Amal Bansode writes on his concerns with booting.

I don’t enjoy reading Weekly-s frequently filled with complaints, so I’m hoping that the content below comes off as an ‘appeal’ to the School Community, and not a rant.

Throughout my time as a student (and most importantly, a junior) at School, multiple aspects of student life have changed. The senior-junior hierarchy is being re-evaluated, and the role of prefects is being redefined, amongst other things. However, there is one common malpractice in School that doesn’t seem to have ceased yet- ‘booting’.

Leaving aside the arguments regarding the concept of seniority itself, I have been appalled by our practice of ‘booting’. As a junior, I greatly dislike that a senior could cut a line “just because he can”. I’m pretty sure nobody really likes that seniors possess this power — except us, seniors. There were a select few of my seniors who would respect the queue, and I hold great respect for them. It seems to be this sort of conditioning — as juniors, we all know ‘booting’ is wrong, yet we emulate the actions of (most of) our seniors once we are ‘in power’.

For the record, yes, I too have bootied my juniors several times. But, as I climbed the ladder of hierarchy, I realised that the only way I could be responsible and true to myself was to be a practitioner of my own beliefs. I couldn’t compel others to follow suit, but I ensured I didn’t ‘boot’ in an unjustified manner thereon. I hope this article will influence its readers in a similar way.

If it isn’t already obvious that ‘booting’ (unjustifiably) is wrong, here’s some reasoning. Of course, the scenario must be considered as well, but this article aims to tackle unjustified ‘booting’.

Firstly, it is ethically wrong. Take a queue for instance. A queue is logically the most efficient and EQUAL form of controlling the demand for something with limited supply (at a time). Those who arrive earlier are gratified before those who arrive later. We are rarely dictated to form a queue; it is an unspoken social norm adhering to the ‘first in-first out’ principle. A line, when viewed as a whole, signifies cooperation. By cutting off the people who arrived ahead of you, you are openly flouting their rights, as well as their time.

Secondly, I feel that such a practice cultivates impatience. Of course, there’s no conclusive proof of this, but this is one of the many opinions I have of ‘booting’. Similar to technology, ‘booting’ provides instant gratification.

Thirdly, it is bad preparation for Doscos stepping into the real world. Anyone cutting a line (unjustifiably) in the real world is bound to get a punch in the face.

Solutions to this malaise, however aren’t far to seek. Besides modifying our behaviour, some other changes could help curb this practice.

(Continued on page 3)
The music appointments of the year 2018 are as follows:

School Music Captain and Choir leader: Harsh Dewan

School Orchestra leaders: Zoraver Mehta and Raghav Bagri

School Percussion leader: Prabhav Maheswari

School Popular Band leaders: Samarvir Mundi and Ishaan Mauli Misra

School Dance Captain: Shourya Verma

Boy in Charge of Trinity Examinations: Sanyam Gupta

We wish them a fruitful tenure!

LES BEAUX ESPIRITS

55 boys participated in the first round of the French Olympiad, 2017.

The Gold medallists for Round One are:

Elementary level
Tanmay Gupta
Vivhaan Kothari

Proficiency level
Anant Jain
Kanishkh Kanodia
Mitul Agarwal
Paras Gupta

Well done!

Non-cooperation with evil is as much a duty as is cooperation with good.

Mahatma Gandhi

ROCKET SCIENTISTS

A team of nine boys participated in the 14th Annual Asia Regional Space Settlement Design Competition, 2018. They emerged as the Runners-up Company of the round. During the course of the competition, Raghav Grover was elected ‘Vice-President of Engineering’, Shivendra Singh was elected ‘Vice-President of Marketing’ and Mahip Agarwal was appointed ‘Director of Operations’. They will go on to represent Asia in the International Round to be held at Kennedy Space Centre, in July, after passing an online round.

Congratulations and we wish them luck for the same!

AT THE HELM

The following are the various appointments for the year 2018-19:

School Social Service Secretaries: Naman Khurana and Yash Dewan

Business Club: Yashmit Stutodia

Hindi Public Speaking: Shiven Dewan

RLSS: Kushagra Kar

Photography: Ojas Kharabanda

Chess STA: Raghav Bagri

HAM Radio: Arjun Agarwal

Congratulations!

Around the World in 80 Words

Attacks in Kabul by ISIS killed more than 130 people. An earthquake hit the capitals of Pakistan and Afghanistan which left one dead and fifteen injured. The Hong Kong government banned the domestic sale of ivory while the Indian government announced budget for 2018-2019, focusing mainly on agriculture and the rural sector. Roger Federer won the Australian Open, which was his 20th Grand Slam. Premier League clubs spent a January transfer deadline-day record £150m to take their expenditure to £430m.
The Winter Olympics, 2018 | Advaita Sood

About a week and a half from now, for the first time, North and South Korea will march together under one flag at the 2018 Winter Olympics at PyeongChang, South Korea. Although the event is intended to result a breakthrough in sports diplomacy, it has stirred its fair amount of controversy.

