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Newsome Twosome

The Doon School Weekly interviews *Shrey Nagalia and Shatam Ray*, who joined the teaching faculty recently

The Doon School Weekly (DSW): Why did teaching as a profession attract you?

Shrey Nagalia (SNA): Well, coming from an educational family, teaching has always attracted me as a profession. My grandparents and parents have an educational background so one can say that it is in my genes. Also, the thought of imparting knowledge and interacting with the younger generation pulled me towards it.

DSW: Did you teach before coming to School?

SNA: Yes, I taught twice before coming here: first, at Welham Boys' for three months as a theatre instructor. I directed a play there as well. I also taught Maths at a school in England while I was at university. I have taught every subject except English, which is the subject I hold a degree in! However, one can say that this is the first time I am teaching professionally.

DSW: You teach History in School although you hold a degree in English. Does that affect your teaching?

SNA: I enjoy teaching History and know quite a bit about the subject since English Literature is closely linked with history. Also, I learn a lot while I teach. But, I don't really see myself teaching History for more than a few years. I would like to teach English, as it is the subject I specialize in.

DSW: What is one thing you dislike about School and the one thing you like the most?

SNA: I would like every classroom to be made into a smart classroom as soon as possible. The thing I like most as a teacher about School is that teaching is not at all one-dimensional. A teacher's role is not limited to academics; we are involved in a lot of things, be it sport, drama or elocution. A teacher in Doon has a lot of space and gets to experiment a lot in the classroom. The dynamic nature of the job is what I like best about it.

DSW: What are your hobbies?

SNA: I love movies, be it Hindi cinema or English cinema. In fact, I am extremely fond of world cinema. I watch a lot of sub-titled Russian, Japanese and Iranian cinema. I like reading as well. I play a lot of squash, and although I am not very good at them, I enjoy playing all sports, especially football.

DSW: What do you think about DoscOs?

SNA: I think DoscOs have much more on their plate than students in other schools. A typical day in a Dosco's life is much more hectic. A Dosco has to participate in many more sports and activities. I do not think this is a negative point; it makes a Dosco multi-talented. On the other hand, DoscOs are careless about their turnout, and in a few exceptional cases, they are arrogant. I think of DoscOs as jacks of all trades - in the most positive way.

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

Shatam Ray (SRY): Firstly, I would like to clarify that I am neither related to ARY nor to KAR! While the resemblance to the latter is uncanny; the common surname with the former is a mere coincidence! Besides that, I come from Delhi. After my schooling, I went to the University of Delhi for my undergraduate course in History and did my Masters in Modern Indian History from Jawaharlal Nehru University. My primary interest, I suppose, includes reading, both fiction and non-fiction. Other than that, I write occasionally, like debating, have done a little bit of theatre, solve Sudokus, enjoy watching films and listening to music. I do not play any sport though I follow tennis and cricket.

DSW: How long are you here for?

SRY: As of now, I have been appointed on a one-year contract by the School and will be here till August next year. My stay further than that, I guess, will be determined once that comes to be reviewed. However, my stay here so far has been nothing less than wonderful and some bullying by some teachers and students alike notwithstanding (I jest), I have had a good experience!

DSW: What made you want to come to Doon?

SRY: My entry into Doon is both incidental and simultaneously an act of choice. Coming from a day school, as I do, I was a little curious to experience life in a residential school. I can say that when one thinks of good boarding schools in the country, it is only natural that one thinks of The Doon School. At the same time, after my Masters' programme I generally wanted to take a break. Teaching has always held a fascination for me and this was a good time to test the waters. The rest, as they say, is history!

DSW: What are your plans after you leave the School?

SRY: I have never had any long-term plans so the idea of this break was to sit back and plan things out. I would like to enrol in a Ph.D programme at some point, since academics excites me. I would not mind sitting at least once for the Civil Services exam. Beyond that, it is all hazy!

DSW: What would you like to do in School?

