

Established in 1936

The Doon School WEEKLY

"I sketch your world exactly as it goes." -Arthur Foot
May 12, 2018 | Issue No. 2504



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To Serve with Pride and Glory!

Wg. Cdr. (Retd.) Anupama Joshi pens her thoughts on the decline of the Armed Forces as a career choice in School.

Every morning before entering the office, I see words etched on the walls what one would agree are the most befitting to describe a true Dosco: "The boys should leave School as members of an aristocracy, but it must be an aristocracy of service inspired by ideas of unselfishness, not one of privilege, wealth or position."

Service is something core to the curriculum of School, yet I always wonder why is it that hardly any boy wishes to join the armed forces. I have often sat with many during lunch break and asked what careers would they pursue and none seemed inclined towards a life in combat! The reasons I heard generally were that it was a tough life with less pay compared to the corporate world and of course the higher probability of getting killed in the line of fire. School sets itself apart from others in producing leaders for tomorrow, but are the answers above in sync with the making of a leader? I agree that one serves the country and society in many ways, and being part of the armed forces is just one of them, but still, it is a troubling fact that our boys are not motivated to be part of the country's forces.



There are men, Old Boys, who have done the fraternity proud by wearing the olive green, the blues, or being on the quarter deck, but their numbers are dwindling, and in the six years that I have been in School, over six hundred Doscos graduated and only two chose this path. Are we doing something right or have we become a utopian universe and see the world as one with no requirement of armed forces?

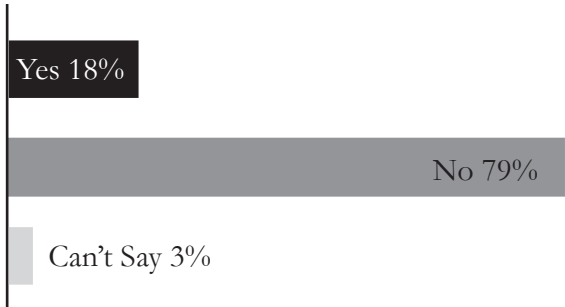
An institution few kilometers from The Doon School, has the following words of Field Marshall Sir Phillip Chetwode prominently displayed to reinforce the sentiment in all the Gentlemen Cadets passing out:

"The safety, honour and welfare of your country comes first, always and every time. The honour, welfare and comfort of the men you command come next. Your own ease, comfort and safety comes last, always and every time."

Which organisation or company will have such compelling words as leitmotif for its leadership? Should we not attempt to motivate our boys towards a life in the forces? Should we just stand by and watch a probable brilliant General of the future make an uninformed choice today and end up helping a FMCG giant sell shampoo? As a cradle for tomorrow's leadership, are we doing enough? Or are we by any chance making leaders who, when the time comes, would read the Chetwode motto in reverse? Time to introspect?

Opinion Poll

Would you consider joining the armed forces?



(397 members of the school community were polled)

Note: As per the Journalistic Code of Ethics for The Doon School Weekly, tampering or purposeful alteration of facts or opinions will not be represented in the Weekly.

DIPLOMATIC CORPS

The Doon School was represented by 16 boys in the annual **MCGSMUN conference**, held at **Mayo College Girls' School, Ajmer**. The School won the **Best Delegation Trophy** for the 7th consecutive year. The results are as follows:

Verbal Mentions: Pritish Dugar and Anant Jain

Honourable Mentions: Aayush Chowdhry, Yash Dewan, Vikram Jain, Ratnaditya Chavda, Ranvijay Singh and Rajveer Kochar.

Best Delegates: Ansh Raj, Milind Khemka, Samarveer Mundi, Karan Sampath and Gunvir Paintal.

Aayush Chowdhry was also adjudged the **Most Outstanding Negotiator** of the conference in the 210-delegate General Assembly Crisis Session, while the School was recognised as the **Best School** in the Crisis.

Well Done!

PERSUASIVE PROWESS

The School was represented by Aarsh Ashdhir and Divyansh Nautiyal at the **Mother Isabel Debate** at **Convent of Jesus and Mary School**. Divyansh Nautiyal and Aarsh Ashdhir won the award for **The Best Rebuttal**. Divyansh Nautiyal was adjudged the **Third Best Speaker** and Aarsh Ashdhir the **Best Speaker**. The team emerged victorious also winning a cash prize of Rs.3000.

