

The Doon School WEEKLY



"I sketch your world exactly as it goes." - Arthur Foot
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UNDER THE SCANNER

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Courting Chaos

Adit Chatterjee *comments on the flaws of current environmental legislation.*

The year 2020 hasn't been very kind to us. The world has been faced with the imminent threat of a World War Three, is currently plagued with a virus that has governments and stock markets scrambling for solutions, and Australia sees no respite from the blazing wildfires that are burning down hundreds of acres of forest and killing millions of animals and people in the process – all in the month of January. All of this makes the world seem like a dystopia, but what is even worse is that there are marginal proportions of the world's populace that refuse to believe that there is anything wrong in the first place, or do anything about it even if they acknowledge the problem. Renowned scientists with outstanding credentials are criticised for proposing concerns about climate change that are perfectly accurate and justifiable, and this outright apathy is exacerbated by large corporations that twist the narrative to further their own profit-maximising agendas. The common link that I wish to establish between all these issues is the crippling nature that our actions as a collective body have. We live in an era where policy and legislation is decided by the power of a political lobbyist's wallet, and not by the collective power of our voters, as it should ideally be. The common belief that an individual's actions cannot

impact the world on a large scale has to be done away with—the assassination of Qasem Solemani is testimony to that, considering it simply required the approval of one man to be carried out, and yet it nearly sparked what may as well have been one of the worst conflicts in history. We need to realise that all of our actions have consequences.

We live in an era where policy and legislation is decided by the power of a political lobbyist's wallet, and not by the collective power of our voters.

The largest, and by far the most concerning consequence of our actions is the ongoing degradation of our environment due to the major industries that feed off our natural surroundings. What makes this issue even more disconcerting is the fact that it is extremely hard to name an industry that doesn't have an impact on the environment. The clothes we

wear, the food we eat, and the energy we use are all contributors to the worsening condition of the climate. Worse, we know we simply cannot live without these staples of a consumerist society. This fact immediately takes away one of the more effective solutions to such problems, like banning them or regulating them to the point that they cease to have an impact, because no one cares about the environment when it means that they have to stop wearing designer clothes, eating cheeseburgers, and basking in the warmth of their centrally-heated homes. Therefore, you will find very few willing to protest the actions and policies that governments put into place.

Industries are allowed to get away with much of what they do because the general populace simply aren't going to be able to give up the comforts that they have become so accustomed to. I can't blame them either—as a child brought up in a world of comfort, technology, and excess, to be asked to give all of that up in the blink of an eye would be met with robust protest from me. Yet, I can't stop myself from worrying about our fate, should we continue at this rate. However, all hope is not lost. After much deliberation, I believe that I have arrived at a solution that can preserve our comfort, and yet see to it that our climate is tended to

(Continued on Page 3)

UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

That journalist journalises.

Sargun Singh, writer extraordinaire.

Hey man, are you playing dark-dark with me?

SRT, peekaboo!

MATHEMATICAL MARVEL

Aneesh Agarwal was the school topper in the **Canadian Senior Mathematics Contest**.

Well Done!

TOP NOTCH TEACHING

The **Doon Shiksha Ratna Award** was awarded to Mr. Piyush Malviya for his immense contribution to teaching.

Congratulations!

This Week in History

1865 CE: US House of Representatives passes the 13th Amendment.

1933 CE : Adolf Hitler is named Chancellor of Germany.

1945 CE: Auschwitz is liberated.

1948 CE: Mahatma Gandhi is assassinated.

1950 CE : The Indian Constitution is signed, and India officially becomes a Republic.

1973 CE: The Paris Peace Accords are signed to end the Vietnam War and bring peace to Vietnam.

“

They who can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety.

—
Benjamin Franklin

APPOINTMENTS

The following are the appointments for the year **2020-21:**

Yuv Arpan

Editor-in-Chief: Nand Dahiya

Chief-of-Production: Tamim General

Doon School Stock Exchange: Sresht Garg

Yuv Bharti: Sudhir Chowdhry

We wish them all fruitful tenures!

THE WHO?

Who is Mark Sinclair?

