

The Doon School WEEKLY

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

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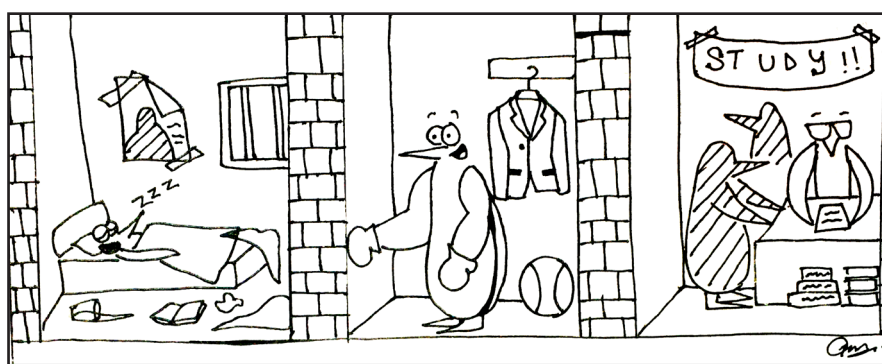
The Menagerie

Vihaan Ranka

The zoo was bustling with activity. Children were running around, wreaking havoc. The adults were exhausted. The zoo workers struggled to calm the children down and manage the menagerie simultaneously.

A guide was travelling along with a group of schoolchildren, inquisitive and full of energy. The teacher looked calm and cheerful as she no longer had to control the little devils. The children seemed extremely engrossed in the installations and the exhibits. The guide was more than happy to fuel their curiosity. "So children, you are about to witness common yet amusing specimens. Their species is a fascinating yet a twisted one. There's only one golden rule, and it is extremely imperative that you follow it. Do not disturb these creatures. They are quite odd and take offence at the smallest of things."

The guide then took them to the heart of the Exhibition. As the children approached the displays, they let out a gasp of awe, of amazement. The exhibits were housed in a series of chambers, put together to form a colossal structure. The human exhibits were put in different habitats which were dependent on their personalities and behaviour. The sheer peculiarity of it all seemed to satisfy the thirst for knowledge the children harboured. The guide



noticed this and smiled, reminiscing about a similar experience from his childhood. The guide took the children to the first chamber. "Now kids, we should proceed with caution. These humans are known to be irritable if offended. So the first one on your left is quite a common one. This one spends his days making custom Nike colourways. He surfs through countless sneakers and shoes, and puts them in his online shopping cart. He never buys them though." The guide spoke the last few words with a slight grin as he realised the irony of the situation.

The next one was more amusing than the previous one. This chamber consisted of a huge bed and curtains to block out light. The exhibit's snores resonated in his chamber. The guide then said, "This one is very common. It spends its time loitering around and sleeping in his chamber and even in his class. If you hand this one some snacks, he might pretend to be your friend for a few minutes, and if you're lucky, maybe a few

hours!"

The third one was the cream of the crop. The guide once again started his practiced speech. "This one is the perfect schoolboy. He is a gentleman on and off the sports field. He shows his passion and aggression with a ball at his feet and a pen in his hand. His chamber is spick and span, and his attire is always ideal for the occasion. His punctuality is stuff of the lore. He can talk charismatically and is amiable with his peers." The children felt inspired and determined just by looking at this display. They could see two fine blazers hanging on a peg in the wall, one coloured dark blue and the other black. A black tie was hanging on the third peg. The guide continued, "However, specimens like this one are as rare as the Halley's Comet. They come in only once in 76 years!" The teacher chimed in. "Children, this is who you should aspire to become. Success comes your way only if you chase it." The children nodded in agreement, even though

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If you hand this one some snacks, he might pretend to be your friend for a few minutes, and if you're lucky, maybe a few hours!

the teacher's words held no meaning for them.

