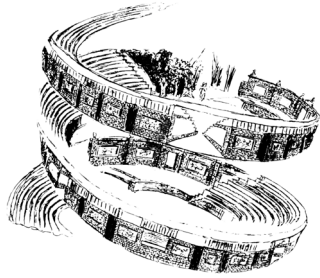


Established in 1936



The Doon School WEEKLY

"I sketch your world exactly as it goes." -Arthur Foot
November 21, 2020 | Issue No. 2588



CLARIFIED

A new section featuring concise explanations of relevant matters.

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A creative piece on freedom and repose.

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A BARREL OF HOPE OR DESPAIR?

What the Biden Administration means for Indian students.

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Editorial

One True Sentence

Advaita Sood

The wise Editor-in-Chief before me said to me on one of his wisest days, "What you publish in the *Weekly* is very important because the *Weekly* sets the tone for School". I include it here because this, along with many other aphorisms spoken by editors past, has influenced the following remarks.

Each time a new *Weekly* board begins its tenure, they publish a series of editorials outlining that board's iteration of what the *Weekly* is. The underlying nature of each of these editorials isn't the same because of a want of any fresh ideas about what to include in an editorial, but because every institution in the world changes with time, and so each new editorial board envisions a different purpose for the *Weekly*, one that usually builds on the work of their predecessors. This, in turn, begs the question: what is the *Weekly's* purpose today? If, at any given point in time, bedlam and calamity engulf the world, it is the international media's responsibility to have archived its gradual descent into disaster. It is the *Weekly's* responsibility to have archived each Dosco's response to the disaster.

A response is a fascinating thing, for while it is exceedingly personal, it magnetizes anyone who identifies with it. Countless

Weekly editors have encouraged the School community to write as voices of change or erudition and while that's all well and good, the unfortunate, albeit understandable truth is that most of us cocoon ourselves in apathy or are lulled into lethargy by the tedium of our lives and would sooner spend our free time in ways more enjoyable than burdening ourselves with writing another long, painful essay. Amid the vast, impersonal expanse of the world, as Doscos, we find ourselves in a community, and regardless of whether or not you believe in School spirit and its principles, in a community, we are forced to try and understand one another. By understanding, I speak not of the mawkish ideals we roll our eyes at, but of the gnawing familiarity that comes with reading about experiences like ours. The *Weekly* isn't solely a newspaper, but it isn't, as a former editor put it, "a collection of short stories" either. The *Weekly* is meant to offer a path to rapture - both emotional and intellectual - where the writer's most peculiar and interesting thoughts may find a blissful home and where a reader may be comforted through the awareness of shared experience.

Not everyone is a writer. We are often told, by teachers and self-help books and blogs, of the cathartic release of writing. For

most, however, this doesn't seem nearly as effective as sports or music or screaming or giving an inanimate object a solid beating. If I were to urge you to write just to fill the pages of the *Weekly*, I'd be asking you to add to an already enormous work-load. I will urge you instead to put down in words your thoughts the next time you undergo an emotionally charged experience or feel and ponder over anything at any time for that matter. If you find yourself particularly annoyed by nothing in particular, or are smothered under the drudgery of your life, or are appalled or jubilant or bored, write it down, because from the bog or swamp of your ideas and emotions will emerge what Hemingway called "one true sentence", which will have the capacity to resonate with anyone who feels or thinks or has ever felt or thought the same way.

At this point do I reiterate the wisdom of the previous Editor-in-Chief by stating that "the *Weekly* sets the tone for the School". Although I definitely do not intend to transform this publication into a personal diary or journal, I do believe that if we are able to understand the diverse and shared experiences of people through their writing, we will be able to do the same as individuals in a

(Continued on the next page)

(Continued from the previous page)

community, which may transfer to our experiences once we leave School.

I hope that what I have written has encouraged you, even in the slightest, to write, perhaps even for the *Weekly*. Please do send

us anything you write, for many will find it more interesting than you may think. If you ever find yourself doubting the nature or quality of your work, you may find solace in the fact that most of us are struggling with our “nature”. We are composed largely

of warring impulses that fluctuate from person to person, uneasy and unsure of what to think and feel, so the least we could do is try to understand and help others understand, and the *Weekly*, I hope, will help us do that.

