

Established in 1936



The Doon School WEEKLY



Saturday, August 5, 2017 | Issue No. 2473

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The Essence of Distraction

Omar Chishti discusses the possibility of a co-educational system in School.

"The worst labyrinth is not that intricate form that can entrap us forever, but a single and precise straight line." - Jorge Luis Borges
During a recent chance encounter with one of the few female alumni of our school (Old Girl?), our conversation touched upon the curiosities of growing up in a campus where a batch's gender ratio can hit a startling 1:50. Reflecting on her words, I wondered why, a whole generation after her graduation, Doon remains an all boys school. When a generalised form of the question is posed to the considerably large section of conservative parents among my parent's acquaintances, they instinctively reply: "*Mashallah* it is the reason your school does so well *beta*; no girls to distract you." Though the answer seems problematically sexist when put so bluntly, on a deeper level, it's admittedly the same answer we all grasp for when forced to consider the question.

Our school motto famously goes: 'Knowledge is Our Light'. The unsaid addendum seems to read that girls are an obstructive shade to this enlightening glow. This rationale blatantly reduces girls to nothing more than objects of boys' prurient attention, with no consideration to their individuality and experience. Why are other developmental aspects like social skills and attitudes towards gender never factored into our equation for 'doing well'? The distraction rhetoric is also ironic considering GCSE results in the UK show that girls do better in single-sex environments compared to boys, who have a very marginal advantage. It's boys who 'distract' girls, so to say.

We avoid accusations of systemic sexism by pointing to our counterparts, the all girls boarding schools, as the equalising alternative to our system of education. Here I'd like to highlight the difference between segregated education (which is actually quite common in the Middle East, where I live) and exclusive education. Our contemporaries in India (i.e Welham and Mayo) and abroad are adherents of segregated education - girls and boys might live and study separately, but are at least loosely associated under one school. At Doon (and Eton, our predecessor of gendered hegemony), however, we follow no such system - No sister campus enjoying the facilities, repute, or quality staff we are blessed with exists. The more we model ourselves after Eton, the more we at Doon become oblivious to all of the privileges and hierarchies that exist in society which we seem to be complicit in perpetuating. With this characterisation of exclusive education in mind, it becomes difficult to defend



doonspeak

A co-educational Doon would be.....

"What kind of co-educational?" - **Mr Matthew Raggett**

"Another world" - **Ms Priyanka Bhattacharya**

"The best for the boys" - **Mr Philip Burret**

"Functioning badly" - **Divij Mullick**

"Better" - **Mr Prabhakaran Nair**

our ostensible commitment to equality. Are we to be an 'aristocracy of service' of the men, by the men, and for the men? The kinds of society we create or are conditioned to take for granted are those which are run by men. We come to value certain character traits and structures which are seen as masculine in society. This cannot fully represent what society outside is like, and we cannot hope to serve if our understandings of leadership, service and society comes from such a narrow perspective. It is no great secret that students and staff here comprise a large cut of the best and brightest our nation offers: the business families, the intelligentsia, the political elite, and the very cream of the rest. Isn't this grounding in the tenets of exclusive education teaching these future leaders that it's alright to make board rooms full of only men, to appoint Cabinets full of only men, to promote only men, to work with only men and to want only sons who could follow their legacies in Doon? Women, after all, would be just as 'distracting' in the workplace as they are now at School.

Of course we aren't literally 'teaching future leaders to appoint cabinets full of men', the process is more structural

(Contd. on Page 3)



Regulars

Delegate Prowess

The School participated in the **Welham Boys Model United Nations Conference, 2017**. The delegation secured the following awards:

Best Delegates: Divij Mullick, Shikhar Trivedi, Aryan Chhabra, Omar Chishti, Harshit Bansal, Ishaan Jhavar, Aayush Chowdhury, Zoraver Mehta, Vedant Mehra and Ojas Kharbanda.

Most Outstanding Delegate: Yuvan Jaidka

Honourable Mentions: Aditya Verma, Adityavardhan Agarwal and Armaan Verma.

Additionally, the delegation was adjudged the **Best Delegation** at the conference.

Well done!

Oratory Fire

The **School** participated at the **Sri Debates** held at the **Shri Ram School, Mousari**. The team reached the **Quarter Final** with Kanishkh Kanodia being adjudged the **Most Promising Speaker** in the **First Round**, while Aryan Bhattacharjee and Devang Laddha won a **Best Speaker** and a **Most Promising Speaker** each.

Well Done!

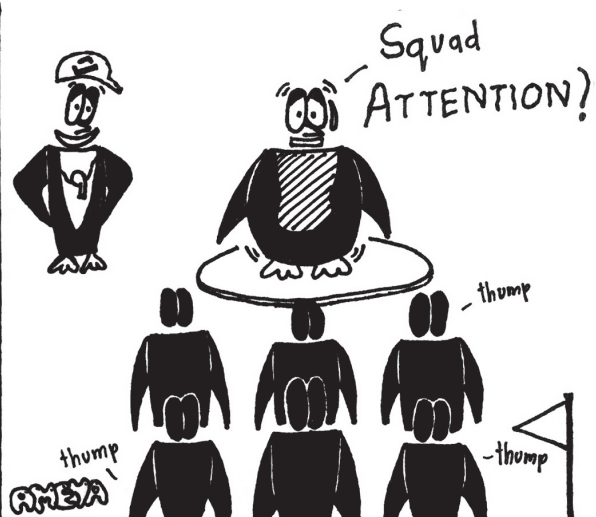
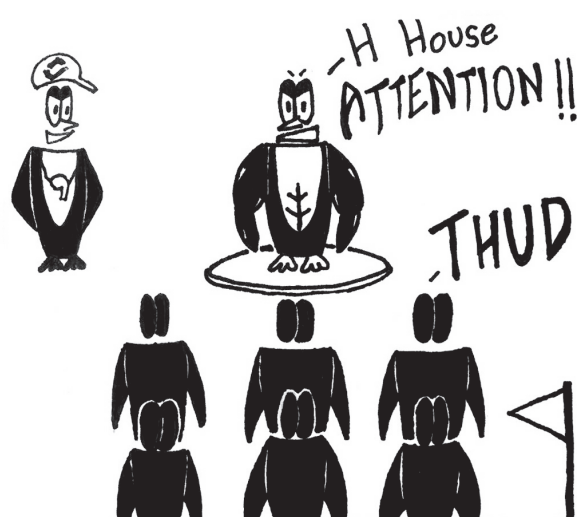
Opinion Poll

