Growing Pains

*Delhi-based writer and film critic, **Neel Chaudhri**, currently with the First City Theatre Foundation, reviews the Founder's Day English play*

The direction of the play was unintrusive and yet all there. It almost felt as if the boys had been taught about the right angles, postures and manners of speech ("project! project!") without being instructed. This is a rare achievement for a school production, to not have all those many moments where the hand and booming voice of their master/director are conspicuous. There were only a few lapses in the form of hand gestures that belong to a new hip-hop generation and self-conscious glances into the audience. The lighting and production design too, seemed tastefully functional, and a playlist of evocative British pop-rock songs served as soundtrack interludes.

As a boy growing up, Alan Bennett had experience of the kind of teachers portrayed in his play *The History Boys*. So too might have Arjun Rao, the director of the BHKBC production of Bennett's play, and once a student of an English-style public school himself. As a History teacher at The Doon School, he has also a good idea of these 'Boys' - that is, of course, Bennett's kind of boys. And what of the boys themselves? Well, judging by the ease with which they presented this difficult, verbose and, at most times, affecting play, it would appear that this is a world not too far from their own classrooms, dorms and playing fields. It is, as they would tell you themselves, too close to home.

From a distance, *The History Boys* is about a class of exceptionally bright boys being 'prepped' for Oxbridge by their little Sheffield grammar school. In the intimate space of the theatre however, behind the sheer of plot and setting, it is a play about growing up, about boys who are still boys, but being pushed towards the threshold across which lies an uncertain 'manhood'. Here the BHKBC production benefited greatly from not having actors in these parts, but boys themselves. And though Sheffield might seem a great distance from Dehradun (in more ways than one), the Doon boys made this play their own. They were naturally awkward about things when required, and played the cocky and smug without performing them. Ten minutes into their production the 'artifice' had ceased to matter and it was no longer odd (as it is with so much amateur English theatre in India) that the boys answered to 'Rudge' and 'Crowther', or even 'Mrs. Lintott'!

The main draw of *The History Boys*, however, is in its frank and sensitive depiction of affection - more specifically, homosexual affection and those of a paederastic, yet lovable teacher, Hector. And in this, one feels the BHKBC have stepped up to presenting not just a 'good' production but also a very important one. The Headmaster of the school, Arjun Rao and the boys themselves, must be commended for 'daring to', especially since middle-class 'liberal' sensibilities today seem more confused and contradictory than ever.

A final word about the acting. While all of the boys fit quite snugly into their jackets and pants (and skirt), three performances stand out. Vivaan Shah shows a lot of promise as Irwin, bringing out the character's emotional diffidence and intellectual authority in proportion. Usman Ghani Khan could not be further away in physical dimensions to Richard Griffiths, the chubby thespian who headlined the play on stage and in the screen version. Yet, he is a charming and confident Hector, a teacher with 'problems' but adored nonetheless by the boys. But the play really belongs to Anindya Vasudev who, as Posner (the most affectionate of the lot), seems to have loved his part the most and hence makes the most of it.

MAPPING SUCCESS

Three teams from The Doon School represented by Aditya Gupta, Pranjal Singh, Sriyash Kishorepuria, Jayavardhan Singh, Amitabh Sahai, Abhishek Sharma, Yojit Mehra, Ashray Patel and Ayush Bengani participated in the **All India Map Quiz: Regional Round**. The teams qualified for the National Map Quiz and have been placed second overall in the regional round. Congratulations!

TOTALLY TENNIS

The Doon School Tennis team, escorted by VSM, participated in the **IPSC Tournament** held at Scindia School, Gwalior from October 16-22. The results are as follows:

Under-19 Team

Tanveer Singh, Rituraj Raizada, Abhimanyu Chandra and Shantanu Garg reached the semi-finals and lost to Modern School.

Under-17 Team

Harnaresh Singh and Abhishek Gupta reached the finals and finished runners-up, losing to Modern School. They won the IPSC Silver for the event.

Individual Category

Tanveer Singh, Shantanu Garg, Harnaresh Singh, Piroune Balachandran and Raghav Nath reached the quarter-finals of their respective categories.