The last time South Korea hosted an Olympic, the North declined to participate, and then blew up a South Korean airplane in order to induce fear in the participating athletes. This time, efforts of reconciliation are being made as South Korea postponed joint military training with the U.S. till after the Olympics and both the countries in the Korean Peninsula have agreed to play as a united hockey team. Moreover, the two sides are actually communicating, as opposed to the hawkish rhetoric they normally subject each other to. Nevertheless, people (including young South Koreans) have been questioning the prospect of a united Korea, and it is beginning to show why. The 2018 Winter Olympics have often been referred to as the PyeongChang Olympics. People in North Korea have, of late, started calling it the Pyongyang Olympics. This is just one example of how North Korea is trying to diffuse tensions which have escalated in recent months. Last week, Hyong Song Wol, a popular North Korean pop singer, arrived in South Korea to identify a venue at which a 140 member North Korean orchestra is scheduled to perform later this month. Also, North Korea is sending a squad of reporters and government officials to the games, a thirty member taekwondo demonstration team, and a squad of two hundred and thirty cheerleaders to cheer for the North Korean athletes.

Despite the steps taken to bridge fractured ties, subtle developments still indicate that all may not be as sanguine as it appears to be. The totalitarian regime has shifted the day to celebrate the creation of the Korean People’s Army with a grand military parade, from April twenty-fifth to February eighth, which just so happens to be one day before the PyeongChang Olympics. Political commentators are still trying to fathom the nature of the message being conveyed.

Moreover, North Korea backed out off a cultural performance that was scheduled to take place before the Olympics, blaming it on ‘insulting media’ concerning their participation in the PyeongChang Olympics. However, this did not affect their plan of sending a delegation of musicians and dancers to the games.

Even after all of this, it is extremely difficult to predict what will eventually happen at the Olympics. Whether the long held sacrosanct goal of a united Korea will be achieved, and whether this unification will be merely ephemeral or long lasting are moot questions. Nevertheless, it will be impossible to miss the outcome (or to miss a sensational tweet from the President of the United States), whatever it may be.
Knockin’ on Heaven’s Door

Siddharth Bathla (311-T Batch of ‘11)

I found myself at the gates of what I was told, was a truly magical place. Almost as if on cue, the gates were opened for me by two guardians of this realm that my entitled self was about to enter. I had been briefed by my parents that this was where I belonged. That one day, if fate would have it; this is where I would be. I had an idea of what went on here and what this place could make out of me; however, the only thought that crossed me at that time was that I would no longer be able to enjoy the pool and pampered life I had lived these past twelve years.

The absence of a ready availability of treats that I was accustomed to enjoying was a major concern for me. I worried I would not have the resources to maintain the size of my belly that I had worked so hard on acquiring over the years. Other concerns included my cellular device being confiscated from me for the next four months (even though I was aware that it would be provided for), and the fact that I had to wear a uniform (even though I knew it would be withheld from me during the term) that I would no longer be able to enjoy. The most ironical is that this was where I belonged.

Soon I became accustomed to the manner in which this institution was running and what we were exposed to. I felt my pettiness slowly but surely wash away from me. I began enjoying an all round life that I had never lived before! I felt alive! From any sport you could name to any activity you could imagine, it was all there for us to enjoy. My main concern regarding the availability of sustenance was addressed very early on as we were served well balanced and nutritious meals thrice a day that would in no way leave us “malnourished”. Added to this were well stocked pantries in our respective houses to satisfy any lingering cravings. I found the classes to be intellectually stimulating, the competition in sports healthy, and the activities engaging and gratifying. I felt myself evolve into a person of substance with values and opinions of my own. With a brain to think with and a heart to feel with and it dawned upon me amidst the blue skies and the trees, the birds and the bees, that I was indeed in a heaven on earth.

Disclaimer: This account is NOT a reaction to any ‘recent article’ that appeared in this publication. Its purpose is purely reflective of our current state. Why would you think otherwise…?

Moneyball

Samarth Kapila reviews the recently held IPL auction

In this year’s power-packed IPL auction, eight franchises contested for the perfect squad from a pool of 581 players, including 360 Indians. To add to the drama, two teams, Rajasthan Royals and Chennai Super Kings, have made a comeback after being suspended last year on charges of match-fixing. Each team’s cap was Rs 80 crore but the auction budget depended on the players they had retained.

