



Established in 1936

# The Doon School WEEKLY



Saturday, August 13, 2011 - Issue No. 2287

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## The Last Days of Communal Bathing?

*Kanishka Malik examines the merits and demerits of communal bathing*

Among the many shocks a new Dosco gets in his first days at School, communal bathing is often the most shocking. I remember my baffled state when I entered the Foot house bathrooms for the first time and asked AAQ, "where are the curtains?" He just said, "Don't worry, you'll get used to it".

Back then, the idea of bathing together seemed if not horrifying, absurd. However, none of us had a choice. After the few ludicrous instances where some of my form mates locked each other up and bathed, we realized we were left with no real option but to shed our clothes and inhibitions.

Five years later, when I returned to Kashmir House at the start of this term, a similar shock awaited me. This time it was the abolishment of communal bathing, or at least an attempt at doing so. A lot of us were relieved of the change, even though it was only partial. However, now that this tradition has finally come under speculation, it is pertinent to bring a few issues concerning it into the open.

A concept that was adopted our first Headmaster from British Public Schools, communal bathing certainly has its advantages. When I initially inquired into these, I learnt that

communal bathing forced one to bathe quickly, instead of allowing one to take his own sweet time. However, bathing quickly has its own drawbacks. Firstly, one isn't allowed to bathe properly, resulting in issues of hygiene. If hygiene becomes the price for punctuality, then it is better to switch to an alternative. Secondly, communal bathing doesn't necessarily prevent leisure baths. We all know how long juniors have to wait for Scs to bathe in winter, when hot water is a rare commodity.

**It is said to be beneficial because it brings about a certain degree of openness. If a boy does not bathe frequently, his form mates notice and coerce him into bathing. In that respect, communal bathing is beneficial.**

Furthermore, it is said to be beneficial because it brings about a certain degree of openness. If a boy does not bathe frequently, his form mates notice and coerce him into bathing. In that respect, communal bathing is beneficial. Many would have heard of the instance in which The Doon School legend, Sheel Vohra was requested by a parent to insure that her son bathes. He replied: "I won't insure it, the boys will". However, this openness has its own problems. While it might bring one to bathe, it can make one conscious of how he is bathing. Although this is difficult to explain publicly, what I can conclude is that in the long-term, this consciousness could be detrimental, since consciousness could result in one not cleaning oneself properly. For instance if a boy is made fun off for the way he bathes or even if the boy feels his methods are unconventional in the minds of others, he might choose to not bathe that way, even if it is appropriate. Even skin specialists have pointed out that the condition of those who are part of the communal bathing system is often worse.

At the moment, the school is experimenting with the alternative, which is to have shower cubicles. Kashmir House has one bathroom with separate shower cubicles while Hyderabad House has two bathrooms with this design. Under the circumstances pointed above and after noting the results of the Opinion Poll, it seems advantageous to do away with the system of communal bathing; it is another tradition which must be forgone.

**Communal bathing doesn't necessarily prevent leisure baths. We all know how long juniors have to wait for Scs to bathe in winter, when hot water is a rare commodity.**

### Opinion oll

Should communal bathing be done away with?

Yes 76%

No 24%

(352 members of the community were polled)

## IB RESULTS

In the **IBDP (International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme) Examinations, 2011**, the School's average was \_\_. Bharat Ganju and Vivek Santayana topped the School; they both scored 43 out of 45 grades.

Well done, all!

## MUN AT BEIJING

The Doon School participated in the **WE Model United Nations Expo** held in Beijing from August 4 to 7. The programme had over 2000 students participating from all over the world. Students representing The Doon School won the following awards:

**Honourable Mention Award:** Shaurya Sinha, Shubham Dhingra, Varun Gupta, Madhav Dutt and Rohan Shriram.

**Outstanding Delegate Award:** Vikram Kejriwal, Sookrit Malik, Gursehaj Oberoi, Alawi Singh and Nabeel Shah.

**Best Delegate Award:** Piroune Balachandran, Kunal Kanodia and Rishabh Tusnial.

The Doon School Delegation was also adjudged the **Best Delegation** in the **Medium-Size Category**.

