PROCRASTINATE MUCH?	**CLARIFIED**	**DOONSPEAK**
A creative piece on the process of procrastination.	A report on the recent unrest in South Africa.	Doscos detail their social service work.
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Flipped Normals

Svanik Garg *and* **Rohan Taneja** *reflect on their learnings after teaching a series of workshops.*

A little over a year ago, we were exploring the intricacies of 'Blender', a software we knew nothing about. At the time, it never occurred to us that over the summer we would teach 25 Juniors how to use it. After all, our own limited knowledge of the application was solely the result of watching countless YouTube videos and aimless exploration. So, when a Senior suggested that we conduct a workshop to teach others how to use Blender, we were sceptical. We knew, however, that 3D design would generate great interest in School and students would benefit from it. Therefore, with a clear vision of what we would teach, we approached the aforementioned Senior for guidance and a teacher for permission and even before we knew it, our roles were reversed: we became teachers.

Once you develop a good understanding of a particular skill, your confidence lets you believe that teaching it is rather easy. However, it is anything but that. When we first decided to set up such a workshop, we never anticipated the problems we would face. The first issue was that we were in uncharted territory. Without any experience, we had to teach 25 students who had no prior knowledge of the subject. The overwhelming response to our course invite accompanied by weeks of planning significantly increased the expectations. In fact, during the planning stage, we wanted to accept all the students who registered for it. However, we soon realized that teaching even half that number was a mammoth task. As the sessions began, we were intimidated by the size of the class alone - 25 students - and our fears only increased when we realized that we were the ones who had to conduct the session.

We were nervous because we were unclear on how to deliver our content. This is because initially, we focused only on developing coursework and building a session plan to help our students. We did not structure and solidify the ideas we would actually demonstrate to the students. We only knew that we did not want to create a cliched, example-based course often seen in YouTube tutorials for 3D design. These tutorials focus on creating very specific objects with a set of tools rather than explaining scenarios in which those tools may come in handy. They are made for the masses, and therefore do not focus on demographics like ours. Therefore, we started afresh with a different approach. Given that our course was for complete beginners, we wanted to employ strategies that we, as former learners, would have liked and found easy to grasp. Our own struggles in learning helped us understand what recorded tutorials lack, and

our main aim was to fill the gaps such tutorials left. And so, with our newfound clarity, we began to demonstrate certain tools and used those tools in live examples in our sessions with the students. Not only did they respond well to this technique, doubt-solving sessions became easier as well.

Once the sessions gathered pace, we acclimatised to the concept of teaching and slowly began to enjoy the whole experience. Another important aspect of teaching we learned was decision-making. When you are a teacher, you make decisions during every single moment of your lesson. These decisions are based on your intuition. In the context of our workshop, 3D applications have many ways of achieving the same result. However, as we explained the various tools, we had to determine which tools would be appropriate for our students' level as well as which ones would help them after the sessions ended. This was one aspect of the course which tested our understanding of both the software and our students. Towards the end we began to understand, to some extent, the mental strain of constantly having to gauge your students' knowledge while applying your own to teach.

Another challenge was having two people teach the workshop. Co-teaching, apart from

(Continued from Page 1)

meticulous coordination, meant that each of us had to get accustomed to occasional interruptions by the other during the sessions. The most important insight we gained in this regard was that we both had different things to offer and therefore had to find a middle path that used both our skills to the fullest. This became a great deal easier when we applied a specific teaching method: one of us would present our screen and work with the software while the other would narrate the whole process, addressing any questions from the chat. This two-pronged teaching method helped us coordinate during lessons, allowing for minimal latency and disturbance. It also limited the aforementioned awkward situations in which we would interrupt one another in an attempt to teach the same concept. Also, since there were two of us, if one of us got disconnected, the other could continue the lesson, overcoming a significant challenge in online teaching. We learned that co-teaching is beneficial only when there is good synergy between the two teachers; otherwise, it can get quite tough on the students. Fortunately, it worked out well for us!

