

The Doon School WEEKLY

"I sketch your world exactly as it goes." -Arthur Foot
September 7, 2024 | Issue No. 2716



A SYMPHONY OF DISCOURSE

A weekend of argumentation and a culmination of ideas.

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MEMORIES WITH MASTERS

A recollection of the memories of mentorship and guidance.

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THINKING OUT LOUD

What does it take for a society to change? A review of the state of affairs.

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Tweeting from the Frontlines

Kanishk Bammi *explores the potency of social media in activism and advocacy.*

Remember the first time you saw a war unfold not on a news channel on a grainy TV screen, but through a shaky video on your social media feed? That raw, unfiltered insight into war — the terror in a child’s eyes, the desperation in a mother’s voice — it can leave you breathless. Social media has transformed how we experience conflict, bringing war directly into our living rooms. Ordinary people with smartphones in their pockets have now become citizen journalists, capturing and sharing the stories that often get lost in geopolitical complexities.

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The *All Eyes on Rafah* trend exemplifies how social media can shape and magnify narratives. The viral AI-generated image with this slogan, shared by millions, underscores the power of social media to attract global attention to particular aspects of a conflict. It’s a prime example of how social media can amplify voices that might otherwise be unheard, and how

the internet holds the power to spark international outrage that can lead to calls for action and humanitarian aid, showing its effectiveness.

However, the very speed and virality of social media can be a double-edged sword. While these campaigns raise awareness, oftentimes they can also paint a one-sided picture. Sharing content on social media can sometimes become a performative act, a way to feel connected to a cause without fully understanding it. We hit “share” to stay trendy or to follow our friends, without taking the time to gauge a deeper understanding of the situation at hand. Additionally, social media algorithms often trap us in echo chambers, confirming our existing beliefs, and making us particularly vulnerable to misinformation.

Remember the constant barrage of fake COVID-19 cures that flooded our feeds, causing confusion and even in some cases, harm? The consequences of misinformation being spread can be serious, especially in conflict zones where false information can invoke violence and fuel existing tensions. Both sides of the Israel-Gaza conflict, for example, have been accused of “weaponizing” social media to manipulate public opinion, blurring the lines between truth

and fabrication with contentious stories and AI-generated imagery.

A single tweet with a heartbreaking image and a desperate plea for assistance can connect a family in a flood zone with volunteers across the globe.

Despite these drawbacks, social media isn’t all gloom and doom. It has the potential to be a powerful tool for good, and can foster solidarity and mobilize support for humanitarian causes. Take the global outpouring of support for Ukraine following the Russian invasion. Social Media campaigns played a crucial role in raising awareness and funds, mobilizing a global response. During natural disasters, platforms like Twitter and Facebook have been instrumental in coordinating relief efforts. They provide a platform for local organizations to share crucial information and for people in affected areas to reach out for help. A single tweet with a heartbreaking

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OBITUARY

The *Weekly* deeply regrets the passing of Ms Sudarshan Ahuja, mother of Mr Kamal Ahuja, on the morning of 4 September, 2024. On behalf of the School community, we extend our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

RISING TO THE CHALLENGE

The Doon School Quiz team represented by Samarveer Bisen and Vignesh Dodla, and the Doon School Debating team represented by Avi Bansode, Vivaan Sood, and Zubin Dhar, secured **second place** in the Annual **Doon School Quiz** and the **Chuckerbutty Debates** respectively.

Well done!

DOMINATING DISCOURSE

The Doon School Foot Team, represented by Aryavardhan Agarwal, Arnav Tiwari, and Aditya Agarwal won the **Kamla Jeevan Hindi Debates**, defeating the Rashtriya Indian Military College, Dehradun. Aryavardhan Agarwal was declared the **Best Speaker of the tournament**.

Congratulations!

ERRATA

The poem titled *A Rainy Day* from **Issue No. 2713** dated **August 17, 2024** was misattributed to Avirat Jain. The actual author is **Aviraj Singhvi**. The *Weekly* regrets this error.

