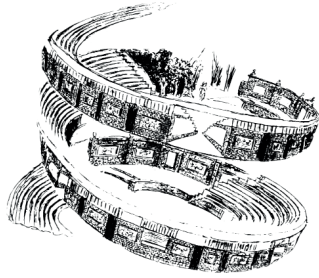


Established in 1936



# The Doon School WEEKLY

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

May 18, 2024 | Issue No. 2709



## IN PURSUIT OF JUSTICE

The unravelling of the complexities of the judicial system.

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## WEAVING MEMORIES

The journey of a lifetime, experiences to remember.

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## TERM GONE BY

The most tumultuous term in memory, how have we fared?

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## Donum Vale

*The Doon School Weekly* bids farewell to **Ms Debarati Ghosh** and **Mr Suman Vulupala**. On this occasion their friends, students, and colleagues share their thoughts on their time spent together.

The delight of knowing an extraordinary person is far more than expressing my thoughts here in a few ineffectual words. In my memory of the past two years of having known Debarati in my capacity as her immediate colleague in the Department of English, I have known her to be both a robust English teacher and a loving mentor to the students she taught. Her passion for teaching the subject coupled with her insightful wisdom in a variety of matters make her an accomplished Master at School. DBG's intellectual determination as an English subject leader, her ethical integrity and profound sentiment for every speck and fabric of this Community will always be fondly remembered. Behind her angry-young-woman-like spirit, and an impeccable International-curriculum-only-teacher-like image lies a mind and character of an aspirational professional which will make her an asset to any institution she would be heading for. I wish my young friend and colleague all the best and wish that she finds her true calling soon.

**-SPB**



My running partner, Debarati, has never failed to impress me with her commitment and drive. We connected through our shared passion for running. I relished my runs and run-ins with her! I've seen Debarati conquer herself with two half marathons and a full marathon within just four months—a remarkable feat. During these four months, we have trained together for innumerable long runs during which I got to know her better. Her determination on the road translates seamlessly to her professional life, where she ensures that her responsibilities are handled with passion, dedication and resilience. Additionally, she's quite the chef! I have no doubt she'll continue to thrive in whatever she sets her mind upon. I wish her my best. Valediction!

**-MMR**

When you talk about the Student-Master relationship, one of the key things one wonders is "How do I connect to Masters who don't necessarily teach me?" DBG Ma'am is one such Master that resolved this question, because throughout her tenure here she was always approachable, kind, and ready for discussion. Always open to learning from fellow Masters or even her students, she reinforced the idea of the pursuit of knowledge, that you can never stop growing or learning even as an educator. Across numerous discussions with her, in passing, looking for advice, or brainstorming solutions, I have rarely come away from them without learning, or reflecting upon how this journey is supposed to go. I wish Ma'am all the very best in her endeavours ahead.

**-Zubin Dhar**

*(Continued on Page 3)*

**SYMPHONY OF COLOURS**

Following are the results of the **Inter-House Art Competition, 2024:**

- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Juniors:</b> | <b>Seniors:</b> |
| 1st: Oberoi     | 1st: Hyderabad  |
| 2nd: Hyderabad  | 2nd: Jaipur     |
| 3rd: Jaipur     | 3rd: Kashmir    |
| 4th: Kashmir    | 4th: Tata       |
| 5th :Tata       | 5th :Oberoi     |

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| <b>Mediums:</b> | <b>House:</b>  |
| 1st: Jaipur     | 1st: Hyderabad |
| 2nd: Hyderabad  | 2nd: Jaipur    |
| 3rd: Oberoi     | 3rd: Oberoi    |
| 4th: Kashmir    | 4th: Kashmir   |
| 5th: Tata       | 5th: Tata      |

Congratulations!

**UNQUOTABLE QUOTES**

- If you are who you are with them, they know who you really are.*  
**Omar Malik**, multi-personality disorder.  
*I will racist both of you.*  
**Vivaan Sood**, on the edge.  
*I was the world topper of my country.*  
**SRT**, redefining achievement.  
*I am topper than the topper.*  
**Anantvikram Singh**, learning from SRT.  
*Please listen to the music on mute.*  
**Siddharth Bawa**, on noise cancellation.

