

Established in 1936



The Doon School WEEKLY

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The School Captain's Speech

Sahir Chaudhary

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen.

Last time I started with an 'umm Hi!'. But 6 months of being School Captain does sober one up thoroughly. The last time I had the opportunity to address such a large audience was when I was still settling into the shoes of a student head, and truth be told, had misunderstood what it meant to be 'Oh Captain My Captain! In fact, I had not completely understood what our School really stood for.

Allow me to illustrate my point with an anecdote. "Once upon a time there lived a rooster named Z. Now Z was your ordinary rooster and like all of his kind he couldn't fly. Now this was not really Z's fault, but day after day Z would sit and admire the elegant flight of the eagles or pigeons or crows which flew above him, all this time wishing that he could emulate it. But trying as hard as he did, he could not.

Another thing that must be kept in mind is Z's rationale. Z quantified his life in specific goals after which he strove. Now near his coop, there was a tree. This tree, like all others, had branches with the apical branch being about ten feet off the ground. Z wished to scale this branch: not scrambling up the trunk chimp-like, but through flight with the grace of a swan. The ridiculously obvious question stood before him was: How?

To find a solution to his predicament, he approached the farm's wise old bull. When the bull heard his problem, he pondered over it for a while and explained that the mechanism of flight requires some amount of energy, which may be induced artificially. Thus, Z must gain more energy with which he could flutter his wings and propel himself ten feet off the ground and onto the branch. Where he would find this power? Simple; the faeces of the bull. And so they devised a plan. The bull would graze on grass, ingest, digest and egests its diet which Z would then consume. A win-win situation.

After a week of this rather unappetising diet, Z reached branch number 1. At the end of week two, Z had reached branch number 3. By the end of a month of this intense diet plan, Z had finally gathered enough power in his puny, formerly useless wings to fly. On this glorious day, he had an extra serving of some truly lovely breakfast and positioned himself under the tree. And just as he felt a gust of wind he began to flap. He flapped as hard as he could and soon began to form a mini-tornado under his wings. He rose like an elevator, gradually, and just as the exhaustion settled in he had ascended ten feet. He was ecstatic, he felt jubilant, victorious and satisfied. He could now 'fly'. And as he perched on the branch he smiled as large a smile as his beak would allow. Z was oblivious to the transience of his happiness when in the blink of an eye; the farmer stepped out of his ranch, loaded his shot gun and blew Z's brains out.

While you take a moment to unsuspend your disbelief, let us also sympathize for poor Z. For the sake of clarity, before I connect this rather strange anecdote to our lives here at Doon, let me first spell out the moral: "Bovine excreta will take you places but will not keep you there".

Now imagine Z to be a junior Dosco - the new member of the farm. This member wants to survive and triumph in the farm and to do so he must first understand his surroundings. He must understand the history of the place he aims to win in and must first understand what 'winning' means. What does the farm define as winning? Is it colours or blazers or awards, or is it something more intangible? And in a farm - a community - this vital piece of information is passed down by the wise old bulls. Practically everything a junior learns is passed down by the older batches of the School. All of our aspirations, our fears, our code of values, is passed down by our seniors. Essentially they pass down the ethos of our institution. Now that I have defined the rooster and the bull, we see they are essentially still 'animals on the farm'. They occupy the same community as they did before and nothing

(Contd. on page 3)

“ Everything a junior learns is passed down by the older batches of the School. All of our aspirations, our fears, our code of values, is passed down by our seniors. ”



Regulars

Albatross

Four boys represented School at the **DSOBS Golf Tournament** held at **The Delhi Golf Club** on **October 9, 2015**. Varun Sehgal stood **first** in the overall ranking with a total score of 41 points. Ekamveer Singh scored 36 points and came **second**. Shaurya Verma and Jayaditya Singh tied for the **7th** position with 31 points each.

Congratulations!

IAYP

Dhruv Ahuja has been awarded the **Silver Standard** of the **Duke of Edinburgh's International Award**.

Congratulations!

