



Established in 1936

# The Doon School WEEKLY



Saturday, March 17, 2007 • Issue No. 2145

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## Hail Doon!

*"Nature does nothing uselessly"*  
– Aristotle



*Tuesday, March 13, 2007 (2:45 pm). Hailstones the size of marbles bounced down on roof-tops, on bare heads, through trees, on car bonnets, and finally came to carpet the campus. It was quite a spectacular break in an otherwise humdrum afternoon and the community made the most of the opportunity to chill out and play a white Holi.*



## REGULARS

### BLACK AND BLUE

Pradyot Shahi has been awarded the **Scholar's Blazer**.  
Abhimanyu Chandra was awarded the **Games Blazer**.  
Congratulations.

### WIN SOME, LOSE SOME

The **Junior School Cricket Team** beat the cricket team from The Lawrence School, Sanawar, while the **Senior Team** lost to the ONGC team.

### NEW ISSUE

We congratulate Purnima Dutta (PDT) on the birth of her son on March 15, and welcome the new arrival to the Doon family.

### ERRATA

In the previous issue, the cover story incorrectly referred to **Ottershaw School** as Ottershot School. We regret the error.

## Unquotable Quotes

*I am the savior of the world.*

**Rohan Gupta**, flying like Superman.

*Stop jabbing like donkeys.*

**SDA** reproves.

*On ground 3 O will play O.*

**Rohit Khandelwal** starts a civil war.

*This is a straight circle.*

**Saadman Chaudhry**, QED.

*Do you have a digital torch?*

**Raghav Chandra** switches on.

*I want to be the dancing house coordinator.*

**Rahil Badhwar** practices his moves.

*I dare you to speak English for one month this week.*

**Jaiveer Mehra** minds his language.

*I am a batter and a bowlsman.*

**Rishabh Chatterji** the all-rounder.

*He is fast a slept.*

**JNX** slipping into slumber himself.

*If you go to Singapore, you will earn thousands of money.*

**Neel Madhav** is materialistic.

*There are no rice on the table.*

**Manik Garg** counts the grains.



## Opinion Poll

Have you liked the selection of Saturday night movies so far?



*162 students participated in the poll*

**Next Week's Question:** How often do you use foul language? (Regularly, Occasionally, Never)

# Devilish Disguise

APOORVA JOSHI

Living in an infatuation,  
The necessary evil,  
As if to be born was a sin  
And to fall in love bigger.

Mind was young, gullible, at ease,  
No, she didn't even have to say please.  
Time flew by like the white dove;  
And, I was trapped in the snares of love.  
The weekend trips to the coffee bar,  
It was my money, it was my car.  
Evenings spent in the ice-cream parlour,  
She said she loved my fashionable collar!

It didn't take much time to connect with each other,  
But she received my touch with a light shudder.

I liked everything about her:

Her hair, her manicure,

I was in love with her,

And that's for sure.

The light faded, the stars arose:

The distance between us began to close.

She said: "Blood of my heart,

Only on emotions I feed,

For you I renounce all others;

Give me the love I need."

A tool made of my body,

A puppet of my soul;

She was the evil puppeteer,

And that was her goal.

I didn't realise I was making a mistake;

The deed done, no second take.

The wheel of justice goes round and round,

But my culprit was never found.

I am still waiting for the bells to ring,

The solemn moment, when the angels will sing.

Man has always been beguiled

By this apparition in charming disguise.

I have sunk to the bottom,

Having played my part,

But I ask you this:

What is it in her,

That she can't leave even a dead man's heart?

## CAREER CALL

The Careers notice board will focus on the **Indian Airforce** as a career option this week. All budding pilots should look up the board.

## WANTED: PHOTOGRAPHS

If you have any interesting photograph/s (school-related) that you think will be suitable for use in **The Yearbook**, mail them to [dsyearbook@gmail.com](mailto:dsyearbook@gmail.com), or hand them over to the Editors-in-Chief, as soon as possible. Mid-term photographs are also welcome.

