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The Doon School WEEKLY



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Diplomacy - The Colombo Way

Abhaas Shah reports on the Doon delegation's participation in the Colombo MUN



It was with that mix of vivid anticipation and high expectation that hits one on the embarkation of a long-awaited trip, that a group of eight confident Sc Formers, escorted by PMV, left the greens of Chandbagh. The journey was comfortable, and after a temporary stay in Delhi (made amazing by our gracious hostess, Mrs. Prasad), we boarded our flight to Colombo. A spacious van (more like a bus) took us to a remote corner of Colombo, where we spent two nights at 'Ranjit Guest House', owned by an eccentric, elderly gentleman, whose interest in pets was rather adventurous, as we were introduced, at random and unexpected intervals, to several cats, dogs and a huge 'pet' snake. These two days were spent in preparation for our conference and a short introduction to a few organizing members in the Overseas School of Colombo (OSC), a school with aesthetic architecture and a diverse body of students and faculty members.

On the second day, we were introduced to our respective hosts by Mr. Foss, the impressively articulate MUNA co-ordinator of OSC, and after all of us had taken a final print-out of our carefully-formulated policy statements, we headed off (in four pairs) with our host families. The conference kicked off with a grand opening ceremony held in the auditorium, after which we were sent to our respective committee halls to begin the debates. The format was rather new to us, and the first day was spent on unmediated caucus (informal lobbying). It was rather hectic and it took immense patience and determination to break the already-formed voting blocs (owing to formerly-held practice debates), make oneself heard and consequently gather support. One major aspect of these heated arguments was the decision to appoint the main submitter of the resolutions that were formed. The topics ranged from combating transnational organised crime to formulating international strategies for disaster management. The running topic in the con-

ference was climate change, and this was assigned a relative importance owing to the fact that the resolutions passed on these topics would be forwarded to the United Nations. At the end of the day, resolutions on all topics were formulated and submitted in every committee.

The next day of the conference was more to our taste, as mediated debates on the resolutions submitted took place and we finally got our chance to address the audience as a whole, our...ahem...speciality. The discussions were heated, logical and sometimes rather radical. The discussion of resolutions functioned on a first-come-first-serve basis, implying, therefore, that the first one to get passed rendered all successive ones failed. It was a bitter system and harsh on the later submitters whose sole attempt on the second day was to fail the previous ones. The organizing members were, however, lenient and helped the overseas delegates to overcome the disadvantage faced due to the existing voting blocs. The second day ended with at least one resolution passed per topic in every committee. We had managed to make ourselves conspicuous, if nothing more noteworthy.

The final day of the conference was hosted in the Trans-Asia Hotel. The three committees of the General Assembly (GA) sat together to discuss the resolutions passed in all three, hence providing at least six of us a chance to hear each other. The two delegates in the Security Council and ECOSOC assembled in different rooms. Some of the resolutions failed, to the delight and dismay of several people. A good lunch complemented the grandiloquent atmosphere of the hotel, and the closing ceremony commenced amidst much anticipation. With a record five nominations (one from each committee), which was a list of the best five candidates in every committee; one Best Delegate award (best three in the committee), and the prestigious award of 'Best School', we were absolutely exhilarated and made our way out with pride and renewed confidence. When asked about his feelings, Ayyappa Vemulkar said, "Winning Best Delegate was an astonishing and pleasant reality, and after I had my moment before the camera, I was both relieved and disappointed that the experience was over."

The last day was spent on a beach where we had seafood and inadvertently acquired a tan. We left Colombo with heavy hearts, reluctant to return to the rigorous school routine after having had a memorable experience which shall remain with us for a long time.

1. The Doon School Weekly Saturday, March 8

News-in-Brief

RECITATION RESULTS

The results of the **Inter House Hindi Poetry Recitation Competition, 2008** are as follows :

- 1st Oberoi
- 2nd Kashmir
- 3rd Hyderabad
- 4th Jaipur
- 5th Tata

The individual positions are as follows:

- 1st Vatsal Khandelwal
 - 2nd Mehtab Chima
 - 3rd Ankur Saxena
- Congratulations!

