The Wall

Taking up the mantle of Editor-in-Chief is an inherently daunting task, one which requires time to settle into. Eighty-two years of history to live up to, each year’s Chief-Editor having left his own legacy. It is knowing this that I start my tenure as the head of something larger than I can fully comprehend. Oddly enough though, it isn’t with fear of failing to match these legacies that I allude to them. Rather, it is out of the fear of inadvertently following their formula for the ‘perfect issue’. I couldn’t be more grateful for all the work and achievements of my predecessors, but in truth, would hate to simply relive those successes.

The Weekly has successfully published 2485 issues before this one, making it the most accurate chronicle of the School itself. We grow with the School and echo its very heartbeat in our pages, something Arthur Foot had aimed for us to do in his founding words for the Publication. Today, the School is home to the five hundred odd boys who live off their iPhones and laptops. This is the age of instant gratification and visual spoon-feeding. Information comes in ‘eta-bytes’ and needs to be easily interpreted, a task verging on impossibility where the print media is concerned. So the conventional blocks of text that dominate our pages with the occasional picture won’t suffice anymore. While the Weekly has laid out high quality articles for School for the last eight decades, somewhere along the way, we forgot our audience. Although quality has always been maintained, the manner in which we give our content to the reader needs to change. While throughout last year, our content has challenged norms and structures in School like never before, an unintended monotony could not be prevented from creeping in.

The most important feedback we received at the end of 2015 was the inaccessibility of the Weekly to the School. While every student would be given a copy of their own, the articles in it were beyond the relevance of an average Dosco, giving him absolutely no reason to care about the Weekly. It wasn’t that the articles couldn’t be understood, just that they had no connection to our lives. Through 2016, therefore, we tried to create this relevance by increasing the number of School related articles, at the cost of full-fledged contemporary pieces. Even the contemporary pieces we printed were disregarded for ‘heavy-hitters’ such as controversial LTTEs or front pagers. Soon though, the Weekly clearly became a forum for pointing out the errors, but failing to provide tangible solutions. As with any scenario where the end result is as futile as ours were, a sense of redundancy was created, as opposed to actual improvement. Debates and discourse ensued, but to what end, and what purpose? What good did the ‘Cool Gang Conundrum’ bring about, considering the fact that the notion still holds considerable ground on campus?

Both sides of the Weekly were treated as one of two possible methods, making the dual-chrome publication binary in its very nature. Both scenarios alienated its readership, resulting in a rather counterproductive era for the Weekly. We built ourselves up to be a monolithic structure which doesn’t work as a part of the community, but rather, as a restrainer against for it.

(Continued on page 3)
PASSING THE QUILL

The following is the Editorial Board for the Weekly for the year 2017-18:

Editor-in-Chief: Kushagra Kar
Editors: Devang Laddha and Kanishkh Kanodia
Senior Editors: Aayush Chowdhy and Zoraver Mehta

The Weekly would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing Editors and Ms. Anamika Ghose for their commitment to the publication.

We would also like to welcome our new Assistant Manager, Mr. Ishaan Saxena.

SETTING THE BENCHMARK


Congratulations!

Around the World in 80 Words

A poll revealed that Australian citizens overwhelmingly supported same-sex marriages, causing the Parliament to consider legalising it. An earthquake of magnitude 7.3 hit the Iran-Iraq border, resulting in 540 casualties. Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe was overthrown in an army coup, leaving the country in limbo. Electronic commerce giant Amazon invested two billion dollars into its Indian arm. The World Anti-Doping Agency declared Russia non-compliant with its code, dealing a blow to its chances of competing in the 2018 Winter Olympics.

Let us remember: One book, one pen, one child, and one teacher can change the world.

Malala Yousafzai

TOP SHUTTLERS

The following are the results of the Inter-House Badminton Tournament, 2017:

Juniors
1st: Hyderbad
2nd: Tata
3rd: Kashmir
4th: Jaipur
5th: Oberoi

Seniors
1st: Tata
2nd: Kashmir
3rd: Hyderbad
4th: Jaipur
5th: Oberoi

Mediums
1st: Hyderbad
2nd: Kashmir
3rd: Tata
4th: Jaipur
5th: Oberoi

Well done!

