

Established in 1936

# The Doon School WEEKLY



Saturday, September 10, 2011 - Issue No. 2291

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## Chucks: Doon School all the Way

**Kanishka Malik** recounts his experience of the **55th Chuckerbutty Memorial Debates**, held from September 2 to 4, 2011

At Doon, there is nothing more mortifying for a debater than getting knocked out in the first round of our own Chuckerbutty Debates. It was this apprehension that made me rather pensive a few days before the debate. The four of us (Piroune, Shashvat, Sachit and I) would constantly recall the instance when PKB jokingly remarked, "If we don't make it to the quarters, I'll quarter you!" Not surprisingly, we took this to heart. We had prepared as much as any other year's team would have, but the capriciousness of judging and our own inadequacies constantly haunted us. Fortunately, none of these nightmares manifested themselves during the Debates!

The topic of the prelim round 'This House Revels in Plebeian Pleasures', was challenging in its open-endedness. Piroune and I spoke in this round that was held in the conventional, Oxford style. While we defined 'This House' as the upper-middle class, a number of debaters defined it as 'the world in general', a definition fraught with paradoxes, since 'plebeian pleasures' may vary for people all around the world. We had strong arguments, but were afraid of sounding dry. We tried to overcome this by using punch-lines and amusing anecdotes. For instance, I started by quoting from *Sympathy for the Devil* by The Rolling Stones: "Allow me to introduce myself; I am a man of wealth and taste". Many speakers made generalizations and sweeping statements, giving us enough substance for our rebuttals. We cruised through the first round, coming first in our pool; Piroune won the Best Speaker award. Amongst the eight schools that qualified, our fiercest competitors were Dubai Modern High School and La Martiniere for Boys, Kolkata, both of whom were fortunately placed in the other pool for the first round.

The Quarter-Final round, held in the Parliamentary style, was the new addition to the tournament. The School has borrowed this format from the World Individual Debating and Public Speaking Competition, where speakers from different schools are teamed up as the Proposition or the Opposition; the participants are not allowed to seek assistance from anyone other than their partners. Piroune and I were teamed up with debaters from Vasant Valley School, against teams comprising debaters from Welham Girls and La Martiniere Boys. The topic, 'This House is Sceptical of Youth Power', elicited some high voltage debating. In the other pools, Dubai Modern High put up a good show; it was one of the few schools familiar with the challenging format. La Martiniere for Boys, Dubai Modern High, Assam Valley School and our team qualified to the Semi-Final Round. Doon once again emerged first in this round, with Piroune bagging the Best Speaker award in his pool.

The day didn't end there; the semi-finals were to be held that evening. The format of this round, being used for the second time, required teams to frame a topic after watching a video (which in this case, was a clip from the movie *Baraka*). Out of these topics, one would be debated on, in the Modified Cambridge format. Doon was up against Assam Valley and Dubai Modern High was up against La Martiniere. The topic, 'This House Believes that Today's Wars are Purely Economic' was one that privileged the propositions of both pools: having to prove any war to be 'purely economic' seemed impossible. The proposition in both pools (Assam Valley and Dubai Modern High) faced this difficulty and the oppositions took full advantage. Finally, Doon and La Martiniere were to face each other in the finals. The four of us - Piroune, Sachit, Shashvat and I - knew that La Martiniere Boys had a grand rhetorical style that allowed them to communicate effectively. We had to brace ourselves for a grand debate! That night there was a wonderful dinner and jam session for the participants and DoscOs helping with the event, where we all breathed easy and managed to mitigate the stress of being finalists.

The topic for the finals was 'This House Believes in America No More'. With La Martiniere as the proposition and Doon as the opposition, the debate was tantalizingly close. As the judges pointed out later, both teams had looked at the debate from an economic standpoint. The proposition argued eloquently that America could no longer be relied on as an economic leader. We, as opposition, had the opportunity of cornering them when they said that "the US of the 80's was one everyone looked up to",



(contd. overleaf)

## CHUCKS' RESULTS

The following were the results of the various rounds of the **55th Annual Chuckerbutty Memorial Inter-School English Debates, 2011:**

### Preliminary Round:

#### **Pool A**

**1st:** La Martiniere for Boys (LMB)

**2nd:** Dubai Modern High School

**3rd:** Vasant Valley School

**4th:** Assam Valley School

### Quarter-Final Round

**1st:** The Doon School

**2nd:** La Martiniere for Boys

**3rd:** Dubai Modern High School

**4th:** Assam Valley School

### Semi-Final Round

Pool A (The Doon School vs Assam Valley School)

**Best Speaker:** Kanishka Malik

**Most Promising Speaker:** Piroune Balachandaran

**Winner:** The Doon School

Pool B (La Martiniere for Boys vs Dubai Modern High School)

**Best Speaker:** Akhil Bagaria, LMB

**Most Promising Speaker:** Debayan de Bakshi, LMB

**Winner:** La Martiniere for Boys, Kolkata

### Final Round (The Doon School vs La Martiniere for Boys)

**Best Speaker:** Kanishka Malik

**Most Promising Speaker:** Yash Saraf, LMB

**Winner:** The Doon School

Congratulations!