Having figured out the teaching method, we set out to tackle assignments. Throughout the workshop we gave various assignments to help our students practice their skills. Only when we looked at it from a teacher's perspective did we truly understand how assignments play a critical role in the development of a particular skill, especially when it is related to an art form such as 3D. Regular assignments also helped us assess the students' progress and gave us an understanding of what worked in our teaching. We also tried to provide constructive feedback based on each assignment, which we hope helped the students understand their weaknesses and areas for improvement. After the workshop was over, we gave an assessment task along the lines of an examination to assess the students' skills, while assessing our own in the process.

Throughout the process, we were greatly aided by the 'Google ecosystem' because it helped the overall flow of the class. Given the circumstances, we knew that many students would not be able to attend some of the sessions. It was in such cases that tools like 'record' and Google Classroom were extremely helpful in ensuring that the class progressed despite any absences.

That said, teaching online does have its disadvantages, especially when two of us were to teach the same concepts and software. For instance, on multiple occasions, we would leave the Meet due to network issues without even realizing it, and many students would also face the same problem. It was especially difficult with Blender, as students had to be thorough with all the concepts in the software for it to be executed properly.

The overall experience of the workshop is one we will never forget. We came across the various nuances of teaching, expanded our knowledge of the software, but most importantly, developed a great deal of respect for our teachers and their ability to teach through all the difficulties they face, especially on an online platform. It was an eye-opening experience, one we would not miss out on if the opportunity presented itself again. Finally, we hope we have been successful in making a difference by helping our students learn a new skill.

Procrastinate Much?

Vivaan Sood

Procrastination has been bothering me for quite some time, though I haven't fully understood why. I enjoy being productive because it gives me satisfaction and a sense of accomplishment. I am comforted, also, by the knowledge that I will not have to work as much tomorrow. However, my procrastination leads to the exact opposite. For instance, the other day I found myself reading an entire Wikipedia page on the amazing world of wood production. In this manner, I often descend into a rabbit hole of endless articles, videos, stories, facts, opinions, etc. Why is it that I exhibit these juxtaposing characteristics?

To answer this question, I first sought to understand procrastination at its core. In my mind, procrastination is the act of avoiding hard work by doing something easier and enjoyable. In the case of the Wikipedia page, I only enjoy reading it because it is the easier alternative to solving 20 quadratic equations. I believe that our minds do not actually like to spend time reading hundreds of internet pages, but rather we would like to believe we enjoy it simply because it is relatively easy. I highly doubt that if I was formally instructed to read an entire Wikipedia page, I would actually do it.

Having come to this conclusion, I asked myself this - if everybody gets hard work, then why am I the only one at the mercy of procrastination? I learnt, then, that I was not alone. Through several conversations with friends, I learned that everybody experiences the desire to procrastinate. Some seemed to flaunt it, while others prided themselves on their willpower

This Week in History

1886 C.E.: Hungarian piano virtuoso and composer Franz Liszt plays the piano for the last time at a concert in Luxembourg.
1903 C.E.: French bicyclist Maurice Garin wins the first Tour de France.
1903 C.E.: Ford Motor Company sells its first automobile, the Ford Model A.
1911: American archaeologist Hiram Bingham discovers the ruins of Machu Picchu in Peru.
1969 C.E.: The Eagle Lunar landing module of the Apollo 11 space ship carrying U.S. astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin lands on the Moon.
1983 C.E.: The world's lowest temperature, -89.2 °C, is recorded at Vostok Station, Antarctica.
1992 C.E.: Colombian drug trafficker Pablo Escobar escapes from police custody
2011 C.E.: British singer-songwriter Amy Winehouse dies from alcohol poisoning at the age of 27.

BLEEDING BLUE

Zuber Chawla, Inderveer Oberoi and Rishabh Goyal were awarded the **Game's Blazer.**

Well done!