Should the School be co-educational?



(469 members of the School community were polled)

Dosco Doodle



PT Leader Test

Ameya Shavak

"The aim of education is the knowledge, not of facts, but of values."

- William S. Burroughs

Disciplinarians

The results of the PT Leader Test are as follows:

School PT Leader: Viksit Verma

Hyderabad House

Manandeep Singh

Mayank Sojatia

Anirudh Bazari

Oberoi House

Shaurya Jain

Kanav Agarwal

Devang Laddha

Jaipur House

Zohraver Singh Bhati

Aditya Vikram Singh

Yashmit Sutodia

Tata House

Shivendra Pratap Singh

Ritwik Saraf

Stanzin Namgyal

Kashmir House

Ranvijay Singh

Gaurav Bhandari

Sanidhya Mittal

Congratulations!

UNQUOTABLE QUOTE

Throw houses at the window.

Divij Mullick, throwing away the grammar.

Around the World in 80 Words

Former FC Barcelona forward Neymar Jr. was transferred to Paris St-Germain for a record 222 million Euros. Donald Trump signed sanctions punishing Russia for meddling with last year's U.S. Presidential elections. Jordan's Parliament voted to repeal a clause that spared rapists punishment if they married their victims for at least three years. Karnataka minister DK Shivakumar was raided of 9.5 crore rupees by Income Tax Department officials on Wednesday. The death toll in Gujarat due to the floods reached 218.

(Contd. from Page 1)

and insidious: the discourses of gender within which we are educated conditions us to prize certain supposedly-masculine characteristics ('risk-taking', 'assertiveness') and appoint people to these positions on their basis. So we don't appoint people merely because they're men: we appoint people because of what we think is merit, when we are conditioned to see merit only in one particular way.

It's quite easy to dismiss this call to rethink our ethos to become a more homogenous sample of our population by applying the "Obviously a Dosco will want to make the place co-educational, all they think about is girls anyway." The irony here, I'm sure the reader follows, is that we're supposedly free of 'feminine distraction' because we're an all boys school - why, then, does the stereotype hold that 'all Doscos think about is girls anyway'? Perhaps it's because growing up with this kind of an artificially maintained gender skewed environment somewhat corrupts our capacity to 'normally' consider the other sex. Examples to back this point are beyond the scope of this article and might perhaps be found in 'The Roving Eye' (Page 9) or observed during DSMUN.

My snarky commentary aside, from our own School site: "(Doon) is able to specialize in the education of boys aged 12-18 years and resource it accordingly. The School can focus all its energies and resources on boys rather than also having to provide resources for educating girls, day pupils or junior age groups, all of which require their own special level of commitment." The point about younger students hits home, but what additional resources beyond an extra set of washrooms does it really take to teach girls, may an ignorant Dosco wonder? Some restructuring of pastoral arrangements, similar to what we practice during our summer program, a rejigged sports program, and other basic administrative changes? I know this call doesn't carry much weight - when an impassioned, personally delivered plea for co-education at Doon from the outgoing President of India herself fell on deaf ears, what change can a minor editor hope to muster?

I know the issue isn't as simple as I make it out to be; I know there's much more than just the inertia of tradition which has kept us an all boys school. Like my fellow Doscos, I owe a lot to the intensely competitive testosterone-fuelled environment here at Doon. I just feel that perhaps it's time for us to consider that an inclusive Chandbagh full of India's best would be twice as competitive as a Chandbagh comprising only our nation's best boys. The issue might not hit home for many just yet, but if I had a daughter, I wouldn't want her to be denied a chance to study at what I'm certain (despite the minor imperfections which I so love to write about) is the best institute in the nation just because she was dealt an X chromosome where I got a Y. And I'm sure many will relate when the time comes. It's high time we rethink our ethos and escape the precise, straight (and unchanging) line we currently travel.

*Special thanks to Vivek Santayana (ex-369-O),
Editor-in-Chief of The Doon School Weekly, 2010*

Diplomatic Distinction

Zoraver Mehta reports on the recently concluded Welham Boys' Model United Nations.

As the Headmaster described, 'a clean sweep MUN', this report seeks to delight the school community with all the very absorbing details which may have been missed on Monday morning assembly.

The theme for this year's conference was 'Solidarity from Strife', something that holds great significance today. Be it the lives of refugees hanging in the balance while liberal Europe grapples with growing ideologies of anti-globalism, or the ascension of Donald Trump as President of the 'land of the free'. This, and a lot more, were elaborated on during the Opening Ceremony where the boys' choir sang their school song, an especially captivating ode celebrating the blossoming 'Welham culture'.

The conference saw participation about 300 delegates from 24 schools a considerable increase from last year. With eight progressive committees discussing a variety of topics ranging from the drug problem in Latin America to Human Rights Violations in Yemen. The African Union was to solve the suppression of their countries, owing to the skyrocketing demand of diamonds in the West.

