



Established in 1936

The Doon School WEEKLY



Saturday, August 6, 2011 - Issue No. 2286

REGULARS

2

POETRY

2

EXCHANGE
GLIMPSES

3-4

FEARING
CHANGE

4

Editorial

The Last Season

While most Doscos (and masters) start the count down for the next holidays as soon as the term starts, Scs start counting the days they have left in School. While most Doscos look forward to the next end-of-term, Scs do not want the term to end at all. For them, the Autumn Term is one of many lasts - the last Founders, the last soccer season, even the last Trials. While these four months would seem like a long time to a D-Former, it would be the shortest term for an Sc, whose schedule is already packed with college planning and academics.

As someone who has spent the last five years of his life in School, an Sc has his own take on the changes that he has observed taking place. Some grumble about juniors becoming increasingly lethargic while others complain about the dwindling enthusiasm in Inter-House competitions. One change that I have paid much attention to is the phenomenal increase in the number of opportunities for a Dosco. For instance, debates and MUN conferences are now held at various international levels. When I was in C-form, MUN was restricted to national conferences and debates to venues within driving distance. The opportunities to excel in these fields are now myriad. At the same time however, future planning seems a lot more intense, or perhaps I am saying this because its my batch's turn. I now hear my form mates discussing SAT scores and predicted grades more than Games or Scholar's Blazer points.

Evidently, we are in a phase where it is time to worry entirely about one's future rather than worrying about institutional events. As one of my teachers said, "you have given five-and-half years to the school, now it's time for you to give half-a-year to yourself".

Despite all these worries, an Sc can't help brooding over the bitter realization that this is the last term as an active Dosco, that there will be no Inter-House competitions to look forward to after this; no more opportunities to prove one's worth in any field in School. No matter how self-concerned we become, each of us spends many an hour thinking about the people we grew up with and the relationships we have developed, things we wouldn't dare compromise for the sake of personal endeavours.

| Report |

Debate Round-Up

Yuv Vir Khosla reports on the School's participation at the **Shri Debates** held at Shriram School, Gurgaon

Between July 25 and 29, Kanishka Malik, Piroune Balachandran, Raghav Puri and I, accompanied by STK, represented School in the Sri Debates. Debating was meant to be the only thing on our agenda, but the first day had a lot more in store. While Piroune was barred from attending the opening ceremony, his summer outing clothes still en-route from Dehradun, I reached the wrong Shri Ram School campus. On the second day, Kanishka Malik, Piroune Balachandran and Raghav Puri got a taste of Delhi traffic and reached the venue half an hour late. Thankfully, the judges received similar hospitality on the road.

Any how, these instances failed to hinder our performances in the debates. In the preliminary round, we debated against Vasant Valley School. The topic for discourse was *Victims should have a say in determining the punishment for the guilty* and as the opposition, we successfully defeated the motion; Raghav was adjudged the Best Speaker of the debate. Kanishka was particularly satisfied with this result since he had lost to the same school in the India Today Debates held last year. The topic for the second debate, against Heritage School, was *The private life of politicians is no business of the public*. The opposition failed to provide constructive points and as the proposition, we managed to defend the motion. The final debate of the group stage, against Modern School, Barakhamba Road, was on *Apathy is Cowardice*. Unfortunately, Modern School chose to ensue in a parallel argument and this led to the entire debate being based on examples rather than arguments. In a well contested debate, we managed to qualify for the semi-finals, with Piroune and Raghav being adjudged the Best and Second Best Speakers respectively.

In the semi-finals, we were up against the seasoned debaters of La Martiniere Boys School, Kolkata. The topic, *Intelligent people debate*, had, in my eyes, a very narrow scope and this was evident in the arguments put forth by both sides. As one can note, the topic is completely open-ended and such debates usually result in conflicts over the definitions. This conflict took place in our experience too. La Martiniere Boys managed to point out the contradictions in our definitions and with their remarkable sarcasm and sense of humour, defeated the motion (La Martiniere Boys went on to win the debate after defeating DPS (RK Puram) in the final round).

Once we learnt of our defeat, we, similar to other debaters who lost, started contemplating the judges' decisions. In the end, the four of us were left debating over the validity of open-ended topics. Hopefully, this loss will serve as a lesson for future debates, especially when it comes dealing with open-ended topics.