The Savants

The **Doon School** participated in the **5th International Science Conference** held at the **Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, New Delhi** from **October 10 to 12, 2015**. The following boys were awarded the **Young Junior Scientist** awards for research papers they presented:

Manan Dadhania, Madhav Khirwar, Anvay Grover and Sammarth Juneja

The School was also awarded the **Distinguished Science Leadership Excellence Award**.

Kudos!

Essayists

The following are the results for the **Kanvarani Tara Devi Hindi Essay Writing Competition, 2015**:

First Position: Vallavi Shukla

Second Position: Arth Gupta and Ritvik Khare

Well done!

"Effort and courage are not enough without purpose and direction."

John F Kennedy

Fiery Orators

A team comprising Chaitanya Kediya, Arjun Singh, Manan Pradhan and Sasyak Pattnaik represented School at the **21st Padmashree JTM Gibson Memorial Invitational English Debates, 2015**. Chaitanya Kediya was adjudged the **Best Speaker** in each of the **five rounds** and was awarded the **Best Speaker of the Tournament**. The team **emerged victorious** for the second consecutive year.

Arth Gupta, Devansh Agarwal and Chaitanya Kediya have been awarded **English Debating Colours**.

Well done!

Maestros

Sahir Choudhary, Fateh Singh Phoolka and Shashawat Arya have been awarded **Art Colours**.

Congratulations!

Quiz Colours

Shlok Jain has been awarded **Quiz Colours**.

Congratulations!

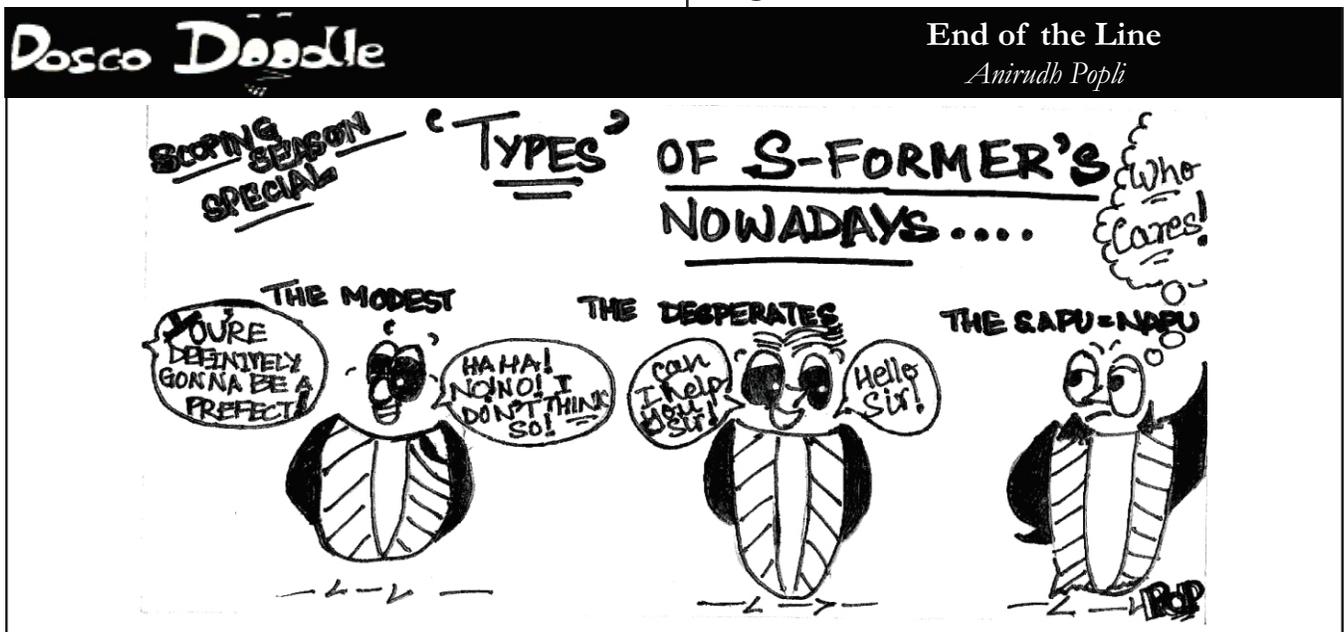
Litterateur

Aditya Vardhan Bhardwaj has been awarded the **Scholar's Blazer**.

