

The Doon School WEEKLY

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

Hrishikesh Aiyer *elaborates on the importance of forming well-informed opinions in School.*

Given the very fact that we are living in an information age, one wonders how conversational quality has suddenly deteriorated. While volumes of information are available at our fingertips, somehow the reverse is happening, and the depth and quality of discussions has dilapidated enormously. This certainly becomes very serious in a country like India, one that prides itself on its rich intellectual and cultural heritage. As students and the future of India, it is upon us to develop good conversational habits. It's high time we made a conscious effort to enrich our minds and contribute meaningfully to discussions. To be 'well-read' is one of the basic tenets of Doon's objectives of character building.

The digital revolution has exposed us to unprecedented informational tools but reduced most engagements to superficial levels. Although useful for forming connections, social media often does the opposite — quick, shallow exchanges rather than deep, meaningful dialogue. According to a 2021 National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences study, over seventy percent of Indian youth spend more than three hours a day on social media, simply scrolling through it mindlessly — one that doesn't feed their minds with enriching content. The constant barrage of information thrown at us, most of it bereft of any serious intellectual content, has contributed to a definite decline in critical

thinking and meaningful discourse. It is a trend that should cause great worry, as it is from thoughtful discussions that creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving are spurred, hence opening our minds and broadening horizons. Without these, we risk becoming a society that values convenience over depth, opinions over facts, and noise over knowledge.

Reversing this trend will require more substantive dialogue and opinions from us, the students. But what does it mean to be well-read and opinionated, and why is that important?

One has an educated opinion when they are able to join the conversation in meaningful ways and influence decision-making processes. For example, Malala Yousafzai's educated opinion about education rights in Pakistan drew worldwide attention to the cause of girls' education. Informed opinions may diffuse across borders and create refined ideologies globally. With a set of diverse and complex issues at stake in a country like India, informed opinions are key to engaging with democratic processes and issues of social justice for the national development process. During the protests against the 2019 amendment to the Indian Citizenship Act, for instance, the role of students well-versed with constitutional law and human rights went on to determine the face of public discourse and gained international attention. This builds

responsible citizens, for soon we shall be part of a democratic exercise.

Having views does not mean one is inflexible or doctrinaire. Rather, it means being open-minded and changing opinions in light of further evidence, while also respecting differing viewpoints. It deals with the establishment of thoughts independently, rather than simply accepting them at face value. It requires having all the facts necessary before making informed decisions. Such an approach not only enriches conversations but also opens doors toward finding creative solutions for important problems. Reading is imperative for the molding of a well-rounded intellect.

Reading exposes us to new ideas, cultures, and perspectives that improve our understanding of concepts. According to a 2020 report by the All India Survey on Higher Education, the analytical and critical thinking skills of students who regularly read beyond their syllabus are much better. Noted personalities like Dr APJ Abdul Kalam also espoused the role of reading in shaping character and intellect. One has to develop a wide and regular reading habit to develop informed opinions on issues — whether newspapers, journals, novels, or academic texts are one's choice of reading. For example, going through diverse opinions on economic policies strengthens one's

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This Week in History

1792 CE: Revolutionaries storm the Tuileries Palace in Paris, leading to the fall of the French monarchy.
1861 CE: The U.S. Congress passes the first federal income tax to fund the Civil War efforts.
1927 CE: The first transatlantic telephone call connects New York to London.
1942 CE: The Allies launch Operation Cartwheel in the Pacific, aiming to weaken Japanese forces and capture islands.
1945 CE: The United States drops an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan.
1960 CE : Côte d'Ivoire gains independence from France.
1974 CE: U.S. President Richard Nixon announces his resignation, following the Watergate Scandal.
1981 CE: Swiss Tennis player Roger Federer is born.

UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

Does air contain oxygen?

Aakash Mishra, the Chemist.

I have tasted everyone.

NAS, the critic.

Romanticisation is romantic appeal.

Aditya Koradia, the ultimate Prime Minister.

Our bad luck is bad.

Veer Duggal, tough luck.

I wake up, go pot, the map has changed.

SRT, the only constant is change.

I went from Rome to Italy.

Yohan Marda, the geography expert.

Aarav caught on 4K.

Shreansh Bansal, the cameraman.

My academic upfall has come.

Neerav Bansal, are you sure about that?

Listen from your mouth.

Shaurya Surana, like listening to a brick wall.

