

Established in 1936

The Doon School WEEKLY

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

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CLARIFIED: POWER REDRAWN

A breakdown of the process of delimitation and its impacts.

Page 3

DIVINE INTERVENTION

A satirical piece reimagining School life if the SMC woke up as D Formers one day.

Page 4

More Than Walls

Uniformity may define our School, but individuality defines our Houses. When observed carefully, what appears to be a centralised system reveals layers of different cultures and traditions. The five Main Houses in our School each carry their own reputation, personality, and unwritten rules. The differences between them may seem subtle at first but over time, one can easily tell the Houses apart, not just by their architecture, but by the people who reside within them.

It is crucial to establish the key factors responsible for these differences — to understand how and why the Houses vary in the first place. Of course, traditions are long-lasting and take time to evolve, but the personality of the House collectively depends on the nature and interests of the Sc Form that leads it. The Forms in School differ from one another in terms of their mindsets and management styles, as seen when they take on leadership roles. The system of mentorship followed in our School ensures that the Junior Forms are influenced by their Seniors and start adopting similar attributes and interests, creating unique cultures across the various Houses. Another crucial factor which has an unacknowledged impact is the Senior Pastoral Team of the House, comprising the Housemaster, Assistant Housemaster, and Dame. The principles that they uphold, along with their own vision, play an integral role in shaping the culture

of the House. Over time, these various factors merge and form a unique environment for students to be nurtured and to grow in.

Several mechanisms and nuances of our School system automatically create a distinct identity for each House. One of these is peer pressure and the notion of meeting the expectations of the House. As stated earlier, the Sc Form demands their own expectations from Juniors, who mould themselves a certain way to meet them. A common example would be of the B and C Formers neglecting their academic pursuits to attend a Common Room for an Inter-House match the next day, and A and S Formers not resting adequately just to attend Play and Dance practices. We have all seen it, but have failed to recognise the underlying reasons for it. Once a House gains a particular reputation, students may try to subconsciously live up to it, creating a cycle where perception enforces reality.

Rivalries between Houses amplify cultural differences as well. Having so many Inter-House Competitions has definitely increased the sense of rivalry and the onus of defeating the other Houses to achieve personal glory. This has led to Houses often defining themselves differently to others. Phrases such as 'We have more House Spirit than them', or rather, 'We are more disciplined than them' exemplify this reason. Another reason is the influence of success and failure. Houses that win

Manit Jain examines the varying cultures within Main Houses across School, exploring the impact this has on the School Community.

these Inter-House Competitions frequently have a sense of pride and confidence instilled within their students, while Houses that suffer repeated losses throughout the year can either build resilience or be discouraged from preparing for the next year. For the past few years, the Nizams had been trailing behind the Warriors in the Inter-House PT Competition, missing the 'Gong' by a slim margin each time. Rather than being discouraged, they worked harder than ever before and won the competition last year, showcasing the impact of a victory or a loss on a House. Ultimately, Houses are made of people like you and me, and we are all different.

We should not only understand why these Houses differ from each other, but also take into account the impact these differences have on the School Community. The first and most important aspect is identity. In a boarding school like ours, finding your identity and who you truly are is absolutely necessary to keep yourself from fading into obscurity. When students start associating themselves with their House's values and feel that they are part of something larger than themselves — a tribe, perhaps — they learn valuable lessons no other school could ever teach them. The Inter-House Competitions, often acting as a system that exemplifies

(Continued on Page 3)

UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

I not take iron!
SSR, adamant.
Please fill the water bottle with extra water.

Aditya Koradia, thirsty for more.
It is the most unsafest place.

Rishaan Singh, shiver me timbers.

I will help you once the work is done.

Rudra Saran, hard worker.

My surname is Agrawal.

Yagya Agarwal, isn't it your name?

THE FIGHT OF THE EAGLES

Microfiction

The two eagles soared in the bright blue sky, their eyes interlocked and red with fury. They screamed and clawed, filled with anger, and ferociously attacked each other. After an exchange of talons, one of them managed to deliver a fatal blow, knocking its adversary down. 'Eggy', as we called him, spiralled below, almost like a bullet, and crashed near the padel courts, dazed and unable to get up. We immediately rushed him to the *Hospi*, where the Doctor gave him an injection and some water in a cup to drink. I still recall the shrieks of the birds when they were fighting, and the way they flew and circled each other, like a shark ensnaring its prey. For now, 'Eggy' is in the balcony of Dorm Two in Foot House, healing and patiently waiting for the opportunity to soar high in the sky again.