Kudos!

'Spoken Word'

The Doon School has started its very own 'Spoken Word' group. Spoken Word is a form of poetry which is written solely for performance. This group helps students freely express their emotions, learn to write poetry and most of all - speak on a public platform. This also helps students acquire skills which would serve them well in various performance-based activities. All those interested should give their names to Anirudh Popli, or contact him via email at 240@doonschool.com



(Contd. from page 1)

“This ‘essence’ is what being a Dosco is all about. To be original, individual and to retain your own identity and belief in the face of overwhelming judgement.”

much has really changed. But the fact is ladies and gentlemen, there is also the farmer. The farmer becomes the real world. Because every animal ultimately belongs to the farmer and similarly, at the end of our six years at Chandbagh we have to go into the real world and therein lays the crux of the matter. You cannot stay within the farm forever. The first Headmaster of our School, Arthur Foot, once said, “ In School your experiments in taste take place in guarded surroundings.” That was the original idea, to form an environment in which each student could shape his own lives. Where his dreams would not be affected by society's strife to retain conformity. This ‘essence’ is what being a Dosco is all about. To be original, individual and to retain your own identity and belief in the

face of overwhelming judgment.

To be accepted by the larger community, boys often conform than chose to do what is right. When a Dosco tries to be his own person he is sometimes called names and in some ways, is made to feel like an outcast. Doscos today are afraid of being crushed by the wheels of this system because you see, to be accepted by the majority, a Dosco needs to be a part of the majority and loses his very own identity. This is what could erode our ethos in School, because a Dosco stands where he does in the world because he stands differently. Because the idea was not to make Doon School a reflection of society but rather an exemplar of it. These self-entitled wise old bulls are the ones who are scraping away this core ideal. Because the terminology of the 'S-Form' or 'SC-Form' second term is similar to eating faeces to reach the apical branch. In 2006, Ashish Mitter, the then School Captain, asked the question, “Are the Doon School's efforts to modernize itself, taking away from what the term ‘Dosco’ stands for?” Today I stand before you to say ‘No’. Our changing infrastructure or curricula does not define a Dosco. Being a Dosco means having the courage to of your own convictions.

Today I stand before you unsure of the shoes I have to fill. I don't know if I deserve to be School Captain. I don't know if I have risen up to the right to be the eightieth captain of this School. All I know, simply, is that I am. I have lived most of my Dosco life in Rose Bowl or the MPH or the Main field, and therefore was never really aware of all this. Being elected as student head has taught me a lot and I believe the time has come when we stop and take stock of our situation as a community. The best way of reinventing is through self criticism, because we are all shareholders in this great institution and we all must be prepared to do whatever is necessary to make this school the exemplar it was imagined to be. Today I hope to leave a legacy behind, so that future generations get the witness the sheer beauty of this school. Do not get me wrong: over my last six years I have fallen in love with the Doon School I have lived in. It was one where I was lucky to forge my own path and tread on it. This year we initiated both concrete and intangible changes; changes which I felt would help us become better Doscos. The solution is different for each year and so the only advice I would give to our future students would be a line from one of our prayers,

“ Today, I stand before you unsure of the shoes I have to fill. I don't know if I deserve to be School Captain. I don't know if I have risen up to the right to be the eightieth captain of this School. All I know is that I am. ”

*God, give me the courage to change that which I can,
The serenity to accept that which I cannot
And the wisdom to know the difference.*

In short, Oh lord, please don't make me a wise old bull.

We stand at the end of our eightieth year. We have come a long way, but we still have a long way to go. And so I will end my speech with lines from a poem by Alfred Lord Tennyson. Lines which never fail to renew in me a sense of purpose. A sense of being a Dosco.