Kudos!

“

Goodwill is the only asset that competition cannot undersell or destroy

Marshall Field

THE QUEST FOR KNOWLEDGE

Professor Bhaskar Vira, an old boy, was awarded **Royal Geographical Society's Busk Medal**, in recognition of his **Interdisciplinary Research** on economy, environment and development.

Congatulations!

SHARP SHUTTLERS

The School participated in the **Under-17 District Badminton Tournament** held at **Parade Ground, Dehradun**. Aadita Chauhan secured **Runners-Up** in the individual **Emerging Talent Category** and the **Individual Elite Category**.

Mayank Kukreti and Sparsh Garg reached the **semi-finals** in the **Doubles Elite Category**.

Mayank Kukreti also reached the **quarter finals** in the individual **Emerging Talent Category**.

Well played!

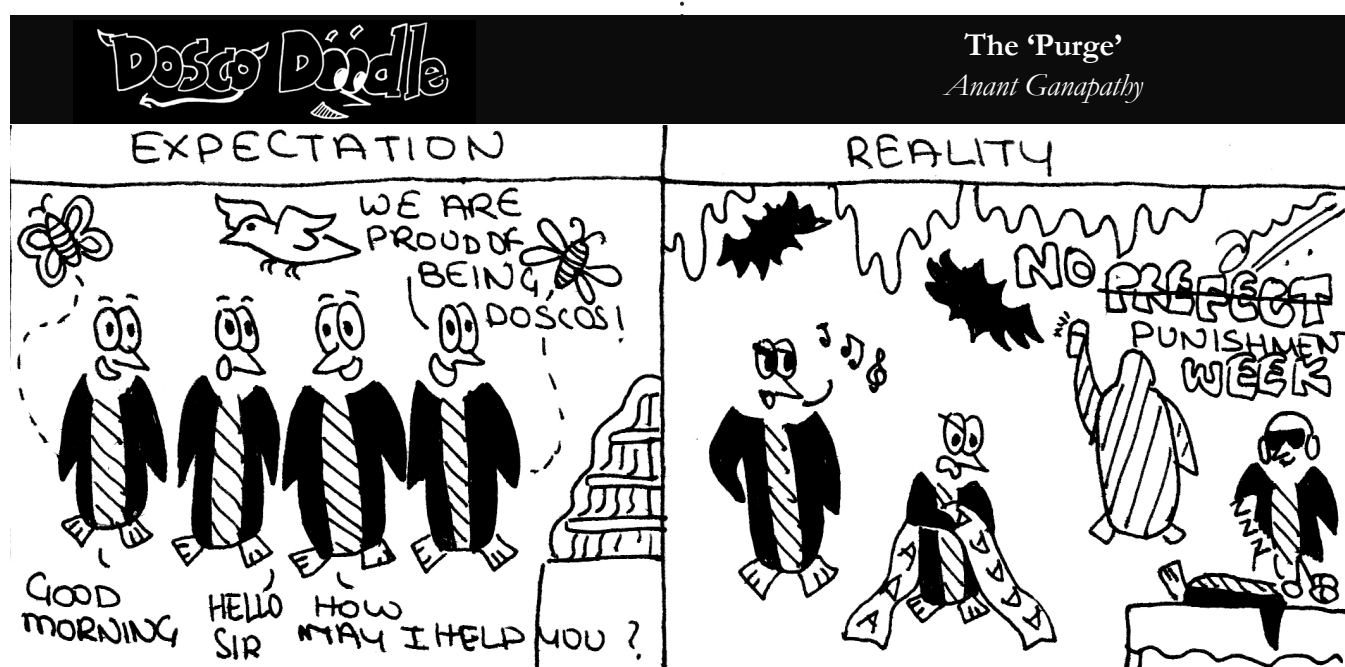
CORRIGENDUM

On Page 3 in Issue No. 2501, Raghav Kediya's name as author of the creative piece '**Peace is the Mission**' was erroneously ommited and misprinted as Samarth Kapila's.

The *Weekly* regrets this error.

