

Established in 1936

The Doon School WEEKLY

"I sketch your world exactly as it goes." -Arthur Foot
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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

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Studium Vitae

Avi Bansode and Vignesh Dodla *comment on the systemic problems that plague activities in School*

In a community where collectiveness defines us and guides us along the right path, togetherness seems to wane. Day by day, we seem further disconnected from the people around us without recognizing our collective impact. As we lack this cognizance, we struggle to navigate the complexities of recent developments in the academic sphere, and whilst approaching a period of collaborative work with Founder's around the corner, there seem to be alterations in our approach. Whilst we once prioritised the School's activities and worked to refine the School's establishments, such a motivation no longer persists; a shift in priorities has devalued School activities. The impact has been profound — Juniors find themselves lost, whilst Seniors look for sources out of School for CV-worthy activities, leading to continuous complaints about SUPWs dying or the lack of writership in School.

It was not long ago when the School's activities and service programmes were enough to build a CV to compete with top students worldwide. However, this organic nature was disturbed, and currently, CVs are built largely from external activities, causing the value of internal activities to wane. Students are no longer motivated to act for the betterment of the discipline but rather only

for their gain — which could be anything from a marginal benefit to a leading position. Actions are no longer driven by collective betterment, but rather only by that which is of personal interest to them. Subsequently, visibility has come to the forefront of action for internal activity; anything like a simple conversation or interaction with a Master, Junior, or even a Senior, is picked up on and labelled as 'scoping'. This ever-so-friendly term floats around and leads to sweeping narratives, even if some action was ever indeed genuine.

Simultaneously, as we enter our senior years, we have the urge to prioritise external activities and take upon tasks like research papers and internships to headline CVs. Yet, we forget the fact that our School is designed to send students to top-tier universities, and if that cannot happen naturally, the system is not working the way it is supposed to. The School has many activities, and at the end of the day, universities aren't looking only meritocratically; they look for legitimate contributions and your transformation over time. Our School can transform us; we just do not utilise our opportunities correctly. Activities do not magically land on one's lap — they need to show proactivity and initiative to truly earn them. Enrichment, in such a context, works in a two-way manner, and it is this that universities seek

from highschool students. After all, neither are you and nor are we fully functioning adults expected to write intricate research papers — we're still on our learning curve, and mistakes should be made to better direct such a trajectory.

What needs to be understood additionally in a world where soft skills and cognitive ability are much in demand, is that the best way to modify our system in the first place is to instil such a work ethic. Students cannot magically gain skills like critical thinking or teamwork without experiences that get the ball rolling in the first place. If we are so reluctant to revive activities in School and take part in socially productive activities, then such skills will never be instilled and our CVs will breed redundancy above anything else.

Then there's the system; while it has openly allowed change at the forefront of students' involvement, we still need to extend our decisions to accommodate the other facets that affect us. Decisions taken need to be democratic — all aspects need to be factored in, and a multitude of perspectives need to be heard. To nudge, encourage, and guide is where Masters will be open, and our system needs to, therefore, be just to all.

The solution, therefore, isn't one simple executive action, but a culmination of change we need to
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This Week in History

1952 CE: The British successfully conduct their first atomic weapons test, codenamed Hurricane, aboard the frigate HMS Plym.

1957 CE: The Soviet Union launches Sputnik-1, the first artificial satellite to be sent into space.

1990 CE: Under pressure from German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev agrees to unify Germany within NATO, ending four decades of Cold War division.

1998 CE: The Judiciary Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives recommends starting impeachment hearings against President Bill Clinton.

READER’S CHECKLIST

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

Neil Sahni: *And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie.

Darius Sharma: *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky.

Madhav Mehra: *The Courage to be Disliked* by Fumikage Koga and Ichiro Kishimi.

LISTENER’S CHECKLIST

What members of the School community have been listening to this week:

Aadidev Basu: *Don’t Look Back in Anger* by Oasis.

Yashvardhan Verma: *Mount Everest* by Labrinth.

Adnan Shafique: *My Eyes* by Travis Scott.

Loechin Phangcho: *NJ Legion Ice Tea* by A Day to Remember.

“

To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment.

Ralph Emerson

THE WHO?

Who is Justina Machado?

Bhavesh Joshi: An Instagram Model
Mohammed Bukhari: A Cobbler
Rudra Sarin: An Equestrian
Sayyam Maroo: A Factory Worker

Justina Milagros Machado is an **American actress**. She began her career playing supporting roles across television and film, before starring as Vanessa Diaz in the HBO comedy-drama series **Six Feet Under**. Machado later starred in **Missing, Three Rivers,** and **Welcome to the Family**, and a secondary role in notable crime drama **Queen of the South**.

UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

Panchatantratal.

Sumehr Pasricha, tabla maestro.
You only won because we lost.

Tanay Lal, the duality of man.
You should eat water.