*Come My friends,
Tis not too late to seek a newer world,
For our purpose holds to sail beyond the sunset,
And though we are not the strength which in old days moved Earth and Heaven,
That which we are, we are.
One equal temper of heroic hearts,
Made weak by time and fate; But strong in will.
To strive,
To seek,
To find,
And not to yield.*

Thank you.

Dramatic Dialogue

The Weekly interviewed Mrs. Sharmila Tagore who was the Chief Guest at Founder's, 2015

The Doon School Weekly (DSW): What can be done to change the underlying sexism - and at times objectification of women - which exists in Bollywood?

Mrs. Sharmila Tagore (SMT): I'm glad you think that cinema has got a higher position in India than society. First, you have to look at society. Does sexism only exist in films or does it exist in any field? Let us look at cricket. Women cricket teams do not get sponsorship. They don't get media visibility, print or television. Thus, sexism does exist in society. As we speak, we are having cases of infanticides, feticide and suffering girl children. Barring a few spots, it is an extremely patriarchal world we are living in. So, why blame films? Films portray what is happening in society. It is also a commerce driven industry. We have this huge population that we have to please. We have both male and female audiences. Now, the female audience will not mind what we say: they are only worried about the physical strength of the man. They are not getting threatened if they are shown to be performing better.

A man, on the other hand, feels threatened if a woman gets a better job. The gender bias has that underlying 'something'. Also, the very fact that it is not perceived as a bias makes it an even bigger bias. Today, women themselves bind to the bias and think it is their role to take care of the family. A horrible thing that the society does is that they make such women goddesses. Even mothers-in-law and daughters-in-law try to be this 'goddess' because both are vying for the man's affection who is the only one earning



member. This way, they end up leading imperfect lives. This gap or shortage is often blamed on the horoscope, an external agency all together. All these things exist in our society, and since society and family are much bigger institutions than films, why should one blame images?. To please the male audience, we avoid giving powerful roles as it is 'offensive'. Also, an actresses life stops at thirty. Let us look at Salman Khan and Madhuri Dixit. Both have acted at the same time, but while Salman Khan continues to act, Madhuri Dixit does not. She can't get married; she can't have children. Her image changes. A man, in the industry is getting paid much more than a woman in the industry for the same work. Thus the society misses out on many aspects due to the image the stars have created. Today, images are paramount. You are seeing so many images, of so many kinds— titillating, political and violent. Today, you also need to be media literate because all these images are creating repercussions in your sub conscious. Instead of being passive receivers of images, you need to be engaged viewers who are able to understand the various subtexts of the images. When a women gets married you see a suitcase leaving the house. When a man gets married, you see it coming into the house. You need to understand the subtext of this imagery. Look at all the advertisements which have an element of cognition— advertisements of computers, cars, etc. They are all done by men. Meanwhile, advertisements of all the house hold items such as 'Lux' and oil are done by women. These images are what we keep reiterating. You need to change. As Marie Ann Slaughter said, 'When the care-giving and care-earning are put on the same path, then only will we have true equality.' Hence, if we have housewives then we should also have house husbands. There should be proper sharing, and this is what we promote when we undertake activism. Role playing starts very early. A man is brave and a woman is pretty. Anything emotional is linked to women and anything reasonable is linked to men. And when a woman gets married, she gets becomes of the collective. If she remains single, she is a suspect. So, you have to look at society first. Films will undergo changes, when the society undergoes changes.

DSW: We strongly believe that actors in their capacity as popular performers have the ability to influence the masses, therefore in what other ways do you believe performing artists can contribute to the society?

SMT: An actor, especially in India has a lot of goodwill and the male stars particularly have a following. Mr. Shah Rukh Khan said at the Edinburgh University, 'You cannot be a philosopher, before you become rich.' Now what exactly does that mean? What is rich? How rich do you want to be? How long do you want to wait to become a philosopher? Now that sentence from him, for a young mind, is prioritizing commerce over art. Absolutely, commerce is necessary. You need to have car, a house, education, etc., but it cannot be everything. Money is not your prime asset. Your asset is your intuitiveness, your intelligence, your imagination. These are your assets, which you have to use. I think you can use both. The message is, perhaps,

to use both. Here your aspirations come in. You aspire to become rich then do whatever. There are celebrities and 'celebrities'. There is George Clooney who is doing wonderful things, and there is Caprio who is coming here for climate change. They are committed people. Audrey Hepburn, as you know, was the UNICEF goodwill ambassador. Priyanka Chopra and I, work in the field of maternal health, malnutrition and girl child education. Once, for HIV and Aids we went to an event in Bigasa, and we saw these families headed by children. Twelve-year-old Alice was looking after five younger siblings. Many orphans also had HIV and AIDS. A lot of people are doing a lot of good things. Even then, all of us need to give something back to society.

