

The Doon School WEEKLY

"I sketch your world exactly as it goes." -Arthur Foot
February 26, 2022 | Issue No. 2632



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Of Legacies and Cultures

Gurmehar Bedi *comments on the cultural shift that School has undergone during the pandemic.*

While a few may argue that the B-Formers have experienced School in its totality, the current A Form is perhaps the last which understands the true fabric and culture of School due to the long absence of students in the wake of the Pandemic. This may seem like a trivial obstacle in the path of this institution, if one at all. However, there are many including myself who believe that the implications of this disconnect of DoscOs with the ideals and values of School are problematic, and it is these very issues that I wish to discuss.

The cornerstone of Doon, in my opinion, is the set of relationships which one cultivates during his time in School. These relationships are not limited to a single form, but often permeate across batches and houses. The most significant is perhaps the relationship which masters and boys share. Prior to the Pandemic, masters would frequently receive knocks on their doors from hunger-stricken boys or from those who were filled with anxiety due to an upcoming examination. Tutors would regularly meet their tutees in tutorial meetings and would also accompany them on midterms twice a year. These relationships play a far more pivotal role in the workings of School than it may appear. From publications to

sports to spare time activities, each sphere of our life is guided by the relationships which exist between members of this community. Although the images of seniors painstakingly teaching their juniors to crack a hockey ball at 6 AM on a Sunday morning or spending long hours each night so that the juniors understand their roles perfectly for an upcoming play are etched into the memories of many of us, and yet, today there are countless who have never witnessed such events: events which were a norm for us and that we took for granted till two years ago.

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However, such interactions, be it on the football field or on the stage of the Rose Bowl, were not a mere act of masters and seniors imparting skills to juniors, but went much further and allowed juniors to imbibe in themselves the culture of the School. In fact,

they epitomised the purpose of a School which is to develop the character of its students. Since the pandemic began and forced the closure of School, these interactions have become sparse; seldom are we able to witness the

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mentoring which once took place.

However, this begs the question, what is the culture of School which appears to have been lost during the course of the COVID-19 pandemic? To me it has two facets. In my opinion, the more important facet is that of service to the society outside the walls of Chandbagh, and even inside it. From D Form itself, there are boys who enrol for various social services and SUPWs which exist in school and continue with the same for the six years that they spend in School. This instills within them the value

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of selfless service towards others and remains with them even after they pass out, with many Old Boys establishing NGOs through which they contribute to the society. The other integral aspect of our culture is the camaraderie which boys share despite the competitive environment which exists in School. Inter-house events often played a vital role in uniting boys as they faced the sense of dejection after a loss together, with no one

to console them but each other. Or enjoying the sweet taste of victory after a well-fought game. However, during our absence from School, these experiences have been infrequent.

Although School has done a commendable job in conducting the inter-house debating competition online and inter-house football last term, these have proven to be insufficient. The truth is that the quality of interaction cannot be

matched as long as School does not return to normalcy. Therefore, it is imperative that the ethos of the institution is fostered within its younger members in the confines of their respective houses through constant communication with seniors. For those of us who are privileged enough to have lived in School before the Pandemic, the onus of passing on the legacy of this institution lies with us.

A Dawn of Progress

Yash Adalti

The city had regained the look it had before the pandemic. The streets were once again filled with people, most still wearing masks fearing a resurgence of the virus from a forgotten corner of the world; the only difference from previous times and now was that the WHO had declared the end of the virus. Yet who better than those in charge would know how paranoia tends to cloud the minds of even the most stoical among us?

The streets were once again filled with people, most still wearing masks fearing a resurgence of the virus from a forgotten corner of the world

This pandemic had affected everyone, and I could no longer see some of the people that I had known earlier. Some people were lost; alive but... changed. The most intrinsic characteristic of humanity is progress, to better yourself and your peers. That is what it means to be human, it is what sets us apart from mere animals who are satisfied with the day's prey. To have lost that, to treasure only that which you hold in your hands, that which is like sand constantly slipping away, is the greatest tragedy. The people I once knew are no longer humans in my eyes. They have descended into animalhood and their words are no more than barking. Others may not see it, but I can, I can see how this world has been ruined. I hate how people are stuck in the past, but as a human being, it is my responsibility to show these lambs the way and to not be stuck in their flaws. I will be their

God, their tether in times of paranoia and sorrow, their shepherd, and lead the flock to a better world, instead of the hollow ruins I see before me.

