

On behalf of the School, The Doon School Weekly welcomes all participants of the 56th Annual Chuckerbutty Memorial Inter-School English Debates, 2012

REGULARS	DEBATE	SCHOOL COUNCIL	THE WEEK GONE BY
2	3	4	6

School of Rock

Yuvan Kumar reports on the recently-concluded Inter-House Western Band Competition, held on August 29, 2012

The buzz of excited anticipation was indeed endorsement of the word ‘popular’ in the Band category of the Inter-House Music Competition. With the interactive nature of the music to be performed, and the special light effects in a supporting role, the audience was looking forward to a rockingly good evening’s entertainment, and the five Houses did not disappoint.

Hyderabad House kicked off the evening by stalking onto stage, quite menacing in their ‘shades’, and launching into a punchy rendering of Guns n’Roses’ ‘Paradise City’. Band Leader and vocalist Rishabh Nautiyal delivered with style and conviction, backed by a tight-knit team. The song’s essence in its great guitar riff was brilliantly executed- as expected- by Imaan Pariat Mehta. It was a hard act to follow, and though their second song, the appealing ‘Accidentally in Love’ from ‘Shrek 2’, was well-arranged, and Navraaj Randhawa’s crystal-clear treble did justice to the melody, it lacked the necessary swing feeling.

Jaipur House was next on stage and their choice of David Bowie’s ‘Starman’ was perfect for lead singer Karan Singh’s voice and style. The quirky, dissonant delivery that is a Bowie trademark is hard to pull off, but Karan did so. As a die-hard Beatles fan, I was amazed by the soulful, tender rendition of my favourite, ‘Hey Jude’. The instrumentation was truly inspired with Hamza Khan providing a lower harmony on the violin. J House is not short of fresh talent either, as C former Vineet Puri and D former Keshav Malliah’s vocal backing proved. The song had all of J House and most of the rest of the School singing along, and the unexpected segue into ‘All you need is love’ was a neat touch. With Kashmir House taking the stage we were halfway into the performance, and the audience



was eager for more. The alternative rock band ‘Death Cab for Cutie’ is not a widely heard one, so kudos to K House for their unusual choice of the wonderfully tuneful ‘Body and Soul’. I listened to the song the following day and there is no doubt that the K House cover was a great one. Yash Mall’s difficult falsetto part in both this song and ‘Coldplay’-s ‘Everything’s Not Lost’ was pitch-perfect. Backing vocals by Malini Malaviya and Smrithi Nair, provided excellent, if somewhat muted, harmony. Audience participation was not only audible, but visible, with mini-torches flashing to the beat of the music.

Tata House chose the evergreen ‘Rubaroo’ by AR Rahman, from the movie ‘Rang de Basanti’ and Aviral Gupta and Ashish Rao gave it all they had. The band performed with flair and obvious enjoyment, making it all come together in a most effective way. Their second song, ‘Chasing Cars’ by Snow Patrol, with its rather thin instrumentation, did not carry the audience the way ‘Rubaroo’ did, though the build-up and driving rhythm were skillfully carried out.

Oberoi House, the last act of the evening, struck a serious note with an emotional speech as a prologue to their performance. However, what followed was pure and thoroughly enjoyable entertainment in the form of songs by Shankar-Ehsan-Loy. ‘Sinbad the Sailor’ had us all clapping and Adhiraj Singh and Shreshtha Khetan sang with both soul and energy. Adhiraj gave us a real ‘rock star’ style performance, leaping on (and off) the stage. The brilliant piano accompaniment by Yuv Vir Khosla and capable guitar by the Khetan brothers and Armaan Imaam gave a well-rounded ‘band’ sound to the O House arrangement.

It was the best Popular Band competition I have heard in School, and it brought home the point that the competitive element of the evening took a back seat. It was music, more music and pure fun for performers and audience alike.

SENSATIONAL SWIMMING

The results of the recently concluded **Inter-House Swimming Competition, 2012**, are as follows:

House Positions:	Seniors:
1st: Jaipur	1st Jaipur
2nd: Oberoi	2nd Oberoi
3rd: Kashmir	3rd Kashmir
4th: Hyderabad	4th Hyderabad
5th: Tata	5th Tata
Mediums:	Juniors:
1st: Oberoi	1st Hyderabad
2nd: Jaipur	2nd Jaipur
3rd: Kashmir	3rd Tata
4th: Tata	4th Kashmir and Oberoi
5th: Hyderabad	

Records broken:

Junior 100m Breaststroke: Pratyaksh Parmar
Junior 50m Breaststroke: Uday Nath Behl
Junior 100m Butterfly: Nihal Singh Mann
Senior 50m Breaststroke: Aditya Vikram Gupta

Congratulations!

