

Established in 1936

# The Doon School WEEKLY

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

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## DOONSPEAK

Students in A Form talk about the SAG board examinations.

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A collection of three intertwining short stories.

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## From The Editor's Desk

Ahan Jayakumar

I have sat here for hours on end now, trying to think of the perfect way to start this Editorial. Going through the Editorials of Senior Board Members past, looking for inspiration has served me no purpose: I am no better off than when I started, for I have just realised what big shoes have been left behind for me to fill. Dear reader, I beg for your forgiveness and request your help for I must move on. Please bring yourself to imagine an introduction fitting of a Senior Board Member, for I am currently unable to.

As I move, let me now talk to you about the absolute, the indisputable. The *Weekly* is an institution that has stood the test of time and circumstance: our current situation being a prime example. In recent times, as one of my predecessors aptly put it, the continuum of a printed *Weekly* was broken by the oncoming of the pandemic, but life must go on, and so did we. Unfortunately because of that, there are many in School who have not even held a physical copy in their hands. They have not experienced the buzz in the CDH on a Saturday morning as the issue is being distributed. Being online since their early, or even the first day, they aren't fully aware of what the *Weekly's* function is in today's context. This was made evident

when Armaan and I conducted interviews for prospective Board members. As a member of the Senior Board, nay of the Board in general, it is my obligation to help them.

I'd like to echo what another one of my predecessors had said, stating that any Dosco with an InDesign subscription and a printer can come out with an issue on a weekly basis, but it will just not have the same impact as the *Weekly*. So, what then is the differentiating factor? It is not the painstaking planning undertaken by the Senior Board to come up with a page plan that they feel readers will enjoy, nor is the effort that the rest of the Board puts in to come out with an issue every Saturday, for we are merely, like he said, its custodians. It is you, dear reader, who makes the *Weekly* special.

Your contributions, whether you realise it or not, all play a pivotal role in the release of each issue. The feedback you provide to your fellow batchmates on the Board, either in the form of what could be done better, or your thoughts on an article that has been printed, shows that you have an affection for the publication because you care enough to go through it. Similarly, all the Doscos that write articles, creatives, poems,

*et cetera* do so because they feel a sense of pride as they are able to directly contribute to the issue (not just because they get to see their names being published). The *Weekly* is able to function because of the reciprocative nature of the relationship between reader and writer, but what is this so called "function".

I believe that by now, you must yourself have been able to arrive at this conclusion, but just in case you have not, let me reiterate. The *Weekly* is not a newspaper where you can catch yourself up with the latest, or a pamphlet where you can find creative pieces, but rather a voice. It is a culmination of the efforts of the entire School community that broadcasts the content presented to anyone willing to read it. It is (and forgive the cliché) a platform for dialogue and debate, a medium of expression and last, but by no means the least, a source of Saturday morning entertainment.

For a brief period earlier, I had spoken about what makes the *Weekly* special. However, an often forgotten aspect of the same is when people feel discouraged that the pieces they so thoughtfully sent to the *Weekly* mail have not been published, they too contribute in making the *Weekly* special. This is simply because they have placed

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it on such a pedestal that they feel they must put in some effort to showcase their work on such a level. The harsh truth however is that we cannot print every single piece that is sent to us, and this has unfortunately resulted in the creation of an ‘Elitist Tag’ for the publication. This could not be further from the truth, and in this context, I would like to narrate a conversation I had with a junior. I had asked him what he believes the *Weekly* is, and the response I got was that much like a democracy, it is by the people, for the people and of the people. I would just like to broadcast this very message to all of you.

There are plenty of people out there who have the will to write, and to them I have this to say: writing is hard, and writing

something impactful is even harder, but no good things in life ever come easy. Do not let an absence of recognition deter you from writing. The human psyche is like a pressure cooker: every once in a while, you need to blow off some steam, and I know that it is not commonplace for teenagers to express themselves freely in front of others. Writing thus becomes a perfectly viable avenue for you to do so. I am not trying to imply that every time you write, you must do so for the *Weekly*, sometimes just do it for yourself, but just remember, one facet of our job is to facilitate your growth as a writer, so do not hesitate to reach out for help, for we are always here, all 20 something of us on the Board. Like Seamus Heaney said “if you have the words, there’s always a

chance you’ll find a way”.