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I will be humble, and say that my achievements are nothing and that anyone who would have stepped up to the role would be able to accomplish the same. However, I know that I am the only one who needs to know that nobody else can do the task I have been given. This pandemic has changed me too, and I too wallowed in my misery when I saw the state of the world but I cannot look back. I cannot stop at what are merely the ramblings of the insane, the ones who are not in their minds. Humanity shall progress, and I shall be the lamplighter so that others will not suffer the sight I see ever again. This current world will burn to fuel my fire, and everyone in it shall be my firewood. I will be humble and laugh at my own success, but then what does that make them, who could not even achieve "nothing"? This world is full of those who call themselves people, those who dare to assert their right in a world where I exist. No, I am the only "person" in this world. If they seek to blame, then blame the world. I am just like you, born into this world and destined to live a certain way, this is simply the path I was born to walk. If you must blame, then blame this world for giving birth to this being who towers above all.

This Week in History

303 C.E: Roman Emperor Diocletian begins his policy of persecuting Christians, razing the church at Nicomedia.

1003 C.E: A Peace deal is signed between Henry II, Holy Roman Emperor and the pagan Wends (Slavs).

1440 C.E: The Prussian Confederation is formed.

1632 C.E: Galileo’s “Dialogue Concerning the Two Chief World Systems” is published.

1782 C.E: Engineer James Watt’s patent for a rotary motion for the steam engine is granted.

1997 C.E: Dolly the Sheep, is announced by the Roslin Institute of Scotland to be the world’s first mammal successfully cloned from an adult cell.

READER’S CHECKLIST

What members of the school community have been reading this week.

PRC: *Tis: A Memoir* by Frank McCourt.

Svanik Garg: *The Millionaire Fastlane* by M.J. DeMarco

Veer Babaycon: *Death on the Nile* by Agatha Christie.

Shresth Bishnoi: *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* by John Boyne.

“

It isn’t the mountains ahead to climb
that wear you out: it’s the pebble in
your shoe.

—
Muhammed Ali

UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

He was too afraid to misgender a fish.

Kanishk Bammi, the world we live in.

Listen to me and the teacher.

AKM, switching roles.

Sir I wore a white kurta pajama and trousers above it.

Surya Verma, dressing up for the contest.

THE WHO?

Who is Maurice Micklewhite Jr.?

Taarak Harjai: A Singer.

Mayank Agrawal: A Circus Artist.

Krishiv Jaiswal: A Director.

Sir Maurice Micklewhite Jr., known professionally as Michael Caine, is a **British actor**. He is known for starring in films such as **Zulu, The Italian Job, The Man Who Would Be King** and more recently, **The Dark Knight Trilogy** and **Inception**. He has received two Academy Awards for Best Supporting Actor along with three Golden Globe Awards and a **British Academy Film Award**.

