

The Doon School WEEKLY

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

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Bringing a Balance

Karan Sampath *evaluates the need to have more women masters in School.*

In a world where issues of gender disparity are increasingly drawing attention, it is important we look inward, to see where our community can make amends. The gender disparity in our teaching community is the most apparent, with the vast majority of masters in School being male. However, it would be too superficial to already find fault, and it is vital that we look deeper to understand if this indicates the requirement of a change in the future.

Balancing gender ratios not only means having more women teaching staff, but also offering the entire spectrum of education to boys.

It must be recognised that the School has already made great strides in the past few decades to even out the gender ratio among the teaching staff, with the current number of women masters being the highest in School's history. However, it is important to keep in mind that perhaps this disparity is the simple consequence of a belief that male masters serve an important role in our education;

it may be likely that they are able to better relate to the problems of boys, something that can be instrumental in the psychological development of DoscOs.

The purpose of this article is not to criticise any individual or group, or to call for a drastic change. Instead, it is about a vision of the Doon of the future, and to understand that vision, we must ask ourselves a few questions. What are the unique benefits of having women masters in School? Where does the perfect ratio lie? Ultimately, how important is it that we continue to try and balance our gender ratio?

The most routine criticism of single-sex boarding schools is that they do not offer to their students the opportunity to interact with the opposite sex. Only short of a complete switchover to a co-educational system, increasing the number of women masters is perhaps the best method to make us more confident in the way we interact with women, whether in personal spaces or work environments. The strong master-student relationship is at the crux of this change, because the more we interact with women masters and learn how to better do so, the more comfortable we become with interacting with the opposite sex in general. This is not to say that such an increase would result unconditionally in sensitised DoscOs, but it will perceptibly help boys to become better equipped in

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their social interactions.

Interacting with women masters also helps prevent another, if not more important, detriment to boys. While women can carry patriarchal ideals, they are much less likely to do so having often experienced the harms of such a system. In their absence, School might become an echo chamber for patriarchal attitudes, such as toxic masculinity, which is still largely prevalent among the student community. The road to sensitising DoscOs towards issues such as these is not only in the classroom where such ideals are preached, but also in informal spaces such as houses and the homes of masters on campus. Women masters can serve as powerful educators on

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ACCOMPLISHED ARGUMENTATORS

Karan Sampath and Kartik Rathore have been awarded **Debating Colours**.

Kudos!

DISCERNING DISCOURSE

Following are the results of the **Inter House Debating Competition**:

Juniors

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

Seniors

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

House Cup

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

Well Done!

SAVANTS IN SABLE

Suyash Chandak and Aneesh Agarwal have been awarded the **Scholar's Blazer**.

Well Done!

BLEEDING BLUE

Shanay Sojatia has been awarded the **Games' Blazer**.

Congratulations!

“

Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving.

—
Albert Einstein

PROFICIENT POETS

The following are the results of the **Vikram Seth Junior Statesman Poetry Recitation Competition**:

Juniors

- 1st: Arjun Mitra
- 2nd: Krishay Sutodia

Seniors

- 1st: Suyash Chandak
- 2nd: Aryaman Kakkar

Well Done!

QUIZMASTER

Karthik Subbiah has been awarded **Quiz Colours**.

Congratulations!

DUKE OF ENDINBURGH

Arav Dixit, Rajveer Machre, and Samar Kumar have been awarded the **Bronze Medal**, while Udaya Goel has been awarded the **Silver Medal**.

Kudos!

The *Weekly* wishes the entire School community a very happy Diwali!

Around the World in 80 Words

Russia and Turkey signed a deal to fight against Kurdish troops near the Turkish border in Syria. US president Donald Trump removed the trade sanctions placed on Turkey after a ceasefire was called in Northern Syria. India and Pakistan signed an agreement allowing Indian pilgrims to visit the Sikh shrine, *Gurdwara Darbar Sahib* in Pakistan without a visa. Sourav Ganguly was appointed President of the BCCI. Manchester United drew 1-1 with Liverpool in this weekend's Premier League fixtures.



