

Established in 1936

# The Doon School WEEKLY

Saturday, September 1, 2007 • Issue No. 2161



REGULARS 2

A TO C 2

ORKUT  
DILEMMA 3

CROSSWORD 4

## Water Week

*Pratham Mittal and Dushyant Raj Sapra report on the Inter-House Swimming Competition*



Reviewing the Inter-House Swimming Competition and all that it showcased is not an easy task. There are stories of long fitness sessions, passionate arguments, numerous setbacks, and of course, the bittersweet realities, which, with laughter, disappointments, praise, and many other such emotions, must all be penned down.

There are also performances, exemplary attempts, and backbreaking hard work that every swimmer must put in, and which needs to be commended. If we carefully look back at the swimming competition and the preparation for it, we can certainly pat the swimmers' backs for that.

The Oberoi House team proved that the team is above the individual when it comes to achievements. They did so by breaking the 12 X 25m event record, thus defying the popular belief that swimming is more of an individual sport than a team one. However, this does not mean that individual performances were insignificant. Points aren't won by team events alone.

The winners, Jaipur House, must be congratulated for their stellar performance, especially in the relay events. Also, Bishnoi's excellent performance deserves mention, as he went on to break the record in the 200m freestyle event in the mediums category by quite a large margin, which was no mean feat.

Kashmir House, under the captaincy of Surya Narayan Deo, showed the difference a leader makes in bringing

out the hidden potential within the swimmers. Kashmir House should be credited for the fresh talent they added to the pool.

Tata House deserves a hearty round of applause for their aptitude and their positive attitude towards swimming. One glance at the record boards enforces this statement. It is filled by proficient swimmers like Dilsher Khanna, Akshay Sikand and Vishesh Kochar, who set a new record in 100m breast stroke event.

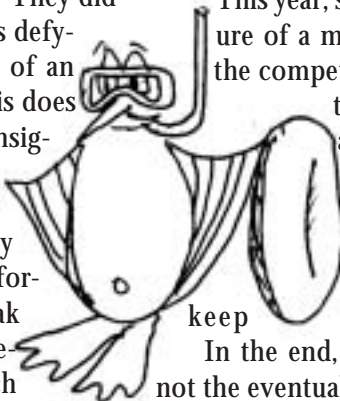
Hyderabad House, too, put up a respectable show in the sport. Their House Swimming Captain, Arjun Gulati, led the way and inspired his team, which gave in their best for the competition.

Fierce competition was witnessed through the week, where all aspects of winners' attitudes were displayed by the swimmers. In the Junior category, Sambuddha Naha, Zorawar Whig, and many others exhibited remarkable potential, which can be harnessed to make them formidable swimmers in the years to come. Sriyash Kishorepuria dominated the long distance events, while Dilsher Khanna and Arjun Gulati led the short and medium distance events.

An observation we made was that some of the Houses dominated particular strokes. This was fairly evident as we saw breast stroke being dominated by Tata House, butterfly stroke by Kashmir and Hyderabad Houses, back stroke by Oberoi House, and freestyle by Tata and Jaipur Houses.

This year, swimming had also been given the stature of a major sport, increasing the standard of the competition as a whole, with boys being able to take part without having to worry about the 'two minor sports' rule. We sincerely hope that new swimmers keep emerging, and that no talent is wasted because of the rule. Of course, the records board should also be rewritten.

In the end, we would like to say that winning is not the eventual goal in any sport, but the approach is what really matters. Swimming has a stronger aspect of sportsmanship and courage than achievement. Even life is not about the end, but about the journey through it.