Abhishek Gupta won the IPSC silver in the **Under-17** category, losing to Modern School in the finals.

Abhimanyu Chandra won the IPSC gold in the **Under-19** category, beating Hyderabad Public School in the finals. The tournament saw one of the best performances of the school team in recent years.

* * *

Abhimanyu Chandra and Abhishek Gupta have been selected to represesnt the IPSC Team in the **Under-19** and **Under-17** categories, respectively, of the **SGFI National Games**. Harnaresh Singh and Piroune Balachandran have been selected as reserves in the **Under-17** and **Under-14** categories, respectively. Congratulations!

PUBLICATION POSTS

Publication appointments for the year 2007-08 are:

The Echo, 2007-08:
Editors-in-Chief: Vikram Aditya Chaudhri, Anirudh Gupta
Chief Of Production: Madhav Bahadur

The Circle, 2007-08:
Editor-in-Chief: Ayyappa Vemulkar
Chief Of Production: Saksham Sharda
Editor: Saurav Sethia
Associate Editors: Arnav Sahu, Umang Newatia
Correspondents: Shashvat Dhandania, Vivek Santayana

The Doon School Yearbook, 2007-08:
Editors-in-Chief: Rachit Khaitan, Hanumant Singh
Chief of Production: Samkit Sethia
Editors: Dilsher Dhillon, Anindya Vasudev

CAREER CALL

The careers' notice board will focus on **Mass Communication** as a career in the coming week. All interested should look it up.

Opinion Poll

Do you think marching forms an integral part of athletics?

YES   No
48%   52%

Next Week's Question: Do you take the questions of the *Opinion Poll* seriously?

Uncertain Road

K.P. Somaiah

Watch the melding of our minds and their confusion.
Between black and white
Lie shades of grey.
The words that say themselves
Defining our dimensions.
Materialism has a part to play:
The idea was killed
Soon as it was born
By our reason
And our wisdom,
Seemingly so comfortable
Within our painted skins,
Swaddled by uncertainty
No one ever wins.
My griefs reflected
In the mirror of your countenance –
Gilt-edged,
Blurred by tears,
Some put it down to the angst of my adolescence.
Perhaps by itself,
A lonely soul
On an uncertain road.

"Unquotable Quotes"

My silent sound is very good.
Avijit Nagar appreciates the sounds of silence.
The board of governs are here.
Aswath Kunadi, tongue-tied.
Just agree the fact.
Ashwath Kunadi tries to persuade.
Have you had the wings of a chicken bone?
Shivam Katyal, on flights of fancy.
I am at your humble servant.
SDA, the dedicated one.
Go announce all the House Common room.
Himmat Singh, loudspeaker.
Are you having your spoon?
Ayush Agarwal, what will he eat next!
Everybody, light-outs by ten-thirty.
AKM, conserving(s) electricity.
There is too much butter in this cheese.
Anirudh Kapur, sharing a melting moment.
He became an MP and then stood for elections.
Eeshaan Puri on the campaign trail.
MP means Member of Party.
Eeshaan Puri Makes a Point.
Rawat Band's first symphony is better than Beethoven.
Nikhil Sinha, the maestro.