Congratulations!

## VISITORS AT SCHOOL

Six children from **Khelshala** visited School over the weekend. Khelshala is an NGO in Chandigarh set up by **Satinder Bajwa** with the aim of enhancing the future of underprivileged children through sports like squash and co-curricular activities.

## LAURELS

The following boys have been awarded the **Nikhil Gupta Trust Scholarship, 2011** for securing the highest marks in different subjects in the **ISC and ICSE Board Examinations**.

**ISC:**

**English:** Arjun Singh Sethi and Aseem Kumar.

**Mathematics and Science:** Aayush Jain

**ICSE:**

**English:** Aditya Vikram Gupta, Aviral Gupta and Shubham Dhingra.

**Mathematics and Science:** Ujjwal Dahuja and Adhiraj Singh.

Ujjwal Dahuja, Parth Gupta, Adhiraj Singh and Mahak Sharma have been awarded the **Jaidev Singh Memorial Award (Trophy)** for securing the highest marks in Science in the **ICSE Board Examination, 2011**.

Well done!

## HOCKEY

The following boys were awarded **School Hockey Colours: Half-Colours:** Adhiraj Singh, Dhruv Aggarwal and Tushar Khurana

**Full-Colours:** Aditya Gupta, Prabhjot Singh, Lakshit Joshi and Rahil Badhwar

Congratulations!

## TALKS

**Ravi Sinha** conducted a talk on August 9, 2011, on 'How to Be Successful in the Corporate Sector of Hong Kong.'

**Vinay Chauhdhry** (CEO, Maple Leaf Edu Connect) and **Rahul Kumar** (Co-coordinator, Business Simulation Exercise in India for Kings' University College of London) gave a presentation on 'Business Simulation Exercise' on Thursday, August 11, 2011.

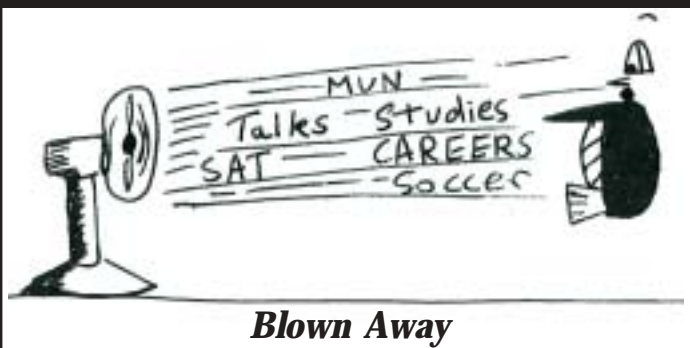
## FROM ETON TO DOON

We welcome Tristram Coates and Tom Wigglesworth from **Eton College, UK**. They will be staying in Tata and Kashmir Houses respectively and will attend classes with S-Form.

We wish them a fruitful stay!

**doon**toon

Madhav Dutt



**Blown Away**

## Unquotable Quotes

*We are not doing the do.*

**Sumer Sehgal**, what are you doing ?

*I am not standing, I am standing.*

**Arnav Matta**, you must be sitting.

*Lets go to the go.*

**Raniz Bordoloi**, we are coming too.

*What is this 'Last days of communist bathing'?*

**RSF**, see page 1

*I'll marry with a christian and then set life my.*

**Adhiraj Singh**, future-planner.

*Do you have a round foot ball?*

**Akhil Ranjan**, eager to play.

| Poetry |

## Oil

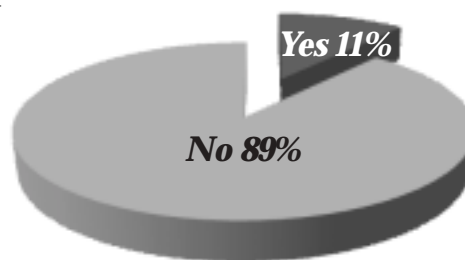
**Kanishka Malik**

I was a common man,  
Who worked with hand and heart.  
I never knew you.

One day while by the river,  
You attracted me!  
From the holes in the ground,  
You attracted everyone!  
And then the war began.

## Opinion oll

Are you getting sufficient time for rest?