Around the World in 80 Words

Donald Trump announced the withdrawal of the United States from the Iran nuclear deal. Vladimir Putin was inaugurated at the Grand Kremlin Palace in Moscow for his second term as President. Airstrikes by the Saudi-led coalition destroyed the Presidential Palace in Sanaa, Yemen, leaving six killed and 30 injured. The eruption of Hawaii's Kilauea volcano forced the evacuation of nearly two thousand people and broke 35 structures. Avengers: Infinity War became the fastest film to make 1 billion dollars worldwide.



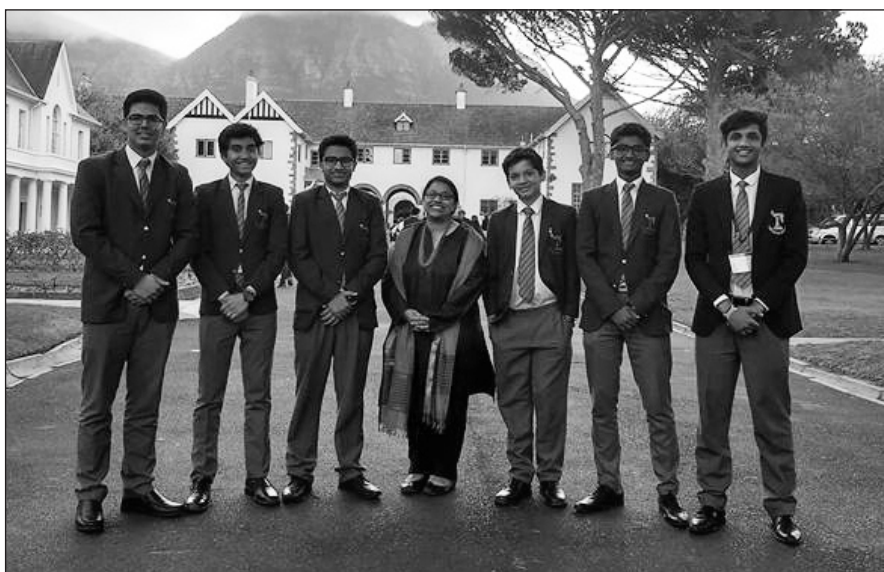
A Week of Good Hope

Armaan Verma *recounts his experience at WIDPSC 2018, held in Cape Town last month.*

During activity week, a small cohort of boys comprising Devang Laddha, Kanishkh Kanodia, Gunvir Paintal, Aryan Bhattacharjee, Suyash Chandhok and myself, escorted by PKB, represented India at the World Schools Debating and Public Speaking Championship. Given the size and nature of the competition, naturally, there was much to discuss regarding our performance, especially considering Aryan's achievement of attaining 3rd rank in debating worldwide. What went largely unmentioned, however, were the experiences, learnings, and at times, the gaiety that never left us. I do feel that such takeaways from a fulfilling and remarkable week (not to be confused with activity week, of course) are worth expressing.

We spent six days of the competition in the host school, Bishop's School, which shared the trait of being an all-boys boarding school. The boys of Bishop's even share Doscov's eagerness to organize and work for events that involved the opposite sex. Indeed, there was also something frighteningly familiar in the way they awkwardly stood in large groups and loudly cracked jokes or boasted of various accomplishments. Perhaps Doscovs are not the only ones then plagued by this gregariousness—surely, there must be others who suffer the same curse? But regardless of such tendencies, we were surprised by our ability to get to know people quickly and talk about the widest range of topics, be it party norms in the UK or the Turkish occupation of Cyprus.

The Championship itself began on the third day of the trip, and was divided into the categories of Interpretative Reading,



Impromptu Speaking, Persuasive or After-Dinner Speech, and our personal favorite, Debating. Being accustomed to a logic-based form of speaking—that too, mostly in debates—it was clear that we had to bring out much more pathos than we usually did in every category to actually appeal to the audience. This was made quite evident when Aryan referred to a supposedly humorous incident during a speech given by Fidel Castro, which was greeted with almost equally humorous indifference by Aryan's audience (the Americans were unsurprisingly the fiercest in their refusal to recognize the joke). So, I think the greatest takeaway was establishing a connection with a crowd, whether it be through humor or even appeals to morality. As our School Debating Captain so eloquently put it, "Manner might just matter as much as matter."

