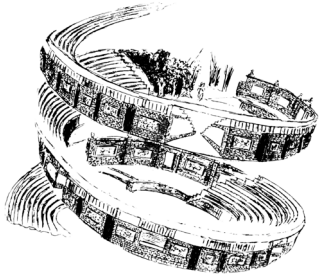


Established in 1936



# The Doon School WEEKLY

"I sketch your world exactly as it goes." -Arthur Foot  
March 31, 2018 | Issue No. 2499



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# Corporate Consolidation

**Karan Sampath** writes about the issues associated with corporate consolidation.

We often find it more comforting to use the brands we know, whether it is an Amazon while shopping, or a Google while searching. These companies are large, well-known names that we feel secure using, but little do we know of the potential these companies have of becoming public enemy number one. Being massive data behemoths, they have a monopoly over their fields, something that can easily be used to exploit the ordinary consumer. My article is not only going to be focused on these companies, but also on the larger issue with monopolisation, and how the increasing trend towards it is perilous for the ordinary consumer.

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**Without competition, one can often see companies charging exorbitantly high prices, while not paying a second thought to how good the service they provided actually was.**

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Before we understand what are the issues with monopolisation, or as it is more commonly known, corporate consolidation, it is important to realize what it exactly is. Corporate consolidation, in a nutshell, is the merging of two companies.

This can be done willfully by the boards of the two companies, or through the purchase of the shares of a smaller company, forcing it to join. More importantly though, at the end of this process only one company exists, which means that all the products, patents and personnel these companies had are now under one entity. An example of this is the attempted acquisition of 21st Century Fox by Disney, which could soon see the X-Men and the Avengers in one film.

The primary issue with corporate consolidation is that it leads to a reduction in competition,

because it tends to happen within an industry. Why is this so bad? Competition ensures that companies strive to achieve the highest possible standards, simultaneously keeping prices as low as possible. Only one group benefits from this- the consumers. Without competition, one can often see companies charging exorbitantly high prices, while not paying a second thought to how good the service they provided actually was. A striking example of this is the American Airline Industry, where in a span of 15 years, the number of airlines became a third of what it was, and the industry became notorious across the world for its deplorable standards. Furthermore, the industry evolved to become a collusive oligopoly, where the few remaining companies were actively trying not to compete with each other. This looks like the charging of first baggage fees by American Airlines, which the other airline companies also started copying within months. The sole loser here being: the consumer.

Another issue with corporate consolidation is that in some cases, it can unfairly disadvantage other companies who wish to compete. Such mergers are known as vertical mergers, where companies along the supply chain merge. An analogy of this is the process of transfer of goods, from the hands of a farmer to the consumer, where there are several middlemen, like a manufacturer and a retailer. Now if the farmer and manufacturer were to merge under one company, it is much more likely that other manufacturers will not be able to get the same number of food items as they would have before, an effect which ripples down until reaches its final endpoint, the consumer. An image of what this looks like today is AT and T, a large American telecommunications provider, trying to buy a large stake in Time Warner, a provider of entertainment and TV channels. If such a merger were to happen, AT and T could speed up services provided by Time Warner, ensuring other competitors in the entertainment industry will lose

(Continued on Page 3)

## What do you expect the 2500th Issue of the Weekly to be

“2500 pages of fun, guest edited by every living writer who ever contributed to the *Weekly*.”

-Mr. Matthew Raggett

“Magical.”

-Mrs. Priyanka Bhattacharya

“A blend of articles, cartoons and reprints, covering the previous issues of the *Weekly*.”

-Mr. Manu Mehrotra

“A landmark edition and a leap for The Doon School.”

-Ojas Kharabanda

“Being the oldest, most well-written and most widely circulated publication, it should be as good as it has always been”

-Mr. Shrey Nagalia

“Symbolic, in Arthur Foot’s words, of a *long and honoured career*.”

-Arjun Singh

## THE WHO?

### Who is Adan Richard Wiles?

**Zayan Zakariah:** The owner of Spotify

**Rajveer Machre:** A terrorist

**Harrsh Dewan:** A historian

**Adan Richard Wiles**, known professionally as Calvin Harris, is a Scottish DJ, singer, songwriter, and record producer, famous for his albums ‘Motion’ and ‘18 Months’.

### UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

*Explain me this please.*

**Nand Singh Dahiya**, it’s called grammar.

*Penguins are supposed to be humans.*

**Varen Talwar**, dreaming of Dosco Doodles.

*Including or discluding?*

**Bhai Kabir Singh**, dis-wording.

“

**Only put off until tomorrow what you are willing to die having left undone.**

—  
Pablo Picasso

### TOP TEN PLACES TO HIDE TUCK IN SCHOOL

1. Inside a book where the middle has been cut out
2. In the lining of your suitcase
3. In the rain cover compartment of your school bag
4. Taped underneath your bed
5. Double wrapped in plastic bags (and obsessive protection), inside your shoes
6. Inside an opaque water bottle
7. Your House’s Box Room
8. The false bottom of your locker
9. Under your mattress
10. In plain sight

### Around the World in 80 Words

Students protested against gun regulation laws in Washington D.C. A fire in a Siberian mall in Russia killed 64 people. Linda Brown, a famous revolutionary most commonly known for fighting racism, died at the age of 75. In the light of the recently leaked papers, CBSE has issued a statement to hold re-exams for class 10 Mathematics and class 12 Economics. Steve Smith, David Warner and Cameron Bancroft received a year-long ban by ICC after their recent ball tampering scandal.

**Dosco Doodle**

**The End of an Era**

*Armaan Batta*



(Continued from page 1)  
out.

The final issue that exists with corporate consolidation is that it quite literally, can ensure that a company never loses out. If a company is the only one that exists in an industry and has a direct line of service to the consumer, it becomes next to impossible for it to go bankrupt. The worst aspect about this is that it can ensure no other company enters the

industry; by ensuring consumers never get access to it. This not only means that consumers cannot get good quality products but also that lesser number of jobs are being created. An example of this is the Italian eyewear firm Luxottica, which owns over 15 sunglass brands, as well as over 10 sunglass stores. Through this it ensures that competitors are not given access to any of its stores, thereby shutting them out, and in

the long term, making them go bankrupt.

Corporate consolidation, while in some cases necessary, needs to be kept a check on and regulated. Without any checks, one can expect startups like Snapchat to be bought by Facebook within the next few years. Mergers and acquisitions, if left uncontrolled, can become a bane which society will be hurt the most by, but will be powerless to do anything against.



## UNDER THE SCANNER

USA 'March for Our Lives' | Advaita Sood

On February 14, seventeen people were killed after a shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, Florida. The perpetrator was Nikolas Cruz, 19, who was armed with a legally purchased AR-15 Rifle.

On March 24, over a million demonstrators flooded streets across the globe in a world-wide protest against gun-violence. The main event took place in Washington D.C. and was organized by survivors of the shooting, who raised over three million dollars, half of which was used for the event, and the other half donated to families of the unfortunate victims of the shooting. The rallies aimed to convince Congress to tighten the notoriously lax firearm laws that have caused shootings to become a regular occurrence in America.

Students also took to the stage and spoke vehemently against the shooting at Florida and others that they experienced. Emma Gonzalez, one of the most famous student activists, addressed the crowd for six minutes and twenty seconds; the length of time it took the gunman to kill seventeen people.

Students also urged people

to register to vote, to ensure their vote in the upcoming mid-term elections in November. These votes will play a crucial role in tightening fire-arm laws.

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“Remember that policy change is not nearly as difficult as losing a loved one. Don’t just go out and vote, get 17 other people to go out and vote,” said sophomore Sari Kaufman. According to the students, voting is what will turn ambition into reality.

The intended goals have already begun to turn into reality. President Trump has already signed a 1.3 trillion dollar spending bill to make modest improvements in

background checks for firearms, and to help schools improve their security. Moreover, the Justice Department proposed a ban on “bump stocks” which are devices that enable semi-automatic guns to fire like machine guns.

However, people are sceptical about whether these new rules will actually have an effect on gun-violence. Reason being, these ideas aren’t exactly flawless. For instance, in the past century, background checks have improved. Still, gun-violence has steadily increased. Studies show that states that conduct background checks have twice the amount of gun-violence as those that don’t. Also, many small scale hunting rifles fire the same bullets at the same velocity as semi-automatic guns, and although these guns haven’t been designed to kill, they very well can.