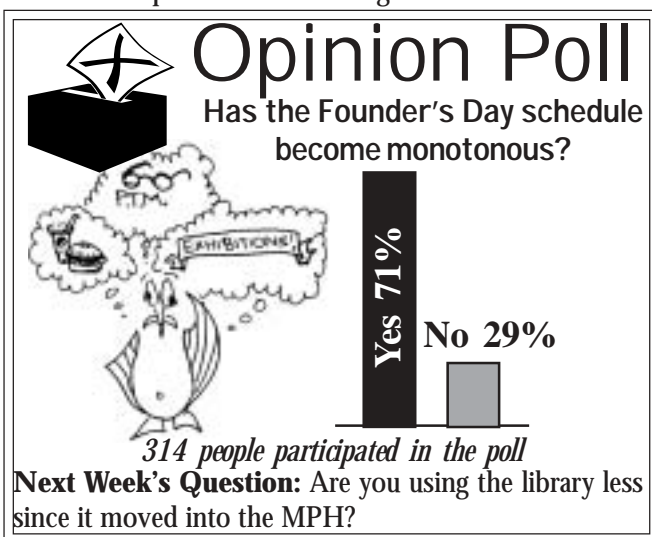
## REGULARS

### IT FEST

Naman Goel, Shivam Saluja, Jayant Mukhopadhyay, and Vivek Santayana represented the School at the **IPSC IT Fest** held at Mayo Girls', Ajmer, between August 20 and August 22. Twenty-two schools participated in the event and over two hundred students participated in eight different events that were held in the Fest. The Doon School won the first prize in web-page designing, programming, and on-the-spot brochure designing. Well done!

### KNOW-HOW

In the **Dipankar Sen Memorial Science Quiz Competition**, Gurbaaz Sidhu was placed first and Saurabh Tiwari was runner-up in the event. Congratulations!



### AA word root

*Know your alphabet:*

**A:** This letter evolved from the Hebrew and Phoenician character *aleph*, or 'ox', because it, supposedly, represented an ox's head. So it was, probably, just a conventional symbol.

**B:** The form of the Roman capital B can be traced through early Greek to Phoenician and Egyptian hieratic. The small b was derived from the cursive form of the capital. In Hebrew, the letter is called *beth* (house), but it never, geographically, represented a house. B in Roman notation stands for three hundred. With a line above it, it stands for three thousand.

**C:** The form of the letter is a rounding of the Greek *gamma*, which was a modification of the Phoenician for *gimel*, 'camel', although not actually representing the animal. It originally corresponded with the Greek *gamma*, as its place in the alphabet indicates. In Roman notation, C stands for *centum*, one hundred. Hence, the French and American cent and similar coinages. In music, C begins the only major scale that has no sharps or flats and that is played solely on the white keys on a piano. C is also the designation of a physical weakling or something of third-rate quality. It is the lowest category in the medical examination for service in the armed forces.

(Sourced from *Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable*.)

### GOAL!

In the **Om Prakash Memorial Football Tournament**, held at the Carmen School, the Under-17 soccer team reached the semi-final round and lost to Welham Boys' School 0-1. Well played!

### HINDI DEBATE

In the **Inter-House Hindi Debating Competition** held on Saturday, August 25, Aruj Pal Singh got the award for **Best Interjector**, while Pulkit Sharma won the consolation prize for interjection. Akshit Batra was adjudged **Best Speaker** of the debate, Skand Goel was awarded the **Second Best Speaker**, and Saurav Sethia was adjudged **Third Best Speaker** of the debate. Ankur Saxena got the consolation prize for speaking. The House positions were as follows:

**1st:** Hyderabad House

**2nd:** Tata House

**3rd:** Jaipur House

**4th:** Oberoi House

**5th:** Kashmir House

| Poetry |

## As Lives are Lived

*Shaurya Kuthiala*

He looked into that flawless face,

He gazed at that perfect life,  
And the more he looked into it,  
The deeper he sank into its depths.

He saw a world where free of lies,  
Justice knocked on every door,  
Thriving in a world where all was right.  
Liberty's bells rang in every ear,  
And all men and women walked as equals.

A world without conflict captivated him;  
When leaders talked not of war,  
But of the betterment of their fellow men.  
Utopia had locked him in an embrace,  
Infusing his very essence with its ideals.

Sighing, he turned towards reality,  
Scorning it, the bliss still fresh in his mind.  
Yet, he knew that it was this reality,  
This flawed, imperfect existence,  
In which he lived and learned.

It was this existence which defined him,  
Leaving him with not a little bitterness,  
Thinking of how he must live:  
In strife and struggle and hate,  
With little pockets of love thrown in.

Finally, he accepted his fate, and lived and learnt,  
Understanding that a higher power,  
Had placed him in reality with a purpose.  
He understood that this world was not for him to spurn,  
But for him to bring Utopia to.

| Review |  
**AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH**  
*Dilsher Dhillon*

*An Inconvenient Truth* is an Academy Award-winning documentary film about climate change, specifically global warming, presented by former United States Vice President Al Gore and directed by Davis Guggenheim. It has been incorporated in school curricula around the world, including our IB Curriculum.