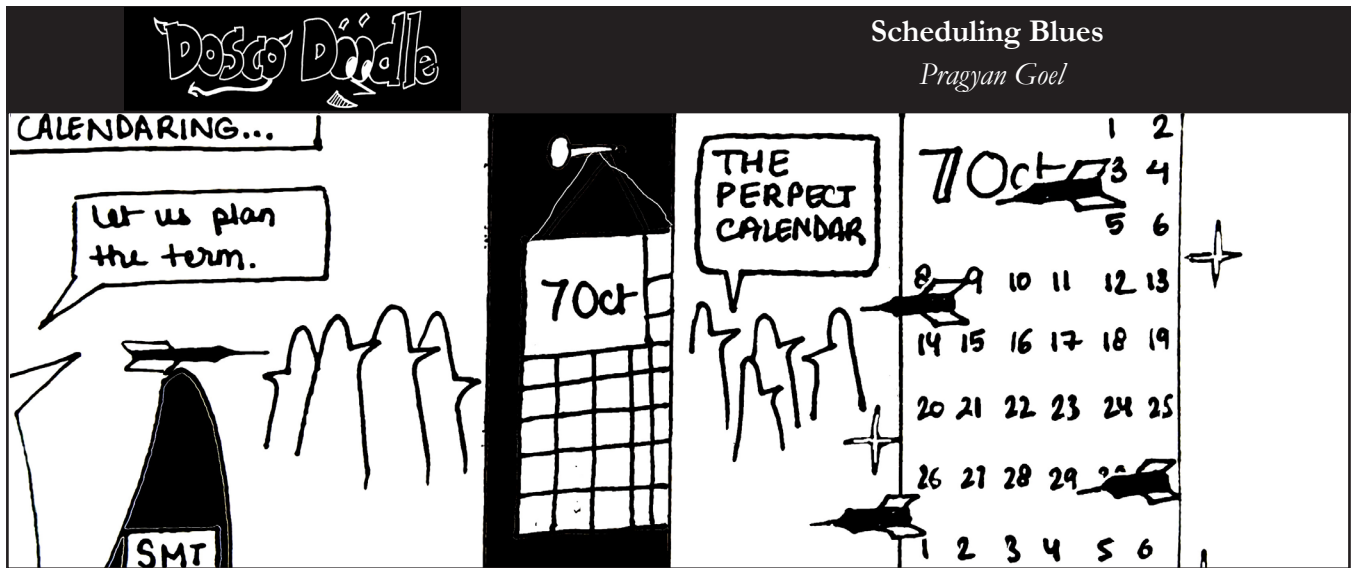
Samarth Thapa, molecular gastronomist.
Who is the School Captain of the Weekly?

Ganadhipati Aryan, democracy and the free press.
Wisdom chased me, I chased it back.

Agastya Chamaria, smartest tag player.

Around the World in 80 Words

The United States sent Ukraine more than one million rounds of previously seized Iranian ammunition. 21 people died and more than a 118 others went missing in India’s state of Sikkim due to heavy floods. Khankendi, the largest residential city in Nagorno-Karabakh, was deserted after Azerbaijani soldiers defeated the Armenian separatists. India’s Neeraj Chopra won the gold medal in Javelin at The Asian Games. New Zealand beat England in the opening match of the 2023 Men’s ODI Cricket World Cup.



(Continued from Page 1)

bring about in both our attitude and system. A revamp in our activities is crucial — the past has shown us that a balanced system of STAs and SUPWs can work wonders, but as time changes, we must also adapt. A revival led by Boys and Masters together is imperative; we need to design activities to balance out merit and contribution in a student's life — activities need to hold value in their ethos. Notional change is not so easy on the other

hand; it takes time to influence opinions, especially with echo chambers being more prevalent than ever. But we need to influence fast; we need to take pride in what we do rather than succumb to ideas that go against our very own principles. Thus, collective action is imperative — to change such a mindset for the better and in the long run.

After all, to be admitted into this institution means more than a brand name — to come

out as a changed person, one needs to be receptive. To expect transformation magically is not a mindset that is healthy for anybody at the end of the day; however, enforcing a rigorous schedule with a balance of what is right for a student holds the most value at the end of the day. If we cannot afford to be open to a little change in our narratives, then we really cannot claim to live up to the words etched in the Main Building.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

While I would like to commend both you and your writers for your impeccable work on last Saturday's Issue of the *Weekly* (which would be 2687), I feel that some of the articles ended up talking about the very same problems, with each word having less impact than the last. I will attempt, in this letter, to tie together the ideas presented in some of the articles and put forth a partial summation of the previous issue for the benefit of the readers.

The issue started off strong, with the first article being yours, dear Editor, talking about the difficulties the publication has been facing in its efforts to “echo the very heartbeat of Chandbagh”, effectively encapsulating and replying to the myriad ‘Letters to the Editor’ that furnished your *Weekly*'s pages in issues this past term. I think the truth is, regardless of what the *Weekly* used to be in the days of yore, School has changed. I feel it is simply not possible to go back to what publications in School once meant. This does not necessarily mean that the *Weekly* has failed its duty, rather, it just means that we have to think about the present and not what once was. As the heartbeat of Chandbagh itself changes its rhythm, the *Weekly* is obligated to change as well.

