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The Doon School WEEKLY

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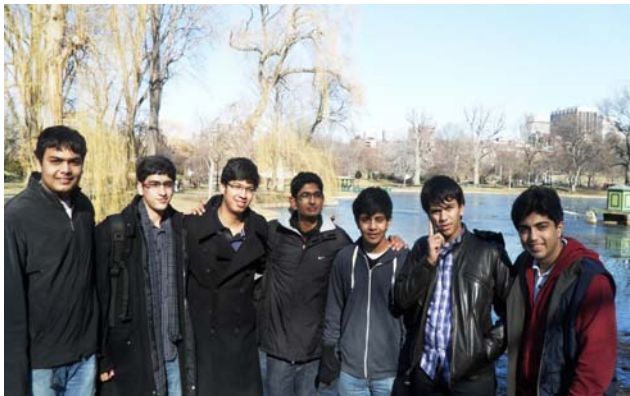
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‘MUN’NING AT HARVARD

Ujjwal Dahuja reports on the Harvard MUN, held between 26 and 29 January, 2012



It was for the second time that School was sending a delegation to one of the most prestigious Model United Nations conferences in the world, and I was fortunate to be a member of the team. The team comprised eight delegates (who were going to be representing Senegal), each extremely enthusiastic about the MUN which was to commence on January 26, in Boston.

It was after a seventeen-hour flight and a five-hour stopover at Amsterdam that the team reached Boston. Besides the excitement of MUN, it was the zeal to explore Boston and America as a whole that kept our spirits high despite the cold weather and grey skies that greeted us at the airport. Luckily, our hotel was in the heart of Back Bay, which was not only one of the more posh places in Boston, but also had a strategic location in terms of proximity to the conference site and to the tube (the best means of transport to explore the city). We had two days at our disposal to explore Boston. It was during this time that the team visited places like the Boston Common and Quincy Market. We also took the famous freedom trail of Boston, the tour guide of which bore a stark resemblance with one of the members of the team! Besides, we also took a tour of Northeastern University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The following day, after registration and the opening ceremony, committee sessions began and continued for one and a half days. The level of debate in my committee was good with some delegates putting forward strong arguments, but I heard from other delegates that debate in their committees were just going in circles. It was a great experience to learn more about diplomacy and negotiation through a model exercise. All the del-

egates would agree that the committee sessions helped them understand ‘munning’ in a more comprehensive manner. The MUN was quite different from the ones I had attended before, though it was quite similar to the one at Cathedral School in Mumbai which I attended two years ago. The team as a whole did well in their respective committees. While Rayhaan and Kunal worked together to create a strong African block in the Commission on Population and Development, Kanishka and Sookrit were working to put across their national policies at the UN High Commission for Refugees. Also, while Abhishek and Siddhant tried to amend the solutions proposed by other delegates in the UN Human Rights Council, Nabeel and I argued against having a uniform international law on euthanasia in UNESCO.

Though rules of procedure might be different in MUNs across the world, something common to all of them is the delegate dance, and HMUN was no exception. Having been bogged down by working papers and moderated caucuses, most members of the team decided to forget all the work and had a good time at the dance. This was followed by a rather sudden trip planned to New York City. At this point, I would say that my newly acquired persuasive skills during the MUN helped me persuade the otherwise reluctant majority that didn’t think the trip would be worthwhile, but later admitted that it was one of the best parts of the trip. At NYC, we visited the Statue of Liberty, the Empire State Building, the 9/11 Memorial, and Times Square, briefly passing by Wall Street and the Madison Square Garden. Between Times Square and the flight, nothing of great significance happened except a nightly tour at Harvard University. Within no time, the trip was over and we returned with significantly heavier suitcases.

But it was Rayhaan’s Starbucks ventures, Kunal’s discounted Zara jacket, Sookrit’s experience at the Empire State building, Abhishek’s posing for each photograph, Kanishka’s obsession with his hairstyle, Siddhant’s lit up eyes at the sight of a luxurious car, Nabeel’s ‘Hispanic’ nationality, PMV’s issues with Nabeel’s contingency and my newly discovered love for Dunkin Doughnuts along with massive amounts of MUN exposure that made this trip the best school trip I’ve been for.

