



Established in 1936

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Editorial

The Road Ahead

As Sc form approaches the end of its School life, we hear many regretful remarks about one's failures at School. Most of these seem to be concerned with missing some opportunity at School, or with some form of partiality that undermined one's efforts towards achieving certain goals.

It is interesting to note how Doscos measure their success. The atmosphere of regret in the present Sc form speaks much about their ambitious nature. Although I may be generalizing here, I know from my experiences that a Dosco loves winning and will not tolerate a loss, even if the loser happens to be himself. At the same time, Doscos are critical of the means used to fulfil any ambition. If a fellow Dosco seems undeserving of any laurel, he is looked down upon. We have all heard of instances when form mates showed complete disregard for a person who obtained a Blazer or School Colours through objectionable means, especially if it involved cheating or sycophancy. In essence, honour may not accompany laurels, while at the same time, the absence of a laurel may not imply the absence of honour. It is not surprising to hear comments about some individual who got what he "didn't deserve" and vice-versa. Doscos want to see some sense of honour and dignity along with the ties and the blazers; they want winners, but winners who have won with some self-respect. This probably explains the rants we hear about partiality and prejudice.

Also, there is much regret about opportunities that were not used. Some wish they were mentally more mature when they had the opportunities and acted more reasonably. Our School provides the individual with opportunities to excel in any field. The circumstances might be rough and people might treat the individual's talent with disrespect, but nevertheless, the individual has the opportunity to persevere and achieve what he desires. Often we hear about how circumstances didn't allow an individual to succeed, despite the presence of the opportunity. For instance, discouragement or prejudice is cited as a reason for not succeeding in an activity. In my view, these circumstances, despite being extremely painful teach one to be resilient. For instance, I spent a lot of time and energy trying to deal with unreasonable seniors and masters in order to work for the Weekly. In the end, the trouble did pay off. Even some of my form mates went on to play the sport they liked, regardless of what others said about their performance. In order to succeed, the individual has to use the "tide in the affairs of men" and persevere against all odds.

I must say that I am sympathetic towards those who feel left behind, even if they have only themselves to blame. But fortunately, they are as regretful as they are in the sixth year of their School life and not in the sixtieth year of their real life; Doon is just the first step of the staircase. Even if this first step has been bumpy, it has given most an idea of what to expect next. Although this may remind one of the clichés one would hear in farewell house feasts, these achievements are insignificant; the lessons learnt hold far more weightage. I understand that there are those who regret not having a tie or a name on the board. Fortunately or unfortunately, those ties will soon be locked up in the cupboard and not be worn until the silver jubilee celebrations, and by the time some of us come back to School, even the boards might be repainted all together; it is time to chase the real goals of the real world and make a name there.

The Victory of the Year

The Doon School Soccer Team took part in the recently concluded IPSC Soccer Tournament held in Raipur. This was the first time the School participated in the tournament. The School played a total of seven matches over four days and won the tournament after beating Lawrence School, Lovedale 1-0 in the final match.

Aahan Menon was the highest scorer of the tournament, with six goals to his credit. Aahan Menon, Ashish Rao and Tushar Gupta have been selected to represent the IPSC Soccer Team in the National Tournament. A detailed report will follow in a forthcoming issue.

"The School beat teams that played soccer throughout the year and did so without a few of its key players!"

Statistics

1st match (against Dony Polo) 4-0; Siddhant Sachdev scored two goals and Sharan Seth and Shivaan Seth scored one goal each.

2nd match (against MNSS Rai) 0-0;

3rd match (against The Lawrence School, Lovedale) 1-0; Sharan Seth scored the only goal.

4th match (against Rajkumar College) 3-1; Aahan Menon scored two goals and Shivaan Seth scored one goal.

Quarter-final Round:

Against The Scindia School: 2-1; Aahan Menon and Sharan Seth scored on goal each

Semi-final Round:

Against The Phoenix School: 3-1; Aahan Menon scored two goals and Anmol Jamwal scored one goal.