SRY: I have already volunteered my services to the Debating Society and plan to get involved with the organization of the next MUN as well. I may also get involved with *The Circle*. Since there are so many facilities on campus, I have plans to pick up some sport, ideally tennis or squash. Other than that, if I can contribute to the life of the boys on campus in some way I will be glad to help.

(contd. overleaf)


DOON MUN

In the **3rd Doon School Model United Nations Conference** held from August 21 to 23, 136 delegates from twelve schools participated. **Arjun Singh Badal, Sumaer Sandhu, Vikram Kejriwal, Kanishk Gupta, Ankit Chowdhary and Ishaan Nagpal** were adjudged best delegates in their respective committees. **DPS, Sharjah** was the **Best Team** in the Crisis Situation and the delegation from **The Doon School** comprising Vibhas Pahuja, Kanishk Gupta, Arjun Singh Badal, Sumaer Sandhu, Vikram Kejriwal and Gursehej Singh Oberoi were adjudged the **Best Delegation**. Kudos!

FOOTBALL UPDATE

The School U-17 soccer team played against **The RIMC, Dehradun** on August 20 and won 1-0. The School U-17 soccer team played its second match in the **VIIIth Om Prakash Memorial Football Tournament** on August 21 and beat **The Shri Guru Ram Rai School, Dehradun** in the quarter-finals 4-2. The team played **The Hilton School, Dehradun** in the semi-finals on August 23 and lost 2-0.

The School soccer team played against the **RIMC School, Dehradun first XI** on August 20 and won 1-0. The School team played **Woodstock School, Mussoorie** on August 22 and drew 1-1. Well done!

 **Opinion Poll**

Does the School need to have the necessary infrastructure to facilitate the differently-abled?

Yes

47%

No

53%

(283 members of the School community were polled)

Next week's question: Do you think the *Weekly* is too heavily censored?

(contd. from page 1)

DSW: Why did you take up History, a subject students generally find boring?

SRY: In my case, it is the subject that has chosen me rather than it being the other way around. Back when I was in class IX or X, I would have scoffed at the idea of pursuing History. I enjoyed the subject then too, but never gave it any serious attention. The way it was taught then had something to do with it. But in the past few years, I have had the privilege of being taught by some of the greatest minds in the country and that goes a long way in reiterating one's interest in a subject. I understand why most are indifferently disposed towards the subject. Having said that, I harbour no illusion of radically altering people's perception towards the subject, but the wisdom that I have borrowed from those who taught me will help me when I stand on the other side of the divide. My attempts are at making the subject as relevant as I can and close to our immediate concerns. Enough has been said about the rote system through which History is learnt. If we can convince students to look at the stories that are as much part of their imagination and comprehension, convince them to look beyond dates and mere facts, one will end up having more fellow-travellers.

STICK SUCCESS

The following were awarded Hockey Colours for the year 2009:

Full Colours:

Archit Kumar
Sumer Boparai
Nikhil Sinha
Skand Swaroop

Half Colours:

Vidhur Vij
Shivam Katyal
Karanbir Singh Dhariwal
Piyush Gupta
Ankan Dutta

SCI-FI

The following are the results of the **B G Pitre Science Short Story Contest, 2009:**

Juniors

1st- Abhishek Parasrampuria
2nd- Sanat Thakur

Seniors

1st- Vishnu Mallik
2nd- Milind Pandit

BOY-IN-CHARGE

Kamran Cooper has been appointed Boy-in-Charge of the **Pin and Thread** STA for the year 2009. Congratulations!

| Comment |

Food for Thought

Chris Hatton makes some culinary suggestions

I wish I was in a position where I could say "I can't find any fault with the food at Doon". However, this is not the case, and – no doubt – you will be able to find other things in the food too...