SPOKESMEN

A delegation of 15 boys represented the school at the 7th Pathways World School Model United Nations Conference. Shiven Dewan was awarded the Best Delegate, while Kushagra Kar, Samar Mundi, Raghav Kediyal and Ratnaditya Chavda were awarded High Commendations. Ranvijay Singh and Zohravar Bhati were awarded Special Commendations.

Kudos!

THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING

The following are the results of the Shanti Swarup Science Essay-Writing Competition, 2017:

1st: Tata
2nd: Oberoi
3rd: Kashmir
4th: Jaipur
5th: Hyderbad

Congratulations!

A Clash of Clans

Krishnav Singhal
(Continued from page 1)

The Bricks

What then, will the Weekly be doing to counter its current situation? How do we plan on insuring each Issue doesn’t align itself with the last, while still constructing a larger story? For starters, the Weekly is about Chandbagh, and its students. Naturally, this means that everything in Chandbagh needs to be reported: the good, the bad and the ugly. This coverage needn’t be in the form of a thinly veiled ‘Roving Eye’ or ‘Week Gone By’, but rather, in a bold and rationally argumentative manner.

If discipline is a concern, as some of us in the community have expressed, the Weekly will be the forum through which to address it. The definitive factor for this will be to provide the solutions to such concern. Simply put, the Weekly will strive to be the change we, the community, want to see.

On the contemporary side of things, we intend to provide a fresh, more ‘Dosco’ take on issues. In the past, we have used the logic that a particular event’s popularity in the news justifies its place in the Weekly. To this I ask: why not just visit CNN or BBC? The Weekly already has two forums for news briefs, The Around the World and Under the Scanner, so why dedicate a separate article to serve the same purpose. Therefore, any contemporary issue discussed in the Weekly will analyse it from the point of view of a Dosco. The question of why something halfway around the world should matter to me will be answered, and suggestions on the way forward will be given. Student journalism should be exemplified by allowing the students to feel for it, an aspect currently lacking in the Weekly.

The most important aspect of the Weekly will be its freedom of creativity though. Not just in the form of creatives and poetry, a rather undervalued aspect of the Weekly, but in its visuals. Everybody loves the ‘Dosco Doodle’, but what if we were to have a cartoon or some other visual with every relevant piece? Moreover, writing competitions for all forms will be conducted by us, making the whole process more inclusive.

After considerable suggestions from the Board as well, we will be inducting ‘temporary board members’ who will shadow our writers, cartoonists, and designers to gain an understanding of the process. The primary objective of promoting creative work will be met, all the while breaking ground for the future.

Not Another Brick in The Wall

The plan is set, but the future isn’t. While each Issue of the Weekly will follow the same ideology, it will not follow the same structure. More than that, the Weekly needs to change its perception in the School with regard to its approachability. The task at hand isn’t simply about re-imagination, but rediscovery altogether. What I have laid down is just the beginning, but with you, the reader, we can go even further.

Making the Weekly into something entirely new will require your support, criticism and ideas. Don’t hesitate to e-mail your thoughts and contributions, or drop off an anonymous chit with your impressions in the Main Building mailbox.

It is with this that the The Doon School Weekly takes its first steps into its future. We do not know where this path will take us, but no matter what, the Weekly will bring out the quality it has upheld for the last eight decades.

Happy reading!

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Last Year’s Senior Editorial Board Was...

Fun to work with- Varen Talwar
A homogenous mixture of quirky individuals- Karan Sampath
A gifted lot to work with- Divyansh Nautiyal
An extended family- Ansh Raj
Talkative, the meetings never ended!- Aayush Chowdhry
A perfect balance of thought and action, seasoned occasionally with chaos- Aryan Bhattacharjee
One to learn from, in all sorts of ways- Devang Laddha
A mélange of people who never failed to shine in their own eccentricities- Kanishkh Kanodia
An interesting mix of abundantly talented individuals working as one unit- Zoraver Mehta
A great board to work with and one which offered a lot to learn from- Jai Lakhhanpal
One which taught me not only how to be a better writer, but a better individual- Aviral Kumar
Definitive in the history of this publication- Kushagra Kar