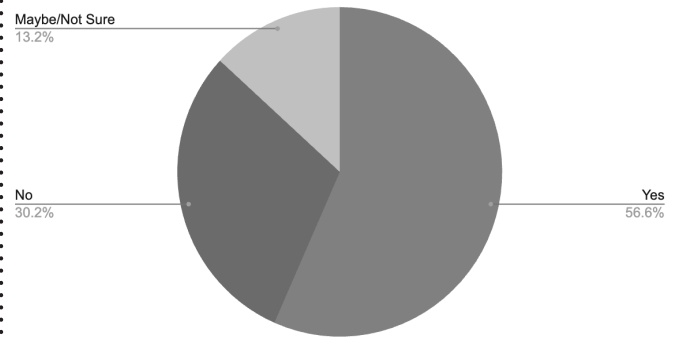
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If you live long enough, you'll make mistakes. But if you learn from them, you'll be a better person. It's how you handle adversity, not how it affects you. The main thing is never quit, never quit, never quit.

—
William Clinton

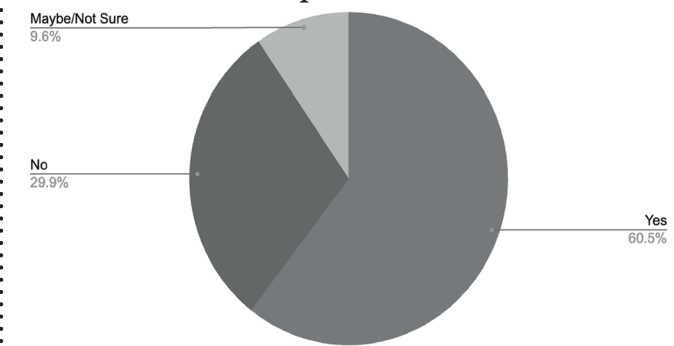
POLL

Is there pressure among students to conform to traditional ideas of masculinity in School?



265 members of the School community were polled

Do you feel that toxic masculinity is encouraged, consciously or unconsciously, by peers?



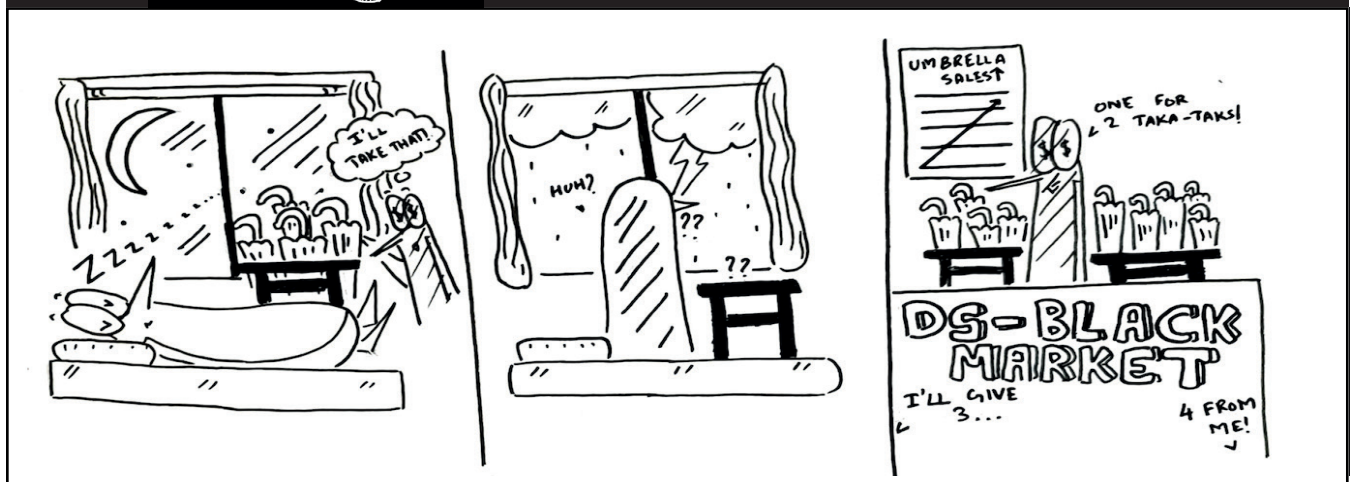
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Around the World in 80 Words

Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu resisted ceasefire despite pressure from the US. 41 people were killed in Ukraine, after Russia launched two ballistic missiles. A school shooting killed four in Winder, Georgia. The Ukrainian Foreign-Minister resigned as President Zelenskyy planned the overhaul of wartime government. The INC became the first national party to have a dedicated LGBTQIA+ wing. Nvidia's share price dropped by over 9%, suffering a record \$279 billion loss in market value. Charles Leclerc won the Italian Grand Prix.