(Continued from Page 1)

the importance of understanding different genders, because in understanding them, we often begin to share their perspective. As an all-boys boarding school, we often fall short of such education, and so, interaction with women masters can really help in making us more sensitised and aware individuals.

Women masters can also play an important role in the psychological development of boys in School. All of us have an individual(s) to whom we open, feel comfortable with, and with whom we can voice our deepest thoughts. For boys, particularly in our younger years, these individuals are often our mothers, as we often feel closest and safest with them. These bonds cannot just break when we come into School, and therefore

the role of mothers is often taken up and replaced by the women in School. Women masters are therefore, often those individuals we feel comfortable opening up to and being vulnerable with, because of the psychological connections we draw with our own mothers. Being able to share our mental and emotional baggage is extremely important, since it allows us to relieve tension and stress, helping us deal with various issues in a healthy manner.

Women masters, clearly, are unique for the help and care they can give Doscoc. But balancing gender ratios not only means having more women teaching staff, but also offering the entire spectrum of education to boys. Balancing would be important even if the converse was

true (where School had a skewed majority of women masters). With a balanced teaching community, boys are able to speak with any masters who empathize with them and with those whom they feel comfortable around. Diversity in teaching means a diversity of learning, a diversity of growth, and a more complete formation of the character of Doscoc.

The Doon School of 2050 has a choice – to become more representative of the world outside or to remain rooted in the past. To balance out our gender ratio is to offer Doscoc the ability to be more confident, secure and sensitive individuals. That, in itself, is a goal we must strive to achieve.

More women masters in School would mean...

I think that the school would benefit enormously by having more female masters. Life is co-educational, and I believe the best way to improve the school would be for it to be co-ed. I know that we are not ready for that just yet, but one way to contribute to that improvement and diversity in the community would be to have a faculty and staff that reflected the outside world. There are also some characteristics that are found in teachers more than other people; care, compassion, thoughtfulness, calmness and patience. In my experience these are also found with greater frequency in my female colleagues. In some places and literature these characteristics are considered motherly, feminine, less the domain of men. This is not always the case, and certainly doesn't need to be, but if we can do anything to grow care, compassion, thoughtfulness, calmness and patience, then I'm going to support it.

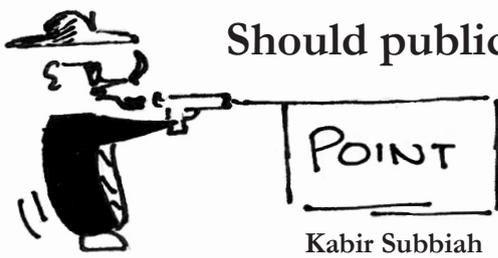
-Mr. Matthew Raggett

While the eyes still transmit information to the brain, the reflex proves to be stronger and swifter as he utters the word "Sir" when actually standing in front of a female master. It does show how much are we at ease seeing or interacting with only one gender, which may in turn mean seeing things only in a particular way. Although each one of us as individuals do contribute through our uniqueness but one cannot deny that gender also influences one's perspective. Having more female masters in school would thus mean adding to the gamut of perspectives offered to boys because in the outside world there is not just one gender.

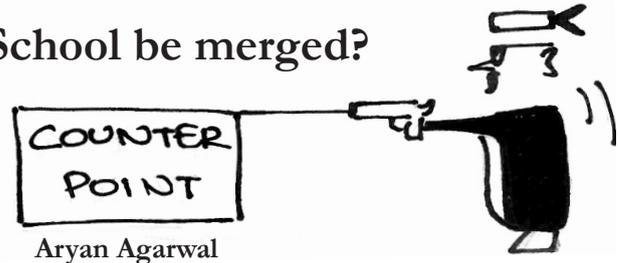
-MPY

Frankly, I don't see masters' gender as being particularly important. Regardless of gender, there are certain characteristics that are important for masters to have. That said, the ratio of male to female masters is quite skewed in school, and for that reason alone, having more female masters in school would have its advantages. A more balanced ratio would be more representative of the world outside and could eliminate the chauvinistic inertia that often permeates our campus.