SRI DEBATES

Piroune Balachandaran, Raghav Puri, Kanishka Malik and Yuv Vir Khosla represented the School at the **Shri Ram Debates**, held at the Shri Ram School, New Delhi, between July 25 and 28. In the Preliminary Rounds, Piroune Balachandaran received two **Best Speaker** awards, and Raghav Puri was awarded one **Best Speaker** and one **Second Best Speaker** award. The School reached the **Semi-Final Round**, losing to La Martinere for Boys, Kolkata. Well done!

VISITORS

A group of sixteen students and teachers from **Regents School, Pattaya, Thailand** visited the School between June 16 and 23. The group successfully trekked to Dodital and Darba Top.

Two masters from **Oakham School, United Kingdom**, visited the School for six days during July to take a look at the Social Service projects managed by the School. They visited villages and took a close look at the projects; they have decided to work with us in our Social Service projects in the coming years.

ON EXCHANGE

The following students have joined the School as part of the exchange programme:

Vishal and Chirag Gokhani from **St. Mark's School, Dallas, United States**. They are staying in Oberoi and Martyn House respectively and are attending S and D form classes.

Charlie Fry from **The Ballarat Grammar School, Wendouree, Australia**. He will be staying in Oberoi House and attending S-Form (IB) classes.

Edward Ghorst from **Stowe School, Buckinghamshire**. He will be staying in Hyderabad House and attending B-Form classes.

Vishal Tulsiani from **St Edwards School, Oxford, United Kingdom**. He will be staying in Tata House and attending S-Form (IB) classes.

Sammy Mehra from **Brunswick School, Greenwich, USA**. He will be staying in Jaipur House and attending S form Classes.

Devan Malhotra from **Groton School, Massachusetts, USA**. He will be staying in Jaipur House and attending S-Form classes.

We wish them a fruitful stay!

BASKETBALL

Vikram Gill represented Uttarakhand in the **Junior National Basketball Championship**. The team defeated its opponents from Himachal Pradesh and Haryana but lost to the team from Orissa in the **Quarter-Finals**.

Well tried!

CHESS MASTERY

Gopal Mann underwent a ten day intensive-coaching stint under Russian Grandmaster, Alexandr Lysenko. Subsequently, Gopal won the tournament organised by the **Russian Center**.

Well done!

ROUND SQUARE

Mohit Gupta and Shubham Agarwal participated in the **Regional Round Square Service Project** held at **Pathways World School**, between June 6 and 15, 2011.

The Doon School organized a **Regional Round Square Social Service Project** at **Katta Pathar and Fatehpur**, between June 4 and 14, 2011. Reports run in forthcoming issues.

SHOOTING ACE

Samarjit Singh was ranked tenth in the **Singapore Open Shooting Championship** with a score of 558 out of 600 points.

Congratulations!

| Junior Poetry |

Will

Arnaav Bhavanani

The cancer struck
My decrepit, sad frame.
My will to fight,
Has gone down the drain

I'm lost in darkness,
Fumbling blind
Aching for
My once young mind

The last thing I feel,
Before I'm gone,
Is the unholy sadness
Of being alone

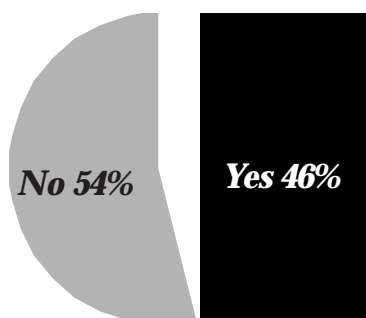
As I once more plunge
Into the darkness,
I'm letting go,
Of my dark essence

But in that moment,
I feel something stir
It is my heart,
Saying the time is near

As I re-emerge,
Into the light
To embrace my freedom,
My will to fight

Opinion oll

Are you happy with the new games schedule?



(269 members of the community were polled)

Next week's question: Are you getting sufficient time for rest?