Aarav Agarwal: An artist

Adit Chatterjee: An author

Raghav Periwal: A song writer

Kabir Singh: A pop star

Vivaan Malik: A nuclear scientist

Vin Diesel, born **Mark Sinclair** is an American actor and producer known for his role as Dominic Toretto in ‘**Fast and Furious**’ and as the voice of Groot in ‘**Guardians of the Galaxy**’. He has also starred in multiple films such as ‘**The Chronicles of Riddick**’ and ‘**The Pacifier**’.

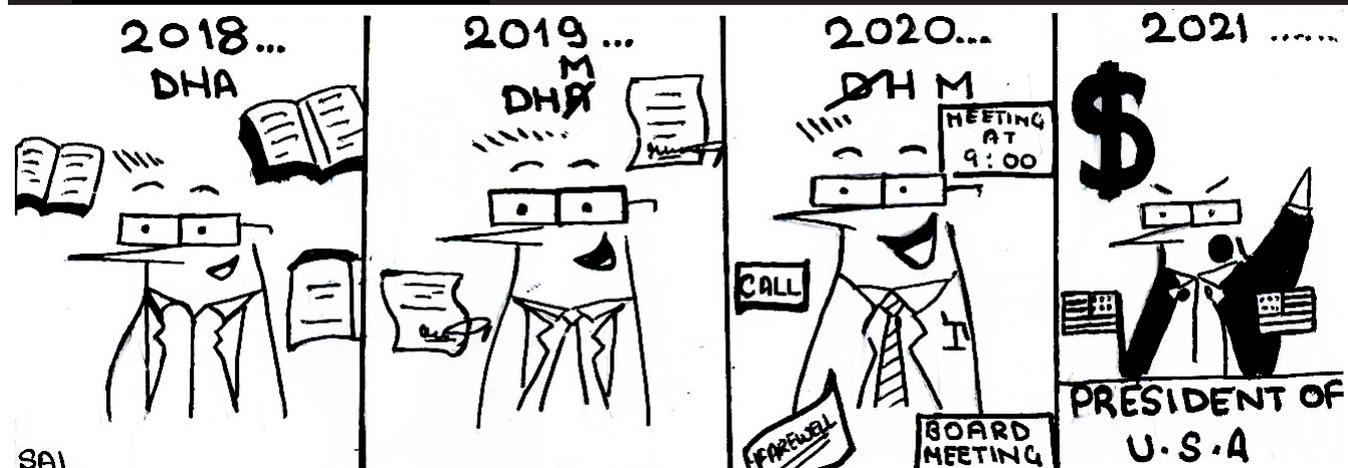
Around the World in 80 Words

The border wall between the US and Mexico collapsed into Mexico due to high winds. American professional Basketball player Kobe Bryan died in a helicopter crash along with eight other people. The first case of the coronavirus in India was confirmed in Kerala, along with another 800 cases under observation. The European Parliament approved British PM Boris Johnson’s Brexit plan, confirming Britain’s exit from the EU. Liverpool beat Westham United 2-0, while in the Serie A, Napoli beat Juventus 2-1.

Doosco Doodle

Highest in the Room

Sai Arjun



(Continued from Page 1)

for a considerable period longer than our current status.

After some research I understand that much of the impact that these industries have on the environment isn't because it is written in stone that they must degrade the environment, but instead of the fact that they indulge in practices that reduce their costs as much as possible, and these low cost practices happen to be the ones that are most unsustainable of all. There are sustainable options available – ones that can ensure

that we can remain in our bubble of comfort while refraining from impacting the environment, but the only drawback to them is that they happen to be awfully expensive, something we've established is a big no-no for corporations. However, why even give them an option? The power of policy is in our hands as voters, and I say we make use of it where it matters the most. There isn't a politician that would support the wanton felling of trees if it meant losing the next cycle of elections, and we must use, abuse, and thoroughly

exercise this fact until we see the change in legislation we demand. We have no obligation to protect the industries that are leading us like cattle to the slaughterhouse, and the sooner we realise that, the better. We should strive to make a difference in the world, and I hope I've proved to you that even your actions as an individual can tailor the world the way you want it. Let's just hope our versions of our ideal world can be lined up to fit all of us—especially the most vulnerable in society.



