

Established in 1936

The Doon School WEEKLY

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

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Editorial

Let the Lamp Burn

Arjun Prakash

When the gates are shut and the bell tolls above the Main Building, something magical takes place. Time flies by, and the naive commentary I wrote in B Form feels like a priceless artefact, holding a piece of my past self through its words and vessels — materialising to capture the journey of the creative evolution that I've been incredibly lucky to share with my fellow batchmates. Through the five years I've spent in the institution, I've noticed that Doscos share an acquired set of values that set us apart from the rest (or so we'd like to think). These same values create an indestructible manifesto that binds us for life, through friends and fortune. It is the reason that, since its inception, Doon has consistently strived to prepare its students for life and not merely the next step. So through these little things, I've always asked myself a singular question as a member of this flagship publication — How must the *Weekly* keep the lamp burning?

I must confess that my biggest fear as a writer is being complacent, and perhaps living under the illusion that these pages have already seen it all. From articles about the trees on campus to fierce critiques of political regimes, or abstract monologues to fictitious fantasies, perhaps it has seen it all, but that's also what makes it incredibly powerful. Generations of Doscos before us have been a part of the same community of writers and readers, shaping their approach to a society where expression is valued and encouraged. However, the complacency towards interacting with

that community only sets in when we lose track of what it means to us.

Personally, these pages have served to act as a product of the times, through sun and rain, with each part of my School journey reflected by the volumes of work I've created within these walls, be it forcibly by my overbearing Senior, or otherwise. And over the course of this time, I've grown as a writer who valued the simple act of creating something stimulating for a reader regardless of how it would be received, and having observed a similar pattern in my friends, albeit later for a few of them, I realised it's universality in the times we live in.

Recently, I was in conversation with a Senior, who, at the end of his tenure as a House Captain, expressed his concern for the growing disconnect between the School community and the things that made it special. It reminded me of my D Form in Martyn House, where 'dorm debates' were the highlight of our nights and essay winners felt like Nobel laureates. At first, I thought it was just another one of those *sentī gyan* sessions but through his words of regret and frustration I realised that our emphasis on providing an intellectual environment away from the classroom nurtures us in more ways than we can imagine. Nevertheless, it is disheartening that the numerous platforms we can use to grow in School, are often taken for granted, particularly in recent times. Willingly involving ourselves in this community is perhaps the most essential ingredient towards finding yourself, and the right

people to guide you — which is where the *Weekly* plays its part. The ability to come out of your 'shell' and engage with the world around you is perhaps the crux of growing as an individual. And as I've learned in the past, writing is the most powerful currency for growth.

Furthermore, with each word you contribute to this publication, you are sparking an idea in someone's mind, and whichever way you see it, it fuels our community with the creative heartbeat that it so desperately needs. You may not get what you expect or desire, but you are taking a step towards becoming the best version of yourself. Aside from the platform of the *Weekly* itself, you'd be amazed by the depth of knowledge and insight that can be derived from going the extra mile in creating an article, a poem or a short story. Take help from your Seniors and Masters, engage in discussions (even if you don't know what's going on around the world), and most importantly, allow yourself to fail time and again because I know for a fact that this is a community of people that uplifts each other, one way or another.

Rest assured from our end of the spectrum, we will do our level best to preserve the legacy of this institution by printing content that is insightful, engaging and relevant at a ground level for each and every member of the community. Dear reader, if you've made it this far, there's just one thing left to say, if you don't keep the lamp burning, then who will?

This Week in History

1799 CE: Napoleon rises to power in France, marking the end of the French Revolution.

1914 CE: France and Britain declare war on Turkey, broadening the scope of World War I.

1917 CE: The Bolshevik party seizes control of Russia, inaugurating the Soviet regime.

1944 CE: Franklin Roosevelt is elected to an unprecedented fourth term as president of the United States.

1985 CE: Garry Kasparov defeats Anatoly Karpov to become the youngest male world chess champion at the age of 22.

1985 CE: The Berlin Wall, erected in 1961 to divide the western and eastern sectors of Berlin, is opened by the East German government.