Due to flaws such as these, the long term implications of the proposed legislation remain a moot point. Nevertheless, the movement is undoubtedly a step we need to take in today’s world and the fact that such an initiative is being taken by millennials is certainly commendable. In the words of seventeen year old Marjory Douglas high school student, Cameron Kasky: “The March is not the climax of this movement, it is the beginning. If you think today is good, just wait for tomorrow.”

# Behind the Scenes

*The Weekly recently interviewed film critic Ms. Shubhra Gupta regarding her views on Indian cinema.*

**The Doon School Weekly (DSW): What are your opinions on the voice of the artist and the freedom of expression being shot down by 'extremist' groups in India?**

**Ms. Shubhra Gupta (SGA):** Well, I'm a big supporter of expression. I think that we live in a democracy, and it was the power of the people, who created the constitution, and enshrined the principle of freedom of speech. It is a very strongly embedded element in that constitution, and that is the reason why we are the country that we are. That is also partly the reason you are even able to ask me this question without any fear. If our country had been something different, where you were thinking twice about asking all your questions, we wouldn't have been able to discuss this. So I think the answer is embedded in your own question, there is nothing as important as being able to say what we want, say how we feel, who we marry, or who we go to bed with. It's got nobody else but the two people who are involved; and the two people could be anybody. It doesn't just have to be a man and a woman, it could be a man and a man, it could be two female people, or anything else in-between. Gender fluidity is also something that now we are becoming aware of. There are no binaries. The world is full of all kinds of people. So it's got all the colours of the rainbow. That is the reason why, despite all the problems we have, despite all the right-wing stuff that is going on, not just in our country, but globally. We see the rise of conservatism, rise of intolerance, rise of hatred, you name it, it's all coming back. And why is it coming back? Because we're letting it. We're not standing up and pushing back against it. And I think that there's nothing more important than that happening right now and we should be fighting for it, rather than just asking nicely.

**DSW: What do you think makes a good movie?**

**SGA:** So, I've been asked this question many, many times, and I always say there is nothing like a good movie or a bad movie. It's what works for you. It could be the worst movie in existence, but it could totally connect with me at that point of time, depending on what mood I am in. I may feel like watching something that is an extremely intellectually stimulating kind of film, or maybe I feel like watching something like hardcore slapstick. So the kind of movie we watch largely depends on the mood that we are in, and often the company we are in. A lot of the time what happens is that peer is so strong, particularly when you're around

the age of 14, 15 and 16 that you don't want to be the odd person out. You don't want to say 'Hey, this sucks.' You don't want to say it because you're thinking 'That guy's going to laugh at me, so I'm going to say "Yeah, since you said it's good, I also think it's good"'. But inside of us we're saying 'This is so bad I can't watch.' So part of my job is to look at films which talk to you. If a film gets into a dialogue with you the moment you enter it, it doesn't matter what kind of film it is. Whether it is a full-on action, comedy or some kind of a series, drama, or a "Happy-go-lucky" Rom-Com, anything. It doesn't have to be a particular genre, to dictate whether it's a "good movie" or a "bad movie". Now there are some films which are so bad that you can't even call them movies; they're just something that someone decided to go and take a video of. So you have those kinds of films also, but you can have loads of fun with them. So I am a bit wary of using these adjectives, but my point is that films are of all kinds and it depends on where that connection happens. That's it. So have you heard of a film called "Gunda"? OK, now, that's a cut. It happened in the seventies, it was a Nitin Chakrabarty film, and it is the worst film in all existence. Literally. At least on my list, because you watch it and it only gets worse. Sometimes I watch a movie just to say "This is really bad, but how could it get any worse?" So you end up watching the whole movie. But even if I start feeling that I can't take it anymore, I still have to finish it. That's my job. We have to watch it from credit A to credit Z. So I have a whole list of movies which are terrible. The worst films I've watched are the in-between ones. Where nothing is happening. Where you can't say they're terrible, where you can't say they're terrific, they're just somewhere in the middle. They're not convinced of their own existence themselves. So to me, personally, those films are terrible, because they really are of no use to me. But I have to watch them because it's my job. So to go back to your original question, when you say "good" or "bad", it's a very subjective thing. What you think is good, I might think is terrible. I get a lot of that stuff from people who say "But that was such a lovely film and you only gave it one star!" Now that's a different conversation all together, but I will say this, that for me, according to my metrics, the metrics that I judge the film on, that didn't work at all. So I would use the phrasing "It did not work for me", rather than saying it was a ghastly film, because from someone else's perspective, things might be different.

# Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I followed, with some concern and trepidation, the debate between Lorcan Thomas Conlon and Abhyanshu Uttkarsh on the subject of favours (issues no. 2495 and 2497). What came out of Lorcan's piece was an implied critique of the entitlement that senior boys feel to the time and labour of those who are younger than them. Abhyanshu's letter is another case of a response that gives more evidence for the original criticism.

In his letter, Abhyanshu celebrates the responsibility of guidance and mentorship that senior boys have towards their juniors. However, he then holds this kind of mentorship ransom should juniors refuse to do their seniors favours. This is a form of emotional blackmail, as he threatens isolation and hardship unless a junior acquiesces to a senior's demands.

Moreover, the tone that he takes towards the end of his letter implies that junior boys are being ungrateful for speaking out against a grievance. What he calls 'reciprocity' is actually a highly unequal hierarchy of power, coercion and bullying. He is effectively gaslighting here, which is a form of psychological abuse which makes victims doubt their own self and sanity. He dismisses their experience of being bullied and the harm to their sense of self from being treated like a lackey as ingratitude and an unreasonable breach of the terms of a relationship. The implication here is that juniors are made to do favours because they deserve it, which is simply abhorrent.

The tactics of emotional and psychological abuse that are employed in Abhyanshu's letter cast into doubt the altruism and sincerity of the forms of care and mentorship that he venerates. It evidences a much wider culture of bullying, intimidation and abuse towards junior boys, the scars of which may need a few years' worth of therapy to overcome if one is lucky.

However, I do not blame Abhyanshu. I wish to point out a much wider culture of which this kind of behaviour is a part: his letter, revealingly, returns to the notion of entitlement: that juniors 'owe' seniors their labour and time, that they are 'indebted' to seniors. It is this sense of entitlement over other people that is part of a much wider culture of toxic masculinity in society, which in turn motivates vicious kind of gendered and abusive behaviour (targeting women as well as men). The parameters of our introspection and debate need to be widened considerably.

Given the tenor that this debate took, I thought it necessary for me to intervene and not only call a

spade a spade, but also point out when that spade is waved threateningly at a junior to coerce them. For someone in Abhyanshu's position, it is important to realise that, firstly, nobody owes anybody anything, so one must treat juniors with the same respect and dignity that they expect from them; secondly, one must take all of one's gratitude to one's seniors and pay it forward by being kind to everybody else, their juniors especially.

Sincerely,

Vivek Santayana  
(Ex-369 O '11)

## Can You Hear The Music?

Jaiveer Mishra

Can you hear the music?

Can you hear the music as it floats down the hall  
It makes its way into your heart surrounding one  
and all

The notes are mesmerizing and have a life of  
their own

They have the power to uplift and captivate,  
somehow familiar and known

Music can uplift you to be yourself and create  
With every crescendo that rises and falls, it will  
captivate

The lilting melodies are the calm in the middle of  
the storm

They soothe and comfort one and all in a  
universal form

Music gives you wings to fly high and soar  
As your heart beats to a rhythm that cannot be  
ignored

Music knows no boundaries and does not  
distinguish between the human race  
It entertains and elevates, one and all into its  
warm embrace

Let music teach us not to differentiate, but to be  
pure and true

As it rings clear and loud, enriching our lives,  
amidst a beautiful hue

So, if you hear the music as you walk down the  
hall

Take the time to stop and listen and be enthralled

# The Week Gone By

Varen Talwar

The second week of Trials began as the last bells tolled for ICSE in School. The AT Formers, who could (not) be seen buried in their books, finally emerged with broad smiles and hearty laughter after writing their last exam and left for their well-earned breaks.

On the other hand, a rather sentimental mood hung temporarily in School as many SCLs were seen meeting their peers, juniors and teachers for one last time, and writing their exams with eyes welling up with tears.