CLARIFIED



A Note from the Editor:

Dear Reader,

As students in a seemingly endless cycle of work, we get little time to read up on the important terms, topics, and ideas that populate the news media. Even if we do happen to chance upon an invaluable sliver of free time, often we'd sooner spend it enjoying or re-energizing ourselves than read the news. It is, however, essential that we are informed. Keeping this in mind, the Weekly is glad to introduce a new section that we hope will fulfill that need. The following write-ups are succinct explanations of relevant and interesting topics and terms you may have heard before, but haven't had a chance to research. We hope you find them informative, and enjoy reading them.

Cancel Culture

What do Ellen DeGeneres and Donald Trump have in common? Besides the blonde hair, both of them have been denounced by Twitterati over their dealings and/or actions that were deemed socially unacceptable or offensive. However, these celebrities are not the only ones to have received online criticism. From Kevin Hart, for his homophobic comments, to JK Rowling, for her transphobic tweet, several celebrities have been ‘cancelled’. This rising trend has been labelled ‘cancel culture’. Simply put, a ‘cancel culture’ calls out celebrities and corporations who have made offensive comments or taken unacceptable actions in the past or at present and calls upon people to boycott the company or individual facing criticism. This is usually carried out by the celebrities’ own fans, though other users also scrutinize the celebrity. In the Woody Allen case, for instance, the director lost a movie deal with Amazon because of the sexual assault allegations against him; it showed the world how ‘cancel culture’ could combat several deep-rooted issues in our society. However, social media is not a place full of do-gooders. Words are often taken out of context, and pictures are edited to incriminate public figures. The force of a ‘cancel culture’ can derail an innocent person’s career and lead to severe mental health issues. The dual nature of ‘cancel culture’ has led to several people questioning it, but some continue to defend its effectiveness.

The Electoral College

This year’s American Presidential election, like those before it, was an international spectacle. While discussions of its results continue to populate the news media, the Electoral College, the process of electing the president of the United States, is a unique and interesting method of election.

The Electoral College is a group of officials whose job is to choose the president and vice president of the United States. Each state is represented by a number of electors. This number is proportionate to the state’s population. For instance, California, the most populated state, has 55 electors, while Wyoming, a sparsely populated state, has only three. Each elector represents one electoral vote, and with 538 electors in total, the presidential candidate with 270 or more votes - the majority - wins the election. Generally, states award all their Electoral College votes to whoever wins the poll of ordinary voters in the state. For example, if a candidate wins 50.1% of the vote in Texas, they are awarded all of the state’s 38 electoral votes. Alternatively, a candidate could win by a landslide and still pick up the same number of electoral votes. It is, therefore, possible for a candidate to win more votes than his or her rival overall, but still lose the election as a result of losing electoral votes in tight races in many states. In 2016, for example, Hillary Clinton had almost 3 million more votes than Donald Trump, but still lost the election due to fewer electoral votes. American voters, therefore, aren’t directly voting for the president, but for who their state will vote for.

THE NEXT CHAPTER

The following is the **Senior Editorial Board** of the *Weekly* for the year **2020-21**:

Editor-in-Chief: Advaita Sood

Editor: Aryan Agarwal

Senior Editors: Aditya Jain and Kabir Singh Bhai

Hindi Editor: Keshav Tewari

The *Weekly* would like to thank the outgoing **Editor-in-Chief**, Varen Talwar, **Editor**, Adit Chatterjee, **Senior Editors**, Aviral Kumar, Keshav Singhal, and Sriman Goel, and **Hindi Editor**, Sudhir Chowdry for their commitment to the publication.

“

Revolution is not something fixed in ideology, nor is it something fashioned to a particular decade. It is a perpetual process embedded in the human spirit.

Abbie Hoffman

Around the World in 80 Words

Nitish Kumar was named as Chief Minister of Bihar after being elected for the fifth time. The Boeing 737 MAX was approved by the FAA for commercial use after being grounded in March 2019. The American Pharmaceutical Corporation Pfizer ended its Coronavirus vaccine testing programme with a 95% success rate. Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced that the sale of petrol and diesel cars in the UK will be banned from 2030. Spain beat Germany 6-0 in the UEFA Nations League.