गाँधी के देश में घोटालों की आँधी

आयुष जैन

हम एक ऐसे देश में रहते हैं जिसका निर्माण पिछली सदी के सबसे महान व्यक्ति के हाथों से हुआ है – जी हाँ, मैं महात्मा गाँधी की बात कर रहा हूँ। महात्मा गाँधी ने अपनी पूरी जिन्दगी अहिंसा एवं सत्य के पाठ पढ़ाने में व्यतीत कर दी। परन्तु आज उनके उसूल केवल गाँधीगिरी तक ही सीमित हैं और आजकल गाँधीगिरी एक फैशन स्टेटमेंट बन चुका है। आज आपको बहुत लोग मिल जायेंगे जो गाँधीगिरी अर्थात गाँधी के पथ पर चलते हुए दिखाई पड़ेंगे, परन्तु उनमें से कुछ ही होंगे जो सच में अपने जीवन में गाँधी के उसूलों को लागू करते होंगे। भारत में भ्रष्टाचार, मक्कारी एवं चोरी–चकारी सभी बापू की तस्वीर के नीचे की जा रही है। अब आप किसी पुलिस वाले को ही देख लीजिए, वे खुलेआम पुलिस स्टेशन में गाँधी जी की तस्वीर के ठीक नीचे बैठे हुए गुनहगारों से रिश्वत लेता है। और यह सब घोटाले हैं किसलिए – सिर्फ पैसों के लिए। और देखो तो जरा कि इन हरे–भरे नोटों पर किसकी तस्वीर छपी हुई है। गाँधी जी को सम्मानित करने के लिए भारत ने पैसों पर उनका चेहरा छाप तो दिया, परन्तु यह नहीं सोचा कि जिन नोटों पर गाँधी जी का चेहरा, जिन्होंने जीवनभर अहिंसा के पाठ पढ़ाए, छपा है। आज उन्हीं नोटों के कारण भारतीय समाज में हिंसा, भ्रष्टाचार एवं चोरी–चकारी बढ़ती जा रही है। इस तरह हम उनकी तस्वीर नोटों पर छापकर उनका सम्मान न करके उनका अपमान ही कर रहे हैं। उनकी महान आत्मा के साथ हम अन्याय कर रहे हैं। आज भारत में यदि कोई व्यक्ति संस्कारी, मेहनती, गुणवान एवं बुद्धिमान हो तो उसका जीवन इतना सरल नहीं होगा जितना एक धनवान व्यक्ति का होगा। कहने का मतलब है कि आज किसी के गुणी, मेहनती या फिर संस्कारी होने का इतना महत्व नहीं होगा, यदि उसके पास धन, बड़े लोगों से कॉन्टैक्ट न हो। यानि, आज भारत में पैसे का बोलबाला है। यदि किसी व्यक्ति की तिजोरी सोने–चाँदी से भरी हो तो उसकी जिन्दगी मक्खन जैसी मुलायम होगी। आजकल तो चलचित्रों में भी ऐसा ही दर्शाया जा रहा है। अब आप अनुभव सिन्हा का मशहूर चलचित्र 'कैश' को ही ले लें। इस चलचित्र में एक गीत है जो हमें यह बताता है – 'पैसा फेंको तमाशा देखो'। सच में आजकल भारत में एक आम आदमी के लिए तो ऐसी ही कुछ स्थिति है। भारतीय संविधान व्यवस्था स्वयं भ्रष्टाचार की शिकार है। मंत्री से लेकर चपड़ासी तथा क्लर्क तक भ्रष्ट है। अगर दुर्भाग्य से आपको किसी सरकारी दफ्तर में जाने का मौका मिला तो आपको पता चल जायेगा कि मैं किस चीज की बात कर रहा हूँ। जब तक लोगों को पेंशन मिलने की बारी आती है तब तक आधे से ज्यादा लोग 'स्वर्गीय' हो चुके होते हैं या फिर दफ्तर के चक्कर खा–खाकर थक चुके होंगे। आज गाँधी जी के विचार सब मोटी धूल से भरी किताबों में बन्द हैं।

इतिहास में तो गाँधी जी का नाम स्वर्ण शब्दों में लिखा जा चुका है, परन्तु उनके देश का नाम डूबा जा रहा है।

भारत : एक दर्शन

अभिषेक शर्मा

अनेकता में एकता – यही भारत की विशेषता है जो भारत को एक अद्वितीय देश बनाती है। भारत में अलग–अलग जाति व धर्म के लोग रहते हैं। परन्तु इन्हीं लोगों ने भारत को एक ऐसे देश में परिवर्तित कर दिया है जिसमें एकता ही नहीं बल्कि एक–दूसरे के लिए प्यार भी है।

भारत का इतिहास एक ऐसी विशेषता है जिसके कारण हम सब जुड़े हुए हैं। अंग्रेजों के खिलाफ सब – मुसलमान, पारसी, हिन्दू सिक्ख आदि लड़े थे, अतः एकता तो तभी से है। आज भी सब एक दूसरे के सहारे से चलते हैं व तरक्की करते हैं। महात्मा गाँधी जैसे पुरुषों ने हमें एक साथ इकट्ठा किया। यही एकता हममें भी आई है।