Exchange Moments

The following are reports of various **exchange programmes** attended by S-formers from April to May, 2011

Eton College, UK

Yuv Vir Khosla

Sitting in the pavilion at Lord's and watching the Eton cricket team beat Harrow's after 7 years was no ordinary event. Two other incidents which could give competition to this experience were seeing the Royal Family in the Garter Ceremony at Windsor Castle, and attending a musical at the Royal Opera House. Slightly more humble experiences, compared to the ones stated above (but by no means less satisfying) was the solo piano performance I gave in a music concert. I also recall being invited to watch *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai* with the Etonians. However, the feeling of being a true Etonian only kicked in when I wore their uniform - with the tailcoats, waistcoats and false collars!



Banda Lamba (King's Academy, Jordan)

Rapidfire

Most embarrassing: Going for classes in proper uniform (as I was told to) and having everyone stare at me.

Most memorable: Having an egg fight at 2 am and eating the leftovers.

Proudest moment: Making the whole school laugh, when I gave my farewell speech

Miss home? No!

Cultural shock: Hearing everyone speak in Arabic most of the time

The Armidale School, Australia

Raghav Nath

Located in the small town of Armidale, The Armidale School is one of the premier institutions offering a wide array of activities and sports. I was lucky enough to visit the school at a time when the sports I play were in season. The best experience I had was when I visited the Australian outback with one of my friends. During my stay in Australia, I visited Canberra, Sydney and some other places in New South Wales. The students at Armidale were very hospitable and welcoming. They made me feel at home from the very first day. The rugby matches on Sundays with the barbecue attracted many people from the town. The exchange was very productive and I made some friends for life.



The Stowe School, UK

Siddhanth Sachdev

Located in the town of Buckinghamshire, England, the Stowe School has one of the most beautiful campuses in the country. Reaching on April 26, I attended a pre-season cricket training camp which I had been called for. I was selected to play for the School's second team and I was definitely looking forward to the rest of the season. But my exchange was made memorable by the friends that I made and the experiences I shared with them. Saturday evening barbeques by the lake (the school had a lake which was used for rowing and sailing) and my debut match for the Stowe First Team and the Rugby Sevens at Twickenham all made for an amazing time during my Exchange. But my most memorable experience was the final-round of the Inter-House Cricket Competition, which we won by an unprecedented seven wickets, despite being the underdogs. I was awarded House Colours for my contribution in the tournament.

Stowe is a school where the aesthete and the athlete learn to respect each other. A brilliant experience in all, I definitely hope that the exchange between our School and the Stowe School continues in the future.

Bridgehouse School, South Africa

Sanat Kumar Thakur

Bridgehouse School was shut for the first twelve days of my exchange, during which my hosts (Michael Van Zyl and his family) took me to various tourist places in and around a place called Knysna. There I experienced the South African beaches and wildlife and even got to ride an ostrich. I also got a chance to watch a rugby match and ice skate.

During my stay, I also travelled to various museums, cathedrals and places of historic importance in Cape Town. A visit to the top of Table Mountain gave me a breath-taking view of the cape winelands. The Van Zyls also made me experience some of the South African traditions and cuisines.

Being in the heart of Cape winelands, Bridgehouse was surrounded by olive and grape farms. My hosts also lived on a huge farm. I was welcomed by everyone at Bridgehouse and I took active part in their class room discussions. I was even selected for their Second Hockey Team and played an Inter-School match.

(contd. overleaf)

(contd. from page 3)

Deerfield Academy, USA

Ujjwal Dahuja

I set out for my exchange to Deerfield Academy, USA on March 31. The school is situated in the countryside and has a river flowing through its campus. The visit was a culturally enriching experience. In the latter part of my exchange I toured various cities in and around New England and explored the area with great admiration. I toured New York and Boston and also visited some colleges in the area. Overall, I believe that I had a really fruitful exchange. I hope that The Doon School continues to send students on exchange to Deerfield Academy.

| Reflection |

Fear of Change

Rajesh Majumdar

On a lazy summer morning, sitting under a solitary tree beside a still lake, I was admiring the clear blue water. The imposing tree loaded with pale leaves was swinging with the breeze, while the bright sun peeped through it to acknowledge its presence. Looking at the innocent play of light on water, I felt being drawn to it, deep into the realm of the unknown. A quiet but dominant energy appeared to overwhelm. In that mysterious journey, I left behind the known; my comforts and the things I had clung to, passionately hoarded over the years in my small world.

