

# The Doon School WEEKLY

"I sketch your world exactly as it goes." -Arthur Foot  
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# A Legacy to Uphold

**Udathveer Pasricha** *comments on the legacy that Doscos aspire to leave behind in School.*

Every day I feel as if I am faced with a challenge, a challenge to make a name for myself. And as the Sc Leavers took their last steps leading out of Chandbagh, among the uncontrollable tears, I was sure about one thing: I had found the people whose legacy I would like to carry forward. I would like to recount the names of those who passed on the lessons that I now wish to fondly pass on to my Juniors. I would like to teach them what I have learnt throughout my School life, all in the hope that one day, my name will also be echoed throughout these halls, albeit through different voices. However, as I reach my penultimate year in School, I continue to ask myself: Have I truly done enough to be remembered?

It led me to question the nature of people actually wanting to be remembered. It isn't another tangible, one that you can wear or hang in your study. It wasn't a board either, where your name can be etched, for countless others to see through the years and exclaim, "*kya stud tha jaar*". Then why did I actually want to be remembered? This made me go to the most reliable source I knew, one that I trusted more than myself: A Senior. The same Senior who made me cry, and yet the same Senior for whom I cried when he was leaving School. The person who I am sure will live on not just in my memories, but also in the memories of School for

years to come. I asked him this same question, and for a few seconds, he just froze. I was quite puzzled at this reaction because he wasn't one to ever be short of words. I repeated, and he replied with a simple line that stuck with me. "Who said I want to be remembered?". I need to point out that this Senior held numerous positions, and was given the most prestigious accolades that the School had to offer. Now I was even more puzzled than I was with his initial reaction. He could sense my bewilderment and told me to remain calm, and said that it will come with time.

**The need to  
be remembered  
shouldn't be driven by  
the desire for fame,  
but rather something  
that every Dosco  
should aspire towards.**

I have been writing this article for the past three weeks, and have been thinking about this answer for about a year now. As I am yet to find an answer, I have come to the conclusion that it could be one of the two things: The first is that he told the truth; he never did what he did in order to be remembered in School. The idea that one's School

life can be lived stress-free, without the worry of one's reputation or status after he has left School is liberating. I was enticed by the possibility of going through my entire School life doing things that satisfied me. That is to say, I was not trying to be selfish or self-serving, but rather I sought to do the things that I felt fulfilling, regardless of whether I was remembered for it or not. In that way, this Senior had ignited within me some teaching reminiscent of a stoic, a lesson in worrying little of others' opinion of yourself, and in the same way, I was happy to consider this possibility, with its liberation and easiness.

Conversely, I considered the possibility that he lied, in order to balance out my newfound freedom with some realism. Perhaps he lied about the fact that he didn't want to be remembered. This Senior cried the day he left. And this gave me the answer to all my questions. One wants to be remembered because six years in this institution go by in the blink of an eye, so by being in the conversations of Juniors, you actually live beyond those six years. This would explain the inherent need of both tangibles and intangibles for School. Saying that I am in the fifth year of my School life, I resonate completely with this explanation. The need to be remembered shouldn't be driven by the desire for fame, but rather something that every Dosco

*(Continued on Page 3)*

# This Week in History

**1866 CE:** The Labour Movement formally started in the US.

**1931 CE:** Heavily armed deputies and other mine owner hirelings attack striking miners in Harlan County, Kentucky, starting the Battle of Harlan County.

**1921 CE:** The British administration sent in armed policemen to gun down the workers from the Assam tea gardens who had run away to escape the inhuman conditions they were forced to work in.

**1941 CE:** Stalin invited a Nazi delegation to Moscow to watch May Day celebrations in Russia.

**1974 CE:** The National Coordination Committee of Railwaymen's Struggle gives a call for a strike.

**1978 CE:** Margaret Thatcher, leader of the Conservative Party is elected British prime minister, becoming the first woman in Europe to hold that post.

## UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

*I heard them over talking.*

**Shaurya Surana**, a keen listener.

*Boys no double conversation, only single discussion.*

**ABT**, encouraging participation.

*I bunked class for hospital.*

**Ikjot Singh**, present Sir!

*It is watery, not chemistry.*

**Samarveer Bisen**, quite the chemist.

“

The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.

—  
Nelson Mandela

# THE WHO?

## Who is Sharon Block?

**Aryavardhan Agarwal:** A singer

**Shriyash Tantia:** A businessman

**Shehzaad Shergill:** A journalist

**Reyansh Agarwal:** An actor

Sharon Block is the **executive director** of **Harvard University's Labour and Work Life Program**. She previously served as a board member and senior attorney of the **National Labour Relations Board** with the US federal government. She is instrumental in the greater labour movement in the US.

