

Established in 1936

The Doon School WEEKLY

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

February 6, 2021 | Issue No. 2593



CLARIFIED

Shorting in the stock market and the
GameStop share price rise
.....
Page 4

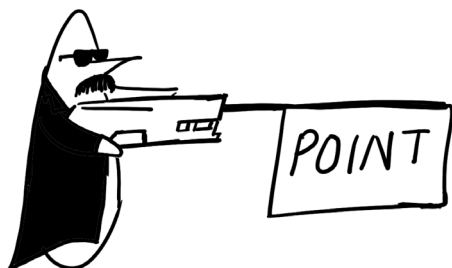
ARE YOU SEWER ABOUT THAT?

A story to be continued by members
of the community
.....
Pages 5

PROBLEM OF THE WEEK

Can you solve this week's maths
problem?
.....
Page 6

Should School Captain Candidates Be Allowed to Campaign?



Advaita Sood and Kabir Subbiah

Our batch - the batch of 2022 - was the first cohort of D-Formers that was permitted to vote in School Captain elections. Our inclusion stemmed from the idea that we would elect a candidate who furthered our own interests as juniors, though, for most of us, the decision we made was hardly an informed one. Rather, we would flock to whichever candidate we met first or the candidate from the same Main House as we were. As we entered the Main House and became more experienced, we started to get to know candidates better. In these final years, most of us have personal relationships with the candidates and can thus make more informed decisions. The issue with the voting system is that the number of people who know the candidates merely by name are approximately equal to the number of those who are familiar with them. This flaw in the election system needs to be fixed, and allowing students to campaign is an efficient solution to this issue.

By campaigning, we do not mean a free-for-all system characterized by sycophancy and coercion. Rather, we propose the creation of a School-sponsored platform for the widespread dissemination of each candidate's agenda, as well as why they think they should be School Captain. Essentially, School would facilitate debates between the candidates, not unlike the Presidential debates in the USA. As part of this exercise, candidates would have to deliver speeches that contain their vision for School and perhaps

even respond to criticisms and questions put forth by members of the audience, or perhaps even an appointed moderator. What is allowed and disallowed is a matter of discussion; regardless, such a platform would at least allow the entire community to gain an understanding of whom they are voting for.

Apart from the present lack of awareness, why else do we need a formal platform? At present, informal campaigning does exist. Some candidates go to Holding Houses and Main Houses to tell juniors about themselves and on some occasions, to outline their vision for School. However, since this process is not formal, the candidates are not being held accountable. No one is ensuring that they are not besmirching other candidates or that they are telling the truth. Though there is a low possibility that underhand tactics are employed, it is imperative to acknowledge that it is a possibility. Even if one were to argue that candidates do not slander one another, the question still remains: if some form of campaigning does exist, why not formalise the process?

The system we propose has secondary benefits as well. Of all students in School, it is the School Captain who must deliver the most speeches: he or she must speak at Founder's, at Prize Giving, and at the occasional Assembly. Furthermore, he or she will have to address students in large groups informally as well. A system of campaigning wherein each candidate must argue publicly for their election would allow each of them to rehearse their oratory skills, skills that will continually be put to use throughout their tenure. Moreover, by formalising the campaign process, candidates no longer have to plan secret visits to the Holding Houses and engage in discrete conversations with juniors. When these take place in the present scenario, they cause a hullabaloo and spur debates about the ethicality of such actions and the candidate is often branded a *scopat*. Thus, the

(Continued on the next page)

(Continued from the previous page)

introduction of an official platform such as the one proposed here may reduce the stigma surrounding scoping and informal campaigning.

The underlying principle of a democratic election is that voters exercise their right to vote by making an informed decision. Voting for a candidate without

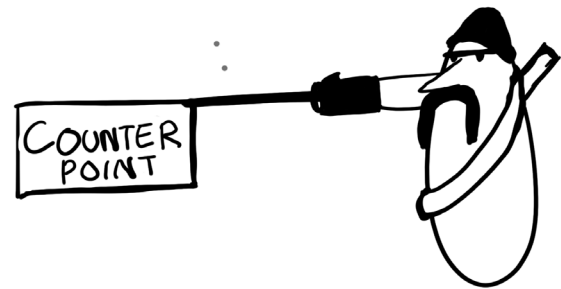
sufficient information is tantamount to deciding a leader by picking a name out of a bag. Campaigning enables all members of the School community the opportunity to make an informed decision, thus making elections a more inclusive and successful process.