We also had our school's very own 'Modi ji', debating passionately in the All India Political Parties' Meet, discussing what should be done to the land occupied by the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. The Security Council discussed The Indo-Pak Conflict, with the Dosco delegation representing the Pakistan side! Simultaneously, the MUN saw quite some excitement in the form of 'absent marks', girlfriends and occasionally through debate.

Speaking of conflicts, the delegate dance saw many a dosco's date disappearing much before the end of the evening. A late night crisis for the Special Political and Decolonisation Committee (SPECPOL) took place, the rest of the delegation facing plenty of crises during committee sessions.

The above, along with a fair share of awards gears the delegation up for our very own DSMUN, where all the frenzied activity over the past few months will culminate on the 18th.

3. The Doon School Weekly **Saturday, August 5th**

Funding Fervour

A debate on the funding of the 'Pagal Gymkhana'.

Point

Nirvair Singh

The purpose of a Pagal Gymkhana is to have a leisurely day of fun and frolic, although there is an ulterior motive of raising funds for the house organizing it. The methods used to raise these funds and the mere concept of fundraising at a house level is what is tackled by the new Pagal Gymkhana system. It essentially keeps financial involvement of the houses limited by having the stalls and raffles covering the cost of the fete. So it pays for its own functioning. Hence no profits are earned by the house. The alternative proposed is that the housemasters, in consultation with the students, make a list of what they want for the house and the School provides it. I firmly believe that this system is the best option to run this event. The first of many flaws of the previous system the new one covers is that of donations, which are no longer allowed to be given to the house. Alternatively, they can be given to the School directly. This addresses the problem of the difference in the amount of funds collected by each house by giving them a uniform allowance to buy items for their houses by School. This prevents inequality between houses in terms of infrastructure. In turn, giving the house incentive on making the fete more enjoyable and putting in more effort and time into this rather than fund raising. While some may argue that this can take away the originality and style of each house in their go at hosting the fete. On the contrary, I feel this system gives them more time to put into this aspect.

The concept of money, for a facelift of the houses, being earned every five years in the form of running a Pagal Gymkhana is illogical. I feel the house is a consequence of the school and not the other way around. This is principally flawed as all funds needed by houses should be sanctioned by the School. So the premise of the previous system of the house collecting donations is also countered by this logic.

Amidst the financial chaos of Pagal Gymkhana its aim gets lost somewhere. It becomes more about the amount of money made, bringing in an element of competitiveness which is the polar opposite of what this event stands for. This new policy is an attempt to bring back its founding motive of rejoicing the existence of this institution with the whole community in a day of fun and games.

Counterpoint

Ranvijay Singh

The Pagal Gymkhana is an event which has been going on in School since time immemorial. Essentially a fete, the Pagal Gymkhana has always been hosted by one of the five houses. From the manning the game stalls to the financial requirements, everything was taken care of by the house itself. But now, with the coming of the new financial system regarding which lets School handle the finances for the Gymkhana, the involvement of the House in organising the event has been curbed. This, I feel, goes against the spirit of the event itself, which is supposed to give a house the chance to work together and organise an event of this size, from scratch.

Not only does the new system erode the spirit of the Pagal Gymkhana, it also takes away the financial learning that the Boys get from organising. I witnessed a Pagal Gymkhana in my C-Form. I remember how a lot of the financial intricacies were taken care by the Sc-Form at that time and the boy in charge of the Pagal Gymkhana. This inculcates in the Boys a sense of financial responsibility, something which is a very important life skill. The Boys learn not only how to manage large sums of money, but also the efficient usage of it.

Another reason why the financial aspect should be left for the house is, that at the end of the day the corpus raised from the Gymkhana goes to the House Fund which is in turn used for the maintenance house and to acquire new facilities for the house. What this does is that it ingrains the respect for these commodities among the Boys in the house. After all, it is through their efforts during the Pagal Gymkhana that have enabled the house to acquire these new facilities. Although this might prove to be an extra burden while organising the Gymkhana, it is an integral part of the autonomy of the event which should not be changed.

The houses have always been able to put up impressive Pagal Gymkhanas year after year, and the Financial responsibility which house held, never created "chaos" as the writer on the side stated. Rather, it created an opportunity where all the house could come together and pull off an event of this magnitude with minimum help from School. With the centralisation of the financial responsibilities, the whole notion of a Pagal Gymkhana is getting muddled between house and school. I believe that an event such as the Pagal Gymkhana should, in all aspects, be taken care of by the House. It is only then, that the character of a Pagal Gymkhana truly come out.

विश्वास

• अरुनव वैश

माता-पिता अपने छोटे बच्चे को दुलार रहे हैं। बच्चा खिलखिला कर हँस रहा है। दुलारते हुए पिता ने बच्चे को हवा में उछाल दिया। उछाले जाने पर भी बच्चे की हँसी बरकरार रही। यहाँ बच्चे का उछाले जाने पर भी हँसते रहना क्या दर्शाता है? मेरे अनुसार यह उस बच्चे का अपने पिता पर विश्वास दर्शाता है।

मैं आज इस ही विश्वास के बारे में आपसे बात करूँगा पर मैं विश्वास के सन्दर्भ को हमारे विद्यालय तक ही सीमित रखूँगा क्योंकि मेरा मानना है कि कहीं न कहीं आज हम लोगों के विद्यालय में विश्वास की भावना समाप्त हो रही है। सर्वप्रथम, कुछ ऐसी बातों को देखते हैं जो हमारे विद्यालय में विश्वास की भावना के होने के प्रमाण हैं:-