भारत की संस्कृति एक सीधी–सादी संस्कृति है। आज के इस तेज युग में भी वह संस्कृति सँभली हुई है। संस्कृति को कायम रखने में धर्म का बहुत बड़ा हाथ है। धर्म से लोग एक ऐसे बंधन में बंध जाते हैं जिसे तोड़ना मुश्किल है और अन्त में हम एक–दूसरे की मदद करते हैं और हमारा यह योगदान भारत को दूसरों की नजर में और उठाता है।

भिन्न–भिन्न जातियों व जगहों में अलग प्रकार की शिक्षाएं होती हैं। किसी भी तरह समझाएँ, आखिरकार बात एक ही बताते हैं। शिक्षा के लिए भारत बहुत मशहूर रहा है। नालन्दा व तक्षशिला जैसे महाविद्यालय भारत में थे और पूरे विश्व के लोग यहाँ आते थे। यह भारतीय मेधा थी और है जो हमेशा भारतीयों में रहेगी। चाणक्य व कालिदास जैसे महाकवियों व नीतिकारों ने भारत का नाम तो रोशन किया ही, बल्कि लोगों के दिलों में एकता भी लाए। भारत की इमारतें अलग–अलग राजाओं ने बनाईं परन्तु सबके लिए। शाहजहाँ ने ताजमहल क्या सिर्फ मुसलमानों के लिए बनाया था? नहीं। यही भारत की विशेषता है – जो है, सबके लिए है। भारत आज एक विकासशील देश है। मेरा मानना है कि बहुत जल्द ही भारत एक विकसित देश हो जायेगा और अमेरिका जैसे देशों को टक्कर देगा – हर क्षेत्र में। परमाणु विकास के साथ भारत अपनी पहचान रूस जैसे देशों के साथ बढ़ाएगा। भारत का एक सफल देश का सपना तभी पूरा होगा जब भारतीय एक साथ मिलकर काम करें।

मैं चल रहा था

शिवम पाल

वह एक परी थी। दुनिया की सबसे सुन्दर परी। इस पृथ्वी पर कोई भी मनुष्य उसे देखे तो मन खुश हो जाता, दिल मचल उठता और जबान तक आते–आते सारी बातें अटक सी जातीं। कोई भी उस से बात किए बगैर रह नहीं सकता था, क्योंकि वह भी ही ऐसी एक परी।

मेरी मुलाकात इस परी से एक मन्दिर में हुई थी। मैं अपने माता–पिता और कुछ दोस्तों के साथ उस शनिवार शिव मन्दिर जा रखा था। हम सब एक–एक करके मूर्तियों की पूजा कर के आगे बढ़ रहे थे। तभी मैं देखता हूँ कि एक बड़ी सुन्दर प्यारी और अपने में खोई हुई कन्या मेरी बगल में हाथ से प्रसाद लिए निकलती है। पता नहीं क्या हुआ। मेरी आँखें उसकी और मुड़ गयी और मैं उसके मुस्कराते चेहरे की ओर देखने लगा। तभी पीछे से एक भीड़ का रेला आया और मेरा ध्यान उस परी के अप्रतिम सौन्दर्य से टूटा। मेरे पिताजी और मेरे दोस्त मुझ पर हँस पड़े।

उस रात मैं सो नहीं सका। दिमाग में उसका चेहरा घूम रहा था। वे नीली आँखें जिनमें मादकता थी। लाल होंठ जो गुलाब की पंखुड़ियों जैसे कोमल दिखाई पड़ रहे थे। उसके सुन्दर काले केश मेघ की तरह बार बार उसके चेहरे पर गिर रहे थे।

अगले दिन मैं ऑफिस पहुँचा तो देखा कि वह लड़की मेरे बॉस के केबिन में घुस रही थी। अपने बाकी दोस्तों से पूछने पर मुझे यह बात ज्ञात हुई कि वह अब हमारे साथ काम करेगी और इत्तेफाक की बात यह थी कि उसे मेरे सामने वाला केबिन मिला था। कुछ घण्टे दिनों में, दिन हफ्तों में और हफ्ते महीनों में बदल गए पर मैं कभी ढंग से उससे बात न कर पाया। मैं उससे बात करने में हिचकिचाता था और इस वजह से हम कम ही बातें करते थे। मेरे अन्दर एक चाह थी, जुनून था, उसे जानने का उसे समझने का और मैं इतनी जल्दी हार भी नहीं मानने वाला था। मैं उसे बताना चाहता था कि मैं उसे पसन्द करता हूँ।