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weekly speak
An insane American general ‘Jack D. Ripper’ orders a nuclear strike on Russia without authorisation. The aircraft commander ‘Major T.J. King Kong’ is hell-bent on completing his mission (so much that he himself rides on the missile down to the explosion); the Russian Premier ‘Dimitri Kissov’ tries to solve the nuclear problem while he is drunk in the arms of a woman; and a handicapped Nazi nuclear war expert ‘Dr Strangelove’, who, very conveniently, finds his legs again suggests to the Americans to live in mines for 93 years. This is how this movie with the million dollar name goes.

‘Dr Strangelove Or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb’ is Stanley Kubrick’s 1964 cinematographic masterpiece, which, very entertainingly, encapsulates the tension between the USA and Russia during the Cold War. The cast, especially Peter Sellers, who plays ‘Lionel Mandrake’, ‘Merkin Muffley’ and ‘Dr Strangelove’, delivers stellar performances, which are true to their roles. Accompanied by rib-tickling humour, hyperbole and a masterful plot, this film leaves the spectator dumbfounded, and makes for an interesting watch.

The strange events of this movie boldly satirise the two nations’ activities, as Kubrick uses Dr Strangelove’s and Jack Ripper’s characters to show the blatant and ‘justified’ use of nuclear weapons. For example, when the Americans discover the existence of the ‘Doomsday Machine’, which could destroy the entire planet, Dr Strangelove admits very coolly that it is quite possible. He even proposes a solution: to select a few hundred thousand people based on ‘sexual abilities and other talents’, who will live in the American mines (where the radiations cannot penetrate) for the 93 years following the detonation of the ‘Doomsday Machine’, and then repopulate it.

With scenes relaying from the War Room, the fighter plane and the airbase, the film adds up to enough confusion towards the end to convey the stupidity of the two nations. As the movie ends with Kong riding down with the missile, with ‘We’ll Meet Again’ playing relevantly behind, and Dr Strangelove suddenly starting to walk again, the viewer gets the feeling that this movie raises the question- “What on Earth is going on?!”, and that, I feel, in 1964, was ‘Dr Strangelove’s’ biggest victory.

The first TedxYouth Conference took place in School on Sunday, the 5th of November. The diligence put in by the master-in-charge Ms. Malvika Kala, the curator Tejveer Singh Kohli, co-curator Imaad Parvez, and the rest of the organising team was clearly evident in the impeccable execution of the conference that had over a hundred attendees.

A TEDx event is all about bringing people from various spheres of life to discuss and disseminate ideas that are worth spreading. The main reason of giving luminaries a stage is to hear them speak passionately about certain issues or elucidate a particular phenomenon in a given context.

After the initial speeches, the interviews of Dr. Mannmohan Singh and Mani Shankar Aiyer were screened. The next speaker was Jo Chopra, who requested the organising committee to announce that “She is a writer, a photographer and a convicted criminal who has been arrested and jailed in the United States half a dozen times” before her talk! One speaker who the audience could surely relate to was Akshit Batra; an old boy. He captured the audience’s attention by expressing that school had taught him three things: to be humble, hard-working, and to never date a Welhamite. Other fascinating personalities included Babur Afzal- an ex-employee at McKinsey who now rears sheep for pashmina wool- and Navin Gulia- a record holder in adventure sports. His inspirational speech focused on his disability which left him unable to walk after the age of 22. Collectively, the curators, junior curators, organising team and designers worked tirelessly in making this year’s conference informative and enjoyable. The elaborate planning has truly set a benchmark for next year!
Condoning Compulsion

Ansh Raj argues why attending School events should remain compulsory.

The audience at this year’s Chuckerbutty finals witnessed stellar efforts put in by our very own Doon Foot team, which emerged victorious, defeating the same opponent two years in a row. However, while the entire School was jubilant, my mind helplessly wandered back to the time when the School Council had passed one of the most historic resolutions: to make cheering during Inter-House matches optional. Within hours of this official announcement, tensions had escalated to unprecedented levels. Amongst other things, rumours had also begun circulating around campus indicating that in response to this resolution, certain elements across the houses had decided to boycott Chuckerbutty. As the author of this piece, I apologise to the readership for not providing my own take on this contentious matter. However, I will pen my own assertion on why compulsory attendance for School events is, in fact, beneficial to the student community.

