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MEMORABLE CRICKET 2 | FAREWELL, DEA 2 | LTTES 3 | THE NUCLEAR ISSUE 4

Editorial

Ethical Networking

Besides censoring newspapers, televisions and radio channels to curb public opinion, another element of the media that dictatorial regimes have to contend with is the internet. A tool which is far too spread out and accessible to suppress, the internet has been instrumental in drumming up support for the Jasmine Revolution *from local and international communities alike. Unlike television channels or newspapers, the net provides a forum for communication to anyone and everyone and allows all kinds of opinions to be expressed freely. In an unprecedented move, social networking was used to not just connect with friends, but to mobilize the masses and overthrow long-standing regimes. One would not be overstating if one were to say that had it not been for social networking, in all probabilities there would have been no revolutionary fervour in the Arab world as being witnessed today.*

Even in India, the communication gap between the people and the Government was filled and the exposure of Government activities increased manifold through the internet. .

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The internet and social networking sites bring people from all social backgrounds and ages under their purview. Even in The Doon School, almost every member in this community is a member of Facebook. *The inception of social networking has brought about an unprecedented degree of communication with the outside world. Void of any kind of censorship, social networking serves as a medium that goes beyond mere communication; it is sometimes often used to express frustration, usually with a degree of exaggeration. And it is this underbelly of social netowrking that the School is having to contend with.*

Numerous comments (or 'posts', as they're called), directed against individuals or even the institution as a whole, have occasionally caused unease amongst students and the School authorities. Incidents in School are exaggerated or sometimes even falsified and posted on Facebook. This is where the dark side of the internet or rather, social networking in particular, comes into play. Social networking sites give room to rumours and fabricated events that eventually show the School in poor light. Although communicating with the outside world is an inherent feature of social networking, this communication cannot involve slinging mud on people or the institution by spreading lies and rumours.

> On many occasions, people express themselves unreasonably, often with a great degree of spite and most importantly, open a window for outsiders to see a falsified image of the School.

Inspite of being a personal domain, any information concerning School, once posted on Facebook, affects the image of the School. Once some gossip about School is posted on Facebook, it is further exaggerated by people outside School who make a mountain out of a molehill and most times, just for the fun of it. In order to curb this tendency of using social networking irresponsibly, the School has to regulate our usage of the internet. Due to its misuse, the privilege of using social networking websites has been monitored and rationed. One of the arguments that has been put forward by certain people is that social-networking sites are the only medium through which to highlight the problems of the institutions. However, it must be understood that on many occasions, people express themselves unreasonably, often with a great degree of spite and most importantly, open a window for outsiders to see a falsified image of the School.

The internet is probably the most difficult element in the media to suppress. As the School believes in self-regulation and self-discipline, regulating our activities on the internet is a vital step in this direction. Finally, the question that arises is; can we regulate our activity on the internet through self-check or do we need policing to understand the ethical use of this facility.

doonspeak

Misuse of social networking sites in School

An exaggeration - **Angad Singh**
The ugly truth - **Udai Bothra**
Present to a certain extent - **DKS**
A reality - **VSM**
Deplorable - **MMR**
A problem that is not confined to Doon and not serious enough to address - **Vivek Santayana**

'Exchang'ing

Edward Jamie from **St Edwards' School, Oxford** on the student exchange programme. He will be staying in Hyderabad House.
We wish him a pleasant stay.

Master Aboard

Dhanesh Joshi has joined School as a German teacher. He will be attached to Kashmir House. An interview runs in a forthcoming issue.
We wish him a fruitful tenure!

RSIS

Nipun Batra, Dhruv Sirohi, Akshay Sharan, Vatsal Modi, Spandan Agarwal, Aditya Gupta, Apurv Aggarwal and Sparsh Batra have successfully completed **Round Square International Social Service Projects**.
Well done!

BasketBall

The **School Senior Basketball Team** played a match against the **ONGC Team** on Friday, March 11 and **lost** by 11 points.
Well tried!

Auf Wiedersehen

The following is a farewell note from DEA, who will be leaving School next week

I joined School as a part time German teacher on August 1, 1984. My wife Silvia Wieczorek and I had just returned from Germany where I spent fifteen years studying and working in the field of education.

