

*The Doon School Weekly wishes the faculty a very happy Teacher's Day*

## TESTING THE WATERS

*Vahin Khosla and Nikhil Narain comment on the Inter-House Swimming Competition, 2009*

Though swimming is a major sport now, its popularity and standards have not kept up with its status. This year's competition was dominated by last year's School swimming team, and emerging talent, even in the junior section, was not particularly noticeable. The lane dividers will still take some getting used to, hurting some swimmers, especially in the backstroke and butterfly events. Only three weeks of practice (which coincided with many other activities) and a severe flu outbreak, also affected the level of competition.

But still, the competition did impress the audience, with many extremely close and exciting races. In the senior section, the long-distance events were largely dominated by Sriyash Kishorepuria, who won the 400m, 800m, and 1500m Freestyle events. Devvrat Patney continued to dominate the short-distance events, winning all he participated in by large margins, owing obviously to his fine technique, quick turns and muscle-power. Netesh Dev displayed great proficiency and talent in the backstroke. Were it not for his slow arm movement, he would have certainly gone on to demolish Pratham Mittal's records. Our school swimming captain Vishesh Kochher was by far the best in the breaststroke events, and missed all 3 records by milliseconds. Hidden tal-



are so few seniors left who can actually finish a 200m Individual Medley. Oberoi House won the seniors category, followed closely by Kashmir House.

The mediums category continued to show hope, with Sambuddha Naha and Angad Singh ready to give the seniors a run for their money. Both have the ability and physique to swim much faster and even go on to break records in the future. Apurv Agarwal shone in the long-distance swimming events, though he needs to work on his kicking technique. The breaststroke events had the closest competition, with all four swimmers finishing very closely. There was little to choose from between Aaditya Gupta, Lakshit Joshi, Aditya Vikram Gupta and Zorawar Whig. The Swans swam away with the Cup, winning both relays and missing the 4x100m Freestyle Relay record by a mere 15 milliseconds!

The juniors too, had some promising swimmers. Shivaan Seth displayed great speed and technique in the breaststroke events, while Karan Kairon and Alex Graham showed keen competitiveness in the freestyle sprints. Sumaer Sehgal and Pranjal Bhatt raced it out to the final length in the 400m freestyle event. The Junior Cup was won by Jaipur House, who dominated most events this year, leaving nothing to chance.

Although records were not broken this year, there were very near misses, in the seniors breaststroke, Medley Relay, 50m Backstroke, the mediums Freestyle Relay and last, but not least, the 12x25m Freestyle Relay by Oberoi House. Compared to last year's eight, this year's zero does show that the standard has fallen, but with the little time we had, and most record missers being in school next year, the future looks bright.



ent in the form of Darshdeep Hora, who emerged second in the breaststroke events surprised everyone. Commendably, Darshdeep's stroke has shown striking improvement over the years. Very few breaststrokers in School can match his technique. Angad Bawa showed supremacy yet again by winning the 200m Individual Medley, followed closely by Varun Rai. It is disappointing to note that there

## Regulars

### DEBATING RESULTS

The results of the Inter-House Senior English Debates, 2009 are as follows:

#### Semi-finals:

**JAM:** Govind Singh

**Turncoat:** Bharat Ganju

**Face-off:** Arjun Badal

Tata and Jaipur Houses qualified to the Final Round.

#### Finals:

**Most Popular Speaker:** Arjun Badal

**Most Promising Speaker:** Arnav Sahu

**Best Speaker:** Dhruv Velloor

House positions are:

**1st:** Tata

**2nd:** Jaipur

**3rd:** Kashmir

**4th:** Hyderabad and Oberoi

Congratulations!

### SOCCER

The School Soccer Team participated in the **Xth Bhupinder Singh Memorial Soccer Tournament** held in the Lawrence School, Sanawar, from August 24 to 30. The School was placed third.

Vahin Khosla was awarded the 'Highest Scorer of the Tournament' after scoring 11 goals. The School won 4 and lost 2 matches, the best result the School has ever accomplished.

