Editorial

Setting a New Precedent

Vivaan Sood

Writing for the *Weekly* should ideally come intuitively, at least for someone who has been on the Editorial Board for three years now. Of course, such an idea only exists notionally. Even if it was possible, who am I to say that it is a good thing, especially as someone in charge of a publication in need of writers. Dear readers, take charge.

That is to say, in my four years as a member of this institution, where I have seen almost every single Editor-in-Chief of this hallowed (or hollowed?) publication attempt to galvanise their readers to take up arms against the slow and debilitating menace of banality. As the fear of the *Weekly* ceasing to be a beacon of free journalism takes hold and arrests all sense, the *Weekly* now seemingly simply retreats into the annals of history.

That is why, dear readers, I ask you to be just yourselves: be readers.

**The Passive Reader**

When I implore you to be readers, I am also making a plea to not simply be passive readers. To be sure, the *Weekly* is in need of both readers and writers, however, the best I can do within my capacity is to placate the aforementioned burden that rests on the shoulders of the Editorial Board. Let us, for just a moment, consider that the *Weekly* does not face a dearth of writers. In such a scenario, I would say that a burden rests on the readers to take up arms (or rather, copies of the *Weekly*), to be willing to not merely browse, but to scrutinise and peruse each and every issue (a feat gladly done but sadly restricted by form mates to languidly glancing through Page 2), with the intent to engage with the rest of the *Weekly* that lies before them.

When I make such a demand, I make it with the desire to get readers to get involved in the unspoken contract that I see existing between the Editorial Board and the School community: an issue is produced that (hopefully) serves as a platform for discourse and discussion, and the community makes a concerted effort to read it and create the kind of discourse the issue asks it to make. Even if the issue fails whatever standard you as an individual reader have for this publication (and should rightfully do so), it is for this very reason that you must create discussion about it, and call out any shortcomings. Even if you do not directly contribute to the *Weekly* — though it would be appreciated — the only universal expectation is that you are willing to drive out the scourge of passivity, and take up the role of an active reader who would not settle for anything less than that very same standard. We must not accept with dreary resignation the stagnation, or at the very least, very inarticulate writers. I think that it is the very perpetuation of these narratives that prevents good writship from being able to thrive within this environment. Firstly, we feed into the vicious cycle (pardon my cliché) of writers thinking that the content they should be putting out has to achieve a standards that they are unwilling to write. Secondly, they believe that the quality of content they put out has to necessarily engage with the School in a major way, one which they themselves do not know (perhaps because of the aforementioned disconnect between reader and writer) and so are unable to fulfil, and so further the idea that they are unwilling to write. Secondly, they believe that the quality of content they put out has to achieve standards that they played no part in setting, or should even be expected to satisfy as individual writers with individual styles.

I would like to posit that with regards to the first narrative, the best way we can remedy such a problem is to accept...

*(Continued on Page 3)*
This Week in History

1905 CE: Emperor Nicholas II issues the October Manifesto, bringing an end to unlimited autocracy in Russia and ushering in an era of constitutional monarchy.

1926 CE: An additional 16 million shares are sold during the infamous “Black Tuesday,” further fueling the Great Depression.

1956 CE: Israel’s army attacks Egypt in the Sinai Peninsula in a fight for control of the Suez Canal area.

2015 CE: It is announced that China is ending its one child policy; from the next year onwards couples can have two children.

MIGHT OF THE PEN

The following are the winners of the McCarthy AI Essay Writing Competition:

Juniors: Avirat Jain
Seniors: Arjun Prakash

Congratulations!

LISTENER’S CHECKLIST

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

Aadhar Mandhotra: Intentions by Justin Bieber
Samarth Pundir: American Idiot by Green Day
Kai Kubo: Homecoming by Kanye West
Eashmann Sadana: Air on G-String by Johann Bach
Jigmet Urgian: Choo Lo by The Local Train

“Many of life’s failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up.”