- Athrv Tiwari

This Week in Dosco History

1967 CE: Vikram Seth wins the Gombhar Speech Trophy.

1972 CE: Speed breakers are installed throughout School.

1973 CE: Mr Saiyid Nurul Hasan, the then Education Minister of India, visits School.

1979 CE: E.J. Simeon, the then Headmaster of the School, leaves to join The Cathedral and John Connon School, Mumbai.

1981 CE: A cyclone sweeps through School, causing damage to both Tata and Kashmir House.

1986 CE: *The Doon School Weekly* celebrates its Golden Jubilee.

1989 CE: A new system is introduced, where for the first time, the report cards are sent to the parents as well.

Around the World in 80 Words

Tensions continue in the Middle East as ceasefire talks in Islamabad were halted despite a truce extension. The U.K. celebrated the hundredth birthday of Queen Elizabeth II with memorial tributes. Clashes erupted between the Naga and Kuki tribes of Manipur due to ethnic tensions. The European Union mandated phones to have user-replaceable batteries to effectively reduce electronic waste. Carlos Alcaraz and Aryna Sabalenka were awarded the Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year award, respectively, at the Laureus World Sports Awards.

THE RIDDLE?

*I am a glassy infant,
 One of a trio set.
 A tiny kingdom yet a fun,
 modern net.
 No food is cooked within my
 bustling Kitchen,
 Yet I offer battles that are quite
 bewitchin'.
 A tiny kingdom in an arena of
 the greats;
 I stand in between a place of
 legacy,
 And a Holding Cradle of
 Chandbagh.*

The answer to the previous Issue's riddle was the Headmaster's Office. The first person to solve the riddle was Uday Rana. An honourable mention is given to JRB Sir for narrowly missing out on first place.