Congratulations!

### TT TABULATION

The school table tennis team participated in the **5th Wasu Memorial Table Tennis Tournament** in Summer Valley School, Dehradun, from August 28 to 30. A team consisting of Yash Jalan, Ujjwal Singhal, Sanchit Thakral and Abhinav Mittal made it to the finals of the U-17 team event. The boys were awarded the prizes for their fine performance. The School team reached the semi-finals in the U-14 team championship. In the U-19 team event, our team lost to Jaswant Model School in the semi-finals. In the individual championship, Yash Jalan, Raghav Kothiwala, Shivan Tandon and Abhinav Mittal reached the quarter-finals in their respective categories.

Congratulations!

### BADMINTON NEWS

Vedant Chandra and Ayaan Patel represented Dehradun district in the **Annual State Badminton Championship** held at The Sports College, Raipur, on August 29 and 30. Ayaan Patel reached the **quarter-finals**. Well done!

### ART WORKSHOP

**Gautam Das**, artist and professor at Shantiniketan, conducted a workshop in the Art School from September 1 to 3.

### CHECKMATE

Sarthak Gupta represented the School in the Sub-Junior category in the **Council's Inter-School Chess Tournament** held at the Ann Mary School, Dehradun on August 28 and won the tournament. Kudos!

### MUN-2010

The following are the appointments for the Model United Nations for the coming year:

**Boy-in-charge:** Arnav Sahu

**Secretary General:** Shoumitra Srivastava

**Deputy Secretary Generals:** Milind Pandit and Devashish Aggarwal

**Chairpersons:** Arnav Sahu, Bharat Ganju, Arjun Badal, Vikram Kejriwal and Sumaer Sandhu

We wish them a fruitful tenure.

### SWIM WIN

The Doon School participated in the **8th Council's Swimming Meet** held at the Asian School on August 28 and 29. The following are the results:

In the **Sub-Junior** category, Varun Pais won a bronze.

In the **Junior** category, Sharan Seth won three silvers and Sagar Karnawat won a bronze. The freestyle relay team, comprising Sanat Garg, Sagar Karnawat, Rohan Aggarwal and Shivan Seth won a silver.

In the **Seniors** category, Vishesh Kochhar bagged a gold, Devvrat Patney won two golds and one silver, Kanishka Gupta won a gold and a bronze, Netesh Dev and Sriyash Kishorepuria won a gold each, Nikhil Narain won a silver, Angad Singh got a bronze and Apurv Aggarwal won a silver.

The medley relay team comprising Netesh Dev, Kanishka Gupta, Vishesh Kochhar and Devvrat Patney won a gold. The freestyle relay team of Devvrat Patney, Sambuddha Naha, Nikhil Narain and Vishesh Kochhar won a gold. Devvrat Patney was adjudged the **Best Swimmer**. The School has won the trophy for the fifth consecutive year.

Congratulations!

### ESSAYISTS

The following are the individual results of the **Shanti Swaroop Science Essay Contest, 2009**.

1st- Yashvardhan Jain

2nd- Manit Bhandari

The following are the House positions of the **Shanti Swaroop Science Essay Contest, 2009**.

1st- Oberoi

2nd- Jaipur

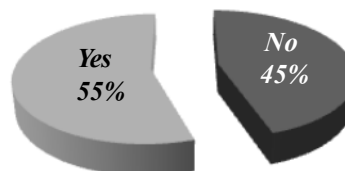
### KARATE STA

The School has started karate as an STA. The master-in-charge is RBM.



### Opinion Poll

Do you think the *Weekly* is too heavily censored?