भाग्य ने मेरी और अपनी दृष्टि बदली। मेरे बॉस ने अपने घर में एक जश्न का आयोजन किया। उसे बात बताने का यह एक अच्छा मौका था और मैं इस मौके को गँवाना नहीं चाहता था। मैंने शाम से ही तैयार होना शुरू कर दिया। मैं इतना उत्सेजित हो गया था कि कभी उलटी कमीज पहन रहा था, कभी गलत पतलून पहन रहा था।

वहीं पर मधुर संगीत चल रहा था। एक बड़ी मादक सी खुशबू थी हवा में। मेरे हाथ में एक गुलाब का फूल था जो मैं उसे देने वाला था। कुछ ही क्षण बाद वह अन्दर आयी और साथ ही साथ मेरे चेहरे पर मुस्कान आयी कि तभी मैं देखता हूँ कि पीछे से उसका पति और उनकी एक बेटी चले आते हैं। मेरे चेहरे से मुस्कान उड़ गयी जैसे कोई चिड़िया हो। मैंने वह गुलाब भी छिपा लिया और एक दम से पीछे हटा। मेरी आँखों में आँसू थे। मैं अपने घुटनों पर गिर गया और रोया–खूब रोया अब सड़क मेरे सामने थी और 'मैं चल रहा था'।

A Truly Historic Tour

Anindya Vasudev and *Vikram Aditya Chaudhri* share their experience on the trip to Delhi and Mumbai for the play, 'The History Boys'

What do you get when you add nineteen students, three amazing masters and a whole week in Delhi and Mumbai? You get one awesome time. At first, the idea of simply going to Delhi and Mumbai was unbelievable. No one thought it would happen, until it actually did. And when it did, boy, it was fun. Organizing meetings and arranging for the props and travel plans in the middle of our Founder's celebration is quite a painful task (poor ABQ – she was left to pack all the costumes all by herself!). It was chaotic, confusing and irritating at first and all that we could see were the sheets of addresses and phone numbers that might come handy during the trip. Despite all the commotion, it was pretty obvious that all twenty-two of us – the cast, the crew, the masters and our fans (our parents) were excited.

Our flight to Mumbai was at 2:45 in the afternoon and all having reached the airport hours early (all because of KAR going on and on about how it was so hot and that he wasn't going to wait for anyone for more than a minute), we were ready to go. Here is where came our first experience (for most of us at least) in a little airline called 'IndiGo'. Still a little hesitant to board the plane, after a bit of persuasion from KAR, (he glared at all of us trying to stuff sandwiches down until the airline finally allowed us on with all the food!) all of us entered and got what we least expected, a whole aircraft! We're just kidding. It was a pleasant flight filled with a lot of talking (why was KAR going on and on about us keeping quiet?), listening to music, reading, eating and, unfortunately, paying for the food (KAR told us that AAQ's wallet was stuffed and that we shouldn't hold back at all!). Watching the clouds below and around us and rehearsing dialogues under our breath, all of us knew that we had to put up a great show (KAR was looking really nervous throughout the flight – we think it had nothing to do with the show but that he ate too much at Cheetal on the way to Delhi).

Mumbai greeted us with it warm sea breezes as we landed, and everyone dispersed to their or their friend's houses to get some rest (at least that's what KAR kept asking, and then ordering us to do!) before the show. We congregated once again, on the 9th of October, in the all-women's Sophia College (Ambar and Durga couldn't get enough of the place but KAR didn't let any of us explore!), and started getting used to the new auditorium which was one of the most professional auditoriums most of us had ever performed in (you could even hear Rohan right at the back!). We were tired but excited. Everyone wanted to prove their worth and it finally boiled down to the fact that this was it. The performance? It was astounding. The brilliant acoustics coupled with the apprehension building in all of us resulted in a performance that left us amazed. People were actually laughing! The DSOBS of Mumbai had organized a dinner where all of us fed the number of Old Boys with facts for them to reminisce about their schooldays. After dinner, all of us departed with our escorts, some of us driving along the glittering Marine Drive and the other sights of Mumbai. Like they say about the city, "You love it, or you hate it." And we sure did love it.