Final Round:

Against The Lawrence School, Lovedale: 1-0; Aahan Menon scored the only goal.

OBITUARY

The Doon School Weekly mourns the death of **Gurmeet Butalia (ex-395J '67)**, who passed away on October 4, 2011, in New Delhi, after a long struggle with cancer.

DEBATING ROUND-UP

The **Kamla Jeevan Inter School Hindi Debates** were held at **The Doon School** on October 8 and 9. The School was represented by Revant Nayar, Ritesh Shinde, Sanat Thakur and Ujjwal Dahuja and reached the semi-final round. Ritesh Shinde was adjudged **Best Speaker** in three debates.

Kanishka Malik, Piroune Balachandran and Sachit Taneja represented the School at the **Oliphant Debates** held at **Welham Boys' School**. Piroune Balachandran and Kanishka Malik were awarded **Most Promising Speaker** and **Best Speaker** in the Semi-Final and Final Rounds respectively and the School **won** the Debates.

Well done, all!

Letter To The Editor

In Memory of a Friend

I want to share a few personal recollections about Gurmeet Butalia, my best friend of 47 years. From the beginning of our relationship in The Doon School to the end of his life, I admired his passion and unique combination of personal traits. Gurmeet's life choices were characterised by Robert Frost's poem "... I took the road less travelled by and that has made all the difference." His formative years were spent in Russia and India, his working life took him to London, California, Texas, Delhi and Dubai and his final years were spent in Malta and Delhi.

A VIP

At a time when the Indian culture was inclined towards a frugal lifestyle, Gurmeet always treated himself like a VIP. He would travel first class on his personal account, buy European art and consume branded products. It was only recently that I was able to put his thinking into perspective, when I heard the best selling author- T. Harv Eker in *Secrets of the Millionaire Mind*, say "to be treated as a VIP first treat yourself as a millionaire".

A creative and brilliant mind

When he was just 12 years old, I could see that Gurmeet was different. He would be waiting near the newspaper stand in the early Dehradun winter mornings and as soon as the paper arrived, he would carefully start reading and jotting down notes and looking up difficult words in the dictionary.

His academic excellence and commitment inspired me to not only shift gears from a carefree existence, but also instilled in me the self-belief that would later take me to the Wharton School. Later in life, when Gurmeet and I were both Vice Presidents in East India Hotels (Oberoi Hotel Group), I remember Biki Oberoi once saying to me, "You know he has a gift for the written word. I will ask him to write Oberoi's diversification strategy".

More recently, when visiting us in Australia, he repeatedly beat my son, Karan, in chess. It was no easy task. For no lesser mind could have beaten the Barker College Chess Captain, Australia's Young Scientist 2004, and now an aspiring doctor and med-student.

A man of his word

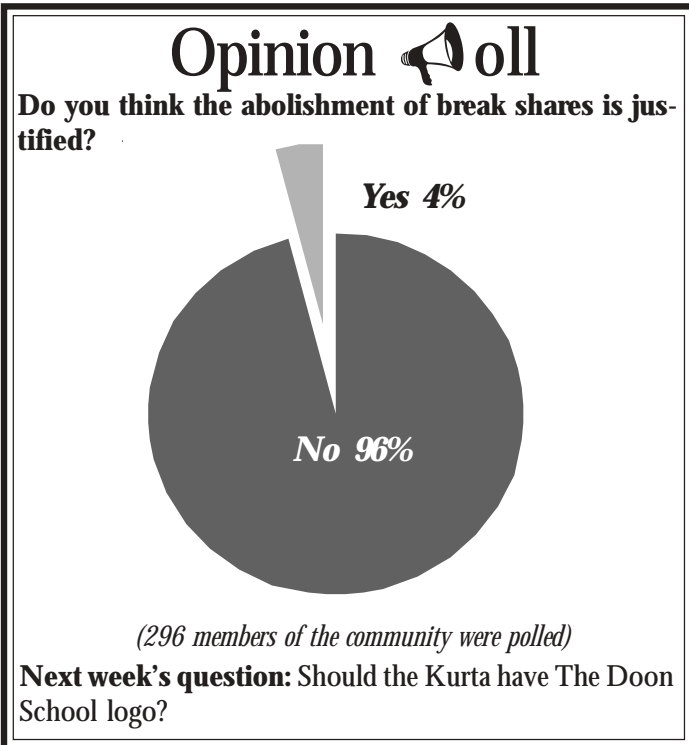
Gurmeet was generally quiet but when he spoke, his word mattered. He meant and did what he said and I could blindly rely on his straight forwardness. For example, after being diagnosed with cancer, he would not deny that he had been unable to resist a glass of wine and a cigarette after meals despite the pressure I put on him to stop. For me personally, his integrity was the most important quality for a lifelong friendship.

