The monotony of class after class as we remain planted in a seat for hours on end was exasperating. The strict rigour of routine left no time for other activities. At a certain point, all classes seemed to blend into one another, creating a leaden day that seemed to go on forever. For some obscure reason, I felt like the lion’s share of my time was spent doing something I was largely apathetic about. My teacher struggled to get through to her students. It was visible they were taking notes, though they remained largely unresponsive. Online classes offered us more time to do other things while at home, time that could be spent studying or improving ourselves, and yet I still chose to spend it gaming or fooling around on the piano or doing all the things I could not do at School such as watching sitcoms till 12 AM and eating to my heart’s content.

I immediately reached for my phone, thinking I could scroll through my social media feed until the teacher was done explaining the work. Even there however, the feed was dominated by accounts of students worldwide talking about online school, expressing themselves through memes, news articles and interviews. Only then did the exact enormity of this pandemic strike me. Almost eight billion people, including me, were trapped at home, with no idea of what to do next. When would this end? What was I supposed to do for the next two months? The next six months? The next year? I had spent so much time focusing on what I could do, that I forgot what I could not do, and more importantly, what I should do.

I had so many goals. While half of them went down the drain the second we were made to go home, I now had time to focus on the other half. There were people halfway across the world who were struggling to cope with this situation, their problems only exacerbated by the worsening state of the world, and here I was scrolling through Reddit without the foggiest clue as to what my homework was.

(Continued on Page 2)
As I sit here, one year later: In hindsight, I know that I could have done better. Online classes do not seem to have an end in sight and that is okay because I know that I will have more time to improve myself and use my time better. While the spell of online class monotony does not seem to have broken, I hope I spend what time I have beyond my class hours productively.

Unfortunately, I have not yet understood what I should do - there is no one telling me what I should do, and what I should not. Nobody has told me how I should spend my time. In those moments, I realize the time we use is time that belongs to us and us only, and what we chose to do with it is our choice. We only have ourselves to check in on us.

One year later, I know now that there are a number of things I could have done differently. I have been rethinking my plans and expectations for the future. All this extra time has been the biggest motivator to me. This long year has taken away a lot of things and has reminded all of us that there is an asterisk on the future. However, even in that uncertainty, I have confidence that we can still do everything we want to do because we are gaining the time to lose.
Around the World in 80 Words

A train crash caused by the collapse of a subway in Mexico City killed 23 people. German authorities closed down a dark web child pornography site with over 400,000 members. Former US President Donald Trump launched a new “communications” platform after his social media ban earlier this year. The Indian Premier League Governing Council (IPL GC) and Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) in an emergency meeting unanimously decided to postpone the IPL 2021 season.

Sign of the Times

Rohan Taneja

To survive, you must tell stories

— Umberto Eco
The European Commission is charging Apple with antitrust violations with regard to its App Store policies which the EU has found to be anticompetitive. Following a complaint from the music streaming app Spotify in 2019, the EU investigated App Store policy and discovered that it broke a number of EU competition laws. The Commission pointed out that Apple enjoyed the “dominant position in the market for the distribution of music streaming apps through its App Store.”

Two rules in particular seem to be the points of contention: the mandatory use of Apple's in-app purchase system (for which Apple charges a 30 percent cut), and a rule forbidding app developers from informing users of other purchasing options outside of their apps. The EU claims that the 30 percent commission fee, or “Apple tax”, forces developers to raise prices for consumers which, in turn, reduces demand for the apps themselves and gives Apple's own apps an unfair advantage.

Companies like Netflix and Spotify have long opposed this so-called Apple tax, but the tech giant has maintained that this revenue contributes toward the costs of maintaining the App Store and enforcing its various content, privacy, and security policies. According to the Commission, “Most streaming providers passed this fee on to end-users by raising prices”, and “Apple’s rules distort competition in the market for music streaming services by raising the costs of competing music streaming app developers, which, in turn, "leads to higher prices for consumers for their in-app music subscriptions on IOS devices.”

These charges, to which Apple will have to respond within 12 weeks, are only the initial rounds of antitrust proceedings against the company. Beyond Apple’s App Store policies related solely to music streaming, the Commission plans on pursuing additional cases against Apple’s eBook policies, as well as the App Store in general. At a press conference, Margrethe Vestager, the European commissioner stated, “This is not the last case we will have when it comes to the App Store” in a press conference.

If found guilty, Apple may face fines up to 10 percent of its annual revenue, which, based on Apple’s annual revenue of $274.5 billion in 2020, amounts to $27 billion. Not only this, but Apple may even have to change its business model and App Store policies which will hurt the company far more in the long term.

Over the past year, Apple has made certain concessions in response to the pushback against its policies. For instance, the company now lets some video streaming apps bypass the Apple Store cut. Further, it has reduced its App Store commission rate to 15% for any developer that earns less than $1 million in annual revenue.

Platforms like Apple host thousands of other businesses. These are called gatekeeper businesses. They have been under the special scrutiny of the EU since they provide services essential to the functioning of millions of businesses, impacting billions of people around the world.

Like Apple, Amazon too has been under the EU scanner – last November, the company was charged with unfairly competing against merchants using its retail site.