"

Persons, who know that, that they will not be able to rest along the way when they took a path, will never get tired.

———

Mustafa Kemal

UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

Has she opened the door for the Google Meet?
Arjun Mitra, taking MS Windows to another level.
Why are only my class having 6 math schools a week?
Kritin Goel, eager beaver.
English classes is so fun!
Divyaansh Surana, share some energy with Kritin.

THE WHO?

Who is Joaquín Rafael Bottom?

Aaron Fareed: An actor
Vir Mehta: A singer
Siddhant Srivastava: An Orchestra Conductor
Ahan Jayakumar: A Drummer

Joaquín Rafael Bottom, or **Joaquin Phoenix**, is an **American actor**, and **producer**. He is known for movies such as **'Gladiator'** and **'Her'**, but is best known for his role as Arthur Fleck in the movie **'Joker'**, for which he won the **Academy Award** for the **Best Actor in a Leading Role**.
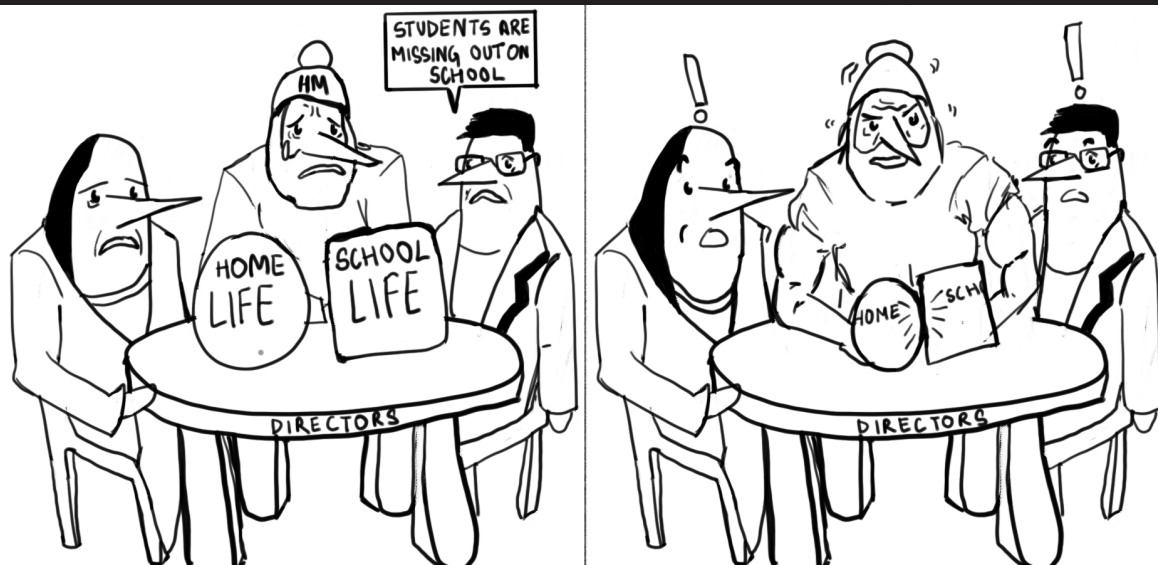

Around the World in 80 Words

A petition was filed in the Supreme Court demanding that a Special Investigation Team look into allegations that the Indian Government used the Israeli software Pegasus Spyware. French President Emmanuel Macron called a National Security meeting to discuss the Pegasus spyware. Left-wing politician Pedro Castillo was appointed the President of Peru. The Perseverance Mars Rover acquired its first sample of Martian rock, to be brought back to Earth in future missions. The Milwaukee Bucks won the 2020-21 NBA Championship.

Dosco Doodle

Not A Great Fit
Rohan Taneja

CLARIFIED

South Africa Riots

Violence broke out in South Africa on July 8 when the country's former president and freedom fighter, Jacob Zuma, was arrested and jailed on charges of contempt of court. He was charged for failing to attend a hearing on allegations of corruption during his presidency between 2009 to 2018. Zuma faces charges of racketeering (fraudulent business dealings) and money laundering that relate to a £2 billion military deal struck when he was president. The former president is accused of receiving 500,000 rand ($34,000) annually from the French arms company Thales in exchange for protecting the company from an investigation into the deal.