Dosto Doodle

Shady dealings
Vibaan Lakhotia



(Continued from Page 1)

image and a desperate plea for assistance can connect a family in a flood zone with volunteers across the globe. Social media has undeniably increased our interconnectedness, and we should strive to make the most of this boon.

The challenge lies in harnessing the benefits of social media for conflict reporting while mitigating the risks of misinformation.

Imagine scrolling through your feed and coming across a post about a conflict. Before you hit “share,” take a moment to pause. Ask yourself: Where is this information coming

from? Additionally, seek out perspectives beyond your social media bubble. Look for reporting from reputable news organizations with experience covering the region. Furthermore, one should always seek to prevent an overstimulation of information: Social media often throws scores of news at you, and it is the duty of the viewer to filter out the ones that are irrelevant. Even taking a break may prove prudent.

In conclusion, social media has undeniably transformed how we report and consume news, especially in conflict zones. While it offers opportunities

for real-time, grassroots reporting, it also presents significant challenges in terms of superficial engagement. The recent viral trends during the Israel-Gaza conflict serve as potent reminders of both the power and pitfalls of social media in modern journalism. As we continue to rely on these platforms for news, it is essential to foster a more informed and critical approach to information sharing.

A Tribute to the Guiding Light

Aviraj Singhvi

God made somebody with compassion and a generous mind,
People like them are hard to find.

They teach with their whole spirit and time,
And make the ladder of success, a piece of cake to climb.

For the betterment of their disciples they strive,
And the children joyfully arrive.

Thank you to all the teachers, without you the world cannot progress,
You are the priceless treasure, every student possesses.

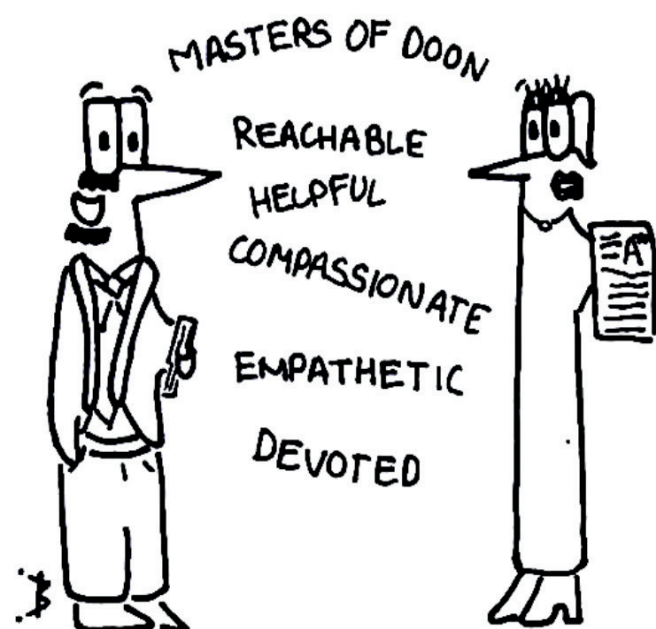
Grateful for your support and help at every moment,
You teach us from your heart, and make learning fun and entertaining.

For all of us, you care,
People like you are extremely rare.

You make us shine bright,
And help us fly higher in every field, like a kite.

Thank you teachers, for all the help you have given to the world,
We bow to your greatness and thank you a ton.

Teachers are why we keep our head held high,
And give us carriage to try.
I end this note with a thanks,
You, teachers, are at your zenith.



A Symphony of Discourse

Agastya Chamaria and Hrishikesh Aiyer recap the recently concluded Debating and Quiz mega-event.

