

Established in 1936



The Doon School WEEKLY



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REGULARS **2**

CHECKMATE **2**

WORD **3**
SCRAMBLE

BIRD **4**
WATCH



*We wish the school community a joyous
and colourful Holi*



Editorial

*Recently, a form-mate was trying to convince me that tradition hinders progress. His point was that language is evolving to suit our convenience. Characters are truncated to make e-mails and messages shorter. It is self-evident that his argument was built on the growing advancement of the digital media and the shift to what is called the 'digital age'. Yet, formally, these 'digital spellings' are unacceptable. For my own part, all I can say is that if this change was to be effected, I would oppose it. Yet, in all rationality, one cannot dismiss his argument to be out of hand. It is food for thought. In this issue, **The Doon School Weekly** tries an experiment by bringing out an issue in colour. It is the first technicolour **Weekly** and though we cannot comment on its success just yet, the editorial team hopes that it makes for a lively visual effect and coaxes non-readers to actually go through this publication. It is only fitting that Holi be the occasion for our experiment with colour.*

Woodstock Win

Vishnukaant Pitty recollects his participation in the recently held Woodstock MUN



As soon as we entered, we were ushered into a lawn for the welcoming tea, where, simultaneously, registration of the various teams was taking place. It was then that the scale of this MUN was brought home to us, for in the lawn, were two hundred-odd delegates, all from different schools. Taken aback by the sheer number of people, we timidly made our way to the Parker Hall of Woodstock School, where the General Assembly was to be held. There, we were quickly briefed about the WSMUN, after which we made our way to the various venues for our respective Councils – the Security Council, ECOSOC, UNEP and the HRC. The MUN conferences were very well organised; for example, the room for the Security Council had microphones set up for each delegate, wall-to-wall carpeting, padded swivel chairs and a projector in most of the rooms, all adding to the professional atmo-

sphere. The Woodstock School had obviously taken great pains with the organisation of this event.

As the deliberations of the respective committees began, we realised that we faced stiff competition. Almost all the schools had come well-prepared for the MUN. After a few hours of heated debate and 'negotiation' on the first topic on each committees' agenda, we broke for dinner (excellent, as indeed were all our meals) and went to bed early. The next day, after our first set of topics had been debated upon and the respective resolutions passed, there was a General Assembly held and the resolutions read. As it turned out, there was a surprise in store for all of us there in the form of a crisis situation. A video clip was shown to us and we were told that Crimea had bombed Georgia, without declaring any specific reason. The Secretary-General then told us, with appropriate gravity, to make our way back to our conference rooms and discuss what was to be done to resolve the issue. No sooner had we gone into our respective rooms, than we received a press report on the situation, throwing some light on the matter at hand, saying that the media suspected Crimea of illegally trading arms with Russia. As the conference wore on, we kept receiving trickles of information which came to us in the form of media reports and press statements, while each committee struggled to reach a general consensus in order to pass a resolution. The deliberations continued to the next day.

Anyway, the resolutions that were passed in the various councils (such as the UNEP, the ECOSOC and the HRC) were sent to the Security Council in the form of appeals to the Council to take some action as to the crisis.

There was a lot of debating on the resolutions in the Security Council (even resulting in a veto by Russia at one point!), before the Council could really pass a resolution remedying the crisis situation.

If one had to point out the highlights of the Woodstock MUN, it would definitely be the organisation. All the students from Woodstock were hospitable and helpful; our stay was comfortable and, the conference was really well coordinated. Some of the things that we appreciated from the Woodstock MUN were – having a fun (although not as active as our very own DSMUN) press which kept issuing us humorous asides about what was happening in the various committees (one even including the fact that two delegates asked each other to the dance through the official note chits!).

With nine Best Delegate awards to our credit, we felt that we had made the best of an interesting and informative experience.

News-In-Brief

MUN

Vishnukaant Pitty, Ankur Saxena, Mehtab Chima, Naved Chaudhri, Arnav Sahu, Bharat Ganju, Kenilwoth Yambem, Prateek Ghei, Saksham Sharda and Anindya Vasudev represented the School in **The 4th Annual Woodstock MUNA conference**. Over two hundred delegates participated. The Chair recognized all ten Doon School delegates and the following were awarded the **Best Delegate** award:

Ankur Saxena(UNSC)
Anindya Vasudev (UNEP)
Arnav Sahu(ECOSOC)
Bharat Ganju (HRC)
Kenilworth Yambem (HRC)
Mehtab Chima(UNEP)
Naveed Chaudhr(UNEP)
Saksham Sharda (HRC)
Vishnukaant Pitty(UNSC)
Congratulations all!

FROM DEUTSCHLAND

We welcome **Jonas Rosenbrüch**, an exchange student from the Salem School, Germany. He will be staying in Tata House and will attend classes with the A form. We wish him a pleasant stay.