Having said all that I have said so far, I believe I now finally have an introduction to my Editorial, albeit imperfect, but it must suffice. For this is truly what I wanted to express: for over 85 years, the *Weekly* has stood the test of time and circumstance. From seeing the Indian Independence Movement, to the Second World War, and now a pandemic, and a lot more in between, the *Weekly* has seldom failed to present you with an issue. Now my fellow Senior Board members and I must, for this brief period of time carry on its legacy, so please do be with us over the course of the following year as we scramble in our attempt to do so.

# What is your opinion on SAG?

*A Formers share their opinions on the cancellation of the IGCSE board examinations and the new system in its place.*

**Having exams in May-June would have been problematic as it would have disturbed the School calendar...**

Due to the dynamic nature of the situation we are in, SAGs were the best option available. Having exams in May-June would have been problematic as it would have disturbed the School calendar, S-form orientation, and disrupted our plans for the summer vacation. Furthermore, there is no guarantee that the situation will be safe enough for the exams to be conducted. With an already uncertain future ahead of us, I feel that School’s decision has definitely reduced some of the uncertainty and has also given us some time to focus on other important aspects of our student life.

**- Gursanjan Singh**

There will always be two sides to this argument, personally, I feel that SAG is unfair. This is because we have studied a curriculum for two years now and it seems unfair to accept the fact that boards will not take place. Boards are the platform through which we get the chance to execute the skills that we have acquired over these two years, and having SAG is unfair because the marks that we get are just like the predicted grades and not based on our actual performance. SAG is unfair to those who have worked hard for two years continuously, attempting to achieve world toppers or country toppers in a specific subject. Although the knowledge we have gained through IGCSE will be helpful for our higher studies, we are missing out on the experience. It will definitely affect our transcripts when we apply to colleges because many schools across the country are having their boards as scheduled and we are considered as the unlucky bunch of students.

**- Krishay Sutodia**

# This Week in History

**146 BCE:** The Third Punic War ends, culminating in the final destruction of Carthage.

**1789 CE:** George Washington is elected to serve as the first U.S. president by a unanimous vote in the first Electoral College.

**1840 CE:** Maori tribes of New Zealand sign the Treaty of Waitangi with Great Britain.

**1919 CE:** German National Assembly, formed in 1918, met to outline the features of the Weimar constitution.

**1943 CE:** The Battle of Stalingrad ends with the surrender of German troops to the Soviets.

**1952 CE:** Queen Elizabeth II ascends the throne of the United Kingdom, following the death of her father, King George VI.

**1971 CE:** Idi Amin declares himself President of Uganda, beginning a regime infamous for its brutality.

**1990 CE:** South African President F.W. De Klerk lifts the 30-year ban on the African National Congress, resulting in Nelson Mandela’s release from prison

**1999 CE:** Abdullah II becomes King of Jordan.

**2003 CE:** The Space Shuttle Columbia breaks up catastrophically, during its return to Earth from the orbit.

“

No man’s knowledge here can go beyond his experience

John Locke

## UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

*He did the ball around the net one time and I loved it.*  
**Agniv Achariya**, football superfan.

*Comfortable clothes make you weak.*  
**Advay Gupta**, alpha male.

# THE WHO?

Who is Susan Alexandra Weaver?

**Aditya Gondalia:** A Barista  
**Aadi Kandle:** An Actress  
**Jinay Borana:** A Singer

**Susan Alexandra “Sigourney” Weaver** is an American actress. She has received several awards such as a **British Academy Film Award, two Golden Globe Awards and nominations for three Academy Awards.** She has starred in films such as **“Alien”, “Ghostbusters”(1984), and “Avatar”.** She has done extensive voiceover work, and has also worked in several documentaries.