As the first mega-event came to an end, it is in order that we recount the enthralling experiences, which spanned four days. For starters, The Chuckerbutty Memorial Debates, or more commonly *Chucks*, constituted the largest event of the conference, with nearly thirty schools from all over the country participating in riveting discourse. All teams, with some housing National Team members, and some first-time debaters, performed phenomenally, elevating the level of debating to new heights, establishing *Chucks* as a hallmark in the Indian high school debating circuit. Our men on the frontlines, the Doon School Foot and Martyn, took down their opponents one at a time and engaged in a brilliant series of debates you might have encountered. Daily reports of multiple debates were provided by the diligent editorial boards of both *The Chuck Review* and *The Daily Saber*, working tirelessly behind the scenes, to cover every detail of the conference. Fresh blood was seen with teams such as the Neev Academy, who proceeded to blow out all the stops, with their second speaker winning the coveted title of the 'Best Speaker of the Tournament,' stepping on *quite* a few toes. A tantalising two-one split vote brought Team Martyn's journey to a close. We also saw the upset of the 'Honorary' Dosco losing to a certain *SoBo*, which was immediately brought to its knees by the Doon School Foot. Every Dosco was on the edge of their seat come the Final debate as we rooted for the Home team. The Vasant Valley School, with a particularly brilliant whip speech, valiantly stood their ground, and the motion stood with them. Nevertheless, a strong push from both the Martyn and the Foot teams. The tournament came to an end with a particularly touching vote of thanks received by an equally emotional standing ovation.

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The Star-Wars inspired Junior English Debating Invitational Cup, more commonly known as 'JEDI', was also held during this time and saw the Foot and Martyn teams reaching the quarter-finals and the semi-finals respectively. A heartfelt message shared by a certain Senior English Debating Society Boy-

in-Charge was received with resounding applause, "We were all young once," which encouraged the eager young debaters sitting in the audience. The Cup was ultimately clinched by the Neerja Modi School after a closely contested final round against the Vasant Valley School. The participant dance was also introduced to the JEDI, where numerous debaters were seen scouring the area to ensure they would be in good company for the evening, while others were spotted jamming to heartbreak music on repeat with a certain 'Swing' team member.

Moving on, the Doon School Quiz saw the School's quiz team emerging as runners up as they participated in nail-biting buzzer rounds, with a barrage of questions thrown at each team almost every minute. The audience certainly was engaged with the 'interesting' choice of sound effects and the profound energy of the witty host, Mr Poonia. No stones were left unturned in terms of the Hindi debates, as the School's premiere Hindi debate competition, *Kamla Jeevan* was also held during the same time. Much to the dismay of some, Team Martyn's performance at the debates was less than favourable at the competition this year. The debaters performed phenomenally, with a new format being introduced for the Hindi debates where the Points Of Information, or *prashna*, were entertained, which led to more engagement between teams. The Finals saw intense discourse between the Doon School Foot and the Rashtriya Indian Military College. The Doon School Foot successfully defended their title with a clean victory resting their *vaani*, but not their *soch*. Our team clinched both speaker awards in the finals along with Aryavardhan Agarwal being judged the 'Best speaker of the Tournament.' Notably, there was a certain disparity observed between the runner-up's vote of thanks versus the Home team's victory.

Kudos to the entirety of the organising committee to ensure that no major hassles were encountered, considering we just closed with the Doon School Model United Nations ten days prior. Ultimately, these events gave us a moment of bliss away from the worries of academics or sports, providing us with the opportunity to indulge ourselves in mindful discourse and knowledge. With a major series of events now out of the way this term, with only Founder's Day to look forward to, Doscos cannot help but notice the presence of a palpable void. Dear readers, to alleviate such a feeling, you would do well to make a dozen friends, or in one particular person's case, 'twelve dozen'. And as a housekeeping announcement, do adhere to the last lines of Arav's *Week Gone By*.

What are your best memories with a Master?