The very idea of campaigning is built on the rationale that it allows voters to gain an insight into the views of the candidates contesting for a certain post. It is hoped that this will then lead people to cast their votes for the candidate who they personally believe will do justice to the position. However, are the unofficial campaigns carried out in Chandbagh by prospective school captains really based on such ideas?

Perhaps it is reasonable to say that a lot of juniors base their final votes on the rumours and gossip circulating within the student community. While the other side may state that it is this very lack of understanding that is reduced by campaigning, we need to keep in mind the authority seniors exercise over juniors while campaigning for a candidate. Juniors are often greatly swayed by the incessant campaigning preceding the elections, and eventually end up casting their votes based on hearsay. In fact, campaigning also encourages greater misconduct on the part of students who resort to all sorts of methods to unduly influence the results of the voting procedure.

Can it be said that students campaign for a particular candidate after truly contemplating whether or not the candidate will work towards bringing about positive changes to School? Or are the candidates' peers and juniors too busy comparing the benefits that they could personally derive by voting for a particular candidate? When seniors campaign, do they not price other factors like friendship and personal preference over leadership and responsibility? This entire process of campaigning manifests itself as a vicious reality in which seniors constantly nudge juniors to cast their votes for a particular individual. It is here that the purpose of campaigning is lost, as the excessive pressure causes juniors to cast their vote based on a third person's influence. The harsh truth is that this is the kind of campaigning that has always existed in our School and it does more harm than good.

There are always two aspects to any campaign – one based on promoting a candidate's abilities to lead the School, and the other where one candidate highlights the flaws in another. The latter is also referred to as 'negative campaigning,' which not only contributes to voter cynicism but is also seen by many as a major form of unfair manipulation, as it is used by a candidate to benefit at the expense of a competitor. Within the context of school politics, fair manipulation would be considered as an act



Aditya Jain

where a candidate persuades people based on his own abilities, instead of exploiting the flaws of his competitors. Furthermore, negative campaigning is also responsible for driving wedges amongst peers who are compelled to choose between closely knit people leading to the erosion of an initially strong relationship.

During the rather infamous 'Scoping Season', a viciously competitive environment is created within the School community which negatively impacts the existing relations between students and their peers, which, in turn, leads to campaigning, politicking, and sycophancy to further the students' own aspirations. It is these actions that create tensions, giving 'S-Form Second Term' the negative connotations it currently carries. The effect of both the aforementioned aspects of campaigning are many times solely dependent on the popularity of a particular student. This popularity often determines the amount of power and influence a candidate may wield over other students in School, which can prove to be extremely detrimental for all stakeholders involved as the entire institution would then bear the brunt of choosing a student unfit for the position.

Additionally, campaigning is misused several times to portray a misleading image – a candidate who may seem invested in bringing about positive reforms to School, might later become unwilling to take any effective action — which not only prevents the selection of a more able candidate, but also deprives the School of a rightful leader, thereby inflicting harm upon the entire institution.

As we conclude, it is important that we state clearly that only a minority of DoscOs campaign responsibly, while the larger chunk of the campaign for a candidate based on various dubious factors, making the practice of campaigning a pernicious one for School.

This Week in History

211 C.E.: The Roman Emperor Septimius Severus dies, leaving the Roman Empire in the hands of his two sons, Caracalla and Geta.

1884 C.E.: The first portion of the Oxford English Dictionary is published.

1901 C.E.: Queen Victoria's funeral takes place in St. George's Chapel, England.

1917 C.E.: US liner Housatonic is sunk by a German submarine. On the same day, the USA breaks off diplomatic relations with Germany.

1943 C.E.: The German 6th Army surrenders after the Battle of Stalingrad in a major turning point in World War II.

1951 C.E.: The US Army completes three tests for the Atom Bomb in the desert of Nevada.

1952 C.E.: King George VI dies, leaving Elizabeth II as the heir to the throne.

1971 C.E.: Idi Amin ousts Milton Obote and appoints himself President (dictator) of Uganda.

1989 C.E.: Japan mourns the death of their Emperor, Michinomiya Hirohito.

“

I enjoy seeing the average man winning for once

Redditor part of r/
Wallstreetbets, the Reddit thread
that caused the GameStop share
price to skyrocket

WRITING PROMPTS

We would like to remind you to submit your compositions based on the **writing prompts** published in **Issue 2592**. Submissions can be both in English and Hindi. The following are the prompts:

Juniors

Write a poem titled “Free”. The poem must be no longer than 20 lines.