LISTENERS' CHECKLIST

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

Loechin Phangcho: *Nightmare* by Avenged Sevenfold

Ritvik Agarwal: *Preacher Man* by Ye

Aarav Agarwal: *The World's Smallest Violin* by AJR

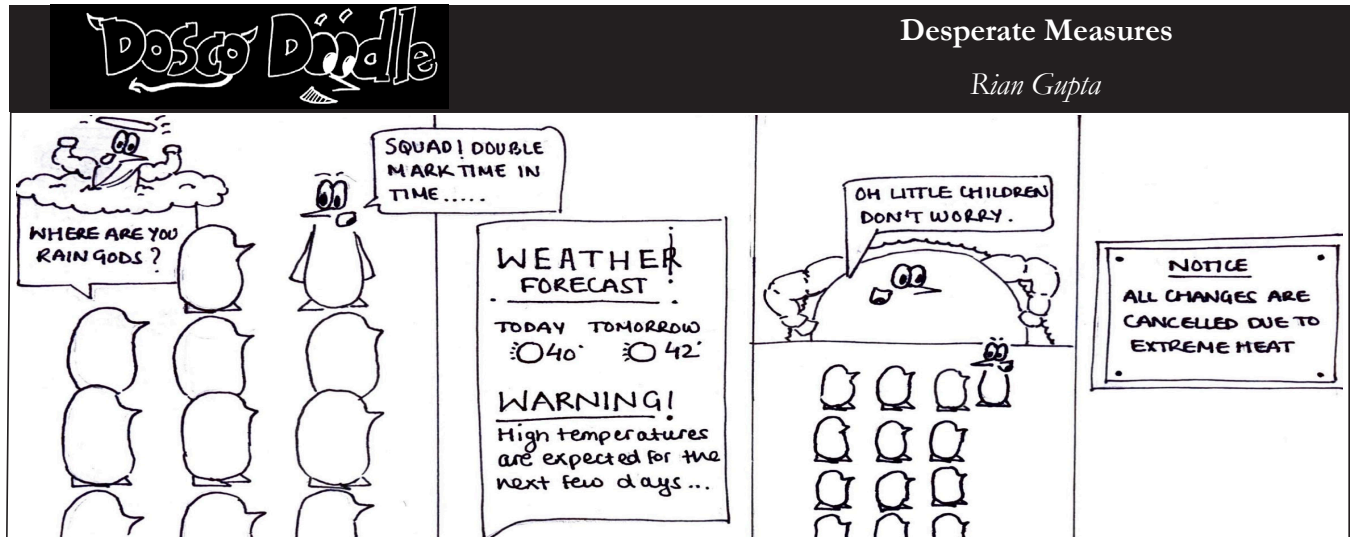
READERS' CHECKLIST

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

Kaif Khanji: *The Art of War* by Sun Tzu

Jahaann Goel: *Clash of Civilizations* by Samuel P. Huntington

Vedant Ranjan: *The Housemaid* by Freida McFadden



(Continued from Page 1)

the differences between Houses, help inculcate competitiveness within the student body. This leads to a healthy competition between them, further driving the students to improve their own skill level. However, this competitive spirit can go haywire, with the formation of unhealthy competition, negatively impacting the Houses. The consequences of these distinctions are considerable as well. When the labels developed by these Houses become rigid and people start prioritising what their

House would want over what they themselves want to pursue, these stereotypes then become harmful. At that level, rather than helping students form an identity, it traps them in a web of expectations they pay a hefty price to achieve.

The purpose of this article is neither to establish which House is superior to whom nor to point out how our School's system is inherently flawed for creating this competition between Houses; it is to simply inform the Readership of the factors that influence these developments in the first

place. When I asked my friends studying in other schools about the significance of their Houses, most of them replied with shocked incredulity — 'Who even cares about that now?' or, 'Those don't matter in senior classes.' Looking back on those conversations, I realise that I am truly fortunate to be a part of this system and to have an identity and allegiance which corresponds to an entire House.



Clarified: Power Redrawn

Samar Singh | Delimitation

India is on the verge of one of its greatest political restructurings ever. The current debate on delimitation in the Parliament has reignited controversy over how political representation should be distributed across the country. Delimitation is the act of redrawing the boundaries of political constituencies to adapt to the evolving nature of India's population dynamics. The issue of delimitation is often accompanied by disagreement between parties, as it is usually politically advantageous for certain states. The controversy has emerged due to the current Bill on delimitation, which proposes increasing the number of Lok Sabha seats from 543 to around 850 to implement a 33% reservation for women without displacing the current Lok Sabha members.

Delimitation is not new in India; it has existed since our Independence, but was frozen in 1976. At that time, India wanted states to control their population, and the Government felt that states would be disincentivised from controlling their population due to the fear of seats being reduced in the Lok Sabha. Hence, delimitation was frozen by the 42nd Amendment, which meant that no redistribution would happen even if the population changed. The freeze was later extended by the 84th Constitutional Amendment till 2026 to maintain political balance. Due to this, the constitutional boundaries remained unchanged even though the population distribution was changing drastically.

With the freeze on delimitation set to end in 2026, passing a Bill in the Lok Sabha has become the need of the hour. Additionally, since the Bill on delimitation redistributes political power, it has led to stark divisions in Parliament. The Bill proposes an increase

in Lok Sabha seats, also aiming to implement a 33% reservation for women. The supporters of the Bill claim that representation should match the population of the constituency to uphold equity. On the other hand, critics believe that this could lead to a significant loss of power for the Southern states by rewarding population growth over population control. This weakens India's federal balance by altering the influence of states on decisions made by the Lok Sabha.

This has also led to a divide between the Central Government and the Opposition. The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha but faced strong opposition and failed to secure the required two-thirds majority. While the Centre supports delimitation, the Opposition believes that it is being used to reduce their seats in the Lok Sabha. It is important to note that the failure of this Bill to pass in the Lok Sabha also marked one of the most significant legislative setbacks for the NDA-led government. Northern States have a higher population than Southern States, which creates concerns of regional imbalance as most states in the North are more Centre-inclined than the Southern States. This political angle has turned delimitation into a deeper political conflict between the Centre and the Opposition.

Ultimately, delimitation presents a complex balancing act between democratic fairness and federal stability. While it does seek to ensure fair representation in Parliament, it also raises concerns of unequal regional influence and risks destabilising the federal balance. Due to these risks, any further steps will require more consideration, as is already visible with its rejection in the Lok Sabha and the consequent stalling of the Bill.