APPOINTMENTS

Following are the appointments for the year 2012:

Secretary of the Library Council: Sanat Kumar Thakur

Boys-in-Charge of the Boys' Bank and Tuck Shop: Abhishek Pande and Neelansh Khurana

Secretary of the Quiz Society: Yash Johri

Boy-in-Charge of IAYP: Shubham Dhingra

Girl-in-Charge of the YES Programme: Mahak Sharma

Boy-in-Charge of the Astronomical Society: Tushar Mohan

Boy-in-Charge of Aero-modeling: Shivam Goyal

Boy-in-Charge of the Trophy Squad: Suyash Bishnoi

Boys-in-Charge of RLSS: Animesh Jain and Raj Surana

Boy-in-Charge of Hindi Debating: Sanat Kumar Thakur

We wish them a fruitful tenure!

IH RESULTS

The following are the results of the various **Inter-House Competitions:**

Cricket

House XI

H vs O: Oberoi

J vs K: Jaipur

Leagues

H vs O: Oberoi

J vs K: Jaipur

Debating

H vs O: Hyderabad

Best Speaker: Rahul Srivastava

J vs K: Jaipur

Best Speaker: Utkarsh Jha

Well done!

MUSICAL RETREAT

A workshop and master classes for the violin and tabla were conducted by **Pt. Sukhdev Mishra** and **Pt. Arunangshu Chaudhury** on February 11 and 12. They also gave a concert on February 12 in the Music School.

Dr Henry Ford performed on the **Northumbrian bagpipes** in a concert held on February 15. Reports will run in the forthcoming issue.

IAYP AWARDS

The following boys have been awarded the **International Award for Young People:**

Bronze: Vrindam Nagpal, Josh Pasricha, Yuvan Kumar, Arjun Sharma, Kanishka Dev Tyagi, Sabhya Katia, Anmol Jain, Divyansh Goel, Harshvardhan Singh, Vibhav Gupta, Yuvraj Nathani, Gaurav Kothari, Akshay Sarawgi, Preetham Mohan, Nipurn Dutta, Mihir Kiran, Ashutosh Goyal, Siddharth Pahuja, Prabnur Singh Bal, Sudhansh Agarwal

Silver: Eeshat Tiwary, Aditya Vikram Gupta, Himanshu Todi, Avik Gugalia, Vidit Sadana, Tanmay Kapoor, Vatsal Goenka

Gold: Yashasvi Havelia, Vatsal Modi, Vaibhav Bahadur. They have also been awarded the **IAYP Blazer** for successfully completing all levels.

Congratulations!

SHOOTING HOOPS

The **School Basketball Team** played a match against **Doon International School** on Wednesday. The School team won the match, 45-28.

Congratulations!

Unquotable Quotes

I shall write a cartoon.

Madhav Dutt tries to multi-task

Come to me with the hospital.

Shivam Sharma wants company

Are we going on the 21th?

Rakshit Sinha, first private?

What's your action of plan?

AKM, strategising

Have a fretful day!

Avik Gugalia, well-wisher

We wish to rejuvenate The Hindu in the House.

Shivam Goyal, rejuvenates

Throw the him at the ball

DKM, courting disaster

There is no one to make keep.

Arjun Midha explains his problems

| Poetry |

Casualty

Aditya Bhattacharya

I remember how they took my son away.

They came to our village, on that godforsaken day,
Seeking men to help fuel their mission,
Their ambition was seething with sedition.

I tried to stop them but they beat me,
Blindfolded me and led me to a jeep.
They bundled me in and my son was hauled
Into another. 'For the revolution!' the men called.

I woke up in the wee hours of the morning,
Aching and heavy with mourning.
The rebel camp was full of men,
And was now my revolutionary den.

For hours I worked, obeying their desire,
Digging, picking away at the seemingly eternal mire.
There was always a gun aimed at my back,
My sorrow stretching me upon a rack.

Then the war ended, and I was free,
And I set about tracing my family.
My wife and my daughter reunited in our village.
I found my son's body amongst the wreckage.
My abysmal grief would not let me cry,
My sorrow, a see-saw of demand and supply.