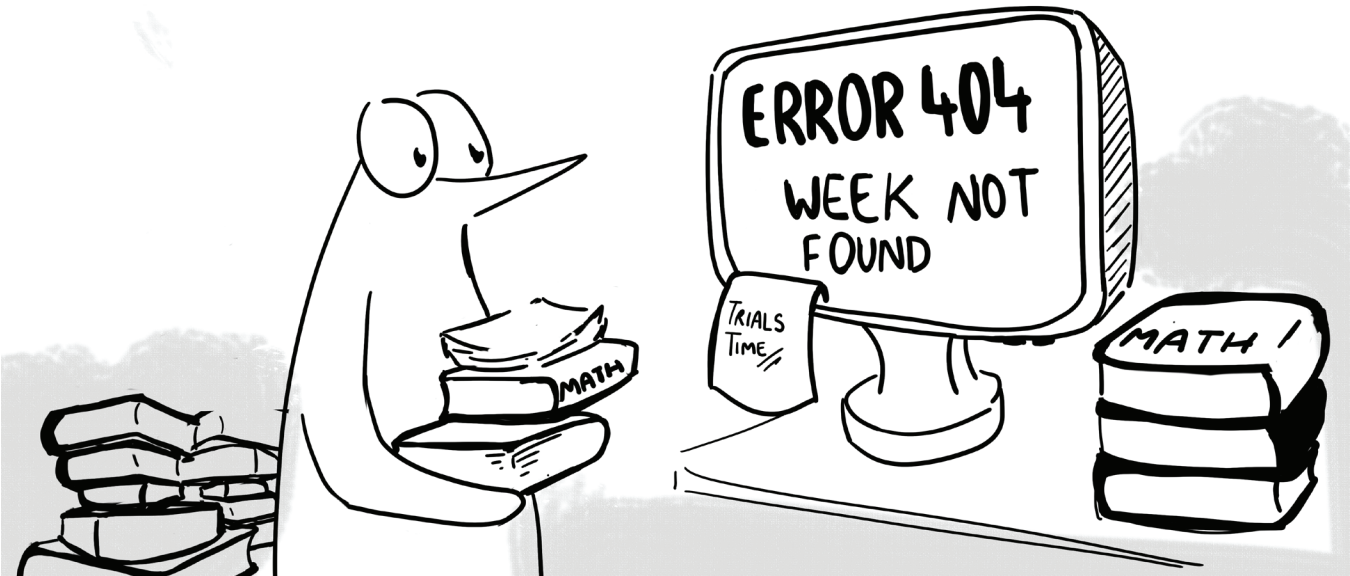
## Around the World in 80 Words

The Indian government proposed a 30 per cent tax on NFT income and announced plans to launch a cryptocurrency. European leaders allied with Ukraine in a standoff against Russia, while the United States demanded Russian de-escalation. The NGO Amnesty International accused Israel of imposing ‘apartheid’ on Palestinians. The military junta in Burkina Faso made statements to restore the country’s constitution after economic sanctions were imposed by the African Union. Rafael Nadal beat Daniil Medvedev in the final match of the Australian Open.

Do Sco Doodle

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Roban Taneja





# Pulp Rendezvous

Aryan Baruah

E1

The *Young Man* has a working-class English accent and like his fellow countrymen, smokes cigarettes like they're going out of style. Everything he does contradicts something he did. His face remains still as he checks his pocket-watch, he sits in a diner yet refuses coffee, his eyes are covered by black glasses but you can still tell that he isn't here for the food. It is in his manner, his posture, the singular golden chain around his neck, the black leather coat in the Californian summer.

The bell rings as the door opens and a young, blond-haired surfer with a yellow "Kahuna!" T-Shirt walks into the diner. Nobody looks up to look at him, except the *Young Man*. You can tell that "Kahuna!", is a regular at the diner by the way the manager pours him his coffee before he has even sat down and the way he is smiled at by the waitress behind counter number two. The *Young Man* gets up from his table, puts out his cigarette and begins walking towards the counter. With his left hand, he takes the cherry from the top of a young girl's sundae while simultaneously using his right to take a .45 Magnum out from the inside of his coat. He discharges it thrice into the surfer's head, blood splattering across the stainless-steel counter.

Ignoring the screams of the diners, he walks out with the red juice of the cherry on his lips.

E2

*Dutch Kid* is a 26-year-old black prize-fighter, with blonde hair from North Carolina. He started off from the pits, just like anybody else, but *Big Boss* had taken a liking to him, with his big arms, wiry frame and blonde hair. He was the guy people didn't like placing bets on but still would, 'cause they knew he would win. Fast to hit and faster to dodge, the *Boss's* instincts had made him some money.