Two changes that were made this year were the size of the squad which was changed to a maximum of 25 from 27, and the number of overseas players which was changed from nine to seven. Another addition to the auctioning process was the Right to Match card. If a player has been bought by one franchise, the team that he played for last year could use an RTM card to match the bid made by the former and retain the player. Teams that have retained three players can only use the card twice during the auction. In an intense bidding war, Rajasthan Royals, Kings XI Punjab and Chennai Super Kings were the ones who made their presence felt by bidding the highest and for the best players.

Highlights from the auction included Ben Stokes emerging as the most expensive player with Rajasthan Royals buying him for Rs 12.5 crore. Jaydev Unadkat was the most expensive Indian player at Rs 11.5 crore. He also became the most expensive Indian fast-bowler in the history of the IPL. Rising talents like Shubman Gill, Prithvi Shaw and Kamlesh Nagarkoti, who are a part of India’s U-19 team, will be participating in this year’s IPL. Surprisingly, some prominent names like Lasith Malinga, Dale Steyn, Shaun Marsh and Joe Root received no bids. Chris Gayle, the Jamaican prodigy, was bought by Kings XI Punjab after remaining unsold twice. Intense bidding was also seen in the wicketkeeping division, Dinesh Karthik being the most expensive one. Some shocking bids included Gautam Gambhir and Ravichandran Ashwin going to Delhi Daredevils and Kings XI Punjab respectively.

All the teams have formidable squads as they prepare for IPL 2018, the most awaited sports league in India, commencing on April 4; and considering the heated bidding, this season surely promises to be an exciting one.
Parenting Problems

Aviral Kumar comments on issues surrounding parenting.

“Parents are the greatest role models for children” – Bob Keeshan

This quote reiterates what many believe to be natural fact – parents play an instrumental role in a child’s upbringing and essentially mould them in nearly every aspect of their life. They are the individuals their children look up to and as a result emulate their characteristics. This is usually true. Parents do tend to play the most significant guardian roles in a child’s life, this perception has accorded parents a considerable degree of authority over their children, which in legal terms is known as parental autonomy. There isn’t anything wrong with that per se, since the parents have produced the child, and from both a biological and social perspective should have some degree of control over their offspring. But, this has led to several questions being ignored; the most important of these being exactly how much authority should they hold, and at what point are they breaching this authority?

In most situations this question need not be asked; most parents are perfectly capable of raising their children and do so diligently in an environment and manner which is conducive to the wellbeing of the child, but this isn’t always the case. Over the last three decades, over 200 children have died in the US due to treatable illnesses because they received spiritual healing rather than conventional medical treatment at the behest of their parents. In such a scenario, could these people really justify their decisions at the cost of their child’s life? The government certainly seemed to think so; thirty-nine states have laws that protect parents from criminal prosecution in the event that their children die due to medical negligence. This only goes to show that governments aren’t always necessarily right in giving parents such power, for they may make a choice they believe to be the best for their child, but in reality is detrimental to their well-being.

But let’s look at a more relatable example, for parental autonomy isn’t merely restricted to such a morbid aspect. In 2011, Yale Law professor Amy Chua released her parenting memoir, Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother. The book revolved around Amy’s methods of raising her children, which according to her she derived from the strict, nonsense approach she and most traditional Asian families adhered to. She goes on to claim that how this control, sometimes bordering downright cruelty, led to her daughters achieving tremendous academic success. Since the book was published, many studies have been conducted to test the credibility of such claims and the feasibility of being a ‘Tiger Parent’. Whilst statistics showed that Asian-American families did excel academically, the overall graph showed that being a more supportive, open-minded parent led to not only an equal potential for academic excellence, but also greater social health. In fact, Chua went so far as to say that much of her book included subtle criticisms of her overt harshness, and if she could raise her children once again, she would be a more lenient parent.

In the cases mentioned above and several others, parental autonomy clashes with laws pertaining to child welfare, which has sparked a heated debate regarding a parent’s place in their child’s life. While many believe that parents have an inherent right to decide for their progeny, others argue that the best interest of a child is paramount, and any choice made by a parent which is inconsistent with this must be opposed. This conflict can enter a variety of aspects regarding a child’s life, ranging from his healthcare to education. While the bulk of this article has highlighted the flaws that exist in higher levels of parental autonomy, we must also remember that the concept itself isn’t inherently flawed. Before I go on, I would like to clarify that I’m not suggesting that all parents are diabolical and children should be free of their control. In fact, in many cases parental autonomy can be beneficial. For example, even in Chua’s case, while one could say that some of the methods employed were extreme, she did have her children’s best interests in mind, and they have in fact gone on to achieve academic success in life, with one studying at Harvard College and the other at Yale Law School.