“

The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams. Never stop dreaming, and always work hard to turn those dreams into reality. Your potential is limitless.

—
Eleanor Roosevelt

READER'S CHECKLIST

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

Neil Dhar Jayal: *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan

Manan Pant: *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* by J.K. Rowling

Kaushal Golyan: *Paper Towns* by John Green

Jawad Khan: *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding

Saksham Agarwal: *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain

Umaid Dhillon: *Executive Power* by Vince Flynn

Vivaan Sood: *City of Djinns* by William Dalrymple

Rohan Kailath: *Right Ho, Jeeves* by P.G. Wodehouse

LISTENER'S CHECKLIST

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

Krishnav Gupta: *Stay High* by Juice WRLD

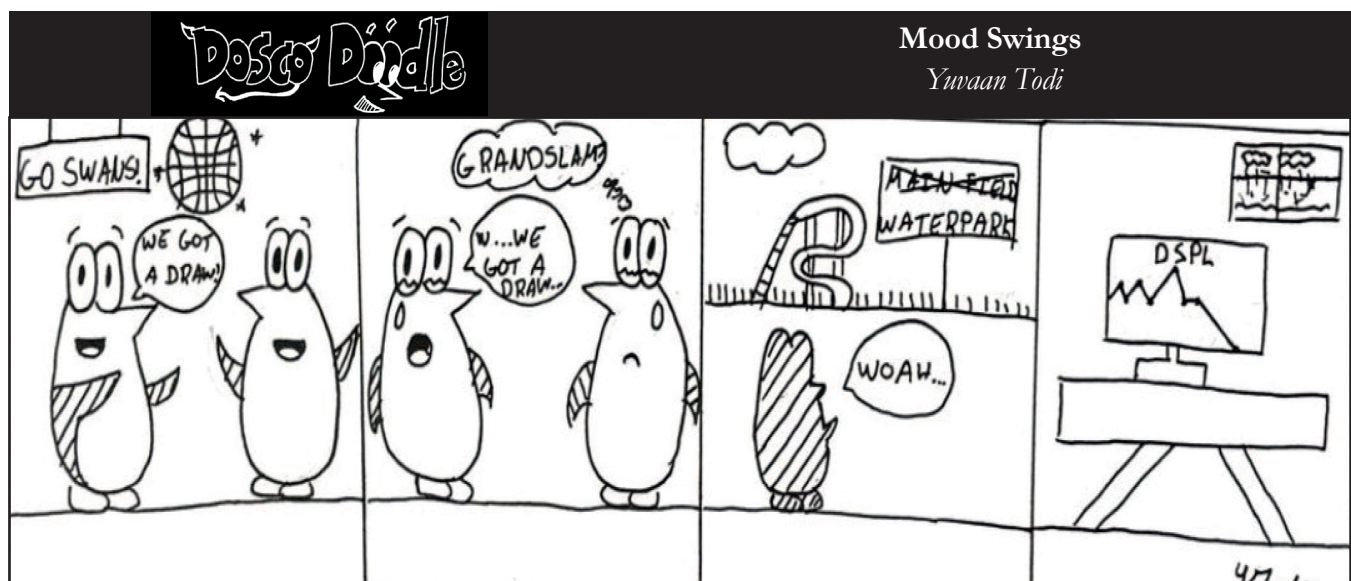
Darius Sharma: *Sold out Date* by Gunna

Agniv Acharjya: *Vultures* by Kanye West

Vashisht Choudhary: *Love Story* by Taylor Swift

Around the World in 80 Words

Sheikh Hasina resigned as Bangladesh's Prime Minister and fled the country following weeks of deadly protests. A forty-year old bridge across the Kali River in Karnataka collapsed on Wednesday. Colombia's central bank revised its inflation outlook for the year to 5.7%, from a previous 5.5%. India won the hockey Bronze-Medal match against Spain at the Paris Olympics. Noah Lyles won the men's 100m final with a time of 9.79, beating Jamaica's Kishane Thompson by five-thousandths of a second.



(Continued from Page 1)

ability to find better arguments about growth and developmental issues in India. Similarly, various perspectives on social justice make a person more empathetic and sensitised towards the challenges of marginalised communities.