On our last day, we had a visit planned to the Botanical Gardens, which were surprisingly green given the water crisis that plagues Cape Town. We strolled through it as if we were dreaming for it truly seemed to some of us the closest possible replica of the Garden of Eden. So, for about an hour, we roamed this florists' paradise with

not a clue what any of the flowers were or what their significance was. All we knew was that the place itself was sublime. At one point, we sat down in a circle of wooden logs to catch a breath—the breath, of course, lasted for a good hour. Aside from our distinct lack of potent magic, perhaps the main thing that distinguished us from a gathering of Gallic druids was that druids probably did not laugh as much as we did. Laughter was a constant companion of ours throughout the trip; whether in the form of light gossipy titters or loud unfiltered guffaws, it was omnipresent.

Amidst the laughter, learnings, and friendships, another thing that remained with us for the entire trip was the all-pervasive water crisis of Cape Town. Perhaps it was distance that did not let us fully realize the harrowing predicament that is water shortage. Perhaps it was simply too easy to push away. But going and witnessing—or experiencing, rather—the water crisis firsthand changed all that. The joys of laughing and debating were all very well but encountering dry taps and un-flushable toilets really made us comprehend that some problems are far too big to push away.

Etonia to Head Back to Stone Age

Amal Bansode

In a closed meeting held on Thursday, the Cabinet of the State of Etonia deliberated upon an executive order limiting Internet access from within the State. The executive order comes after months of testing and research on the correlation between network outages and people's behaviour. The research was conducted by the State's Technology Control Department.

In a 'white paper' published last week, the Department found that over 55.3% of the population of the State was 'mildly to severely affected' by changes in network speed and functioning.

However, the paper also claims that the State has seen increased participation in outdoor activities. The average resident has been found to be walking an average of 123.6 steps more than the daily average of 12,831 steps taken in 2017. "That's about 6 more calories being burnt daily," says the Chief of the National Healthcare Organisation, "in simply walking to the Network Access Control Room to lodge complaints". The Network Access Control Room is said to "receive 45 angry emails," and "over 150 frustrated patrons" on a daily basis.

"It's a miracle," says the Chief of the National

Healthcare Organisation. "This is the most drastic reduction in weight the State has seen over the past decade".

The subjects of the trials were observed to be performing a number of strengthening exercises, namely: vocal exercises through crescendo howls; fist-strengthening through punches thrown at tables and walls; and leg-shaking to alleviate anxiety.

Last week, the State's Wildlife Department also reported a 23% increase in the number of jackals within the State's geographical boundary. It is unclear whether the people's howling may be attributed to this rise in population of the wild.

The experiments have been proven to be more effective than the State's Annual Physical Training Program, usually held during winter time.

On the other hand, the State has seen a 250% surge in the number of "outlawed" Internet-enabled devices over two months. The State's Technology Control Department will be working in conjunction with the Department of Justice on a crackdown on these illegal devices in the coming weeks.

Director's Cut

The Doon School Weekly interviewed renowned actors Dr. Mohan Agashe and Ms. Lillete Dubey.

The Doon School Weekly (DSW): We are in a world with films which are really big blockbusters with extremely high budgets along with instantaneous media and internet. Where do you think the future of theatre lies?

Dr. Mohan Agashe: This question is like asking what is the future of reality. All these things you are mentioning are virtual but theatre isn't, and so is reality. Theatre is like a real experience, the difference between a fresh juice and canned juice is the difference between theatre and any of these media you are talking about. So those who like real life, like theatre, and especially if they have seen it since childhood, theatre is the greater preference. Theatre integrates you. It is a tough task, but we will have to increase the popularity of theatre in some other way as well. Unlike in older times, when people came to watch theatre because there was no other choice, now we have to make sure that they come to theatre because they consciously choose to.

DSW: Something that you love to do is always fun, we agree. Ma'am, there has been a lot of talk about the #MeToo movement and its implications which is going to take place in Hollywood. What would your stand be, speaking of someone who

is in Bollywood and whether or not certain things being discussed at Hollywood hold relevance in Bollywood?