UNDER THE SCANNER

Coronavirus Breakout | Vihan Ranka

This January, festivities celebrating the Chinese New Year were disrupted by the outbreak of a deadly virus, 2019-nCoV. The death toll has crossed 200 and more than 9,000 cases have been recorded worldwide, and over 90 across the globe. Many researchers have classified the virus as a new coronavirus, which causes respiratory problems and diseases such as pneumonia. The epicentre of the virus has been traced back to the Hubei province in China and the city of Wuhan is under lockdown.

Many believe that the virus originated in a seafood market in Wuhan in the latter part of December 2019 where wildlife was being illegally sold. This has

led to the Chinese Government to impose a ban on the sale of wildlife until the virus is successfully contained. Due to the contagious nature of the virus, travel bans have been enforced in the areas most affected by the epidemic.

More than 1,500 workers of the ruling party in China are going to Wuhan to aid the ones affected by the virus. Many other provinces in China are following suit and declaring partial lockdowns, extending school holidays and imposing travel bans. Carrie Lam, the Chief Executive of Hong Kong, has declared a health emergency. Several countries such as Australia, Japan, France and the US are now reporting cases of the new coronavirus. Some countries

such as Japan have already started evacuating their citizens while others such as the US, South Korea and India are working to fly their citizens and officials out from the heart of the pandemic, Wuhan. The US government has sent a message directed to American nationals in Wuhan saying that the government will fly them out from Wuhan to San Francisco. The French and Russian officials are making similar efforts.

The symptoms of the people affected by the malignant virus start with fever and some dry cough and then after about a week later, some shortness of breath. After that stage, the person will most likely require special treatment in a medical facility. Some researchers have declared that only a quarter of the recorded cases might be severe and many of the deceased had pre-existing medical conditions.

Viruses from the coronavirus family are not a new thing for China. In 2002, the SARS killed almost 800 people across the globe and the heart of the epidemic was China. While that virus outbreak lasted for only two weeks, this one has been going on for a month now. According to the head of China's National Health Commission, the 'epidemic has reached a more serious and complex period'.



Faith and Prejudice

Pranav Lohia sheds light on the prevalence of biases in School.

Every community has its own favourite and popular individuals within that community, and by extension, some not-too favourite ones as well. Members of The Doon School too, like any other community, have their favourites and cannot be blamed for favouring a group of proficient individuals who are constantly making valuable contributions to the community. However, that should not mean that they should be biased against those who are not as proficient at certain activities, as the former group are seen differently.

What concerns me most is how a society can form preconceived opinions of people and predict their future based on those opinions. The condition of a society deteriorates when there exist prejudices and stereotypes within it.

Stereotypes in School are largely based on the subjects you take in your B, A, S, and SC Forms, or whether you are competent at sports, academics, or both. For instance, people who take IB History, English and Economics at Higher Level are considered intellectuals (a typical Dosco stereotype). However, if a person who scored 'below average' in his junior forms opted for such a combination, he would be classified as a person who is trying to inflate his status just by taking on a tougher combination of subjects. Consequently, this stereotype ends up demoralising many a boy, and gives rise to further unhealthy stereotypes as well.

Recently, the A Form got an option to drop two subjects. Every teacher asked the students in class about those retaining the subject and those planning to drop it. Things were fine until teachers, in their bid to help students make the right choice, began publicly stating their opinions about the students' aptitudes in their subjects. They would reconfirm with students who are average at the subject. Simultaneously, students who were adept at the subject were asked to not leave the subject (in a convincing tone), if at all they were, 'for their own good.' This led to a clear understanding of how sometimes masters are biased towards certain individuals and how they differentiate between people's effort based purely on the outcomes in terms of marks and grades. So, however beneficial the step may have been intended to be, it has had a detrimental impact by strengthening these stereotypes.

This creates a sense of insecurity among those individuals who are constantly putting in the effort, but are not achieving desired results. They begin to suffer due to a bias that leads to stereotyping and prejudice. They then have second thoughts about

staying on, preferring to leave for a new community, where they will be accepted more willingly, and be given a chance to start afresh.

As much as we try to bury this issue, it exists, and the truth is inevitable. I strongly believe that whatever a person might be in public - however bad his academic, physical or social prowess ---his or her performance-based image should not encourage others to pass judgements on his potential. People have the right to be judgemental, but they do not have the right to make an individual feel apologetic or demoralised for what he wants to be.