OBITUARY

Purnima Dutta

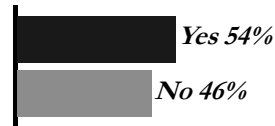
Minoo Varma (MDV), a former teacher at The Doon School passed away on Tuesday, September 4 in Dehradun. Minoo would never shy away from challenges, and it is in the same spirit that she took on the challenge of not allowing cancer to destroy her spirit and fought bravely and cheerfully till the end.

She had played a key role in setting up the IT Centre at School, introducing students and staff to computers in the early 1990s when computers were a 'great unknown' and an absolute mystery for most of us.

Minoo leaves behind her son Umang, (UDV), also an Old Boy (ex 508 H, '99) who teaches Computers and Physics at School. Our heartfelt condolences are with Umang and all other members of the family. She will be deeply missed by the many students she taught while at Doon, as well as colleagues as an ever smiling and helpful friend.

Opinion oll

Do you believe Social Service in School has any real impact?



(384 members of the School community were polled)

Next Week's Question: Are you willing to eradicate the words 'lend' and 'loser' from your vocabulary?

SPORTS UPDATES

The **School Mediums Soccer Team** played a match against **Guru Nanak School** on September 1 and **won** 4- 1.

The **School Soccer Team** played a match against **Shiwalik International School** in the **Councils Tournament** and **won** 7- 0.

Kushagra Singh, Suhel Karara, Sehaj Singh Jouhal and Waseefullah Khan represented **Dehradun** in the **9th Uttarakhand State Under-16 Basketball Championship**. The Dehradun district **won** the Championship.

The **School Squash team** played a friendly fixture against **The Welham Boys School** on September 1 and **won** all 11 matches.

The **School Badminton Team** played matches against **The Guru Nanak Academy**. In the **Singles** category, the team **won** 8 out of 12 matches and in the **Doubles** category, the team **won** 3 out of 5 matches.

Kudos!

AT AJMER

The School took part in the **Mayo College Girls School Silver Jubilee Debates and Multimedia Competition** between August 29 and 31.

The School was represented in the Hindi debates by Abhinav Kejriwal, Ritesh Shinde and Yash Agarwal. They emerged runners-up.

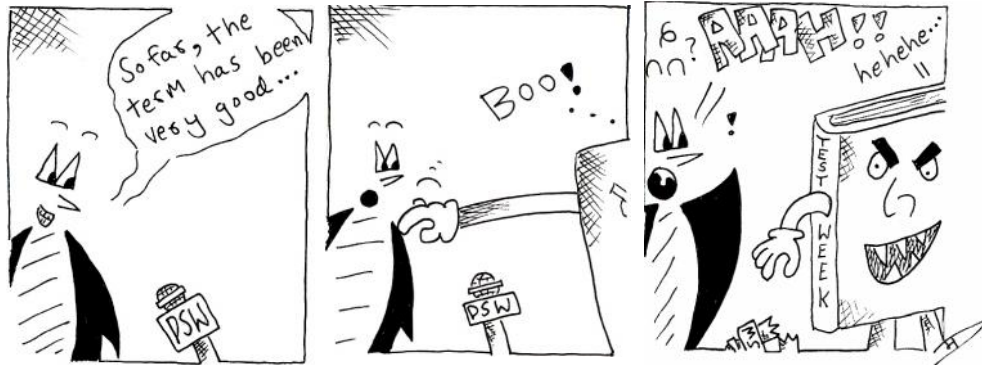
Yash Jalan, Shashvat Dhandhania, Pulkit Agarwal and Rahul Srivastava represented the School in the English debates and emerged runners-up as well.

Nivit Kochhar and Abhishek Bansal represented the School in the Multimedia Competition and were placed 4th. Well done!

Dosco Doodle

Testing Times

Madhav Dutt



|Debate|
**Should Boys be Allowed to Talk About School in
Assembly Talks?**

Point

Madhav Dutt

As a student of The Doon School, it is my belief that we should be able to voice our opinions on issues pertaining to School in Assembly Talks, irrespective of whether we loathe the institution or laud it. In order to fully appreciate the logic behind this line of thought, it is essential to look into various factors that can affect the issue at hand. Our School, especially of late, is no stranger to a plethora of changes (good or bad notwithstanding) and as a thumb rule it is the boys who are the most affected by these changes.

It would be asinine to argue against the fact that the talks encompass a wide variety of topics and are of a high calibre, but I believe that talks 'in' School and 'on' School will take the importance of such talks to a whole new level.

I do accept that the sight of a boy complaining on practically every issue is not elusive. The Book of Codes and Policies, generously handed out to every boy, is filled to the brim with rules and regulations. Students mostly agree with the rules that are printed in the book, however, situations do arise when the School community begs to differ. The media available to vent this disagreement (if there is a valid basis) is fairly limited (the way I see it - the *Weekly* is probably the only legitimate medium for boys to do so). However, on the contrary, a fantastic example would be the talk on 'Websense' a few years ago. Though the Dosco criticized the School's online firewall, he received the 'Best Assembly Talk' award for it. The students live, breathe, eat and sleep within the walls of Chandbagh. They should be permitted to voice their opinions on things they believe could be improved. It is also possible that boys don't even want to criticize School but talk about things which they think are praiseworthy.