Seniors

Write about a specific experience, event or instance in your life that changed you in some way. Your story should have a clear narrative arc (a beginning, a middle and an end) and should be driven by an internal or external conflict that eventually brings about some sort of a change in your outlook on life.

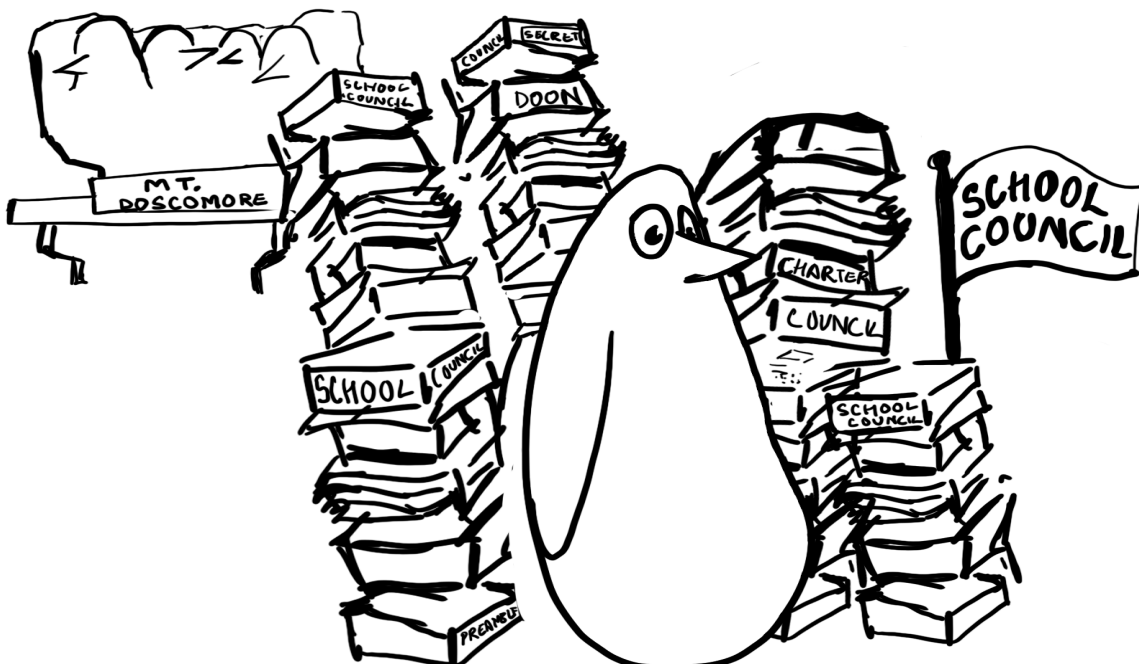
Around the World in 80 Words

A military coup ousted Myanmar's leader, Aung San Suu Kyi. Jeff Bezos announced his resignation from his position as CEO of Amazon. The US House of Representatives voted to remove Marjorie Taylor Greene from committees after she showed her support for violence against Democrats. Pop-star Rihanna and activist Greta Thunberg faced criticism after expressing support for the January 26 Farmers' Protests. Canada designated the Proud Boys a terrorist organization in an effort to crack down on "ideologically motivated violent extremism".



The New Order

Rohan Taneja



CLARIFIED



GameStop and Shorting in The Stock Market

Over the past two weeks, GameStop, an American video game, consumer electronics, and gaming merchandise retailer, has jumped over 1700% in share price. Though this may not yet mean much to any of you, it is important to note that it owes its massive rise not to itself or its accomplishments, but to a group of people on a popular website known as Reddit. To understand what has happened, we must begin at the basics.

In a stock market, there are various companies listed. These companies use the stock market to raise funds for their company. A share is essentially a percentage of a company. When the demand for one of these shares is higher than the supply for the share, its price will rise due to basic economic rules of supply and demand. Similarly, when the demand for the share is lower than the supply of it, the price of the share will fall.

To understand what happened and why it is so momentous, we must first look at how it happened. In trading and investing there is a strategy known as short selling. Short selling (also known as going short or shorting the market) means that you are selling the share to the market first and then attempting to buy it later at a lower price. If the price drops, you can buy back the stock at the lower price and make a profit on the difference. Essentially, it is betting that a stock will fall instead of rising.

Stocks with weak fundamental values and bases are often short sold by experienced fund managers and traders on Wall Street. This leads to their price falling to a point where they can be conveniently picked up again with a price which is more aligned with its actual value as a company.