Reading instils a habit that allows us to contribute effectively at the conversational and societal level. Opinion development also enhances one's critical thinking, which is another important element in the process of opinion formation. Critical thinking is the objective analysis of information that questions assumptions, assesses the existing evidence, and comes up with reasoned judgments based on different points of view. It

assists us in manoeuvring through life's complexities and making significant contributions to society. It is very important to keep oneself informed about what is going on around us in the global context, especially in a continuously changing world.

These can be achieved by subscribing to credible news sources, attending seminars, engaging in debates, etc. For example, the knowledge of the implications of policies for climate change or economic reforms enable us to participate in reasoned discourse and contribute to public debate. Another very important aspect of being well-read and hold informed opinions is to maintain a growth mindset: a

belief that abilities and intelligence can be developed through effort and perseverance. This mindset will keep one motivated to learn, improve, and remain curious all the time. It keeps us interested and dedicated to lifelong learning — a crucial step toward garnering an intelligent outlook.

Ultimately, it is left to us — the students of modern India — to set an example. We need to be well-read, eloquent, and opinionated. Through reviving the lost skill of meaningful conversation and finding space for thought-provoking discussion, not only do we enrich our lives, but we also build up the intellectual and cultural vitality of our nation. Read that book; join that discussion; question the status quo.

The Death of the Olympics

Ayaan Adeb writes about the challenges of hosting the Olympics.

The struggle of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to find a host city for the upcoming 2028 Olympics highlighted a much bigger, underlying issue. Once christened the 'Mecca of Sports', the Olympics are now struggling to make profits, attract viewers and retain their place as the grandest of all sporting events. Being overshadowed by other major events such as the FIFA World Cup, maybe it is time for the Olympics to take on a new avatar in today's rapidly changing sporting landscape.

The massive outcry and protests by Parisians over the city's decision to host the upcoming games were hugely publicised, with news of demonstrations and public opposition against the event headlining newspapers worldwide. Having already spent \$9 billion on preparing infrastructure and facilities for the event, they are expected to incur losses in the billions. Air France, France's premier airline, has already reported losses worth around \$193 billion, due to a record-low number of tourists flying into Paris this summer, citing fears of overcrowding in the city. With the government having to grapple with public unrest over recent pension laws, fears of demonstrations during the games remain.

In recent times, hosting the Olympics has often been regarded as one of the riskiest megaprojects a city can invest in. Cities have started becoming hesitant to host the games, with Los Angeles facing no competition in their bid to host the 2028 games. The term 'white elephant' is often being used to describe the hosting of the Olympics, with facilities such as swimming

pools, stadiums and the iconic Olympic Villages being deserted after the closing ceremony, resembling a graveyard more closely than the venue of the world's most lavish sporting event.

Rio 2016 is a prime showcase of the setbacks involved in hosting the games. Large-scale evictions of entire villages to build facilities, and empty stadiums topped with a massive corruption scandal shook the sporting world to its very core. For the first time, people believed that hosting a sporting event boasting the grandeur of the Olympics seemed to be pointless, with data and statistics from past events backing up several of those claims.

Fans often claim to be avid followers of the games, but barring a few showcase sports and events, the games remain devoid of spectators. Though showcase events such as track and field and football are likely to garner a significant number of viewers, few fans are likely to tune in to watch the coverage of the race walking or water polo events. Additionally, with about 20,000 athletes flying into Paris this month, most of them are unlikely to attract too many viewers, barring a handful of household names.

Supporters of the decision to host the event claim that hosting major sporting events such as the Olympics offers an intangible impact that few other investments can produce. However, considering the number of controversies that have overshadowed the recent games, France is facing an extremely uphill task to defend the games and make Paris 2024 a success.

The 'Indian Dream'

The Doon School Weekly interviewed Mr. Prakash Chandra Kandpal, the Chief Guest for YEC '24.

The Doon School Weekly (DSW): How do you think our government today has affected the country through economic policies?

Prakash Chandra Kandpal (PCK): Economic status as of today is what determines our success. It is the intellect and the skills of the people which matters. Indians are going to America and working there, ameliorating within the American economy. They took America to where it is today. In India, we are not able to provide a congenial environment for our people to flourish. Now, the current government has started giving Indians an opportunity to display their entrepreneurship skills within the country itself. They have made business more accessible and easier to establish in India, so that people can build their start-ups here and earn more, to better impact the economy and themselves. This has led to the reversal of the Brain Drain. The same factors that would once drive them to the US have now been provided to the people in India itself. The effect of these changes is that you now see lakhs of new start-ups every year. This shows that every common person has an idea he is willing to implement. We must create a supportive environment for that. What do entrepreneurs want? They want to be able to implement their ideas. There should be buyers for the idea. If there are buyers, they will provide them with adequate support in terms of finances. Then there is technology enabling: cheaper technology is available. If cheaper technology is available, entrepreneurs will be able to produce more profitably. The internet now negates the necessity of buying hardware, which drives down the cost of production exponentially. You can implement your idea immediately. That's how the government can create an enabling environment.