"You go down in the Fifth Round, you hear me? To hell with pride, pride gets you hurt and it sure as hell doesn't make you no money."

He nodded. "Pride never did me no good down in the pits either."

"Good people have good money on you going down in Round Five."

*Dutch Kid* knew who the good people were. He nodded his head and padded up his gloves, making sure to double-check them. He walked into the stadium where the air smelt of sweat and money and the crowd roared upon his entrance. He went in between the ropes and onto the dry dust of the platform, looking at his opponent, *Cabot*, standing on the other side of the ring.

The bell rang and the crowd chanted in unison, the name *Dutch Kid* was on their lips. He delivered a few punches and got punched a few times. As the third round began he could see that *Cabot* was running out of steam. His movements were lethargic, his guard was non-existent, his mouth was open. *Cabot* was a horrible fighter, thought *Dutch Kid* as he sidestepped and instinctively, a result of years of fighting, stuck his hand out and hit *Cabot* in the mouth, right under the jaw. There was a sickening sound. *Cabot* crumpled to the ground like papier mache. The crowd stopped shouting, the horror on *Dutch's* face was evident. He momentarily sat down on the ground before climbing through the ropes and running into the sea of people cheering his name.

*Big Boss's* eyes meet the *Young Man's*.  
The *Young Man* exits the stadium.

Their gazes meet and do nothing less than confirm what he already knew

E3

The ring-master proclaims the opponent dead. *Cabot's* coach comes and cries over his body. *Dutch Kid* runs outside into the sunlight and breaks the car's window. He turns around and sees the *Young Man* walking towards him with the briefcase. Their gazes meet and do nothing less than confirm what he already knew. The glass lies shattered around him as he drops onto the street, leaning his head against the rubber of the tyre. There is no escaping *Young Man*. It's nothing less than a known fact. The *Young Man* reaches him.

"I wouldn't want to do this here."  
"Don't do it, please, I'm begging you. . . "  
*Young Man* has no time for his grovelling. He sets down the case and moves to unlock it. As he bends, *Dutch* strikes his eye with a piece of the rear window glass. The *Young Man* screams in pain. A raw, unfiltered scream which would scare the Viet Cong back into the ground.  
"I'm sorry" *Dutch* cries out with every hit. His hand is bloody,  
"I'm sorry" Every hit doing more damage than the last,  
"I'm sorry" His face is one of unparalleled misery,  
"Tell Mother, I'm sorry." As he gets up and before running, takes one last look at his brother's body.

# Is the development of renewable energy reason enough for the destruction of natural habitats and species extinction?

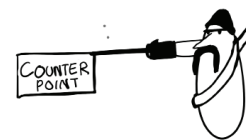


Yuvan Kamdar

In most cases, renewable energy plants have colossal benefits in terms of sustainability, revenue, development, and increase in the economic growth of the surrounding area. Take the Dibang Valley Dam for example. The dam has garnered a huge amount of controversy and opposition over the years because it is expected to cover an area that is currently occupied by dense jungle. However, when you compare the value of 40 sq km of jungle in a state with 53,000 sq km of simple forest cover, it doesn't seem all that much anymore. Furthermore, 12% of the 2,880 megawatts produced by the dam will be given to the state and 1% will be given to the local tribes, delivering reliable, clean, and much-needed electricity to these remote villages. This dam is also expected to mitigate the effects of the annual Brahmaputra river floods. After China built its dam higher up on the same river, there suddenly became an urgent geopolitical need to build this dam and safeguard our reservoirs. There are many reasons for building this dam, but perhaps the most important is the sheer amount of green energy that it will deliver to India.