(376 members of the community were polled)

**Next week's question:** Are you unhappy with the new selection process for the Exchange Programme?

# The Minutes of the School Council Meeting

(May 28, 2011, 3:00 pm, in the Nandlal Kilachand Library)

The following members were present:

Dr Peter McLaughlin  
Philip Burrett  
Sameer Katre  
Dr MC Joshi  
DK Sharma  
PK Nair  
A Qezilbash  
Piyush Malaviya  
BK Chamola  
Sandip S Mann  
Mrs. Anuroop Jauhal  
Udit Kapur  
Vihan Khanna  
Raghav Puri  
Nabeel Shah  
Sambhav Sethia  
Guruansh Singh Gambhir  
Daksh Bhatia  
Dhruv Agarwal  
Raniz Bordoloi  
Sachin Mehra  
Arth Gupta  
Prabhjot Singh  
Dhruv Sirohi  
Aditya Bhattacharya  
Ritvik Kar  
Abhinav Mittal  
Raj Surana  
Vrindam Nagpal  
Arjun Kamdar  
Avanindra Singh  
Ishan Sandhu  
Hussain Haider

Headmaster (Chairman)  
Deputy Headmaster  
Director of Administrative Affairs  
Dean of Activities and Community Service  
Dean of Sports  
Dean of Studies  
Dean of Students' Welfare  
Dean of Public Affairs  
Housemasters' Representative  
Teachers' Representative  
Dames' Representative  
Secretary  
School Captain  
Prefects' Representative (Stand-in)  
Hyderabad House Senior Representative  
Hyderabad House Senior Representative  
Hyderabad House Junior Representative  
Hyderabad House Junior Representative  
Jaipur House Senior Representative (Stand-in)  
Jaipur House Senior Representative  
Jaipur House Junior Representative  
Jaipur House Junior Representative  
Kashmir House Senior Representative  
Kashmir House Senior Representative  
Kashmir House Junior Representative  
Kashmir House Junior Representative  
Oberoi House Senior Representative  
Oberoi House Senior Representative (Stand-in)  
Oberoi House Junior Representative  
Oberoi House Junior Representative  
Tata House Senior Representative (Stand-in)  
Tata House Junior Representative  
Tata House Junior Representative

**1. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting:** The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed. They were proposed by Vihan Khanna (School Captain) and seconded by Avanindra Singh (Tata House Senior Representative) and accordingly passed.

**2. Matters arising from the Minutes of the previous Meeting:**

**a)** The Chairman informed the members of the council that teachers from The Princeton review, New Delhi would be coming to help boys for the SAT exams from August onwards as he felt that SAT training was something that should be part of the School curriculum.

**b)** Mr. Sameer Katre (Director of Administrative Affairs) informed the members of the council that the Tata House field would be flattened and de-stoned once the renovation of Tata house got underway; which was in about two years from now.

**c)** Mr. Burrett (Dy. Headmaster) displayed new raincoats, school bags and pencil boxes for the council to come to a decision on. All members felt that the old bags were good enough and needed no change, whereas the raincoats and pencil boxes were much needed. Therefore it was decided that raincoats and pencil boxes will be made available in the General store.

**3. Proposals and Issues for the Current Meeting:**

**a) There should be induction plates and coolers in the boarding houses:** Avinandra Singh brought to the notice of the council the need of induction plates and coolers in the boarding houses in order to deal with the temperatures in Nov/Feb and May respectively. Mr. Katre informed the members that an entirely new electrical system would be required for this to happen in the school, and this would incur heavy costs. The Chairman ended the matter saying that this would be reviewed in the next meeting.

**b) MPH and AV room should have exhausts:** Avinandra Singh felt that there should be exhausts in the MPH and the AV room as it tends to become stuffy and cramped during talks and other organized school events. Mr. Mann informed the members that exhausts had previously led to high noise levels in the case of school talks and the vents had caused problems with expensive AV equipment during rains. The Chairman ended the matter by saying that this issue would be looked into once the renovation of the MPH was planned in the future, and in case of the AV room this would not be possible due to the reasons stated by Mr. Mann previously.