(255 members of the School community were polled)

**Next week's question:** Are you tired of the monsoon weather?

## डिफरेंटली एबल

विनय पांडे

16 अगस्त की शाम जब मैं एम. पी. एच्. में एबिलिटी अनलिमिटेड की प्रस्तुति देखने पहुँचा तो मेरे मन में इस कार्यक्रम को लेकर कोई विशेष कौतूहल नहीं था। मैंने सिर्फ यह सोचा था कि कुछ कलाकार जिनमें कुछ मानसिक या शारीरिक विषमताएँ हैं, हमें मनोरंजन के कुछ सुखद क्षण देंगे। पर, सच्चाई यह है कि उस शाम की प्रस्तुति ने मुझे झकझोर कर रख दिया।

एक के बाद एक बहुआयामी कलाकारों ने अपने प्रदर्शन से दर्शकों को ऊर्जा से भर दिया। उन्होंने अपने नृत्य-नाट्य कौशल से सभी को मंत्रमुग्ध कर दिया। सबसे महत्वपूर्ण बात यह थी कि अपने इस अभूतपूर्व प्रदर्शन से उन्होंने हमें यह सोचने पर मजबूर कर दिया कि क्यों हम किसी व्यक्ति की शारीरिक या मानसिक विषमताओं के कारण उसपर अपाहिज का टप्पा लगा देते हैं।

कमी किस में नहीं होती। क्या अपने क्रोध को काबू में न रख पाना भी एक विषमता नहीं है! मेरी राय में तो ऐसा व्यक्ति जो क्रोध में विवेकहीन हो जाता है, निश्चित रूप से अपाहिज है।

क्या धन-दौलत या ज़मीन-जायदाद का लालच भी एक प्रकार की मानसिक अक्षमता नहीं है। अपने अहंकार के कारण किसी दूसरे का बुरा सोचना या दूसरे के हितों पर चोट पहुँचाना भी मेरे मत में मानसिक अक्षमता ही है।

एबिलिटी अनलिमिटेड के प्रदर्शन की तारीफ में ताली बजाए हुए हमें एक पखवारे से अधिक हो गया है, पर क्या हम इस प्रदर्शन से कुछ सीख ले पाए हैं?

क्या शारीरिक या मानसिक अक्षमताओं के साथ जी रहे लोगों के लिए हम सिर्फ सहानुभूति के दो शब्द बोलकर या चन्दे में कुछ राशि देकर चुप बैठ जाएंगे? क्या उन लोगों के प्रति हमें अपनी सोच को बदलने का प्रयास नहीं करना चाहिए? क्या हमें इन डिफरेंटली एबल लोगों को अपने साथ कंधे से कंधा मिलाकर चलने का अवसर नहीं देना चाहिए?

आइए, इस दिशा में पहला कदम उठाएँ और डॉरको लिंगों से स्पार्टिक, मोरोन, इंडियट, रिटार्ड और अनकौर्ड जैसे अपमानजनक शब्दों का सफाया कर दें।

## अमेरिका की यात्रा

उत्कर्ष गर्ग

मुझे देश-विदेश की यात्राएँ करना बहुत पसन्द है। इसी के चलते अमेरिका देखने की इच्छा मेरे मन में काफी समय से थी। इस वर्ष हमारे विद्यालय ने तीस विद्यार्थियों को नासा भेजने का निर्णय लिया। अपनी इच्छा पूरी करने के इतने सुनहरे अवसर को मैं अपने हाथों से जाने नहीं देना चाहता था।

मेरी इच्छा को जानकर मेरे माता पिता भी मुझे भेजने के लिए तुरंत राजी हो गए। जिस दिन मेरा नासा जाना पक्का हुआ, उस दिन से लेकर जाने के दिन तक मेरी उत्सुकता का कोई टिकाना नहीं था।

6 जून की रात को हम सभी विद्यार्थी अपने तीन अध्यापकों के साथ दिल्ली के इन्दिरा गांधी अंतर्राष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे से न्यूयार्क के लिए रवाना हो गए। पंद्रह घंटे की हवाई यात्रा के बाद हम न्यूयार्क के लिबर्टी हवाई अड्डे पर पहुँच कर वहीं से ह्यूस्टन के लिए विमान से रवाना हो गए। इसी जगह विश्व का प्रसिद्ध अंतरिक्ष संगठन नासा मौजूद है।