READERS CHECKLIST

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

- Aryaveer Agarwal:** *The Joys of Compounding* by Gautam Baid.
- Krishiv Jaiswal:** *Freakonomics* by Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner.
- Aayush Raghuvanshi:** *Zero to One* by Peter Thiel.
- DBG:** *Em and the Big Hooms* by Jerry Pinto.
- VKU:** *Do It Today* by Darius Foroux.

“

When everything seems to be going against you, remember that the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it.

Henry Ford

UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

- Colourless is also a colour.*
- Guransh Chawla**, a percipient.
- The question is too dumb for me to understand.*
- Prabhav Jain**, dumfounding the dumb.
- I have many follow accepts.*
- Harsh Begani**, follows await approval.
- Sir I am not absent, you absented me.*
- Shaarnjai Singh**, absent words mismatched.
- I beated him.*
- Udayaditya Samantha**, grammar slammed flat.
- South Africa is 50 kilometers from India.*
- Shreyan Dukhi**, GeoGuessr extraordinaire.

CHESS MAESTROS

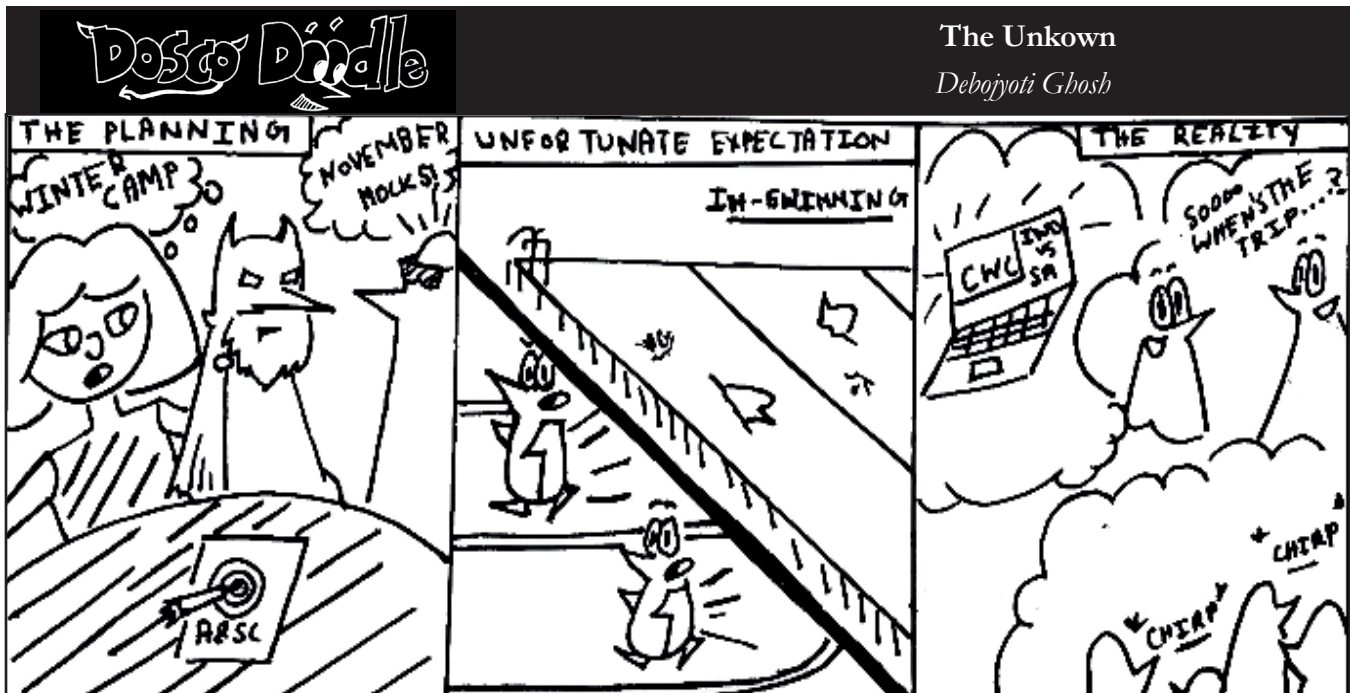
Following are the House Standings of the **Inter-House Chess Competition 2023:**

- 1st:** Oberoi
- 2nd:** Kashmir and Jaipur
- 3rd:** Tata House
- 4th:** Hyderabad

Kudos!