— Thomas Edison

UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

I haven’t lost it, I just can’t find it.
— Agastya Khanna, losing language sense.

It was cut, not severed.
— Veer Duggal, severing meanings.

I was up ‘til night.
— Ganadhipati Aryan, overworked.

Rushing very quickly.
— Aakash Mishra, speeding past sentences.

The Doon School Athletics Team participated in the Wynberg Allen Inter-School Athletics Meet from 26th to 30th October. The following are the results:

The team won 26 medals, comprising 13 gold, 11 silver, and 2 bronze medals. Neil Bulchandani was awarded the Fastest Sprinter Trophy in the Boys Senior Category.

Kudos!

Around the World in 80 Words

An Israeli air strike killed 50 at Gaza refugee camp.

Many Afghans returned to Taliban rule as Pakistan made a move to expel 1.7 million. Eurozone inflation growth fell as the European Central Bank left interest rates unchanged. Friends star Matthew Perry died at 54. Alibaba updated its AI model Tongyi Qianwen. The personal details of 81.5 crore Indians were leaked on the dark web. Lionel Messi was named the Ballon d’Or 2023 winner for a record-extending eighth time.

The Weekly is organising a Short Story Contest for the D Form. All those interested should send in a 600-800 word entry by Thursday, 9th November, 12 PM to weekly@doonschool.com. Winners will have their entries published in the Weekly.

READY, SET, GO

Deserving Candidates

Debojyoti Ghosh
greater variety of discourse. That is to say, while the Weekly does its bit to moderate content, we must realise that in a School such as ours, there inherently needs to be discourse about a wide range of issues, regardless of whether it is actually able to effect any change. At that point, we are then able to inspire more writers to write about the things that seek to make change and create substantial impact in our community, as they are more confident and understanding of the things that merit discussion.

As for the second narrative, I think that we must recognise the inherent loss of the old Weekly (I refer here to the Weekly pre-Covid), but simultaneously tell you, dear future writer, that this is not inherently bad. Even if we as a community of writers have lost the mannerisms and styles had always I defined the culture of writing in School, it then means that it is upon us to define a new culture. We must set a new precedent, not simply in terms of surpassing past quality (if such a thing was even possible) but by redefining what good writing looks like and what the need of the hour is. Good writing then looks like the ability and willingness (here I take a page out my economics syllabus) to equally engage with the community on what they want to see expressed as well as individual sentiments of a writer.

A Concluding Note
Of course, I would be remiss to ignore the fact that it is this very community that also ought to redefine the culture of writing and readership within School. After all, such a journey is not limited to the scope of my tenure, but rather needs to continue to change with changing sensibilities and needs. As a community, we must be willing to promote any form of penmanship, and not stifle that which we disagree with, because only then can we truly claim to be in service of this culture and only then can we promote the truest form of penmanship.

If I could tell you the one goal which I have over the course of my tenure, it would be to most effectively set the next generation of writers as well as readers within School, both within and outside the Editorial Board. It is them to whom I am in service to, because it is they who will carry forward this lamp and they who will come to define the School moving forward, especially beyond the Weekly.

In conclusion, I can now tell you, almost with Cartesiam certainty, that perhaps the only time I write best is under pressure. At least, that is the sort of environment I would like to create, where everyone is now able to explore how they best write, in service of both School and self.

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The Art of Missing Out

Krishiv Jaiswal

Picture this: you are curled up in your bed, enveloped in your warm blanket, with a book open in your hands — a perfect sanctuary after a week of exhausting work. In those tranquil moments, there is a sense of contentment, an escape from the chaos of the world. As you turn through the pages of the book, your friend sends you a message; a video — and as soon as you press the play button, your phone erupts with music as you see all your friends at a packed house party, having the moment of their lives without you. Suddenly, that serenity is replaced by a wave of loneliness and unease. This scenario is all too familiar, a reflection of the universal fear of missing out that we have all experienced at some point in our lives.