ह्यूस्टन अमेरिका का चौथा सबसे बड़ा शहर है। यह शहर टेक्सास प्रदेश में मौजूद है। यह अमेरिका का बहुत

बड़ा औद्योगिक क्षेत्र भी है। यहाँ के लोग काफी मिलनसार हैं तथा उनका व्यवहार हमारे प्रति बहुत अच्छा था।

अगले दिन हम नासा के लिए रवाना हुए। अगले पाँच दिनों तक हम लोग प्रतिदिन सुबह आठ बजे नासा के लिए निकल पड़ते तथा घूम फिर कर लौटते लौटते नौ बजे जाते थे। जब पहली बार नासा को देखा तो मैं अपनी आँखों पर विश्वास न कर सका। नासा हमारी अपेक्षाओं तथा कल्पनाओं से कहीं बड़ा और प्रभावशाली था। अन्दर का नज़ारा तो देखने योग्य था। हमने अंतरिक्ष विज्ञान से सम्बंधित वे सारी चीज़ें प्रत्यक्ष देखीं जिन्हें हम केवल टी वी या समाचार-पत्रों के द्वारा ही जानते थे।

हमारा अगला पड़ाव सिल्वर मून था। इस स्थान पर हमने अगले पाँच दिन बिताए। यहाँ हमें चार समूहों में विभाजित कर दिया गया। इन्हीं चार समूहों के बीच मैं अगले पाँच दिनों तक प्रतियोगिता होनी थी। हम सभी विद्यार्थियों ने यहाँ अपनी तकनीकी क्षमताओं का प्रयोग कर कई चीज़ें जैसे मार्स लैंड रोवर तथा राकेट का निर्माण किया।

इसी दौरान हमने कई वैज्ञानिकों से भी बातचीत की। इन्हीं में से एक भारतीय वैज्ञानिक श्री सतीश रेंड्री से भी हमारी भेंट हुई। वे आई आई टी मद्रास से स्नातक होकर नासा में काम कर रहे हैं। सभी वैज्ञानिकों से हमें अंतरिक्ष के बारे में बहुत सी अमूल्य जानकारी प्राप्त हुई। अवसर पाकर हमने स्कूबा डाइविंग भी की, जॉन्सन स्पेस सेंटर देखा, अपोलो 5 जैसे विशाल अंतरिक्ष यान देखे, राकेट पार्क का मुआयना किया तथा अंतरिक्ष से सम्बंधित कई फिल्में भी देखीं।

आखरी दिन की रात को ग्रेजुएशन डिनर हुआ जिसमें हर विद्यार्थी को प्रमाण-पत्र दिया गया और विजेता टीम को मैसेल भी मिले। वहाँ के वैज्ञानिकों ने हमारे विद्यालय की भूरि भूरि प्रशंसा की।

अगले दिन हम औरलैंडो के लिए रवाना हुए, जो कि फ्लोरिडा प्रदेश में स्थित है। इस शहर में हमने अपने अमेरिका प्रवास के अंतिम तीन दिन बिताए।

यह काफी खूबसूरत शहर है। यहाँ हम हॉलीवुड, युनिवर्सल स्टूडियो और डिज़नी वर्ल्ड जैसे मशहूर स्थलों पर घूमने के लिए गए। हम सभी ने इस मौके का खूब आनन्द लिया और जम कर खरीददारी भी की।

यह शहर पर्यटकों के बीच खासा लोकप्रिय है। यहीं पर विश्व का सबसे तेज़ रोलर कोस्टर हल्क भी है जो बिजली की गति से क्षण भर में कहीं कहीं पहुँच जाता है।

अंत में 18 जून को थके थकाए तैतीस यात्रियों का समूह लौटकर दिल्ली पहुँच गया। मेरे लिए यह यात्रा हमेशा ही बहुत विशेष रहेगी।



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## Letters To The Editor

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### MUN Observations

The *Roving Eye* last week was a welcome piece of tongue-in-cheek reportage. That it excited so much debate among the students and teachers, is proof of the power of the well-written word. We now know why poets and thinkers get shot in totalitarian regimes!