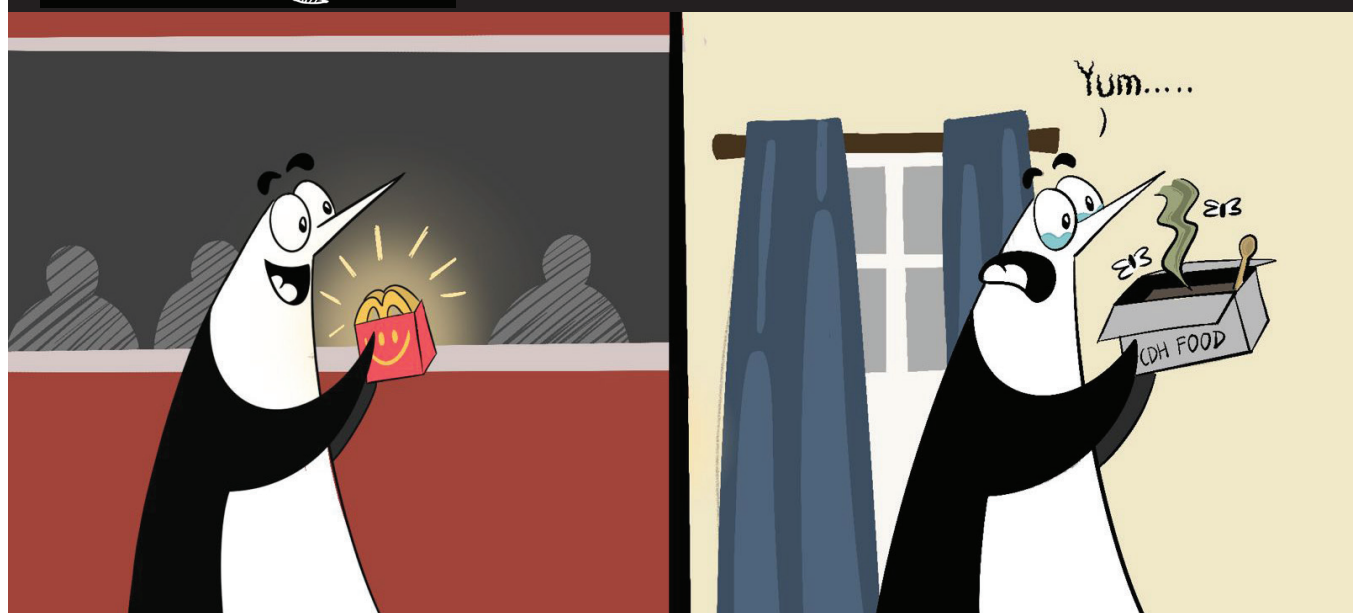
Around the World in 80 Words

The three white men who murdered Black jogger Ahmaud Arbery were found guilty of hate crimes. Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine after it recognized the independence of two separatist regions, in what it called Special Military-Operations. 16 year old Indian Grandmaster, Rameshbabu Pragnanandhaa, beat current world number-one Magnus Carlsen in an online chess championship. New Zealand won 4-1 against India’s women’s team in a series of five ODI’s. Mount Etna erupted on Monday, which caused airports to close.

Do Sco Doodle

Happy Meal

Saatvik Anand



On Ethical Consumerism

Vinesh Uniyal *writes about the immorality of consumerism.*

A single choice brings with itself several effects and multitudinous consequences, most of which are often invisible. Yet, in the transactional world, it is only the consumers who are expected to take sole responsibility for making choices. While industries strive for customer satisfaction for maximum profits, the consumer is the only one expected to make 'ethical' choices, scrutinising whether the process of manufacture was ethical. Is it the consumer's obligation alone to recognise and address the issues at hand and pave the way for a more sustainable future by purchasing selectively?

There are many ways to look at these questions, yet a frequently used term when discussing matters like these is ethical consumerism. What exactly does ethical consumerism entail? Well, it is a form of political activism that focuses on highlighting prevalent social and political issues by urging buyers to choose products manufactured by companies whose goods and services ensure that the production process follows the norms of ethicality when viewed through the lens of these issues. Currently, the meaning of what is 'ethical' would be seen as those supporting small-scale manufacturers, protecting the environment and treating workers fairly, et cetera. By using the faculty of consumer choice, producers, for greater profits, are enticed to create goods and services that satisfy the customers' understanding of what is ethical. This, it is hoped, will lead to successful campaigns similar to some like dolphin-free tuna, foods free of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and fair-trade coffee, and many others. Throughout history, there have been many incidents of boycotts to drive ethical choice making by consumers. For example, during the 1900s in India, in an attempt to inflict economic harm to imperialism and colonialism in India, the Swadeshi movement was started in order to encourage people to rely more on domestic production and boycott British goods. This would lead to creating greater awareness of the ills that plagued the country under the British East India Company. This consequently, led to decreased profits for the British East India Company and more revenue for local businesses to flourish.

Another example would be during the Apartheid when international communities instituted change through economic pressure on South Africa by boycotting and inducing sanctions on South African imports. This again led to the lifting of the ban on the African National Congress, an anti-apartheid party, freeing all political prisoners. There have been numerous events like these that showcase the impact of consumers

making informed choices to bring about political or economic change. However, ethical consumerism has earned its fair share of critics who have valid reasons for their doubts. Some argue that the whole notion of ethical consumerism is constraining the freedom of others, especially that of people who cannot afford these ethically manufactured products, which is unfair as it is accessible only to wealthy consumers. In this case the push for ethical consumerism fails to talk about those who cannot afford ethical products due to their relatively higher prices. These critics insist that while activists raise their voices for bringing in change, worker wages and sustainable practices are often compromised, often harming the very people they support. For example, urging everyone to boycott a particular nation's manufactures because of its belligerent foreign policies would end up harming the workers of that nation who have little to do with government decisions.