CURTAIN CALL

The following have completed their respective grades as part of the recently-held **Music Examinations**:

Trinity Examinations - Intermediate Level

Piano (Grade 4): Aryan Gautam

Piano (Grade 5): Vivasvat Devanampriya

Trinity Examinations - Advanced Level

Classical Singing (Grade 6): Tanisha Ahuja

Rock and Pop Singing (Grade 6): Pratham Gupta

Piano (Grade 6): Aradhya Jain and Vivaan Sood

Piano (Grade 8): Tarun Doss

Pracheen Kala Kendra Music Examination

Aryaveer Agarwal

Aryan Prakash

Atharv Jain

Iman Chatterjee

Eashman Singh

Kapish Ajitsaria

Anushtup Giri

Advay Agarwal

Nabhit Singhal

Veer Nigam

Harveer Kochar

Pratham Gupta

Rushil Choudhary

Varchaswa Mukim

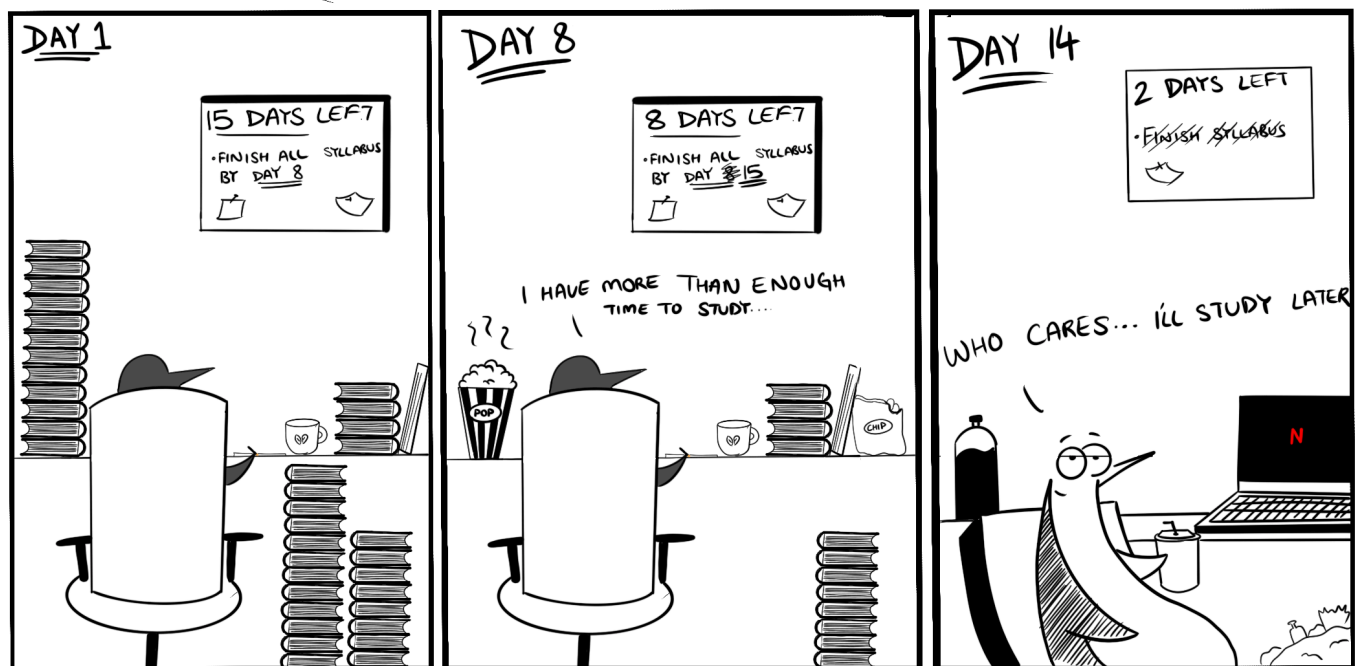
Ansh Kuriyal

Vidit Verma

Aryaveer Agarwal

Vedant Gattani

Well done!



Freedom

Aryan Baruah

As she penned the last syllable on her answer sheet, a wave of relief surged through her. Her hands, sore from all the writing she had been doing, loosened up, and her brain was wiped clear almost instantly of all that she had studied over the past few weeks. All of a sudden, there was a certain clarity in her mind, a clarity of what she would do over the next few days.

The doubt and fear caused by her exams disappeared and was replaced by the hope and joy of the days to come. Her mind was full of ideas about how she would decorate her new room, of thoughts of how she would go out and enjoy a game of dodgems with her father, or how she just couldn't wait for the latest video games to be released.

As she came out of the classroom, her friends surrounded her and asked how her exam had gone but she quietly walked away from the group, not wishing to discuss the answers of the paper she had just completed, knowing full well there was not much that could be done about any errors or omissions anymore.