-Karthik Subbiah



Kabir Subbiah



Aryan Agarwal

Should publications in School be merged?

Recently, there has been much discussion pertaining to activities in School and whether they should be cut down. One such activity is the production of minor publications, with the fourteen minor publications in School consuming the time of students in their editorial boards. Despite this, they are largely unrewarding.

I believe that the value of each publication is reduced substantially by virtue of the sheer number in existence. No matter how high the quality of a publication is, most of the publications are left unopened as students are less motivated to download and open a PDF on gmail than read a physical magazine. The few who open a publication often skim through for a quick look; very rarely are articles read. This is a truly unsatisfying result for students who put in hours to perfect a publication.

Often, when Editorial Boards receive these unsatisfying responses, they lose heart. They become less motivated to write articles, which forms the beginning of a vicious cycle. As the quality of content in a publication begins to fall, the readership falls further in turn. A publication caught in such a vicious cycle is pointless because its quality will inevitably hit rock-bottom, losing the spirit that is the essence of these publications. Clubbing publications would club readerships and as a result, the possibility of falling into the aforementioned vicious cycle is reduced. Additionally, being a member of a minor publication would become a more rewarding and enriching experience due to the satisfaction that it would provide.

The minor publications are such that they can be clubbed without losing the essence of the publication. Were the Score and the Grand Slam to merge, the field of sports would still receive adequate coverage, but the publication would be given more attention and value. Though some say that certain fields would be neglected, this doesn't hold true when publications are merged on the basis of the fields they cover. It is also said that merging publications would reduce the number of opportunities. It is imperative to understand that the people who use these opportunities are often in multiple publications, so there will be few who are displaced or cannot join a publication under a merger.

Minor publications must be merged as it is the only way for publication to regain their status as mainstream media that deal with specific fields. Letting them exist the way they do in status quo would cause their gradual demise, which isn't in School's best interests and is something that we cannot allow.

Publications are a very visible part of School. It is the case after each meal that a vast number of Doscos assemble in their own scattered circles outside the CDH, discussing the agenda for their respective publications. A publication is almost an embodiment of the tirelessness of a Dosco. Even after a tiring eight schools, publication members work towards completing various tasks - designing, drawing cartoons, or writing articles. So, what kind of an impact would reducing the number of publications have?

Before I reach my argument, I would first like to clearly reflect on the purpose of a publication. A publication in School has a set of Board members who tend to the smooth running of the publication to produce an issue of the respective magazine. In this process, the board members remain the prime benefactors of a publication. I say this because a publication is essentially a replica of professional organisations that we shall hopefully work in after our education. While working for a publication, contributing members get a taste of how it is like as professionals; an experience that better prepares a student for the world ahead. The plethora of publications outside of the *Weekly* and the *Yearbook* support this development.

By reducing the number of operating publications in School, we would effectively be reducing the opportunities for students to know what it is to be part of a regular, objective-oriented system.

Another consequence to consider would be a drastic reduction of exploration within a topic. Currently, themes for magazines in school range from economic and business-related news (*The Econocrat*) to tech-updates (*DS Tech*). Such a diverse range of publications was inducted in school, to complement the varying interests of students in School, but this appeal will be lost if the 'merge' were to happen. Even though it is proposed that similar-themed magazines will be 'merged' and not removed altogether, it is inevitable that the capacity to address the themes with the same degree of detail would be significantly lowered in the scenario of merging publications. The space given to the theme of each previously independent magazine would be heavily encroached upon, till it is shrunk to a space that will not allow the content to match up in either coverage or depth.

A forced sandwiching of publications may not be the solution to the loss of readership that is faced by the various magazines in School. Instead an alternative that seeks to boost readership itself can be considered.



