

Established in 1936

The Doon School WEEKLY

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

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Dear Doscos,

As the Secretary-General of DSMUN I am often asked a very simple question by my Juniors — what is the Model United Nations? While some of you do understand the meaning and relevance of the activity, I feel that it is misunderstood by many. MUNs aren't limited to three days of wearing ties, suits and dancing; this unique endeavour, often mistaken for a mere role-playing game, holds immense academic importance that transcends its appearance on the surface. It serves as a powerful tool for cultivating a range of essential skills that extend far beyond the conference chambers.

To represent a portfolio effectively, delegates must comprehensively research the assigned nation's policies, and stances. For some the intensiveness of the research extends to memorising the entire UN charter, along with the constitution of various countries, whereas for others one must delve into historical crises where they find themselves immersed in dynamic situations which are constantly posing challenges. In the midst of intense debates, a delegate navigates the art of negotiation and diplomacy — a skillset that is invaluable in the real world. Learning to compromise fosters an understanding of the nuances of international

relations. Crafting resolutions that are reflective of a nation's stance requires adept writing and drafting skills. Delegates learn to analyse complex problems and assess potential consequences. Lastly, an MUN conference draws participants from various backgrounds, fostering a diverse community of young intellectuals. This environment provides a golden opportunity for networking and cross-cultural understanding. For those who have been patiently awaiting the chance to mingle with the other gender, well, let's say MUNs might serve as a diplomatic social gathering of its kind. After all, who knew that debating international policies could also lead to charming encounters and perhaps a little bit of "good-natured" camaraderie?

As I pen this piece, the secretariat is tirelessly toiling and relentlessly working on gearing up for the most exciting and eagerly-awaited MUN conference of the year. Having spent almost every night of the last six months cooped in Oberoi House till 12 in the night toiling endlessly, the secretariat has put in an immense amount of work and I just want to acknowledge all the effort that each person on the team has put in. I can't recall a single day since February on which the Secretariat did not have a meeting for a minimum of three hours and

I think that speaks volumes. Being one of the largest student-run conferences in Asia year after year, the Doon School Model United Nations conference (DSMUN) has honed the administrative skills of the students involved in the event. For example, managing accounts, booking hotels, organising transport and food facilities, communication, people management; these are all qualities that simply cannot be cultivated anywhere else. The amount of organisational work that goes behind the scenes is overwhelming. After two successful online editions we are now more than equipped to host the most successful edition of DSMUN the School has ever seen. Despite the challenges posed by the Pandemic, our resolve to uphold DSMUN's reputation for excellence remains strong as ever as we prepare to host an offline conference after a three-year interlude. The Conference holds a unique significance for us, as it serves as the largest and most prestigious social event on our academic calendar. Over the years, it has come to represent a part of our identity, one that we are proud to share with our peers from across the globe.

We all live in an age where we are bombarded with an overwhelming amount of information every

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This Week in History

48 CE: Julius Caesar’s forces decisively defeat the army of Pompey in the Battle of Pharsalus, marking the end of the Roman Civil War.

1945 CE: A second atomic bomb is dropped on Japan by the United States, striking the city of Nagasaki.

1960 CE: Côte d’Ivoire gains independence from France to become a Republic.

1974 CE: With the Watergate scandal made public, U.S. President Richard M. Nixon announces his resignation.

1984 CE: During the Olympic Games in Los Angeles, Carl Lewis becomes the third track-and-field athlete to win four gold medals at the Olympics.

OUTSTANDING ORATORS

The School participated in the **Jaipur Debates 2023** held at the **Neerja Modi School, Jaipur**.

Avi Bansode, Vivaan Sood, and Zubin Dhar were placed **First** after defeating Emerald Heights in the **Finals**.

Kudos!

UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

What do you call hiccups in english?

Aakash Mishra, a mental hiccup.

Please don't violence me, else I will silence you

Avik Bhargava, threatening a grammar-nazi.

Nobody is the owner, but everybody is the owner

AKS, public property.