We must remember that neither parents nor the government are always right when it comes to the best interests of a child, and so condemning parental autonomy is as unreasonable as placing absolute faith in it. The government obviously cannot make every decision as efficiently for every child as their parent can, as it also lacks any emotional tether. On the other hand, while parents should have a prominent say in our lives, it is a right they must earn. Just as children earn the affection of their parents, the latter must put in the effort to care for and love their child. To demand empathy from a child if one plays no part in his upbringing is unjust. Parents truly are the greatest role models for children, but only when they nurture a child who feels supported and not suffocated.
Words of Wisdom

The House Captains write about their plans for the Year to come.

Hyderabad

Tarush Bansal

As the Captain of Hyderabad House, I envision a house with a strong ethical standing. A house where discipline is pursued not due to fear of harsh action, but due to people's will to achieve and perform. A house where Doscos across all forms possess a fundamental sense of responsibility and each individual understands what being a Nizam stands for. However, through all of this, I hope to not lose the friendly and intimate environment which the Nizams have cherished for long. The spirit possessed by H-House is what defines and distinguishes it, and it can be sustained with a proper balance of leadership and healthy response. I know there will be challenges on the way to achieving such an idealistic community, but I hope to overcome them with the guidance and support of my fellow prefects and form-mates, doing the best I can at all times.

Anirudh Bazari, Mayank Sojatia and Rohin Agrawal

Kashmir

Shiven Dewan

Never have I ever connected more with 'Uncle Ben's' famous quote (‘With great power…’ needs no introduction) than in the last few days. I have spent the last two weeks mulling over my House's relevance in the School, and writing this tiny piece has, surprisingly, been an arduous task. After much deliberation, I realised that Kashmir House has always prided itself on its value system and the camaraderie between the members of the House. We have continued to produce chivalrous, courteous and empathic individuals. Therefore, our Prefectorial Body aims to create a culture of self-discipline through dialogue and role-modelling to contribute polished, considerate and hard-working individuals to the School, thus doing justice to our tag of being the 'House of Gentlemen'.

Jaipur

Jaipur House embodies a rare confluence of the elegance of a gentleman and the tenaciousness of an Eagle. These qualities must reflect in every boy of the House and is what we, as a body, hope to inculcate. Being a gentleman comes with the prerequisite of 'leading yourself' by being independent and allowing the system to groom you. It also entails helping others to lead themselves by being kind, empathetic, and conducive to growth. These qualities coupled with the attitude of the Eagle to fly into the eye of the storm and emerge victorious will certainly enable Jaipur House to peak.

Anish Bhide, Aditya Vikram Singh and Zoraver Mehta

Oberoi

Jaipur

Aayush Chowdhry

Oberoi House has historically been the epitome of a few qualities that have continued to define the boys of the House. Boys of Oberoi House, in the forthcoming year, will embody these very qualities, most important of which are being disciplined, honourable and courteous. Moreover, in the world today there is a pervasive rise of individualism wherein people forget to look beyond themselves. In Oberoi House, one of our main aims is to defy this trend by putting the House and others before ourselves, only then will we be able to truly move forward as a House. While emphasis would be paid on some metalwork, there would be no substitute for happiness and bonding, because at the end of the day it is our duty as the prefectorial body to leave behind a well-knit house, one in which the boys make and cherish the bonds forever.

Pratinav Bagla, Raghav Saboo and Shaurya Jain

Satue, February 3 | Issue No. 2491
“Everyone’s Got An Act”

Vir Bhatia reviews the movie ‘The Greatest Showman.’

The Greatest Showman took over seven years to metamorphose from an idea in the brilliant mind of an Australian director, looking to make a hit debut film, to the enthralling two hour sing-along musical that it is. It certainly wasn’t an overnight sensation. Director, Michael Gracy and his team laboured hard and long to produce the showcase, helped along by a stellar cast starring Hugh Jackman, Zac Efron, Zendaya and Rebecca Ferguson.

The movie is loosely based on the story of Phineas Taylor Barnum, encapsulating his success as one of the leading pioneers in the then unheard of ‘show business’. Barnum, having grown up in dire poverty wanted little more than to create a comfortable life for his loving wife and two daughters. He did so by starting an exhibition of individuals with curious and remarkable traits which was later named a circus. Overcome with shadows of his modest past and a stubborn will to disprove his in-laws for doubting him, he loses sight of his original goal and the drama kicks off. Family discontent, greed and fame are central themes in this emotional rollercoaster of complications and crescendos.