## BADMINTON UPDATE

The **School Badminton Team** participated in the **District Badminton Championship**, the results are as follows:

Abhishek Parasrampurua won the **Doubles Under-17 District Championship**. He was also the **runner-up** in the **Individual Championship** in the **Under-17** and **Under-19** categories.

In the **IPSC**, the **School Team** **lost** to Lawrence School, Lovedale in the **Finals** of the **Under-19 Team Event** and secured a **silver** medal.

The **School Team** beat Delhi Public School in the **Finals** of the **Under-14 Team Event Category** and won a **gold** medal. Shashwat Agarwal reached the **Semi-Finals** in the **Individual Category** in the **Under-14 Category**.

In the **Under-17 Category**, Kabir Sethi **won** a **silver** medal in the **Individual Championship**.

Congratulations!

## SHOOTING SUCCESS

Samarjit Singh **won** a **gold** medal in the **Under-19 Category** of the **Uttarakhand Inter-School Shooting Championship**. Congratulations!

## Opinion oll

Do you believe that Anna Hazare's method of protest was justified?

 **Yes 59%**

 **No 41%**

*(298 members of the community were polled)*

**Next week's question:** Should classes be recorded?

*(contd. from page 1)*

considering that the Cold War could not have allowed Eastern bloc countries to look up to the US as an economic leader. Although La Martiniere must be lauded for their style and delivery, we won the debate by 41 points. While Shashvat thanked PKB, DEB and all others involved in his speech as Secretary of SEDS, Doscoc could be seen celebrating the possible holiday that might be declared. I was most happy about being proved wrong in my pessimistic predictions and of not "being quartered"!

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## SOCCER UPDATE

The **School Soccer Team** played a match against Doon International School in the **RIMC Soccer Tournament** and **won** 2-0. The team went on to play against Colonel Brown School and **won** 2-1, but **lost** 3-2 (in a tie breaker) against Shri Ram School.

The **Under-17 School Soccer Team** participated in the **Council Soccer Tournament** and **lost** in the **Pre-Quarter Final Round** to Colonel Brown School, Dehradun.

Well tried, all!

## BASKETBALL ROUND-UP

The **School Under-16 Basketball Team** played a **Semi-Final** match against Welham Boys' School in the **District Under-16 Basketball Tournament** and **lost**.

Well tried!

## IAYP

The following boys have completed various levels of the **IAYP**: **Bronze Level:** Sehaj Singh Jouhal, Raghuraj Rathi, Abhishek Kakkar, Shubham Aggarwal (A-form)

**Silver Level:** Utkarsh Garg, Shubham Aggarwal (Sc-form)

**Gold Level (including IAYP blazers):** Apurv Aggarwal, Aashray Batra, Dhruv Sawhney, Nipun Batra, Anshuman Bhargava, Spandan Aggarwal

Congratulations!

## COUNCIL SWIMMING

The **School Swimming Team** participated in the **10th Council Inter-School Boys Swimming Competition**. The following boys won awards in their respective categories:

### Sub Junior Category:

Sharat Kumar Nambiar (**Silver** in **25m Freestyle** and **25m Backstroke**).

### Junior Category:

Sumer Sehgal (**Gold** in **25m Freestyle**) and Pratyaksh Parmer (**Bronze** in **25m Breast stroke**).

The **Junior Team** also won **Silver** in the **4x25m Freestyle relay**.

### Senior Category:

Charlie Fry (**Gold** in **200m Freestyle** and **50m Breaststroke**), Apurv Agarwal (**Silver** in **200m Freestyle**), Angad Singh (**Gold** in **100m Individual Medley** and in **50m Butterfly**), Animesh Jain (**Silver** in **100m Individual Medley**), Jaiveer Jakhar (**Silver** in **50m Butterfly**), Rana Chowgule (**Bronze** in **100m Freestyle**), Aditya Vikram Gupta (**Gold** in the **50m Breast Stroke**) and Raj Surana (**Bronze** in **50m Back Stroke**)

The **School Relay Team** also managed to win the **Gold** medal in the **50m Freestyle and Medley relay**. Also, Charlie Fry and Angad Singh were adjudged **Best Swimmers** in the **Senior Category**.