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Though I believe that it is essential for a society to be judgemental for the betterment of its people (as you can only be evaluated and corrected when you are judged), judgements sometimes stem from stereotypes or prejudice, and that is where the community falters in its privilege to pass judgement. Masters base their opinions on someone based on the student's previous trials, or if the child has been unable to cope up with any part of the syllabus. In my batch at least there are groups of people who lie in a particular mark band. However, what is astonishing is that there has been no considerable improvement in the people who are in the lower mark bands, however much effort they put in. I believe this might be because teachers mark the students based on how they performed previously, thus giving into a general prejudice they have about the student.

To conclude, I'd like to quote Harper Lee in saying "Prejudice, a dirty word, and faith, a clean one, have something in common: they both begin where reason ends."

Love is Eternal, They Say

Sargun Singh

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Last night, as I was walking back alone from dinner, I was asked by a passer-by about the reason for my pitiable solitary state. This question obviously hurt the still unhealed wound of betrayal, so I walked towards him, preparing myself to blurt out my characteristic barbarous vocabulary.

However, as my corpse drew close to the other human body, the overwhelming unfamiliarity of a fellow male caused me to stop abruptly in my tracks. I started crying. I fell on my knees, clutching on to my stranger's arm.

I know that this all sounds very weirdly melodramatic and I too would've thought so had I been told this a month ago, when I had still not discovered that my 'best friend' was actually not my best friend anymore, and I had still not been dumped into the chasm of indifference like the senile population one sees in an old age home.

But this wasn't a month ago, nor was I the random audience to this 'senseless' melancholy. Therefore, instead of saving my laughter for after such an uncomfortably sad narration, I found tears of despondency rapidly streaming down my cheeks. I felt a comforting hand on my back, and slowly I stopped gasping for breath as my ceaseless sobbing finally ceased. It was his third attempt at knowing the cause of my misery that finally shook me out of my oblivion.

"What happened?"

So I sat straight, wiped my face, and told him what happened.

.....

It was almost a year back that I was going through a similar slump. I was sitting at my toy, feeling a flood of similar cold tears on my face, staring at a letter I had received. He didn't know me then, nor did I think so much of him, but under those circumstances, it just didn't matter to me. I really wouldn't have thought before opening up to even a potato, just so you know the degree of my gloom.

So, I shared all my grief with this blurred vision of a body. As I sobbed uncontrollably, it patiently stood there, listening to all what was troubling me inside. His comforting and understanding responses to my laments made me feel much better. Eventually, we became very close friends, who could freely share their troubles without hesitation and talk about anything we wished to talk about.

However, somewhere along the line, I mistook my increasing dependency on him for an 'everlasting friendship'. I started seeking him over a lot of other people and spent most of my day chatting with him. Thus, quite ridiculously, I ended up wasting the most crucial years of my life 'talking' about mindless stuff. I could've played an instrument, I could've played a sport, I could've done anything. But no! The genius in me had discovered a new way to succeed in life - generating sounds by expelling air from your mouth through your voice box, a.k.a 'talking'.

Also, I came across some people who tried to explain to me how this 'friendship' was degrading me. They continued to urge me to start focusing on life and try to develop my abilities and skills. But guess what? The genius in me got to work yet again, and I ended up blatantly ignoring them.

With time, the genius in me just forgot what 'prioritisation' meant, so eventually my daily routine was something like this:

6:45 – Wake up

7:15 -2:00 – Classes

2:30-6:30 – TALKING

7-7:30 – Dinner

7:30- 11:45 – TALKING

11:45 – Lights out

I followed this routine religiously until that fateful day when life blessed me with a 'reality check'. The only problem was that it was a year too late. Still, better late than never, right?

I realised that I had wasted almost an entire year thinking about our 'everlasting friendship' was, actually, everlasting. Obviously, I turned out to be utterly wrong, because one day he suddenly stopped talking to me and started 'prioritising' someone else over me, much like the people that I had forgotten for him.

"So, what can I do about it?"

Honestly, I don't know. I'm not even sure whether he thinks something is wrong, or if he sees my agony. I cannot talk to him, because I just don't have the courage to. So, I figure that till he realises it on his own, I shall have to wait in my present agony.