**Around the World in 80 Words**

Forbes declared the University of Texas and Rice University Ivy League institutions. Slovakian Prime Minister Robert Fico was shot in Handlova. India's R. Praggnanandhaa beat world number one Magnus Carlsen in the Grand Chess Tour. Olympic javelin champion Neeraj Chopra won a gold medal in the Federation Games at Bhubaneswar. The United Nations reported that Waibhav Kale, a former Indian army officer, was killed in Gaza due to an Israeli tank attack. The CBI raided the residences of TMC leaders.

**THREE STRIKES**

The following are the results of the **Inter-House Triathalon Competiton, 2024:**

- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Juniors:</b> | <b>Seniors:</b> |
| 1st: Jaipur     | 1st: Kashmir    |
| 2nd: Tata       | 2nd: Jaipur     |
| 3rd: Kashmir    | 3rd: Hyderabad  |
| 4th: Hyderabad  | 4th: Oberoi     |
| 5th: Oberoi     | 5th: Tata       |

- |                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| <b>Mediums:</b> | <b>House Cup:</b> |
| 1st: Hyderabad  | 1st: Kashmir      |
| 2nd: Oberoi     | 2nd: Jaipur       |
| 3rd: Kashmir    | 3rd: Hyderabad    |
| 4th: Tata       | 4th: Oberoi       |
| 5th: Jaipur     | 5th: Tata         |

Congratulations!

**LISTENER'S CHECKLIST**

- What members of the School community have been listening to this week:
- Zubin Dhar:** *meet the grabams* by Kendrick Lamar
  - Arsh Mishra:** *Floorboards* by Noah Henderson
  - Aarav Dadu:** *Lungi Dance* by Yo Yo Honey Singh
  - Abhir Garg:** *Lalkara* by Diljeet Dosanjh
  - Manit Jain:** *Famous* by Ye

**CRACKING THROUGH**

The School Hockey Team won the recently concluded **17th S. Kandhari Memorial Hockey Tournament**. **Rahul Oram** was awarded the Best Player of the Tournament.  
 Kudos!