The cast was globally lauded for their tremendous achievement of having managed to juggle acting, singing and dancing all at once, and immerse the viewers in the characters they portrayed. The prominent demonstrations of these skills were displayed by the main cast. They managed to make the musical sequences in the film coherent. The back-and-forth dialogue and uses of refrain in their songs reinforce the theme. The lyrics corresponded to the circumstances their respective characters were facing at the time in the film. This was a peculiar strategy which met its objective. Additionally the visuals, presented alongside the music served, as literal and metaphorical aid for the story. An example of this is the scene that takes place during sequence featuring ‘From Now On’ by Hugh Jackman. Jackman is alone in a bar when the number begins. He is gloomy and dismayed when his circus cohorts join him and cheer him up. As messages of hope and perseverance become increasingly prominent in the story and the song the visuals reflect the tone change by having Jackman scurry out of the bar and board a train riding into a perfect picturesque sunrise. This symbolises the way Barnum makes the decision to turn his life around and adopt hope as a mantra instead of desperation. It is in this way that the film’s director, Michael Gracy managed to use far more than lines spoken aloud to tell a story; a true mark of a talented visionary.

The soundtrack was globally appreciated and its content was supplemented with thrilling set pieces and choreography. Some did feel, however, that the musical bits in the film created brief pauses and breaks in the film as opposed to smoothening the story’s progression as it should have done. Nonetheless, the featuring music was top-notch. Some of the film’s notable tracks include ‘This Is Me’, ‘The Other Side’ and ‘The Greatest Show’. Nearly all songs featured vocals from the actual cast itself, providing authenticity and realism. The music was written by popular American song writing duo and composing team, Benj Pasek and Justin Paul. Pasek and Paul are behind the soundtrack of another hit musical film, ‘La La Land’ as well as upcoming children films ‘Aladdin’ and ‘Snow White and The Seven Dwarves’. The two have also collaborated on several theatre and television productions. Their song, ‘This Is Me’, was adjudged Best Original Song at the 75th Annual Golden Globe Awards Ceremony, and is also nominated for Best Original Song at the 90th Academy Awards.

In short, the film is an ingenious concoction of emotion, music and exceptional acting produced by proven writers, a star-studded cast and a director with an eye for detail. The music was captivating, although it seemed excessive and repetitive at times. The plot and charismatic characters caused film-goers to remain on the edge of their seats for the duration of the film, something that can only be achieved by a spectacle quite as special as this one.
The Week
Gone By

Aayush Chowdhry

After the feistiness observed in the community, following the appointments and announcements last week, the weekend was a rather tranquil one. However, with our School Team winning their first match by a fair margin, boys lighting up villages, and Oberoi House S-Form enjoying their morning with the Bulbul House girls from Welham, the weekend saw its fair share of productivity. Speaking of productivity, the Yearbook faced some speed breakers with the pictures over the weekend due to a broken device and a flurry of repercussions for the same.

The Headmaster made his cameo of the week as he came back and started Monday morning Assembly with a joke about never having been so distant, only to leave the next day for another country. Assemblies and meals also saw our new cohort of leaders fitting into their positions with misread announcements and situations, but hopefully the upcoming workshop will serve to improve that situation.

Fervent cricket practices also began, with the seniors’ segment of the Inter-House competition lurking around the corner, as many A Formers made their choice between the comforts of home or the testosterone of the matches. Despite the sporting concerns of a few, most focused on their pre-Boards, especially the SC Formers as they make the last pull of the last lap of the two-year marathon. Whatever the case, taking a gestalt view of School, the week was a relatively calmer one and provided a soft start to a challenging term ahead. Let’s hope that we Doscos know how to utilize this downtime rather than remain glued to our screens or beds, with weeks like the one gone by will get rarer as we delve further into the term and are more important than they might seem.

Crossword

Name the character based on the dialogue or description given.

Across
1. “We were on a break!”
4. “The purpose of war is peace.”
7. “The only time a man can be brave is when he’s afraid.”
9. “Shut up, Anderson! You lower the IQ of the whole street.”

Down
2. This unethical lawyer from ‘Breaking Bad’ stars in his own spin-off series.
3. “Our first assignment is a documentary. It’s like a movie, but with ugly people.”
5. _______ Horseman is an American satire on Hollywood, revolving around a humanoid horse struggling with depression.
6. “I don’t have dreams, I have goals.”
8. “You know what I like about people? They stack so well.”
10. “I let you know me, see me. I gave you a rare gift.”
11. This character is the main protagonist of TV series ‘The Walking Dead’.

Note: All answers related to the concerned persons’ first names.

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