The Week Gone By

Keshav Singhal

The prefects returned on Saturday and saw their former leader leave the gates of Chandbagh for one last time. Stepping up the ladder, the DHM assumed the role of the Headmaster and left for Delhi, only to set out for another excursion two days later.

The rains dominated the better half of the week and forced everybody to look for any spot of sunlight that they could be blessed with. For the ones who were let down by mother sunshine, you may remain glued to your beds and thank The Yearbook

team, for it was their determination that allowed us to slumber under our covers for another hour every morning this week. Only time will tell how we manage to persevere through the winter from next week, when we're robbed of our privileges (read 'rights'). Despite the gloomy weather, the AT and SC Formers march towards the finish line of their two-year long test of endurance as they keep themselves dedicated towards their Preliminary Trials. On the sporting front, the junior segment of the Inter House Cricket Competition commenced on Monday; however, to the dismay of our young cricketers, rain washed out the entire second day and reduced the test from a five-day to a three-day one. A certain

team of young gentlemen missed their aim entirely as they sent the ball on either side of the wickets, yielding 77 extras to the opposing swans. The week itself yielded few activities and fewer events as the cold blew fiercely over campus and had us settling for our blankets.

Nevertheless, the S Form was ignited by the hopes of rafting these Midterms, escaping the treks, which in the past have not quite yielded pleasant outcomes.

As we delve into the term ahead though, do acknowledge, dear Dosco, that we are only going to bury ourselves in our books, and not under our sheets! So gear up as a fierce month of examination awaits us!

Wordsearch

27 Club: Musicians Who Died Aged 27

1. Louis _____, an American ragtime musician, died of neurosyphilitic sclerosis, is primarily remembered today for 'Heliotrope Bouquet'.
2. This guitarist, who was also the co-founder of the Rolling Stones, died after drowning in a swimming pool.
3. This guitarist, known for songs like 'Hey Joe' and 'Foxy Lady' died due to asphyxiation.
4. This American singer was the lead singer of the band 'Nirvana', and was known for songs like 'Smells like Teen Spirit' and 'Come as You Are'.
5. A part of the band 'Stone the Crows' known for songs like 'Penicillin Blues' and 'Fool on the Hill', this guitarist was electrocuted to death.
6. The bassist for the Stooges died due to Pulmonary Edema (accumulation of fluids in the lungs).
- 7 This guitarist for indie rock band Surfer Blood died due to Sarcoma, a rare type of Cancer.
8. This Russo-American actor, who was also a guitarist for the band 'The Hammerheads', died due to Accidental blunt traumatic asphyxia.
9. This English singer-songwriter, known for her deep vocals in albums like 'Frank' and 'Back to Black', died due to alcohol poisoning.
10. This Spanish singer, known for her song 'Between the Blinds', took her stage name from a Simon & Garfunkel song.

U A I L I C E C H J O M Z S X N H Z F X
 H Q H R D S W B T I Y X O F I N R D R E
 P M T H P N P Z R T E N L V R T P T Q I
 Q U K L N E X X N E L B U G D V E F B Y
 F Y V T R I T C Q Q C A J A N G V J Q J
 J I T X Q F O L O Y H H X T E C X B I H
 F K J T S P N A T C I Q K L H G Z T Q Z
 V W R K F R E H F E N P M G O C D O G O
 O R R A I J K T H S U G S Z M Q I A Z C
 D I M Y O O Q F K U I L N F H S J P V G
 C R Q N K Y R T C O R I G J W T M W M C
 X V E A E G X E P H C Q I L N T Y D C E
 G S F V Z W U Z D E A A K L U Z W X D G
 R H R X F U X N I N V B B J X I S R H Q
 Q A F R G L Y I I I A J I U U W B T P X
 H G Z V V E A A U W B X V X M L L V N I
 C F H O C K B Z F W B O E P I D H L X M
 R Y A L G O K W U P M C X L H I C J Z X
 A W L N C A N G O Z X G V F A T O O C D
 R L G X I I A V T J F B E T E K E F K G

Answers to This Week's Word Search

1. Chauvin	4. Cobain	7. Fekert	10. Cecilia
2. Jones	5. Harvey	8. Yelchin	
3. Hendrix	6. Alexander	9. Winchouse	

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

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