सबसे पहले तो हम सबका इस विद्यालय में होना ही हमारे माता पिता के मन में विद्यालय के प्रति विश्वास का प्रमाण है। विद्यालय में छात्रों को ज़िम्मेदारी देना, कप्तानियाँ सौपना, निजी आउटिंग और छात्रों को अकेले मिडटर्म पर भेजना और सबसे बढ़कर महत्वपूर्ण कार्यक्रमों की ज़िम्मेदारी छात्रों को सौंपना – ये सभी इस बात के स्पष्ट प्रमाण हैं कि हमारे विद्यालय में विश्वास की व्यवस्था थी और है।

परंतु, मेरा मानना है कि हाल ही में यह व्यवस्था चरमरा रही है। मेरा उद्देश्य छात्रों पर या विद्यालय के व्यवस्थापकों पर दोषारोपण करना नहीं है। मैं तो बस परिस्थितियों की पड़ताल करना चाहता हूँ। विश्वास की व्यवस्था में चरमराहट आने के भी कई प्रमाण हैं –

मेरा मानना है कि पिछले कुछ वर्षों से आवासों में ट्यूटर्स की बढ़ती उपस्थिति, वरिष्ठ छात्रों का कनिष्ठ छात्रों को डंड देने पर प्रतिबन्ध लगाना, छात्रों के व्यवहार पर लगातार निगरानी और आवश्यकता से अधिक गोपनीयता का बरता जाना - ये सभी इस बात के प्रमाण हैं कि आज कहीं न कहीं स्कूल सिस्टम का छात्रों पर से विश्वास उठ रहा है, लोग स्कूल सिस्टम को समझने में असमक्ष हैं, इसके कारण बहुत से हो सकते हैं जिनकी चर्चा मैं अपने लेख के अगले भाग में करूँगा।

इस विश्वास की व्यवस्था में चरमराहट आने के कारणों में प्रमुख यह है कि छात्र अपने विशेष अधिकार वापस लिए जाने के कारणों को समझने में असमर्थ रहे हैं। यहाँ यह समझना आवश्यक है कि विद्यालय में विश्वास की व्यवस्था के बने रहने के लिए छात्रों की तरफ से प्रतिक्रिया प्रणाली या रिस्पॉंस सिस्टम का बने रहना भी आवश्यक है। जब भी किसी छात्र पर विश्वास कर उसे कोई ज़िम्मेदारी दी जाती है, तो उसकी परिणाम सही निकलता है या नहीं; इसी से यह तय होता है उस पर पुनः विश्वास किया जाएगा या नहीं। आज की स्थिति यह है कि कहीं न कहीं हर व्यक्ति का मूल उद्देश्य सी.वी. को बेहतर बनाना बन गया है, अर्थात् आज स्कूल प्रणाली के केंद्र में मूल्यों की जगह इंसान की अपनी जरूरतों ने ले ली है। कहने का मतलब यह है कि छात्रों के द्वारा कई बार व्यवस्था की मनमानी व्याख्या कर ली जाती है। जिसके चलते सीनियर बच्चों ने शिक्षकों के मन में एक नकारात्मक विचारधारा का निर्माण कर लिया है और इसकी वजह से आज स्कूल में विश्वास की व्यवस्था चरमरा रही है। स्थिति बुरी है, चिंताजनक है, परंतु इसे सुधारा जा सकता है, विश्वास व्यवस्था का पुनर्निर्माण किया जा सकता

है। ऐसा करने के लिए छात्र व शिक्षक दोनों को ही कुछ बदलाव लाने की ज़रूरत है।

एक तरफ छात्रों को अपनी ज़िम्मेदारी को समझ कर प्रतिक्रिया में सुधार लाने की ज़रूरत है तो दूसरी तरफ शिक्षकों का यह समझना आवश्यक है कि एक अच्छी व्यवस्था वह होती है जिसमें गलती करने की छूट दी जा सके। एक या दो गलतियों के आधार पर समूह के चरित्र को तय न कर दिया जाए। हम अपनी गलतियों से सीखकर ही बड़े होते हैं तो गलती के आधार पर हमें परिभाषित नहीं किया जाना चाहिए। आशा करता हूँ सब ही इस विषय पर सोच-विचार करेंगे और हमारे विद्यालय में विश्वास की व्यवस्था को पुनः स्थापित करने का प्रयत्न करेंगे।

यह विद्यालय हम छात्रों को सोचने की स्वतंत्रता देता है, अपनी बात को पूरे विश्वास के साथ कहने की छूट देता है, प्रश्न उठाने के लिए उत्साहित करता है और हर विषय पर अपनी स्वतंत्र राय रखने के लिए जगह देता है। यही कारण है कि मैं ऐसे नाजुक विषय पर अपनी बात रख सका हूँ।

अंत में, ये मेरे व्यक्तिगत विचार हैं और बहुत से लोग हैं जो इन विचारों से असहमत भी होंगे। असहमति कोई अवांछनीय स्थिति नहीं है। मेरी प्रार्थना यही है कि सहमति हो या असहमति हो, किन्तु मेरे द्वारा उठाये गए विषय पर विचार ज़रूर करियेगा।

परदे के पीछे के किरदार

• प्रथम बंसल

मैं अक्सर सोचता हूँ कि क्या मैं आज जो भी हूँ, क्या उसका संपूर्ण श्रेय मुझे जाता है? क्या हर इंसान की सफलता के पीछे किसी और का भी योगदान नहीं होता? और अगर हाँ, तो हम इन लोगों को सदा नज़रअंदाज़ क्यों कर देते हैं?