VISITORS

Navtej Sarna, official spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs(MEA), gave a talk on 'Indian Foreign Policy in Recent Times' in the Library on Friday, February 14. An interview with him runs in the next issue.

US-based sculptor, **Michael Burke**, gave a talk in the AV Room on Monday, March 17. He talked about his experience in working with metals.

Jacoub Bayham and **Asher McRae** gave a talk to boys working in the various school publications, in the AV Room on Tuesday, March 18. They spoke of their stint in journalism and their experiences in Myanmar.

HINDI DECLAMATION

The following are the individual prizes that were awarded in the **Inter-House Junior Hindi Declamation Competition** held on Tuesday, March 18:

1st: Karan Gulati (H) and Vatsal Khandelwal (O)

2nd: Prabal Jindal (J)

3rd: Aashray Batra (H) and Sanath Thakur (T)

The following were the **House positions**:

1st: Hyderabad

2nd: Oberoi

3rd: Tata

4th: Jaipur

5th: Kashmir

CAREER CALL

The Careers' Notice Board will highlight opportunities in the field of **Architecture**. All those interested should look it up.



Shatranj Ke Khiladi

Ujjwal Dahuja extols the virtues of his favourite game

Chess is a board game with more than a trillion possibilities. One might lose his most useful piece, the Queen, but still end up winning. It is a game of strategy, sacrifices and exchanges. It is much more than the sixty-four squares on the board.

The game seems boring to many, and people wonder how chess players don't go off to sleep and keep concentrating on the board for so long! In our school, much chess is played by those who love the game, but sometimes it is played for simply obtaining House Colours.

Chess is also not just a game in which people move the first piece they see on the board. It may involve making moves which sacrifice even half of one's pieces to checkmate the opponent. A chess player must protect the king at any cost. If one actually analyses the details of chess, he'll find that he can 'deceive' people with a subtly planned attack. It is a game of a lot of thrill, skill and planning, all done in one's mind. This is because chess is not so much a game of the static pieces on the board, but the continuing series of moves in your 'brain-board'.

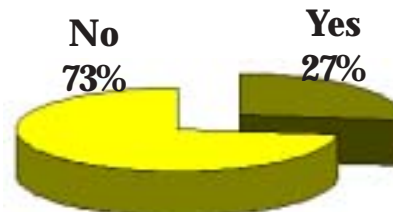
Chess has dramatically risen and fallen in popularity. Earlier, it was a popular game. Now, no one seems to have time for chess. A few years ago, online chess added to the number of people playing the game. Now, however, the only ones playing are 'antique pieces', who have played since childhood and have now retired from their jobs.

Why is an indoor game, requiring the participation of only two players and no special setting, not being played by more people? The game does take a lot of time but don't cricket, hockey etc. take time too? Sometimes we should give our brains a twist, instead of our bodies a workout.

Our school provides good facilities for chess. It has a number of boards and a very good coach. The master-in-charge, too, is very encouraging. So, let us take the initiative to try our hand at it. Who knows? One of us might just become a grandmaster? Or, more importantly, find a game that will kindle a lifetime's interest.

Opinion Poll

Are you looking forward to the new Holi programme?



351 people of the school community were polled.

Next Week's Question: Did you enjoy the new Holi programme?

Letter To The Editor

Lapse of Memory

I read with great interest the "Letter to the Editor" by Ashim Kumar Mukherjee (ex-44T'58) published in the Doon School Weekly, dated March 8, 2008.

I am thankful to Ashim for paying compliments to my professional ability as a teacher of Mathematics, but what he has written about me as a singer is his own imagination. Firstly, I sang only once in the Saturday variety programme. Secondly I sang *Pug Ghunru Bandh Meera Nachi Re* and not the song *Mandir Dekhey Dare Dudema*. His memory seems to have failed him.

(Om Prakash Malhotra)

Agnostic! Not Atheist!

Gursharan Singh

I must respond to Vivek's excellent *An Idea Called God* (published in the issue dated March 15). He has somewhat justifiably but simplistically debunked religiosity and the blunders that have been spawned by it. However, true religion is another matter.

Myth-making is an established means of achieving difficult communication like that between Man and God. All of Man's attempts to achieve divine understanding are not transparently ridiculous. God, belief and indoctrination are all separate things and do not negate each other.

The dimensions of Vivek's complaint are what, in fact, separate Man from Beast. Animals eat, sleep, mate and defend themselves. Humans do much the same, adding little else to their existence.

Man, of course, is not totally bound by circumstance, and inherent in the human mind is the ability to get out of the whirlpool we all feel ourselves in. Science is no panacea! It has brought us to the brink of great disaster. One can imagine what a full-scale nuclear war will mean. Also, increasingly, pure science has been hijacked in modern times by technology, and is now a mere handmaiden to the wishes of politicians, capitalists and consumerists.