“

“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”

James Baldwin

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day, and the proliferation of technology has led to a blurring of lines between reality and fiction. DSMUN’23 is here to bridge this gap between reality and fiction. Through our engaging and dynamic committee agenda, we aim to have intense debates leading to peaceful resolutions. Our diverse slate of eleven committees covers some of the most pressing issues of today - from the ongoing banking crisis in the West to

the growing criminalisation of the LGBTQI+ community. We also delve into fascinating Cabinet of Mikhail Gorbachev, the 9/11 crisis and the Indo-Pak Commission. Each of these committees will challenge the delegates to think beyond the confines of conventional wisdom and offer a new perspective to take beyond this conference. I urge all of you to explore all committees and witness the action that takes place during the event.

Finally, as we open our doors to more than 400 delegates from across the continent, it’s important to remember that we are ambassadors of our esteemed institution. The impeccable manners and courtesy that define a true Dosco must shine through as we welcome our guests. Let’s show them the warmth that rivals only a sunset by the Main Field and extend hospitality that would make even the most seasoned hosts take notes!

THE WHO?

Who is Henry Aaron?

Darius Sharma: An author

Aaditya Agrawal: A fashion designer

Kanhav Modi: A singer

Jawad Khan: A celebrity barber

Henry Louis Aaron, nicknamed “Hammerin’ Hank”, was an American professional baseball right fielder and designated hitter who played 23 seasons in **MLB**, from 1954 through 1976. Considered one of the greats, he broke the long-standing record for home runs, remaining career leader for 33 years.

DYNAMIC DELEGATES

The School participated in the **Welham Boys’ School Model United Nations Conference 2023**.

Anshul Khakar, Karan Agarwal, Krishnav Sachdev, Riddhim Agarwal, Siddhant Srivastav, Svanik Garg, and Yashovat Nandan were proclaimed **Best Delegate**

The Doon School was adjudged the **Best Delegation**.

Congratulations to all!

Around the World in 80 Words

Former Nigerian rebel, Rhissa Ag Boula launched an anti-coup movement opposing the military government that took power in the recent July 26 coup. ISRO successfully conducted the orbit-reducing operation on Chandrayaan-3. 41 migrants died in a shipwreck in the Mediterranean Sea. Arsenal beat Manchester City in a penalty shootout to win the Community Shield. Spain’s third heatwave reached its peak, with temperatures reaching 44 degrees Celsius. At least six people died in an explosion targeting a passenger bus in Somalia.

HE-HEY!!!

IT'S NOT
IN THE GAME

SPORTS



Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

As we enter the last leg of the current Editorial Board's tenure as custodians of the *Weekly*, I can't help but look back and think about some of the promises you made to us readers (and writers) at the very start. Having read five different Editorials over the years, I've got to say, no matter who the Editor-in-Chief is, I always get a renewed sense of faith in them, because they say that they will bring about positive changes in the *Weekly*. "Oh no, no one reads the *Weekly*", they say, promising the ever-enduring reader that they, the new leadership, will be the ones that will change this. I recall a very similar set of claims that was published in November by the present Board too, so at this important juncture in time, let's investigate how many of those promises are really being upheld.

First off, it would be hard for me to judge whether or not people read the *Weekly*, but I'll tell you one thing: I don't, and I know that I'm a horrible, horrible person for criticising a publication that I don't read, but I just can't put myself through it. Sure, I'll get handed a copy every Saturday and read the by-line on the front page, but that's pretty much where it stops. And primarily, that's because the *Weekly's* focus has shifted from promos that went "XYZ critiques a prevalent problem in School" and "offers his views on ... misplaced notions" or Varen Talwar's "harmless little stories" to "XYZ reflects on the role of Seniors in the course of a Dosco's [life]" and "XYZ comments on the legacy that Doscos aspire to leave behind in School" (no harm meant to the individuals who wrote these articles of course) and so, fundamentally, The Doon School Weekly's role in the life of a Dosco has changed. We no longer encourage critical writing and insightful articles, but instead publish a wide array of flattering pieces by those who love School and start every article with a rehashed version of "When I joined Doon, I was told..." Again, I don't blame writers; I think of myself as a writer too and it's natural to follow cultural trends, but it then becomes the *Weekly's* job to decide what kind of content they want to publish, what kind of publication they seek to be. I don't think that human beings read to reconfirm their own notions (at least, they shouldn't). We read to engage with new ideas, and to grow. Thus, the Board of the *Weekly* finds itself at the precipice between two eras, two ideologies, and it gets to choose between being remembered as literature, or as pulp fiction. What really frustrates me is that the former is exactly the kind of content I was promised at the start of the new Board's tenure. : To quote "The School must be

praised for its accomplishments but must also be held accountable for its decisions". Where is this *Weekly*? Where is the *Weekly* that has discourse, debate and discussion?