हमारी ज़िन्दगी एक फिल्म के सेट की तरह है। इस फिल्म के मुख्य पात्र हम हैं, किन्तु हमारे साथ परदे के पीछे काम करने वाले कुछ लोग भी होते हैं। ये लोग हमारी कहानी को आगे बढ़ाने में एक महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं। हमारे लिए ये लोग ज़िन्दगी का बहुत अहम हिस्सा तो नहीं होते किन्तु, इनके बिना जीना भी असंभव है। उदाहरण के लिए मुंबई की व्यस्त और तेज़ ज़िन्दगी के बीच कुछ 'डब्बेवाले' रोज़ाना मुंबई शहर के भूखे लोगों तक खाना पहुंचाते हैं। इनके बिना शहर का चलना असंभव है, किन्तु कोई भी उन डब्बेवालों के बारे में नहीं सोचता। और तो और वे हमारे देश के सैनिक ही हैं जिनकी बहादुरी के कारण हम रात को चैन की नींद सो पाते हैं।

हर किसी की सफलता के पीछे, हर सफल इंसान के पीछे कुछ व्यक्तियों का हाथ होता है। कोई भी आदमी अपनी सफलता का संपूर्ण श्रेय नहीं ले सकता, किन्तु अक्सर लोग नाम कमाने या शोहरत पाने के बाद इन परदे के पीछे के किरदारों को भूल जाते हैं। आज कल बच्चे उच्च शिक्षा के लिए विदेश पढ़ने जाते हैं और वही बस जाते हैं। इनके माता- पिता के पास किसी भी तरह का आर्थिक सहारा नहीं होता। इस कारणवश उनके पास सिर्फ वृद्धाश्रम में भर्ती होने का ही चारा बचता है। ये बच्चे ऐसा करने से पहले यह नहीं सोचते कि इन्हे बचपन में उंगली पकड़कर

चलना इन्हीं माँ-बाप ने सिखाया था। किसी ने सही कहा है कि हर आदमी की सफलता के पीछे किसी औरत का हाथ होता है। कोई भी शादीशुदा व्यक्ति अपनी पत्नी के सहारे के बिना सफल नहीं हो सकता। संत कबीर ने भी भगवान् से ऊपर अध्यापक को स्थान दिया है। एक अध्यापक अपने सभी शिष्यों को पूरी लगन से पढ़ाकर सफल बनाता है।

ये किरदार हमारी ज़िन्दगी के एक बहुत अहम हिस्सा होते हैं और हमारी ज़िन्दगी में अनजान परिंदों की तरह आकर हमारा जीवन सँवार जाते हैं और हम हैं कि वक्त गुजरने के साथ इनका योगदान भूल जाते हैं।

उस पहाड़ पर चढ़ना है मुझे

- शुभम धीमान

उस पहाड़ पर चढ़ना है मुझे,
कितने आराम से खड़ा है वहाँ,
न शोर है, न थकान है,
खामोशियाँ और आराम है -
उस पहाड़ पर चढ़ना है मुझे।
साहिलों पर क्या रखा है,
हर मुसाफिर उम्मीद लिए खड़ा है,
साफ़ीना तैयार है पर लहरों से कोई डरता है
कोई नज़रे बिछाए बस इंतज़ार करता है
दूर तलक बस दरिया है, सपने और उमीदें हैं -
मुझे उस पहाड़ पर चढ़ना है।
अड़ियल रास्तों से लड़ना है,
मज़बूत चटानों के सीने से गुज़रना है,
शिखर से आँखें लड़ाकर आगे बढ़ना है,
मुझे उस पहाड़ पर चढ़ना है।
जब वे चोटियाँ मेरे कदमों के नीचे होंगी,
जब मेरी सारी कमियाँ मेरे पीछे होंगी,
जब सूरज से आँख मिलाता नया पहर होगा,
जब चींटी जैसा छोटा इंसानों का शहर होगा,
तब अपनी कामयाबी की खुशी जताऊँगा मैं,
तब इन बंद होंठों को खोल ज़ोर से चिलाऊँगा मैं,
अपने सारे दाग अपने पसीने से मिटाऊँगा मैं,
एक दिन उस पहाड़ पर चढ़ कर दिखाऊँगा मैं।
फिर से एक बार सिर उठाकर चलना है मुझे,
अपना खोया हुआ रुतबा हासिल करना है मुझे,
बर्बादी के गम में नहीं मरना है मुझे,
फिर से आगे बढ़ना है मुझे,
एक दिन उस पहाड़ पर चढ़ना है मुझे।

ठहर गया मैं

- प्रथम गुप्ता

उसकी यादों में अक्सर खो जाता हूँ,
आज भी खुद को उसी में पाता हूँ।
अहसास तो पल भर का ही होता है,
पर दिल उसे याद कर आज भी रोता है।

उसकी आदतों ने निकम्मा तो बना दिया
उसकी बेवफ़ाई का अहसास भी दिला दिया।
तन्हा रातों को उसका इंतज़ार रहता है,
अब तो बस कहीं खो जाने का जी करता है।
तन्हाई से जैसे रिश्ता सा जुड़ गया,
उन गलियों से मेरा रास्ता ही मुड़ गया।
गम बाँटने का सहारा नहीं मिलता,
मन में खुशियों का वो फूल नहीं खिलता।
मदहोश से हालात, कैसे दिन थे, क्या थी रात!
बस मेरे दिल को याद है उन दिनों की बात।
बातों-बातों में निकल जाते थे जब दिन,
पल भर भी है मुश्किल काटना उसके बिन।
मोहब्बत तो मुझे थी तभी जाने दिया,
इस बेरुखी को ज़िन्दगी में आने दिया।
बिखर गया मैं, बस ठहर गया मैं,
उसके जाने से बस ठहर गया मैं।