In response to his arrest, Zuma's supporters began sporadic protests on July 8, denying the allegations of corruption and maintaining that he is "the victim of a witch-hunt orchestrated by political opponents". The protests quickly turned into hooliganism, rioting and violence, much of which does not seem to be linked to any political motive. In the initial days, police and government figures put the number of people killed in the violence at over 100 lives, and many more injured. Mobs targeted shopping malls, factories and warehouses. Many of these attacks took place in impoverished townships whose residents have already been hit hard by three brutal waves of Covid-19. Meanwhile, looting continued unabated for a week as rioters ransacked and burned down buildings in the South African provinces of KwaZulu-Natal, the home state of former President Zuma and the epicentre for the violence, as well as Gauteng, the country's economic powerhouse.

Furthermore, South Africa's vaccine rollout and medical operations have been affected by these riots, which caused the vaccine centres in KwaZulu Natal and Gauteng to shut down for public safety. Medical supplies and emergency services have also been impacted due to routes being blocked or deemed too dangerous. Hospitals and clinics said that staff shortages due to the danger were making it difficult to care for patients. Officials also warned that the mass gatherings may drive a new surge in infections.

While the outnumbered police are still working to control the riots, the South African government has refused to declare a state of emergency, asserting that doing so would only provoke Zuma and his supporters. However, it has promised to deploy up to 25,000 troops to bring the protesters' violence under control. Besides official forces, certain members of the KwaZulu-Natal communities banded together to form vigilante groups and defend their areas. The prosecuting authority of South Africa has also been instructed to not grant bail to those caught for looting and rioting, most of whom have been arrested on grounds of public violence and economic sabotage. Residents from other provinces have been sending food and other essentials to KwaZulu-Natal, where some communities were cut off from supplies due to roadblocks and lockdowns. President Cyril Ramphosa visited affected communities in KwaZulu-Natal and thanked its residents for standing up in self-defense and in defence of democracy. Throughout the ordeal, he maintained that he wouldn't allow "anarchy" and "mayhem" to triumph.

The South African government revised the number of casualties suffered as a result of the violence in its latest communique, putting the figure at over 300. However, the situational violence in most parts of Gauteng has abated as the region grows calmer. Meanwhile, Zuma's trial, which was halted due to the protests, is set to resume on August 10.

Sources

1   https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jul/16/enemies-of-democracy-behind-south-africa-protests-says
         president-ramaphosa
2   https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-07-17/south-africa-mops-up-after-violent-protests-shake-the-
         nation

and determination. Of course, I myself am not proud of being a pathological procrastinator, though it is reassuring to know that there are others like me.

Finally, I wondered, how has the brilliant human mind, the mind that led to the creation of everything from the wheel, bread, guns to nuclear weapons and spaceships, been able to survive procrastination? If everybody suffers from it, then how have we been able to prevent it from hindering our progress? Is sheer willpower stronger than our proclivity for procrastination? Or conversely, was procrastination contrived by the human mind to stave off this determination in each of us? Is there some sort of survival instinct in us that prevented us from being too ambitious and risking our lives during prehistoric times, and has that instinct now taken the form of procrastination? I don't know any of these answers. Maybe I should read those Wikipedia pages.

What social service work did you do over the summer break?

This summer, the student wing of the Hum Bhi NGO, comprising 25 volunteers undertook various surveys and initiatives under my leadership. Our organisation fostered a collaboration with Youth Action Hubs, an initiative of the UNCTAD. Our volunteers were educated about various stereotypes and the methods to combat such typecasting, so that they could further pass on their learning to the larger community. Our latest and most successful initiative entailed a three-day workshop at Bal Bhavan, a local orphanage. We organised a fun and interactive dance lesson with the children, which was followed by a competition. The event was also covered by a local newspaper. Its success inspired and prompted me to work more diligently towards our cause, which is to empower India's youth by breaking out of stereotypes and the proclivity to typecast.