# | Interview | From Deutschland to Doon

*Shoumitra Srivastava interviews Christoph Thiery, an exchange student from Salem*

**The Doon School Weekly (DSW): Tell us something about yourself.**

**Christoph Thiery (CPT):** I'm Christoph Thiery from Germany and I study in Schloss Schule Salem. I'm in the 10th standard and like playing handball and volleyball. I am also interested in music and like playing the guitar. I am a member of the *Werksfeuerwehr Schule Schloss*, which is a club of fire-fighters. It is a form of social service, something which everyone has to do in school. There are different types of social services in school, like paramedics etc.

**DSW: What were your first impressions about this school?**

**CPT:** I remember when I reached the gates of the school, I was asleep in the bus and someone woke me up. I had only seen the walls from outside and it appeared to me like a castle. In other words, it's like a little city in a city. What I feel about Doscos is that they are very polite and always ready to help.

**DSW: What are the differences between Salem and The Doon School?**

**CPT:** There are girls in Salem! (*laughs*). People have more freedom in Salem; for example, you can go to the village any time after classes. There are two villages outside Salem: one smaller than the other. There are pubs, cinemas and many other places to go to, over there. Unlike The Doon School, we are allowed to wear home clothes after lunch. We are allowed to keep laptops, allowed to smoke and drink after the 11th grade. Speaking about the Houses, they are smaller and more comfortable in Salem. Another difference is that the study time in Doon is more than what we have in Salem. The appointment of House Captains in my school is different. The person standing for the elections has to first write an appli-

cation and then it is the students who decide who the Captain will be.

**DSW: What have your experiences in Doon been like so far?**

**CPT:** Well, there are many experiences but they are difficult to explain. It is a general but a good experience to live with guys who are from a totally different culture. It is an interesting thing to see how the whole school is managed by the children: for example, the cricket practices, which are all managed by the students themselves. There is a strict junior-senior hierarchy which I believe is necessary for the self-confidence of students. It is something which provides one of the best pictures of life. I like the way when the whole school sings together during the Assembly, it feels like a sign of 'community'.

**DSW: One thing you like and dislike about Doon.**

**CPT:** One thing which I really dislike about Doon School is the food here. One of the things which I like here is the self-confidence of the students, the fact that they are organized and on their own.

**DSW: Why did you choose India for your student exchange programme?**

**CPT:** My school offers exchange to various countries such as the USA, Canada, Australia, and also India. I wanted to know a new culture, which I would not have if I would have gone to any European country. That is the reason why I chose India. I also wanted to improve my English, pick new words and speak fluently. The accent does not matter; what matters is the words which you learn. Another reason for coming here is that I wanted to know people from a new continent, spend time in an expanding country like India, which has a very bright future.

## CROSSWORD

Ramakrishna Pappu

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**Across:** 1. Famous school in South India (5,6) 9. PC company (4) 10. An American airline (1,1) 11. Original \_\_\_\_ (3) 12. Indian National League (3) 14. British Princess (2) 15. Elected member (1,1,1) 16. Basketball manoeuvre (4) 17. Gaming company (2) 18. Deadly explosive (3) 19. Late Indian composer (1,1) 20. High-end hotel chain (4) 22. Bengali surname (3) 24. Substitute for coffee (3) 26. Muscular spasm (3) 28. Lethal English batsman (2) 29. Capital of Australia (8) 30. British secret service (2)

**Down:** 1. Author of Haroun and The Sea Of Stories (7) 2. Popular British tabloid (3) 3. \_\_\_\_\_ Amin (3) 4. Blood feud (8) 5. \_\_\_\_\_ arena, Munich(7) 6. Pop sensation (1,1) 7. One of the finest teas (4,4) 8. Himalayan creatures (3,3,4) 13. To \_\_\_\_\_ trouble (5) 21. That is (2) 23.

\_\_\_\_\_ mater in the brain (3) 25. Also known as (1,1,1) 26. Transfer Certificate (1,1) 27. Kids TV channel (1,1)

# Charitable Visit

*Bharat Ganju recounts his experience visiting an orphanage*

A day out, in school, is considered as an outing with your tutor, where you can eat as much as possible, enjoy yourself and come back to school sated and ready to boast about what fun you had. The real point of such a tutorial outing is to interact with your tutor and do something meaningful which, in my opinion, most boys hardly ever do.