अब जीना आता है मुझे

- रिषिन खंडेलवाल

इन पलकों पर सिमटे आंसुओं में
सुकून ढूंढना आता है मुझे।
इस बिखरे से दिल का
जूनून ढूंढना आता है मुझे।
भले ही इस बेवफ़ाइयों का कारण
नहीं पता आज तक
पर इससे मन भर खेलना आता है मुझे।
इस दिल की सँकरी सी गलियों से
गुज़ारना आता है मुझे।
उस काँटों से भरे आँगन से
टहलना आता है मुझे।
भले ही रोता हूँ मैं,
उन पुराने दुखों को लेकर
पर उन दुःखों के दरिया में
तैरना आता है मुझे।
हाँ अब जीना आता है मुझे,
हाँ अब जीना आता है मुझे।

Moves Like Jagger

Archit Barthwal reports on the Inter-House Dance Competition.

Dance at The Doon School was very exciting during the first half of 2017. The year started off with a number of administrative changes: the introduction of dance colours to recognise achievements and contributions of the dancers, and dance kits. These changes have broadened horizons for the dancers in all aspects in school.

Harshit Gupta, of the Vibrations Dance Academy, held a two-day Dance Workshop during the run-up to the Inter-House Dance Competition in May. The aim of the workshop was to improve choreography skills, and it proved to be very effective during the competition. This was the first time such a workshop had been held and with the yoga studio becoming the venue for the activity, dancers were able to invest more time in perfecting their routines.

The Inter-House Dance Competition was spectacular this time. All houses performed their level best. The winners from Kashmir House performed a superbly choreographed dance, which was a fine example of Fusion Dance.

The Tata House "Old is Gold" dance brought out nostalgic feelings in the audience when they performed famous Bollywood hits of the late 1980's and 1990's. Jaipur House's "Transcendence" Dance produced a very appealing show of dazzling movements, lights and special effects! Both the Oberoi House dancers and the Hyderabad House dancers wowed the audience with their excellent use of the dance floor space, and their synchronised coordination, in their "Dance for Dance's Sake" and "See You Again" dances, respectively.

This fall term, our dance team will be participating in various inter-school cultural festivals. We hope students will benefit from the experience of exchanging ideas in rhythm, steps and styles etc. with other students and teachers of the greater Dehradun community. We also hope similar and further interactive dance activities will create opportunities for aspiring dancers to reach greater heights and hopefully encourage even more participation in the dance program in the future.



Under the Scanner

Nawaz Sharif's Removal | **Devang Laddha**

On July 28, Nawaz Sharif, the 15th Prime Minister of Pakistan was removed from office by the Supreme Court of Pakistan. He was removed on corruption charges which accused him of hiding assets. Further, his children were linked to the Panama Papers leak which named them as owners of companies suspected of money laundering. With his removal comes a fractured nation with a massive power vacuum which threatens to cause massive instability in the region.

Sharif became Prime Minister in 2013, having led his party the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) [PML-N] to a sweeping victory. This was his third term in office, having left the post in 1993 and in 1999 due to military pressure. This time he was removed by the judiciary, which having removed the previous PM, Yousaf Gilani in 2012, had shown its power and independence. However, its removal of Sharif is questionable for it used a very ambiguous clause calling Parliamentarians to be 'honest', to remove Sharif. Backing the judiciary, however, is perhaps the most important actor in Pakistan: the military. Since its inception, the Pakistani military has had an interventionist policy in Pakistani politics, having successfully removed three Prime Ministers. Each time, the coup was sanctioned by the judiciary, giving legitimacy to the military. With Sharif's removal, the military again has a chance to gain power.

This is not good for India. Since the attacks in Uri last year, Indo-Pak relations have been strained. The Kulbhushan Jadav trial further worsened the situation, escalating hostility on both sides. Now, with Sharif gone, the hope of a stable, demilitarized Pakistan looks bleak. Under Sharif, at least there was civil rule where international law and diplomacy could be used to deter Pakistan. After his removal, the military has been emboldened and might take an even more active role. While Sharif has named his brother Shehbaz as his successor, it will take two months before his brother can enter the Parliament. Till then the PML-N leader Shahid Khan Abbasi will serve as the interim Prime Minister.

As of now, Pakistan stands amidst uncertainty. Sharif's removal has left a void that needs to be filled. The PML-N must work hard to maintain stability within the country and fight out the vindicated opposition. The next few months will be critical for democracy in Pakistan. If the military intervenes as it has in the past and takes power, Pakistan democracy will again be crippled. The only hope is to have a fair election in 2018, one that can give Pakistan a leader who can hold the military at bay and ensure peace in the region.

The Politics of Power

Ansh Raj reviews the recent switch of governments in the Bihar.

Only a few months ago, the Bharatiya Janata Party had managed to gain power in almost all parts of the country. Its dominance stretched from Jammu and Kashmir in the north to Andhra Pradesh in the south and from Assam in the east to Gujarat in the west. However, the only state which stood as an obstacle to BJP's path to national prowess was the state of Bihar, whose powers rested in the hands of the regional parties in alliance with Congress. The Grand Alliance, however, failed to live up to its promises of a BJP-free India, due to the recently dealt move by the Bihar Chief Minister, Nitish Kumar. With a fresh Janta Dal (United) (under Nitish Kumar) and the BJP in power, Bihar, along with the rest of the country, watches the downfall of Lalu Yadav, and the dawn of a saffron India.

