

Established in 1936

The Doon School WEEKLY

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

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A look into our constant desire for novelty.

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PROBLEM OF THE WEEK

Work your brain on this fun math problem!

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Editorial

Another Term, Another Race

Varen Talwar

Although the term started without any of us undertaking our normal journeys to School and without the flurry of packing, inspection, and unpacking, I still felt my Circadian rhythms abruptly change on the day the term started. I felt more tired and hungry than usual, pretty much how I usually feel at School, as if my body were so used to adjusting itself to School conditions at the start of the term, even though I wasn't really going there. Even the characteristic smell of the newly repainted walls and immaculately cleaned rooms seemed to find its way into my psyche! Such is the pervasive power of Doon in our lives: if you live there long enough, you live there forever.

For the past month and a half, I have enjoyed the break from the unbelievably taxing online term we had. The superhuman efforts that went into making the *Weekly* last time still stay fresh in my memory, and give me enough reason to doubt my decision of continuing with the uphill task this term. Yet, here I am writing this Editorial, and there you are reading it. I guess that this, too, is the result of School's intoxicating effect that makes me push my boundaries. Therefore, to keep the can-do Dosco spirit alive, we at the *Weekly* have decided to resume production of this publication that

plays such a historic role in binding the lives of all Doscos together through time and space.

However, it would be foolish of us to make promises we can't keep. We have realised, after careful consideration of our experience last term and of the current situation, that it is highly likely that there will occur certain disruptive events over the next few weeks with the potential to thwart our weekly operations. We have decided to embrace this fact rather than push against it, and will therefore take the failure to produce weekly issues with our usual regularity in its stride. So, as we resume operations with the target of a weekly magazine, we also concede the fact that circumstances might sometimes not allow us to do it due to the plethora of unpredictable factors that could emerge due to the unprecedented nature of the times, impacting the production of this publication.

Having said that, we welcome you to contribute to the issues this term. We were overwhelmed by the support we received from the School community, especially the junior forms, and look forward to a display of similar enthusiasm this time. Please keep in mind that we will NOT be accepting articles regarding COVID-19. We are looking for creative pieces,

like stories and poems, or even commentary on contemporary issues, if expressed in a creative manner. We are also looking for unique experiences you might have had during these unusual times, so that we can truly be able to connect the School community. Lastly, we welcome any suggestions for us regarding new sections or design elements suitable for the online medium. Do also keep in mind that we are open for contributions for our Founder's Issue.

With that, I wish you all the best for this term ahead! It will surely be full of surprises and new experiences, as life usually is right now. This is a great time for you to explore your own interests without being judged by others. Not letting the pandemic harm our aspirations is the biggest thing we can do for ourselves at this point. Speaking of new experiences, I would also like to welcome our new Headmaster, Dr. Jagpreet Singh, to the School on behalf of the *Weekly* and the larger School community. You can get a peek into his mind in the transcript of our interview with him this week in this issue!

I hope you and your families are safe and healthy, and look forward to receiving your contributions and feedback. Keep reading and writing for the *Weekly*!

DIGITAL DELEGATES

Following are the results of the **Welham Model United Nations, 2020**:

Kabir Subbiah, Shaurya Pratap, and Abhisar Sudhakar were adjudged **Most Outstanding Delegates**. Keshav Tiwari, Aditya Jain, Nishant Pradhan, Avyukt Kochhar and Saksham Makin were awarded **Honorable Mentions** while Soham Agrawal recieved a **Verbal Mention**.

Well done!

THE WHO?

Who is Gerald Earl Gillum?

- Firas Khullar: G-Eazy
- Veer Nigam: Author
- Praj Boiragi: Golfer
- Veraj Goel: Racer
- Nirvan Jhanji: Writer

Gerald Earl Gillum, better known as **G-Eazy**, is a popular **American rapper and producer** who has won awards such as **People’s Choice Award for Favourite Hip-Hop Artist** and been nominated for many more, such as **MTV Best Hip-Hop Artist and Male Artist of 2018**. He has **3 Certified Platinum Albums**. He has also collaborated with other famous musicians such as Bebe Rexha, Cardi B and Wiz Khalifa.