DSW: Bollywood as an industry has often come under scrutiny for suppressing talent by promoting nepotism. What are your views on this?

SMT: Well, the politicians' sons are becoming politicians and doctors' sons are becoming doctors. It is obvious that when you are working in an industry, you create a certain amount of good will. When someone's son is acting in a film, one does not need to advertise much as many people know who he already is. There is a platform that one takes off from. If he fails, he fails. But if he succeeds then at least that aura is created. So, I wouldn't call it nepotism. If anybody does not have the ware, the audience will discard him instantly. You may get your first opportunity but no one wants to invest his or her money in a non-starter. As you know, today, dancing and fighting is more important than acting. There is much emphasis on bodybuilding and I often see all these youngsters going to the gym, doing back flips and other stunts. I have no idea what that has to do with acting, but it does. Also, the progeny of stars are not really curbing the opportunities of other aspirants.. People who go to Pune Institute and the National School for Drama which are premier institutes have always had good chance. Like anywhere else, you have to work from pillar to post; you have to make your own portfolio. It is also a matter of luck. If you are lucky, you get noticed. I was lucky. I was picked by Ray and my life changed. If he hadn't picked me, I do not know where I would have been. But education comes first. You need to have some education before going for the industry. That would be my advice.

“Money is not your prime asset. Your asset is your intuitiveness, your intelligence, your imagination. These are your assets, which you have to use. I think you can use both.”

DSW: To what extent do you feel actors are morally obligated to their audience?

SMT: This is a very difficult question and especially because you have asked an actor and not directors and producers. Now, I do have the option of starving to death and saying no to every film because it is not morally acceptable. I have acted in good, bad and different films. Some I did to help a friend, some I did because I loved the role and some I did because I was paid well. I was once offered a role where I am the mother and I have two children and my husband is a police officer. The young boy is extremely naughty. When his father tries to discipline him, the mother shields him. At one point, the mother is feeding and he throws all the food on the ground. Then, at another point, he takes his father's revolver to school and fires it. A complaint is lodged. The father then takes his belt off and punishes the child while the mother cries outside. I had said, 'No I am not going to do this film.' They had asked me if it was morally acceptable. I had replied, “No, the mother is completely responsible for the child” The child then had grown up to be a murderer. Somewhere, we draw a line. I can't say that I haven't made any compromises in life. Sometimes I had wanted the money, but then I tried to offset it by something good. If the message was very 'iffy' and went completely against me, then I said “No”.

DSW: What do you think is the most relevant change in cinemasince your time and now?

SMT: Like I said, there are certain powerful women roles emerging, which is extremely good. People are trying out new genres. There is a lot of energy in films. An example is 'Kahaani'. At one time everyone was going to some foreign locale for shooting. Now, films like 'Bajrangi Bhaijaan' have been shot here utilizing the beautiful spots available. The money is also in place. In our time, we had to work in a film for three to four years and work in three to four films at a time because we didn't know which film would get stuck. Now as soon as film is finished they start a new one. In my time, there were no scripts. I, being a non Hindi-speaking actor, found that difficult. Now everybody gets a script. Earlier, only the hairdresser was a woman or the dress designer was a woman. Now you have assistant directors, assistant cameramen who are also women. When I was acting, actors, director, producer, not even the cameramen did not come into the periphery of being a woman. Times were very different, and I am talking about the sixties. Now all of that has changed. A lot of change is for the better but a lot of the change has made films more western centric, superficial, maybe a bit more violent perhaps.