Fears of a pan India BJP rule had already begun to surface since the party secured a surprising majority in the Lok Sabha elections. The victories secured by the party in different states, most notably in Uttar Pradesh and the recent election of a BJP President only caused these fears to escalate further. Ultimately, the only state which remained free from the clutches of the BJP behemoth was Bihar. However, the latest corruption charges



filed against Tejaswi Yadav, the former Deputy Chief Minister and Lalu's elder son, led to political turmoil. With Nitish asking Tejaswini to resign and Tejaswini and Lalu refusing, there was a lot of friction within the Grand Alliance. This eventually led to the breakdown of the alliance, with Nitish Kumar forging ties with the BJP to form a new government.

This effectively means that now along with complete control over the centre, the BJP has established its supremacy over all the major states. The presence of a strong opposition is something that every democracy needs and with Bihar also under BJP's control, there is no effective opposition to the BJP. What's more terrifying is the fact that the BJP shares its strong Hindutva ideology with the Rashtriya Seva Sangh (RSS), a hard right-wing organization. Already, growing intolerance towards minorities (especially Muslims), largely attributed to the BJP and the RSS, has caused a stir in different parts of the country. With almost the entire country under BJP rule and growing nationalism, a one party state may not remain too far from reality.

Additionally, Nitish's decision to form a new government with the BJP may also mark the downfall of Lalu Yadav. Known for his *Jungle Raj* in Bihar, Lalu usually depended on his caste-based vote banks to be elected into power. His influence over the state, however, had begun to subside since Nitish Kumar's rise to power. The corruption charges have shrunk Lalu's repute in Bihar to the point that any chances of his rise in the future seem unfounded.

What really remains uncertain is Nitish Kumar's future. While many, including Prime Minister Modi, have applauded Nitish's decision, calling it a significant step against corruption, the media has incessantly tried

“Bihar, along with the rest of the country, watches the downfall of Lalu Yadav, and the dawn of a saffron India.”

to show Nitish as a greedy and opportunistic politician. The media has laid these allegations on the grounds that if Nitish was so anti-corruption, why, in the first place, did he join hands with Lalu Yadav, whose history serves testament to his corrupt actions. Further, Nitish has been accused of completely changing his ideology. Having chosen to reject the BJP and form the Grand Alliance in Bihar, realigning with the BJP marks a huge ideological shift.

While a one party India may send shivers down one's spine, a BJP-JD(U) government may not be a bad proposition for Bihar. For a state where corruption and theft still run rampant, the new government holds the potential of ushering in steady development, as it had done earlier. Moreover, both the parties have garnered strong popularity among the masses of the state as well. Although JD(U)'s policies may not be dictated by a strict ideology, it has proven itself to be a party with an unfaltering image. Even as part of the grand alliance, Nitish hadn't failed to impress the general public with his socialist policies and liberal persona. This, when joined with Narendra Modi's strong narrative, presents a near undefeatable force. If things continue at this rate, this government has a high possibility of retaining its position for a long period of time. Unless, of course, Nitish has more surprises in store.

The Roving Eye



Acting-Editor-in-Chief, Editor and Senior Editors and Dead weight

Our peers at Welham Girls can thank their lucky stars that last Sunday's Socials took place in the absence of our dangerously charming (sarcasm, n.) Editor-in-Chief, who is vacationing summer-school-ing at Yale. The rest of the Senior Editorial Board spent their evening scanning the MPH for Roving Eye fodder, having no other options (No Editor, introducing yourself to a girl for the first time in your life certainly doesn't count as 'balling'). The date marked five years and two months from the first Socials a gang of little ex-Footies had raptly stared at from their dorm windows, back in D-form. That prepubescent thirst for Socials had been sated slightly by last year's culinary sessions; in culinary terms, those were appetisers and this was the first main course. More main courses (and even dessert) shall hopefully follow. The authorities, though

“That thirst for Socials had been sated slightly by last year's culinary sessions; in culinary terms, those were appetisers and this was the first main course.”

quite unobtrusive, made their presence felt when a Weekly Master re-purposed a phone as a *jugaad* CCTV. Surviving video clips are rumoured to be case study material.

The beast recovered from a case of jaundice just in time for Socials - Suspiciously enough, he looks like he spent more time in the gym than in the hospital. Fears of a '*lakshman rekha*' existing between the two cohorts of attendees proved unfounded with a good degree of intermingling. All remaining inhibitions vanished when the beat dropped and lights dimmed (No Senior Editor, 'beat dropping harder than the nukes on Japan' is *not* an acceptable simile!), making one wonder if it's possible to do away with the food (left mostly untouched) and let the School Captains open the dance floor from the first second. The opening dance was *not* as effortless as it was made to seem, for our Secretary General had been seen practicing anxiously while taking breaks from WELMUN committee sessions. The delegation had him believe that his counterpart stood pretty tall - the very thought of being vertically challenged drove him to seek a crutch.

The existence of some same sex tables at Socials invited much speculation: occupants were presumably unavailable or uninterested. Throughout the couple of hours Socials lasted, one could see a 'hand'ful of committed faithfuls maintaining a low profile, away from the action. One fishy Oberoi prefect did forget about his absent significant other and danced with wild abandon. There were also several reunions - The swimmer met his lost jawline, who was eyed by the great slapper of Tata. The SAT boy, who finds the 'playlist' quite amusing, was forced to meet the SAT girl. A gentlemanly football captain finally delivered a small dose of the long overdue 'Vitamin U'. The recipient, unfortunately, now seems to prefer multivitamins. SC form's pride of lions took centre stage, both literally and figuratively, with roaring performances running the music and dance arrangements. The limping lion, missing his Ajmeri princess, DJed for the rest of the herd. The smallest lion could be seen enthusiastically stalking his newest prey (whose admirable dancing 'excited' the gorilla). The two other small lions/the beast/the Manali boy could not be reached for comments on this development. One wonders whether the hunters are instead the hunted in this pursuit. The surprise Eagle delegate practiced his DSMUN game, trying to land four birds with one stone. (Un)fortunately, all four flew away. Better luck next time!

