



Established in 1936

# The Doon School WEEKLY

Saturday, August 27, 2011 - Issue No. 2289



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## An Evening of Dance

Raghav Puri and Abhinav Mittal report on the Inter-House Dance Competition



The Jaipur House dance, 'Poseidon'

Every year, we witness two types of dances: those that win, and those that entertain. This year, we saw a third kind. Thanks to Gursehej and his troupe, for once, the audience's opinion was in sync with that of the judges. Tata House took away not only our hearts, but also the cake.

As the music competition is being held over a period of a month (to reduce the stress on one otherwise long weekend), dance was scheduled first. It is one of the most eagerly awaited categories in the Competition, and also one that demands a great deal of preparation time. In any other year, practices would have continued for over a month; this year, House Dance Coordinators trained their troupes in only a little over two weeks!

After the inaugural lighting of the lamp and the introduction of the judges, Oberoi House took centre stage. Over the years, Oberoi House has developed the reputation of staging some of the most innovative dances with an intriguing title: 'Who is the Real Idiot?'. This year, they performed an extremely versatile routine involving Contemporary, Hip-Hop, Bhangra and Bollywood-style dance, all packed into seven entertaining minutes. Following them were two-time champions - Jaipur House. The Jaipur House troupe has always performed effective routines that focus on the overall performance of the troupe, rather than on individual dancers. This year was no different: their dance 'Poseidon' saw some well-synchronized moves and the 'waves' of the ocean god were effectively displayed. Hyderabad House then prepared to entertain the spectators. They began with a surprisingly recent and popular track, and then moved on to Hip-Hop, aided by ultra-violet lights. Although entertaining, the dance didn't find favour with the judges, possibly because it was propelled by only a handful of dancers

with the focus on Agni Raj Singh's breathtaking solo. The Kashmir House troupe, under the School Dance Coordinator, Anmol Jamwal, was next. Once again, they narrated a powerful story and immediately got the audience involved. They surprised the spectators with popular tracks accompanying their contemporary steps, rather than performing a sentimental dance that usually accompanies such a theme of a dancer now wheelchair-bound. Finally, Tata House captured the audience and won the judges' accolades. Railway platform 9211 was 'lit up' both literally and figuratively by a wonderful routine that attempted to cross social boundaries. The innovation was truly commendable, as scores of dancers synchronized their movements impeccably and ended with a display of the four letters on everyone's lips that evening: TATA.

The popular band category is scheduled for next week. We look forward to another wonderful evening, and hope this section lives up to the high standard set by the dancers this year.

| Viewpoint |

## CAT AMONG THE PIGEONS

Mr Farooqi expresses his views on the protest being staged by Anna Hazare

In the course of the last one week, we have been told that the Indian polity has changed forever. A few have even gone on to suggest that Anna Hazare's movement is India's second national movement. For a few others, it is our own Tahrir Square. Suddenly, the word 'political' has become pejorative and it is now rather fashionable to call oneself apolitical. Here, one is forced to ask a few questions - is being apolitical the reigning ideology of India's middle class in the twenty-first century? Is the changed social profile of our elected representatives a reflection of our middle class anxieties on being politically marginalised in an era of democratic upsurge?

We are proud to be a democracy and of its liberal accoutrements, especially the notion of rights. We have the right to protest and dissent and the same right is unequivocally accorded to others. Then why is it that everytime there is unrest in tribal areas, or when genocide is perpetrated against minorities, or when wanton caste wars are waged in hinterlands, the protests emanating from there are answered with silence? Why are protests by mainstream 'people like us' considered to be legitimate, but protests by others amount to treason?

One cannot conceive of rights in isolation. Rights, as a  
(contd. on page 3)

## OBITUARY

**Ms Mira Singh**, wife of **Sumer Singh (299-J'68)**, passed away on Tuesday, June 7, 2011. She worked in the Headmaster's Secretariat during Mr Gulab Ramchandani's tenure as Headmaster. On behalf of the School community, the *Weekly* extends its heartfelt condolences to the family.

## MUSIC

There was a piano recital by the members of the **Worldwide Appreciation of Music Foundation** on Tuesday, August 16, 2011, in the Music School. A report will follow in the forthcoming issue.

## CHESS

The **School Chess Team** participated in the **Council's Inter-School Chess Tournament** held from August 18 to August 20, 2011 at the Ann Mary School. Mukund Nyati came **second** in the **Seniors category**.

Well Done!

## DSMUN

In the **Doon School United Nations Conference** held from August 19 to August 21, 21 schools and 184 delegates from India, Pakistan, Dubai, Bangladesh and Oman took part. The Doon School delegation, representing France (comprising Abhinav Mittal, Dhruv Sirohi, Abhishek Bansal, Nabeel Shah, Rayhaan Imam and Kunal Kanodia), won the **Best Delegation Award**. Ujjwal Dahuja, Siddhant Sachdev, Shashvat Dhandhanian, Kunal Kanodia and Abhishek Bansal also won the **Best Delegate Award** in their respective committees. Welham Girls School (representing Turkey) won the award for the **Best Team** in the **Crisis Situation**. A report runs in this issue.