Congratulations, all!

| Viewpoint |

## The North-Eastern Story

*On a personal note, **Raniz Bordoloi** comments on the growing frustration amongst the Northeastern people over the ignorance of North-Eastern states by the Central Government and mass media*

I am dismayed whenever I read the front page of a newspaper. Assam, the state in which I reside, rarely receives any mention, at least in comparison to metropolitans and central states. Let's take the latest example: the bomb blast in Delhi received the attention of every national newspaper. But when a bomb blast occurs in Assam, the media gives it a very lukewarm response. Is it because such events in my state have become routine? Moreover, why does Anna Hazare receive every national newspaper's attention for a ten-day fast while Irom Sharmila remains in the background for a ten-year long protest? Every newspaper publishes headlines about Narendra Modi and Sonia Gandhi, how many headlines are concerned with Tarun Gogoi? Regardless of the reasons, one cannot doubt that this aspect of the media sends a very clear message to attentive readers: North-Eastern states have not received their due recognition.

Since the Central Government has repeatedly sidelined the North-Eastern states since independence, development in the seven states has been deplorable. This is probably the reason why several insurgent groups such as the ULFA have sprung up. A feeling of inferiority convinced many that Assam needed to be an independent, sovereign country. This is not just the case with Assam, but also with the six other states that constitute what is popularly known as the 'Seven Sisters'. It is a pity that even after 64 years of gaining freedom, the 'Seven Sisters' are relatively secluded.

Apart from issues of governance, the 'Seven Sisters' have also been victims of racial discrimination. Students originating from the North-East studying in Delhi (and other cities) have repeatedly complained about being labeled as 'foreigners' and 'chinkis'. The Media also plays an active role in creating this image of people from the North-Eastern. India has been known as a land which unites diverse people and cultures. However, after noting such instances, I have been forced to question this assertion. At times, the narrow strip of land connecting the 'Seven Sisters' to mainland India seems symbolic to me. It speaks of the weak association of the North-Eastern states with the rest of India.

I must not discount the fact that the residents of these states are proud to be Indians. It is this knowledge that forces me to urge the Central Government and the mass media to give more recognition to the 'Seven Sisters', regardless of how naive I might seem in my suggestion. The region I am referring to constitutes an integral geographic and cultural part of this country and there is no justification for its ignorance or for the discrimination of its people. If this ignorance persists, I will certainly be aggrieved but more importantly, the state's anger might manifest itself and the narrow link might become even narrower.

**“At times, the narrow strip of land connecting the ‘Seven Sisters’ to mainland India seems symbolic to me. It symbolises the weak association of the North-Eastern states with the rest of India.”**

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## Letter To The Editor

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### *Missing Quizzing*

While I was delighted to learn that the School Debating Team won the Chuckerbutty Debates, I was equally disappointed to know that The Doon School Quiz was not staged. From what I have gathered, the decision seems to be in lieu with School's policy to scale down the number of activities to reduce stress on its students. Though I agree that Doscocs have a hectic daily schedule and need some time for themselves, the reason to cancel a programme that does not take more than a couple of hours of one's evening and is not intensive in terms of organization escapes me. Over the years, The Doon School Quiz has been an ideal culmination to a weekend of delight and dejection. As a junior, I always looked forward to the evening of the quiz, as it entertainingly rounded off the hotly contested debates. Though I support the School's decision in toning down activities, I feel it has hit the wrong spot in terms of the starting point.

Moreover, the decision to cancel the quiz could not have come at a worse time. Speaking from my experience as the School Quiz Secretary, the interest in quizzing in School has been waning for some years now. So, at a time when the School should be making efforts to resurrect this once popular activity, it has decided to do away with the main highlight of the society itself. While I am not sure what the current student body feels about the decision, for me the cancellation sets a very negative precedent. I hope that a few years down the line the activity does not get relegated to the collective nostalgia of the Old Boys and pages of the *Weekly* in the archives. Hence, I request the administration to be more careful in prioritizing which activity they want to retain and which they want to do away with.

Shoumitra Srivastava (ex 362-K'11)

| Poetry |

### Empty

**Gursehej Singh Oberoi**

I come alone,  
You come alone.  
Up.

Down.

Or wherever.

We see, we notice, we try, we fail-

And we go.

Up.

Down.

Or wherever.

### Obligation

**Kanishka Malik**

Oh boundaries!

Bound me no more!

Your formalities retard me!

Must I bend before boundaries?

Before I flow the ink?

You tell me "focus on alignment"!