One rather scrawny Warrior has been starving himself for months; he finally ate at Socials. 'Momo' successfully found

dance partners for her brother, the gentleman panda; a formal complaint against such blatant nepotism must be filed. The shooting captain, meanwhile, showed off his marksmanship with a table to himself and his target. Highlights from the dance floor include the swimmer's helicopter; Doon's Bolt swinging in to grab the mousy Nizam house captain's dance partner (First Mayo, now Welhams - Pray for Hopetown brother); and the high jumper's commendable solo performance amidst a clique. Sparks were also seen flying between one of the Bombay Boys and yet another mystery girl. The Bombay Boy is requested to focus on IB rather than on other pursuits. AST is requested to revise the lessons on equality of opportunity for members of his HL class. The dramatist and the athlete, towering above their peers, danced their way from the first act to the finish line. A special mention goes to the Jordanian Sikh and the Nepali royal, whose deep conversation didn't allow them to grace the dance floor much. As DJ Khalid puts it in his songs, everyone looks forward to 'another one'.

“The dramatist and the athlete, towering above their peers, danced their way from the first act to the finish line.”

The Week Gone By

Kushagra Kar

On the eve of this week, the Sc-Form ventured into their first socials. Details of the 'affair' can be found on the preceding page. Monday morning came as a disappointment to many well-groomed (a first for many) S-Formers who had eagerly awaited their chance to take PT. Assembly allowed the WELMUN delegation to remind the School what it truly means to score at an MUN, something we must all keep in mind in the coming weeks.

This week also marked the more conventional start of the 'scoping season'. August heralds the politics, both in and out of committee, of DSMUN, the Football and Swimming Competitions, and a host of publications beginning work for Founders. This minefield of activities presents itself as a goldmine to all S-Formers eager to prove themselves. Prefects have already begun judging their scopats in the hopes of finding their successors, warranting the best behaviour the batch has shown in years. The 'Warriors', on the other hand, have apparently already been tipped off as to who will hold the post of House Captain for the next year.

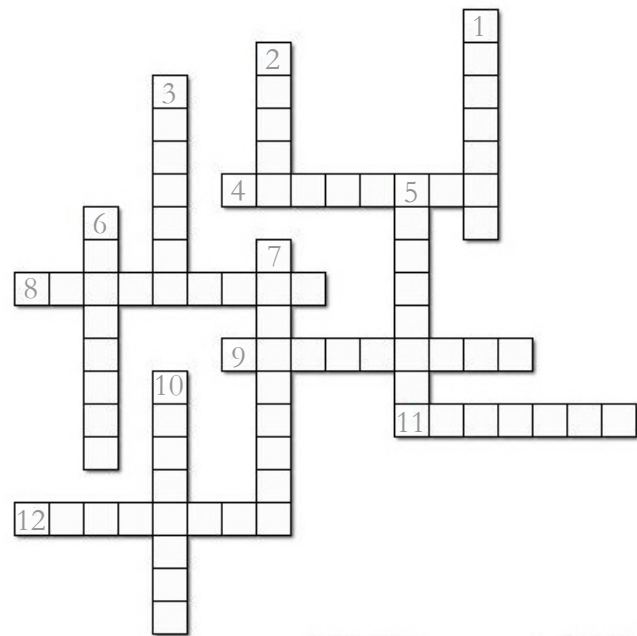
At this point, it is almost obligatory to throw in a paragraph about the fateful/untimely rain which now blesses/plagues us. It would so happen that while other schools in the State enjoyed a day-long sabbatical due to expected torrential rain, we slogged our way through a full day of classes on what turned out to be the sunniest day in weeks. Many convinced themselves it was for the best, claiming, "Academics take priority". This was, of course, ignoring the countless football injuries that can be found in every classroom.

Injuries aren't the only distractions though, as of the release of Episode 3, Game of Thrones officially occupies almost every laptop screen in Chandbagh. The craze drove a 'dazed' Dosco to forget about grace, and instead convey the regards of the Lannisters. For what it's worth, our minds find themselves on the list of things the Lannisters have blown.

Meanwhile, the first in a series of three PTM's is set to take place later today. I hope our young C and D Formers can make it out alive enough to enjoy their night out. The coming weeks will see extensive MUNing, friend-zoning, debating and enough mayhem to account for half the country. I wish the School best of luck for the days to come, and remember, *raksha bandhan* is coming.

Crossword

Cruciverbalist's Corner



Note: All answers to this crossword are words corresponding to their definitions.

Across

- 4. A commoner.
- 8. Finely chopped meat.
- 9. Relating to the sea.
- 11. The fondness for buying things.
- 12. To do with eating.

Down

- 1. To strive in rivalry.
- 2. A large number of fish swimming together.
- 3. A mass of trees and shrubs.
- 5. Having close personal relations.
- 6. Bloody; blood-red.
- 7. The process of releasing, and thereby providing relief from, strong or repressed emotions.
- 10. A small shop selling fashionable clothes or accessories.

Answers to This Week's Crossword	
Across:	4. Plebian
8. Mincemeat	1. Content
9. Thalassic	7. Catharsis
11. Emaciated	2. Shoal
12. Edacious	10. Boutique
	3. Boscage
	5. Intimate
	6. Sanguine

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

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Published by: PK Nair, The Doon School, Dehradun.
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