Around the World in 80 Words

India crossed the 12 lakh COVID-19 cases mark. The US asked China to close their consulate in Houston. The Indian Railway Ministry announced that 151 trains in 109 routes will be operated by the private sector. A vaccine by the University of Oxford triggered an immune response. China was declared as the largest economy in the world. The Ballon d’Or award for 2020 was cancelled. The third test match between West Indies and England will commence with a 1-1 tie.

“

What you get by achieving your goals is not as important as what you become by achieving your goals.

Theodore Roosevelt

CONDOLENCES

The *Weekly* regrets to inform everybody of the passing away of Mr. Anuj Ray (ARY) on July 15, 2020. Mr Ray taught English at The Doon School between 2007 and 2009.

On behalf of the community, we extend our deepest condolences to the bereaved family.

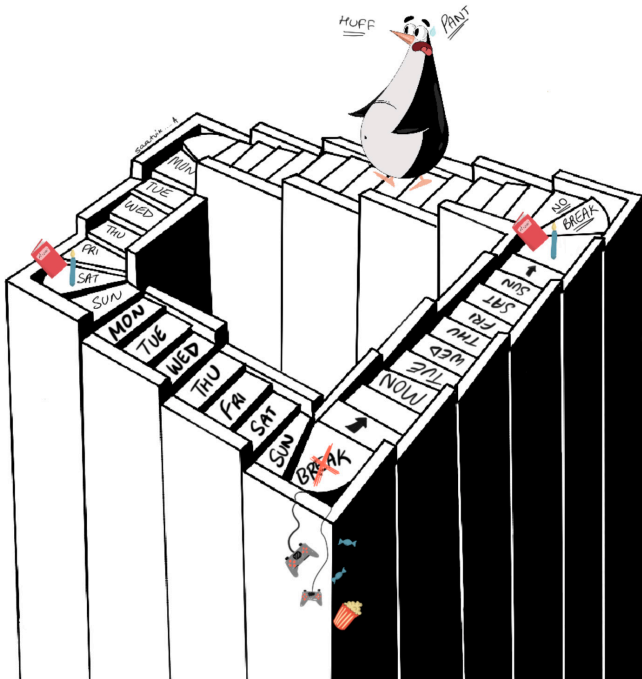
This Week in History

- 1883 CE:** Italian fascist dictator and the first Prime Minister of Italy, Benito Mussolini is born.
- 1898 CE:** Guam was ceded to the United States of America by Spain after being purchased for 20 million American dollars.
- 1952 CE:** Egyptian army officers launch a revolution, changing Egypt from a monarchy to a republic.
- 1953 CE:** The Korean War ends with the signing of an armistice by the American and North Korean delegates after three years of continuous war.
- 1963 CE:** Great Britain, the Soviet Union and the United States of America sign a treaty that bans all nuclear testing in the atmosphere, in outer space and underwater.



Stairway to Hell

Saatvik Anand



A Book Judged By Its Ugly Cover

Aryan Agarwal *comments on the nature of cliches.*

It did not seem that cliches had any meaningful existence outside of children’s books or the minds of our teachers and elders, but, to the dismay of my younger self and the vindication of many adults, ‘cliche’ advice turns out to have the promised wisdom after all. At this point, however, I am tempted to sit back and mull over the unique relationship within this piece - a cliche-ouroboros I would say - but I shoulder a burden to produce work to show for my summer.

In the summer, especially in the more significant years, there is time to spend and much which can be done, so advice is something sought after by most: to set as a core principle around which one can operate or to serve as a quick fix to many of one’s problems at once. But, one can be sure to be underwhelmed by a set of clichés and irrelevant tips from people. Without much inspection, it is easy to surmise that the reason advice rarely works must be because advice is specific to a person, but, the more nuanced explanation for it is that we rarely consider the circumstances of the origin of any suggestion, unless we have experienced it first-hand, if at all. Consider this supposedly ‘cliche’ suggestion which is actually a cure-for-all: ‘know yourself’. It irritates most people because of its apparent detachment from the world, as if it is reserved for enlightened cartoon gods who speak to misguided talking animals.