Another factor which I would like to bring up is that internationally, those economies have matured. They do not have enough scope to grow or showcase something new. If their roads are spick and span, if their buildings are there, their population is not increasing, they will not have aspirations. If aspirations are not there, then new investments will not come, new ideas will not come. That's why they are slowing down. India is now the country, after China, that has got the demographics to its advantage and allowing its people to leverage the opportunity.

DSW: The current mentality of the students right now is that they want to live the American dream. So how can the Indian system ensure

that these people stay in our country?

PCK: Why do people leave the country? Because they are sold the American dream. They are told that they will be offered an enabling environment. If you are a professional, you want to minimise the hurdles in your way. There should be facilities which will help you in giving your best. It is important to understand that life abroad is not as easy as it is made out to be. Here, you can employ relatively cheaper labour. There, you cannot. However, they get the freedom to operate which is absent in India.

DSW: We have a president handling more than 350 people for YEC. How can we better organise this?

PCK: If there are two people, you can manage. If there are four, you can manage. If there are 20, then what will you do? You must delegate work. That is why hierarchies are created. We have had 250,000 people working under us. It is not possible for an individual to oversee all the 250,000 working under him. So, you create a hierarchy. You have, for example, four people directly under you. They have more people under them. This chain of command extends until all people are covered, with one person at the top of the food chain.

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DSW: How can technology evolve Indian industries, for example, the banking industry?

PCK: The banks have become technology companies. They are in the service sector, which is very easy to digitalise. The requirement of physical presence to provide a service has now been nullified. Everything has been transferred almost entirely online. So that's why in banks and insurance companies, we often say that we must strengthen technology to strengthen the service, and to potentially make some of this available across India. Physically, you cannot be available at odd hours. However, through technology, you can be available whenever required. If you had to transfer money in the middle of the night, you could do it through technology. It has become imperative for all the enterprises to advance technologically.

Roving Eye

S Form Socials

The Eye has set its omnipresent sight on a new set of DoscOs, and just to give a fair warning to them before they begin their time under the limelight; the Eye sees all, and the Eye knows all.

The event, unsurprisingly, was quite enervating, as our friends from Dalanwala seemed to enjoy each other's company rather than that of the DoscOs (would be too harsh to blame ourselves). That's not to say that there was no action, however, so enjoy your breakfast, and enjoy reading this latest instalment of the Roving Eye.

The 'SoBo' (fresh off a hot streak) wanted to share his luck and joined the PT Leader, both of whom seemed to be fixated on helping their curly-haired counterpart find something more than just a "really close friendship". Despite his South Delhi, Gurgaon (we all know he's actually from Guwahati) moves, this seemed to be the one defence he couldn't break past, as his fear of being alone with the opposite gender led to some pretentious behaviour.

The Poster-Boy (to be?), and the Swans' Poster-Boy (wants to be?!) decided to face yet another disappointment, this one off the field of course, making it a streak which seemed to never end. Who didn't disappoint, though, are our brothers from a galaxy far, far away, as the unprecedented arrival of Tommy on Indian soil attracted the fascinated crowd, most notably the "just friend" of a certain curly-haired individual, much to his dismay.

Meanwhile, Ted finally found his Baid, and solace in the fact that he could finally go to somebody else's room, other than the rewarding elder Swans. A match made in heaven indeed. To that end, this form mate too had an interesting and exciting stint at the BML Munjal Auditorium. The other Swans, though, seemed to be stepping on each other's toes as the tax-evader and lamp post both seemed to have their eyes set on the same Woodpecker. A lone ranger could be seen chatting away in the background, with someone who could not be seen. 'Sir' too, seemed to have found himself some luck, with everyone duly noting the fact that he likes to box. The Eagles had an uneventful night for the most part, except for a certain *Rasperi*.