As the children ventured further into the Exhibition, one could hear their 'oohs and aahs'. The fourth one was a spectacle in itself. Hunched over his desk, he was tutoring some of his peers while empty cups of coffee and biscuit crumbs littered the table top. The peers who surrounded the one teaching them seemed to take his teachings as gospel and looked relieved. The guide started his speech once again. "This one is quite uncommon, but is the gem of our exhibit. He is the lifeline of his peers during the harsh Trials, a turbulent time period for the menagerie's members. The Trials involve our specimens to be put up for exhibition to prove their worth. If they fail, they are thrown out of our elite menagerie." The students didn't seem to care about this. They were still soaking in the beauty and bizarreness of the exhibit. They were nodding their heads in agreement without comprehending a single word. This exhibit clearly had a paramount impact on the students. The guide then let the students in on a secret. There were four more exhibits, quite similar to the one they were watching. In fact, these exhibits had different names assigned to them, in a language the children couldn't recognize. They seemed mere gibberish. The guide could see the confused expression the students had on their faces, and went on to say, "These exhibits are named in long-extinct languages of India. Only a handful of scholars can interpret these languages, and a person

fluent in these is considered to be a connection between the past and present of this nation."

One of the next few exhibits featured a similar specimen, but this one was blasting the latest rap music on his speaker to the benefit of his friends were there, and he was singing along to the song. His friends sniggered and uttered the words, "Wannabe." The rapper was riled up, ready to throw some punches. The guide quickly took them to another exhibit before things went south. The next chamber featured a live class. Only one child seemed to be interested in the teacher's lesson. As the children quietly approached the chamber, they could hear the voices of the taught and the teacher.

The children felt inspired and determined just by looking at this Dosco. They could see two fine blazers hanging on a peg in the wall, one coloured dark blue and the other black. A black-tie was hanging on the third peg

"Sir, before we leave, I just wanted to remind you that you had assigned us some work yesterday. Here it is."

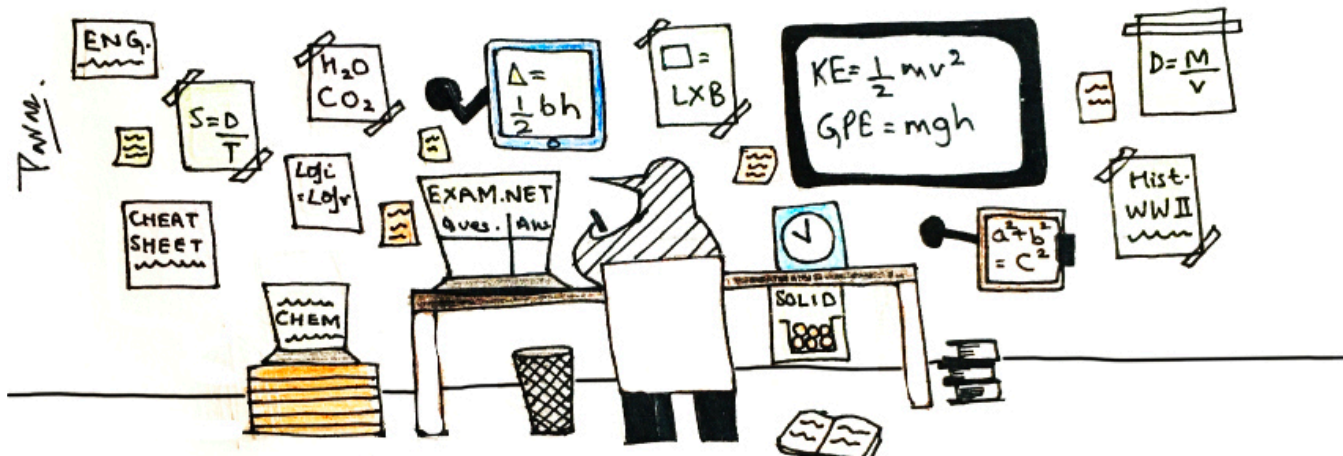
The teacher replied, "Oh yeah, thanks for reminding me." Meanwhile, the entire class glared at that student. The students started making excuses, everything from 'I forgot it in the House' to 'I had a fever'.

As the children were finally getting accustomed to the magnificence of the Exhibition, it all came to an end. They had reached the gates, which were heavily guarded in case the specimens tried to make a run for it. With a sigh, they left the zoo, hoping to return to these grounds of Doon as residents.