The central problem is the conflation of newness with value. Needless to say, there is a huge demand for advice, which would mean that the same advice is shared very often with the risk of repetition, but since the problems which warrant wisdom remain more or less the same, the pool of advice remains almost stagnant—contrary to unjustified human expectations—with the rare addition of what is probably a gimmick. To expect a constant stream (to continue the metaphor) of new suggestions regarding life is unreasonable, especially since it does not seem to be the case that human nature does not change much with time, yet it is this very perspective that judgmentally dubs common but potent phrases as clichés, only to recognise and ignore them later.

Our jaundiced perspective has the chance to heal if we consider this stream of deductive reasoning which better promotes sensibility and a reasonable receptiveness: people had problems for which they found solutions; they circulated these solutions within their social sphere which propagated further thereafter to become common sayings. The inference which can be made from this is that the quality of being common, at least when advice is concerned, is

a consequence of being valuable. So, if anything is to be derived from how advice is treated, the more common it is the more bountiful it will prove to you. However, let this piece not be misinterpreted as one which endorses an avalanche of clichés on poor readers. It merely urges readers to re-evaluate clichés.

If you find yourself feeling a certain affinity for the opinion in this piece, to fuel a well-meaning idealism within, you can go a step further by paying no heed to any title at all. Why should a title, label or a category be factored into a judgement? After all that is how others value it and not you! It does not cost any more than employing one’s wits to assess value and make independent judgements. I would go so far as to say that the willingness to explore something for oneself is an advancement towards greater open-mindedness, a quality that the world desperately needs more of.

| Poetry |

Lockdown Loneliness

Shreyan Mittal

What is this life?
Being trapped at home, all alone
Will we ever be freed of this damnation?
Or is our future set in stone?
No, there has to be another side
The other side of this life.
Filled with the incense of freedom
Ending the constant government strife.
Our hopes and dreams are hindered
But with the other side will come their return.
We will rejoice upon the occasion,
When this sad lockdown takes a turn.
The other side of this life for me,
Means finally being freed from these lonely walls.
To be able to go out and breathe for once
Without the suffocating mask after all.
The smell of sanitiser is slowly getting to me
And I can’t handle it much longer
The other side, where are you?
Haven’t you had enough time to ponder?

At the Head of the Table

The Doon School Weekly interviewed the School's eleventh Headmaster, Dr. Jagpreet Singh.

DSW (The Doon School Weekly): How has your time on campus been, and what are some of the things that you have engaged in so far?

The Headmaster (HM): It is wonderful to be in Chandbagh. I arrived on June 28, and as per the city protocols, I quarantined myself at home and was very happy to do so because it was a nice change of pace while I settled down in a new home. I joined on July 5, just a few weeks ago, yet I think that Chandbagh has something very personal - the moment you step into Chandbagh, it brings you a certain sense of joy. It is as if you have been a part of it for ages. I have met practically with every member of the staff and everybody living on the campus. It was wonderful to interact with all sections of the community of Chandbagh. I met with the teachers, the pastoral section, the support staff, and the administration. It was wonderful to get to know everyone because they do become your extended family in School. Moreover, since I wanted to see how the children would have been welcomed, I requested all the housemasters to open the houses and do up the dorms as if the children were coming back on campus. To my surprise, when I went to each house, the warm house staff had high tea organised in each house. I went into every house, every dorm, every futsal court and I experienced how a boy would be welcomed back into School. Apart from that, in the meetings that I have had with the management, we have been talking about issues regarding the classes and meetings, and we are currently discussing how to get you back as soon as possible, the safety protocols that need to be followed, and how we can reopen without any risks.

DSW: What do you think are the unique aspects of Doon that distinguish it from other schools, and on the same lines what are some aspects of the schools you have worked in, that you think School can benefit from?