## READERS CHECKLIST

What members of the School community have been reading this week:

**Parth Agarwal:** *I do what I do* by Raghuram Rajan

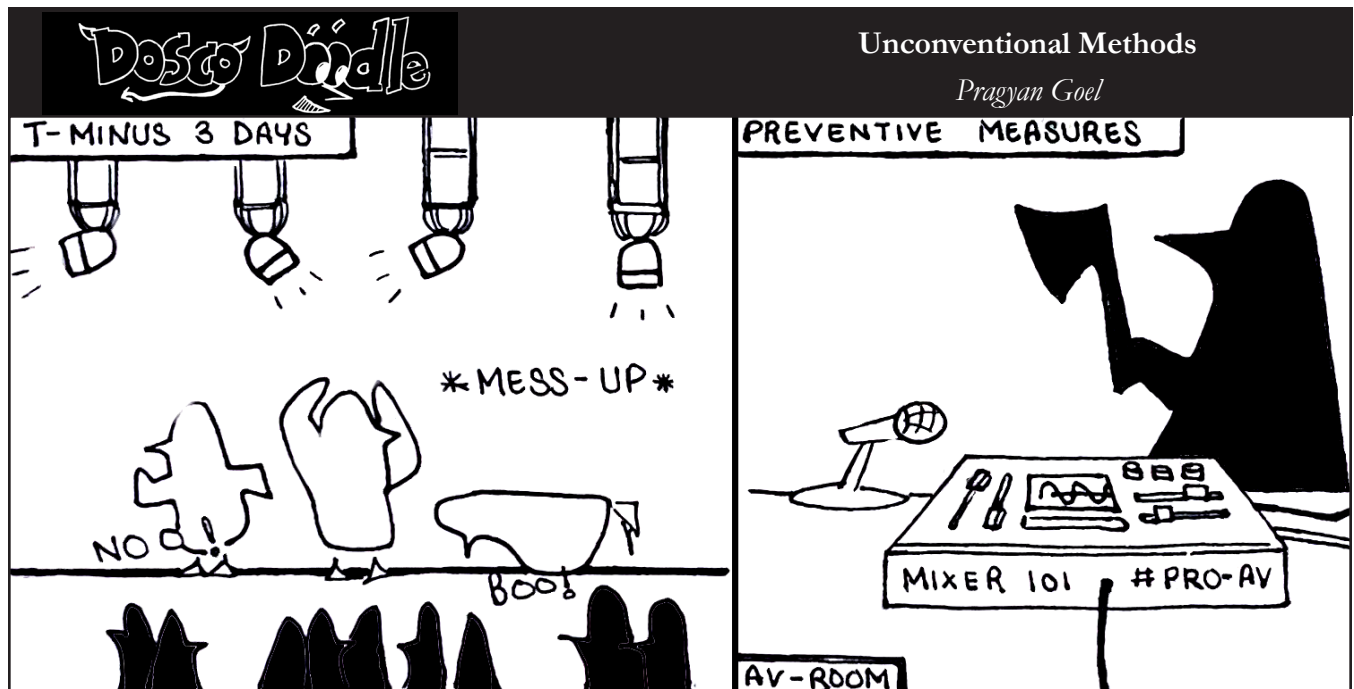
**Amarnath Sahu:** *Atomic Habits* by James Clear

**Anshuman Gupta:** *Gone Girl* by Gillian Flynn

**Samarth Pundeer:** *Led Zeppelin: The Biography* by Bob Spitz

## Around the World in 80 Words

In an outpouring of worker discontent, people took to streets across Asia, Europe and the Americas on Monday to mark May Day. About 35,000 workers in Canada who are demanding larger wage increase, haven't been resolved, leading to continuation of the strike. Samsung Electronics could be facing its first-ever labour strike negotiations remain deadlocked over wages. The Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) has reached a tentative deal with the government, ending 12 days of strike action for 120,000 workers.



*(Continued from Page 1)*

should aspire towards. The reason for this, I repeat, is simple: if you aren't remembered, you are in School for six years, but if you are remembered, you remain in School eternally. The freedom there is that

you need not worry about what happens to you after you leave. However, in all honesty, I don't ever think I'll know the answer. Even so, I'm glad I won't, because his answer would have completely influenced mine, and pushed me in

a direction that didn't in fact belong to me. As I conclude this article, I'm not sure about his answer but what I am sure about is the fact that I want to be remembered, for good or worse.