ACADEMIC CUP

The House positions of the **Academic Cup, 2007** are as follows:

- 1st Oberoi
- 2nd Kashmir
- 3rd Hyderabad
- 4th Jaipur
- 5th Tata

DIPLOMATIC MISSION

The School was represented by Mansher Dhillon, Dilsher Dhillon, Saurav Sethia, Salil Gupta, Ayyappa Vemulkar, Abhaas Shah, Keshav Prasad and Akshit Batra at the **Colombo Model United Nations Conference, 2008**. Six hundred delegates from India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka participated in the conference. The following were nominated for the Best Delegate Award from their respective committees:

Akshit Batra from the **Security Council**
Keshav Prasad from the **ECOSOC**
Ayyappa Vemulkar from the **GA 1st Committee**
Salil Gupta from the **GA 2nd Committee**
Abhaas Shah from the **GA 3rd Committee**
Ayappa Vemulkar was awarded the **Best Delegate** from his committee.

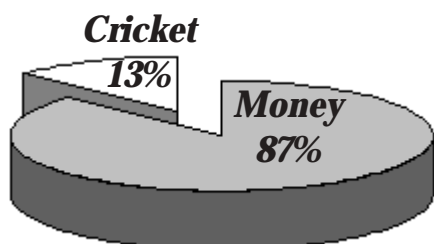
The Doon School had five nominations, one best delegate Award and received the award for the **Best School Delegation**. Well done!

NEW APPOINTMENT

Sudhir Thapa (SRT) has joined the teaching staff as an assistant teacher in the **Mathematics** department. We wish him a fruitful tenure.

Opinion Poll

Is the IPL for the promotion of cricket or only to make money?



331 people had participated in this poll.

Next Week's Question: Do you follow the American Primaries in the news?

Fighting for Life

Vatsal Khandelwal

Your deceptive eyes
May trick me into the depths of misery,
May drive me into the shadows of terror,
May force me to protest my wishes,
Kill me.
I can only see the eyes,
And I can notice
That they were never loved,
Or maybe,
Sporadically.
The eyes which pledge every moment
My death, what do they want I wonder,
What will it give them, I wonder,
I think I know,
Solace
And peace.
As your face is slowly uncovered,
I see it,
Shocked, strangled, scared.
I see
Myself and,
Thereby my soul fighting with my wishes,
For my life.

Unquotable Quotes

Johnny Deep was awesome in Sweeny Tood.

Aseem Balraj Sahni, tries to compliment.

Who is Date Pancake?

Shoumitra Srivastava takes 'The Who'.

I am a G-E-N-I-O-U-S.

Aayush Jain, bragging.

He's your senior formmate's father.

Shantanu Nandan Agarwal, confused introducer.

It was very discouragement.

AKM loses heart.

Someone whacked my goatee.

Arjun Sethi mourns the loss.

I didn't understood one thing.

Avi Raj, there's lots more!

Votalysis

With the emergence of Twenty-twenty cricket, the more business-oriented sections of society have come up with novel ideas like the Indian Cricket League (ICL). The Indian Premier League (IPL), started by the BCCI, seems to be a counter to the ICL. The BCCI realised the potential money in T20 cricket and wanted a share. This has been reflected in the School's vote, as most agree that the IPL has been started for money. Industrialists like Vijay Mallaya and Mukesh Ambani, movie stars like Priety Zinta and Shah Rukh Khan, and even companies like ACC Cement have invested extremely high sums of money, both for control of the various teams and for signing the cream of cricketing talent from across the world to play for them. The papers have splashed all this and more across their front pages, gathering much attention for the IPL. This, along with the hype brought to the event with the signing of world-class players, should ensure that the IPL is, indeed, a rip-roaring success – for the fans, who would like to witness some exciting cricket, the players, who would love to play T20 cricket at this level, and the BCCI, who can rake in some funds. So, whatever the reason for IPL's creation, everybody's happy!