The first thing that struck me at The Doon School was the list of awardees for the "Kurt Hahn Prize" which hung outside the Headmaster's Office. I felt elated because one of the professors who I did my Ph.D with at the University of Heidelberg was a personal friend of Kurt Hahn and was the only author to have written a book on the life and work of this inspiring German educationist.

At the same time I thought I had left Heidelberg and Germany far behind to pick up the strands of life again back in Dehradun, but there it was again, staring at me from the walls of The Doon School. Even then, the world seemed to be a small place.

Things were really different back then, 27 years ago. There were a whole lot of Indian languages like *Bengali, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Urdu* as well as French, German and Russian being offered at School as third languages. We had an E-form then, and so the boys would do one of the languages for 3 years. It was a very well developed concept of learning which reflected the ethos of the school. Today, with the addition of many more new subjects and activities, this concept sometimes is a bit hazy and unclear to see and feel, although it is still there.

The things that I enjoyed most at The Doon School were teaching, games, music and dramatics. I loved teaching and the boys had a lot of fun learning the language. To me, creativity in teaching is of paramount importance; everything else is secondary. I still get visits, calls, mails from old boys remembering the fun we had while learning in class and during the Founder's Day exhibitions.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in school, past and present and tell you all that I really enjoyed teaching, playing and singing here for 27 long years!!!

Thank you and take care! *Auf Wiedersehen.*

| Report |

Cricket Clash

***Arjun Kamdar** and **Harshvardhan Singh** recount the Juniors 1 cricket match between Oberoi House and Kashmir House, held between March 20 and 22*

Aditya Gupta (Oberoi House) playing a delivery from Raghav Bansal (Kashmir House)

The Juniors 1 match between Oberoi and Kashmir was the closest match in the Junior Tournament. The match was crucial for both sides as the Junior Cricket Cup depended on it. The indefatigable spirit of both sides made this low scoring match one of the most memorable for the competing teams.

Having won three matches in succession, a confident Oberoi House team stepped onto the field to play Kashmir House. After losing the toss, Kashmir House was put in to bat. They soon put Oberoi on the backfoot by putting up an impressive batting performance. The batsmen displayed their prowess by scoring runs off the loose ones. The performances of Vatsal Aggarwal and Raghav Bansal were praiseworthy. They placed the ball perfectly in the gaps and Oberoi's skilled fielders could not stop the ball from reaching the fence. Kashmir House ended their first inning at 125 runs for the loss of 8 wickets.

When Oberoi came out to bat, they were immediately put under a lot of pressure. Their captain, Rishav Raj Das, was dismissed soon due to an excellent catch taken by Suhel Karara at mid-wicket. The middle order managed to stabilise the innings and put up a commendable score of 107.

When Kashmir's second inning commenced, there was a complete turn-around of events. Rishav Raj Das proved to be the nemesis of the batsmen, taking four wickets. The rest of the bowlers chipped in too, taking wickets at regular intervals and before long, Kashmir House had been bundled out for a paltry score of 35, setting a target of a mere 55 runs for Oberoi House.

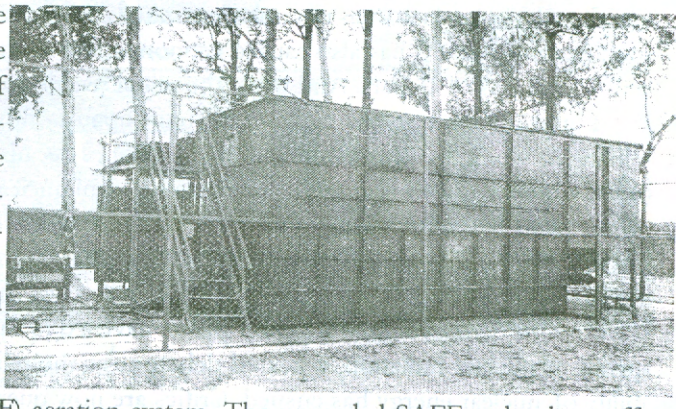
What made the third and the final day of the match most exciting was the Kashmir House fightback. Raghav Bansal dismissed the openers early on, setting the stage for an exciting finish. It was the partnership between Aditya Gupta and Harshvardhan Singh that steadied the boat for Oberoi House. The bowlers then pegged the batsmen back and the match came to a nail-biting end with Oberoi House requiring 2 runs off the last over with only 2 wickets remaining. It was then that Aditya Gupta flicked the ball over the fielder's head for a boundary!