Opinion oll

Should room heaters be allowed for the boys in School?

Yes 81%

No 19%

(378 members of the School community were polled)

Next Week's Question: Do you read newspapers daily?

IN CONVERSATION

The Doon School Weekly interviewed two new Masters, *Vivek Kumar (VVK)* and *Pranshu Mishra (PSM)*

The Doon School Weekly (DSW): Tell us something about yourself.

Vivek Kumar (VVK): I am from Bhasi, a town near Ayodhya. I used to teach at Birla Public School in Pilani, Rajasthan, where I was the Head of the Biology Department. I have done a Masters' degree in Botany and a Post Graduate diploma in Biodiversity Conservation from FRI, Dehradun. I also have a Diploma in Software Management and a Bachelors' degree in Education from Delhi University.

Pranshu Mishra (PSM): My first job was with Alembic Limited as a VSR. Then I worked for Pfizer Incorporation as a sales officer for Central Maharashtra. After that I worked as a course co-ordinator with IMS Learning. After that I worked at the Princeton Review and Prophet Centre as Academic Head. Subsequently, I joined TGS, Rajkot, as a physics teacher for IB. Now I'm here at The Doon School.

DSW: Why did you choose The Doon School over other schools?

VVK: As a child, it was my dream to be a part of this school and I wanted to study here. However, now I am here in the form of a teacher which, in a way, is my dream coming true.

PSM: Well, first and foremost because of its reputation. After that was the flexibility offered in the style of teaching.

DSW: In the past couple of weeks that you have been teaching, what do you think of the boys here?

VVK: I have been able to bond well with the boys in my early stages as a teacher. I have got quite a positive response from the students of the school community. In my time here I have already been on a bird watching trip with the Nature Club and I will also participate in a Cleanliness Drive to be conducted by the Biology Department. In this short period of time I have managed to adapt to the school well. It is now my home.

PSM: In comparison to other schools, boys here are well-informed and more or less everyone is well-behaved.

DSW: What are the main differences you experienced between a day school and a boarding school?

VVK: Having experienced life in both day schools as well as boarding schools, I think they are almost the same, though it is different in terms of practicality. I do not have the experience of teaching boys who have taken the I.B. board nor have I taught senior forms such as S Form, but I like to take up new challenges. I think it would be a sad thing if there were no new challenges in my life.

PSM: It's different here, in a boarding school. The bonding between students and teachers is much more as compared to day-schools. Students more or less behave as combined groups in classes. There is also very little ambiguity between teachers and students.

DSW: What is the one attribute that you like in boys here?

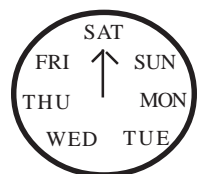
VVK: What I really like about the boys here is their response to different situations. They clearly show a sense of leadership and also have a lot of unity amongst themselves.

PSM: Students here are well-informed about their rights and what they should expect from teachers and the School. They do not hesitate to raise their doubts and concerns, and express themselves freely and clearly.

DSW: What co-curricular activities and sports do you see yourself getting involved with?

VVK: I am a nature photographer and I would like to improve on my skills in this field. I enjoy badminton and I have some experience in the field of cricket. Apart from that, I am also interested in soccer as I used to play the sport during my college days.

PSM: I enjoy playing table tennis, badminton and carom. I would surely like to help the boys in these sports. I also wish to help boys who are taking the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT).



The Week Gone By...

A week of bone-chilling breeze, appointments, examination results and, not to forget, a spectacular century! It really doesn't seem as if we are in the third week of this term. Time is truly flying, and we here, have taken it upon us to record the quotidian happenings of the week.

PT, bless the lord, had been called off for virtually the whole week. And now that PT has recommenced, it has evoked mixed feelings: the obvious resentment from the lazy ones; on the other hand, at least we are hopeful for much-needed improved weather conditions. Also, the PT leader test saw some noteworthy mentions: the acrobatic display by a certain Tata House boy, the solitary lady PT leader contender, and most importantly, the absence of our proficient PT leader from Jaipur House.