What happened with GameStop was different. It broke the cycle and is known as an anomaly in the current markets. GameStop's situation was bad to say the least. It had begun the year by closing 450 stores. GameStop's competitors, in this case, are the digital games and e-retail products being bought by consumers online. Since GameStop felt inclined to adapt to changing times and take its operations digital, it fell behind and was on the verge of bankruptcy.

Until this anomaly, now known as the GameStop short squeeze, which began to occur on the 12th of January. The provocator, a man named Keith Gill, is a financial advisor for MassMutual and had been accumulating GameStop shares ever since it reached an all-time low of \$4.95. He thought that it could stage a turnaround and result in massive profits for him. On the 12th of January, as the administrator of a Reddit forum known as r/wallstreetbets, he and many others heard about the number of investment firms short selling GameStop. Approximately, 140% of the company's shares had been shorted. This essentially meant that the company's share price was projected to fall. With over thousands of traders on the platform, the Redditors decided to attempt to short squeeze the stock.

A short squeeze occurs when a stock or other asset jumps sharply, forcing traders who had bet that its price would fall to buy it in order to forestall even greater losses. Their scramble to buy only adds to the upward pressure on the stock's price. The traders catapulted the shares of the company from a mere \$17.35, to a gigantic \$80. This caused the firms who had short sold the stock to incur massive losses, and as a result, they were forced to buy back the shares sold to the market to close the loss resulting in a short squeeze.

The two companies which were mainly affected were Citron Capital and Melvin Capital. Citron Capital had shorted the stock at \$40, planning to buy back the shares at \$20 and thus make a profit of 100%. They ended up buying to cover their shares at \$80 which did not just propel the stock but forced them to incur a 200% loss. Melvin Capital on the other hand, was forced to incur a loss so high, that it had to file for bankruptcy.

These events have worried thousands of investors across the US and have shown the power of a forum or platform such as Reddit. Some are saying that this is just a one-off event, while others are now saying that these events might repeat themselves in the future. This remains to be seen. Capitalism just got taught a dark lesson by small investors!

(Sources on the next page)

Sources

- 1 20GameStop%20shares.&text=By%20Wednesday%2C%20January%2027%2C%20the,targeting%20other%20heavi
ly%2Dshorted%20stocks.
- 2 <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/27/business/gamestop-wall-street-bets.html>-
- 3 <https://edition.cnn.com/2021/01/27/investing/gamestop-reddit-stock/index.html>

| New Voices |

Are You Sewer About That?

Neelotpal

A Note from the Editor:

Dear Reader,

In this section, we invite you to write a continuation to this story. In each subsequent issue, we will publish a sequel to the version published in the issue that precedes it. We hope you enjoy this new section. Happy Writing!

Once upon a time, in a mysterious, desolate (save for the occasional teacher here and there) campus known as Chandbagh, a group of young adventurers stumbled across a huge pipe system. It was love at first sight: they could not stop thinking about it and planned to explore it the very next day. The following evening, they brought the necessary tools (pocket-knives for self-defence, torches to be able to see in the dark, cameras to record their journey and food like packed cakes for sustenance) and met at their rendezvous point behind a workshop. All of them were trembling with excitement and nervousness as they slid down an old, unused drain to enter the pipes. The darkness of the pipes seemed to urge them to run away. The fact that the pipes were in the middle of the Khud was no consolation, neither was the fact that there seemed to be no signs of life near it, except for two huge trees that had been there much before the pipes and made an impenetrable ceiling of leaves and branches that added a shade of green to the entrance. All of our young protagonists were experienced in the art of parkour, an art known by their parents (and most adults, to be honest) as “monkeying around”. This ability

gave them an inherent advantage over the meddling guards that were scattered all over the campus, since if they were to get chased down by guards, they could easily run deeper into the Khud and scale the metal fence behind the Masters’ houses and disappear amongst the noisy children there. As is the case in a lot of fantasy novels, our protagonists fell into four broad classes: the leader fell into the assassin class as he was the best at parkour, had been through the most fights, had obscure knowledge of pressure points that would not always work, and was quick to think on his feet. The next adventurer, the leader’s best friend, fell snugly into the ninja class. Being the nimblest of them all, he did not hit very hard but he hit very fast and therefore earned the moniker of “Viper”. Of the other two members of our group, one fell into the trap master class as he had gone hunting several times and knew how to make pits and snares, and the other fell into the berserker class as he would just not stop fighting once he started. The saying “It’s not the size of the dog in the fight, it’s the size of the fight in the dog” seemed as if it were made for him. Daringly, the leader of the pack entered the pipes, the dark passage ahead