*(contd. overleaf)*

(contd. from page 3)

**c) Classroom furniture should be changed:** The Kashmir House representative stressed the importance of a change in classroom furniture as he felt that some of it was not suitable for use any more. The Dean of Studies felt that the classroom furniture should be strong as well as durable. The Chairman ended the matter by saying that there will be a complete renovation of the main building soon and this problem would be dealt with in the future.

**d) The Boys' Bank should be open on both Tuesdays and Thursdays. During trials and Test Week, the Boys' Bank should be open for both juniors and seniors. In the Tuck Shop, fresh food should be served again:** Abhinav Mittal felt that the Tuck Shop timings needed a change so that they were convenient for both juniors and seniors. He also stressed the importance of the introduction of new food items, and especially the reintroduction of fresh foods in the Tuck Shop. Mr. Burrett ended the matter by stating that changed timings as well as food being made available in the tuck shop would be worked upon over the holidays.

**e) After the ICSE examination, students must be allowed to go home:** Nabeel Shah informed the members that there should be a break for students after their board examinations. He stated that social service projects and mid-terms make students even more fatigued after a long month of examination. Mr. Nair was not in favor of this and stated that boys have never followed the deadline previously. The Chairman ended the matter saying that it would be reviewed in the next meeting.

#### **4. Any other matter with the permission of the chair:**

**a)** Avinandra Singh brought to the notice of the council the difficulties being faced by Science students in dealing with their theory and practical trial examinations simultaneously. He proposed that the practical examinations should either be before or after trials. Mr. Nair agreed and said that the practicals could be held in the afternoons, one week before trials.

**b)** The Secretary felt that en cashing cheques from the tuck shop is time consuming and inconvenient for the students. A better and a more convenient method should be thought of. Dhruv Sirohi proposed the idea of an ID card to withdraw cash and coupons. Mr. Joshi felt that physical presence is essential in order to ensure security and discipline. The Chairman ended the matter as he felt that this was not something that could be done immediately.



*On a personal note, Raniz Bordoloi comments on the political history of Assam and sheds light on recent political developments*

I come from the state of Assam and I have grown up amidst an atmosphere where terrorism and insurgency have continuously haunted the state. News of bomb blasts seem to make headlines every time, while other major events are ignored by the media. The menace of insurgency has left an indelible mark on my mind; I can still visualize the bomb blasts I witnessed. At the same time, such incidents have also motivated me to understand the ethnicity and culture of Assam, a state which has now become resilient by force.

The birth of the United Liberation Front of Assam (in 1979) marked an unpleasant beginning of this menace. Since then, it has been a rollercoaster ride for both the Central and State government with terrorism haunting a once peaceful state. Back then, people widely accepted the ULFA's objectives, which included making Assam a "sovereign independent state" and operating against illegal influx from Bangladesh through "armed national struggle". The problem however, is that violence was the means for achieving these objectives. The years following its formation proved to be a blooming period for the outfit. Along with the ULFA, the 1980s saw the emergence of the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB), another violent organization. To make matters worse, timely insurgent movements have been carried out by several Assamese tribes, specifically the Karbi and the Dimasas.

The central government did make valiant efforts to enter into talks with the ULFA in the 80s, but the initiative was

a complete failure. This was primarily because of the conflicting opinions of the central government and the ULFA.

This situation remained unresolved until 2010 when a few prominent leaders of the ULFA were arrested. These leaders made a plea that if they were released, they would initiate talks. The State government of Assam paved the way for peace talks by releasing its Chairman, Vice Chairman, Vice Commander-in-Chief and other key persons of the ULFA. The rebel group too expressed its interest for the initiation of peace talks with the Union government. Recently, the ULFA leaders met the Home Minister and the Prime Minister; both the involved parties have said that the peace talks will go further until the disputes are resolved.

However, the widely sought after solution still remains at bay as ULFA Commander-in-Chief, Paresh Barua, said that he does not hold accord with the other ULFA leaders. In other words, it will be extremely difficult to achieve peace with him being alive. Barua is responsible for the insurgent groups military operations and his power has risen steadily over the years. Although he is capable of creating mayhem, he will be handicapped without the support of other leaders. He continues to hide in the jungles of Bangladesh.