UNDER THE SCANNER

2019 Canadian Elections | Adit Chatterjee

The Canadian Federal elections were held on October 21. The results saw Justin Trudeau's Liberal Party retain power in a very narrowly contested election, but Trudeau shall now head the country as the Prime Minister of a minority government. Missing the majority in the 338-seat parliament by 13 seats, with a projected 157 seats under the Liberal Party, it seems that it will now be far more difficult for them to pass legislation in Trudeau's second term. The main opposition was the Conservative Party, who are projected to take 121 seats, up from the 95 they previously held. The country's left-leaning New Democratic Party, headed by Jagmeet Singh, is projected to take 24 seats, while Quebec's separatist party, the Bloc Québécois, is projected to take 32

seats.

However, these elections represent much more than a tangible victory for Trudeau. His controversial first term was tainted with scandals, so this election has been viewed as a referendum for the Prime Minister; a referendum he has successfully overcome, displaying his remarkable ability to stay above such controversy.

In his victory speech in Montreal, he stated that "Canadians voted in favor of a progressive agenda and strong action on climate change. I have heard you my friends, you are sending our Liberal team back to work, back to Ottawa with a clear mandate." His statements are a continuation of the promises he has made: progressive policies on social issues, the willingness to run deficits to tackle income disparities,

and assertive action on climate change.

Even with the Conservatives viewing this election as win for themselves as well, as Conservative Leader Andrew Scheer casted his result as a victory and stated that the party would be ready to replace Trudeau when he loses his grip on power, it doesn't seem as if such an outcome is likely. Already, a coalition between the New Democratic Party and the Liberal Party is on the books, and such an alliance would give Trudeau a majority of 181 seats. Regardless, he shall have to tread carefully and cater to the populace sincerely if he wishes to have a successful term. At such an infant stage, it is difficult to determine whether his second term will be as tumultuous as the first. With states like Quebec already having withdrawn a majority of their support, it is now solely up to the actions of the Liberal Party to determine their future.

A Musical Offering

Varen Talwar *comments on the Founder's Day Music Programme.*

Music has an uncanny ability to effortlessly convey emotions that cannot be quantified even by a million words. Each performance, in its unique way, takes us through a journey parallel to its own seamless progression of pieces, culminating in the rebirth of the inner fire that School sometimes tends to extinguish.

This year's production, *Svaranjali*, was no different, yet so distinct. It began with the powerful calls of wild Africa, taking us back to our most primitive stage – a fitting place for a rebirth. As these sounds transcended into the famous track *Circle of Life* by Sir Elton John and Tim Rice, the music became more visceral, heralding the arrival of a new phase – a new life.

One of the highlights of the performance for me was the transitioning between pieces with grand pauses. They caused the dynamism that was felt as we moved from *Circle of Life* to *Aaba ki Anondo* from *Hirak Rajar Deshe*, and augmented the grandeur of *Svaranjali*.

The ensemble then sailed through impactful choruses and perfectly harmonised orchestral feats in *Silver Moonlight* by Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, and smoothly into *Aria (Non piu andrai)*, from Mozart's immortal opera – *The Marriage of Figaro*. After these great explorations on the keyboards and the Hindustani Classical section,

the limelight passed to the guitarists, who put together an enriching acoustic masterpiece, *Gypsy Teens*.

Another notable part came when the conductor himself sat at the piano and led Mozart's *Piano Concerto no. 20, K 466*. The soothing sounds of the ivory keys will surely be remembered as a sublime moment in School's musical journey. The ensemble then proceeded on to The Eagles' timeless track, *Hotel California*. The all-time favourite tune breathed a new life into the production, and the lead guitarist's hoarse patch offered a novel and energetic outlook on the song's themes of excess and entrapment.

Finally, the choir transitioned into the *Qawwali – Rang* – whose passionate vocals stoked the fire of freshness that its preceding piece had kindled. The audience's spirits rose in a crescendo as the music progressed to the orchestral *Raga Bageshree*, reaching a pinnacle at the performance finale.

Behind the beauty lay the exhausting toil by the instrumentalists, singers, and the Music Department. Their dedication was evident from the euphoria emanating from the stage and striking a deeply spiritual chord in all our hearts as the production's true offering – its *Svaranjali*.