‘School events’ encompass all talks and Inter-School tournaments (finals, majorly). The aforementioned events are organised by the School, and in most cases, demand compulsory attendance for selected batches, and sometimes, the entire School. Both talks and Inter-School tournaments are diverse in nature, and naturally appeal to students who have varied interests. It is argued that these events are oftentimes specific in nature, and hence, would only pique the curiosity of those who tend to express a genuine interest in the activity. Consequently those who do not demonstrate an innate interest in the activity would be wasting their precious time. However, this argument is fallacious in many respects. Firstly, it is pertinent to realise that our formative journey is currently only in its primary stage, where only through consistent exposure and experimentation can we identify and discover our own areas of interest and later on, cement them. The talks, which are delivered by academics, writers, educators and entrepreneurs, are intended to spark and interest. Similarly, when boys frequently see their peers and seniors participate in grand events, they are exposed to the intricacies of this activity, which can perhaps persuade them to learn more.

Another argument, which actually complements the first one, is the educational dimension of these talks and Inter-School activities. This line of reasoning further strengthens the case for compulsory attendance from our community members. As young boys who will serve our nation in the future, we are expected not only to be the pioneer in our spheres of interest, but also to appreciate and respect other fields. When a student who aspires to be a civil servant in the future attends the Inter-House Music Competition, he subconsciously ‘participates’ in the activity by observing both segments of it: the relentless effort put in by the participants, and the results which come to fruition on the final day. Admittedly, this form of participation may not be tangibly engaging; however, it does pervade our subconscious, and sows the seeds of appreciation for that activity. This, I feel, stands at the very core of the ‘all-round education’ that School prides itself on.

The final argument is predicated on this institution’s ethos. No Dosco is alien to the practice of forced loyalty (form unity, house spirit, school spirit) or the Senior-Junior hierarchy; they have been deeply ingrained into our system. As I make a steady transition into my senior years, I have come to realise that this compulsion is expedient in some ways. It instilled a sense of discipline even though, at times, it came across as forceful. The same discipline lies at the very heart of a Dosco identity. Make no mistake; this picture should not paint a contrived image. Rather, this discipline has been forged on the principles of loyalty to the form that you are a part of, loyalty to the house that you live in, and loyalty to the institution that has recruited you to serve a meritocratic India. And compulsion lies at top of this disciplinary framework.
Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

This is with reference to the Letter published in Issue 2484 on the recent edition of ‘The Roving Eye’ discussing the S-Form in their Second Term. Ignoring the author’s ad hominem barbs, the letter’s response to the piece’s humorous nature had some marked and naive flaws, and despite whatever “general atmosphere” that existed at the time, failed to understand the nature of satirical humour itself. On the contrary, this letter seeks to refute those claims by not myopically addressing it to one person, but to all those unnamed S-Formers who share the view, and indeed the entire community.

In Shakespearean times, the concept of a ‘Jester’ was quite prominent in the courts of European Kings. These figures existed to whip up humorous commentary on the happenings of society and entertain courtiers in their daily business. Most importantly, however, was their knack for truth in their humour – within jokes were embedded references to courtiers and others engaged in wrongful, illegal and immoral behaviour. While often to the chagrin of courtiers and even angering the King himself, the Jester held total immunity from all punishment. In this, the Jester displayed the real value of satire: to reveal the truth regardless of ‘personal views’ of those affected, in an engaging and lively fashion. Indeed, Arthur Foot’s founding motto for the Weekly exemplified a similar motive - to “sketch your (sic) world exactly as it goes”.