She exited the school building and began to walk towards the school gate. The weather was odd and unpredictable - the rains that year were frequent yet random - and as she was nearing the gate leading to the exit of the school, it began to rain.

But did it matter whether she was walking in the rain?

She avoided the crowd assembling near the buses and through the gate, stopping only to display her ID card to the guard at the exit gate.

As she walked back home, she thought about going out for coffee with her friends, but quickly decided against it; her grandparents

were visiting, and she had barely seen them since the beginning of her exams.

Upon returning home, her mother greeted her at the door with the excitement only a mother could have after weeks of tedious work, late nights and early mornings spent helping her daughter practice mathematics sums or memorize obscure scientific terms.

"So how did it go?" her mother asked.

"Oh, it was pretty good. I knew the answers to all the questions. Pretty basic stuff and not at all what I was expecting and preparing for."

"So, do you want to watch the latest episodes of *The Crown*? I know you were waiting to watch the remaining episodes after the end of the exams, and now that that time is here. . ."

"Sure! Let's binge-watch it, you know how I hate leaving a show in the middle."

"I'll tell your dad to postpone the dodgems till tomorrow."

She flung herself onto the sofa and luxuriated in her thoughts. Tomorrow would be a new day with no stress. It would be like this for quite some time, but eventually another exam would come, and the cycle would repeat itself. What a terrible existence!

Her train of thought didn't

stop here. Was it really freedom one experienced at the end of their examinations? Or was it the illusion of freedom? In her mind this could easily be argued. What students experience is the illusion of freedom.

Freedom, to the world, is the state of not being imprisoned. But until the end of exams, she was held prisoner by her mind. After that there was some time to rest, but eventually she would be collared by her exams and held prisoner once again. In college and work, she would be a prisoner to social norms and to the standards of her university and then her employer.

Are we ever really free? As we progress in life from the heady days of college into those of the more sedate workplace, doesn't the cycle merely repeat itself? We keep chasing the possibility of freedom, when we don't really know what it means to be free, to rest. Maybe the illusion of freedom is all that exists and actual freedom is a figment of our imagination.

"Let's start, shall we?" her mother asked her, interrupting her train of thought as she offered her some popcorn. She decided not to be carried away by her thoughts down to a river with no end and instead drifted away into the world of kings and queens and seemingly unlimited freedom.



A Barrel of Hope or Despair?

Aditya Gupta *analyses what the American election results imply for Indian students wishing to apply to the US.*

On November 7th, Joseph Biden Jr beat outgoing President Donald Trump to become the president-designate of the United States of America. In what is an enviable political career spanning 36 years as a Senator followed by eight years as Vice-President, Biden has experienced what can be termed “the dream ride” in politics. Despite having troves of experience as both a Senator and VP, Biden now must take on a role of entirely different dimensions: his actions will make or break America. They will charter the course the nation takes while navigating increasingly choppy international and domestic waters. With increasing geopolitical tensions in the East, a stagnating economy on the home front, and a precarious international relations situation, Biden definitely has his work cut out for him for the next four years, especially with the additional burden of having to overcome the many shortcomings of his predecessor.

Amidst all this lies the question on the minds of countless Indians: what does a Biden administration mean for Indian students? Well, to begin with, Biden is going to be a welcome change to Trump’s brusque presidency. His stance will be more moderate toward and favourable for Indian students. To put it bluntly, Biden may disagree on most issues with Trump, but the one thing he will agree on is America’s relationship with India. Indian relations have remained a priority for America, irrespective of the president or party in power, and we can expect the same out of Biden too. This will bode especially well for Indian students as it entails more pro-India reforms on the immigration front.

For a student going to the States for further education, the Trump

presidency was a nightmare due to the barrage of restrictions and policies Trump had enforced, as well as those he was planning on imposing. His proposal to eliminate the “duration of stay” length determinant for student visas was just one of the many policies that was repelling students who sought an American education. Fortunately for such students, President-elect Biden aims not only to scrap these policies, but also to eliminate many such barricades in the American immigration laws for students. He recognizes the importance of international students for America’s continued growth and sustainability as a superpower.