Ms. Lillete Dubey: I came into films at a later age in my life, so there are a lot of things I didn't have to face unlike if I had been a very young actress. As I was in my 40s, there was a certain respect for me, there was a certain way I was treated because I was older. Many younger women face a lot of problems like harassment and gender bias. But what is true is that I am very aware of the sort of imbalance in payment that is there in the industry for women and men. Even in my age group, firstly there is much less work for women who are over 35, and I am well over that. Once women cross the age of 35 or 40, they don't get much work even if they were fantastic actresses and women are not paid the same way. That is why Priyanka Chopra made a big stand about this, that we do not get the same amount of money and a lot of young actresses are saying that if we are doing films and are important in the lead roles then we should be paid the same amount of money, to not have a gender gap. So, the #MeToo movement is at many levels. There is gender bias, sexual harassment, unequal pay and low equality in the kind of work.

I'm not whinging and groaning about it, but it is true that a lot of the senior actors in my age group get much stronger supporting roles in films than women. You just have to observe this to see that. And the women who do get such roles are never paid the same. Because Bollywood or Hindi cinema believes very strongly that the male actors carry the films. This holds true from big stars to even supporting actors. Not the female stars. It is a very deeply ingrained idea in Hindi cinema industry. So it's nothing new; it's just that women have woken up and said "Hello, this isn't going to fly anymore. So we're going to put our foot

down, and we're going to fight for these things." The Hollywood industry certainly threw it all into the light, and people came out here as well and started saying "Well, you know, it's happened with us as well." And it's a very tricky space because women can be taken advantage of, they're young and they're very keen to get into the industry, and men have taken advantage of that for years - it's nothing new. It's just that now it has become a public outcry; that's about it. And I'm very glad it has, because now suddenly there is this awareness around the world.



UNDER THE SCANNER

2018 Russian Presidential Elections | Sriman Goel

On Monday this week, Vladimir Putin was once again inaugurated as the President of Russia, re-elected for his second consecutive term in office through the presidential elections held in March. As the New York Times has said on his time in office – "Putin has now been in power for 18 years, as president and Prime Minister, and opponents have likened his tenure to the reign of a tsar, or emperor". The Presidential elections in Russia had eight participating candidates, of which Putin was the only person expected to win. All other candidates were token opposition or paper candidates, not one posing any threat to Putin's position of power. He did not even bother engaging in campaigning and the political debate called on by the opposition pre-election. Then how did Putin sail so easily through these polls and know his win was guaranteed?

First off, Putin has a massive voter bank based on his popularity alone and is famous for previously being a KGB spy. Secondly, the only other figure who was expected to have even a chance against Putin, Alexei Navalny, was barred from the election and detained on supposed embezzlement charges, at a retrial after the European

Court of Human Rights found him innocent. Navalny claimed that this false accusation was just to keep him from contesting the election and advocated a boycott of the Presidential election, but to almost no effect. Having no obstacle left, Putin would only worry about the voter turnout not meeting the threshold (minimum vote requirement) and so lured voters in to polling booths with games, food stalls and music – creating a likeness to a carnival. Also, Election Day was shifted to March 18, the fourth anniversary of Russia's seizure of Crimea, to emphasise the victory made possible by Putin.



What we can see happening here is that Putin claims power through fake elections, 'elections' for the sake of saying so, not democracy in its truest sense but 'managed democracy', as it is dubbed in Russia. Controlling the media, compromising on true representation for the world's largest country, this is a

manipulation presented in the comfort of democracy. Creating the oligarchy that is Russia, Vladimir Putin has been received

by his own people in protests, with cries of "He's not our tsar!"

Putin stuck his plot with the key characters of past terms, including Dmitry Medvedev, who has been switching presidency and prime ministry with Putin for the past 18 years, and other familiar faces, with no effect from the election. This small group of people which are repeatedly in power for lack of other choice will soon, if they haven't already, limit many to the ideologies of the few close to Putin. This could be seriously detrimental to Russia's welfare, and lead to stagnation, as it already is in a precarious position, with economic problems, protests and population decline through emigration.

Putin has held office for longer than any other President or Prime Minister, and would be matching tsars and kings by the end of this six-year long term, totalling around 24 years by the end of 2024. What Putin's Russia needs is drastic change through policies and bills or they will be far down the path of misfortune due to their neglect, and Putin is not anywhere near to providing change to the people. What we can hope for is that history doesn't repeat itself, and Putin doesn't end up holding a 30-year term as Joseph Stalin did.

