



Established in 1936

The Doon School WEEKLY



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REGULARS

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SHOULD WE
CHANGE?

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CRICKET
TOUR

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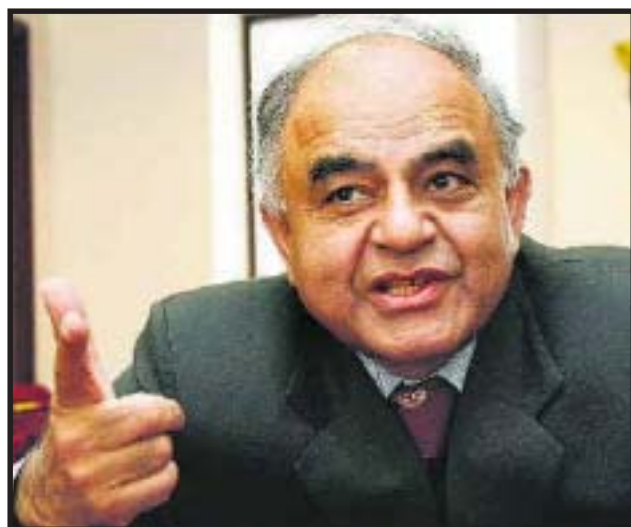
POETRY
POETRY

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We warmly welcome all the delegates for the Doon School Model United Nations Conference, 2008

I n d i a . . . T o d a y

The Doon School Weekly interviewed **Gurcharan Das**, who was the Chief Guest at Independence Day



The Doon School Weekly (DSW): Sixty-one years of Indian Independence: what does it mean to you?

Gurcharan Das (GDS): The most important thing is that we are still together. The second point that hits you is that we are still a democracy. And the third thing is that it is a democracy in such a diverse country and it is what makes it the second largest economy. It is very rare to have all three factors together.

DSW: In these sixty-one years of democracy what have been the ten biggest blunders we have made?

GDS: Ten would be a bit too much right now but one of them is to have lost our economic independence after having gained political independence. We didn't exactly become free. My book *India Bound* is about that failure. An example to explain what I am saying is that India and South Korea had a per capita income of \$100 in 1950 but now India has a per capita income of less than \$1000 and South Korea of \$14000. The second blunder would be the failure to not have provided good schools for all. In South Korea the average school is like this (Doon).

DSW: Do you think politicians are getting in the way of the growth of our economy or are they supplementing it or just taking the credit for it?

GDS: I think they are mostly a nuisance, but I would rather not talk about it here.

DSW: Do you think the youth of our nation is actually free do what they want, besides the pressure

put on them by competition and their parents?

GDS: There are a lot more choices that you have than you see. You can stand up and tell your parents that you don't want to be an engineer or doctor and just say it once.

DSW: You spoke, in your address to the school, about being passionate. What was your dream when you were young?

I was pretty much confused like you all. I just joined college and kept taking things one by one as they came. Otherwise, I didn't really know what I wanted to do.

DSW: Who out the two do, Mahatma Gandhi and Bhagat Singh, do you consider the greater martyr?

GDS: I wouldn't talk about martyrdom but greatness. I'd say Gandhi, because Gandhi was the person who took the risk of making the country free. It was he who influenced Martin Luther King. He was the person who actually got the rights for the blacks, not Abraham Lincoln. Men like King were influenced by Gandhi.

DSW: You are writing a book entitled *The Difficulty in Being Good*? Have you actually discovered what 'good' is?

GDS: You'll just have to buy my book then! But I agree with what your first Headmaster A.E Foot said that education's purpose is knowing the difference between the good and the bad.

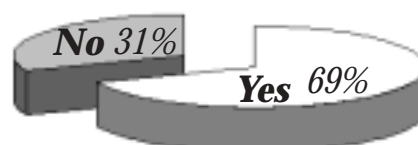
DSW: Could you suggest five books that are a must-read?

GDS: *Mahabharata* by R.K. Narayan, Homer's *Iliad*, *Antigone* by Sophocles, *Das Kapital* by Karl Marx and Plato's *Republic*.



Opinion Poll

Do you think the current Dosco is physically fit?



312 members of the school community were polled.

Next Week's Question: Do you think that the abolition of the House Cups in sports is a good decision.