Divine Intervention

-Creative-

Aadidev Agarwal *imagines what School life would look like if the SMC were D Formers.*

Day 1

The moment Batman wakes up in a Martyn House Dorm, the universe can tell that something is not right. The members of the Justice League have all disappeared from their dwellings, and it seems quite suspicious. Little do the D Formers know that they have appeared as their very own Batchmates. Assembly seems noticeably short now that neither Batman nor Robin is compelled to give passionate speeches — or show up at all. Batman now has to face PT, which is something he advocates strongly for others. It is rather humorous to see someone who used to spend most of his day presiding over a grand office now doing double mark time with the precision of a man who has never actually done it before. Our Cyborg, meanwhile, packs school bags instead of planning how many kilograms of books and burden the students must carry for their daily workout — and discovers, rather quickly, that the answer was too many.

Day 2

The sudden sabbatical now seems a bit worrying. Students keep asking — ‘Have they gone on a trip? A hike? An extraordinarily long Board meeting?’ — but little do they know, the Justice League has been right here the entire time, hiding in plain sight behind the merciful anonymity of a school that runs on routine. You would expect Robin to put some urgency in his walk after what feels like a lifetime of Assemblies on punctuality, but after carrying a D Former’s bag up three flights of stairs, he decides to saunter between classes instead. Tutors look surprised to see a new face in their tutorials but blame it on their memory, as one tends to do. Wonder Woman now feels the full comfort of the Peshawaris she so aggressively campaigned for across every House — each step a quiet reckoning. But that is not the real nightmare. The real pain is sitting at breakfast, watching her Batchmates’ hair achieve new and spectacular heights of disorder, while being completely powerless to intervene.

Day 3

The DoscOs have slackened, as they know there is no Batman prowling the halls and no Wonder Woman keeping a watchful eye. The Bell now feels like a suggestion rather than compulsion. The Justice League, for their part, has eased into their new routine with a resignation that borders on contentment. Batman gains a flashy set of colourful Dosco vocabulary

to add to his dictionary — words he will certainly never use, and absolutely cannot unlearn. Cyborg has acquired a new and nuanced appreciation for the quintessential 8th School, having now experienced it from the inside rather than the prospectus. Robin has a stack of essays to submit instead of protocols to enforce, and is quietly horrified to discover they are due tomorrow. Our dear Wonder Woman, meanwhile, has found an unexpected new fantasy: Rest Hour. She guards those forty minutes with a ferocity previously reserved for the ‘Locker Checks’.

Day 4

The School has gone pleasantly, chaotically askew. Prefects struggle to manage the wild School Community without their usual reinforcements, issuing warnings with the confidence of people who know perfectly well that nothing will happen. The Justice League, now fully settled into their new places, experience something they haven’t in quite some time: ordinariness. It is uncomfortable at first, and then — slowly — rather nice. Until, without warning, they are transported back to their original roles. A relief, certainly. Though Batman lingers for just a moment in the Dorm before heading back, as if trying to remember something he cannot name. The episode felt like a dream.

Day 5

Assembly is immediately called for. New rules have been set in place. Batman arrives, and the DoscOs magically start behaving — the old instinct, sharp as ever.

“8th School has been abolished; a new schedule will be provided shortly.”

“All types and forms of punishment are banned until further notice.”

“Peshawaris have become optional; floaters will once again be available in the G-Store.”

“The School Community has been strongly advised not to use colourful vocabulary.”

“Time between classes has been extended to seven minutes.”

A few people exchanged glances. Someone near the back almost smiled.

Even though everything had returned to normal, there was a slight — almost imperceptible — difference in the air. DoscOs remembered the ‘Purge’ days and smiled to themselves. Batman and the Justice League carried back something they hadn’t quite expected: a memory of what it felt like to be on the other side of it all. Chandbagh is funny, isn’t it?

