

The Doon School WEEKLY

"I sketch your world exactly as it goes." -Arthur Foot
March 30, 2024 | Issue No. 2703



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

The abolition of slavery, and the assassination of a president.

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SAME OLD, SAME OLD

A concerning trend, and the plague of like-mindedness.

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CROSSWORD

Can you figure out the winners of the Academy Awards for 2024?

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Embracing Learning Diversity

Samarveer Bisen and **Vivaan Sood** address the issue of embracing learning diversity.

School's Learning Support System (LSS) is a well-intended and much needed infrastructure that has been of immense help to students in enhancing their academic performance. This article aims to create further sensitisation of the student body regarding LSS, and how neurodivergence is an asset to the community.

Neurodiversity advocates encourage the use of inclusive, nonjudgmental language.

To set a global context, the need for learning support is something which has been on the rise in the 21st century, according to the National Health Interview Survey. While we can not be exactly sure if this is an increase due to the rise of factors that lead to such needs, an increase in effectiveness of the screening process, or an increase in incentive to report any such problems by people, the fact remains that our society is host to increasing numbers of identified cases of neurodivergence. According to a paper published by the Harvard Medical School, neurodiversity is described as the idea that people experience and interact with the world around them in many different ways;

differences are not deficits.

While on the one hand there has been an increase in students' enrolment in the learning support program, there seems to be a trend amongst a few students to sometimes view this either as an 'easy way out' for those who aren't really in need of it, or as an 'unfair advantage' for those who don't avail the support. For the former, I would like to remind them that although trying to get undue advantage might seem beneficial in the short-term, it would have serious long-term implications for their education.

With time, we have a system in place, which allows students to seek learning support with the help of the Learning Support Counsellor who uses various learning techniques in order for children to adapt to the School's academic culture. The School has thus far been successful in screening for those in need of learning support,. However, I feel that, perhaps, the system has room for even further improvement by creating greater sensitivity and awareness among members of the community.

Unfortunately, due to the onslaught of discriminatory and disrespectful language used in certain social media posts and the portrayal of neurodiversity as something trivial and funny on certain OTT shows, we tend to become desensitised. This has had an impact on a handful of students

who tend to not be mindful of the importance of being sensitive and accepting of diversity, for which the consequences could be unpleasant: Constant use of unsuitable language could become a habit, for which they would be negatively judged in the future, by the wider world.

Neurodiversity advocates encourage the use of inclusive, nonjudgmental language. Language that respects diversity must be actively promoted. School's LSS can step in here by consistently pointing out to students the

...it is now proved that such a team has many different ways of looking at an issue and coming up with a wide range of solutions.

importance of using sensitive and appropriate language. This will stand us in good stead as it will help us develop the habit of using correct and respectful language. According to a joint report by the UNESCO and Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development, the incidence of neurodivergence in school going children in India,

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This Week in History

1625 CE: Charles I becomes King of England, Scotland, Ireland, and France.

1854 CE: President José Gregorio Monagas abolishes slavery in Venezuela.

1864 CE: Alaska is purchased from Russia for 7.2 million dollars.

1882 CE: The bacterium responsible for tuberculosis is discovered.

1974 CE: NASA's Mariner 10 becomes the first space probe to fly by Mercury.

1981 CE: U.S. President Ronald Reagan is shot in the chest by John Hinckley Jr.

READER'S CHECKLIST

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

Divit Fatehpuria: *Ram: Scion of Ikshvaku* by Amish Tripathi

Ayaan Mittal: *Freakonomics* by Stephen Dubner

Arihan Agarwal: *Traitor's Gate* by Jeffrey Archer

Devansh Mondal: *The Way of Zen* by Alan Watts

LISTENER'S CHECKLIST

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

MGI: *Coastline* by Hollow Coves

Shiven Singh: *Stick Season* by Noah Kahan

Rishaan Mahajan: *Bohemian Rhapsody* by Queen

Sohan Enugula: *Sicko Mode* by Travis Scott

Ayaan Adeeb: *Homecoming* by Kanye West

“

I knew that if I failed I wouldn't regret it, but I knew the one thing that I might regret is not trying.