Slowly the light began to fade and the reverberation of a distant thunder alerted me.

I feared a *change* setting in.

I have always feared change. It makes me insecure and I have never understood why. I tried to find the answer in one of the famous maxims of *Francois de la Rochefoucauld* who said, 'change is the only constant thing in life'. If change is inevitable, why do I fear it? Why can't I accept change when I see it all around me, in every moment and in every action? If change is so evident, then why am I reluctant to believe in it?

Or..... is it relative? My conscious mind dwells deep. The obsession for constancy and the fear of change seems to be deeply embedded.

I introspect and sense that the changes that pound my naive beliefs and pretentious principles are vehemently opposed by me. Change questions my self-proclaimed authority and condemns my conditioned intellect, grown through accumulated knowledge as corrupt. I am always averse to the changes that question my actions. Change opens me up for scrutiny, challenges me, compels me to revisit my age-old thoughts and asks me to move on and

make space for the new.

I nudge myself to the limit, to find answers that can change me but every time I hesitate to accept them. The fixation with my ideas and thoughts narrows my intellect and prevents it from growing. At times, rather shrewdly, I pretend to accept the change, even though I am still draped in false self-glory. I have never paid any heed to *Confucius* who once said 'they must often change, who would be constant in happiness or wisdom' or to *Socrates*' questioning of dogmatic wisdom of the so-called 'wise' in society who oppose change.

I still fail to catch the vitality of change and hold on to my beliefs even harder. I fail to understand that however strong my arguments may be and however populist my views are, there will always be a few who will differ because their conviction for change is very strong. They will make sacrifices to begin a new order and the change will defend their ideas with irrefutable logic, even if it is profane. My irrational mind forgets the *Copernican Revolution* which initiated a change and for which *Galileo* was sentenced to life imprisonment. I even disregard the pantheist views of *Giordano Bruno* who differed with the established beliefs of God even as the *Roman Inquisition* declared him guilty of heresy and burnt him to death. But at times, the intense desire for change imposes itself ruthlessly and with full might. It radically transforms the prevailing norms; doing away with the old and bringing in the new. The change hits where it hurts the most.

..... I have to learn to change. I cannot keep failing to accept the changing reality. If the sloth in my mind terms every change as cruel and corrupt, then one day, the revered grandeur of my bogus beliefs will lie in ruin and the wrath of change will inflict a decisive blow, for good.

Unquotable Quotes

Are you taking part in Jesus Star Super Christ?

Lakshit Joshi, you're directing it?

I can hear you from the back of my head.

Raghav Puri, what?!

Don't ever take asteroids.

Kartikeya Kardam, gives us advice on health.

Is your water bottle water-proof?

Shrey Aryan, isn't yours?

There is too much talks in the toy.

DKM, enforcing silence.

Did you hear the lightning last night.

Tanay Agarwal, testing hearing skills.

Give me chhots in a cup of mug.

Apekshit Goel, wake-up call

There are new RCs in the computer.

Raghav Bansal, thanks for the information.

Learn to soul with your sing.

Arnaav Bhavnani, tells the true secret of music.

Online Edition: <http://www.doonschool.com/publications/the-doon-school-weekly/latest-issue>

weekly@doonschool.com



IPSS® All rights reserved. Printed by: The English Book Depot, 16 Rajpur Road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand – 248009, India. Published by: Philip Burrett, The Doon School, Dehradun.

Editor-in-Chief: Kanishka Malik Editor: Abhinav Mittal Senior Editor: Raghav Puri Hindi Editor: Shivank Singh Associate Editors: Shashvat Dhandhania Special Correspondents: Madhav Dutt, Vikramaditya Kapur, Raniz Bordoloi, Kunal Kanodia, Utkarsh Jha Correspondents: Mihir Kiran, Arjun Kamdar, Harshvardhan Singh, Aditya Bhattacharya Junior Correspondents: Akshaj Garg, Devansh Agarwal Webmaster: Vishal Mohla Assistant Managers: Shrey Nagalia, Rashid Sharfuddin, Arvindanabha Shukla Technical Assistant: KC Maurya Photo Credit: Yuv Khosla (page 3 - left column), Siddhanth Sachdev (page 3 - right column)