The reason we experience this fear of missing out is because we struggle to answer essential questions — will I be remembered? Will anything I do truly matter to someone else? When we don't know the answer to these questions (which is quite often), they begin to echo rampantly in our minds, creating a sense of longing and anxiety. Eventually, this gives birth to the fear of missing out. A fear so pervasive that the World Health Organisation made headlines as it sought out experts to tackle this new epidemic in the market: loneliness. This initiative comes in the wake of numerous countries, including the United States, declaring ‘loneliness’ as an epidemic within their regions.

The world is invigoratingly small, and we are not the first people to live here. We adopt the same approach and look for the same response while excavating answers to our pain and fears. There is some solace in that; it means that we are on the same team and that life is our shared foe. I cannot help but feel, for instance, that there was something I missed out on. Why does it seem like everyone else, aside from me, went through a transformational epoch as in Dead Poets Society? It cannot be just me who thinks that. This shared human experience, this common thread of loneliness, binds us together, reminding us that we are not alone in facing life’s challenges.

However, the other way I view it is that there are a lot of moments to relish and, let me add, a lot to be indignant about. But, for those moments of joy, you will never again worry about losing out on the other fortunate moments. After all, you will never (or can never) recall the memories that didn’t happen, but some did — which you will miss and did not miss out on.

In the face of this fear, the temptation often arises to seek ways to overcome it. Sure, there are a few ways to do this such as understanding the illusion of the fear of missing out that you have within yourselves. But, what if we never really make it out of the cycle (trust me, you do not actually need to overcome this fear)? What if we reframe our perspective? What if we accepted it as an integral part of us; a ‘canon event’? And yes, it is great news if we are not able to overcome this fear because the fear of missing out compels us to love better and achieve greater things. The essential question we should ask ourselves is “What is my fear telling me?” And, when you understand the reason why we experience this fear, it can guide us to a more fulfilling life. Life is woven from both missed opportunities and cherished experiences, so prioritise and do what makes you happy.
Achievers and Achievements

Dr Jagpreet Singh comments on the characteristics of success and what it entails.

Over the past few months, all of us Indians have been exulting in three momentous achievements. The landing of Chandrayaan 3 on the ‘dark side of the moon’; the 18-year-old chess Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa becoming the world’s youngest player to reach the Chess World Cup final, securing the second place after losing to Magnus Carlsen; the athlete Neeraj Chopra winning the gold for javelin throw at the World Championships. Whether it is the ISRO team of hundreds of scientists or a single sportsperson, each winner is an Indian first and last. If we do not define them by their religion, caste or region, then why do we continue to drag these inhuman barriers into our everyday lives? We are in the third decade of the 21st century, surely by now we should overcome these self-inflicted divisions of ‘Us versus Them’. We are conquering space, surely by now we should reject all forms of superstition and irrational thinking that we still indulge in. I urge all of you to become good human beings first and good Indians next. Nothing else, no other identity matters.

Another quality we can learn from all these super-achievers is the quality of perseverance. The ISRO team had to face the failure of Chandrayaan 2 a few years ago. Both R. Praggnanandhaa and Neeraj Chopra have had to battle many setbacks and disappointments in their career path. Yet, they persevered. They quietly and calmly learnt from their challenges and improved themselves even more. They did not let obstacles become insurmountable; they overcame them. In your lives, too, you are bound to face failure – but remember, it is a great teacher. Instead of getting disheartened, use the experience to learn about the world and about yourself. You will emerge stronger and better equipped to shape success in the future.

When I meet and talk to all of you boys and girls in School, I am always struck by the enthusiasm you always show towards whichever task you are engaged in at that moment. I hope you never lose this quality. Many adults become jaded, cynical or apathetic. I want all of you to keep your enthusiasm and energy alive. Every day, you will either choose tasks or tasks will be thrust upon you. Tackle each one with zeal and eagerness. Keep your brain ticking, learn new things, solve problems creatively and complete each task with gusto. The joy of achievement – regardless of whether the job is big or small – is something to be cherished.