Well Done!

## DANCE

The following are the results of the **Inter-House Dance Competition** held on Wednesday, August 24, 2011:

**1st:** Tata House

**2nd:** Jaipur House

**3rd:** Kashmir House

**4th:** Oberoi House

**5th:** Hyderabad House

Well done, all!

## IH SWIMMING

The **School Swimming Team** participated in the **4th Brar Memorial St. George's Invitational Inter-School Swimming Competition, 2011** on Sunday, August 21, 2011 and secured an overall **4th position**, winning the following medals: **Medium category: Bronze medal** for the **4x50 m Freestyle Relay**.

**Senior category: Silver medal** in the **4x50 m Medley Relay** and **Gold medal** in the **4x50 m Freestyle Relay**.

Congratulations!

## SOCCER UPDATES

The **School Soccer Team** played a match against the Asian School on Friday, August 19, and **won** the match 5-2.

The **School Soccer Team** also played a match against the RIMC and **won** the game 1-0.

Well Done!

## TT NEWS

The **School Table Tennis Team** participated in the **6th Vasu Memorial Table Tennis Tournament** held in Summer Valley School, Dehradun from August 9 to August 11. The team reached the **Semi-Finals** in the **Under-14** and **Under-19 Team Championship categories** and reached the **Quarter-Finals** in the **Under-17 Championship category**.

Well Done!

| Report |

## The Peruvian Way

*Sachit Taneja reports on the RSIS Project in Peru, held from July 15 to August 9*

From July 15 till August 9, Rohan Nath Behl and I represented the School at the RSIS project in Peru, in the quaint village of Pampacorral. Our official objective was to construct two green houses for the village population. The reason for this became apparent once we consumed their diet for two weeks. The people in the Andes, due to the unforgiving terrain, eat potatoes for every meal and hardly ever consume vegetables! Not surprisingly, malnutrition is a big problem for the people and we were charged with the duty of ensuring an improvement in people's diet.

Both of us had *bagged* the trip to Peru way back in the beginning of S form. When we were finally given the opportunity to go to Peru, we were ecstatic. We filled out the long forms and eagerly awaited the trip that would cap our vacations.

During the three weeks there, I met people from a host of countries that included Bermuda, Peru, Thailand, America, Canada, Belgium, France, Denmark, Germany and England. The team comprised twenty students from twelve different schools, led by three adults and two observer teachers. The list of activities that we indulged in varied from cutting trees to stripping them, to digging out boulders and finding water, to playing soccer against the locals and helping clean the kitchen and the toilets.

Our trip was not limited solely to working in the mountains. We were taken around Peru and left to explore the expanse of Macchu Picchu, the charming city of Cusco and the sacred valley of the Incas. In addition to this, we took part in cultural activities, learnt songs in Quechua (the native language), learnt Salsa, classical Peruvian dance and the pan pipes. We also participated in art classes through which we were introduced to the Inca school of thought; we were meant to draw a bean and relate it to the *Pacha Mama*.

During the course of those three weeks, I made friends for life, friends similar to those one makes in School. I climbed three mountains, played soccer with kids in a village, ate a llama, saw a sheep get slaughtered, built a greenhouse, explored a new culture, visited one of the wonders of the world and extended my summer break by one week! What more could one ask from any trip?

What began as a tiring 34-hour journey from Delhi to Lima ended in a completely different way; anxiety and excitement were replaced with despair and a longing to return to the simple, yet engaging life in the Andes.



| Report |

# DSMUN Round-Up

*Utkarsh Jha reports on the recently-held DSMUN Conference, 2011*



*The Doon School Delegation (representing North Korea) in the Crisis Situation*

DSMUN, over the past five years, has become one of the most awaited events of the Autumn Term. No other event in School, other than Founder's Day can boast such a vast number of students working diligently. This year, DSMUN began on Friday, August 19, with delegates pouring into School from all corners of the sub-continent. I, too, was ready in my maroon *kurta*, armed with paper and pencil, ready to carry out my responsibilities as a member of the DSMUN Media Department. The five committees of DSMUN: UNSC, DISEC, ECOSOC, UNEP and HRC witnessed some tough and relevant topics. They ranged from the 'Disarmament of the Korean Peninsula' to 'Controlling Inflation in Developing Countries' (an issue which I believe is of great importance in India).

My first assignment, as part of the media team was to cover the Opening Ceremony. The Ceremony commenced with the Secretary General, Sumaer Sandhu welcoming delegates, followed by the key note address by Mr Jyotiraditya Scindia, Minister of Industries and Commerce and the chief guest of the event. The minister spoke on various issues ranging from the United Nations to will power and character development.

The second day of DSMUN was one of the most exciting and saw many crisis situations unfurl. The Crisis Team, headed by Varun Gupta and Rohan Shriram did a wonderful job in

providing a new lease of life to the committees. Their powerful performances (as the representatives of Gadaffi and various other regimes), along with the intriguing crisis situations, caused a mixture of panic, excitement and worry in all committees. The crisis caused most of the delegates to rethink their priorities and also resulted in a slight change in the policies of various countries. Although the delegates struggled in accounting for such scenarios in their policies, many resolutions were passed. However, there was a fair share of frustration (and sometimes anger) in committees as many resolutions lacked majority support by as little as a single vote.