The example above illustrates that the satirical Roving Eye was not “a farce” as the Letter’s author so claimed. Unlike a “farce”, humour was not ‘exaggerated’ or ‘improbable’ but indeed quite accurate, and presented the truth in a humorous fashion – conforming to the tradition of satire itself. Sure, it did offend some S-Formers, but that is the case with articles of a socially relevant nature – they aren’t always well received by everyone. At the same time, pieces cannot be manicured and watered down just to satisfy personal sentiments or reputations of a few at the cost of exposing the truth – for the truth is of inherent importance in understanding our community, and serves the greater good even if bitter. Therefore, if accurate, there are little grounds to selfishly claim that because “people weren’t happy… things went too far”. Doing so would default on the founding Headmaster’s mission statement for the Weekly (mentioned above). Indeed, if objections are raised to such pieces, responses should be written in the spirit of public discourse. I must note that the author fulfilled this in his Letter, and I congratulate him for raising the relevance of the Roving Eye by (once again) bringing it to the forefront of discourse in the School community – fulfilling the Weekly’s objectives. Great job!

What really ‘mocks the process’ is the sycophancy undergone and rivalries created by students – the process is, instead, supposed to be a respectable affair, and students stooping down to such moral nadirs and ugly disputes for a position of school-bound power is quite immature (ironically, making them unfit for the position itself). As mentioned above, the Roving Eye has a two-fold motive to catalogue the truth exactly as it goes and entertain the wider community. Ergo, if S-Form is to criticise the Weekly for mockery, then they only have themselves to blame.

Speaking of entertainment, the author also tried to claim the Roving Eye was obscure – stating that people couldn’t understand the references made (e.g. Kingmaker, Berry House and ‘Bloody Joker’). As with all Roving Eyes, references are chosen bearing in mind prominent events and idiosyncrasies on campus. Cherry-picking a few examples and claiming they were obscure in isolation is quite problematic. Should juniors not understand these references, the idea is for them to ask seniors and their form-mates during their discussions on the article (given the matter’s relevance, this did happen). Furthermore, such criticism lacks an understanding of the reason for such references. While we wish to expose the truth, we extend our courtesy to those mentioned by not directly writing their names (as I have done in this Letter) to prevent their international embarrassment by “Old Boys… on the other side of the world” – a courtesy that those ‘offended’ ought to appreciate.

But the biggest flaw, however, with the Letter was the repeated statement of “the time not being right” – a claim I found most disconcerting. Indeed, the timing of the Roving Eye was most apt...
for School, and moreover, for S-Form itself. At a point where rivalries were strong, the Roving Eye allowed those concerned to really evaluate the righteousness of their actions – which weren’t righteous at all – and seek improvement for the better. In critiquing the article and its humorous characterisations; they certainly missed this real motive – to serve as a mirror of their actions and thus refrain from them. This would be the real improvement to the School’s environment, which the Roving Eye has not sought to harm but merely help.

To conclude, it’s only evident that the Roving Eye wasn’t to merely “make a joke” and trivialise a matter – but served a wider purpose (and the Weekly’s founding objectives) in an effective way. Clearly, power has been exercised properly, a point the critics have missed in their “gossip column” labels (a generalisation so sweeping that requires another article to deal with). If future Editors are to censor the truth for their form-mates, it would lower the Weekly from the ethical platform it currently occupies. With that, to paraphrase Arjun Kamdar, I sincerely hope the thin-skinned Second Term phase has ended, and the Weekly remains on course. Warm Regards, Arjun Singh

The Baton of Excellence

Aryan Bhattacharjee reports on the recently concluded 62nd Annual Chuckerbutty Memorial Debates.

In the words of George Orwell, “Power is in tearing human minds to pieces and putting them together again in new shapes of your own choosing.” This is perhaps what best encapsulates the Chuckerbutty experience. Chucks remains one of the country’s pre-eminent debating competitions. Why? A conscious attempt is made, every year, to grow and attract the best talent. From being an Oxfords [single round] debate to the World School’s debate we see today, Chuckerbutty strives to remain cutting edge.

The 2017 edition saw some astenuous and thought provoking debates stretched over a span of three days. The results would often come down only to a couple extra points on one side, as the participants and audience waited anxiously for the chairs to announce the verdict. The team comprising Arjun Singh, Aryan Chhabra and Arunav Vaish [Doon Foot] lifted the trophy, after battling out the finals against The Shri Ram School. Doon Martyn, comprising Yash Dewan, Kanishkh Kanodia and Devang Laddha also performed exceptionally well, with Devang being placed third in the overall speaker tally.