It was the first time I was stepping onto the football field. Fear and doubt clouded my mind. My Seniors had pushed me to fill in the shoes of a goalkeeper. Then, a certain Master came and said I should continue playing. Though I was not very good, his words inspired me to keep going and enjoy the game. He didn't just stop there. On Founders' Day, he approached my parents, talking about my house practice performance. His confidence in me gave me the courage to become better and face the challenge. I couldn't have been happier, and am truly grateful for the motivation and support that he showed towards me.

-Aaditya Agarwal

The most unforgettable experience with a Master was when our class was watching *Malgudi Days*. Ma'am wanted to show us how times have changed, so we saw the episode *Swami's Exam*. The class was entertaining and relaxing compared to the hectic everyday schedule. We laughed, had fun together, and shared jokes, making it a very enjoyable time together. It wasn't because the lesson was important; it was just that everyone connected at that moment. And for that matter, this Master has never failed to make every class an interactive zone filled with fun. And that day was a perfect example of it, one of those lessons when everything came together just right to make all of us have a great time.

- Agastya Gupta

I fondly remember the day this Master arrived in School. My first impressions of him were of a great teacher and a bubbly individual. I reminisce upon the times my Martyn House dormmates and I would head over to Sir's house and make up a new excuse to get a treat each time. We would eat, laugh and talk about our day and grow closer together.

- Abir Kohli

I was always an anxious child when it came to writing exams, and the D Form Promotionals, after a couple of years of online exams, left me feeling extremely tense. The pressure to perform was overwhelming. However, a Master offered me simple yet profound advice: "Just give your best and know that you've tried hard for the exam." These words brought me a sense of calm and reassurance. Knowing that my effort mattered more than the outcome eased my anxiety, allowing me to focus on doing my best rather than worrying about the results. I'll forever be grateful to this Master for his words because now, I go into all of my exams with a newfound mentality, one which has greatly helped me these past three years.

- Trish Badhwar

Maths had never really been my subject. Often burdened by a fear of it, I tried to stay away. Yet, throughout my two years, a certain master was able to bridge that gap. This Master guided me since my B Form. Realising my apprehension towards the subject, he slowly and steadily helped me overcome every challenge. Through our classes and after-school sessions, he made a lasting impression. His emphasis on taking baby-steps to ensure the concept was clear really helped me gain footing with the subject. His wisecracks always keep us on our toes. I am deeply indebted to him.

- Hrishikesh Aiyer

Hans Christian Andersen once said, 'Where words fail, music speaks.' Yet, I am afraid even music might fall short in conveying the depth of my gratitude for all this Master has done for me. He saw potential in me that I might never have discovered on my own, and believed in my abilities, both in music and beyond. From the lessons on how to most effectively scare a certain batchmate to death, to the countless stories of DoscOs he has nurtured over generations, his mentorship has left an everlasting mark on my life. Thank you for everything.

- Divit Fatehpuria

Thinking Out Loud | Ignore No More

Omar Malik | Kolkata Doctors' Protests

Screaming headlines, widespread protests and 24x7 footage. So, it might be hard to accept this; heinous as it is, the Kolkata rape case is nothing out of the ordinary. As per the 2022 National Crimes Record Bureau report, sixteen minutes before and after, another woman in another part of India was still being raped. Approximately ninety women were raped that day, and every day before and after. By that calculation, and on the basis of what is reported, there are thirty-thousand rapes — and therefore rapists — in India every year. The numbers simply go on increasing. It is important for us to understand how these rape cases are actually part of a much broader systemic malaise, and the fact that this has become so commonplace across the nation signals an extremely pervasive and disturbing mindset that seems to plague society. This is alarming, and as Doscoc — a community whose vision it is to create future leaders — it is time that we sat up and took notice.

The response that the Kolkata rape case has evoked is actually the first step in the right direction — rally public outcry against such atrocity. But what the public has failed to do, after so many rape cases, is to evolve impassioned protests into broader solution-oriented discussions aimed at addressing the root causes of such violence. You might have heard about the Kolkata rape case via your social media feed or newspaper, but it is likely that you don't have a clue about the rapes that occurred sixteen minutes before or after in one or another part of the country. One of the most important reasons these rape cases have become an everyday occurrence is because they are trivialised. As a result, we have unconsciously normalised such cases as inevitable, accepting them as an 'unavoidable evil.' So much so, that given the statistics, most of us may be sitting face to face with a rapist at a cafeteria at some point of time in our lives, without even realising it. A chilling thought I would imagine.