It is difficult to talk kindly of the food, and I can't say much more than that "it is nutritious", and even that is a guess. The quality of the food is not awful; it is the similarity between every dish that gets me. I thought that it might just be me, being an English person in another country, experiencing another culture. But having spoken to many other students, I am told that they are not huge aficionados of School food either.

I am an exchange student and yes, even though I am given different food from the rest of the School, that does not mean I haven't had exactly the same experience as everyone else. I always make an effort to try the main dishes, and there is not really that much difference. In the three and a half weeks that I have been here so far, I have had the same meal, on the same day, every week. I feel sorry for the catering staff; they must get bored out of their minds preparing the same dishes week in and week out. I think, however, the students get the worst of it. Five years of the same food each day of the week must be incredibly tiresome, and it is no surprise that students jump at the chance to have 'outside' (dare I say 'decent') food?

I understand that it is incredibly difficult to cater for the whole School three times a day on a budget, and I get that there is a lot of pressure on the catering staff to give students the nutrition that they need. An idea that is often trialed at my school is "Theme Days" where food of another country is prepared. There seems to be no effort at all to change or modify the food in any way, shape or form at The Doon School, and I wonder if the staff are even aware of the wish, no, the need, for change. I am asking on behalf of the students: please change the menu even if only slightly, each week.

Letter To The Editor

Websense Makes Sense

This is with reference to Chris Hatton's view point on the internet access protocol in the School. With the kind of argument that was presented by him it is evident that his informers about the IT facilities in school are trying to use him as a conduit to express their unhappiness about *Websense* and *Doscomail*.

When it comes to blocking mail servers other than *Doscomail*, it is not to force the students to use the School server, but to provide them with a faster and easier way of accessing in the little time they get. *Doscomail* gives them the opportunity to access mail, upload files etc. at a much faster rate than any other mail box. Mail servers like *Gmail* and *Yahoo Mail* are also known to use a lot of bandwidth compared to the internal mail servers. On the other hand, we have had instances when these mail addresses have been used to send anonymous mails to staff and students. There is a lot of spam and spyware which comes through these mail servers and can crash the servers. *Doscomail*, on the contrary, provides us with the facility to filter spam, allocate mail boxes, and regulate the traffic to these mail boxes. Additionally, *Doscomail* gives an option to forward the mails to any other mail servers.

For exchange students we do give access to these mails as they do not have a school user id. But time and again it is observed that these privileges given to the exchange boys are used more by the other boys than the exchange students themselves.

Moreover, I do not understand what is wrong in giving a school e-mail id to the outside world when you take great pride in announcing which school you belong to. And we are in the process of giving a permanent School e-mail address to all the students and this mail will be accessible from anywhere on this planet. And for those who do not know, it is not a system invented by the School technology team, but is a practice followed in institutes like the IITs and IIMs.

Thank you to Chris for throwing light on the very fears that we have about social networking sites like *Facebook*. *Websense* is not being used just because we have spent money on that, but it gives us an insight in to the usage of the internet by the boys. The sheer efficiency of *Websense* and the relentless efforts of the students to bypass this is evident by the 150-200 hits we get each day to bypass the server using Ultrasurf, GPass etc. I agree that boys do succeed in getting around *Websense* to access blocked sites, but at what cost? After all it is their School and the policy of usage was decided by them in their technology council. The usage of *Facebook* and other networking sites was allowed on weekends last term. Within two weeks of allowing this, we received requests from parents not to allow access to *Facebook* as it was a waste of time. We also received complaints cautioning our students from posting obscene comments on *Facebook*. The School is not willing to compromise its current policy regarding social networking sites for frivolous use.

Furthermore, the School is legally responsible for the kind of content that is accessed by the users on campus via the School server.

It is a pity that Chris did not confirm these facts with anyone before writing his view point. I am also surprised that *The Weekly* published this without confirming the facts with the concerned authorities.

At the end of the day, it's your facility, and when you feel that you can handle the diverse content of cyberspace, then no *Websense* will be required to monitor your access.