It will be interesting to see how the government led by Tarun Gogoi responds to these threats and carries out the peace process. Meanwhile, the people of Assam are keeping their fingers crossed and fervently hoping that the coming years will finally see an end to the problem of militancy, a problem that has lasted almost 30 years. Although militancy has been this state's tragedy, the problems created by it has brought me extremely close to my motherland and instilled an everlasting concern for it.

**The menace of insurgency has left an indelible mark on my mind; I can still visualize the bomb blasts I witnessed.**

## Cheating: Black or Grey?

*Ishaan Khanna elaborates on the causes of cheating*

It always seems obligatory to label cheating as bad. I am not implying that I support cheating but merely emphasizing how cheating is an issue that lies in the grey area and how it isn't necessarily an indicator of a 'bad' human being. Almost anyone in the world is capable of cheating, and the impulse to do so is built into our psyche. Here's a look at why people would cheat, and how other activities such as rote learning are at par with cheating.

Cheating doesn't occur just because it's an option, but because the alternative to cheating is possibly worse. Say a student has a History test the next day and History is his weakest subject. Maybe he dislikes it and for all his efforts, can't seem to memorize a list of dates he finds extremely boring. As a result, there is a likely chance he will not do well or fail in the test. This will have a negative impact not just on his grade but also on his chances of getting into a good college. Alternatively, he could cheat and be guaranteed a good or at least a passing grade. This, of course, comes along with the threat of getting caught but one has to weigh that risk against the possibility of flunking. Cheating occurs when the consequences of getting caught seem less intimidating than those of failing. When a person is compelled to do what he or she doesn't want to do and when the consequences of not doing it are far too great, cheating seems to be the best alternative.

On those lines, one can understand why cheating is so rampant in Indian institutions. The Indian education system is almost impeccably designed to promote cheating. Students are required to spend a lot of their time doing work that they are uninterested in. Students are constantly told about the importance of high marks and high grades. Advancement through the school, and eventual freedom from it, depends upon the kind of grades you get. In such a situation, cheating is the easy way out. I am not denying that there are people who like the thrill of getting away with something they shouldn't have done, but such people are a minority. We prefer to look at cheaters in this manner because it's easier to slander someone who's morally corrupt and selfishly motivated. The truth is that cheating is not something only immoral people do.

Moreover, the widely accepted idea of cheating seems to be extremely rigid. Peter Gray, a research professor of Psychology at Boston College argues that the rules of cheating are often arbitrary. For instance, he says, "If you create a summary

**If you create a summary sheet of the terms and facts relevant to a test and then consult that sheet while taking the test, you have cheated. However, if you create such a sheet and commit it to a form of short-term memory that lasts just long enough for the test and is later forgotten, you have not cheated.**

sheet of the terms and facts relevant to a test and then consult that sheet while taking the test, you have cheated. However, if you create such a sheet and commit it to a form of short-term memory that lasts just long enough for the test and is later forgotten, you have not cheated. If you create a term paper by copying large chunks of other people's writings and pasting them, it together. It is cheating; but if you do the same thing but paraphrase sufficiently, then that is not cheating." Considering this information, cheating may seem to be at par with other activities such as rote learning.

Personally I feel cheating must be dealt with firmness. However, cheating requires more understanding and flexibility. Cheating is wrong, but its motivations vary and it might not be the product of a bad human being.

### | Report |

## Biotech Fest

*Aditya Bhattacharya reports on the School's participation in the Quest 2011 Biotechnology Festival, held at the City Montessori School, between August 3 and 6, 2011*



On the 1st of this month, a team of five students, escorted by CRK, left for Lucknow to attend the Quest 2011 Biotechnology Festival held at the City Montessori School. Along with me, Adarsh Lanka, Digvijay Gupta, Aviral Gupta and Varun Malhotra were also attending the festival. We travelled by train and reached on the 2nd morning. We received a warm welcome by the School representatives at the train station. The campus was nice and serene, with guest houses for the delegates. We were shown around the city and visited the Bara Imambara, a Shaheed Memorial and finally, the Sahara Mall.