Around the World in 80 Words

Russia formally withdrew from the 1990 Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe. An estimated 72,000 people have fled to southern Gaza from north Gaza. IIT Madras opened its first offshore campus in Zanibar, Tanzania. The PiS party won in Poland, forming the nation’s first nationalist government. Tottenham suffered its first Premier League loss of the season against Chelsea. Glenn Maxwell hit a double century against Afghanistan in the Cricket World Cup. Virat Kohli equalled Sachin Tendulkar’s ODI century record.



Dispelling Shadows

Kanishk Bammi and Pragyan Goel *challenge the new academic restraints, for A and Sc form, and call for greater holistic support.*

As the A and Sc Forms came to School this term, we were greeted with some news that led to rather mixed reactions. Off the back of some disappointing results in the board examinations, we were informed that a year of our life was being taken away from us — six months in our A Form, and six more during our Sc Form.

Initially, we were told that we would have all the time in the world to study, and everything would be done to accommodate our needs, and practices such as an additional 8th School and Remedial Classes in the evening would become a daily norm. And well enough, it did. We would be lying if we said that the School has not done well in helping us improve our focus — and we truly do feel that the amount of effort that has been invested towards academics this term has been much greater than our previous attempts last year, although we are still quite off perfection. Teachers have been more and more willing to help us, and more frequently ready to give us precious time and attention. The number of classes we are being made to attend have been adequate, avoiding the unnecessary pressure put on teachers and students to complete their respective syllabus. With Masters being able to take classes online during vacations, to ensure that any doubts we may have get cleared out, instils in us a sense of pride, comfort, and trust in this institution we so lovingly call Doon.

Furthermore, the School has tried its level best to find a balance between academics and co-curricular activities — to make us the ‘ideal’ DoscOs they promise every parent. It goes without saying that this is the very thing that separates us from any other school. Our time management skills are being actively put to test, as we have to cope with a plethora of Inter-Houses and the incoming wave of academics — we have been made to prioritise in areas where students from other schools would not have been made to. There is nothing wrong in stating the obvious — it is these very students whom we have to academically compete with, students not stuck practicing marching every day or stuck trying to “cook” an article for a School publication. It does raise some objections, but again that is part of the holistic development that the School is seeking to provide. Along with demanding good grades, the School also demands that we hold a certain level of proficiency in each sport, and do well for our House. However, what we propose is that boys not participating in a particular Inter-House Competition, or even those who voluntarily opt out of it, should be allowed to sit in the Main Building

and study instead of sitting around and whiling away their time watching others play. This is not a cry to the administration or the Senior Management, but rather to all those reading the article as well. If you seek to provide us freedom, uphold it. If you are worried about us wasting our time off the sports field as well, we propose an attendance system similar to that of free study schools could be introduced; to show that a boy is either on the field or then in the classroom. This further ensures that a Dosco is not wasting his time, but rather putting it to some good and reasonable use.

To an extent this did happen before our hallowed Trials. Our batch was given the option not to attend games and, sure enough, A Form students were excused from games. This led to classrooms outside of academic hours. However, it seems like the ‘hype train’ for academics has slowed down. This is in no way a problem with the School, but a systemic problem plaguing everyone who is a part of this community.

We do truly hope that this initiative taken by the School will prove to be helpful. But for that to happen more, we need more affirmative action. We glorify our School’s motto of “Knowledge Our Light”, but maybe a bit too much for what our current priorities seem to be. While we agree that this does not just point towards conventional academics but rather the overall and holistic education of a Dosco, both ends of the spectrum fall short as we see DoscOs across forms lacking the ability to prioritise and manage their time. Time and time again School has told us that we are to prioritise our academics and manage our time, but we seldom see that happening. This is a fault of no one else but our own.