The Gentlemen had their highs and lows. The 'Pheesychs' *Wallab* finally found someone of his resonance, much to his ally's surprise. Speaking of his allies, the gym duo finally got the opportunity to practise creating bilateral ties. The Modi *bhakt* and G-Town Mogger made an unlikely, yet successful,

Your Closest Allies

team-up. Speaking of team-ups, the *Papad* Man and Assamese Chai's negative aura didn't make it on the menu this time around. The Grizzly Bear returned to his home ground, albeit without support from his fans. He, however, was of great assistance to Mister Unibrow in his mission (ongoing). As for the real player, despite his initial fear, could be seen running home to the mountains with a special someone. Another low came in the form of the South West Delhi Resident for the Gentleman, as he finally faced his kryptonite — a girl. Yes. That's what kills the best of us.

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Rejection, dear readers, is a natural part of life, and a certain grey eyed individual could certainly attest to that. Overcoming them is also a natural part of life, which is what a certain apple achieved. A resident of Tokyo also pulled up with his A game, spending most of his time on the *Audi* chairs in the company of another. However, everyone was put to shame by Chandigarh's Finest, a person so dedicated to maintaining a special relationship, providing his 20-odd formmates with new (and sadly only) company. A god amongst men. Our Salutes!

Don't lose hope yet, the best (hopefully) is yet to come. The Eye will sleep for now... until next time.

The Week Gone By

Zubin Dhar

Dear readers, as I pen this Week Gone By, I am acutely aware of just how bustling an environment School continues to be, even in our Sc Form, where we are supposed to be “out to pasture”. It is 12:41 on a Thursday morning, with IB submissions for first drafts due later this week, an MUN tomorrow, and two more huge events looming later this month. And yet here I am, writing the Week Gone By, putting my thoughts to paper for any of those who care to flip to the back of the *Weekly* this Saturday. I like to think that this is symbolic of just how intrinsic some things are to us as DoscOs, that no matter what we have to do, where we have to be, and when we have to do something, we will always take time out and burn that midnight oil, to shoot that last shot, write that last line, sink that

last hoop, or finish that last lap, as a service to the School, and ourselves.

Speaking of serving ourselves, the first outing of the term gave many a welcome respite and chance to stock up on goodies for midnight cravings, stationary and notebooks to prepare for the upcoming exams. Many DoscOs also took the opportunity to watch a certain movie featuring our favourite red-black and yellow-blue colour scheme... that being the “Z flag of NATO” documentary, of course. Why else would it be age restricted, if not for the violent, warfare scenes?

Speaking of warfare, YEC passes over the horizon as the MUNth of August is now fully in swing. As your eyes pass over this sentence, dear readers, my dear batchmates and I will be fighting for our lives within the grounds of Welham Boys. OxfordMUN is still going on, with our delegation down in FLAME, Pune, sweating over the task. Unison MUN rapidly approaches for our younger delegates, and of course the heavyweight DSMUN is now almost upon us.

I’ll tell you what else is heavy though, and that’s the traffic through the servers of the RC, which is seeing batches of Juniors converging upon it throughout the day. Not to study, though (that would be ludicrous). In fact, much more topically, it is to optimise their DSPL (Doon School Premier League, for the uninitiated) teams! This is surely a much better use of their time. Not to put it down of course, as DSPL fever has gripped the School, now on display every time I go to refill my *daal*.

Refilling is not a fun task, as my batchmates should know, for now is the season of filling out the dreaded Common App, and the countless trips to the Careers Department that come with this season. Right now, we hold our breath to finally count our Predicteds in September, and finalise our incredibly soaring and operatic essay answers. I would say “Buck up dear batchmates” for we can see the light at the end of the tunnel, and there’s only a 50% chance it’s a runaway train.

Sudoku

			3				9	7
3				7	5		8	
	1		6				3	5
		7		5			1	6
	3	1	7			5		
5	9					3		4
9	5		8		2		4	1
8	7		5	4			6	9
			9	6	7	8		3

Key:

3	5	8	7	9	6	4	1	2
8	7	3	5	4	1	2	6	9
9	5	6	8	3	2	7	4	1
5	9	2	1	8	6	3	7	4
6	3	1	7	9	4	5	2	8
4	8	7	2	5	3	9	1	6
7	1	8	6	2	9	4	3	5
3	6	9	4	7	5	1	8	2
2	4	5	3	1	8	6	9	7

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