A capacity for risk taking

Gurmeet was courageous to the end. After he was diagnosed with 4th stage cancer, he was searching for a permanent cure. He knew that traditional chemotherapy treatment, at best, offered the hope of extending his life. He therefore made an all or nothing decision to go to the US for an alternative treatment after reading *Knockout*, a best selling book containing interviews with doctors who claimed to be curing cancer. Clearly, this was a risky decision as many of these expensive alternative treatments are untested and by and large play on a cancer patient's vulnerability.

I have been fortunate to have had a generous friend and inspiring mentor in Gurmeet.

-Vineet Makhija (ex-273J '67)



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Madhav Dutt



No Hopes

Publications: Pillars of Doon

Kunal Kanodia remarks on the increasing number of publications and the role played by them

Life in The Doon School has been traditionally chronicled by the *Weekly* since its inception 75 years ago. The *Weekly* has, over the years, undergone innumerable changes since the first issue was circulated in 1936. However, the scope for publishing articles in diverse fields such as science, politics and economics in the *Weekly* was very limited. Students who were interested in these fields had to express their thoughts through alternative media, as the *Weekly* had to focus more on School-related issues. Besides, with just one publication, the participation in publication work became very restricted. It was for these reasons that publications specializing in different fields were created.

The first publication that was created after the *Weekly* was the Doon School Magazine (1937). However, majority of the publications sprung up after the 1980s. The *Cosmos* brought to light a number of interesting scientific discoveries and inventions (the magazine was discontinued; scientific issues are now discussed by the *Echo*). Currently, the *Echo* also boasts some of the best graphic designing and layout work. *The Doon School Information Review (DSIR)*, first distributed in 2002, was created for reviewing novels, games and films. The *Circle* brought to light contemporary issues and the aftermath of certain historical events. *The Yearbook*, published for the first time in 1998 is, by far, the most widely appreciated publication on campus according to a poll conducted by the *Weekly* (Issue No. 2269, November 27, 2010). The *Yearbook* jogs one's memory through the events that took place the previous year, while also acquainting the reader's with individual achievements, as well as those of the house or school level. Over the years, the *Yearbook* has witnessed tremendous improvement, both in terms of substance as well as presentation.

Over the past three or four years, three other publications, the *Econocrat*, *Infinity* and *DSAM* (Doon School Art Magazine) were created. The *Econocrat* brings to light economic issues while the *Infinity* explores the field of mathematics; the *DSAM* describes the works of art created by DoscOs.

The School even witnessed the creation of Hindi publications (apart from the creation of the Hindi page in the *Weekly*); *Srijan Prayas* and *Yuv Arpan* being the Hindi publications on campus. Apart from these, all Houses have their own publications which come out occasionally.

Another important reason for the increase in the number of publications is the ease with which they can be made. One simply needs softwares like Pagemaker, InDesign or Corel Draw and a sum of money (depending on the size of the publication and the quality of the print). With the improvements in technology, creating a publication has not only become easier, but also more exciting.