Therefore, there must be continuous enquiry into known phenomena and into the unknown, through both science and religion, with no prejudice towards other means of enquiry either. 'God' is not a 'Person' in the way we conceive any entity we are familiar with. It is the sum total of all forces working in Creation. It is, therefore, difficult to have an 'idea of God' that is satisfactory. There, Vivek's impatience is understandable.

However, the 'idea,' as Vivek put it, is as valid a hypothesis to lead our lives with as any used for the purpose of 'scientific' enquiry. As he says, we really have no means to answer this very pertinent question concerning the origin of the universe and ourselves.

Remember, if one took all the pieces of a watch or some other contraption and juggled them in a box for aeons, they would never fall in place to form an instrument that gives accurate time, like a watch does. Questions about God are really a search for meaning, and this must go on. So, keep an open mind and keep thinking and, more importantly, keep feeling.

Freaky Facts

If you yelled for 8 years, 7 months and 6 days, you would have produced enough sound energy to heat one cup of coffee.

Donkeys kill more people annually than plane crashes.

Our eyes are always the same size from birth, but our nose and ears never stop growing.

Despite the height difference, giraffes have the same amount of bones in their neck as you do.

Owls are the only birds who can see the color blue.

A human sneeze exits the mouth at 300 mph. That's the same speed of the winds in a class 5 tornado.

(Sourced from the internet)

J L B U M E

Unjumble the letters and use the circled letters to form another word, which means **dangerous**. Entries to be submitted in the **Weekly** box in the Main Building. The winner will be decided by lottery and will be treated to a **Hot Chocolate Fudge**

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VSAEIVE



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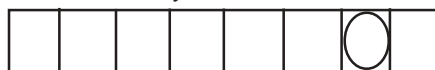
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UVVEITAEPITR



MQREIGAU



The Birds of Chandbagh

With spring time here at Doon, the birds and the flowers are in full display. Varun Rai and Uday Shriram report on the campus' feathered residents

What comes into your mind, when you hear the term 'bird watching'? Do you think of it as pointless or boring? Do you think of the *other* kind of bird watching? Please reconsider. You'll probably laugh at the small band of enthusiasts who decided to go bird watching on Sunday morning, but, the truth is, that it was really a lot of fun. Did you know that there are over one hundred and fifty species of birds inhabiting the school campus? This enormous number is, quite obviously, an insignificant figure in the diversity of Indian birds. Dr. Banerji, Mr. Prateek Pawar endeavoured to help us realize and appreciate this wildlife and I talk through experience when I say that the beauty of the myriad birds need to be seen to be appreciated.

Last Sunday, eleven Doscocs, Abhimanyu Chandra, Shaleen Chikara, Divijinder Oberoi, Neel Madhav, Arjun Sethi, Jayant Mukhopadhyaya, Shivam Katyal, Arvind Sharma, Shashank Peshawaria and the two of us, equipped with binoculars and a few cameras, set out from at 7 am and immediately spotted a flock of feeding **Jungle Babblers**. A few **Slaty-headed Parakeets** joined them, giving us a good opportunity to get used to the binoculars. Just as we approached the tennis courts, we saw one of the most fascinating carnivores in school, the **Indian Shikra**, roosting on a tree. Making our way towards the *khud*, we saw, perched on a wire, the elegant little **Magpie Robin**, flanked by a pair of **Spotted Doves**. Apart from these, we saw the **Indian Swallow**, a few **Cormorants**, many **Himalayan Bulbuls**, **Rose-Ringed Parakeets**, **Grey Hornbills**, a **Fantail Flycatcher** flitting around the bamboo and even the **Rufous Treepie**. The sight was astounding and our eyes were glued to the trees and the sky. Dr. Banerji's insights were enlightening. A field guide he had brought along made the experience all the more enjoyable and informative, to say the least.

The Rose Bowl was the climax of the trail, with a single bombax tree hosting a good variety of avifauna, from the **Black and Spangled Drongos**, to the **Brown-headed Barbet**, **Red-vented Bulbuls**, **Asian Koyals** and even the rare **Black Bulbul**. Dr. Banerji, in the meanwhile, told us about the feeding habits, territorial fights and even courtship dances of these birds.

This novel experience was an eye-opener. It will be our endeavour to repeat the activity more often and on a larger scale. Exhibitions on bird watching and documentaries taped by Doscocs will be instrumental in disseminating knowledge about birds. It is an activity that definitely needs to be promoted in School.

(Pictures courtesy: google.com)



Spangled Drongo



Brown Headed Barbet



Magpie Robin



Black Bulbul



Pied Wagtail



White-browed Fantail



Slatyheaded Parakeet



Redvented Bulbul



Shikra



Spotted Dove



Indian Treepie

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