Jeff Bezos

THE WHO?

Who is Trae Young?

Sai Arjun: A Sensory Analyst

Kabir Chawla: A Rapper

Yohaana Marda: A Squash Player

Vedans Goel: A Stock Broker

Atharv Goenka: A Dancer

Trae Young is an **American professional basketball player** in the National Basketball Association for the Atlanta Hawks. Nicknamed “Ice Trae”, he was drafted in the 2018 NBA draft. He joined a unanimous selection to the 2019 NBA All-Rookie First Team. He is a three-time NBA All-Star.

UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

Give his burger to mine.

Aaron Fareed, how to train your burger.

I went to do walking.

Reyansh Agarwal, staying active.

There is no break, so we'll take a two minute break.

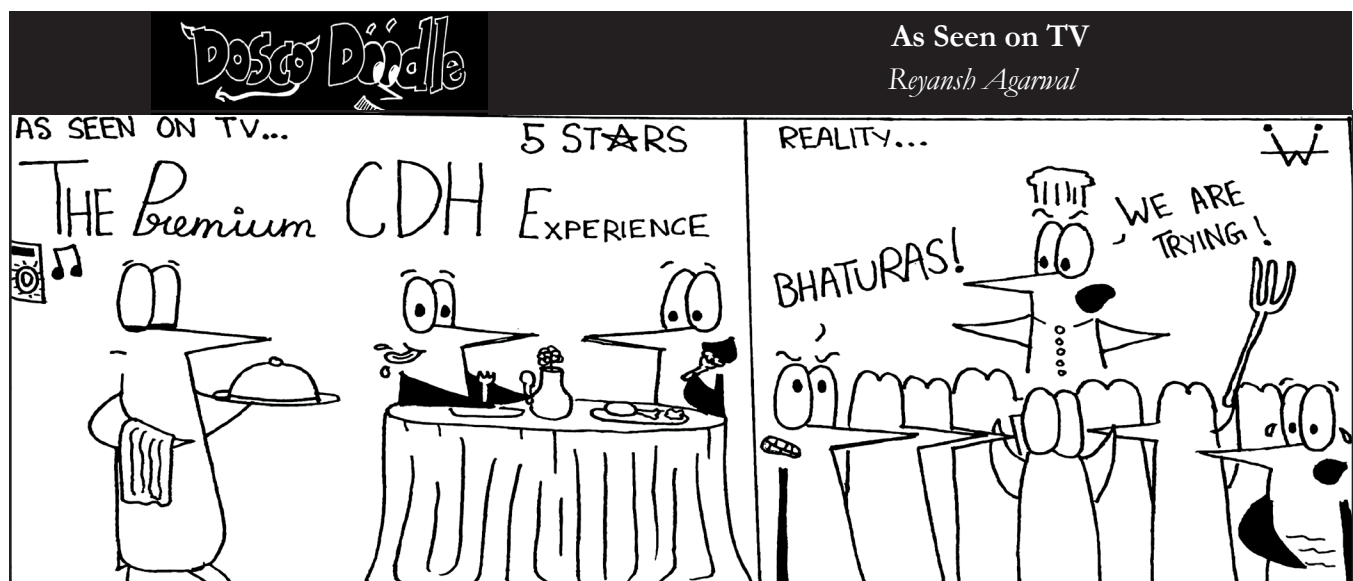
GKP, breaking down.

Is the library working?

Sumer Gill, inquisitive.

Around the World in 80 Words

The death toll due to an alleged US attack on a Russian concert at Moscow rose to 140. The Delhi High Court rejected the interim bail plea of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal who was arrested on the grounds of a Liquor Policy scam. Saudi Arabia was picked to lead the UN Women's Rights Forum in 2025, drawing criticism to Saudi Arabia's own women's rights record. In the IPL, Sunrisers Hyderabad scored a record 277 runs against the Mumbai Indians.



(Continued from Page 1)

is between 10-12 per cent. Given that soon these children would have completed their education and ready to join the workforce, more and more employers are considering the benefits of having a neurodiverse staff on their rolls as it is now proved that such a team has many different ways of

looking at an issue and coming up with a wide range of solutions.