We are being pressured to do well for the House on the field. Even the Seniors don’t seem to be bothered by School’s new ‘guidelines’ for A and Sc Form at the very least. Toye hasn’t been taken seriously since the conclusion of the September Trials, and the schedule certainly hasn’t helped. It has not followed through in the grand scheme of things as well, and although classes have been rigorous — we have overlooked the regularity of classes for the Board batches. Having just a few days of classes sandwiched between long stretches of extracurricular events does not help with continuity — which is exactly what happened in the days surrounding Midterms and Founders. This puts an extra burden on Masters, who often have to spend classes on revision instead of carrying on with the pace they once built. Again, while such activities,

(Contd. Overleaf)

and especially the Midterms, are a part of the Doon School Curriculum, this particular aspect of it can certainly be captured in the precious five years that we otherwise have.

Gradually treading towards the conclusion of this collection of words, it does sound as though we are echoing the decision taken by the School, and even though that is true, we would like to state the clear demarcation between the two — we are proposing a systemic change at all levels of School rather than identifying the problem and laying out expectations. We as a whole unit are overlooking multiple factors and expectations projected on the board classes as

they are actively expected to overcome them in a jiffy. While the A Form does reverberate with the seriousness of this decision — it comes to note that this thought must not align with just the Board classes, but the same seriousness regarding the Board batches' sanctity must oscillate with the whole School community for there to be an atmosphere that indeed seconds the A and Sc Forms in their endeavours to score high on one of the most important examinations of their life.

The Pink Tide

Krish Agrawal *comments on the shift to the left in South America.*

In August last year, Gustavo Petro became the first left-wing president of Columbia in recent memory. However, this victory for the left was not an outlier; it was indicative of a wider shift in the South American political landscape towards the left, described by commentators as the 'Pink Tide', with social democratic governments and an increased intervention in the market as well as liberal focus on issues such as welfare emerging.

This 'Pink Tide' is not the first of its kind. The term was coined in the 1990s when South America first encountered a sudden surge of support for the left, triggering the likes of Hugo Chavez and Lula to ascend to power. This dominance of the left, however, did not go unopposed, as soon a conservative 'Blue Wave' emerged, preying on the flaws of the incumbent leaders, particularly the massive and frequent corruption scandals in these countries, marking the supposed end of the Pink Tide in the mid 2010's. An opinion piece from *The New York Times* in 2016 ironically talked about the recession of centre-left (people who are close to the political centre, but still have some aspects of progressivism) powers in the region, however, less than five years later, the Pink Tide has made a resurgence, marked by leaders like Lula reassuming his position in Brazil and left-leaning leaders having been elected in more than 60% of Latin American states. To understand how the Pink Tide has historically swept South America, only to also die down and return again, we have to examine some of the factors that dictated the volatility of opinion amongst the electorate in the 1990's to 2000's.

When the first Pink Tide emerged, it was after years of a neo-liberal (free-market economics) policy implementation suggested by the IMF. However, after signs that the free-market economy model was failing, the public's support turned towards a more socialist or centre-left approach to economic revival, with an increased emphasis on welfare spending. A factor that

could also have spurred the first Pink Tide could have been a distaste for North American influence and intervention in the region, as many define the Pink Tide to be distinctly anti-capitalist, and so perhaps anti-US in nature. However, it is important to note that not all governments (while technically left-leaning in definition) are necessarily aligned in terms of administration, with countries such as Venezuela and Cuba employing a more autocratic regime.

The new Pink Tide today, while coming under the same umbrella ideology, has different objectives from its predecessors, as governments have gone for a more populist approach focused on human rights and wider social issues, such as gender inequality, something relatively unaddressed by right-wing incumbents. There is also a larger emphasis on preserving the environment, such as the new Brazilian administration's attempts to repair some of the damage done by Jair Bolsanaro's tenure in office.

Despite its current success, it would be wrong to assume that the Pink Tide is here to stay. According to many, this so-called 'honeymoon period' of left-oriented parties will eventually die down, similar to the events of the early 2000s. They face a daunting challenge in a world where commodity prices are soaring and the Pandemic has caused severe disruption. Approval ratings have dropped sharply in Latin America, and as per observers, for many nations who have experienced the Pink Tide, a re-election would probably see them revert back to the Blue.