When we see great achievers, we find that the best of them are marked by another admirable quality – humility. They never brag, show arrogance or conceit. They never try to prove their superiority. Instead, they are always polite, considerate, even self-deprecatory. They respect other people and are open to their views. Because they learn all the time. They never rest on their laurels. And they have no need to impress other people. Their chosen tasks, their path is all that matters to them. In fact, people who are arrogant or always boasting about themselves typically use that bluster to hide feelings of inadequacy.

The minds of achievers are focussed, they can concentrate fully on the task at hand without getting impatient or distracted. They take breaks, but they never lose their ability to be immersed in their mission, carving out new routes to reach their goal. This is another quality you all should emulate.

Your achievements don’t have to make headlines. It can be anything from improving your grades to making an illiterate person literate. It could be getting a big promotion in your job or volunteering your time at an orphanage. When you make a difference, when you make the world a better place for even one person, you are an achiever. And you can build on it.

So, stride ahead and seize the day. There’s a world of achievements waiting for you.
Buzzer Beaters

Aarav Patel and Ruhaan Lakhina comment on the recently concluded Basketball Inter-House.

In School, basketball has been a sport that almost everyone has learnt, but only a few have come close to mastering it. Being a minor sport in India, its popularity skyrocketed in School after dominance was shown by the School Team in the Afzal Khan Tournament this year. This attracted talent from all forms which made this Inter-House very closely contested and exhilarating to watch. There were cheers for every basket scored throughout the tournament, which was a result of almost every match being closely contested and the great spirits of the spectators. Additionally, Masters from every House also showed immense enthusiasm which increased the already hyped-up atmosphere.

Pressure boiled up as the Nizams had tremendous weight on their shoulders seeing that it was their duty to hold onto the House Cup, all while a rivalry was brewing up between them and the Gentlemen. Hyderabad House was taken aback by the arrival of a new exchange Student, and highly motivated, both Houses set their sights on the Seniors Cup. The Eagles, however, were made to fight for their position with Jaisal Sehgal being the top scorer against the Gentlemen, scoring 25 points but in the end, the match favoured the opposition. The Swans gave competition to all houses with each match going on until the last few minutes, and being highly exciting. Despite the tremendous effort, the Swans were pushed off in the end.

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On the other hand, in the Juniors category, the Nizams stunned everyone with the un-guardable ‘New B Former’ who carried the team on his shoulders through the Inter-House leading them to a comfortable victory. Moreover, although it came as a surprise to many, the Warriors stood firm in both the Seniors and Juniors categories emerging as Runners-Up in Juniors.

To conclude this year’s Inter-House, aside from hearing the Nizams chanting with victory, each House knew they put their best. This Inter-House gave light to rising talent from all batches who would definitely contribute to the School in the future.
Striking a Balance

Rohhan Soni comments on the nature of competition in School.

In the heart of our all-boys school, competition is an ever-present force. Whether it’s on the sports field, in academics, or during extracurricular activities, the drive to win and succeed is an integral part of a Dosco’s life at Chandbagh. However, there’s growing concern that the relentless pursuit of victory, fueled by male ego and an insatiable desire to win, is hindering the cultivation of healthy competition among students.

The thirst for winning is a natural human instinct, and it’s not unique to any public school boy. As we strive for success, it becomes too easy to lose sight of the fundamental values that should underpin competition: fairness, mutual respect, and personal growth. The exhilaration that comes with a triumph can be addicting, but this rush can sometimes lead to undesirable behaviours among students. Male ego often plays a significant role in unhealthy competition and as a result, breaks up strong relationships between students. The urge to prove oneself or assert dominance can result in arrogance, aggression, and even unethical tactics. While competition can be a constructive force for personal development and unity, the negative manifestations of our ego can subvert these positive aspects.

One issue that exacerbates the imbalance of healthy competition in our School is the undue emphasis on Inter-House Competitions, fueled by the hunger to win at all costs and an obsession with glory, which can have a detrimental impact on the relationships and bonds among students. The relentless pursuit of victory can strain friendships, leading to a culture where winning becomes more important than the well-being of fellow students. It can alienate and isolate individuals, creating a hostile environment that is counterproductive to the holistic development of Doscos at large.