Another obvious problem is the absence of comprehensive information. During the modern era, with confidentiality agreements and intellectual property rights, there is restricted information about the complete manufacture of products. Therefore, critics argue that because of the limited information out in the open, people might fall short of making informed ethical choices, defeating the whole intention of ethical consumerism.

Besides these issues, one needs to examine the idea of accountability, as the culpability only lies with the consumers. In essence, by suggesting that consumers are the decision-makers in the market, the onus is handed over to the consumers rather than the producers who are striving only for increased profits. Hence, ethical consumerism offers the illusion of "doing our part", yet this idea diminishes the importance of other factors and creates individualisation, making us merely consumers rather than citizens. In a world where corporations monopolise markets, introducing policies that hold companies liable for the production process will go far ahead in attempting to create a better world. Therefore, a more radical solution proposes creating better policies that involve all spheres of production will be far more efficient than designating the consumers to research. In conclusion, there is no simple solution to create a better world. We cannot buy our way there, yet ethical consumption is still a facet of responsibility, and it is our task to recognise the need for reducing consumption while trying to accomplish the UN Sustainable Development Goal #12 – responsible production and consumption.

Fear-o-phobia

Vir Mehta *and* Udathveer Singh Pasricha

Fear. Quite an odd word. To me, fear is an emotion aroused when I expect to face a danger, or an uncomfortable issue. Sometimes I find myself pondering over what I'm afraid of, but to no avail. You see, there is nothing I feel scared of. There is nothing that arouses that sense of fear in me. I mean, life is always good, right?

Scratch that. Life is good except for one day of the year. The 14th of February, probably the most dreadfully anticipated day throughout the year. Perhaps the one day, where I shed my supposed 'masculinity' and indulged in gossip, I otherwise thought was ridiculous. The constant bickering had slowly turned into soft Bollywood music, the dal chawal in separate houses had turned into deep meaningful conversations over a candle-lit dinner, but most importantly photographs had turned into Instagram reels depicting one massive year the love birds had survived together. While looking at the faces of my batchmates over the terrible site that was google meet, I felt we were doomed for all eternity. This feeling however, did not last that long when I turned my phone on during the '10-minute break'. Seniors, people that I knew, had a date on Valentine's Day - perhaps there is hope for us after all. While I'm on the topic of social media, I'd like to take this opportunity to reflect on it. Truly, it has impacted us in ways we cannot imagine. On social media, we always see the good side of people, the happy and 'fearless' side, people enjoying their lives to the fullest. These people care a lot about what others think of them, and try to uphold a social image that reflects a carefree and magnificent life, where they have nothing to be afraid of. This does not only happen on social media. In fact, it happens everywhere. For example, even before I started writing this article, I cared more about how it would make me look rather than how it would read. Such is the pressure of having to sustain a social image. The Pandemic has heavily limited our in-person interaction, causing us to move to online interaction, mainly through texting. It would appear that there is nothing to be afraid of, especially when operating from behind a screen.

Speaking of our social image, grades are a huge part of a Dosco's identity. In the context of grades, the Pandemic was a slap in the face for those who eagerly looked forward to physical exams. While the pressure of perfect grades continued to haunt us, something was missing, perhaps fear itself? However, people still seem to lack hope during exams. They claim that they're "nervous" or "stressed", but really, there is

nothing to fear. A majority of our recent exams have been held online, and the outcome has been quite spectacular. Even though everyone had to adapt to an online medium of learning, the exam marks are much better than what they would be had our exams been conducted physically. At first, this astonished me. Then I realised that it was probably because of the access to great learning resources available at the click of a button. Having access to phones and laptops - rather than being a distraction, has aided us in the learning process, which is why people are obtaining

Even before I started writing this article, I cared more about how it would make me look rather than how it would read

higher marks. It all adds up.

To reflect more on the Pandemic - it seemed to have vanished after what we now know as the 'first wave', however, as a result of our minor indiscretions, there came a second wave cancelling our long awaited return to School, precisely 48 hours before our arrival. I was part of the only batch to not have returned that time, but little did I know that our re-entry through the gates of Chandbagh would be a royal one. A few months later we were called back to the campus that I could only remember through photographs, and what was best was that we were the only batch physically present in School. This period brought our batch closer than it had ever been before, and gave us time to say the goodbyes we were meaning to say two years ago, marking our departures from our Holding Houses'. This represented a new chapter in my life, in everyone's lives. The realisation that we were not whiny D Formers anymore, we were now young men entering the massive gates of our Main Houses hit us squarely. Fear had taken a backseat, while excitement levels built up.