That MUN is, perhaps, the only forum in school today that is truly broad-based, democratic and student-run is an indisputable fact. Hats off to the master-in-charge for even daring to dream this big! The management of logistics was excellently accomplished and great credit goes to all those involved in the various spheres of activities. Any event that is so ambitious in its conception and execution will also entail some learning experience. The *Roving Eye* clearly not only saw, but observed and analysed as well.

Here are some observations of a not-so-roving eye. The MUN, anywhere, is a place where youngsters learn to behave formally and logically, discuss issues based on current affairs and have a hands-on experience in the art of diplomacy. The MUN, this year, perhaps relegated these considerations to being a subset of the larger 'fun quotient'. What perhaps struck a discordant note was the rather casual treatment meted out to the national flags at the opening ceremony. We were perhaps better off with vinyl prints of the first MUN! Speaking of which, in my opinion, MUN '07, was and remains the best example of a school-hosted MUN till date. It had decorum, honour, ideals and serious participation, all in place. The best part is that it was also student-run. 'Fun' had a different meaning in the MUN of 2007.

One wonders, why there should not be a uniform code of conduct for inter-school events, be it debating, MUN or any other activity. Let us muse on some possible conditions,

a) Since students are ambassadors of a school, why should every inter-school event not insist on school uniforms? It does make logistic sense and saves the event from being reduced to a fancy-dress carnival.

b) Equality is a fundamental principle on which the school rests. As a host school should we not field as many teams as we allow the other schools to field? We must raise the stakes among our students too. I think that would save the events from being reduced in their stature.

c) Why can't there be a dry-run for opening and closing events? If we can put our best foot forward for Founder's with repeated rehearsals, what stops us from considering any inter-school event any way less in terms of showcasing School?

d) We take pride in maintaining that all our processes are run by boys. What stops us from teaching them professionalism? Whether it is AV or choice of entertainment or decorum on stage, the Dosco needs to value and understand the solemnity of the moment and the need for propriety.

The *Roving Eye* has raised many issues that have implications for any inter-school event at the Doon. The best part is that 'an average Dosco' saw it and brought it to our notice. Bravo! The Dosco spirit truly lives on!

Debashish Chakrabarty

### In Poor Taste

In the previous issue of the *Weekly*, it was disappointing to learn that it has lost its focus completely and contains articles that are not needed. The *Weekly* was founded with the purpose of being the publication which rounded up the week's events and was a forum for creative pieces. These were the two primary functions of the *Weekly* which it still continues to perform, but the level at which it does so is appalling.

There were two articles in the *Weekly* which have led to a large amount of talk in school. The first article was titled *No Answers* by Shashank Peshawaria, who is an Associate Editor on the Board of the publication. The article has a certain amount of personal vendetta in it and the *Weekly* is definitely not the forum for this. It is a public forum where opinions can be voiced but targeting individuals is out of the question. The article is also very liberal in the sense that it talks about a person's sexual orientation, while the *Weekly* has previously censored articles which have talked about the policies of the school and sexual orientations. The baffling question is how have the teachers on the Board of the *Weekly* allowed a senior Board member to write something of this sort?

The second article is the *Roving Eye* by an Associate Editor on the DSMUN '09. The article is in no way positive and does not talk about anything good that happened in one of the largest School events of the year. The purpose the article is serving is as a criticism of the MUN and gives the impression that the Conference was a waste of time and is a model of inefficiency for the School. If no one has anything good to say about the MUN, then it would be best if nothing was said at all. The *Weekly* seems to have turned into a gossip magazine which wants to criticize events, just to get people to read it. This comes out worse when over 200 boys have put their hearts and souls into making such events successful.

Is this the purpose that *The Doon School Weekly* serves now? To voice opinions instead of reports, to publish stories that scathe a member of the community? The publication's own Board members are writing such articles. What message is being sent out to the rest of the community? If more articles of this sort are now submitted for publishing, how would the *Weekly* tackle them? This is not a modern man's magazine, it is a traditional newsletter of a school which was established in 1935.