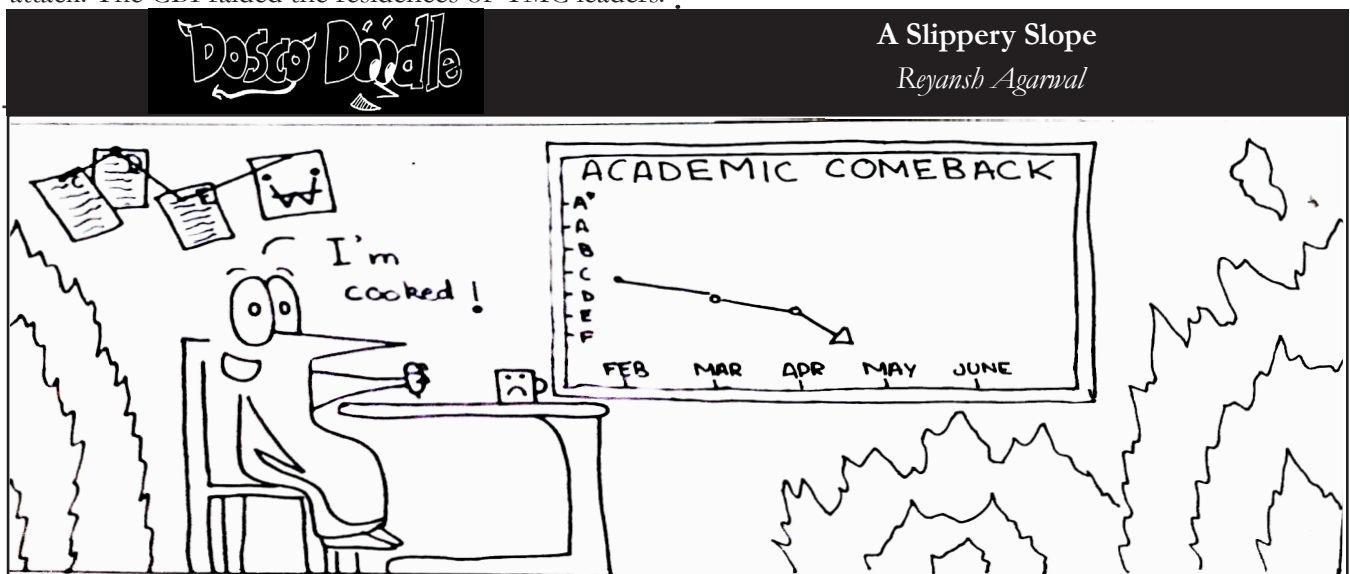


**Out of suffering have emerged the strongest souls; the most massive characters are seared with scars.**

**Khalil Gibran**

**A Slippery Slope**

*Reyansh Agarwal*



*(Continued from Page 1)*

I distinctly remember the first time that I met SVA Sir. I was told that a teacher from Hyderabad was moving into O House, and I excitedly went upstairs to his residence, and that's when our friendship began. Sir in particular was very excited to have someone who speaks the same language as him nearby, and as a 'treat', he ordered huge amounts of food for my Form. For this, I thank you greatly Sir. Whether it be going to his home to watch a cricket game, for yet another treat, or just to catch up, his doors were always open to us all, and I wish him all the best for the future. Hopefully, sometime, someday, we can catch up in Hyderabad for just one more meal, but until then, good luck.

**-Abhiram Vella (ex 289-O, 2024)**

As the School community bids farewell to Mr. Suman Vulupala, we are profoundly grateful for his exceptional contributions. Mr Vulupala's unwavering dedication to his profession, and his composed and tranquil demeanour have left an indelible mark on all of us.

Throughout his tenure, Mr Vulupala epitomised teaching excellence, inspiring numerous Students to embrace the elegance of mathematics. Beyond the confines of the classroom, he selflessly contributed behind the scenes, tirelessly supporting various School initiatives without seeking the spotlight. As Mr Vulupala embarks on a new chapter in his journey, we extend our heartfelt appreciation for his service and convey our best wishes for his future endeavours.

**-JAS**

SVA Sir has been an inspiration and a role model in and out of the classroom for both Students and Masters since the day he joined school. Sir's dedication and passion for teaching mathematics was reflected in his classes and contribution to the department. I will always cherish the memories we formed, be it the push up-contest or the jokes that were constantly being exchanged in class. I will always appreciate the fact that he went at a slower pace in class so that we could understand the concepts better. The treats and engaging discussions I had with sir truly brought me closer to sir. I cannot thank you enough. Best of luck for your future endeavours!

**-Umaid Dhillon**

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## The Rich Get Richer

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**Devansh Gupta**

*Poetry*

The towns they boom big and fast  
The one who stops, survives the last  
And as shards of hope get thrashed into moors  
The rich get richer, what about the poor?

The kings so rich, born with a silver spoon  
The merchants so wealthy, grow and bloom  
And while the world ignores the heartless for sure  
The rich get richer, what about the poor?

Governments go corrupt, adding a dollar to their  
pockets

Little by little the money vanishes from wallets  
Strangled and choked by the chains of gore  
The rich get richer, what about the poor?

How can one, who beats the same heart  
Be kicked to the lowest, be given no start

For then the end becomes surer and surer  
The rich get richer, what about the poor?

All I ask from you and you  
All I ask, for you to be true  
This minute stop the Earth and think  
Your own countrymen are dying in the rink,  
Of nature; who made you both the same  
It man's vices that ask him to create fame  
Beat for those who cry out and holler  
Give those folks a chance to be taller!

Rise for the country, reap for the land  
Hold those hands that were beaten by the sand  
Broken by life and money with its lure  
While the rich get richer, what happens to the poor?

# In Pursuit of Justice

*The Doon School Weekly interviewed Tajender Luthra, the keynote speaker for the BSAI Leadership Conclave.*

**The Doon School Weekly (DSW):** Our School has had a rich history of alumni joining the police force, but many people look down upon it for monetary incentives. So why do you think that the IPS is an attractive career path for the youth of the 21st century?

**Tajender Singh Luthra (TSL):** Every career choice offers different perks and different people to serve. You should not look at any profession in a compartmentalised fashion, be it corporate, civil services, the IPS, journalism or teaching. But, you should take a look at the pay packages because, after all, you will not be able to survive in this world below a minimum threshold. If any job is offering some pay package which is below a minimum threshold, you should not take that job. You have to survive. But, whatever profession is above that minimum threshold is meaningful. It will help you find satisfaction, and it will help the people you serve. For example, the IPS is a service where the pay is much less compared to corporate jobs when you join, but in addition to your salary you get housing, vehicles, staff, social support, recognition and respect, which you may lack in other jobs. So you have to look at any job in totality and not just from one point of view. Would you be happy making pencils or would you be happy solving a major crime or a pressing issue?