As part of its efforts to regulate the functioning of such companies, the EU has proposed a bill that imposes new laws on gatekeeper businesses, one that could open the door to many other regulations which would go a long way in ensuring fair competition.

Sources
New Beginnings

Abhishek Shukla recounts his first 15 days as a Dosco

I have waited to become a Dosco for seven years. Over the past two weeks as a Dosco, I have had a lot of cheerful and exciting moments with my new teachers and friends, even though everything is online. After the first day, we were offered an amazing opportunity to participate in ‘make a short film’ workshop organized by Daly College. As soon as I heard about this workshop, I knew I just had to be a part of it because both filmmaking and photography interest me. So I joined in and was greeted by the perfect team for it. As I worked on this project, I went through the initial stages of being a student at Chandbagh, which were amazing. What I did not know, however, was that it was not at all easy to be a student here. As the third day rolled in, we were loaded with assignments. Though it was difficult to do them, the supportive teachers and friends helped us with these assignments. Despite this, my anxieties were only compounded when, after a week and some days, our filmmaking team was done with our short film and had to submit it, all the while wondering if the judges would consider our film for the various prizes the competition offered. Honestly, my team and I did not think our film was too bad! Still, it was a surprise when our film was accepted by the judges and they replied telling us that it was a brilliant film. These past 15 days have been the best days of my life and I am looking forward to spending not just the whole year, but also the next six years of my School life as a Dosco.

Spectacular Speeches

Aditya Agrawal recounts the recently held inter-house Hindi Declamation competition.

Declamation competitions are always very entertaining and when it comes to events as competitive as Inter-House competitions, Doscos sit on the edges of their seats. This year, School conducted the Inter-House Hindi Declamation on Tuesday, April 20. It was heartening to see participants not only recite the writings by famous authors such as Munshi Premchand, but also displayed the courage to present their own speeches in front of the judges. The audience witnessed an impressive display of talent covering various topics such as ‘Experience’ (Anubhav), ‘Lessons of Life’ and ‘A Bus Journey’.

In the first round of self-written pieces, participants from Oberoi House and Hyderabad House spoke about their experiences and expressed thought-provoking insights while also providing fantastic and very relatable examples about the various aspects of people’s lives. For instance, Kashmir House employed an interesting format to express their thoughts: a speech written in the format of a letter to a father. The letter recounted a fictional bus journey that made the audience laugh but also urged them to ponder over important topics such as the purpose of war, animal cruelty, and pollution.

In the second round, which consisted of the recitation of pre-written pieces, the Hyderabad House contestant spoke about the perks of falling sick and how he, being a healthy person, wished to fall sick so that he would become the centre of the world when it came to his friends and family. Meanwhile, the Tata House speaker presented an intriguing topic which looked at dogs from a societal perspective. The speaker, while talking about a middle-class dog, started identifying features of class inequalities that exist within human societies, things that can be viewed by observing dogs. Oberoi House recited a beautiful write up by Dr. Arvindanabha Shuka which transported the audience back to the days of Mr. John Martyn. Jaipur House also put up a brilliant show as the participant recited the famous “Bade Bhai Sahib” by Premchand, driving the audience not only to laughter in moments of irony, but also to reflect on topics such as the faults within the education system.

After the competition, words of admiration and encouragement were spoken by the Headmaster, who also announced the individual and House positions. This being my first declamation competition, I was awestruck by the level of participation and excitement that the Inter House Hindi Declamation Competition generated. The participants had a sense of confidence in the way they carried themselves and boldly recited their pieces, something that is unusual for students of their age. All in all, the event was a resounding success, and I am already looking forward to the one next year!
Problem of the Week

\[ D_M(p) = \{ x \in M \mid d(x, p) < \text{\textsuperscript{\textcircled{\large{\text{\textbullet}}}} \} \} \]

What Have You Been Reading During The Lockdown

**Looking for Alaska (13 +)**
Author: John Green

*Looking For Alaska* follows the life of Miles Halter as he decides to leave his uneventful life in Florida to “seek a Great Perhaps” at Culver Creek, a boarding school in Alabama where he meets Takumi, Alaska Young and the poverty-soaked genius ‘The Colonel’. Their year at Culver Creek is studded with pranks with ‘The Colonel’ as the military styled planner and Alaska as the larger-than-life creative force. Life seems quite normal until eventually, tragedy strikes. A book of mystery, depth, love and the sense of living on the edge, it is immensely captivating and a must-read for all!

- Anshul Khakhar

What Have You Been Watching During The Lockdown

**Brooklyn 99 (14 +)**
Director: Claire Scanlon

*Brooklyn 99* is a Netflix series which revolves around detective Jake Peralta and his lovable squad working at the 99th police precinct in Brooklyn. Things change as the squad gets the new, no-nonsense, stern commanding officer Capt. Raymond Holt, forcing the entire precinct to mature. The audience also sees a dramatic change in the relationships between squad members and how they stand with each other through thick and thin and at the end of the day, call themselves a family.

- Aditya Agrawal

Which movies do these signs depict?

1. *The Matrix*
2. *Signs*
3. *The Fireball*
4. *Duck Soup*

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