A prime example of this is how Hyderabad and Kashmir have developed a tradition of on-field ‘trash talk’ that often crosses the line between spirited rivalry and toxicity. While friendly banter can add excitement to the competition, the constant exchange of derogatory comments and taunts has created a toxic environment for the competitors in these houses. This behaviour not only erodes the camaraderie that should define our School but also has a negative ripple effect on the broader student body, contributing to a divisive atmosphere that hinders the growth of every Dosco.

The School’s hierarchy system, with its Senior students wielding more influence over various School teams and activities, unfortunately often hinders the true spirit of competition on the field. The repercussions of this system extend far beyond the realm of team dynamics; they seep into the motivation and aspirations of our Junior students. It is disheartening to witness how many talented Juniors, brimming with potential, are demoralized by the unequal power dynamics, sometimes to the point where they withdraw from activities and sports they once had a genuine passion for. It is imperative that we recognize the need for change and ensure that this system is kept off the field. By doing so, we can create a level playing ground where merit, dedication, and talent prevail over seniority and influence, allowing all students to flourish in their chosen pursuits. It’s high time we unite to uphold the true spirit of competition and provide every student with the opportunity to excel, unfettered by arbitrary hierarchies.

It is essential to strike a balance and to address these challenges and promote a healthier competitive environment. To serve this purpose, our School community should come together and we must prioritise the values of sportsmanship, respect, and integrity. Winning is an achievement to be celebrated, but not at the expense of these core values which The Doon School intends to instil on us Doscos. Students and masters should engage in honest conversations about the importance of healthy competition. By acknowledging the issues and working together, we can create a more inclusive and supportive environment that promotes healthy competition and helps in striking a balance.

Healthy competition is the lifeblood of any school, but it should be a source of inspiration and growth, not a cause of division and hostility. While The Doon School environment may pose its unique challenges, it also provides an opportunity to redefine the meaning of competition, emphasizing the values of sportsmanship, respect, and personal development. By striking a balance between the hunger for victory and the importance of nurturing relationships, we can create a school culture where every student can thrive, and healthy competition can flourish. It’s time we shift our focus from merely winning to building a community where every Dosco can excel and forge meaningful bonds.
Israel-Palestine Conflict | Rafay Habibullah

On October 7th this year, the Palestinian militant group Hamas launched an unforeseen and unprecedented assault on the communities living around the Gaza Strip. Thousands of gunmen of the militant Hamas group infiltrated the area, killing over a thousand civilians, and taking two hundred more as hostages. In response, over the past three weeks, Israel has killed over eight thousand Palestinians with air strikes and bombings and has amassed its military along the borders of the Gaza Strip, the headquarters of Hamas and the second-most populated Palestinian territory.

The situation between Israel and Hamas had already been extremely grim up until this point, with frequent air strikes being carried out by Israel over densely-populated regions of Gaza, while multiple militant groups in Gaza are leading organised crime against the Israelis. The tension that these skirmishes built up over time was one of the prime factors that made this Hamas assault possible, riling up the Palestinian side due to years of being oppressed by the superior Israeli air fleet. The militant groups, who also compete with each other for dominance, aim to build popularity with the Palestinians, to strengthen their war efforts. One of their main aims to further this goal is to release the thousands of Palestinian refugees who are scattered across the Middle East, mainly in Jordan, Syria, and Israel-occupied parts such as the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Furthermore, in the West Bank, where the largest number of Palestinian refugees live, most are against the Jewish settlements in the area, which the Israelis disagree with. Jerusalem, the capital of Israel and a holy city, also has sparked conflicts between the two parties, because neither party can decide upon how to divide it.