**DSW:** So, why is it that many people are not inclined to take the civil service exams today compared to one or two decades ago?

**TSL:** In the past, there were very few options in the market. Today, our economy has liberalised and many new markets or sectors have opened up. Additionally, civil service exams are not easy and require much more effort and perseverance than corporate jobs. Additionally, these services get you immediate social respect, and many people in our country aim to earn recognition and know no alternatives, such as the rural population, so they aspire to become IPS officers. However, if you consider the same family two generations down the line, the early fire would die down because they seem to gain everything in life, and are subsequently not incentivised to crack the UPSC examinations. You see, people have many other options. Furthermore, UPSC is a very tough exam — more than five lakh people go for the preliminary round and eventually, only five hundred complete the interview stage, so people are less inclined to take the civil service exams in today's world.

**DSW:** Given the dynamic nature of policing, how does the police department stay up to date with all the latest advancements?

**TSL:** We have our special divisions devoted to technology. I was head of the technology division of the Delhi Police. So what we do is, we keep looking for new technologies. Every month, we invite people who

can offer us new technologies, and different vendors, we invite them, and they provide us with demonstrations of their technologies. And that's how we select what is suitable for us, what can help us, and that's how we find the best technologies for us.

**DSW:** Don't you think in the future, if we rely on technology too heavily, then policing work may become too dependant on technology, and we will start to heavily rely on technology with the new coming EIA and the bias of that?

**TSL:** You are right. But what is the harm in artificial intelligence helping us reduce our workload? I don't see any harm if artificial intelligence is helping us reduce our workload and we can serve people better and faster. What is our aim? We aim to help people faster and better. So with the help of technology, if we can do that, there is no harm. However, technology should not be used to a level to replace humans, or to the level where we stop thinking. When I say we stop thinking, I mean we become complacent, we depend completely on technology, and we think everything can be taken care of by technology. This would not be a good situation. Technology has a tendency to reflect the developers themselves in the sense that if a developer has some biases, they can encode those biases into that technology, implicitly or subconsciously.

**DSW:** How do you ensure that the technology you're getting from these vendors doesn't have those sorts of biases?

**TSL:** In the US, what we've seen recently is that with facial recognition systems that have been deployed in some counties in the US, they tend to flag out people of certain ethnic groups more likely as opposed to other ethnic groups. And I mean, it's not as widespread, but it is a possibility.

**DSW:** So how do you ensure that those sorts of biases are avoided? How can you ensure there's ethical policing?

**TSL :** I have been dealing with this facial recognition system technology. I don't personally believe that it picks up people of one ethnic group over another. But if some software does, it can be taken care of.

**DSW:** Do you think human verification works better or should you have a system to open that one?

**TSL:** At the stage where we are now, I think we need a somewhat hybrid system wherein we are taking the help of technology but at the end of the day, we are also having human intervention to verify it. So human intervention will always be necessary. Just to tell you because you are young people, future leaders. There is a thing called human exceptionalism. Have you heard about it? In the debate of artificial intelligence, one part says that we should be alert because tomorrow AI will

*(Continued on Page 5)*

*(Continued from Page 4)*

take over us. The other part of the debate is no. Humans are exceptional, which is called human exceptionalism. Therefore, AI cannot take over us. AI cannot replace us. So I believe in human exceptionalism. Therefore, I would always prefer a hybrid kind of system where human intervention is always there, whether minimally or moderately, little more than minimal, which I call moderate. But human intervention should always be there. So that we do not become slaves of artificial intelligence. And we remain exceptional as we have been for 1,000,000 years through the process of evolution. I would use a facial recognition system. We pick up suspects from the facial recognition system or the bare CCTV cameras. The facial recognition system is behind the CCTV camera. It's a kind of software. You pick up footage through the CCTV. It comes to your server. And in the server, there, you have the software for facial

recognition system, which is interconnected with the database of criminals. So this facial recognition system matches the footage of the CCTV with the database. And then picks up some suspects. This person may be a suspect. Here, human intervention is very much needed. Otherwise, you can pick up the wrong person. You can detain the wrong person. And in the name of solving a big crime, you can do great injustice to an innocent person.