The third wave was more considerate as it let me enjoy scoring goals during football season, but again killed the anticipation of cricket season by adding another few months of online classes. As I write this article, I have a week left before I go to School, but after the unprecedented nature of the Pandemic, only one phrase comes to mind, 'School opens a week too late'. The world will continue to evolve, but the truth is that this generation has nothing to be afraid of. We have survived a global pandemic, 'cancel culture' and

Oh So Solipsistic

Arav Bhadra Khanal

Shimmering, pale, heavenly- what not, oh it was all but that. Oh-so it was wished by him to be that. Alas it was not, not even the slightest. Just a sole ray of light shining through a hole in the velvety blue curtains, finding its way along the wooden floor and right up the mattress. Continuing to the top of the crimson duvet and right into his eyes. A dream, an attempt to be out of reality, where one truly is in control, where one is the only real thing. An escape, out of having to wake up again... again. Again, again, again, not a word anymore- just like it was not sleep anymore. To avoid work, to avoid the store manager, to avoid any interaction with his so called 'awkward' colleagues. Who really is the lone wolf? That was his question. However, it was never asked, never thought of, a brief thought ever so fleeting that showed up every so often- yet gone never to be remembered.

The time, meaningless, yet others expected it to be adhered to. He jolted out the bed, the mattress creaked under the sudden force, and he stood feet straight back slouched. Vision blurry, a sudden standing up- especially for someone his height. He was not too tall, not even six feet, but he held himself high. The time, expected to be adhered to, now he took one gander at it and realised with horror- it was past noon by hours, the shift started before noon. Then was the realisation, this was not the first time he was this tardy. He had no work, not for a week, yet every day he woke late thinking of being a productive member of society.

To avoid work, to avoid the store manager, to avoid any interaction with his so called 'awkward' colleagues. Who really is the lone wolf? That was his question.

In an attempt to counter his bane, he marched up to the curtains and parted them open- his eyes adjusted to the even more sudden light, and he squinted outside - to a garden, with a fountain at its center.

The fountain jutted out like a mountain, in comparison to the lush green grass around it. Birds chirped every now and then, maybe a peach-like hummingbird, fuzzy red with gradients of yellow and green running throughout its body, or a crow as dark

as a moonless night. The bushes ruffled because of playful young kittens; their cuddly grey fur only being seen when they lay down under the shade provided by one of many oak trees. The garden was a place of solace. Cool breeze moved leaves, leaving them in a trance — even the plants seemed to be at peace here. There was a man, seated on a bench in the garden, a deep viridescent bench, covered mostly by his long brown trench coat. He looked shaggy- unkempt, yet classy- a gentleman. His fedora like a detective in the 80's, his pointy boots like an Englishman. Suppose he was an Englishman, certainly seemed like one, but why all the way out here?

That was his second question. Everything that

Everything that happened in the morning felt surreal, and only more detached from reality than he wished he ever was.

happened in the morning felt surreal, and only more detached from reality than he wished he ever was. Suddenly out in the fray, not even dreams could put him into such a scenario. Out of impulse, he opened the window, shouting- "Hey!".

The Englishman did not stir, for a while at least. Soon he simply stood up and turned around. His face, mostly covered by his collar and hat, could not be made out. The man glanced up at the window- but saw no one. He had retreated to the side, hidden behind the curtains out of embarrassment. The Englishman stood for a while longer, and finally sat back down. Meanwhile, he silently closed the curtains, and started pacing about. He paced around his bedroom for five minutes, maybe more, maybe less. "Suppose he's gone by now" he said, referring to the Englishman. "Perchance- no, no, I can't just say perchance."

It was decided, he would peek through the curtains, to see and assess the situation- whether the man was gone or not, and he did just that. He made his way to the window, and with one eye squinted looked out. He saw nobody. The bench was empty, nobody was around in the garden either. The birdsong had stopped. He looked down, barefoot- his feet were cold. He promptly went back to his bed, and let out a sigh as he succumbed to the mattress, before closing his eyes, and grimacing.