During his 2000 Presidential Campaign, Gore ran, in part, on a pledge to ratify the Kyoto Protocol. After his defeat in the 2000 presidential election to George W. Bush, Gore returned his focus to the topic. He edited and adapted a slideshow he had compiled years earlier, and began featuring it in multimedia presentations on global warming across the U.S. and around the world. In the film version, Gore recorded that he had shown the slide-show presentation more than one thousand times.

It has been hailed as 'one of the most thought-provoking environmental documentaries of all time' by critics the world over.

*An Inconvenient Truth* focuses on Al Gore and his travels in support of his efforts to educate the public about the severity of the climate crisis. Gore says, "I've been trying to tell this story for a long time and I feel as if I've failed to get the message across." The film follows a keynote presentation (dubbed "the slideshow") that Gore presented throughout the world. It intersperses Gore's exploration of data and predictions regarding climate change and its potential for disaster, with Gore's life story.

Most interesting is a detailed analysis of the current rate of global warming and how vulnerable our earth is. In the slideshow, Gore reviews the scientific opinion on climate change, discusses the politics and economics of global warming, and describes the consequences he believes global climate change will produce if the amount of human-generated greenhouse gases are not significantly reduced in the very near future. A centerpoint of the film is his examination of the annual temperature and CO<sub>2</sub> levels for the past 650,000 years in Antarctic ice core samples.

Gore provides us with many examples of the ill-effects of global warming such as that of Mt. Kilimanjaro whose snow-line has been on a constant decrease since the 1970s. Gore also provides us with pictures of once far-stretching glaciers, which have been reduced to only a few slivers.

As the atmosphere is thickened by green-house gases like CO<sub>2</sub> and methane, terrestrial radiation will be trapped to such a large extent that the polar ice caps will melt, ocean levels will rise, and continents will be flooded, leaving the world in dire straits.

Supplementing his provocative claims, are some mind-boggling statistics on the levels of green-house gases in the world, which will leave you shocked regarding the precarious condition of our world. For example, do you know that the ten hottest years ever recorded in the history of the Earth *all* occurred within the space of the last 14 years?

*RealClimate*, a group blog maintained by eleven climate scientists, lauded the film's science as "remarkably up to date, with reference to some of the very latest research."

The need to measure CO<sub>2</sub> levels in the atmosphere on a regular basis and the issue of Carbon taxes by legislation has been stressed upon by Gore, who, incidentally, helped organize one of the first hearings on global warming in the US Congress a few decades ago. The documentary has been generally well-received politically in many parts of the world and is credited for raising further awareness of global warming internationally, prompting calls for more government action in regard to the climate.

Whether it surprises you or leaves you worried, one can only praise Gore for this endeavour, and hope that his desired objective of awareness and more action galvanises us all into action.

| Viewpoint |  
**ORKUTOPHOBIA**  
*Ambar Sidhwani*

Fear of heights – acrophobia, fear of spiders – arachnophobia; fear of water – hydrophobia, fear of getting killed because you disclosed just a 'little' too much on your Orkut profile...Orkutophobia. Recently, a teenager was murdered because he, as an internet user, didn't know where to draw the line. The sixteen-year old, Adnan Patrawala, disclosed his personal details like his cars and personal belongings over chats and *scraps* with strangers through Orkut. This resulted in seven attempts at kidnapping the boy, the last and final one leading to an unfortunate murder. The shocking news of his death has sparked a debate amongst those addicted to the world of social networking websites. The internet, a.k.a 'Lord of Illusions', often blinds us to its evils. We are befriended by those who have not even spoken to us on the phone, but have, somehow, had a convincing chat with us through msn, Yahoo, Orkut, Facebook and the other popular and much-visited sites. The days when these were just considered to be a cheaper means of communication are extinct. Today, terrorists also have Facebook accounts. How many of us actually think twice before accepting an unknown person's 'friend request'? We often misconstrue the web to be this enclosed space where we can share our feelings, photos and even our personal information. The truth is that in this world of cyber space, we are all rendered naked and subject to the bullets of those who are not our well-wishers. Today, one cannot even say that blogs are safe. Our school is on the path of achieving technological excellence, and if we do not realize the urgency of balancing this with a matched standard of values and beliefs that will equip us to make sensible choices, it can prove to be fatal. It is a warning to all those who think that the web is a protective cocoon, and the sooner they realize this truth, the better and safer it is for them to live in this world. Draw the limits, and draw them now.