**DSW: How do you try to make the policing system more transparent and more accountable, as it is the duty of the police to serve the public at the crux of it?**

**TSL:** Simply, the advent of CCTVs and body cameras has helped us be more transparent and accountable for our actions. It helps the system in many ways: sometimes officers are on the wrong side of events and the CCTVs help in holding them accountable.

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## Weaving Memories

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**Kanishk Bammi** and **Kai Kubo** *recount their experiences on the student exchange program to St. Albans, Washington.*

Our three-week exchange program at St Alban's School in Washington DC was an unforgettable journey filled with new experiences, friendships, and cultural discoveries. From the moment we arrived, we were warmly welcomed by our exchange partners, Bodhi and Tom, and their families, who made our transition into life in DC smooth and comfortable. They eased any apprehensions we had about living there, and we felt like we developed a strong bond not only with them but with their families as well.

Academically, the experience at St Albans was different from what we were accustomed to at Doon. Though the teachers didn't push us academically, the classes were still engaging and interactive, with a focus on group projects rather than textbook learning. Kanishk even had the opportunity to teach a Computer Science class to our peers, which was an exciting challenge. While the nature of our school makes students intrinsically compelled to view rival comparisons between other Dehradun boarding institutions, their school focused more on upholding a sense of collaboration to stem within the student community.

One of the highlights of our exchange was Diversity Day at St. Albans. We gave a presentation about Indian and Japanese cultures to three sets of students and teachers, telling them about our life at Doon as well. It was surprisingly well received, and the questions we received at the end of the presentation were interesting, to say the least. They were certainly surprised when they found out that cricket games continue for five days, considering that most American sports are over in a couple of hours.

While on the topic of sports, it's also worth mentioning that our host families graciously took us to see an ice hockey game (a win for the Washington Capitals in an intense playoff qualifier against the Boston Bruins), introducing us to the fast-paced excitement of American sports. We also went to see a baseball game, which was a much more relaxed experience.

The school itself provided numerous fun and engaging

activities. From participating in Service Day, where we cleaned a river and fished parts of an ATM out of the water, to convincing our English teacher to let us play a game of Flag Football on our last day, every moment was filled with camaraderie and adventure. Kanishk has returned to India as a fan of the NFL, and Kai an even bigger rap music fan.

Other activities centred around the interest of arts such as drama highly focused on fostering interactions between boys of St Albans and the girls of National Cathedral School, a nearby sister school based within the same regional campus. Having watched the play that both genders collaboratively worked on, it was certainly intriguing to see a co-educational approach apply to co-curriculars from an all-boys school perspective.

While there were a lot of things that were different, a few of them we personally liked, such as the lunch table changing every 20 days, which lets you get to know more people, and students being allowed to keep their phones with them at all times. They were also similar in many ways to us, with things like announcements for various activities at their dining hall, and a very strong sports culture with amenities for almost every sport.

Though we didn't delve deeply into academics, we made it our goal to immerse ourselves in American culture and make lasting friendships, a goal which we think we achieved. We feel like we really connected and built relationships with a lot of people.

To conclude, our exchange experience was transformative, teaching us the value of embracing new opportunities, cultures, and friendships. We return to Doon and to India with a broader perspective and a deep appreciation for the bonds that transcend borders.

# The Term Gone By

Ganadhipati Aryan and Krish Agrawal

As the curtains close on yet another term at School, it's time to reflect on the countless experiences that have defined this term, for every time we thought we were done writing this Term Gone By — we would read through and find something missing. Such just happens to be the nature of any term in School, so in case we do miss anything, our sincerest apologies to you fellow DoscOs.

Although February marked the official start of the term, a handful of unfortunate souls found themselves torn away from the warmth of their homes and thrust into the icy embrace of Dehradun's early January chill. Obligated to return to School prematurely, they endured through the bitter cold all for the sake of those very few classes before the dreaded Board Examinations. To wake up each morning in such polar conditions was a feat in itself. Yet, these committed individuals emerged from deep slumber day after day, motivated solely by the fact that these enduring weeks held sway over their future endeavours (albeit, in the grand scheme of things, only slightly). While the A and Sc Forms fought against the academic forces, the rest of School seemed to struggle with leg spins and in-swings. The resounding sounds of sixes and the screams of 'Watch!' echoed through the Main Field and even down to the Skinners.