Arjun Kapoor and Anuj Bhatia

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## Letters To The Editor

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### Thought-Provoking

The previous issue of the *Weekly* was quite phenomenal and thought-provoking. Peshawaria, through *No Answers*, discusses certain issues that we all, as students, go through in hostel life. These issues usually remain untouched and untalked of, even when we all know about them. The bigger problem is that we are afraid of opening these issues before society simply because no one has earlier had the courage to. Kudos to Peshawaria, who dared to take a serious look into these few realities that do make hostellers and other boys/girls our age suffer. Even in his Editorial (*Founder's Day Issue, 2006*), Aakaash Pathare says: "In this day and age, it's important for publications in a school like ours to give a holistic perspective on issues which affect today's youth. This helps them deal with these issues because the world isn't perfect and it will never be. The same applies to our lives – whether we acknowledge it or not. These are just many of the plain truths of our world. There are myriad problems faced by a teenager growing up today: some real, some imaginary, and it is difficult for a teen to deal with these problems on his or her own. Actually, it is next to impossible, especially if he or she happens to be studying in a boarding school away from the traditional pillar of support – family. This where the role of a publication comes in." Peshawaria, in his piece, writes about the dilemma that many youngsters face in school. It is high time that we learn to accept certain hard realities.

It is a coincidence, at the same time, when there is a daring *Roving Eye* and a story as relevant as Peshawaria's, that this week's poll question asks whether the *Weekly* is heavily censored. Was it that the *Weekly* already knew that this issue would be questioned on its censorship, or did the poll question just spring up randomly? Even the continued debate on Chris Hatton's criticism of School food and *Websense* shows how much more freedom one has to write now; something we must celebrate. I am not too sure whether, as AKC put it, Chris is being used as a tool to voice other students' opinion. However, that is not my point. I don't know what the others might think of this, and what the *Weekly* is turning into with articles that discuss what has not been discussed before, but for my part, I think that it's good that we're moving towards a future where we dare to discuss the things which we wouldn't have ten years – or, for that matter, two years – ago.

Ishaan Khanna

### More Food for Thought

There are three ways of criticizing the School. First, by being cynical and absolutely negative about everything. Second, systematically; analyzing the merits and demerits and arriving at a critical conclusion. Third, by whining, and whining so well that people think it is valid criticism. In Chris Hatton's article in the last issue of the *Weekly* entitled 'Food for Thought' (a rather ironic title, might I add), he rambled on about the monotonous menu served by School. On behalf of the Mess Committee, I would like to ask boys to refer to the menus of the meals served over the past three weeks. Only three meals have been repeated. The menu does change itself every day and every week.

If it is 'variety' he hopes for in the CDH food, he is most welcome to join us for dinner on Tuesdays as we hope his cultural indifference to Indian preparations will not prevent him from noticing that, on this day at least, the food is very different (and as he puts it "food of another country is prepared").

Also, I would like to encourage Chris to acknowledge the CDH staff for the effort they put in preparing special dishes only for the exchange students. They are aware of the fact that the exchange student might not like the Indian cuisine and preparations, and hence try to help him to get used to the food here by giving him a choice.

The food *is* nutritious. There *is* variety. Also, the Nutrition Committee Report put up on all House notice boards does show that School food is better than most other schools we are in contact with.

I urge the School community to appreciate the work of the CDH staff who cater 1,800 meals a day throughout the School year.

Akash Agarwal Binrajka,  
(Secretary, School Mess Committee)

### Robot Roundup

*Arifeen Chowdhury reports on the recently-concluded Robotics Workshop.*

The School had organised a robotics workshop, under the leadership of Pradeep Kumar Sharma on August 31 and September 1. It was attended by students from D to A-form. They had a firsthand experience of the building and working of simple robots. On the first day of the workshop, the organizers (a company called Robosapiens India) talked about modern-day robots and showed videos on different types of robots and their functions. This was followed by an activity where students were divided into groups and given a kit to assemble. The juniors made a remote-controlled robot which could play mini-soccer while the seniors built an artificially intelligent robot capable of moving on a white line without any human interference. The first day concluded by finishing the assembling of the robot. The second day after some final touches, senior groups were made to race their robots and the juniors played a game of soccer with their 'creations'. A competition was held where students constantly tried to improve the robots so that they gave a better performance. After a question and answer session, a final speech was made by the representative of Robosapiens. The workshop was certainly a learning experience for everyone who attended it, plus a lot of fun.