Meanwhile, the rest of the Doscas carried on with their frenzied late night and early morning studies which was quite evident from the long lines at the Library printer; so

much so that there arose a need for periodic breaks from its strenuous duties! However, this hindrance failed to intimidate the *jugaadu* Dosco, as the result was the mere migration of the long queues from the library to the housemasters' studies!

Interestingly, it wasn't just the printers that bore the brunt of Trials. The house pantries suffered equally, if not more. The 'perennially hungry Doscas' used the facilities to the fullest, making toast after toast and Maggi after Maggi. It's true, isn't it, *ki khaaye bina hum Doscas ke dimag ki batti nabi jalti!*

However, despite such trying times, the D and C Formers continued to pursue their sporting endeavours at the try-outs for the U-15 School Hockey Team. Others could also be seen on the fields momentarily, relieving some of the stress. Still, there were envious

onlookers, who simply couldn't afford to spend time away from their books.

Come Thursday, as the last exams were written, and the burden was lifted off our shoulders, the School underwent a complete change of scenario. The D-Formers entered their Main Houses, eager to 'seek, strive and serve' (pun intended, unfortunately). Excluding these poor souls, everyone moved up the food chain, as the SC-Formers (finally) began their reign. Wicked smiles were visible on the faces of the C-Formers, who finally had someone to 'share their duties with'.

We will soon be welcoming the new D-Formers, and leaving them to explore the School while we explore the wilderness. Let us return to the new academic year, and pursue our dreams further, or start afresh if something went wrong this time; for after all, as Margaret Mitchell put it, 'tomorrow is another day'.

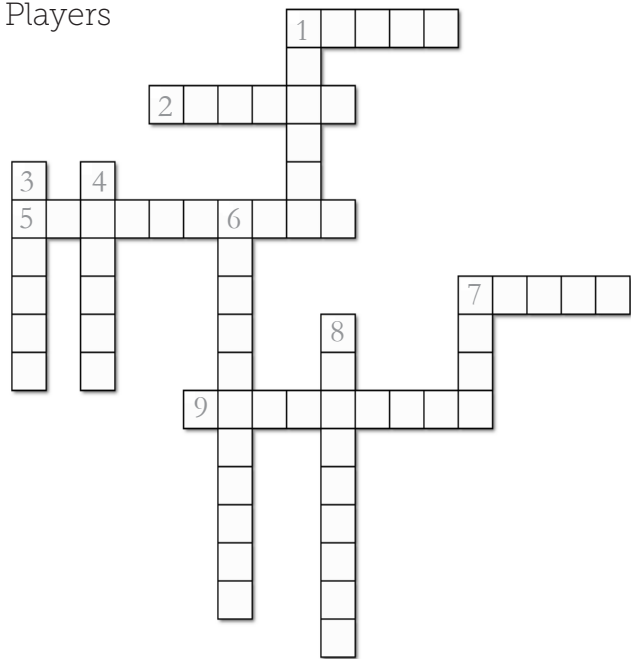
## Crossword | Football - Clubs and Players

### Across

1. Ballon D'or winner, \_\_\_\_\_ signed his contract with his current football club on a paper napkin.
2. This football club manager, who played for Real Madrid, has three sons who are currently playing for the Real Madrid B-team in their youth academy.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ was scouted at the age of thirteen, while he was playing in Brazil, his team won the match, 23-0, and he scored all 23.
7. Gareth Bale, current Real Madrid winger, used to be a \_\_\_\_\_ player when he was young, before he took to football.
9. This club's stadium was originally home to Everton FC in 1884, but due to a rent dispute, Everton shifted to Goodison Park in 1891.

### Down

1. This German football club is the only club in the world that has remained at the top of the table for all 34 match days.
3. This former Chelsea forward from Ivory Coast stopped civil war in his country after qualifying for the World Cup in 2006 and negotiating terms with the president.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ is an English club, originally called Newton Heath LYR Football Club in 1878, before changing its name in 1902.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ and Cristiano Ronaldo, are the only two players in the world who have scored in every minute of football.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Madrid is a football club whose name was bestowed by King Alfonso XIII.
8. This club was the first European club in history to achieve the continental treble twice.



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

Answers to This Week's Crossword	Across:	1. Messi	2. Zidane	3. Drogba	4. United	5. Ronaldinho	6. Ibrahimovic	7. Rugsby
	Down:	1. Munich	7. Real	8. Barcelona				

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

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