What is the reason behind such pervasive sexual violence? At a very fundamental level, it is the perpetrator's mindset that leads them to demonstrate aggressive behaviour towards women — whether it be rapes, domestic abuse or workplace assault. The most popular beliefs which are propagated is a sense of comparative male superiority which leads to the need to showcase dominance over female counterparts. This superiority manifests itself through aggressive articulation of emotions and display

of physical strength. There is a term for this: toxic masculinity, and it refers to the idea of conforming to very traditional ideas of what it means to be male.

So, 'being a man' becomes toxic masculinity only at the point at which it reflects in our actions towards women that actively harms them. This is when our actions are not only intended to assert physical dominance but also to showcase women's inferiority and depict their emotional capacities as something necessarily weaker. Therefore, when the goal is exerting physical dominance, the only avenue to do so becomes sexual aggression. We need to understand that it's called 'toxic' for a reason. This mindset is not only detrimental for the victim but so much more for the perpetrator as well, primarily because it locks them out of expressing their emotions and letting go. What such a mindset does is that it prevents men from understanding that releasing emotions rather than exhibiting aggression helps them take a step back and evaluate their position from a renewed — and perhaps — a more evolved, 21st century perspective.

However, even when the mindset is pernicious for both parties, status quo looks worse than ever. Toxic masculinity as a concept is becoming increasingly pervasive, especially for the youth. There are two very simple reasons for this. Firstly, lack of discourse about why this mindset is inherently detrimental. This lack is evident from the focus of the Kolkata incident, apart from the complete hushing up of other, similarly horrific incidents that are an everyday occurrence in our society.

Unfortunately, most people who endorse toxic masculinity have no clue it's bad for them. But second, which also majorly stems from a lack of discourse, is the misuse of social media. Through platforms such as Instagram, Facebook and TikTok, influencers generously take it upon themselves to 'teach' youngsters how to be 'men.' In 2023, the McGill University conducted an exhaustive study on how youngsters perceive such influencers. The influencer in question was Andrew Tate, whose content 21% of Canadian young male adults in the age range of 16 to 29 thought was "cool". This, despite the fact that the premise of much of his content revolves around the idea that men and their behaviours should be aggressive, misogynistic, derogatory, and violent. For instance, Tate views women as the property of men, and he says that women bear responsibility for their being raped. The influencer alone cannot be blamed for promoting such content; rather it is us, as rational and educated individuals, who are equally accountable since we are actively buying into these ideas through whatever we stumble upon in social media.

The most important thing to understand then is that

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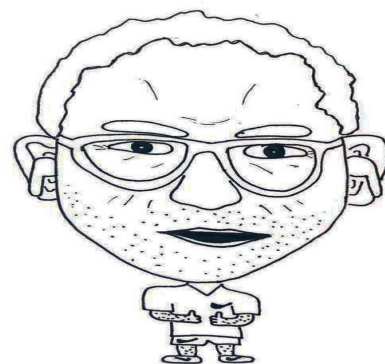
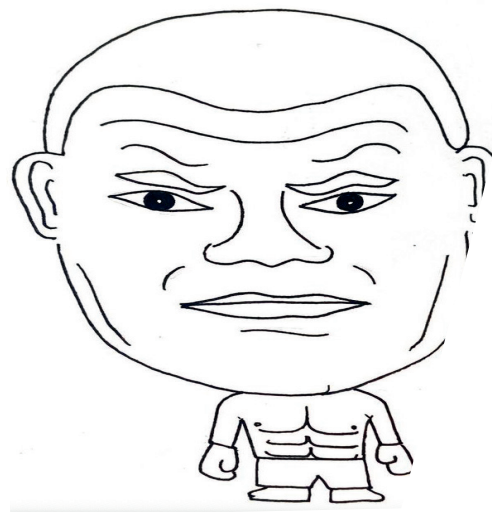
DoscOs should not imagine themselves to be isolated from this systemic issue. Our School is a microcosm of society and this makes it all the more relevant. Presently, we might be living in a sheltered all-boys environment, but the ideas we develop here will ultimately and inevitably determine our future approach and actions towards important societal issues. We as the youth, as the primary consumers and as DoscOs have the power to change our collective mindset. And we need to do so because we share accountability.