- Ruhaan Goel

During the summer vacations, I facilitated a Covid relief fund program for the Abhedya Education and Welfare Society, Bhopal, an NGO that works for the welfare of village folk around the region.. Donations were made by several DSOBS members from all around Madhya Pradesh, who were gracious enough to fund the entire project. All in all, the donation included medical kits enough for 100 people, sanitary equipment such as masks, sanitisers and soap, and rations such as dal, rice, wheat and spices for the families. Helping organise this was a very fulfilling experience, and I would like to thank all those who helped make it possible.

- Siddhant Srivastava

Deeply affected by the oxygen shortage crisis in Uttarakhand, I decided to reach out to all organisations which could possibly help. To my surprise I was able to partner with international organisations like Care4Cause, Canada to help give oxygen concentrators to the hospitals in the mountainous district of Garwhal. Sometime in the middle of June, I travelled with about eight oxygen concentrators to give to the health centres in the region. Moving beyond the practical implication of the device, I would like to believe that I had a greater impact on people's mindset. All the hours of working on this helped me grow to be a part of something greater than myself

- Satvik Petwal

During these summer holidays, I was a part of the Global Social Leaders competition, and led a team from School, called Project Recharge. The competition aims to incentivize students to create projects based on the United Nations sustainable development goals. For our part, we created 2 projects: A solar lamp and a dynamo that generates electric energy from gym cycles. During the process of making these projects, I gained a better understanding of the intrinsic value of making an idea a reality, especially a product, and the skills to lead a team effectively. Along with my team, we are working to implement our projects beyond the competition, and hopefully we will have a beneficial impact on the world.

- Pranav Lohia

Problem of the Week

Stephanie has invited her friends Rowan and Colleen to her home. They are all perfectly logical. She tells them that she has hidden a surprise under one of the grey squares. Stephanie has privately told Rowan the row number of the surprise and Colleen the column letter of the surprise, and everyone is aware of this. The following conversation ensues:

Rowan: I don't know where the surprise is, but I also know that Colleen doesn't know.
Colleen: Yes, indeed, at first I didn't know the location of the surprise. But now I know where it is.
Rowan: In that case, I now also know where it must be.

Where is the surprise?

Source: https://www.theguardian.com/science/2021/jul/12/did-you-solve-it-oxford-university-admissions-questions

What Have You Been Reading During The Lockdown

The Martian
Author: Andy Weir

The Martian follows the story of American astronaut Mark Watney, who is abandoned by his crewmates when they think he is dead. It portrays how he survives for over a year on Mars by farming potatoes for food, and how he communicates with Earth via the broken Pathfinder Rover to get rescued. The book is designed mostly as a series of log entries detailing what he did on a particular day, with occasional interjections showing the work of the NASA scientists who rescued him from Mars. This book has suspense, excitement and "moments of terror" in which the protagonist proclaims that his idea was bad and that each entry may well be his last one. The book is immensely captivating and is a must-read for all.

- **Aradhya Jain**

What Have You Been Watching During The Lockdown

Shooter (14 +)
Director: Antoine Fuqua

This action-thriller follows a rather interesting and unique story and is adapted from the novel "Point of Impact" by Stephen Hunter. Bob Lee Swagger, a former Marine Corps sniper, is forced back into action when his former commanding officer asks him to scout for potential threats during the American President's visit to the Ukranian President. However, when the Ukranian President is shot by a sniper, Bob Lee becomes the prime suspect. He must go on the run to protect his family and prove his innocence. This series is full of suspense and has an action packed theme. All in all, if you are a fan of action and intrigue, I would recommend this movie.

- **Samarveer Bisen**