CLARIFIED



Black History Month

The African diaspora has impacted American society as a whole through politics, music, literature, T.V, social work and many more. To recognise and acknowledge their achievements we are celebrating 'Black History Month', which is held during the month of September. Black History Month's planning began in 1915. That September, the ASNLH, or the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) as it is called now, was formed with its main purpose of researching and promoting achievements by African Americans and other people of African descent. To make the recognition of their people more prominent, they funded a national African American Week in 1926, and that's when this celebration actually started. The second week of February was chosen for this since it coincided with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln (the 16th President of the U.S.A, who helped abolish slavery) and Frederick Douglass (an African-American abolitionist), which made it easier for them to get the attention of numerous people who already celebrated these occasions. Since Black History Month and the ASALH played an important role in getting African Americans their freedom, it received backlash from people with a conservative i.e racist viewpoint. Later as awareness about the discrimination against African-American people, as well as their contribution towards the development of this society grew, so did the overall acceptance of this celebration; it was established that America was not a democracy where everyone was treated equally until the African Americans worked towards it and made it possible. Due to this, the 38th President of the U.S.A officially recognized it in 1976, and this celebration extended from two weeks to a whole month so that more attention was given to the accomplishments of African-Americans. After this, other countries also followed, like the United Kingdom in 1987, Germany in 1990, Canada in 1995 and the Republic of Ireland in 2010. Even though it is not officially recognized in other countries it is still celebrated there. Nowadays there is a lot more awareness and positive conversation about race relations. However, many people still shy away from talking about the past critically and refuse to be open-minded. This celebration is facing backlash from this section of people as well as allegations that this month promotes racial segregation and discrimination, saying that people of other ethnicities are talking about this so much that the African American community themselves cannot be heard whereas this is not the case. Some of these people even say that this month makes people biased towards the African Americans giving other people fewer chances but these critics forget that this celebration is about celebrating the voice of the oppressed.

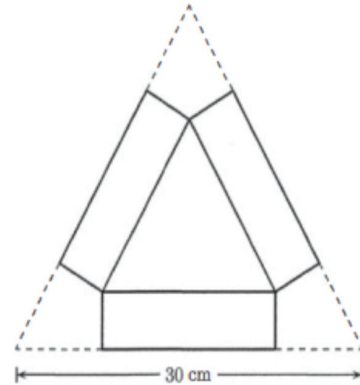
In countries like the U.S, Black History Month is celebrated across different communities with a range of activities including events at different places like universities, museums, and public schools. Every year there is also a theme that marks the celebration, to help us look at different aspects of African-American culture. This year's theme is targeted towards Black People's health and wellness. People perform numerous activities to celebrate this month, the first one being making themselves aware about the people of African descent, about the discrimination against them and their accomplishment in different fields by watching documentaries, visiting museums, listening to music or by reading about it, like you are right now. Apart from this people also support Black-owned businesses by going out of the way to acquire goods and services from them or even by directly providing money to them by donating to organisations and charities owned by the African community. Celebrations like these ensure that discriminatory behaviour is not repeated and assure us that we are tied together through our shared humanity.

Sources

- 1 <https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/black-history-month>
- 2 <https://www.cnet.com/how-to/9-ways-to-celebrate-black-history-month-in-2022/>
- 3 <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/2/3/black-history-month-what-is-it-and-why-is-it-celebrated>

Problem of the Week

A triangular box is to be cut from an equilateral triangle of length 30cm. Find the largest possible volume of the box.



Source: Singapore Maths Olympiad

What Have You Been Watching?

'The Tinder Swindler'

'The Tinder Swindler' is a documentary focusing on the narrative of three of the many victims of a scammer. It traces the journey of the con man starting with how he met them on Tinder and then clinically went about 'swindling' or defrauding them making it almost a perfect crime.

He would start by posing as a very well off businessman who travelled a lot and would keep up with this image with his expensive clothes, spendthrift lifestyle and social media presence. He would take them to expensive restaurants, fancy hotels and on his private jet to make the relationship seem like a fairy tale and establish a connection. After a few months of dating he would fake a security threat on his life and would borrow money from his girlfriends.

Carefully pressuring and manipulating them into thinking that his life depended on their money and on every decision they took, he would leave them with nothing but mounts of debt. He would spend the money on travelling and keeping up the extravagant lifestyle to meet more people and repeat the cycle. Due to the fact that they had been lying to the creditors on his behalf saying that they were actually spending the money and because he never stayed in one place for long, he would never get caught.

The documentary is extremely informative and intriguing. It does a good job of highlighting the greed and hedonistic lifestyle of the scam artist. All in all, I enjoyed the documentary, and at a runtime of two hours, it is definitely worth the watch.

- Aaron Ashdhir

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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