As Latin America revels in this new shade of pink, questions will continue regarding its long term control over the subcontinent. It's only a matter of time before we find out if this was just a temporary dress like the previous occasion, or a permanent switch in the people's allegiances. As of now, while the Pink Tide still sees many successes, its failures have also slowly begun to emerge from the depths.

Can David Defeat Goliath?

Rehhan Chadha explores the paradox of youth activism.

To a writer, the insurmountability and ambiguity of an empty canvas are pathetic and despicable. The more one looks at it, the more it seems to grow eyes and return your gaze, and sometimes one is at an impasse as to how it should be defeated. It suddenly seems gargantuan and remote to contain. Imagine a similar conundrum, except this time the writers are a divided and confused youth, and the issues that splinter them. There you have it—the dilemma that plagues the doctors, lawyers, pilots, and football coaches of our glorious tomorrow.

The youth have always been at the vanguard of activism and social change. The passion and commitment are obvious, whether they are fighting for racial justice, gender equality, climate action, or a variety of other pressing issues. However, there is a paradox in the world of youth activism that is frequently overlooked: young people may become more resistant to finding solutions to the problems they observe. The need of the hour is to examine how ideological differences and the daunting magnitude of these problems can deter new activists and impede progress.

The fact of the matter is that due to how vast these problems are and how they seem to see exponential growth almost every day, the young people's feeble collective consciousness have cracked. To such a great extent, in fact, their sheer impressionability allows them to hold in higher regard (the very knowledgeable, I am sure) the "Bugatti Men" of Instagram *vis-à-vis* the tried and true counsel of the experts in a field, for example, starting a company or perhaps even using a skincare product. This impressionability is not to be taken lightly; it has effectively rendered an entire generation susceptible to disillusionment, hence making them targets for radicalisation.

These blemishes in ideology reflect and resonate beyond the confines of just social media; rather, they are visible crimps in a social pattern: the sensational kind that fatefully hit our civilization sporadically; possibly this one simply hit too hard. There have been cardinal metamorphoses in the past in almost every flourishing society today, which results in a redefinition of morals and ethics and leads to the development of new perspectives. The difference between those and the social tsunami today is that the former was largely intelligent and informed, whereas the latter are simply moths being entranced by the 'hippest' flame. It results in historically established concepts such as the *Carpe Diem* perspective being twisted and manipulated to look better in the overarching narrative being cemented into place. In this particular

case, the Latin phrase has been rephrased to justify ignoring the future toils and engaging in recklessness in the present, but instead exhorts one to concentrate on the here and now since nothing in the future is certain and that is all we have direct control over.

There are a multitude of reasons to why the youth may be uninspired to face problems they know will cause hardships in the future. A prevalent one is that young people may become averse to solving major societal issues and develop the perception that these are simply too big to be fixed. Take, for example, climate change. Multiple young activists are acutely aware of the cataclysmic repercussions of environmental degradation. Helplessness can result from the challenge's enormity and sense of urgency. It's natural to feel discouraged and disengaged when issues seem insurmountable. Concerns about racial injustice, student debt, and income inequality all reflect this same sentiment. Young activists may find it difficult to overcome these obstacles because they stem from ingrained structural problems. As they confront these systemic problems, they can sometimes feel like David facing Goliath, leading to disillusionment and apathy.

Another reason that adds to the flurry is the ideological divide that exists within the generation itself. At a time in history when economic, environmental, racial, and gender disparities are worryingly common, the youth cannot help but be influenced and sometimes conned by those who feed off of elements of mistrust and rebellion within a community, either to reap profit or to serve as agents of chaos. In such times, the community must sensitise itself to this epidemic, asking itself imperative questions such as, "Do we let ourselves be ideologically fragmented, simply to feed our ulterior desire for validation and belonging? Or do we make a concerted effort to bridge these gaps, start afresh, and perhaps this time focus on the long list of existential crises that wait to be addressed?"

Even though not every problem can be solved as quickly as the biblical encounter between David and Goliath, the story reminds us that people and organisations can make a big difference when they approach difficult problems with bravery and determination. Young activists can overcome these obstacles and carry on bringing about positive change in the world by accepting pragmatism, establishing common ground, and preserving unity. Even though there are many obstacles in the way of resolving these issues, every little step in the right direction is a victory to be proud of.