Amidst this atmosphere, the Rosebowl Auditorium bore witness to the Sc Leavers bittersweet farewell, accompanied by the nostalgic strains of "Auld Lang Syne", sending chills down the spine as tears flooded from above. Soon, the winter thawed into the blossoming of spring, and brought about to us the bane of our existence — PT. The AT Form escaped this initial period by a stroke of misfortune for each PT Leader, returning home for their Goa Break post Boards break. Meanwhile, the rest of School drudged through their Promotional Trials. Some aimed for Markers, some aimed to pass — some just wanted to play Holi. But trust us, studying for your exam at the last minute is a great character building exercise. Hardly work, not hard work, as they say.

And so a new "Academic" term began, where a renewed sense of commitment joined in alongside new D and C Formers entering through the Main Gate — scared and homesick just like we all once were. Meanwhile, the current C Form were seen leaving the protected havens that are Foot and Martyn.

At the same time, in a rare win, the School promptly awarded those formerly baggy eyed S Formers for

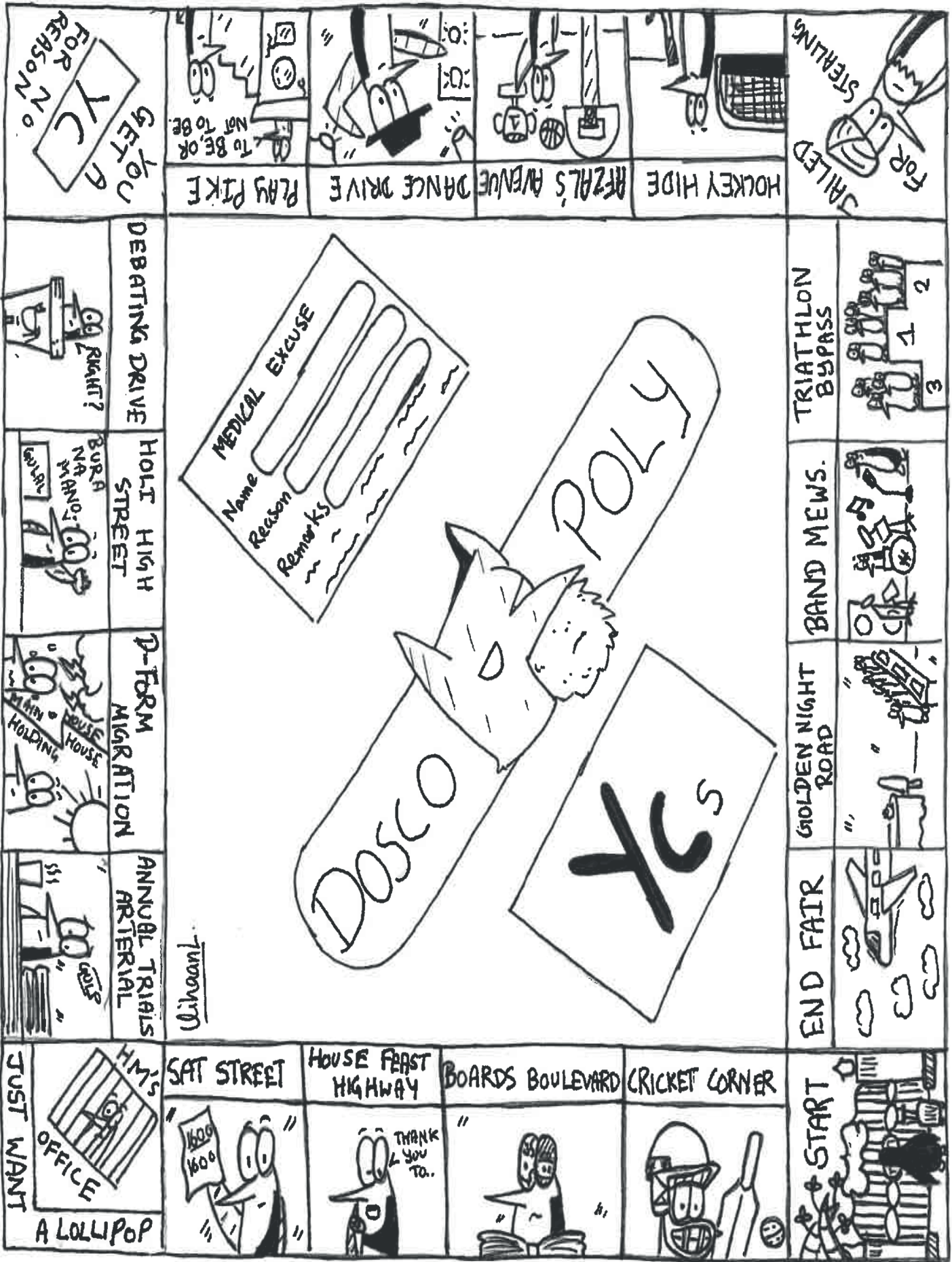
all their hard work in February, providing them with two surprise visits to Welham and Unison, an opportunity which they squandered, as expected. Meanwhile, the Scs had their own Socials in School. In both cases, DoscOs met their biggest challenge — talking to girls. If you don't overcome this hurdle, then just hope that the food is good. Thus, the term had now gone into full swing, and the hustle began once again with late nights and early mornings as PT, among other activities, managed to sandwich the entire schedule.