The Week Gone By

Aayush Chowdhry

The multi-purpose hall (MPH) formed the central trope of this week’s story after our senior-most batches survived, over the weekend, the radioactive confluence of two of the greatest forces: parents and teachers.

Due to some technical glitches, Monday morning Assembly saw a return of smirks and giggles in the MPH after a weekend of groans and reproaches. The misdemeanor was deftly checked by the student leadership by means of a reflective essay after other punitive measures were mitigated due to the unrelenting heat. This

paved the way for a series of un-Dosco like hooting and whistling, witnessed once again at Wednesday Assembly. The misunderstanding around this issue between the various stakeholders of the law enforcing agencies was resolved only after a combined prefect’s and House Master’s Council meeting, which was held on Wednesday afternoon.

Speaking of hooting and whistling, the Basketball courts saw its positive side when boys and masters alike came to cheer their team with palpable School spirit in the air. The invited teams and School team celebrated their performances by means of a grand dinner in the MPH. Some boys did try to sneak in, only to be chased away with forks and knives by the various sports captains of School.

The spirit of hooting and cheering returned to the MPH, in a full circle, as the inter-house dance competition commenced.

The anxiety among the boys writing their final IB exams was palpable as they entered their second week of trials.

Amidst the flurry of activity, practices of hockey and the one act plays were squeezed in as the inter-house competitions menacingly approached. Compounding the pressure, the ICSE and ISC Board results loom lingeringly, and the demanding schedule makes it imperative that the School takes its time to slow down and reflect and recalibrate on the events of the week. Though, most are optimistic that, as always, Doon and its boys will pull through with a good show!

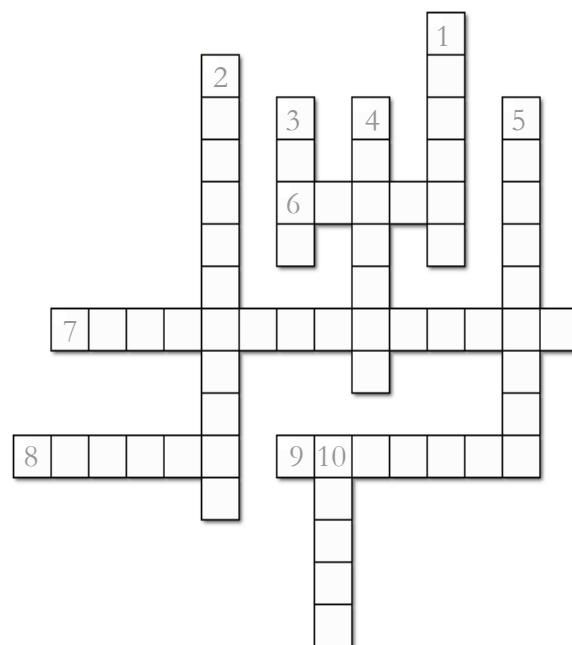
Crossword | Famous Feminists

Across

- 6. _____ is an African-American women’s rights activist who is best-known for her speech on racial inequalities, ‘Ain’t I a Woman?’
- 7. Famous for her book, ‘A Vindication of the Rights of Woman’ _____ is known for being one of the first feminist in the world.
- 8. This radical American abolitionist helped in establishing the New Hampshire Anti-Slavery society.
- 9. This Padma Shree awardee wrote on themes like female sexuality and femininity.

Down

- 1. In 1847, this English social reformer produced the first leaflet for women’s suffrage. She also formed the first UK women’s suffrage organisation.
- 2. This Swedish women’s rights activist was the co-founder of the ‘Married Woman’s Property Rights Association’ in 1873.
- 3. This American social reformer was the person behind the reformation of the position of women in the society.
- 4. This French philosopher and founder of the Utopian socialism is credited with having originated the word ‘feminism’ in 1837.
- 5. Born in the Swat Valley, this Nobel Prize winner was shot by the Talibans and has fought for the education of girls in Pakistan.
- 10. Known as ‘Ainee Apa’, this journalist known for Aag Ka Darya was honoured with the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1967.



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

Across		Down	
6. Truth	9. Chugtai	1. Knight	4. Fourier
7. Wollstonecraft	2. Ankarsvard	3. Mott	5. Younsarai
8. Foster			10. Hyder

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

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

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

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