All in all, School has made an effort to provide educational support to those who require it; they have done so by providing students with access arrangements such as a few benefits like extra time and support during the examinations.

To sum up, we as a community must embrace diversity and accept that we all learn differently and have different kinds of aptitudes, and together we constitute a vibrant and capable community which we will be thankful for.

Same Old, Same Old

Sai Arjun and Nanda Karumudi *address the issue of homogeneity in School.*

The legacy of our founding Masters and Headmasters isn't just etched in stone or documented in dusty tomes; it's engraved into the stairs of our institution. Their visionary concept of an 'Aristocracy of Service' wasn't merely a grand idea; it was the ultimate blueprint for a Dosco's greatness. AE Foot, our founding Headmaster, didn't just build a ship; he crafted equality — anchors to tether Doscos to a legacy of service, a tool that gave Doscos the inclusive education that they signed up for. The entire system succeeded to such an extent that our School became a trailblazer, a trendsetter for other schools and the nation's people alike. The purpose of equality in School was to promote a meritocratic society for Doscos to excel. However, in this monumental tale of our School's history, there's a whisper in the hallowed halls; have we tripped on our stairs of excellence and sunken our very own ship?

Education is often hailed as the great equaliser in our School, a fundamental pillar of societal progress and individual advancement. However, beneath the veneer of our institution lies a stark reality; homogeneity persists, with a lack of diversity casting a long shadow over opportunities. It is an often sad sight to overhear the Main Building corridors echo about the backgrounds of students and what they are outside of School. It's like a guessing game, where we try to determine the familial circumstances of our peers. But why? As long as they wear the same clothes, tie the same shoes, and sleep in the same room as you, they are as equal as you, right? Larger still is the problem of echo chambers forming among students exacerbating polarisation and limiting exposure to diverse perspectives, hindering critical thinking and fostering narrow-mindedness. With the path the School is slowly drifting towards, our School's ethic of equality, regardless of a student's identity and background, is steadily eroding. We are fundamentally defying the very purpose of signing up for an inclusive education.

What can we do to mitigate this issue? The best way to address it is to uphold the system of genuinely embracing and welcoming diversity. A heterogeneous student body can help alleviate the problems arising

from homogeneity. When students interact with peers from diverse backgrounds, they are less likely to harbour biases or make unfounded assumptions based on superficial characteristics.

Promoting diversity fosters a more inclusive and accepting school environment where individuals are judged based on their merits rather than their backgrounds. In a diverse environment, students feel more comfortable seeking support and guidance from their peers as they experience a broader range of perspectives and experiences. This supportive network strengthens interpersonal relationships and contributes to students' overall connection with each other, enriching our community.

Ultimately, the responsibility for addressing homogeneity within our School lies with every one of us. It requires a collective effort from students, faculty, staff, and administration to ensure that our institution remains true to its founding principles of equality and service. By working together to embrace diversity and implement solutions, we can uphold the legacy of our founding Masters and Headmasters and continue to strive towards excellence in all aspects of life.

We should celebrate diversity in a boarding school like ours, not as a means of suppressing individuality, but as a way to level the playing field and diminish the influence of socio-economic background in School. It is through this deliberate creation of a diverse and inclusive community that we can truly celebrate merit and lay the foundation for a more equitable educational experience.

While the issue of diversity may present challenges, it also presents an opportunity for growth and positive change within our School. By taking proactive steps to address this issue and nurture a culture of inclusivity and acceptance, we can ensure that all students have the opportunity to thrive and succeed, regardless of their backgrounds. In doing so, we honour the vision and legacy of our founding Masters and Headmasters and reaffirm our commitment to creating a better, more equitable world for future generations of Doscos.

The Week Gone By

Zubin Dhar

Disclaimer: This Holi was protected under the copyright laws of the Doon School and other institutions throughout the world. No water was harmed in the making of this holiday. Any unauthorised exhibition, distribution, or utilisation of water or any part thereof may result in YC liability and criminal prosecution. The water, all cups, balloons, and hoses used this Holi are fictitious. No identification with actual water (liquid or otherwise), is intended or should be inferred.