As for Hockey, the sidelines lay empty as everyone seemed to have a match to play this time — including that tiny D Former barely the size of a hockey stick. All the while, PT Leaders spawned at the crack of dawn (except for the Eagles) ready for another command of 'double mark time'. Whoever designed the timetable did indeed 'cook', as they managed to prepare one giant *smorgasboard* of activities. Swimming, Table Tennis, and Art Inter-House also happened, in case you missed them (we don't blame you). Finally, this term seemed to be a resounding success for our School teams — with the Afzals squad once again winning the School a trophy and a few extra hours of sleep. However, they weren't the only ones — with the Hockey, Squash, Cricket and Tennis teams also tasting success.

On the co-curricular front, the term witnessed enthralling performances in Dance, Drama, Debating and (soon to be seen) Band; all in a single breath. The Swans secured trophies for Dance and Drama with stunning performances in both, to compensate for their Icarian performance in sports this term. But the true heroes are those who, even after all of this, still managed to stay awake during classes!

In the end, it all came down to the Assessment Week, where some DoscOs sported relaxed smiles, but others were worried about their Predicteds. In a departure from the norm, (most) Scs were found studying in May for the first time in quite some time. As DoscOs gear up to part ways for the summer break, the term also marked the end of two cherished Masters' journeys in School. In closing, have a glance over the Holiday Checklist and enjoy your summer break. And to our fellow batchmates, if you're the scoping type, get ready to turn the cogs of this School as our dearest Scs continue their grindset for a different kind of FOMO will soon strike them.

Until then, kick back, relax, and keep rowing your boat. You've deserved it!



Vibaan Lakhotia

# Holiday Checklist



## Sports

IPL Final	May 26th
UEFA Champions League Final	June 2nd
ICC Mens T20 World Cup	June 29th
Wimbledon	July 1st
British Grand Prix	July 4th

## TV Shows

The Acolyte	June 4th
Hitler and the Nazis: Evil on Trial	June 5th
Cobra Kai (Season 6, Part 1)	July 18th



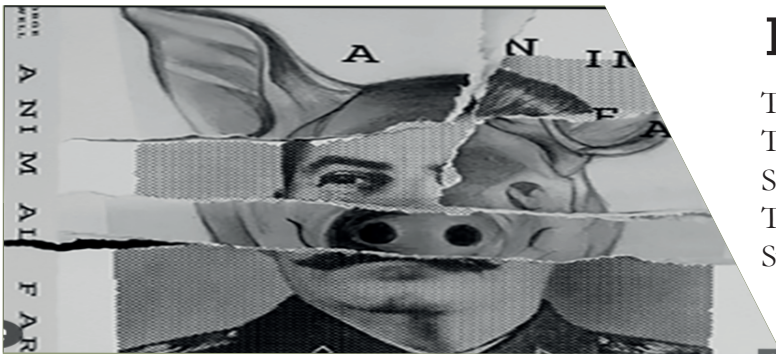
## Games

Paper Mario: The Thousand-Year Door
Life By You
Elden Ring: Shadow of the Erdtree
F1 24



## Movies

The Garfield Movie	May 24th
Bad Boys: Ride or Die	June 7th
The Watchers	June 14th
Inside Out 2	June 14th
Despicable Me 4	July 3rd
Fly Me to the Moon	July 12th



## Books

The Paris Widow	Kimberly Lake
The Housemaid is Watching	Freida Hilderbrand
Somewhere Beyond the Sea	T.J Klune
The Fury	Alex Michaelides
Swan Song	Elin Hilderbrand

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