Secondly, is the *Weekly's* idea of change. The very notion that by writing an editorial once a year, somehow people will change and a revolution will occur is clearly ineffective. I think that the real tragedy is that after all this, the *Weekly* still claims to have an "active reader base", and thereby, they must be doing something right; when in reality all people are reading is the Week Gone By, Unquotable Quotes and the Dosco Doodle. What that means is that as long as someone keeps writing formulaic, witty summaries of the week, and as long as the cartoonist keeps doodling away, the *Weekly*, on paper at least, maintains its status as the most widely-read publication in School. Essentially, the kind of readership the *Weekly* now attracts has become people interested in School gossip, and I would say that largely this is the fault of the *Weekly* itself. Ask any Sc Former at random who was on the front page of the *Weekly* last week, and they'll tell you immediately, but ask them what the front page article was about, and they'll be dumbfounded. So yes, readers do pick up the *Weekly*, but unfortunately, they almost immediately put it down. Understand this, dear Editor: sycophantic writing does not generate discussion, controversial content does. Even if writing publicly favourable articles generates a temporary surge in readership, you are essentially putting your successor in the same boat as you found yourself in last year, with a publication with a legacy as old as the School itself, but no one to read it.

This revelation was only furthered by my visit to another reputed boarding school in town last week, where they run an analogous publication in which sections like Unquotable Quotes have shifted from occupying a quarter of a page to almost two to three pages. As a concerned member of this institution, one of my big concerns is that if we don't promote a culture of good writing, our beloved *Weekly* will devolve into a mere gossip magazine. There was a time when I used to collect good past issues, and save cut-outs of my favourite articles. Today, that pile of articles sits in my drawer collecting dust, biding its time until another one joins it.

Regards,
Karan Agarwal

Competing for the Cosmos

Krish Agrawal *recounts his experience representing the School in the Space Settlement Design Competition.*

Serving as a simulation of the aerospace industry where students from across the globe get an opportunity to propose a hypothetical human space settlement in the future, the Space Settlement Design Competition (SSDC) is an annual, international competition for high school students.

While the SSDC has been around for a few decades, this competition is only a recent venture for the School, with this being our sixth year of participation. Recently, we have experienced surprising success — reaching and winning the International Round in 2021. However, the Pandemic stalled the team from participating physically, as the competition shifted to an online forum. This year, our goal was to replicate our earlier outstanding success, something winning the Asian Regional Round earlier in February only made us inch closer to. The fruits of our labour seemed sweeter than ever, as placing first within Asia instantly qualified us for the international round to be held at the Kennedy Space Center. And so, at the start of term, we sat in the first of our many flights on the way to Florida.

Despite bouts of jet lag once we arrived in America, everything eventually settled in smoothly as we prepared for our first trip to the Kennedy Space Center. As is the usual practice, The organisers gave out an RFP - essentially a list of requirements detailing the key features we would have to incorporate in our design for the space settlement. After this, teams are given 48 to 60 hours to produce a high-quality 50-page presentation. To further complicate matters, individual teams don't exist. Instead, you have companies of usually 5-6 teams from around the world, who all have to work together to make one singular proposal. This brings an element of uncertainty to every round, as you usually meet your teammates only hours before the competition actually begins. Having to cooperate and work together across our cultural differences was a fascinating experience since we only really interacted with fellow teams from India during our Asian Regional Round. In our case, we

had to work with teams from the UK and USA, each the winners of their respective regional rounds. Meeting people from such diverse backgrounds, and getting a glimpse into their perspectives and reasoning was interesting, to say the least. And, thankfully, we managed to avoid disagreements as was the trend with many other companies.

The competition, at all levels, requires you to account for four major, and some minor, departments or factors. These include Structural, Operational, Human and Automation Engineering, each focusing on a key tenet of the settlement. However, just as important, were all the commercial aspects of our theoretical project, such as managing costs, scheduling, and business development. While each department has only a simple set of requirements, to make them all cohesively work together requires lots of hard work and careful thought. That being said, getting enough sleep was easily the most difficult part of the competition. Our most valuable asset proved to be coffee and energy drinks, which sustained us just enough to work through two sleepless nights, after which we could proudly reveal “Alaskol”, a lunar mining base, to be built in the year 2048.