To conclude, this is a systemic issue about the endorsement of a harmful definition of being a man that extends far beyond the

Kolkata rape case. Therefore, the only resolution lies in systemically altogether removing 'toxic masculinity' as a social construct and a narrative that influences our perceptions. Our path ahead is two-fold. Firstly, we need to very actively promote a strong protest culture and encourage healthy solution-oriented discourse that raises awareness and sensitises us. Rape cannot be trivialised anymore because our sisters, our (girl)friends and society at large are watching. The second thing to do is to be informed about the hidden harms of certain mindsets so that we can prevent ourselves from falling into their pernicious traps. Most importantly, we must help those around us who may not be informed well enough to prevent them from falling into that trap.

We must wake up and act. Now.

Dosco Doodle **The Guiding Lights**
Reyansh Agarwal



The Week Gone By

Arav Khanal

Welcome readers, to another *Week Gone By*, a section that thankfully has become easy to write nowadays as we are swamped with the sheer amount of events occurring in a Dosco's life! And, for once, I feel less need to blabber on and more to describe, so let's get on it.

Our Football team, or at least half of them, returned at the start of this week — narrowly missing their own trophy, which would have added to an impressive collection already. Which, of course, came after a fantastic performance at the previous weekend's mega-event, placing second in the DS Quiz and *Chucks*, while bagging the cup

(and then giving it away) during Kamla Jeevan (*hamari pyari Vadvivad pratiyogita*). To commemorate both our wins and our Masters', the Headmaster's day-off was replaced by a surprising—School Captain's day off, letting our teachers relax on Thursday instead, or as was the common case, continue worrying about finishing the syllabus. This came after we saw the Sc, S, A, and even the B Forms flock to the Auditorium on Tuesday to witness the college fair — it seems everyone is keen on their placements. For which I say one thing: study now, never later. Lest you see your aspirations taken away like the extra muffins on the CDH table.

While the Inter-House Football Tournament runs erratically throughout, our midweek madness took the form of festivities as the Inter-House Music competition was staged. Through muse, we saw ourselves entranced while

our appointees got their due disappointments and others rose through unexpectedly, bearing spontaneous fruit through their hard work.

It is evident from how busy we are that there will never be drought, and even if not figuratively, the rain gods have it set as a vendetta against our aridity to ensure that no number of umbrellas could ever be enough. Perhaps it is a signal, for the end of this week surely marked two days of reckoning, so to speak, as the SAT results came yesterday, and Doscos either celebrate or mourn over their PTM feedback today. To the parents, what seems to be absolute hogwash is the charm of our *Hogwarts*. To which we then say, we solemnly swear that we are up to no good. But until then, good bye, good luck, and keep rowing your boat — you never know when you will be swept away by the tide!

Teachers' Day Special: What would they be if not teachers?

PTV: Head of a Trans-Atlantic gambling mafia

PKD: Still a Librarian

MMR: Running for Hippie activism

SBG: Invading Poland

SPB: Supreme Leader of a totalitarian regime

PCG: Acting Talent Coach

ABE: Professional *Family Guy* Connoisseur

NTC: SRT's personal trainer

SSW: Cross-breeder of critically endangered species

MPY: Leader of the (Indo) Neo-French Revolution

MNP: An archaeologist

DKM: Mohammad Rafi's backup vocalist

RDG: S. Jaishankar's right-hand

SRT: "The Destroyer of Worlds"

ARM: Aspiring CM of West Bengal

HCY: Chief of the National Cadet Corps

HM: Running a *Langar* for hungry Doscos

AKM: Owner of an organic soap company

PMV: Boxing Coach

ANC: Taylor Swift's tour manager

CSG: Tortured by his own genius

SAS: *Lakmé* hair model

Disclaimer:

The above list is fictional and for harmless entertainment only.

The Weekly would like to wish all Masters a very happy Teachers' day!

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