## An Ode to Service

**Ms Anuradha Singh** *reflects on the importance of Labour Day.*

International Labour Day, also known as Workers Day, or *Kamgar Din*, is globally observed on the first day of May by workers as a celebration of labour rights. The worldwide celebrations mark the recognition of hard work and achievements of the working class and for raising awareness of the rights of workers. While the history of different countries provide different versions about their respective contexts, The Day was officially designated on July 14, 1889 by the International Congress of Socialist Parties and trade unions in Paris to commemorate a violent confrontation that took place on May 4, 1886, in Chicago. According to one version, on this day labour unions in the United States took a decision to go on strike to ask for fulfilling their demands. These movements culminated in establishing the eight-hour work-day norm in many countries, including India. Several countries throughout history witnessed different forms of resistance against long working hours and fight for shorter work days, minimum wages and favourable working conditions. Thus

Labour Day is celebrated around the world to recognise these struggles and tremendous efforts of millions of workers around the world. It is also a tribute to labourers and their helpers, to express gratitude to them on this day, and to thank them for their hard work and immense contribution to society. As many as eighty countries, including India, celebrate this day and many countries have declared this as a public holiday. The day is celebrated not only as a day of protest but also organising jubilant marches, parades, gatherings, contests, seminars and other activities to understand, uphold and safeguard the interest of workers. Many schools organise quizzes, debates and other forms of competitions for students to participate, understand and appreciate the value of hard work and reaffirm the bonds and values of collectivism. While celebrating the essence of the working class, on this day the working people showcase their strength and power of movements, and of togetherness to bring about positive social changes and aspire for a more humane, just and peaceful society.

### Heart

**Yash Adalti**

Opening up the space inside my home just a little,  
 You step through the doors rather proudly.  
 It's crowded inside so you tell everyone to leave,  
 And get to work cleaning up the cobwebs in the  
 corners that people never went to,  
 Clearing out the rooms filled with furniture for  
 someone who never came.  
 You're a breath of fresh air in the house,  
 Even though there were so many before you  
 It's as though they were all zombies.  
 A house isn't meant to host a party, at least mine isn't,  
 So you bring out the ladder and begin removing all  
 the gaudy decor,  
 Returning the home back to what it was.  
 So you get a little cut, a little bruised from when the  
 wood splinters and you fall,  
 But what can you do, wood rots and some parts of  
 the house needs to be replaced.  
 Luckily for me, you're the right person, My own  
 know-it-all handyman.

### Promise Me

**Devansh Gupta**

The factories are beginning to swell  
 And you can hear less of cycle bells  
 The world is approaching its destined doom  
 But humans don't care  
 And soon there will be scattered tombs  
 The trees and forests are slit; it's no fun  
 The land is reduced till there is none  
 Cars and trucks are increasing day by day  
 New roads are made and the Sky is turning grey  
 Heat of the Sun is penetrating our Earth  
 Broken is the balance between death and birth  
 While we waste the water that shields our life.  
 We are endangering generations  
 Injecting new viruses to cause chaos and trouble  
 We humans are bursting our own life bubble.  
 Now is the time to turn away  
 So that humans and plants can together stay  
 Promise me please let's hold hands together  
 So that Mother Earth can become a place even  
 better!

# The Double-Edged Sword

*Aaron Fareed reflects on the need for School to adapt to the changing times.*

Established in 1935, The Doon School boasts of memorable age-old traditions and the 87-year-old lores and anecdotes continue to echo in our hallways till today. Ranging from the sacrosanct Toye to the infamous *Chota-Hazri*, not to mention the dreaded morning PT, our School has valued and managed to keep these traditional activities alive as it helps inculcate discipline, social skills and moral values and buttresses the emotional connect amongst fellow DoscOs.

Traditions age just like fine wine, the bitterness concealed within the sweetness becomes more palpable with the passage of time. In our rapidly changing and ever evolving world, change is the only constant. It becomes pertinent as well as prudent that we keep pace and adapt with the times. Traditions, culture and mindsets — they are forever evolving and changing. Not to forget technological advancements, legislations and education — all this consumed by a burgeoning population.

The question is no more about whether to adapt or not. That is no more a choice but a necessity. The question now is when and how we adapt to prevent being rendered obsolete. Change is never easy, and while we may face reluctance to change, we can do so by having confidence in the future. Eventually, traditions will become obsolete, and most memories would be stored in picture frames or archives.