Let's look at another case of development versus protection of biodiversity. India is aiming to reach 227 GW of renewable energy capacity, 175 GW more than agreed in the Paris Agreement. Rajasthan and Gujarat, two states with large, dry areas that receive plenty of sunlight and wind and have hardly any trees, are the perfect locations to deploy these plants. However, a bird called the Great Indian Bustard is standing in the way of our country's moving away from polluting sources of energy. There are fewer than 200 of these species remaining in the wild, and the fact that one mating pair only produces 1-2 eggs a year means that there is little hope left for saving them. The only reason there is so much backlash against this renewable energy project is the misguided hopes of the public. It may seem like I am taking an extremely capitalistic standpoint and arguing against natural heritage, but I am not. I simply feel that we must fight our battles and evaluate our decisions. Is giving clean, green energy to an entire state worth sacrificing 40 sq km of forest for? Is losing a bird that, for all purposes, doesn't play an important role in the ecosystem worth getting megawatts of green energy?

Avi Sahni



As the pandemic has progressed, humanity has started to realise the true value of nature, and governments around the world are now taking action. Renewable energy and conservation of habitat seem like the obvious solutions for a sustainable future at first, but as we have realised, one comes at the cost of the other. This issue brings up the question of whether or not humans have the right to use habitat for any kind of development, even if it's a renewable resource?

One example still in the debate is the Dibang Valley Dam. The fundamental problem with the project is that it's located in the middle of a dense forest, but the upside is that hydroelectric power is one of the most efficient renewable resources. The project has already caused the chopping down of 2.7 lakh trees, which is detrimental to the survival of the majestic snow tiger unique to the area, but that's not the point I'm trying to make right now. Most people fail to realise that it's not just the space the dam takes up, it's also the noise it makes that harms the environment. More than 300 species of birds live in this area. If these birds were driven away from their homes and habitats, a large part of the forest would be inhabitable. I believe that the livelihood of over 500 species of flora and fauna outweighs any project, renewable or not.

The second instance where we see the same issue is in Rajasthan, where the expansion of solar and wind energy is causing a loss of habitat and the extinction of the Great Indian Bustard, or GIB, which is also the state bird of Rajasthan. The Godawan, as the GIB is known locally, is a heavy bird that doesn't have great frontal vision, which means that it often crashes into the high tension wires of the wind turbines suspended in the air, causing immediate death. The GIB essentially acts as an umbrella species that protects the desert as a whole, as the actions taken to conserve the bird actually protect the desert. I believe that if one could actually see how interconnected nature is and appreciate it, they would understand why any sort of artificial development in a natural environment is detrimental to nature as a whole. This really makes one wonder whether the implementation of such projects are worth it because they destroy the fundamental thing that they're supposed to protect, nature.

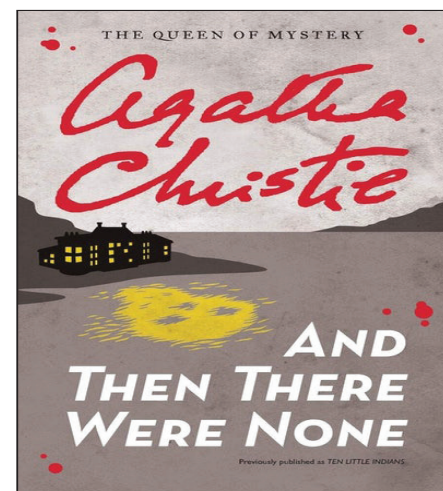
# Problem of the Week

How many zeros does the factorial of 100 really have at the end of it?

Source: *The Guardian*

## What Have You Been Reading During The Lockdown?

**‘And Then There Were None’**  
**Author: Agatha Christie**



‘And Then There Were None’ is a mystery novel written by the celebrated author Agatha Christie. The story accomplishes the main purpose of a thriller splendidly by keeping the reader on their toes at all times with twists and turns spread throughout. This story follows ten different characters, including a judge who is obsessed with justice, a governess, a soldier, a doctor, a police inspector, and many more. All ten characters had one thing in common: they were invited to Soldier Island because they got away with a crime they had previously committed. The antagonist had a certain way of getting rid of the suspicion around his name. He connected the murders to a poem, ‘Ten Little Indians’, making the victims scan the poems and think they were close to solving a mystery, while all that time they were just giving rise to a chaotic atmosphere with blind accusations running amok and inadvertently helping the murderer. The vast number of characters in the book made it harder for the reader to comprehend what each of them was going through. The book poses an interesting question for the readers, as the very nature of law and order is brought into the spotlight, and we are left to question the integrity of the justice system.

- Harshil Makin

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