This will bode especially well for Indian students as it entails more pro-India reforms on the immigration front

Furthermore, Biden is going to be a vast improvement on the work-based visa front. Under Trump, international students were finding it increasingly difficult to work in the States due to the uncertainty created by Trump’s brash take on policymaking and the restrictive nature of his immigration laws. Biden, on the other hand, plans on working with Congress to increase the number of visas awarded each year for permanent-employment immigration while considering macroeconomic conditions and exempting Ph.D graduates of STEM fields from any caps on such visas. This is one of the

many policies he has proposed to champion during his term apart from his flagship Unity scheme wherein he will extend support to the spouses and families of HB-1 visa holders by drafting a roadmap to re-unite them. Generally, he plans on restoring the immigration policies prevalent under the Obama Administration, plans that will uphold the rights of international students, allowing them to continue living and working in the United States after graduating.

The story, however, is not all roses, as there are still numerous hurdles on the road to this scenario. If President Trump takes it upon himself to implement any of his tentative policies before his term ends in January, Biden will have to navigate tedious regulations to rescind those policies, which is a painfully long-winded process. This could delay an effective implementation of Biden’s policies. This delay would not only impact all international students but also undermine the allure of an American education. International applications to the States have been on a steep decline these past few years while many of its allies have seen a rise in their applications.

To reverse the already widespread effects of the Trump administration, Biden will have to play his cards right, lest he get buried under a mountain of bureaucratic procedure and suffer the consequences of his predecessor’s actions. Biden will definitely have a tough ride ahead, what with weak party support and a Republican Senate, but the prospect of change is more than we could have hoped for three years ago.

Match The Following | Match the songs to their lyrics

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A. Tyler Herro | 1. <i>In the town where I was born lived a man who sailed to sea</i> |
| B. Lemonade | 2. <i>Take a sad song and make it better</i> |
| C. Come and Go | 3. <i>I walked in the corner with the body screaming dolo</i> |
| D. Roses | 4. <i>Two hundred degrees that's why they call me Mister Fahrenheit</i> |
| E. Fly Me to the Moon | 5. <i>Seasons change and our love went cold</i> |
| F. Circles | 6. <i>Sometimes we laugh and sometimes we cry, but I guess you know now</i> |
| G. Dynamite | 7. <i>You might forget your manners, you might refuse to stay</i> |
| H. Rockstar | 8. <i>Good times never seemed so good</i> |
| I. For the Night | 9. <i>King Kong, kick the drum, rolling on like a Rolling Stone</i> |
| J. Mood | 10. <i>I try to be everything that I can but sometimes I come out as being nothing</i> |
| K. Sweet Caroline | 11. <i>The ones that hate me the most look just like me</i> |
| L. My Girl | 12. <i>Burned some bridges, let the fires light the way</i> |
| M. Laugh Now Cry Later | 13. <i>Maybe if we think and wish and hope and pray it might come true</i> |
| N. Yellow Submarine | 14. <i>Stolen from Africa, brought to America, fighting on arrival, fighting for survival</i> |
| O. Buffalo Soldier | 15. <i>Talk of heaven on earth I've got more than my share</i> |
| P. Don't Stop Me Now | 16. <i>If I tell you once, won't tell you twice</i> |
| Q. Wouldn't it be Nice | 17. <i>You better let me go the day you need me</i> |
| R. Luck Be a Lady | 18. <i>We play games of love to avoid the depression</i> |
| S. Hey Jude | 19. <i>I've got sunshine on a cloudy day, when it's cold outside I've got the month of May</i> |
| T. What a Wonderful World | 20. <i>Fill my heart with song and let me sing forevermore</i> |

The Weekly wishes
everyone good luck
for the ongoing
exams.

Answers
1. N 2. S 3. D 4. P 5. F
6. M 7. R 8. K 9. G 10. C
11. A 12. B 13. Q 14. O 15. T
16. I 17. H 18. J 19. L 20. E

STUDY TIPS

- Stay Organised** - give yourself goals to finish each day. Plan what you are going to study and keep your notebooks and files in an organised manner, so that when you need something, it's readily available. Keep everything you may need on your desk.
- Try the Cornell Method of Taking Notes** - divide your page into two halves, and the top half into two columns. Write your notes down in a column on the right side of the page. In the left column, write down questions or prompts for your notes. To revise, cover your notes and try to recall them with the help of your prompts. In the bottom half of the page, write a summary of the content you're trying to learn.
- Make use of The Pomodoro Technique of Time Management** - break work down into intervals of 25-30 minutes separated by short breaks. Make a list of all the tasks you wish to accomplish in one interval, and keep checking them off as you finish. If you have less than 4 checkmarks, take a 3-5 minute break, if you have 4 or more, take a 10-15 minute break.

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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