HM: Every school has its own context and is unique in its own way and Doon is too. I do not say this just because I am the Headmaster of the school; even as a young master in Mayo, I always used to think that there is something special about being a Dosco. Mayo and Doon have always had a somewhat close relationship and there are a lot of links. Mayo even had three headmasters who came from Doon: Mr Gibson, Mr R.D Singh and Mr Pramod Sharma. Coming to the point however, I do not think that I have to add a quality from another school to Doon; some schools actually try to replicate The Doon School. So, if you ask me what I have got, it is experience that has been derived from two decades in Mayo and nearly a



decade in PPS. I worked to build a relationship with the children, the community, my colleagues in both of those schools, and they have all enriched me.

DSW: Being a new Headmaster in the time of COVID-19, how do you think you can communicate and engage with the students, even though they are not here right now?

HM: These are very disruptive times for all of us, but technology has helped bridge the gap. We can maintain essential networks as we can still meet online; the *Weekly* taking this interview with me is a good example of this. I am becoming familiar with you, and when you come back to School then you too can say that you know me well because you have talked to me. I am trying to connect with the students, especially the SC formers, since I will get to spend relatively little time with that batch, and this Saturday I am meeting the entire Prefectorial body and having my first tutorial meeting.

DSW: From whatever you have learned about School from your stay at campus, what areas would you like to bring reforms in, and what kind of changes would you like to bring about?

HM: I am an educationist, and when we talk about educationists, we talk about global leaders. Everybody comes with his or her own mission and objectives, but they have to in sync with those of their school. I have to align myself with the objectives of the School. The school is a very large body, and I am just a caretaker. However, what I see here is that in Doon we are missing the holistic approach. Doon does offer great academics and co-curricular activities, but if you have not learnt one sport well, then you're not a public school boy. I shall look at bringing sports back to the level they used to be at their peak. People say that

(Continued on the next page)

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someone who is good in sports need not be good in academics, but I believe that there needs to be a balance. I have got a grown up son who passed out of Mayo. I wanted him to have a complete education which would allow him to be ready for the world. I wanted him to be flexible, such that he would fit into the system wherever he went. I also wanted him to have a rigid value system. All of us have been raised into a family with a value system, and we take pride in our values. Values are the core from which you develop the rest of your being. I am very straightforward and grounded, and I very humbly say that whichever qualities are needed in students, I will try to reflect those qualities in myself for your guidance. If I come in the wrong clothes, then you come in the wrong clothes. If I come with unpolished shoes, then you come in unpolished shoes. I will, to the best of my ability, try to be an example to the 550 students in the School. If I am late in reaching my office, then you come late to class. If I am at the games, you can't be sleeping on your bed. Leading by example is what I was raised with, and that is what I believe in.

DSW: The idea of getting a holistic education and Doscors being all-rounders in School more often than not starts a debate about School's traditions. How do you think we can strike a balance between a rapidly changing education paradigm and Dosco ideals?

HM: I don't think there is a trade-off. Bringing IGCSE or an international curriculum in School is just broadening your horizons: a medium which makes you look outwards. This school has always stood on its legacy. We've continued to work on the same path that Arthur Foot envisioned. Now I think it's time to make a blend between these two ideals, which will create the Dosco of today. Taking on IGCSE doesn't mean that you have to stop playing sports or discontinue other activities. A public school boy should always know of his priorities and be equipped with time management skills. IGCSE or IB shouldn't disrupt the original ideals of the School. We wish to provide a public school education but we cannot deprive our students of the necessities to be successful in the increasingly competitive world.

DSW: What are some key points that you would recommend students to keep in mind during this pandemic to make the most of this time?

HM: When you left school in March, we said, "Don't spend too much time on the screen," but today, we require you to spend a lot of time on the screen. It is because times have changed. It will not be like this forever, but at the moment, there is no denying that everything is happening on the screen, and outside of it, the world looks very irrelevant. However, I am asking you to do one more thing: look after your

mental health. Talk about your issues to people near and dear to you. We need to take care of our mental health and the mental health of those around us. Apart from that, your physical fitness is also very important. A healthy mind and a healthy body will always lead to better learning. We become negative during such times. Ironically, if things were normal right now, you would have been longing for something like this. You all would want to be in the comfort of your homes. So, make the best use of your time at home and help as many people as you can. All I can say is that you can take forward what you and your parents have done for you with a healthy mind and a healthy body.