These problems seemed to have been solved in the mid-1990s, when the Oslo Accord was implemented, with the recovery process going smoothly. That was until the Israeli opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu stated that the Oslo Peace Process was a mortal threat to his country. Meanwhile, the Hamas took advantage and led militants to suicide missions, spreading more chaos and completely shattering the chances of a deal. Back then, the tension between the two sides culminated in the assassination of Yitzhak Robin, the Prime Minister of Israel, to which there was harsh retaliation. Ever since the assassination, peace talks between the countries have been stalling ever so often, usually as most deals are seen as being one-sided by the Palestinians. This antagonization of the Israelis in the Palestinian's eyes is mainly due to the fact that militant groups like Hamas continue riling up the Palestinians, reminding them of how they were kicked out of their rightful home by the Jews who had fled from Europe for refuge.

To sum it up, the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians has been scarring the population of both sides for generations. The Hamas display of aggression against Israel this October wasn’t unexpected, but Israel had not anticipated the degree of damage that it caused. Despite being inferior to Israel by leaps and bounds in the fields of information collection and defence technology (em dash) Israel’s main weapon (em dash) the Hamas did pull off the attack with surprising and inflicted unanticipated levels of damage.
The Week Gone By

Arjun Prakash

I must confess that I’m writing this piece in the middle of a shabby train compartment, far away from the lush tranquility of Chandbagh, so excuse me if I can’t recall what the dinner menu was, but anyways, as they say — you can take the boy out of School but not the School out of the boy.

The week began with the return of the Doon School Quiz and the Chuckerbutty Memorial Debates, as the Doon School Foot team emerged successful ‘March Past’ routine.

Elsewhere, the A Form finds itself as the triumphant winners in the latter, adding themselves to the glorious legacy of those who did it before them. Right of the DSMUN days, the never-ending sequence of events have given us a lot to digest, but as we resume the musical festivities, dare I say competition, one must remember to grow from such experiences (win or lose) — for they exist to create skill sets that set us apart, and forge bonds that last lifetime.

It’s that time of the year again, where the Main Field maintains its chalked symmetry and prepares for its athletes to take centre stage, as record(s) were broken and standards raised, bit by bit. It’s the same wonderful amalgamation of the winter sun and “Athletes, on your mark”, only this time — the batons are being passed off the field as well, as the S Form contingently hopes to avoid any signs of early disqualification.

As per public opinion, the cancelled 2020 Ballon d’Or should have gone to this striker, as they prepared their squads for a successful ‘March Past’ routine.

As for those on their last stretch, the dread of college applications looms at the darkest hour, waiting to pounce on the half-hearted. If you ever come across one of these athletes in the morning, it’s probably a miracle, or two scoops of caffeine. While our MUN cohort embarked on their journey to Oxford, we can only pray for a permanent Dosco resident to guide future lots.

Dear reader, you’ve made it to the last month of an incredibly hectic term. I’m sure there have been some steep ups and downs along the way, but much like our Midterm treks, find it within you to peak right at the end, for that’s when you’ll be able to look back and cherish the journey forgone. Have a great week ahead!

Crossword | Ballon d’Or

Across
2. Despite still being considered as one of the best players to ever live, this Brazilian icon never got the opportunity to win the Ballon D’or due to being a non-european.
4. The club with the most Ballon d’Or Winners.
6. The winner of the inaugural European Footballer of the Year, the precursor to the Ballon d’Or.
8. As per public opinion, the cancelled 2020 Ballon d’Or should have gone to this striker.

Down
1. A legend for Arsenal and the French National Team, this player surprisingly never won the Ballon d’Or, finishing 2nd in the standings behind Paul Nedved in 2003.
2. This player won the Ballon d’Or three years in a row starting from 1983, and would go on to become the President of UEFA.
3. Nicknamed “Der Kaiser” by fans, he was a two time recipient of the Ballon d’Or even though he primarily played defence.
5. The only goalkeeper to ever win the award.
7. The only player to win the World Cup and Ballon d’Or in the same voting period since 2006.

Source: https://www.theteacherscorner.net/make-your-own/crossword/