The next day began in a frenzy, with delegates lobbying exceptionally hard to get their resolutions passed as fast as they could. Just as the committees broke for lunch, the main crisis situation was spilled out. The crisis, based on the London riots had many interesting twists and turns, such as the involvement of the Al-Qaeda and North Korea. However, it is these moments which led to the growth of one of the most exciting Crisis Situations I have ever witnessed or participated in. Overall, even with its imperfections, this year's DSMUN has been one of the best so far. The results of the Opinion Poll given below speak for the popularity of the event.

## Opinion Poll

**Should DSMUN be held every year?**



*(308 members of the community were polled)*

**Next week's question:** Are you happy with the rescheduling of the Inter-House Music Competition?

*(contd. from page 1)*

political concept, are in relation to other factors. The Notion of rights is inconceivable without duties. We have a right to dissent and protest, but at the same time, we have a duty to adhere to norms and regulations. The Edifice of democracy is built upon the foundations of rights, duties and adherence to norms and conventions. Hence our right to dissent should not degenerate into an act of blackmail.

Human selfishness underwrites our rationality. That is what probably distinguishes us from other animals. Selfishness, self-interest, rent-seeking, greed or corruption can be used interchangeably. Alas, it is all about perspectives. It is this which makes us happy every time we jump the queue or get things done out of turn. Let us not indulge in intellectual dishonesty. Before pointing fingers at others, we have to search within and question ourselves. It is certainly not about the quantum of corruption. Big or small, each act of indiscretion on our part is an act of moral dishonesty and hence, corruption. Let us not make the mistake of seeing woods for the trees.

**Selfishness, self-interest, rent-seeking, greed or corruption can be used interchangeably.**

D OSCOS  
S ocial  
M eeting  
U nder  
N ation's names



| Report |

# MUN in Mumbai

Rahul Srivastava reports on the Cathedral Model United Nations Conference held In Mumbai



'Ban Ki is my homeboy.' This was the tagline of the CMUN 2011 T-shirt and it is a souvenir that all of us will value while recalling the experiences of our sojourn in Mumbai.

On August 13, ten B-Form students and eight A-Form students boarded a bus to Delhi, with ANC and MPT as our escorts. The journey to Mumbai was tiring. Nonetheless, endless photo sessions and blaring music from our laptops saw us through and we arrived at the Astoria Hotel, full of energy and confidence.

Having got very few chances to participate in MUNs, most of us were rookies when it came to 'MUNing'. The committees started the next morning at the Trident on Marine Drive with 550 other delegates. When we all gathered for the opening ceremony, lobbying was already in full swing. As the day's proceedings unfolded, we participated in extensive debates on issues like the next Al-Qaeda leader and the Lokpal Bill. Working papers (models of resolutions) were discussed, placards were lost, and by the end of the day's proceedings, some progress was made. After an exhaustive day, we returned to the hotel. The buck never stopped there. After dinner, the Astoria hotel lobby was transformed into a forum for discussion and debate, and all other delegates staying at Astoria tried to form working papers and resolutions.

The second day was the most exciting of our CMUN experience. The crisis situation unfolded in many of the committees and despite some tense moments and heated arguments, most committees managed to pass a resolution.

That evening, we were invited to dinner followed by a

dance at the Cathedral and John Connon School. I take pride in saying that while many of the delegates were shy in hitting the dance floor, Doscocs took the first leap forward and began dancing. Following this, while the night was still young, a midnight emergency session for two committees was held at the Trident. The delegates from the HSC and the Al-Qaeda Core Group were involved in solving a crisis situation till the light of dawn.

On the final day, the delegates of many committees passed resolutions, with the chairpersons expressing their satisfaction (or dissatisfaction) with us. Despite our hard work, The Doon School did not get any award at the closing ceremony.

The CMUN 2011 was a new experience for all of us. Whether it was coming down 35 flights of stairs, losing placards every single day, or nearly defaulting on a TGIF bill, we were all left with something to remember. CMUN may as well be a stepping stone for many conferences in the future.

doontoon

Madhav Dutt



## Unquotable Quotes

*He lies and I no bother, no care*

**Utkarsh Jha**, a really bad lie!

*He said me to call you.*

**Raghav Kothiwala**, just doing what hes told to.

*Get into your head.*

**Anuroop Jouhal**, are you sure it will fit?

*He fellen down.*

**Sai Swayam Samal**, and you stooded up.

*The Rome-ish people.*

**Udbhav Aggarwal**, no, the Indianish people.

*I was an amazing experience.*

**Agni Raj Singh**, we're sure.

*They looking determined.*

**Harshvardhan Singh**, yeah right.

*We were hosted to a dinner.*

**Rahul Shrivastava**, really?

*I am not talking to you, do I?*

**NTC**, and we are talking to you.

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