## CAREER CALL

The careers' notice board will focus on career prospects in the **Indian Army** this week. Those interested should march to the board for details.

# Tech Talk

*Vivek Santayana reports on his trip to Ajmer for the IPSC IT Fest*

The inauguration ceremony was held after breakfast at Mayo Girls' School, after which we reported to the venues where our respective events were to take place. Mukho and I, in our opinion, did not fare too well in our events and were left hoping that we wouldn't be placed last! Naman looked confident about cartooning, but we lost both events. After lunch, we went for a tour of Ajmer, to get some footage for our 'Composite Video-Making' and Saluja took photographs for 'Brochure Designing'. Dinner was at Mayo Girls' again. The performances that were put up by the students were, definitely, much appreciated and applauded. The next day, we had 'Web Designing'. Naman and Saluja were to participate in the 'Quiz and Programming'. After 'Web Designing', we were supposed to transfer the footage to the computers at Mayo Girls', but found that we had run out of batteries and didn't have the charger. The Welhamites were very helpful: they looked for a charger around Mayo Girls', while Mukho and I waited, frantically, for AKS. We had to transfer the videos the next day. Good news, however, awaited us at dinner-time. We heard about our victory in 'Programming', and to top it all, the Mayoites told us that we had won 'Web Designing' as well, much to our delight – and surprise. The final day had two events in store for us: 'Brochure Designing' and 'Composite Video-Making'. We went on to finish off with the last few events. We were on

the verge of forfeiting 'Video Editing' as *Adobe Premier*, a software we had acquainted ourselves with, did not work. Finally, we were allowed to use *Movie Maker* and we pulled all the strings we could. We did fairly well. When the results came out, we found that we had won 'Brochure Designing', and according to the draft result sheet, came second in 'Video Editing' as well. But, overall, we were placed sixth. Finally, we attended the impressive closing ceremony.

All trophies packed, certificates carefully kept and bags stuffed, we headed back to school with memories to cherish for a long time.



The value of exchange is...

To be given the opportunity not only to travel, but to see how the future leaders of the country are educated, and to make great mates along the way is fantastic. Some of the most important lessons we can learn during our time at school, aren't learnt in the classroom. – **Nathan Cosgrove**

To see what things are like in a country besides your own, and to experience things you couldn't experience in any other situation. – **Bradley Gill**

To see what teaching is like in a different country, what traditions they possess and to experience something new. Coming from a day school, boarding life is something completely new to me. – **Rahul Batta**

\* \* \* \* \*

## Cruciverbalist's Corner

Vishnukaant Pitty

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**Across:** 1. Slayer of Medusa 7. Open, recreational area 11. Monkey 12. Revenge 14. Lithium 15. JRR Tolkien's demigods 16. A branch of the UNO 18. A prevaricator 19. Blood pressure 20. Series of connections 23. Household appliance brand 24. Egyptian deity 25. Depository participant 26. Signifying refusal 27. Academy award 28. At the bottom of invitations - \_\_VP 29. Type 31. \_\_ and Fro 32. Pearl bearer 34. Battle protection 37. Past tense – 'to eye' 40. Recently introduced board in school 41. Arithmetic progression 43. Either this \_\_ that 44. A position in 'Quidditch' 46. A famous Macedonian 47. A bovine animal.

**Down:** 1. "Able was I ere I saw Elba" 2. Julius Caesar suffered from this disease 3. Musical note 4. Author - \_\_ Ibbotson 5. United Electrical Industries Ltd. 6. A slow moving invertebrate 7. Physical education 8. Past tense – eat 9. Right (think geometry) 10. Chess grandmaster 13. Drakul (Romanian) 17. Farm animal 19. Spoilt child 21. \_\_\_\_ we stand... 22. Lone 30. One of Poseidon's creations 33. Not drunk 35. Minute insect 36. 24 across 38. A Turkish film released in 1982 39. Before in old English 42. Disease 44. Bachelor of Arts 45. Advertisement (abbr.)

Online Edition: <http://www.doonschool.com/magazine>

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