News-in-Brief

FOR AND AGAINST

The following are the results of the First Round debates of the **Inter-House Senior English Debates** held this weekend:

Hyderabad vs. Kashmir

Winner: Hyderabad **Best Speaker:** Vikram Aditya Chaudhri **Second Best Speaker:** Samkit Sethia

Tata vs. Jaipur

Winner: Tata **Best Speaker:** Saurav Sethia **Second Best Speaker:** Abhaas Shah

Oberoi vs. Kashmir

Winner: Kashmir **Best Speaker:** Naveed Ahmed Choudhary **Second Best Speaker:** Aruj Shukla.

Hyderabad vs. Tata

Winner: Tata **Best Speaker:** Saurav Sethia **Second Best Speaker:** Anindya Vasudev

Oberoi vs. Tata

Winner: Tata **Best Speaker:** Aruj Shukla **Second Best Speaker:** Amit Gupta

Hyderabad vs. Jaipur

Winner: Hyderabad **Best Speaker:** Anindya Vasudev **Second Best Speaker:** Dilsher Dhillon

The following are the positions at the end of the first round of the debates:

1st Tata

2nd Hyderabad

3rd Jaipur

4th Kashmir

5th Oberoi

Tata, Hyderabad and Jaipur Houses have qualified for the second round. Well done!

MAKING A SPLASH

In the **Inter-House Swimming Competition** held this year, the following were the House positions:

| Seniors: | Medium: | Juniors: |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1st Oberoi | 1st Oberoi | 1st Oberoi |
| 2nd Jaipur | 2nd Jaipur | 2nd Jaipur |
| 3rd Kashmir | 3rd Kashmir | 3rd Kashmir |
| 4th Tata | 4th Hyderabad | 4th Hyderabad |
| 5th Hyderabad | 5th Tata | 5th Tata |

The following records were broken this year:

Zorawar Whig: 50m Breaststroke (Juniors): 45.46 secs

Jason Toups: 50m Breaststroke (Seniors): 36.97 secs

Dushyant Raj Sapra: 200m Butterfly (Seniors): 3:52.08 secs

Jason Toups: 100m Breaststroke (Seniors): 1:20.28 secs

Zorawar Whig: 200m Backstroke (Juniors): 3:47.63 secs

Pratham Mittal: 50m Backstroke (Seniors): 35.72 secs

Kudos!

YOUNG ASIMOV'S

The following are the results of the **BG Pitre Science Short Story Competition, 2008:**

Seniors:

1st Vibhas Pahuja

2nd Shaurya Kuthiala and Anirudh Gupta

Juniors:

1st Vatsal Khandelwal

2nd Revant Nayar

Congratulations!

OF BLACK AND WHITE

Saurav Mediratta and Yojit Mehra have been awarded **Chess Colours**. Congratulations!

MUMBAI MUN

The Doon School was represented by Arjun Badal, Sumaer Sandhu, Revant Nayar, Vikram Kejriwal, Vihaan Khanna, Varun Gupta, Aashray Batra and Gursehej Oberoi in the **Cathedral Model UN Conference** in Mumbai from August 16–18. Eighteen schools participated in the Conference. Arjun Badal was awarded **High Commendation** in the Security Council and Vikram Kejriwal was given **Special Mention** in the United Nations Special Mission in Antarctica. The team was overall judged as the **Second Best Delegation**. Well done!

Unquotable Quotes

In the end of JC, Mark Antony marries Octavius Caesar.

Vinayak Agarwal, rewrites history.

DCB is a noble Brutus.

Animesh Gupta, *et tu?*

He is definitely not becoming the Chief-of-Editor next year!

Kartic Sharma grabs the opportunity.

You can't print that! It was just a tongue of slip!

Kartic Sharma, we know.

Cow dung is used as a cake to burn fire.

Avi Raj, on bio-mass.

Someone wagged my pen!

Shubham Dhingra spins a tale.

I have to invigilate the rooms.

Govind Singh, extremely vigilant.

Why didn't Brazil qualify for the EU Cup?

Devvrat Patney, the soccer expert.

There were not one or two but a couple of them?

Devvrat Patney, accountant.

I swim like David Phelps.

Yash Johri, what's in a name?

The two of them are one of the best.

Sachit Taneja, declares the winner.

I will give you a rap across my gab..

Piyush Upadhyay, please do so.