(Arvind K Chalasani)

Roving eye

Assoc Ed on the DSMUN, '09

have any incentive to comb our hair. The girls are gone. The school and the stubbles will return to their normalcy. DSMUN has come and passed.

Preparation began in June, but the logistics weren't taken care of till a couple of weeks before the conference, or so at least it seemed. For instance, the committee rooms hadn't been set up until when? A day before the conference? No; until three hours and forty-one minutes before the conference. Clearly, the term 'organization' for the logistics was a misnomer. As for the 'human resources' (the euphemisms are here to stay), a large chunk of them were lost, owing to a single case of viral fever. Besides that, the organization was still reasonably flawed, to the extent that the faculty advisor himself confessed at one panicky point that, at the rate we were going, we wouldn't be able to host the conference. Coming from that kind of a situation to a reasonably glamorous conference involved some ingenious improvisation and a whole lot of intensive labour on the part of the HHR and the Secretary-General. The poor logistic setup owed almost entirely to the time-crunch: we spent too much time on arguments (rather, severely unmoderated caucuses) regarding the organization. At least we modelled the 'jaw-jaw' of the UN right, if not the high-standard debates and diplomacy. We couldn't even decide an evening's entertainment without a subcommittee.

After the logistics, we come to the Media. Unfortunately, the large amount invested by the School in videographic equipment and software has gone to waste, simply because we lack competent cameramen. If amusement park rides would sway as much as the camera did, they would be shut down without a moment's hesitation. We even enjoyed a technicolour MAFIA, which featured a renowned gossip columnist. The two media teams spent the first evening of the conference fighting over territory. Perhaps the Publications' Room really has got a special, homely touch to it.

Let's not forget the delegates (or rather, let's forget *some* of the delegates), who had slogged day and night to do their research (assuming they did do it themselves, no matter how fallacious a statement it becomes). They had put on a great show with suits, ties and shiny shoes. Perhaps the only things they *did* lack were diplomacy, knowledge and an awareness of parliamentary procedure, but they must have learnt to do without these unnecessary things. As for the Deputy Chairs, the selection process was so intricate and the criteria were so steep, that a lot of the boys who would have made good Deputy Chairs (as a matter of fact, *all* of them) didn't make it. But the Deputy Chairs we had were still a league beyond what many of them could hope to achieve. A lot of them were masters of rhetoric, second only to the faculty advisor himself. They could *negotiate* under any circumstances, despite their lack of intellect and fluency with any language, using nothing more than height, glares and bad breath.

The conference began. Nothing more can be said to express the sheer fortune of the conference beginning on time. We faced everything: swine flu, incompetence and inefficiency, and we still managed to host the conference. The delegates began driving in (and the hormones began raging). Alas, the first thing they saw, as they entered the Main Gates, were tacky banners that redefined poor taste. Following that, they saw the officials in their ill-fitting suits complete with garish ties, and go-fers disguised as a grass-cutting squad. (Perhaps, in these days of multi-tasking, that's what they were also doing). The opening ceremony featured an inaudible welcome (thank you, AV) by the School Captain, a fine promotional video, made some years ago, which would have made us want to come to The Doon School if we hadn't already been here, and a cacophonous band performance. We mustn't forget the dance, brilliantly entitled *Hospital-ity*, and the drooping flags carried by coordinating drooping flag-bearers.

As for the conference itself, it would be best to forget it. The decaying quality of debates in the conference and the surrogacy of one's intellect by flirtatious tendencies are indeed epic, all of which sank into the oblivion of the collective amnesia induced by a few plates of butter chicken and the closing ceremonies. Following the trend, let us only keep our own personal MUN memories, which we will cherish for days to come.

All boys who had borrowed clothes from the members of the faculty should return them to their respective owners at the earliest. The time to "prepare a face to meet the faces that you meet" (*The Love Song of J Alfred Prufrock*, T S Eliot) has passed. We no longer



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