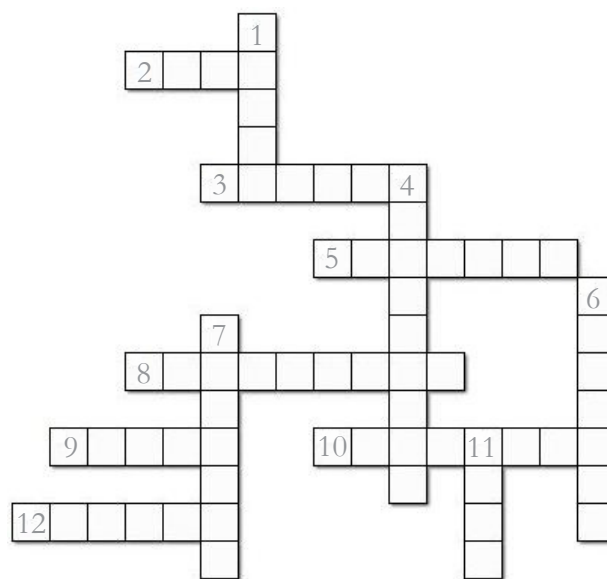
Publications Around the World

Across

2. Magazine, famous for its 'Person of the Year' award.
3. Business magazine known to rank companies and people.
5. Men's lifestyle magazine idolized both for its portrayal of nudity and rabbit logo.
8. London-based magazine known for its liberal stance.
9. Primarily a South Indian newspaper, known for being one of the two Indian newspapers of record.
10. British newspaper which revealed the existence of the PRISM surveillance program in the USA.
12. The New ___ is an American magazine having a logo of a dandy peering through a monocle at a butterfly.

Down

1. French magazine attacked by terrorists in early 2015.
4. Founded in 1949, the oldest newspaper in Ghana.
6. American business-centric newspaper named after the metonym for the US financial markets.
7. The _____ Shimbun is a Japanese newspaper having the world's largest daily newspaper circulation.
11. Founded by Muhammed Ali Jinnah, Pakistan's most widely read newspaper.



Note: All answers related to publications in this crossword refer to their last names.

Answers to This Week's Crossword			
Across		Down	
2. TIME	9. Hindu	1. Hebdo	11. Dawn
3. Forbes	10. Guardian	4. Statesman	
5. Playboy	12. Yorker	6. Journal	7. Yomuri
8. Economist			

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

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