Oberoi House emerged victorious and lifted the Junior Cup, while Kashmir House won everyone's appreciation because of their spirited performance.

|Report|

Doon's ETP

Raghav Puri describes the newly constructed Effluent Treatment Plant, which was recently inaugarated by Nandan Nilekani



On March 11, Nandan Nilekani, Chairman of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), inaugurated the School's Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP). The inauguration of the plant was covered by several national as well as local newspapers such as *The Tribune* and the *Business Standard*. With the completion of the plant, the School became the first educational institution in the region to employ such a water-conservation measure.

The plant can produce 1.2 lakh litres of recycled water and has been constructed by Tigo Private Limited at a cost of Rs 1.04 crore. The technology that has been adopted is an upgraded version of the Submerged Aerobic Fixed Film (SAFF) aeration system. The upgraded SAFF technology offers superior oxygen-mixing efficiency and its aeration system prevents foul smell. The plant is expected to consume 200 kW of electricity every day. The ETP will generate 10 kg of sludge (semi-solid waste obtained from waste water during the process of purification) which shall be used as bio-manure.

The Effluent Treatment Plant treats sewage run-off from a variety of sources, undergoing several layers of treatment to remove solid waste, sludge and oils. It is then filtered and disinfected using aerobic biological processes. Finally, the disinfected water will be distributed through 5 km of pipelines to 89 outlets located strategically for the fields and the gardens.

The recycling of water will not only reduce the burden on the existing underground water system, but will also permit better irrigation of the fields and the gardens. Earlier the ground water pumped through the tubewells wre used for irrigating the fields and green areas. However this has been replaced by the ETP which can produce 1.2 lakh litres of recycled water.

The project is a part of the School's continuing efforts to go green. It is the School's contribution towards protecting the morrow.

Letters To The Editor

Workshop Workout

After the recently concluded test week, the SCs took part in a three-day workshop which focused on life skills, leadership, time management, communication and public speaking. As these skills are extremely important while preparing for life after school, the importance of this workshop could not be undermined even though one had to put in long hours. However, while the workshop dealt with important issues and was conducted effectivley, the school authorities could have done a few things differently to make the workshop even more impactful.

Firstly, the workshop could have been made optional for the SC-form IB students as they had attended the same workshop last year. Secondly, as the workshop commenced after lunch and continued till late evening, many participating students had to put other important commitments on hold. A number of students had been working on publications and would have liked to publish their issues within the next few weeks. Some sporting events were also affected as the senior students could not practise or conduct practises for juniors.

I also feel that if the same workshop had been conducted a few days after test week, the SC form boys would have been better rested and hence, mentally fresh to extract the most out of it. Personally, I think the way the workshop was conducted was commendable. It is the timing and longevity which I wanted to highlight. In future, I hope the proposal for making talks and workshops optional is considered; boys can then accord more value to the events and gain the maximum out of them.

-Sachit Taneja

A Minute for Japan

Stated as one of the worst catastrophes to have hit Japan since World War II, the recent earthquake and the resulting tsunami have led to the deaths of around nine thousand people as well as displacing fourteen thousand others. The disaster has caused unprecedented human and economic loss and the threat of nuclear radiation still looms large.

Due to the circumstances that Japan finds itself in, the world thought it fit to show solidarity by not only rushing aid and other forms of relief to the grief-stricken country, but also by observing a minutes silence to those who perished. Whether it be the English Premier League or other events of little importance, it was deemed compassionate and humane to first stand queitly and devote a minute to the people of Japan. In my opinion, as a community which holds service and compassion in high esteem, it would not be out of place for The Doon School to follow suit and observe a minute's silence during assembly. It might not do anything to alleviate the situation, but at least we can see that in times of grief, our thoughts were with those who suffered.