The day ARY told us that we were all going for a tutorial day out we were brimming with joy. Upon asking him what we would be doing, he said that we would go to *Reliance Webworld*, eat till our buttons popped and that we would then visit an orphanage. The last part of his sentence put a damper on our excitement. We thought that we had heard wrong but we hadn't. He said that he had gotten the idea from AKM who had taken his tutorial there two weeks ago. In our minds, the idea of going to an orphanage compared to going to a movie was absurd. We left school at ten in the morning on Sunday and caught a 'Vikram' to take us to *Reliance Webworld*.

The day passed by quickly and, before we knew it, ARY was buying fruits to take to the orphanage. Many of us, whose bellies were full, were dying to get back to school and go to sleep. We went through some back roads and alleys and finally arrived at a blue gate which read: *Sneha Sadan*.

The place, from outside, looked like any other building. It had a plain, simple gate and dusty walls. The inside though, left us dumbstruck. There was a straight brick path which had beautifully arranged plants on either side with flowers in the process of blooming. There was accommodation on the right, which was well maintained, with pale yellow walls and dark wooden doors. A quote by Mother Teresa decorated the walls beside each door. To the left was the boundary wall and a statue of, who I thought, was the Virgin Mary holding a baby. The only doubt I had was that her skin was wrinkled and upon drawing closer I realised that it was Mother Teresa. It was then that it struck me that the orphanage was a part of the Missionaries for Charity which was founded by Mother Teresa. At this revelation, my interest in the orphanage increased.

We were greeted by one of the Sisters in the orphanage. She told us that the children were praying right now and that they would be finished in about fifteen minutes.

She led us through a door and made us meet some of the younger children who were not praying. The first one I saw was a small girl whose name was Muskaan. The Sister said that she was left in the forest by her parents and was eventually found by the police who handed her over to the orphanage. I was shocked at hearing this. I thought that an act like that is inhuman. The girl was smiling as her

name suggested. We handed her some oranges, which she reluctantly accepted. We distributed oranges to all the children. Then, we met some of the older people who had been a part of the orphanage from their childhood.

As we were leaving we spoke with the person in charge of the orphanage who gave us some rather spiritual and inspiring advice. We should realise how precious our life is, full of opportunities and overflowing with love, hope and joy, and that we must thank God for what we have.

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## A Natural Outing

*Siddharth Bhatnagar reports on an unusual tutorial trip*

An outing! "Let's go for a movie, followed by a lunch at *Prez*, have some ice-cream and come back." This is any Dosco's idea of a perfect tutorial outing. Our tutorial group consisting of the Hyderabad House A form, including Christoph, the German exchange student, and escorted by SJB, had the option of the normal routine or of doing something different.

So on a Saturday afternoon on February 17, we found ourselves standing outside the CDH with our bags, ready for a night out to the Susua valley. We were not very excited at the thought of going for a nature walk but as we heard the plan, we started looking forward to the outing.

We reached the place by 4:30 in the evening. It was a small hostel run by Sandeep Ahluwalia (ex-714 JB'80), and his wife, who were also our hosts. It was located amidst serene fields on the outskirts of Rajaji National Park.

After refreshing ourselves, our host gave us a short briefing on where we were going. One rule about the walk was that nobody was allowed to talk. Its name was 'walking meditation'. In the beginning we were getting really bored and were dog-tired after just a kilometre. But then slowly, the boredom and the feeling of tiredness started dissolving as we went about our experience till the sun went below the horizon.

At 7:30, we sat around a bonfire, talking about school and our experiences before joining school, and had a leisurely dinner around the bonfire before turning in.

The next morning we got ready and met Mr. Ahluwalia after breakfast. He gave us a talk on organic farming and then showed us his 'chaos' garden which was a garden with everything mixed up. He also showed us his organic vegetable garden. There was a badminton court as well where some of us spent quite a lot of time. We also ventured into the Rajaji National Park and enjoyed its environs. In all, it was a great experience, a real close encounter with nature.

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