The next morning the opening ceremony took place in which we were formally introduced to Jagdish Gandhi, founder of the CMS schools and he took us through the vision of the school. Also present were many eminent scientists and professors. After hearing the respective guests' views, the event was commenced. The competitions began the next day. There were two categories, Senior (for classes 11 and 12) and Junior (for classes 9 and 10). The competition comprised poster/slogan making, collage making, powerpoint presentations, website designing, turncoat, seminar and debate. Being unprepared and short of three people, we tried our best but were unable to win any accolades. The closing ceremony took place on the 6th, ending with a cultural performance and a farewell address. The trip, despite its brevity, was informative and exposed us to the field of biotechnology.

| Report |

# Golfing in Hong Kong

*Sanjiv Bathla reports on the School's visit to Hong Kong for the Doon School Golf Trophy Tournament*

News travels fast and rumours spread even faster. Mails from Old Boys settled in Hong Kong welcomed the School Golf Team even before we even reached. The time difference and midnight flight gave us no sleep; instead we went straight to the famous tourist destination, "The Peak", after the touchdown at Lantau. One can see almost entire Hong Kong from the hilltop and a walk around the 110-year-old villa of the Consulate General of France is divine. From this height the city nation looks like Lego blocks immaculately placed between real hills, similar to a film studio shooting for a Jackie Chan movie.

Before the culinary delights got the better of us, we were busy sorting out our Golf itinerary and settling down at the comfortable Novotel Hotel in the busy Wanchai district. A walk to acclimatize ourselves to the international air made us observe the pace of the city. No one looks anywhere and there is no time to stop or think. The nation moves non-stop. The courteous Cantonese were not of much help but their finger pointing did give us some directions in this Lego maze. Vistas of dazzling lights, tall structures, endless eateries, swimming oysters and struggling lobsters, jasmine teashops, drafts of aromatherapy and queues of extremely fit and slim people catching trams left us breathless.

The city's night life is more charismatic and calm; one feels as if a different set of inhabitants have been shipped in just for the night. Graceful tuxedos walk arm in arm with high heels, the Limousines get bigger, the streets of Lan Kwai Fong and Times Square get busier and the lantern-lit yachts on the shores drift deeper into the night.

It was an hour's drive from our hotel to the Sai Kung pier. There we found a delightful array of aquariums and eateries full of seafood and all kinds of imaginable amphibians. 'Yes please this one' - and the largest lobster knew that it was destined to be dressed in a nice pepper sauce.

From the pier, we took a boat that took us to the scenic Kau Sai Chau Island. This entire island is for Golf and three sides of the course command a sweeping view of the South China Sea. The golf course has also been certified as a Wild Life Sanctuary and the golfers get to share it with eagles, egrets and pond herons as well as the occasional barking deer.

The Golf tournament began in good cheer and the first day gave us a clear idea of our competition. The game, which was first played on the South Course and then on the North Course, was replete with grace in the bright sunshine and intervals of rain. Superior tactics were learned, different turfs were experienced and most importantly, lasting friendships were formed. Perhaps an Exchange Programme with the participating IB schools can be worked out in the future.

On the final day, King George V (KGV) School won the trophy. Taiga Iwassa from KGV was the Gross Winner. Zahaan Qureshi from Doon got the maximum birdies, followed by Anant Singh Mann. Gopal Singh Mann and Vivek Vishwanathan

showed immense determination and proved to be great team players. Zahaan also had the best net and gross scores amongst the Doscocs. The game was challenging and the boys played to their full potential. Over all, it was a classic experience.



In the two days that we had kept aside after the tournament, we visited the Hong Kong University at Pokfulam where Joanna Wong, their Country Manager for India, was delighted to show us around and provide information through presentations and student interactions. I am sure that if I were less than half my age, I would not have hesitated in working hard enough to get myself a scholarship at HKU.

The last supper of the tour was at the Old boy's gathering. They had organized a sit down dinner at the Foreign Correspondents' club where one could see the diplomats and eminent journalists, with jazz music playing in the background.

A fabulous experience and a vacation well spent.

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