Another key point brought out in the last issue was that our Batch has seen the negotiating power of the Student decline in several ways. Across the board, our Batch has witnessed both the efficacy and efficiency of councils and decision-making bodies decline. I believe that changes in bureaucracy, the broken flow of information, red-tapism, and the need to do what is seen as “right for the School” rather than for the Student have brought about this change, as stated to varying degrees across three articles in the previous issue.

Citing examples of this problem wouldn't reveal anything new beyond what is apparent. But as

the first Secretary of the newly formulated Co-Curricular Council, I feel that I can provide a unique perspective on the issue regarding why it exists. The issue of the honour boards was handed over to the Co-Curricular Council by the School Council, shortly after it was presented. This issue has dominated most of our meetings since, with constant back and forth between concerned parties. The problem lies within the fact that there are separate councils for everything in School, and given the nature of this boarding school, there is an inevitable amount of overlap between all of them. Decisions are made, only to be overturned by another council — forcing the issue to be discussed once again.

Clashes, or rather grey areas in jurisdictions and decision-making power like this is what leads to the inefficiency of councils. Such problems can only be rectified through proper communication and flow of information. This brings us to another issue within School along the same lines, which is that somewhere along our journey, the decision-making authorities of School stopped factoring in the Students' opinions and just going ahead with what they decided is best for School.

By this point, I hope I have provided enough insight on this matter to make my two cents worthwhile. However, to all of you dear readers, simply talking about such issues won't make any changes for the better. I would like to conclude with a reminder: this institution is ours, and to truly make the best of it, we need to act on what we believe is right.

Sincerely,
Krishnav Sachdev

The Week Gone By

Yashovat Nandan

With the walls being repainted, the fields being trimmed, and the Main Building receiving its finishing touches in preparation for Founder's Day, no stone is left unturned to ensure that we put our best foot forward next week. (Are those particularly stunning cut-outs of our evolutionary ancestors around Campus going too?)

The last few goalposts were also taken off the grounds of the Main Field, as we bid farewell to football and welcome the athletics season. Or wait, not just yet. The Skinners are still adorned with the goalposts where one crucial match is yet to be played. That fateful match between the Eagles and the Nizams seems to have been put off yet again, leaving

us to question which side has cold feet. The Senior Basketball Inter-House also gave way to its Junior counterpart this week, although some of the matches were rather underwhelming compared to the nail-biting matches that were on display last week.

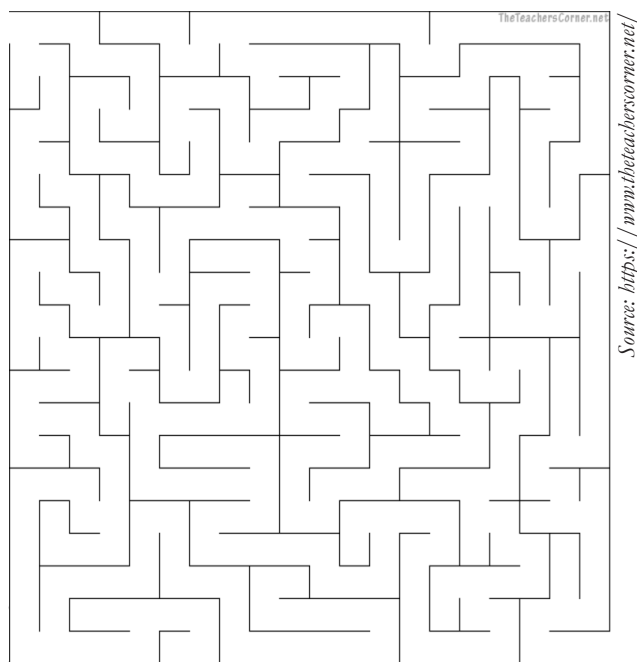
On a different note, my fellow batchmates and I seem to find it easier to understand predictions by the Oracle than the predicted marks awarded to us by School. Speculation and confusion wreak havoc on the Sc Form as they grapple with the implications of these 'Predicteds' on their future prospects. Hopefully, the situation will remedy itself soon. For now, however, miniature idols of the Careers Department are being put up all over School and being ceremoniously worshipped round the clock, because after the report card meeting held this week, that is all one can do.

The pre-founder's craze to award

Colours seems to have made a comeback this year with a hushed anticipation regarding any last minute changes now casting a shadow over the Senior Forms. However, much to the delight of some, the increased hustle-bustle of the campus also has an additional benefit: it gives our friends from S Form a golden opportunity to 'scope' freely — without the scrutiny of their fellow batchmates. To them, all I have to say is that the most eventful assembly draws closer with each passing day.

Finally, in bidding this publication goodbye, I thought it befitting to visit this column one last time. Although I am not the conventional custodian of this popular column — a privilege of my beloved Senior Editors — I felt like this was the apt place to bid farewell to you all. Serving this publication and this readership has truly been a privilege and pleasure of mine. Thank you and goodbye!

Maze



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