The Week Gone By

Aryan Bhattacharjee

It's awe-inspiring how much School elevates itself during Founder's each year. That screechy junior is found suddenly in the choir of our music production. A laidback SC awes everyone with a mesmerizing performance. The sloppiest characters appear immaculately dressed, seamlessly genteel. Why then? Why at Founder's? Because, I believe, somewhere deep down (and perhaps on account of my own biases), all DoscOs are showmen - 'choking up' at the last moment, presenting to the world the very best of themselves.

As the 'Founder's wali feeling' waned, another week arose for

us to immerse ourselves in. The Main Field was engulfed in a flurry of activity, as our athletes took center stage in the inter-House competition, relishing the 'ecstasy of swift motion'. We shall witness a grueling pentathlon today. In addition, boxing practices that run late into the evenings too are observed by those that gather around to see a spar. Quad-football must also be mentioned in the same breath, especially since new Futsal courts are being built around school. It is the one activity that maintains a consistent participation - 'athee' or no 'athee'. Perhaps the approaching exams will see a rise in the numbers of DoscOs who leave all else at five thirty each evening to play.

The SC-Form however, sinks deeper into communal inactivity, internal deadlines approaching

peculiarly fast, college pressures mounting. The S-Form's participation, contrastingly, peaks - a hard fought second term slowly winding down. Maybe it is thus that (do allow me to be self-aggrandising) the elders give way to the younglings. The School Council too, in its present composition, saw its final and most productive meeting on Tuesday. And, most importantly, a conclusive email about predicted grades was dispatched to the SCs. Perhaps our requiem and swansong will be played together.

This piece, as my master-in-charge unsettlingly gleefully pronounced, is my swansong so far as this column is concerned. Thank you, dear Dosco, for being my patient listener.

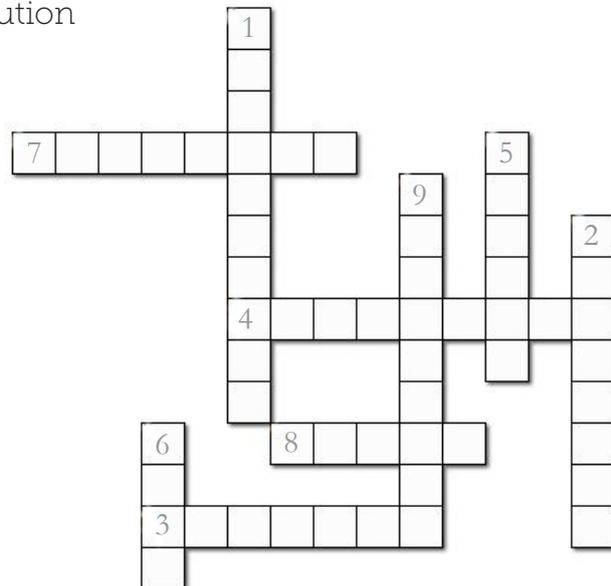
Crossword | The Indian Constitution

Across

- Armed Forces _____ Power's Act granted the Army control of publicly disturbed regions to bring about order.
- The 42nd amendment added the word _____ to the preamble of the Indian Constitution.
- The Fundamental Right to _____ under Article 31 was revoked in 1978.
- The _____ Prohibition Act punishes anyone who subjects women to any kind of cruelty, which has been termed as a non-cognisable and non-bailable offence.

Down

- A new amendment was recently added to the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, which allowed the government to declare individuals as _____.
- Maintenance of _____ Security Act was a controversial law which gave law enforcement agencies powers such as indefinite detention of individuals and seizure of property without warrants.
- The _____ Women Act banned the Sharia law of Triple Talaaq.
- The Indian _____ Office Act grants the Federal Government the permission of passing letters or documents by post.
- Recently decriminalised, the British-era law _____ Offences did not allow same sex intercourse.



Answers to This Week's Crossword	
Across	3. Special
4. Socialist	
7. Property	
8. Dowry	
Down	1. Terrorists
2. Internal	
5. Muslim	
6. Post	
9. Unnatural	

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

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