Once that was out of the way, we were able to meet and interact with veterans from the aerospace industry, many of whom had actually worked on NASA's various space shuttles, among other programmes. We had the opportunity to witness a seminar by a recent entrepreneur, who enriched us with his ideas based on 3D printers and zero-gravity environments. While waiting for the results, we got the opportunity to explore the interactions at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex, including the actual Atlantis Shuttle on display. Even though the eventual results were not what we would have liked, the experience as a whole was incredibly enriching and I will always appreciate having had the chance to attend.

The Week Gone By

Vinesh Uniyal

I loathe the rain. Not because of its insufferable and dreary gloominess, but rather because it only rains when I don't have an umbrella by my side, and whenever I do have one, it's about the "sunniest" I've ever seen. Perhaps in their own way, the weather gods seem to be poking fun at us, and yet they seemed to forget that despite the little control DoscOs have over the hands of fate, we make up for it with perseverance, determination and sleep deprivation, for the slew of activities shall never cease.

I must concede that the *Weekly* gods adjourned that all the other writers are somehow plagued with "mysterious" work, and thus asked yours truly. Alas, their

request is my command, for the amount of chances I get to write for this section are fleeting away from my grasp.

The week started off with the sounds of cheering in the Main Field as the Inter House Football Competition kicked off with thrillers and closely contested matches, which excluded a certain House who continued their rampant five goal difference streak, and perhaps overdone themselves on this occasion. I'll leave it to your judgement whether they maintained their goal difference on a win or a loss! Meanwhile, the School Football Team prepares to face the Old Boys, a match worth every moment.

On other fronts, I'd like to congratulate the WELMUN delegation for their victory, which hopefully gives us the fuel we need to power our way through to DSMUN, and make it a truly enriching "academic" experience, filled with heated debate and

discussion.

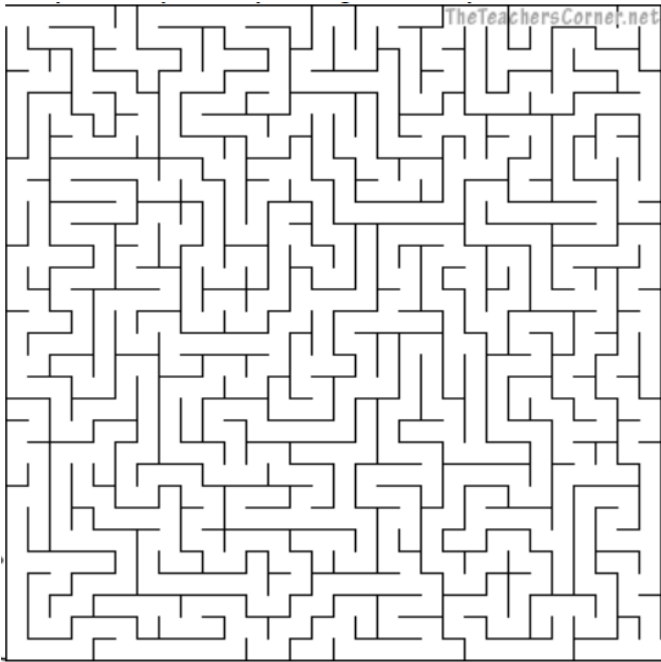
Moreover, with most DoscOs going outside for Tutorial Outings on Sunday, the movie theatres will be painted blue and white, as one lands up in a precarious situation in choosing between the comical and hilarious *Oppenheimer*, and the deep philosophical retrospective, *Barbie*. Personally I would go with the latter, only because Ryan Gosling (literally me) is acting in it.

However, with so many things approaching closer and closer, I urge you to always be aware of a frightening creature present in the campus called "Trials". Believe me, it will lurk in the darkness waiting for the right time to strike, and before you know it, you'll be staring at your textbooks trying to make sense of the senselessness at three in the night.

Regardless, remember to have fun and wear a smile!

Maze

The *Weekly* wishes
the entire School
Community a very
happy Independence
Day!



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