WordSearch

Sookrit Malik

Hidden below are the names of eleven famous scientists

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|Viewpoint| Changing Lanes

Aditya Sukhia

For the development and progress of any society, it is both necessary and inevitable that some change takes place. Change is something that has helped us adapt to the environment in which we live. We have become accustomed to change. There are certain things that are meant to be changed, and there are certain things that are changing. These have been the rudimentary principles of change ever since the caveman sparked his first fire. Today, we are changing, but are we changing what is necessary?

Doon, the place which we now call home, was first set up as an independent community back in 1935. And ever since then, it has never stopped changing. Right from the beginning, Doon's maxim has been 'change is the only constant'. Some Old Boys may tell us how, when they were in school, they used to dine in their respective houses. Dining, in that sense, has been revolutionised. Now, not only do we dine together in a renovated and cleaner CDH, but we also do it together, as a school, which brings about a sense of oneness, a sense of unity among the entire school community.

Something that I, personally, have always longed to do, especially within Doon, would be to cycle. Living in such a beautiful environment, it sometimes both surprises and disappoints me that in my entire school life, I have never been able to cycle in and around Doon. But if we look at the city around us today, we would understand that it would neither be feasible nor safe for the School to let us cycle.

When I look up at the honour boards in my house, I notice that once upon a time, we used to have diving as a sport in school. And then I wonder why, with certified life-savers and lifeguards present at the pool every day, diving, which is such a fun and exciting sport, has been done away with?

The concepts of midterms and social service have been two of the mainstays of a Doon School education. But even here, there has been change, particularly in our perceptions towards them. The idea of midterms used to be that boys would go into a completely different environment from their own and learn to live in the wild for a week. But now, boys would prefer to spend the same week back home in the comfort of a city; even going to the extent that they falsify their midterm reports and fabricate their pictures.

A Dosco used to do social service simply out of the compassion he felt for people less privileged than he was and also because he felt the need to help those who could not help themselves. But now, there are only three probable reasons why the average Dosco would do social service: a) because he wants to display it proudly on his CV; b) because he wants to include it in his IAYP scheme (which will also be displayed proudly on his CV) and c) because he has been forced to do it (which, unfortunately for him, will not be displayed on his CV). Barring a few, social service to a Dosco has become more of an obligation than a genuine desire to help.

I am not saying that change in itself is good or bad. Change is inevitable, especially in a dynamic institution as ours. Nowadays, change takes place so much and so often that we no longer appreciate it, and to prevent change from becoming redundant, we must look carefully into matters relating to what must be changed and what should remain the same.

Sunday

Vivek Santayana rues the loss of a precious day

Finally, the weekend is here! But before that a brief recap of the week thus far. Monday, work. Tuesday, work. Wednesday, work. Thursday and Friday- you have three guesses. Saturday, relax at home. Leave the holiday for Sunday. Why not go for a movie? Save the movie for the evening, let's finish off a bit of shopping in the day and perhaps have lunch somewhere nice. We might as well get the holiday photos printed. Oh well, we have just about enough to do for today.

The day starts off with a bang! Four hours of a power-cut is not exactly a perfect start! Anyway, you could always over-sleep by about three hours. And so, instead of starting out at nine like we were supposed to, we leave at eleven. But the traffic seems to be at its peak. This is because the roads cannot accommodate any more vehicles. The motorcycles and scooters weave their way through the traffic. With the *Nano* coming out, I wonder how I'll ever be able to see the north side of the city again. Horns are blaring everywhere, people are shouting so loudly that you can hear them in spite of the surround-sound music; there's a world outside with people hating everyone else just because they are all stalled at the same signal at the same time. It takes us three changes of the lights to cross one signal.

Horns are blaring everywhere, people are shouting so loudly that you can hear them in spite of the surround-sound music; there's a world outside with people hating everyone else just because they are all stalled at the same signal at the same time.

Having negotiated the traffic, we get to the parking lot at the mall. It is full. Every kind of car conceivable is parked here. Also, the parking is so disorganized with a lot of space misused. Cars are parked so close together that one cannot open the door wide enough to get out or in. As for shopping, we realize we don't need anything at all. We look around and find nothing of utility and nothing at a reasonable price. Finally, we buy two books and have lunch at *Subway* because it is getting late. We get back to the sultry parking lot (concrete and car engines never lead to comfortable temperatures) and clamber into the baking-hot car.