The next day, after exploring Mumbai with some of our fellow actors who actually lived there, we all met at the airport to catch the night flight to Delhi. Most of us were late and KAR looked as though he would have an aneurysm and AAQ kept pacing the length of Mumbai airport, peeking into every car waiting to see if Hanumant Singh had made it there yet! The airline people were great and checked in all our luggage (including Vivaan's coffin-esque suitcase) in record time and then everyone ran through the terminal 'Love Actually'-style with KAR bringing up the rear. This time, our flight was a little different. We were all sitting towards the middle of the aircraft waiting to take off when to our surprise (and AAQ's horror), smoke started to come out from above the overhead cabins to fill the aircraft. We all jumped up, but then, after a prompt response from the air hostess ("It is the mist of the A.C.") we sat down again and chatted about our time in Mumbai. KAR was undoubtedly tired as it didn't take him more than half a minute to doze off as AAQ finally lost it and said, "If I get embarrassed again...". The "..." shut us all up for a while.

The next day saw us preparing at yet another venue, and more importantly, for a new audience. After a very hospitable welcome from the Vasant Valley community and a quick lines rehearsal, we found ourselves standing in our costumes, with the audience filing into the hall.. This show meant a lot for us all as two years ago, we had performed 'Complete Works of William Shakespeare' which received a brilliant response from the Vasant Valley community and parents alike. This also put a lot of pressure on us, as expectations had to be met. And so they did! The show, that day, was for all parents and other people who might have wanted to come to watch the show. They too enjoyed it, especially the 'French scene' (ahem, ahem!) After yet another great performance, if we may so ourselves, (and certain instances of excessive adlibbing that had KAR cringing occasionally) all of us departed, after receiving a standing ovation from the audience during our curtain call. All of us geared up for the final performance. There was a moment that caught us all off-guard right before the show. KPB suddenly walked into the room (while we were in our traditional huddle), and all of a sudden, the responsibility of performing well for the last time hit us all. When NDTV reporters crowded around the cast after the show, we were thrilled about the entire performance and began to realize that maybe, just maybe, the two and a half months of KAR's screaming at us had been worth it. As we were asked questions we were terribly excited and made so much noise that all of us got edited from the report! The only person featured was Anirudh Kapur who, instead of going on about the show, went on about his legs!

And then we were back. Before we knew it, we were driving in through Chakrata Gate, back to test weeks, athletics, boxing, early morning Hindi classes (and House Rounds for KAR, AAQ and ABQ). No more afternoons in the library amusing Mr. Das, no more 'Because the world is round, it turns me on', no more walking sticks. All we have are a lot of photos, a lot of memories, a lot of dialogues that we will never forget and a couple of lines in a language that we may never speak again. As someone wrote: 'Pack up all my care and woe, Here I go, Singing low, Bye bye blackbird'.