Dosco Doodle

Web(s)cam

Paras Agarwal



Around the World in 80 Words

The African continent successfully eradicated the wild polio virus, with the last case being recorded in Nigeria. Many parts of the USA that have been battered by the coronavirus now brace for Hurricane Laura. Test results from a hospital in Berlin have suggested that Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny, who was admitted there on August 22, was poisoned. The HRD ministry in India was renamed as the Education Ministry. FC Bayern Munich defeated PSG 1-0 to win the UEFA Champions League.

“

Reject your sense of injury, and the injury itself disappears.

—
Marcus Aurelius

THE WHO?

Who is Austin Richard Post?

Tanmay Kucchal : A singer

Suryansh Singh: An artist

Kabir Subbiah: A songwriter

Abhay Jain: A writer

Austin Richard Post, known professionally as **Post Malone**, is an American **rapper, singer, songwriter** and **record producer**. With his introspective songwriting and laconic vocal style, Malone has gained acclaim for amalgamating and bending a range of genres including country, grunge, rap and R&B. He is known for albums like **Stoney, Beerbongs and Bentleys**, and **Hollywood's Bleeding**.

Teri Yaad Aayegi

Inderveer Oberoi pays tribute to the late poet and lyricist, *Dr Rahat Indori*.

हमसे ज्यादा खुशकिस्मत और हमसे ज्यादा बदकिस्मत कोई भी नहीं। हम जिन्होंने राहत साहब को शेर पढ़ते हुए देखा, हम जिन्होंने उनके इंतकाल की खबर सुनी।

— आमिर अजीज

Rahat Qureshi, later known as Rahat Indori, had the most typical tough-times to tinsel-town life journey. Rahat Saab was born on January 1, 1950 to Afatullah Quresh and his wife Maqbool Un Nisa Begum. Having completed his secondary education from Nutan School, Indore, he passed his MA in Urdu literature from Barkatullah University in 1975. Equally competent in prose and poetry, Rahat Saab was awarded a Ph.D in Urdu literature from the Bhoj University of Madhya Pradesh in 1985 for his thesis titled *Urdu Main Mushaira*.

Before becoming a poet and lyricist, Rahat Saab used to teach Urdu literature at IK College, Indore and was a passionate painter. Painting was one of his prime areas of interest and very soon because of his talent, extraordinary design skills, fantastic sense of colour and vivid imagination, he became famous in Indore for his art. Over time, he was recognized for his unusual style of writing and recitation of poetry. Rahat Saab spent the next 40-45 years travelling across the world to recite poetry in various *Mushairas* and *Kavi Sammelans*. People from all corners of the world would gather to hear his recitation. He attended poetic symposiums in India and also travelled numerous times to USA, UK, UAE, Australia, Canada, Singapore, Mauritius, KSA, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, etc, for performing. Rahat Saab wrote lyrics

for the Bollywood industry. Films such as *Munna Bhai M.B.B.S*, *Khuddar*, *Mission Kashmir*, *Main Khiladi Tu Anari* were some of them. He had an array of awards and achievements throughout his career, such as the 'Honour from Houston City Council (USA)', 'Honour from Embassy of India (Saudi Arabia)', 'Award of Excellence in Urdu Poetry', 'Mirza Ghalib Award, Jhansi'.

Some of his published books are, *Naraz*, *Manjood*, *Chand Pagal Hai*, *Mere Baad*, etc.

We lost Rahat Saab on August 11, 2020 at the age of 70. He is survived by his wife and two children.

Rahat Saab has been an inspiration to many. I was in C form when I was gifted his book *Naraz* after a poetry recitation competition and that was when I was introduced to this magical world that Rahat Saab had created. He influenced Urdu literature in a big way. The world has lost a gem and he will forever be remembered through his work and contribution to world literature.

कश्ती तेरा नसीब चमकदार कर दिया
इस पार के थपेड़ों ने उस पार कर दिया,

अफवाह थी की मेरी तबीयत खराब थी
लोगों ने पूछ पूछकर बीमार कर दिया,

दो गज सही यह मेरी मिलिक्यत तो नहीं,
ऐ मौत तूने मुझको जमींदार कर दिया।

—राहत इंदौरी

A Chandbagh Beginning

The Doon School Weekly interviewed Mr Love Trivedi, a new Master at School.

The Doon School Weekly (DSW): Taking into account your online experience, what difference do you see between DoscOs and other children?