भीतर का तूफ़ान

अभिनव कुमार

उसके भीतर का सन्नाटा कमज़ोरी नहीं, एक हुंकार है,
बाहर जो ख़ामोशी है, अंदर धधकता अंगार है।
चेहरों के इस मेले में, हर शख्स यहाँ नकाबपोश था,
वह सच के साथ तन्हा खड़ा, बस यही उसका दोष था।

हर चेहरे पर लिपटे उस झूठे नकाब को जान लिया उसने,
ख़ामोशी में छिपे हर ज़हरीले जवाब को छान लिया उसने।
जानकर भी अनजान बना, वो अपनी हक़ीक़त से डरता रहा,
भीड़ की अंधी लहरों में, वो खुद ही खुद से लड़ता रहा।

झूठ की मख़मली चादर को, वह तन पर लपेटता रहा,
सत्य की ठंडी लहरों से, डरकर सिमटता रहा।
पर भागता भी कहाँ तक? हर मोड़ पर खुद से सामना था,
भीड़ का हिस्सा बनकर जीना, बस एक बहाना था।

रिश्तों की रंगीनी तब तक, जब तक जेब में नूर था,
अँधेरा छाते ही देखा, हर अपना कितना दूर था।
वह पत्थर की मूरत नहीं, जो हर चोट हँसकर पी जाए,
इंसान है वह, जिसके सीने में अब ज्वाला जी जाए।

दामन पर उसके भी, कुछ दाग और धूल हैं,
पर इरादों की क्यारी में, अब अंगारों के फूल हैं।

अब उसने ठान लिया है, वह डर की बेड़ियाँ तोड़ेगा,
सत्य की राह कठिन सही, पर अब मुख न वह मोड़ेगा।

भीड़ की उस हँसी को, वह अपनी शान बनाएगा,
उसका यही मौन कल, ज़माने का फ़रमान कहलाएगा।
वह कोई सफ़ेद संगमरमर नहीं, वह तपता हुआ फौलाद है,
वह संघर्षों की कोख से जन्मी, एक अजेय औलाद है।

जो ज़हर उसने पिया अब तक, उसे अपनी ढाल बनाएगा,
अपने ही ख़ौफ़ के सीने पर, वह अब वार कर जाएगा।
वह खिलौना नहीं किस्मत का, न ही भीड़ का शिकार है,
वह खुद अपनी कलम है, वह खुद अपनी तलवार है।

जो रातें अशकों में गुजरीं, अब वे ही उसका गीत बनेंगी,
आज की दबी हुई चिंगारियाँ, कल उसकी जीत बनेंगी।
वह सौ बार गिरा है राहों में, पर हर बार संभला है,
अंदर से जितना टूटा था, बाहर से उतना ही निखरा है।

अब वह जो है, वही रहेगा, सच का परचम थामेगा,
दुनिया बदले या न बदले, वह सच से नहीं बदलेगा।
क्योंकि उसके भीतर का सन्नाटा कमज़ोरी नहीं, ऐलान है,
बाहर जो ख़ामोशी है, अंदर छिपा वही तूफ़ान है।

दोस्त: धड़कन और ढाल

आदर्श कुमार

भाई से भी ऊँचा स्थान है इसका,
दुःख-दर्द बाँटने का एहसान है इसका।
ज़िन्दगी तो मेरी तूने ही बदल दी है,
मेरी कहानी में सिर्फ़ नाम है इसका।

सभी के जीवन में होते हैं ऐसे लोग,
जिनकी वजह से जीना साकार होता है।
ये दोस्ती सबसे ख़ास रिश्ता है, मेरे दोस्त,
हर मिल इसीलिए तो परिवार होता है।

कृष्ण-सुदामा सा भाई, मिल न देखा
जिसने भेट में ही दो लोक दे दिया,
सुग्रीव की मदद तो श्री राम ने थी की
सुग्रीव ने सर्वस्व उनके नाम कर दिया।

माँ ने सहना सिखाया, पिता ने चलना,
गुरुजनों ने सिखाया सदा आगे बढ़ना।
इन सबसे भी ज्यादा मैं मानता हूँ तुझको,
तू ही है जिसने हर पथ पर साथ निभाया।

तेरी आवाज़ सुन उठने की आदत है लग गई,
साथ तेरे रहने से हिम्मत भी मिल गई।

तूने मेरी शक्तियों का मुझे भान कराया,
तेरी दोस्ती से मेरी भी पहचान बन गई।

तेरे लिए मैंने ऐसा कुछ नहीं किया
तूने मेरे वास्ते है डाँट भी खायी,
मेरी वजह से है हारा कितनी बार तू
तूने मुझे हार की कीमत है सिखाई।