Placements - Batch of 2007

Sr.No	Name	Institution	Course
1	Abhimanyu Raj Singh	Amity, Noida	Graduation
2	Abhimanyu Walia	Nalsar University of Law, Hyderabad	Law
3	Achshay Singh	Lancaster University, UK	B.B.A.
4	Akshay Dobhal	Ness Wadia College of Commerce, Pune	B.B.A.
5	Aditya Ajmani	SRCC, Delhi University	Economics
6	Ajai Atal	Duke University, USA	Graduation
7	Akash Maheshwari	Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, USA	Engineering
8	Amritesh Rai	SRCC, Delhi University	Economics (H)
9	Apoorva Joshi	Ramjas College, Delhi University	English (H)
10	Arjun Sengar	SRCC, Delhi University	Graduation
11	Arjun Singh	Cardiff University, Wales, UK	B.B.A.
12	Armand H. Khambatta	Brock University, Canada	Graduation
13	Angad Saxena	Narsee Monjee University, Mumbai	B.B.A.
14	Ayushman S. Jamwal	Cardiff University, Wales, UK	Graduation
15	Akaash Pathare	K.J. Somaiya College, Mumbai	Mechanical Engineering
16	Avyay Jhunjhunwala	University of Southern California, USA	Graduation
17	Anish Dundoo	University of Cincinnati, Ohio, USA	Graduation
18	Alok Arora	Imperial College of London, UK	Chemical Engineering
19	Chirag Hirawat	The George Washington University, Washington, USA	International Affairs
20	Chirag Nangia	Institute of Chartered Accountancy, India	C.A.
21	Chetan Aggarwal	SRCC, Delhi University	B.Com.
22	Gurshant Singh	Amity, Noida	Graduation
23	Gaurav Gupta	University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA	Engineering
24	Himanshu Mishra	St. Xavier's College, Mumbai	Economics (H)
25	Indresh Pathak	Uttarakhand Tech. University	B.Tech. Computer Science
26	Jehangir Chinoy	Sunrise Academy, Florida, USA	Aviation
27	Karan Dhar	Jai Hind College, Mumbai	B.Com.
28	Kushagra Kumar	American School of Aviation, California, USA	Pilot Training
29	Karm Naresh Singh	William And Mary College, USA	Graduation
30	Karma Thinley Bhutia	Vydehi Institute of Medical Science, Bangalore	M.B.B.S.
31	Karm Choudhry	University of Southern California, USA	Engineering
32	Kinshuk Kocher	Hansraj College, Delhi University	Economics (H)
33	Mehul Bhatkoti	Ramjas College, Delhi University	B.A. (P)
34	Mihir Misra	Muskingum College, USA	B.B.A.
35	Niladri Biswas	City College, Calcutta	B.Com.
36	Pranay Budhraja	Amity, Noida	B.B.A.
37	Pranay Agarwal	University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign, USA	B.Sc. Computer Science
38	Prateek Patnaik	Hansraj College, Delhi University	History (H)
39	Pranav Swarup	Sri Aurobindo College, Delhi University	B.Com. (H)
40	Pulkit Baheti	SRCC, Delhi University	Economics (H)
41	Rajat Sabharwal	Bhagat Singh College, Delhi University	B.Com. (H)
42	Rajnush Agarwal	Manipal Institute of Technology, Manipal	Bio-Medical Engineering
43	Raunak Bawa	Aviatour Flying in Cebu City Phillippenes	Pilot Training
44	Rijul Kochher	St. Stephen's College, Delhi University	History (H)
45	Rohanjit Chaudhry	Hansraj College, Delhi University	B.Com. (H)
46	Rishabh Jain	St. Stephen's College, Delhi University	B.Sc. Computer Science
47	Sahil Aggarwal	Thapar University, Patiala	B.E. in Industrial Engg.
48	Sharad Bajla	SRCC, Delhi University	Graduation
49	Shoumit Mukhopadhaya	Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, USA	Biomedical Engg.
50	Shubham Gupta	SRCC, Delhi University	Graduation
51	Siddharth Swarup	Singapore University of Management, Singapore	Bachelor in Business Mgt.
52	Uday Pratap Singh	St. Andrew's, UK	Economics (H)
53	Vaibhav Bansal	University of Manchester, UK	Accounting
54	Vansh Bhatia	DAV Institute of Engg. and Tech., Jalandhar	Civil Engineering
55	Vashisht Garg	University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA	Graduation
56	Vijai Atal	Duke University, USA	Graduation
57	Vishal Sonthalia	Manipal Institute of Technology, Manipal	B.E. in Biotechnology
58	Vishesh Goel	Hansraj College, Delhi University	B.Com. (H)
59	Yash Rajiv Gandhi	St. Stephen's College, Delhi University	History (H)
60	Zain Rehman	University of Southern California, USA	Graduation
61	Anant Kothiwal	McNeese State University, USA	Graduation

Squash at Ajmer

Sriyash Kishorepuria reports on the recently concluded Junior Squash Tournament

Squash, though still not very popular, is one of the fastest racquet sports played today. It is one of those games which requires skill and amazing reflexes. Even though Uttarakhand is not a major bastion of the sport, we still made a reasonable attempt at the Junior National Squash Meet held in Mayo College, Ajmer. We trained for a month and pushed ourselves to the limit. Our endurance and grit was tested and developed, and our skills were finely honed. By the 14th of October , we were ready to participate at a competitive forum of formidable standards.