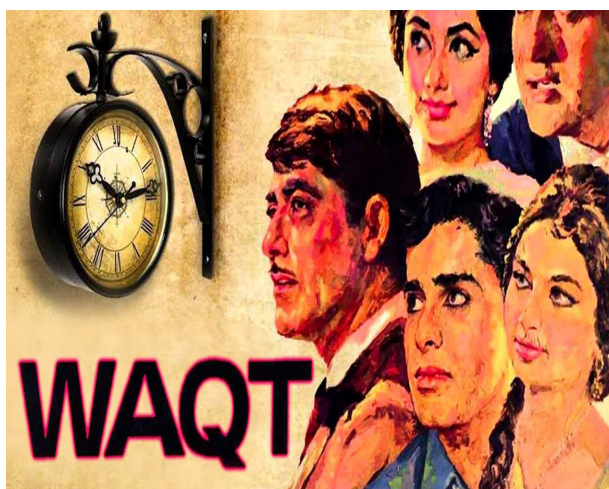
sending a chill down his spine. The rest of them reluctantly followed, regretting their decision. They crawled in a few feet but a lack of trust pervaded through each of them. When a suspected “sewer clown” was spotted, despite all their promises and oaths, the pipes turned into a battlefield, where it was every man for himself. After some pushing, shoving, swearing and screaming, they managed to get out unscathed. After a lot of conflict and confusion, the leader decided to re-enter first, followed by the rest of them. They began slowly crawling towards the first checkpoint, a wide, underground cement box, which had a grille on top of it so as to vaguely illuminate the otherwise dark and dismal scene. Upon reaching said checkpoint, the leader started to feel uneasy and claustrophobic. Seeing as he was in front of everyone, he would be the last one to get out if something were to go wrong in this damp, slippery hellhole of a tunnel. Suddenly, his claustrophobia got the better of him and, with one mighty push, he shoved aside his so-called “bros” and ran for the hills. The rest of his crew were (imaginably) very annoyed at him, and this lack of trust led to a fallout.

The Problem of The Week

- (a) The year 2021 is the concatenation of two consecutive integers, 20 and 21. It is interesting to note that 2021 is also the product of two consecutive prime numbers. Identify the two consecutive primes.
- (b) Which was the last year before 2021 that this happened and when is it going to happen after 2021?
- (c) Fill in the blanks, using basic arithmetical operations and exponents, in the following equation so it makes arithmetical sense: $10\ 9\ 8\ 7\ 6\ 5\ 4\ 3\ 2\ 1 = 2021$

Source: *The Guardian*

What Have You Been Watching During the Lockdown?



Waqt

Director : Guru Dutt

Released in 1965, *Waqt* is a great example of Indian cinema at its best. It portrays the uncertainty of life and how even the obvious is often invisible. It shows how an earthquake devastates a rich businessman's family and leaves all of them distraught. Years later, they face each other in a courtroom under the most undesirable circumstances. A gripping story of jealousy, greed, and loyalty, the movie does not give you a chance to leave your seat.

- Pranav Lohia

What Have You Been Reading During the Lockdown?



Ready Player One

Author : Ernest Cline

Ready Player One is an intriguing book set in the future, in which most of the Earth has lost all of its resources and the remaining humans struggle to survive. The story follows Wade Watts, a teenager who dreams of finding a fabled egg hidden in the greatest video game known to man: The Oasis. The Oasis is a videogame like no other, containing fascinating fictional worlds. I would recommend the book to anyone who loves Sci-Fi, videogames, and a good read.

-Zubin Kumar Dhar

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

Online Edition: www.doonschool.com/co-curricular/clubs-societies/publications/past-weeklies/ weekly@doonschool.com



©IPSS: All rights reserved. **Printed by:** The English Book Depot, 15 Rajpur Road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand-248001, India. **Published by:** Kamal Ahuja, The Doon School, Dehradun.

Editor-in-Chief: Advaita Sood **Editor:** Aryan Agarwal **Senior Editors:** Aditya Jain, Kabir Singh Bhai
Hindi Editor: Keshav Tiwari **Special Correspondents:** Ahan Jayakumar, Armaan Rathi, Saatvik Anand, Shreyan Mittal, Vihan Ranka **Correspondents:** Abhay Jain, Aryan Baruah, Yashovrat Nandan **Cartoonist:** Paras Agrawal, Rohan Taneja **Webmaster:** Kritika Jugran **Assistant Managers:** Arvindanabha Shukla, Priyanka Bhattacharya, Purnima Dutta **Technical Assistant:** KC Maurya