THE LAB AND THE STUDIO

Revant Nayar

A man once remarked, “We live *because* of the cabbage, but we live *for* the rose”. The cabbage here signifies science, and the rose signifies art. Science and art: two such essential, yet such different aspects of our life on earth, just like two ends of a spectrum. Science represents logic and the mind, art represents emotion and the soul. Science is a result of the conscious mind, art the subconscious mind. Science is grounded in the objective, art the subjective. Science is limited by precision; art involves a limitless strife to make it more engaging and appealing to the audience, be it one person, or a thousand. Yet both art and science depend on each other and we depend on them.

Even in the early days, people like Michelangelo and da Vinci utilized science to enhance their works of art. Nowadays we forget that it is physics which develops the various musical instruments which artistes use. For example, the harmonium uses the passage of air, and the guitar uses the concept of the thickness of strings to generate a wide variety and frequency of sounds. Likewise, the manufacture of paints and the techniques of pottery and sculpture involve methods enhanced by scientific research. Besides, science develops I-pods, television, music systems etc, which are all means of providing the public with manifestations of art. Thus science *enhances* art. Besides, look at the second meaning of art: even unexpressed emotion is art. If you look at it, there are also arts independent of science. For example, talking in a convincing or witty manner, acting, or even impressing someone with eloquence, are all arts which require the simple usage of the fertile mind, and not science!

Science gives us various gadgets which give us pleasure, but it can also devastate the world through weaponry. Art, too, can make our feelings vacillate from great joy to despondency and can lead us through an entire gamut of emotions. Perfection in art is impossible, whereas in science, it is possible! However, both science and art require innovation and creativity. Science applies knowledge and logic to construct theorems, formulae, as well as machinery and devices. Art requires creativity to express ‘inner beauty’. You may, perhaps, notice how we live ‘because of science’: science provides us with vaccinations, medicines when we are ill, air-conditioning in summer, heaters in winter. Everyone will agree with the fact that life without science would be a poor one indeed. But, we live for art.

Yet, science depends on art. Without any means of entertainment or pleasure, without any love or joy, we would find existence barren and unbearable, and thus scientific development would be impossible. Every person, whether he or she is a scientist, doctor or student, needs recreation, something to nourish the senses. Art provides precisely that: be it the latest bestseller, a song, a movie, or a beautiful painting. Truly, science sustains life, and art enriches it.

Service Without a Smile!

Vivek Santayana

There are about ten of us, all much better dressed than any customer could ever be. We take it in turns to act the sycophant for the next choosy guest who has the misfortune to walk through these doors into a company so very much unworthy of their presence, because of which they usually bring their own company along. It’s a fact: most of the people who enter are aware that they are not alone. They care about the rest of the crowd there as much as they do for our tablecloths: interest is shown only when they have spilled something. We are definitely not the set for some soap-opera, where every second day a spouse is found having a romantic candle-light dinner with someone else’s, who eventually turns out to be a distant relative lost in the most bizarre of accidents years ago. We are simply, the best restaurant in the city; rather we *were* until that food critic wrote that article in *The Daily*, expressing his views on how the standard of our fare has shown a very consistent decline and how we were indeed out-classed by other restaurants. That didn’t affect the number of customers that we get. All it did affect was our reputation.

Anyway, my job here is a simple one: serve. When we are not that busy, we often decide to get the guests complementary items. Fruit salad is the most common. But for most birthdays, we go with date pancake. We generally use leftovers whenever possible. All we ever do serve free is salad and dessert, since dessert is generally a freezer item. It’s just the date pancakes and fried ice-cream that need preparation. Apart from that, our dessert menu consists of dishes that are four degrees below zero. Other dishes, however, people *do* complain about. Our regular customers keep telling us about the days when the prawns were bigger or the chicken was more tender. All we can do is nod silently and come up with a convincing excuse. But that lasts as long as the ketchup stains on our napkins.