For the community at large and specifically the staff at the hospital, a pressing issue has emerged: a fever epidemic seems to be gripping Sc Formers and a number of boys have taken to a rather luxurious lifestyle in the Hospital. But the Hospital is also to blame. A few DoscOs who had not fully recovered were discharged, only to see more boys admitted. As for all the DoscOs still struggling with the weather, they all seem to be on the verge of good health with red noses, coughs, headaches and sore throats. Let us hope we see some immediate improvement.

The CDH made its debut on our radar; no, we did not imply insipid food, but alleged food poisoning complaints. As for our Boy-in-Charge of the Mess Committee, we wish him a fruitful tenure. A disclaimer to all: apparently, for the first time, he was canvassing for the post, in particular, with the dames' representative!

As for the ongoing cricket matches, the century took the cake, not to forget the sixes which came with it. And because some of us have managed to hit the ball quite close have to the residence of the Oberoi Housemasters, lets see who is the first to get the window!

I hope most of us have an enjoyable outing, and for those Sc Leavers and AT Formers who are with their parents, best of luck!

Under the scanner INDIA

POLITICALLY (IN)CORRECTION

Raniz Bordoloi comments on what transpired in the political scenario of India during the holidays during the holidays, in the political scenario of India

The extension of the Winter Session of the Parliament captured the attention of many. The Union government, after much debate had decided to extend the winter session by three days in order to review the Lokpal Bill. The government's seemingly sudden move confused both the opposition and the citizens, although it was not the first time that the Winter Session had been extended. Some held the view that the decision was taken in accordance with the Prime Minister's promise that the Bill would be passed in the Winter Session. However, the majority believes that it was aimed at defusing Anna Hazare's agitation who threatened to go on a fast again if a stringent bill was not passed by December 27. In either case, it failed. Neither was Manmohan Singh's deadline met, nor did the agitation that was to follow affect the parties in the way it was expected.

Anna Hazare's 'undemocratic' methods came to light once again, as he and his team refused to give the Parliament enough time to discuss the Bill and pass the necessary amendments. Some felt that it was a deliberate move to directly challenge the authority of the parliament. I on the other hand feel that a responsible leader should never indulge in any activity that has the power to depreciate the government's (or the Parliament for that fact) authority. Expressing angst and ire does not grant one the right to bring down the elected government. It will take time to cleanse the country. Thus, it is a gradual process and such 'threats' should be kept at bay. Also, innumerable instances have compelled me to believe that Anna Hazare has taken absolute liberty to only criticize the Congress party. Granted that the Congress is the ruling government, but that does not imply that one can repeatedly oppose the government's policies and overlook the other parties. Leaving that aside, Anna Hazare's fast, post the facade that took place in Parliament was also a failure. However, it is interesting to note that Anna Hazare argued that the government had already taken adequate time and the bill is a necessity to check corruption. According to Anna Hazare and his team, the Bill has been delayed before and it cannot be delayed any further.

In the end, the extension of the Winter Session only speaks of Mr Hazare's growing power and autonomy. Time and again it has shown that the government is in the hot seat and Anna's demands cannot be ignored. From the beginning Team Anna had been focused on the Lokpal bill to erase corruption. But they have made use of an inappropriate medium to bring about those changes. They have failed to realize that the bill could ultimately crumble under its own weight. Unnecessary and inadequate changes only makes matters worse which is why the proposal of granting complete autonomy to the CBI will further complicate the situation. I believe that a war is won not by counting the number of dead soldiers but by effective strategies which can make the enemy run. Therefore, I feel that the country should remove the causes of corruption first in order to bring about a change. A country is better governed when it's existing laws are better executed rather than introducing new ones.

Amidst all of this, there is only one positive to take back. What we did see was a functional democracy. The people protested, leave aside their methods; the parliamentarians, though corrupt, tried to legislate; the media covered the event in depth; and the Supreme Court showed it's authority as an independent body recently, when it cancelled all the licences of telecommunications industries, which had been illegally awarded to them by the former Minister for Telecommunications, A Raja.

doontoon

Madhav Dutt



'Master'ing the game

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