Mr Love Trivedi (LDT): Involvement in class seems to be paramount for DoscOs in my online experience. There is a different style that I see in them. I have been an educator for a long while but there is a spark that I have noticed in DoscOs so far. Boys set goals and challenge themselves. They use technology to their advantage. Here, I see that students are proactive and facilitators of their own learning in such difficult times. I am having a great time interacting with and teaching the boys.

Life at boarding school is going to be busy as compared to a normal day school, but at a boarding school it feels as though one is part of something bigger than themselves

DSW: What were your first impressions of the School campus, albeit without the boys?

LDT: When I arrived at the campus, I was mesmerised by the beauty of the campus. I was drowned in the greenery, and was excited to live in such a beautiful environment. The first few days were amazing even though I was still settling in and setting up the house. It was indeed an amazing experience to interact with the teachers and heads in the campus. Now after a month and a half, I have heard from everyone that Doon is livelier when the boys are here. I have heard different stories from teachers and the administrative staff alike — about the life that boys add to the place. I like to cycle around campus these days, but I am waiting for the day when I get to step in the football ground and play with boys.

DSW: How difficult was beginning to teach new students online?

LDT: Connecting via webcam is not always easy, and it takes creative lesson-planning and the use of some good techniques to keep students stimulated and engaged throughout the lesson. I am a learner and I like to acknowledge new technology. For me, it was quite a smooth transition to online classes with the new students, because the boys welcomed

me with open hearts. I remember my first class with each form: they were great fun. Also, my department and the members of the Senior Management Team guided me well to blend with the Standard Operating Procedures at Doon. The teaching-learning process in School is interactive and students are quite reflective in their work. They also appreciate the effort I take to incorporate new technology in the classroom.

DSW: What do you think of life as a boarding school teacher compared to a day-school teacher?

LDT: It's a complete 360-degree change, and to think that I have not experienced the majority of it yet! I think teaching in a boarding school brings its own challenges as well as some advantages. Life at a boarding school is going to be busy compared to a normal day school, but at a boarding school it feels as though one is part of something bigger than oneself. A boarding environment gives more time to know one's students, to learn various life skills, and this helps us to become real teachers in their learning process.

DSW: What is the daily routine like for you at School, and what are the activities that you enjoy doing these days?

LDT: I wake up early in the morning; my day begins with jogging around the beautiful campus. Then I get ready for classes. I also cook for myself - my biggest achievement in this phase!

I like cycling around the campus in the early evening, after which I like to do my planning and other School related work. I go for a walk post dinner. I am waiting for some kind of sport or activity to begin soon, but until then I spend my time reading books. One of the best activities that I did last week was cycling around Dehradun along with the teachers for 50 kilometres. I end my day with a few calls or a nice Netflix show.

DSW: What are some of the things you are excited for, if and when School resumes itself at campus?

LDT: I am excited to meet the boys, especially my tutees. I am also excited to get involved in various sports, particularly Football. It is always a different excitement for me in discussing sports and other topics. I am waiting for the trekking and the outdoor trips, and the other events that take place inside the School campus. I am waiting for the fun to begin and I want to stop cooking; all-in-all, I am excited to be a part of the School community.

What is the School Campus Like Without DoscOs?

The Doon School Weekly asked members of the School community what the School campus feels like without DoscOs.

It has truly been an extraordinary term. I am missing all of you. The field looks lush green with the Dehradun rain but no *quadi* soccer is on. The soul is missing. This Independence Day was so different. One reminisces about the MUN during this time, and how that event changes the colour in School. So many activities, rehearsals, practices, interactions, post-dinner chats are all being missed. Some events are happening online, but they can never replace the face-to-face connect. One keeps praying that the body and the soul reunite soon.

-Mr Anjan Chaudhary

Passing the Main Building, walking through those corridors, I still remember how my batchmates and I used to run to and from our classes laughing at ourselves because of how funny and silly we looked but also worried because we were already five minutes late. Now, however, all I see are pigeons hovering everywhere like they own the place and it seems as if humans have never stepped foot in there. I imagine the emotion, like ocean waves crashing against each other when I hear the School bell ring. The sound makes me nostalgic and I want to actually go to school, sit in those vacant chairs and learn something even if it is a subject I loathe. It feels like the reason for these buildings, courts and fields being labelled "school" is lost somewhere in your computer database and the file is intractable.