The Week Gone By

Arav Khanal

In these dry winter days, I find it surprising that snakes still somehow manage to unearth themselves.

I suppose it is not just the School Athletics Team’s medals which you hear rattling. Another week and it all happens to pass by so fast. It leaves me struggling to recollect the events of this past week, and well, as usual, it leaves me to predict what will happen between my writing and your reading of this section — as it seems that having to write a *Week Gone By* well in time for print turns anyone into an oracle. Alas, those skills of prediction seem lopsided now as

the time is getting ever so nigh for my dear S Form. But once again, there is no rest for the wicked.

Monday saw the starting of the Inter-House Swimming Competition, only to be halted once more to give our track and field athletes a shot at displaying their exemplary performances (not to say the same wasn’t present in the pool as well) which saw Houses competing fiercely for the last few points that remained to be claimed. As yet another season concludes, don’t let the results hinder your endeavours. After all, the cake is a lie.

For our amphibious brethren — don’t let the comfort of the heated pool bog you down, there is a long way left to go. In the words of Dory, “just keep swimming.” But that’s enough schooling for today. There’s a nip in the air, and the sun seems to shy away, leaving us

stumbling half-awake to the Main Field in the mornings to avoid the terror of our School’s own drill sergeant. However, now is the time where you can make the most of it — School’s constant onslaught of event after event has finally seemed to cease, and all that remains is to prepare ourselves for November’s slew of examinations. To all my readers, enjoy this brief period of respite, and especially your Diwali break, you’ve earned it!

And well — I suppose there is some advice left to give here now, at least preemptively. Remember this: things always work out to be the way it’s meant to, even though the winds may blow away your precognitions. Until then, watch the shadows traveller, it’s a beautiful world that’s hidden.

Wordsearch | Cricket World Cup

- 1. This batsman has the most runs in World Cup history.
- 2. This team has won the most World Cup titles.
- 3. This batsman has the most World Cup centuries.
- 4. This player has the most World Cup appearances.
- 5. This player has the highest individual score in a single game in World Cup History.
- 6. This player has the best-ever bowling figures in the World Cup.
- 7. With six appearances, alongside Tendulkar, this player has played in the most Cricket World Cups.
- 8. This World Cup winning Captain holds the record for most sixes hit in a single game.
- 9. In one of the most controversial matches to date, England beat this team in the Semi-Final of the 1992 World Cup.
- 10. This Captain was awarded the Man of the Tournament award in the 2019 World Cup.
- 11. This team has the record of the lowest-ever score of 36 runs in a World Cup match.
- 12. This wicketkeeper holds the record for most dismissals in World Cup history.

X A F H P P A I L A R T S U A G Z R Z G
G F Q L L H P T I V S D G M B O D U G G
T H J L A O T A Y X P M J M G A S E E Z
J D I I T L G D C S B I F C R Q S B S T
Y E K T Z R V N A O O D M M D O U A T H
B X B P O P D N I U Y W H G K D A D T P
X B R U Z S G I R T W E B J D J Y A V W
B J V G X A Y G L H N D N E Z Z R N R G
G I D Z K N L G F A M O C Z H R J A X P
A J A K V N C G W F D C P E K H K C N P
W M A V T D O W Z R A Q G R Z L I A D Q
R R R O H I H S A I P U A R U S D V I X
A F G A J N H H M C W N X D A I V R M C
U R F Q H O R I E A P O N X X T K D O V
S U K N T S A L E Z I E V I H F H E R Y
N G V L D N B M Y S T L R Z J P G V G M
H P Q R D G P A O I T K L H E E T A A
S Z G A R A U G F O E H F I K V U I N D
K U D I V S T X H D Z D Q N W L L G Z F
S S Z D E R Z E L W J G V S R V W E J H

4. Ponting	8. Morgan	12. Sangakkara
3. Sharma	7. Mhandad	11. Canada
2. Australia	6. McGrath	10. Williamson
1. Tendulkar	5. Guptill	9. South Africa

Answers to this week's Wordsearch
<https://worksheets.theteacherscorner.net/make-your-own/word-search/>

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