Now to brave the traffic once again. We have a little unfinished business to take care of - a few photos to get framed. Only, we hit a little snag in our plan. The studio is closed. Murphy's Law, I guess. But for some reason, in spite of the large number of closed shops, the roads are still jam-packed and the traffic policeman seems to be letting the stress get to him. We have a two-lane road with five parallel rows of cars blocking any progress. Interestingly, I see a scooter pushing another. This is quite an astounding feat. I must say, I never knew it was possible to push another scooter with one leg while riding alongside it.

We reach the multiplex. The closest and most decent one is about an express highway away from home, so we don't need to bother about bad traffic. We pay the toll and go on to another parking lot. We reach to find the tickets sold out. This Sunday is over.

England Cricket Tour

Aruj Shukla recounts the School Cricket Team's visit to England in June

It starts with nerves, a little anxiety and a whole lot of excitement. A few happy faces, a few crimsoned with importance and some brimming with excitement, all oblivious of the fact that the matches ahead of us were no piece of cake and certainly no 'walk in the park'.

The four days of pre-tournament practice (PTP) certainly helped, but really took the whammy out of us. With a few unquotables from Itihaas Singh and more than just a few cheap jokes from Sikki (Shashwat Sikroria) the School cricket team, captained by Keshav Prasad and accompanied by GSS and RSF, boarded the Jet Airways flight to London on June 9, all set to represent the School on foreign soil.

The first match was against Charterhouse School, and saw a great batting display (Sikroria scoring 79), but our bowling department was outdone by an outstanding batting performance by the opposition. Chetan Kaul led as Keshav sat out due to injury.

We experienced the typical erratic English weather in our next encounter with Wellington College. After a dismal defeat, we were determined to put up a better fight. Bishnoi started it with a bang, taking two wickets in his first over. The opposition concluded with a score of 166, owing to a great recovery from the lower order batsmen. This time it was the batting order which took a backseat, or rather, their bowling which took the match to the wire.

Next up, we faced Oratory School where we were welcomed very warmly. It was at this juncture that it dawned on us that the red balls in England were capable of traversing the pitch much faster than we thought possible. The batting failed yet again but the bowling (coming out of its shell), gave a good account of itself. The next match against St. Edward's School was a disappointing one (doing little damage to the success rate), therefore without further ado, we moved on to Stowe School in Buckinghamshire, where the match saw our best performance. We eventually won in thrilling style, the winning runs coming from the bat of young Archit.

We owed our success partly to the curator for preparing a turning track just like the one in the Doon School Main Field. What lay ahead of us was a daunting task against Bedford School because we had to live up to our expectations and bag another victory. We chose to bowl first and were slaughtered by the batting team, having 265 to chase. Our run chase was a plucky one and we gave a suprisingly stiff fight, losing narrowly. Keshav hit 22 runs in one over from a medium pacer and set the game up but it seemed like Lady Luck was just not with us. Lastly, we had a big game against Millfield School. This time we went in with gusto and

beat the best out of the lot. Our bowling was perfect, and the spinners especially kept them at bay. Batting came along fluently but flattered to deceive when it was needed the most.

It wasn't only the cricket which we enjoyed; our trips to Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum and Alton Towers were very relaxing and thoroughly enjoyable too. We also got the chance to visit the mecca of cricket, Lord's Cricket Ground, and were lucky enough to see Sir Garfield Sobers and stand on the balcony where Saurav Ganguly had taken off his shirt. On the last day we were left to shop till we dropped in Oxford Street but the prices put us in a dilemma! All in all, we lost a total of six matches (out of the seven played). The desired results didn't come through but we certainly improved as a unit and made strides in all departments, especially fielding, with Chetan Kaul taking a magnificent catch. It was remarkable to see how well-trained our opponents and how well-facilitated the schools were. It was a treat watching them play. This was the first time any team from The Doon School had ventured this far, and hence this too was a pathbreaker.

The team may not be remembered for the matches it won, but it will go down in the history of School as having been the first team to play in England. The team members will take back some lingering memories and experiences never to be forgotten.

* * *

| Poetry |

Test Week

Varun Pais

(D Form)

Here comes test week one.
There is less time for fun.
Boys are studying hard all day,
For them to top in some way.

Some have English first, then Chemistry,
Then Physics, Maths, and History.
They stay up late till twelve 'o' clock.
The studying never seems to stop.

For Maths, boys practise many sums
And do so well that 'hundred' comes.
Books in the morning, books at night.
Books, books, books all the time.

Then comes the end of test week one.
Now it's time for all the fun.
Next week, Inter-House Soccer begins.
The competition's more than tough,
You never know who's going to win.

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