-Anmol Jamwal

|Viewpoint|

The 'Nuclear' Question

*In light of the nuclear radiation threat that looms over Japan, **Madhav Dutt** comments on the reliability of nuclear energy*

The calamity in Japan has not only devastated entire communities and cities, it has also caused economic loss to the tune of billions of dollars. And while the initial reaction of shock and disbeleif seems to have abated, Japan is now reliving its worst nightmare: a nuclear catastrophe. Because of the tsunami, the 40-year old Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant has since been spewing out dangerous levels of radiation. A report in the *Times of India* stated that minor levels of the radiation are believed to have wafted to the USA. As the damaged nuclear power plants have led to the spread of nuclear radiation, a heated debate over the reliability of nuclear energy has ensued. Critics are now questioning the viability of nuclear power plants, especially in areas prone to earthquakes.

The crisis in the two reactors has fuelled doubts over the safety of nuclear energy, which has been classified for a long time as a 'clean source' of energy. The only alternative to nuclear fuels at the moment would be to revert to the large scale usage of fossil fuels.

Nuclear scientists argue that fossil fuels would, contrary to popular belief, be even more dangerous. This is because from 1961 to 2000, there have been over 20,000 deaths in the coal supply chain while the largest nuclear disaster killed far lesser people. Optimists suggest that the chances of an accident actually occurring are minimal and instead, we must take note of the benefits of this emission-free source of energy. On the other hand, a major nuclear disaster's effects could be widespread and shall last much longer than that of any other fossil fuel calamity. Critics have suggested that the consequences of a nuclear disaster are unpredictable and that putting an end to all nuclear activity is the only way of preventing nuclear disasters.

One of the issues with energy in Japan is that there is no feasible alternative for nuclear energy due to limited natural resources. Nuclear energy has been the primary source of energy in that country for the past 50 years. Moreover, the nuclear threat in Japan has made the world realise that nuclear reactors should not be built in areas that are prone to earthquakes. Considering the kind of long-term impact nuclear radiation can have, placing reactors carefully is of paramount importance. Although nuclear energy has been beneficial to a great extent, the events in Japan have compelled the world to think again.

Opinion Poll

Considering the damage caused by the nuclear reactors in Japan, do you still think we should rely on nuclear energy?

Yes 56%

No 44%

(277 members of the community were polled)

Next Week's Question: Are you satisfied with your performance in Test Week?

|Report|

And a Hundred Strings Played...

***Akshay Sharan** and **Suyash Raj Shivam** review the concert held in the Rose Bowl on March 19*

One of our Assembly prayers has the words "...for music that lifts our hearts in one breath to Heaven...", and truly, the school community experienced this on a balmy spring evening when Partho Roy Choudhury (PRY) and Avijit Chattopadhyay (ABC) performed in that most magical of settings: The Rose Bowl. We know them well as our teachers, but on that occasion we were treated to another aspect of their musicianship – as performers.

Both, indeed, are stage-seasoned musicians. ABC has worked with Pt. Ravi Shankar and performed with eminent artists like Pt. Debu Choudhry and Pts Rajan and Sajan Mishra. PRY has performed with his guru, the acclaimed sarod maestro, Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, and at concerts across India. For many of us, it was our first sight (and sound) of the santoor, which PRY explained is an instrument of Persian origin; its Indian name, Shata-tantri Veena means an instrument with a hundred strings. (It is quite mind-boggling to think of the tuning such an instrument requires. I [Akshay] have enough problems managing the four strings of my violin!) Used traditionally as an accompaniment to Sufi music, it came to North India via the Kashmir Valley.

The raga chosen for the concert was Raga Durga, aptly, a late-evening pentatonic (5-note) raga. The performance revealed all the power that is associated with the goddess Durga, translated musically into a simple yet strong structure. It is interesting that the harmonic relationship of the five notes (Sa, Re, Ma, Pa, Dha, Sa') is so fundamental that these note-intervals are found in music across the world, from Scotland to China. PRY's thoughtful *alap* unfolded and led to the *vilambit jhap tal* of 10 beats. The *bandish* was accompanied by the *ektal* of 12 beats. Both performers gave us an excellent understanding of musical partnership, with touches of humour woven into the 'question-answer' segment. The concert concluded with a *dhun*— a medley of Bengali folk music and the well-known Rabindra sangeet *Ekla Chalo Re*, a song loved by Mahatma Gandhi.

The shimmering, cascading notes of the santoor, so deftly manipulated by the artiste, the complex rhythms of the tabla and the gentle rustle of the bamboos, with a moon high overhead all came together to give us a memorable visual and aural feast for the senses.

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