-Khyati Sharma

It is a privilege to be living within the familiar walls of Chandbagh during these novel times. As the world around us has come to a halt, the campus has taken a very different path. If only words could do justice to how wonderfully this place has blossomed over the past few months, everyone reading this would be provided with a sense of comfort. The grass is taller, the sky is bluer, the sun shines brighter and the birds chirp a little louder. The morning light softly sieves through the trees, embracing each surface warmly while the moon blankets the campus with its silver radiance at night. As the campus' rhythm flickered out due to the lack of human activity, the beauty of these little things enhanced greatly. It is truly breathtaking to behold such changes in person. Even without admirers, nature blooms exquisitely.

-Shivya Majumdar

The campus has become unnervingly tranquil. The walls of the main building now echo at the slightest of sounds and the crunch of the *bajri* almost forgotten. The exhilaration and the buzz on campus has been replaced by an air of uncertainty and monotony. Life seems to be in virtual captivity and this I feel is not healthy in the long run. I am personally tired of the online classes and miss the face to face interaction inside and outside the classroom. Wishing safety and good health to one and all.

-Mizhgan Ali

I feel that the whole charm of the campus is diminished tenfold when there are no DoscOs around. It is as if School is just an empty shell with no heart or soul. There was a point when the *bajri* path outside the Main Building on the Martyn House side was practically invisible due to the hundreds of unraked leaves that had been left unattended over the course of two months. The general impeccable, spick and span nature of the campus seems a distant dream compared to the chaotic state of Doon right now. Of course, with online classes, it is a great asset to be on campus, where masters are just a knock of a door away. But all these resources and facilities just don't have the same feeling as they did when I used them with my friends. I feel that School as a concept has undertaken a cosmic shift, and it will take a while to get used to it.

-Vivasvat Devanampriya

The Problem of the Week

There are 2015 workers, and 2015 switches numbered 1 to 2015.

The first worker turns on all the 2015 switches.

The second worker then turns off every switch with number, i.e. 2,4,6, ...

The third worker then reverses every third switch, i.e. if the switch is 'on', he will turn it off but if the switch is 'off' he will turn it on.

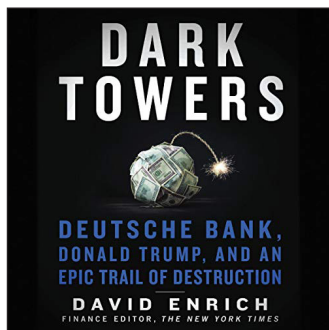
The fourth worker then reverses every fourth switch.

And so on until the 2015th place has reversed the 2015th switch

What is the switch with the largest number which will remain 'on' in the end?

Source: Singapore International Mathematics Olympiad Challenge.

What Have You Been Reading During The Lockdown?



Dark Towers

Author: David Enrich

The book is a nail-biting expose of the scandalous ties of the Deutsche Bank with President Trump, Putin's Russia, and Nazi Germany. The book has an evocative plot that certainly blurs the lines between fiction and non-fiction writing, and does not leave any room for doubt, so I was hooked to it until the very end. This book undoubtedly needed extensive and exhaustive research, but the work is more than justified by Enrich's tactful highlighting of the severe repercussions of cynical greed of any organization or human (Deutsche bank in this case). The chequered history of Deutsche Bank is a case-study in itself, and this book will not fail to impart a few pearls of wisdom to all.

-Aditya Gupta

What Have You Been Watching During The Lockdown?



Act of Valor

Cast: Rorke Denver, Nestor Serrano and Roselyn Sánchez

Directors: Mike McCoy, Scott Waugh

When a simple mission leads to the discovery of a terrorist plot against the USA, a team of elite Navy SEALs set out on a manhunt to attempt to stop the dastardly plan from coming through. Rather interestingly, all the actors who played as Navy SEALs were Navy SEALs in real life. This addition helped the movie become much more realistic and credible to watch. However, *Act of Valor* was let down by poor cliches and poor acting. One of the potent issues that plagued the movie was poor line readings, which distracted the audience from the movie. Even though the plot and action are somewhat cliché, I definitely recommend giving it a watch!

-Abhay Jain

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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