What about enlightenment?

Oh writing, lose your parameters!

For then we'll know your true form

when writing is writing, and not an obligation.

| Report |

## Rocking the MPH

Yuv Vir Khosla reports on the Popular Band category of the ongoing Inter-House Music Competition held on Wednesday, August 31, 2011



The second segment of the Inter-House Music Competition - the Popular Band performance – was held on the first of this month. The music competition being spread over the course of a month gave the musicians enough time to prepare. In my opinion, the schedule for this year has helped students focus on individual segments of the competition and, consequently, raised the overall standard of the music competition (from whatever we have seen yet). The judges were Ashish Sharma, Winston Balmani and Sanjay Agarwal: all seasoned musicians who play in bands of their own.

The first house to take the stage was Oberoi, performing *The Cave* by Mumford and Sons and *What About Now* by Westlife. With problems they had encountered in performing *Highway to Hell* still fresh in their mind from last year, this year they were less ambitious, choosing pieces that laid more emphasis on instrumentation. Maybe because they were the first house to perform, they were unable to grab the audience's attention with their Indie Folk and Alternative Rock songs. But they surely did optimize on their strengths, with the mandolin playing a deft and intricate melody-line in the first song and the guitar providing riffs for the second.

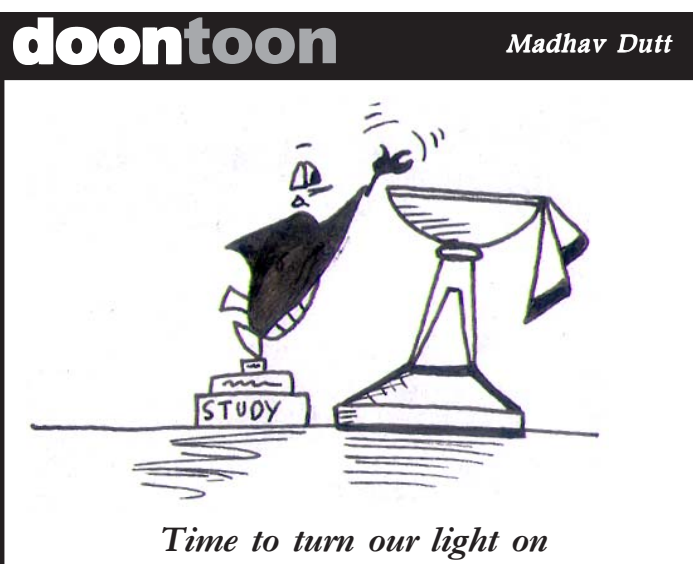
Jaipur House, led by Raghav Puri, was next to take the stage playing *Boston* by Augustana, and *Jiyein Kyun*. Their vocalists – Karan Singh and Suyash Raj Shivam– stole the show and kept the audience enthralled throughout the performance. It was interesting to see that they managed to add a lot of well-planned instrumentation to both their songs and keep their performance appealing.

A lot was expected from the next house that came on stage – Hyderabad– who were the winners of this section last year. Carrying on their legacy of playing Coldplay, as their popular band leader Rohan Shiram pointed out, they performed *God Put A Smile Upon Your Face* and *The Day That Never Comes* by Metallica. With their excellent drums and vocals, they impressed the audience and judges alike. Although heavy metal songs are never easy to pull off, Hyderabad House did justice to the song by their performance. Imaan Mehta's skill and understanding of the idiom held the song together with wonderful co-ordination by other band members. True to the spirit of metal, it was a bold, even aggressive, performance.

Next to take the stage was Tata House, determined to win this segment too, after their dance performance. Playing *Garaj Baras* by Coke Studio and *Smells Like Teen Spirit* by Nirvana they successfully captured the audience's attention with their interactive performance. With Gursehej Singh Oberoi on the guitar and Pranoy Bohara providing the vocals, Tata House put on a riveting performance with their energetic playing. *Garaj Baras* had some inspired arrangements of a variety of percussion instruments, and the rhythmic precision was admirable.

The last house to perform was Kashmir House, led by Vigya Singh Dhiman, performing *Iridescent* by Linkin Park and *In My Place* by Coldplay. Although their instrumentation was good, in my opinion, they lacked liveliness and failed to connect with the audience. But it was encouraging to watch a number of junior musicians on stage playing for the House. Yash Mall's performance on keyboard and vocals was a tricky role which he did with flair.

In all, the Popular Band segment went off extremely well with Jaipur House winning the trophy, closely contested by Hyderabad House, which came second by just one point. In the weeks to come we look forward to seeing a number of performances from the choir and solo instrumentalists of each house.



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