मिलता का पाठ मैंने तुझसे है जाना
साथ तेरे खेला मैं, सीखा रूठना-मानना,
ज़िन्दगी को जीना कैसे भूल हम गए
होड़ बस लगी कि है जीतना-हराना।

लोग मेरी गलतियों को ढूँढते जाएँ
हँसते-हँसते मुझे कोसते जाएँ,
तू खड़ा है पीछे मेरे जानता न था
पीठ ठोक कर मुझे विश्वास दिलाये।

तेरी वजह से हौसला मेरा है बढ़ गया
हर वक़्त तूने ही मुझे मेरा लक्ष्य दिखाया,
संभाल के रखा मुझे तेरा धन्यवाद है
तभी तो ये अपना रिश्ता सदा आबाद है।



The Week Gone By

Rafay Habibullah

For many of the 23 Sc Formers who started this week in Ajmer with me, it didn't really start off the *best*, a fate still *contested* by *many*. Time waits for no one, and School ticked on at its own pace as a large part of my Batch was part of the second-best delegation at a certain MUN. Looking at someone after a while can reveal much, but all that has been revealed over the last week has been some diabolical hairlines. The 'PT cut', however, does do wonders for some when combating the sudden spell of heat, with the scorching sun making it impossible to even run a Change-in-Break (fortunately for some Juniors with a healthy exam

backlog).

PT in the wee hours of the morning and long hours before dinner (thankfully no longer in the late hours of the night for some) has been a constant burden in the lives of many DoscOs. As you read this on the day of the 'PT Comp', exhausted faces and nearly bald heads will characterise your day.

Onto swimming, the Inter-House did conclude this week, with the Nizams ending a 10-year drought and the streak of the Swans. One animal that has not displayed aquatic dominance this week, however, has been the *Tiger* (Sher-e-Nizam was trapped in the pool).

We have enjoyed quite the busy evenings this week, with Toye time being ditched for the Inter-House Quiz, Rose Bowl practices for Dramatics, and two great favourites for Sc Formers, the DS Literature Festival and Socials. When our

Juniors aren't being forced to sit through long sessions in the Auditorium, the mosquito-infested Rose Bowl awaits them, where entire Forms are enlisted into the 'stage committee'.

However, amidst all this chaos, academics (as always) have really borne the brunt of it all. It has become immensely difficult for Masters to cope with the requirements of the syllabus in half-filled classes and the imminent fear of a member of the Justice League entering their classrooms to sleeping back-benchers (or, even worse, front-benchers).

Whatever may happen, the remainder of this Term is surely going to be turbulent. So get some rest while you can, ensure you stay within your 10-day competition limit, and Juniors, we hope you survive the PTM and to see your faces (alive and well) on Sunday!

Murder Mystery

Instructions:

1. Read the entire background and the description of the victim carefully.
2. Read the motives and the alibis of the suspects.
3. Compare the alibis to the background and identify the culprit.
4. Send your answer with sufficient reasoning to weekly@doonschool.com

Suspects:

1. The Junior:

Motive: Credit for that very piece was being stolen by the victim.

Alibi: Attending the SPIC MACAY performance all afternoon.

2. The *Dokra* Master-in-Charge:

Motive: Victim had been the sole reason for numerous disqualifications in competitions.

Alibi: Left the studio for urgent business when the victim was still alive.

3. The Formmate:

Motive: Mutual friendship slowly transformed into jealousy and hate.

Alibi: Practising hockey by himself all day, bunking Activities time.

Background:

A sharp exchange echoed from the Art School before Assembly; two voices, then one, then quiet. A door swung open with sheer brutality.

By afternoon, the SPIC MACAY performance began. Boys drifted in and out as they pleased. The Main Field sat empty; a groundsman saw no one practising there until about four. The Art School had its lights on until six.

A Junior was spotted near the Art School's entrance at mid-afternoon. Though he insisted he had been at the performance the entire time, no one could vouch for him or contradict his statement. The room, when found, had no signs of forced entry — the victim had let someone in willingly.

Victim:

- An S Former found in the Art School by his Batchmate at 8 A.M.

- Found slumped against his easel, with a paintbrush still in his hand.

- No visible wounds or any indications of struggle.

- Reported by the Guard to have entered the studio last evening at about five.

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