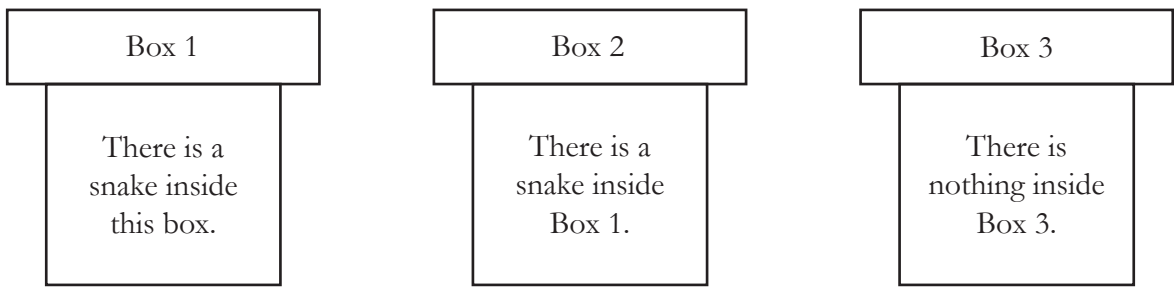
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550 students in the School...
Leading by example is what
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DSW: Groups of students only focus on a single activity nowadays, whether it be sports, academics or co-curriculars. Do you believe a child should have a combination of all three activities, instead of only focusing on one?

HM: This particular question reminds me of my youth. When I was a young master, I was very interested in Cricket, and I often coached the boys and played with them. One of my senior masters at the time told me, "Do you know who are the most successful people in a public school? There are three types of people: people who are very good at academics, people who are good sportsmen and lastly, someone who is a good teacher, a great sportsman." Which one do you think will make the best master? Of course, it's the third kind. These types of people are public school masters. What I taught the students in the classroom made me earn their respect, but it was my playing sports that made me popular with them. It is often through outdoor activities that a child learns life lessons. When students see a master who interacts with them on the field and in the classroom, they instantly admire him. They too begin to want this holistic development, where they are able to possess skills from a combination of activities. Needless to say, while I will focus on the development of sports within School, I shall also strive to make improvements in academics and in co-curricular activities.

Problem of the Week

On a game show, there are three boxes. Inside one box, there are \$10000, and inside another there is a snake! Inside the last box, there is nothing. Although each box has a notice, only one of these notices is true. Which box has \$10000?



Source: Cambridge GCSE past papers

What Have You Been Reading During the Pandemic?

A Brave New World

Author: Aldous Huxley

The book *A Brave New World* perfectly captures the essence of a dystopia, and is a terrifying glimpse into the apparently doomed future of humankind. Written in 1932, this book is widely considered as the predecessor to George Orwell's *1984*. The story revolves around a society of humans who have eradicated the viviparous way of creating humans (development in the womb) and erased all painful emotions, and use genetic engineering to modify humans according to their social class. This gives us an insight into our current situation, where to a great extent, we do not recognise individuality.

- Vihan Ranka

What Have You Been Watching During the Pandemic?

Ray

Director: Taylor Hackford

Cast: Jammie Foxx

Jamie Foxx's portrayal of legendary blues pianist Ray Charles in Taylor Hackford's musical biopic presents the blind blues icon from his birth in 1930 till he fights his drug addiction in the late 1960s. It churns together unadulterated themes of misery, guilt, and desire. However, it conveniently leaves out the dark undertones of his life, so an audience expecting a grittier experience is bound to be disappointed. Nonetheless, Jamie Foxx's brilliant performance accompanied by the music makes for a stirring experience, worth every minute.

- Armaan Rathi

Welcome!

The *Weekly* welcomes Mr. Love Deepak Trivedi and Mr. Mohan Reddy to the School community as masters of Physics and Design and Technology respectively.

We wish them a fruitful tenure at Chandbagh!

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

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