Although there is no strict dress-code here, ‘decent’ clothing is mandatory. That usually means the staff has no right to refuse admission to people, who are in a state of dishabille. Shirt collars were enough to start heated arguments with a few arrogant specimens who somehow had the pre-conceived notion that the customer owns the place. When I had refused to seat one such person on account of his not conforming to the dress code, he demanded to see the manager. He railed against the incompetent staff and about how they do not show respect to regular customers. It was only after our manager had shown him the neat little metal plate with our dress-code inscribed on it that he calmed down and left, fortunately forever. I certainly don’t want to see him again.

It’s not just one case. You see, there are many such opinionated clients. There are far too many megaphones and loud-speakers, who have nothing to do but produce vocal high amplitude, in an attempt to humble the modest waiter who stands in front of him. Then again, ultimately the manager has to handle them. The chef, at times, wanders out to interact with the hungry. The occasional violinist plays for people, usually romantic anniversary numbers or a ‘Happy Birthday’. Well, at least we waiters are the ones who are tipped.

Letter to the Editor

Recollections of Doon

Mani's Founder's Day Address has indeed set the cat among the pigeons. His idea of a co-ed Doon School has ruffled quite a few feathers among Old Boys – yours truly included. Debates and discussions are a part of friendship and indeed, a democratic set-up but even then I really do not know what made Mani propound this theory. Was it Mani the Politician talking through Mani the Old Boy? If so, I would first ask him to mend his fences at home and do something about the women's quota in Parliament which has been hanging fire for years. Politicians, as a rule, run popularity contests and enjoy playing to the gallery without the slightest intention of doing what they say.

I remember a story I heard at School about Arthur Foot, which could make sense here. As the Headmaster, he was also the President of the School Council, and at a meeting of the latter where a proposal was made to allow boys to keep money he is reported to have said that he would consult the Headmaster and then reply. When surprised and amused School Council members pointed out that he was indeed the Headmaster and could decide then and there, he said these were two different roles and operated independently of each other. The story goes that the next morning at Assembly he said the President of the School Council had come to him with a proposal to allow boys to keep money which, after a great deal of deliberation, he was reluctantly compelled to decline. Such were men of character. Men of dignity with abiding grace. Men who remain outstanding personalities of all times. Frankly, I'm not sure whether Mani was speaking for himself or just throwing his hat in the ring as it were. Personally I have great respect for Mani, not only because he is simply brilliant but also because unlike the run of the mill politicians he speaks his mind and does the right things. As we know, much to our grief, politicians do exactly the opposite of what they say and excel in doing wrong things the right way!

In marketing we had a terminology that said for every customer who complains there are at least twenty-four who are silent, and many more who swear never to buy your product again. In this case however, will Old Boys posing as customers be somewhat more considerate to Mani? Perhaps he was only testing the temperature of the water, like proposing a statute in Parliament as opposed to presenting a Bill. Once aware of the reaction, further proceedings can either be gone ahead with or abandoned as the case may be.

Let me also share a few memories of that venerable old teacher of ours who taught us Maths – the wonderful O.P.Malhotra, affectionately referred to as Malloo. To know that he is all of 86 years and still going strong is a matter of great pride and joy. Those who studied under him will recall what a beautiful human being he was. Apart from his very capable knowledge of Mathematics, he was also known for his rendition of that beautiful song, *Mandir Dekhe Darye Sudama*, which he sang in response to our spontaneous demand at every variety entertainment programme. What was particularly touching about this was the fact that he knew that every time he sang, the boys laughed and made good-humoured fun of his performance. But even then, he bowed to our wishes. Such was the quality of masters in our time. Three cheers for Mr. Malhotra. May you live to be a hundred, Sir.

(Ashim Kumar Mukherjee, ex-44 T '58)

* * *

Brain Teaser

Vishnukaant Pitty

Unscramble the following words and fill them in the spaces provided to obtain the letters in the circles. Using these, fill in the missing words of the answer to the question provided.

DENORP

○ ○ □ □ □ □

LABEEN

□ ○ □ □ □ □

LEWIDED

□ ○ □ □ □ ○ □ □

ROATT

○ □ □ □ □ □

SUERTET

□ □ ○ □ □ ○ □ □

How did the golfer feel when he lost the tournament?

He was " _____ "



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