The Week Gone By

CC Chengappa

The week, that wasn't. Much to the delight of many, the hard work that most of us put in during Founder's paid off and we were awarded with a week in rehab, which was mainly utilized for catching up on long lost sleep and rummaging through our newly supplied lockers. The school was abuzz with activity due to Founder's, and although contributions came in every form, it involved work until the very last day, and managed to get through...unscathed.

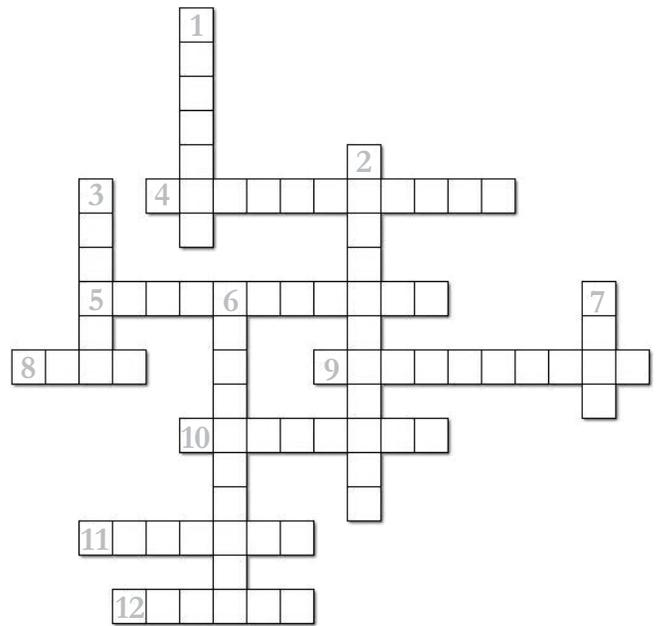
Most people did not realize the fact we were actually celebrating the 80th year of school, nevertheless this year witnessed the 25th year celebrations of Oberoi House which was marked with jubilant celebrations all across Lower Skinners and bright blue lights everywhere, an event that was truly memorable for a lot people.

At the other end of school, the dramatics society came up with two brilliant performances, both of which were adaptations of famous movies. The acting was spot on and drew praise from several visitors and Old Boys who attended Founders this year. On the final day, the school was addressed by Mrs. Sharmila Tagore who was the Chief Guest this year.

The main building bore a sombre look as both the Ivy and the bright orange lights were missing over the course of Founder's. As for the interior regions of the main building, the classrooms have been given a complete makeover, with 'acoustic paneling' being utilized effectively so that classes can be a little more interesting. The windows have proven to be helpful in keeping many a soul awake. So with smart classrooms and smart teachers, all that is left are the smart students, whom never fail to disappoint. After all, the main building is a heritage structure, and changes should not affect the building as a whole.

As for academics, the larger section of school did not accomplish much in the classroom over the past week, but there is still hope; as most of us have realized that things can be accomplished at the last minute, regardless of how daunting they are.

Crossword



Across

4. a group of wizards; a large formal assembly
5. a group of husbands; a feeling of not being satisfied
8. the collective noun for snakes; the place where birds live
9. a _____ of lemurs; a secret plan to do something unlawful
10. the collective noun for mice; behaviour causing annoyance
11. a collection of physicists; the positively charged core of an atom
12. a set of drums; a container generally used for boiling water

Down

1. a collection of reasons; an arch of colours formed naturally in the sky
2. a group of parrots; utter chaos
3. a soufflé is a collective noun for _____; a mass of condensed water floating in the sky
6. a group of monkeys; the legislative assembly of India
7. a _____ of dices; fortune

10. Mischief	7. Luck
9. Conspiracy	6. Parliament
8. Nest	3. Clouds
5. Unhappiness	2. Pandemonium
4. Convocation	1. Nucleus
12. Kettle	1. rainbow

Down

Across

Answers to This Week's Crossword:

Source: <http://worksheets.theteacherscorner.net/make-your-own/crossword/>

Online Edition: <http://www.doonschool.com/old-boys/past-weeklies/>

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