What separates Chucks from other competitions is the desire to pursue improvement and not a final victory. So much so, that each team thanked our judges this year for the detailed feedback they received regarding every aspect of their debating. Credit for this is given to the judge’s briefings that are held before every debate, ensuring that criteria throughout the competition remained consistent. Moreover, our own masters judging the debates, alongside others, goes to show how this event is so inclusive.

The meticulous effort put into its organisation received praise from several participating teams. For the Organising Committee (OC) and our masters-in-charge, efforts were underway a week before the teams were scheduled to arrive. Everything from the venues, stationary and refreshments were planned in much detail. Even the books given to judges, in gratitude, were handpicked to appeal to their specific interests. This personal touch is complimented year after year. A shift in venue from the Art and Media Centre to the Main Building helped in centralising the logistics and saved precious time for the OC.

With Chucks now having concluded, the stage is set for the Junior English Invitational Debates, or JEDI, scheduled for January. Our junior debaters now warm-up as they prepare to enter a legacy of debaters renowned across the Inter-School debating circuit in the country. The never-ending quench for excellence has motivated younger members of the community who will safeguard our glorious traditions.
The Week Gone By

Aayush Chowdhry

After the passionate tussles over the weekend, the School emerged victorious for the second consecutive year in the annual Chuckerbutty debates; the Foot team effectively set the tone for the upcoming week. The host team’s triumphant victory was deservedly acknowledged in Monday morning assembly. However, it contrasted with the other (much needed) acknowledgement of littering, class absences and general loss of momentum towards the end of the term. In response, much improvement was seen during the week—especially with boys glued to their seats in the CDH—due to the multiple after dinner addresses by the School Captain. It turns out that the rumor of ‘martial law’ is enough to straighten students.

Children’s day made for a special treat for the students after the surprise cancellation of the last two schools as many were wondering why they did not get to fully enjoy the School’s victory in both the language debates with a holiday. Almost ironically, our masters beat the students in the exhibition Hindi Debate on ‘ishwar mat geya’ which was a magnificent portrayal of the spirit of the community on Children’s Day. The very next day also saw the celebration of Hispanic culture day (for the first time in an open manner) with some rich presentations and activities involving students of our school as well as other schools in the valley.

On a more competitive note, boxing saw its first screening, basketball its fervent practices, and athletics its much awaited commencement. More house colors were noticeable around Chandebagh as PT vests became the norm, in winters. The inter-house competitive vigour was seen palpal even in marching (for the cake) as, despite the hour late arrival of the band, boys dug their heels for two consecutive rounds. The subtle nuances were judged closely the next day and may the team with the best foot forward win!

The next cohort of ‘leaders’ showed their capacity for ambition as various publication appointments and house positions’ decisions were made. Such enthusiasm for leadership was paralleled even in the master community with the applications for the Eagle House Master and Deputy Pastoral Head reaching their deadlines. For this final month’s stretch, let’s pray that we remain the best versions of ourselves.

Crossword

Across

2. This princess left home upon the arrival of her cruel stepmother who was envious of her white skin, red lips and ebony coloured hair.
4. Lemuel Gulliver gets washed away to this island after the first shipwreck.
7. Name the character in a novel written by Benjamin Tabart who says, ‘Fee-Fi-Fo-Fum I smell the blood of an Englishman.’
8. This famous author is known for writing a book centering around a ‘cat in a hat’ and his foolish habits.

Down

1. A story about a gifted young girl forced to put up with a distant father, a cruel mother and a torturing principal.
3. A novel by Charles Dickens about an orphan, born in a workhouse and sold into apprenticeship with an undertaker.
5. One of the only Disney created princesses that have the magical ability to both heal and reverse aging; her first on screen appearance was in the Disney movie ‘Tangled’.
7. This character accidentally falls into Wonka’s chocolate river and is sucked up a chocolate pipe that leads to the ‘Fudge Room’.

Note: All answers to this crossword are the concerned persons’ surnames.

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