**The ‘All boys Public School’ concept has of and on ignited debate but has remained unchanged for the last 87 years in Doon...**

Universally, numerous failed examples litter the hallway of change, where resistance to adapt led to their ultimate irrelevance or demise. One of them is the Blackberry mobile device made famous by none other than former US President Barack Obama. Founded in 1984, and extremely popular in the 2000s, the company experienced a devastating decline in popularity due to its inability to keep up with the competition and the rapidly evolving smartphone market. A lack of vision and the failure to adapt and innovate left the company gasping for breath in the hypercompetitive smartphone market.

One question that has perplexed me for quite a while now is our insistence on remaining an all-boys school. I have asked many adult stakeholders of School and have not received a convincing answer; some were clearly uncomfortable with the idea. The ‘All boys

Public School’ concept has of and on ignited debate but has remained unchanged for the last 87 years in Doon, while most prestigious educational institutions have gone the co-educational way. A co-educational set up offers a healthier campus atmosphere and affords better social skills where you grow up in a world with the opposite sex, as opposed to being ‘thrown’ into one after you school-life. Not to forget the perfectly capable and deserving members of the opposite sex who would benefit immensely by being a part of this prestigious institution.

**Doon has done well to adopt and adapt in the spheres where it matters the most - the educational curriculum.**

This highly specialized closed system lacks diversity and deprives students opportunities to hone their social skills. While the School does organize events such as ‘Socials,’ their effectiveness is limited by their short duration and awkward interactions. In the real world, there will be DoscOs who would face awkwardness when dealing with members of the opposite sex. A co-educational set-up is important to prepare DoscOs for this reality.

Doon has done well to adopt and adapt in the spheres where it matters the most — the educational curriculum. The IB curriculum now offers students a choice other than the traditional ISC board. This takes into account the fact that DoscOs come from diverse backgrounds and preferences and have varied career goals and ambitions.

Another successful change made by School is to facilitate DoscOs’ preparation for competitive examinations such as CLAT, JEE etc. in School itself. This will stop many DoscOs aspiring to attend renowned technical and medical universities and colleges in India from leaving after their A Form since they are now going to be able to prepare for and clear these extremely rigorous entrance examinations. Above are just a few examples where tradition must step aside and make way for adaptation. It is about time we ask ourselves the uncomfortable question, ‘To be or not to be?’ Should we bury our heads in the proverbial sand and wish the issues will disappear in thin air, or shall we take the bull by its horns and address these pertinent issues proactively? Only three words matter when it comes to survival today: Adapt, Adapt & Adapt. Which one will you choose?

# Checkmate

**Hridyansh Kothari** *reflects on the recent surge in popularity of chess worldwide.*

Let us look back to the winter of 2020, a time when we all were stuck in our homes, our minds scavenging for a good sitcom to binge-watch during online classes. Upon glancing over the top-grossing list on Netflix, many saw a series called *The Queen's Gambit*, which aimed to depict the life of an estranged chess prodigy. The bizarre nature of its protagonist combined with intense scenes of its characters playing masterful chess marked the beginning of the 'Chess Boom'.

Then came the infamous 'Chess Cheating Scandal' between the World Champion, Magnus Carlsen, and another chess grandmaster, Hans Niemann, over claims that Hans used a cheating device to play the best, 'engine-like' moves throughout the game. Although the alleged cheating still remains just so, this incident drove massive amounts of traffic toward the game of chess.

Throughout the game's 1400-year history, chess has always been a game only dabbled in by the world's elite minds, which directly contradicts its current state. In today's era, an individual who has never picked up a pawn in his hand has access to the strongest of chess engines at his fingertips. The immense sea of chess content, too, is filled to the brim with great volumes of media. These also include videos by YouTubers like Levy Rozman, who goes by the alias of GothamChess and has amassed over a billion views. Even on short-form content platforms like TikTok, '#ChessTok' has over 3.8 billion views and counting.

This steady stream of alluring content on the Internet, coupled with famous celebrities like Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo passionately playing

chess on very expensive suitcases, has driven its audience to online platforms like Chess.com and Lichess. To get a vague sense of how huge the numbers are, the most popular online chess platform has over one hundred million registered users and more than a million games are played each hour. This sheer surge in traffic, to many players' annoyance, even led to the whole website failing to function.

Fortunately, the School's Maths classrooms are big enough to handle the enthusiastic DoscOs, who, too, are keen to learn how to play the 'Queen's Gambit', although our coach strongly advocates against playing it. Whether it is the recent success of our School Team in the Chess IPSC or the tremendous response to the Individual Chess Tournament in school, it is no secret that chess has become a staple in many DoscOs' lives. Even if it is to spare five minutes to challenge your friend to a game, feel proud when you checkmate him, only to see that heartless counter on Chess.com stating you 'only' made 12 blunders and 15 mistakes in that 30-move game.