# TEACHER'S DAY



## doonspeak

Teaching to me is...

having fun - VSM  
learning - VKL  
passion - SRT  
life - MCJ  
the ultimate pleasure - SSM  
feeling on top of the world - PVD  
by default - ANJ  
a learning experience - SJB,AKS  
ensuring my mind lives on - PDT

## Profile of a Teacher

Sheel Vohra

**T**-talented, trustworthy, tenacious, tolerant, truthful  
**E**-earnest, enthusiastic, efficient, effective  
**A**-alert, active, accomplished, assertive, approachable  
**C**-calm, composed, confident, consistent  
**H**-honest, helpful, hardworking, humble  
**E**-eager, energetic, enterprising, evolving  
**R**-resolute, reliable, responsible, resourceful, role-model

## Recalling IASS

*Abhilaksh Lalwani reports on the International Aerospace Summer School, held at Cranfield University, UK, this August*

8:00 am. The 29th of July, 2009. Three enthusiastic boys and one very enthusiastic teacher, finally made their way to Delhi, after over three months of work on a project on 'Technologies in Aerospace', eager anticipation, and great expectations.

The first stop was London and the next two days were a blur of museums, squares, and bridges. London is truly a rubber-necker's paradise. Of course, all good things come to an early end. The third dawn in London found us in the Tube, en route to Cranfield University, hosts of the event. We were greeted by Graham Stark, an associate of the Eurofighter Consortium, and organizer of the International Aerospace Summer School, a competition-of-sorts, where teams of three from ten countries were to face off in order to win the Eurofighter Trophy. Of course, at that time, our minds were elsewhere: first-class boarding and excellent food!

Over the course of the Summer School, the participants attended lectures on aerodynamics, planes, the whole shebang. But that's not all that there was to it. The classes were interspersed with engineering exercises, ranging from the construction of 3 metre-high towers, to balancing bricks on structures of straw, to dropping eggs (unboiled) from unbelievable heights, ensuring that they did not crack.

Team India did well enough. Our straw structure survived perhaps the most rigorous of testing, but, as luck would have it, collapsed almost immediately during the final face-off. The egg-drop exercise, though, was our *piece de resistance*.

Another major attraction was the flying. Each one of us got a chance to try his hand at flying a helicopter, and a small fixed-wing aircraft. The aircraft was, by far, simpler to handle. But, then, who doesn't like a good challenge! One of the days also saw us visiting the Royal Air Force base at Coningsby, where we toured the British War Museum with a most informative guide, and saw the Eurofighter up-close.

Regrettably, the week came to an end just as quickly as it had begun, and it was our last day at Cranfield, and the hour of the declaration of the winner. A flutter, we waited. A speech. Another. Participation certificates. Yet another speech. Finally. No, not yet. Gifts to the guests of honour. A speech. Team India was adjudged second. Germany stood first. Hearty cheers were exchanged. We had done well enough. More than anything else, it was about the experience. A sit-down dinner followed, or would have followed, except for the fact that most of us did a lot less sitting-down than was needed. It was the last night, what more could you expect?

Back in London, each of us had his own plan of action for the day, but we all ended up laughing at dinosaurs in the latest *Ice Age*, and walking to King's Cross station to see the famous platform 9  $\frac{3}{4}$ .

The next morning found us at Heathrow, for the longest, the most tiring, and, without doubt, the most dreary day of our lives. But, that's a tale for another morning. For now, we are back in School, with a bagful of memories to share.

## CAREER CALL

The careers' notice board will feature 'What could I do with a degree in English?' this week.

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