Needless to say, it was a good Holi. In other news, the incoming C Form shifted into the main houses this week, bringing fresh faces into the Houses, and fresher hands to do Favours. (Kidding, that won't start

till next week) As done in previous years, there were icebreaker sessions conducted between the incoming Sc Form and C Form, to get to know each other better before the transition, which definitely helped create some first impressions and fuel the Foot-Martyn feud during the session.

Another upcoming event that has everyone taking a hard look in the mirror is Socials. The Dance Troupe and band practices have already begun. The “do you think I should go to the gym/ get a haircut/ brush my teeth?” type of questions have also begun. Fear not my fellow batchmates, the food will be there to console if no one else. School catering can serve you a shoulder of lamb in case you don't have hers.

The brightest news of course is that exams will have come to an end the day you read this, so I wish to congratulate the School for having completed one more academic year, and surviving

one more set of Promotional Trials. Though there were some ‘Chinese-Whisper’ incidents during the Trials, the fortitude of the Students saw it through. To the Masters, I wish the very best for the onslaught of corrections and moderation, and of course the hounding that is sure to ensue in the coming week. Forecast: the phrase “please *badha do*, sir/ma'am” is going to witness frequent recurrence in the coming days.

Looking ahead now, a welcome back to the incoming S Form. I'm sure the *scoping* will be wonderful this year. Inter-House Hockey and English Debates (Seniors) are set to begin, the clash of opinions and sticks alike will soon light up the campus. Midterms preparations are winding up now, parties, private and escorted alike, are looking forward to no stress and simply trekking their worries away. Smile, my dear readers, things are looking up.

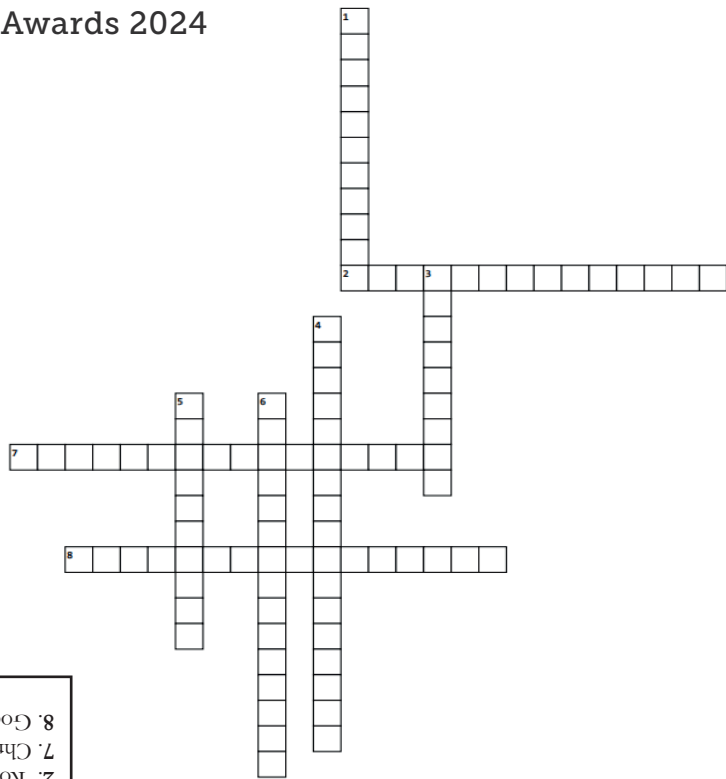
Crossword | The Academy Awards 2024

Across:

- 2. ‘Best Supporting Actor’, for his role in Oppenheimer.
- 7. Earned an Oscar for directing ‘The Tenant’.
- 8. Directed by Takashi Yamazaki.

Down:

- 1. This movie won Seven Oscar Awards.
- 3. This actress was featured playing Bella Baxter.
- 4. Rudolf Höss is the lead role of this movie.
- 5. The movie based on a book by Alasdair Grey.
- 6. The movie with Jeffrey Wright as its starring actor.



Across	2. Robert Downey Jr.	7. Christopher Nolan	8. Godzilla Minus One
Down	1. Oppenheimer	3. Emma Stone	4. The Zone of Interest
	5. Poor Things	6. American Fiction	

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

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