Looking ahead, the grave thought of chess 'dying out' does come into one's mind, but it is short-lived. The hardworking community of content creators, more and more celebrities coming out with their love for chess, and just the sheer progress computers and 'chess engines' have made are allowing the magical game of chess to evolve into a unique sport. My personal advice to a newcomer to this sport would be, to lay the chess mat over the table, align the pieces to your liking, and make your first move. From then on, the possibilities of this upcoming sport are limitless.

## The Stairs of Doom

**Tanay Chowdhry**

As the Headmaster says the words I desire and so eagerly crave, a keen, nervous, happy, and anxious version of me springs up from the blue-black seats, my hands squirming with sweat and a grin larger than ever, trying to hide it with a mask it with pseudo-seriousness. I scramble across my row and take the longer path and hear that Dosco clap that fills my heart. Confused D Formers shoot me looks of awe and jealousy, the same way I did one short year ago. I finally reach my destination. A couple of wooden steps, that may look normal, and well brown, but to me, they are a gateway to heaven, where I pick up the trophy or a stairway to hell, where I fumble down in embarrassment. Thankfully, I didn't choose the latter. Slowly, in a moment that feels like an eternity, I climb beastly stairs which are thankfully kind to me. I look into

the crowd and see so many faces hidden by the blinding light and heave a sigh of relief. I made it at last. With utter grace, and after a stupendously swift conversation, I get my trophy. A magnificent figure. I look at it, and to date, still remember every inch of that trophy. My mission is a success. The scary thoughts of dropping the trophy (which is heavier than expected), or losing my footing are no more, and I come out the other side, a man that won his battles, got the victory, and improved with every step. I go to my seat, and a shiver goes down my spine as the trophy sits on my lap. After distractingly listening to the rest of the speeches, I kiss the shining beauty, keep it in the trophy cabinet, somehow, and go on my business once again.

# The Week Gone By

Tarun Doss

The start to this week was rather gloomy, with dark clouds rumbling over the Campus. Unfortunately, however, those weren't the only dark clouds as the PTM for the board classes also approached ever so quickly bringing with it waves of anxiety and terror. It also dashed hopes of hosting the beloved *Afzals* on Campus, forcing us to resort to using our much-loved neighbour's courts for the first two days, although woefully not at the courts of the *preferred* neighbours in Dalanwala. However, the dismal weather did not dishearten our School Hockey Team who managed to clinch the

silver at Kandhari despite the best efforts of our friendly neighbours who turned out to be quite the gentleman-sportsman type.

Speaking of sports, the School Cricket Team reached the finals of the All-India Kasiga Tournament, finishing runner up against the eventual winners, Modern School, Barakhamba. Though their efforts might have been in vain, their hearts were in the right place as they showcased unrelenting grit and determination in the face of adversity.

But coming back to the happenings inside the walls of Chandbagh, The Junior English Debating Competition seems to be holding its own right in twists and turns, as the House of Warriors were disqualified, to the absolute delight of the House of Eagles who seem to have miraculously found themselves in the semi-

finals without winning a single debate.

Perhaps the Board classes are also wishing for such a miracle. A tip for my fellow DoscOs who might have lagged behind on their academics: Beg for forgiveness from your Master and give them the false assurance that you will have the greatest academic comeback.

On the Fields, several Gentleman and Swans were seen slumped over their hockey sticks and sweating profusely, feebly trying to put in last-minute effort in an attempt to make up for their wondrous performance in the PT competition last week. As the School gears up for the avalanche of Interhouse Competitions to come, I wish each of you all the very best for the frenzied remainder of term that plagues every Dosco this time of the year!

## Sudoku

7			8				4	
2	8	3	7	6	4		1	
6		5				7		
5	6						3	8
	2	1	6	8			5	
	9	8		5		2		
		2	5	7	6	1		4
		4	3	1			2	
		6	9			8		3

To mark the occasion of Labour Day, the *Weekly* wishes to put on record our gratitude and appreciation to the entire support staff in School for their relentless service every day.

Key:

7	1	9	8	2	5	3	4	6
2	8	3	7	6	4	5	1	9
6	4	5	1	3	9	7	8	2
5	6	7	2	9	1	4	3	8
4	2	1	6	8	3	9	5	7
3	9	8	4	5	7	2	6	1
8	3	2	5	7	6	1	9	4
9	7	4	3	1	8	6	2	5
1	5	6	9	4	2	8	7	3

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