However, over the past few years, a number of concerns regarding these publications have been raised. Firstly, the issue of cost and readership of these publications has been discussed. It is often remarked that some publications are expensive to run and are hardly read. Secondly, the quality of the articles in these publications has often been criticized. Lastly, the processes for the creation of the editorial boards and the motives of many board members for joining these publications have been questioned. There is a general feeling amongst community members that the selection process for the editorial board is often partial and arbitrary. Students have been criticized for making their friends board members even though they are not the best individuals for the job. Some have been criticized for using publications for obtaining Scholar's Blazer points or adding more to one's achievement list for college applications.

While these problems are undoubtedly genuine, they cannot be resolved by doing away with the publications entirely, a solution many have proposed. This is the age for an individual to test his or her writing capabilities. Publications offer students opportunities to write and improve. These opportunities would be lost if publications are done away with. The quality of the articles cannot be questioned so rigorously at this stage either, because this is just the starting point for a student's achievements in the specific field. As for the cronyism that is prevalent in the selection of editorial boards, one must understand that this is a practice prevalent in several institutions in School and not just in publications. Friends put friends in house teams and other organizations as well, so publications must not be the only institutions facing the repercussions. And if some students have questionable motives when it comes to being part of a board, well that is also true in the case of several other STAs and SUPWs, not just publications.

If one only takes into account the problems, then it would be a case of myopia. One cannot ignore the long-term achievements of publications, such as the opportunities they provide and the increase of participation they bring have on offer. I personally believe that publications are now an integral part of the School and cannot be done away with.

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The New Uniform Story

Raniz Bordloi gives an overview of the debate concerning the proposal of introducing a new uniform and presents us his opinion on the issue

I am certain that by now, the entire school community has a vague idea about the proposal for the new school uniform. After all the hype and rumours surrounding the issue, I think it is pertinent to bring it out into the open.

This proposal was introduced in the recent School Council Meeting when the representatives got the opportunity to examine the samples and voice their opinions. The School Council Members were informed that the new uniform samples have been worked upon for a time period of eight months; they were not introduced overnight. After observing the samples, it is evident that the new uniform will be of a far superior quality. As someone said, it may even be like “a Burberry shirt” (with the price tag attached). However, despite the superior quality, there have been questions and doubts regarding the proposal. Members of the community have mixed opinions regarding the change. The pro-changers obviously highlight the uniform’s superior quality. Some are of the belief that we should opt for a complete makeover. The conservatives have shifted the focus of the debate on to the financial implications of the change and the absurd idea of having the Dosco lamp on the kurta pyjama.

Personally, I feel that the current School uniform needs changes. The summer School shorts, for instance, are of inferior quality. The focus of the present debate is whether the entire uniform needs to be changed. When the previous school blazer was replaced, everybody was in agreement because the change was desperately needed. Nobody argued because it was a necessary step. The present opposition to the change implies that not *everything* should be altered. For instance, the

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winter outing uniform is perfect (excluding the school tie) and it must not undergo any variation.

Another issue was whether all the apparel of our new uniform should be equipped with the School logo. The lamp, given Doon’s brand value, certainly serves as a status symbol. If I had the option, I would put the logo on the blue shirt, but certainly not on the Kurta pyjama!

What many found disturbing was that the new uniform would result in a significant hike in the school fee. In spite of the superior quality of the new uniform, the predicted price increase of 30-40% on the present uniform cost could be burdensome for many. Even though I sound ambivalent here, a new uniform may not be worth increasing the fee.

However, the new uniform will be redundant if the clothes are mismanaged in the linen rooms. Also, if Doscos don’t dress properly, the change will serve no purpose. All in all, poor maintenance along with shabby dressing may deem the change a complete failure.



Unquotable Quotes

Something that this math.

Raghav Kothiwal, confused.

I ate stamina to run.

Nitin Sardana, ready to run?

The water is wet.

Sabir Singh, thanks for telling us.

Circle better than square.

Kunal Kanodia, figuring out shapes.

He be a capitalistic communist.

Rishabh Tusnial, redefines ideologies.

My name is I.

Raghuraj Rathi, now an Apple product.

Have you ever been to foreign?

Suraj Bishnoi, yes isn’t that near abroad?