We reached Mayo on October 15, and after some logistical difficulties, we finally managed to get a squash court to practise in. To our dismay, the courts did not feel at all like the ones back home. It was tougher to kill the ball and rallies stretched longer than ever. The drop shot seemed ineffective and the lob shot took on more importance. This was due to the fact that temperatures in Ajmer were much higher than Dehradun, which led to the ball rising to almost double the height. Once we had adapted to the new environment, we could finally check our draws and get ready for our matches. During this time, we also had an opportunity to watch Harinder Singh and Parth Sharma (the under-19, India seed 1 and 2) play. Watching them, we realized how much potential the four walls of the court held. Shots which we could never imagine were used effectively during play.

Due to our below par performance in the previous years, Uttarakhand's draws were not favourable. Most of us had to play the seeded players in the preliminary rounds, but this did not intimidate us. If we had to go down, we would go down with guns blazing! Many of us got through to the second round, only to fall to seeded players. Udai Singh fell to the second-seeded Parth Sharma, while Chitwanjot Singh lost to Andhra Pradesh rank one. Anant Jangwal, Salil Gupta, Anant Agarwal and I were knocked out in the second round. Keshav Prasad and Tushar Agarwal had tough first-round matches and lost after putting up a good fight. Sumaer Sandhu, however, reached the pre-quarter final round, where he lost to a player from West Bengal in a well-contested match. We had a continuous learning experience during this tournament, and even though none of us got to the quarter-finals, going for the tournament was worth the effort.

Now we know where our skill stands and how much more effort is required to reach a substantial level. With School having produced squash players of national renown like Sanjit Roy (ex-125 J '62; three-time national champion) and Udai Singh (ex-166 TB '90), we can certainly be inspired to rise to greater heights, with patience and hard work.

Seeking Counsel

Mansher Dhillon interviews Namrata Pandey, who is the career counsellor at School

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

Namrata Pandey (NMP): Before coming to Doon, I did my Master's in Clinical Psychology from Delhi University and thereafter took a course in guidance counselling from NCERT. I have been working as a career counsellor for the past twelve years and have spent the last four years working for an overseas education company as branch manager in Chandigarh. My daughter is nine years old and my husband serves in the army.

DSW: How crucial a role does a career counsellor play in an institution such as this?

NMP: Well, in an institution such as this there is always a lot of scope for work. There is so much information out there and career counsellors such as myself decipher all this information for the benefit of the student, who would, otherwise, be daunted or confused by such multilayered and tedious processes. Students here need to discover what is right for them and this is exactly what I am here for.

DSW: What exactly is the job of a career counsellor?

NMP: Career counsellors have to guide students in deciding about their future. We give them options and ideas they would, otherwise, not be aware of. We open a whole world of opportunities for the student and provide him with neccessary alternatives as well. A counsellor must help students to achieve their goals and solve their queries. Contrary to popular belief, help with university admissions are a very small part of this job.

DSW: Concerning where and what are you asked for the most information and guidance?

NMP: A lot of boys have come to me to ask me about admission processes to US universities. I have been asked to highlight rankings, course specifics and, of course, aptitude tests. The A and S formers have been consulting me on some advice for future career possibilities, as well as subject selection in senior classes.

DSW: Do you have any message for the school community?

NMP: Yes. I request students to consult me so that they are cognizant of what the future has in store for them. They must also be aware of the various career options that are available.

Freaky Facts

- ✓ Human thigh bones are stronger than concrete.
- ✓ It's against the law to have a pet dog in Iceland.
- ✓ The elephant is the only mammal that can't jump.
- ✓ Like fingerprints, everyone's tongue print is different.
- ✓ A giraffe can clean its ears with its 21-inch tongue.
- ✓ An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.