People against the provision of this liberty will probably argue that boys will end up disrespecting and blatantly criticizing School at the drop of a hat. But this is where the teachers come in. Currently, a Master goes over the student's speech before he is permitted to speak in front of the School. This system will ensure that the boy's speech is suitable and is of a certain quality. If even more precaution is required, the speech could be sent to the Headmaster for his ascent. Once it is confirmed that the speech isn't contemptuous and offers a fresh insight, the boy will be allowed to speak.

The School Council, one of the most powerful student bodies in School was formed with a simple idea in mind. The idea was that the boys should be able to pass their own resolutions for the betterment of School and for the betterment of the lives of students. Similarly, speeches about School will enable boys to constructively criticize School policies, bringing about a flood of positive changes and constructive introspection.

I have seen many well intentioned and unbiased articles about School in the past, then why shouldn't boys be able to express their opinions on the podium as well? Yes, boys should certainly be able to talk about their very own School because in the end, it is going to be the School itself that benefits.

Counterpoint

Vikramaditya Kapur

One of the few opportunities that a student gets to present his ideas to the entire School community is through an Assembly Talk. It came as no surprise then that most students were not pleased with restrictions being placed against certain kind of speeches: to be more specific, speeches about various aspects of School. But I fervently believe that the School's restriction actually benefits the students.

What nobody can deny is that being a student at an adolescent age, our speeches tend to focus on the negatives of School. When one is part of an institution it is important that one enjoys it, especially in a boarding school. Repeatedly hearing negative arguments against School can easily affect students of such an impressionable age. Naturally, many criticisms of the School end up becoming cynical tirades— neither do they provide good solutions to the problems, nor do they understand the complexities of the School's position. For solving School problems, forums like the School Council are available.

We all live within this close-knit community for eight months of the year and within this time, each of us knows or learns the positive and negative qualities of the School. So, if a student goes up on stage and once again reiterates the negative qualities we are already aware of, we do not gain anything out of the experience. On the other hand, if a student uses his Assembly Talk as a means of conveying information, knowledge or something he thought to be interesting to his peers and his teachers, it would be beneficial for everyone.

Nobody denies the fact that in a residential school such as our own, it is important that students get a chance to voice their thoughts. These include both praise and condemnation of the Schools policies. However, rather than using Assembly Talks for this purpose, there are various other forums such as the *Weekly* and the School Council where these policies can be discussed and altered if need be.

In the end, I believe we should make the most of the restrictions imposed on us, especially when it comes to speeches. After all, why not start the day by talking on fresh topics? We have eight months of the year to discuss School.



| School Council Minutes |

Saturday, May 15, 2012, 3:00pm in the Nandlal Kilachand Library

The following were present for the meeting:

1. Dr. Peter McLaughlin	Headmaster (Chairman)
2. Mr. Philip Burrett	Deputy Headmaster
3. Mr. Samir Katre	Director of Administrative Affairs
4. Mr. PK Nair	Dean of Studies
5. Mr. A Qezilbash	Dean of Students' Welfare
6. Mr. Piyush Malaviya	Dean of External Affairs
7. Mr. Debashish Chakrabarty	Housemasters' Representative
8. Mr. AK Mandhian	Teachers' Representative
9. Mrs. Sarabjeet Sandhu	Dames' Representative
10. Yuv Vir Khosla	School Captain
11. Siddhant Sachdev	Prefects' Representative
12. Nabeel Shah	H House Senior Representative
13. Abhishek Bansal	H House Senior Representative
14. Rohan Chaudhri	H House Junior Representative
15. Saksham Goyal	H House Junior Representative
16. Karan Singh	J House Senior Representative
17. Karan Pratap Singh Kairon	J House Senior Representative
18. Rahil Chamola	J House Junior Representative
19. Sahir Chaudhary	J House Junior Representative
20. Rishab Tusnial (Stand-in for Abhijeet Karwa)	K House Senior Representative
21. Madhav Dutt	K House Senior Representative
22. Devansh Aggarwal	K House Junior Representative
23. Ashvin Solanki	K House Junior Representative
24. Raj Surana	O House Senior Representative
25. Nakul Talwar	O House Senior Representative
26. Manan Pradhan	O House Junior Representative
27. Shourya Kishorepuria	O House Junior Representative
28. Arjun Midha (Stand-in for Aviral Gupta)	T House Senior Representative
29. Arjun Parmar	T House Senior Representative
30. Nikhil Saraf	T House Junior Representative
31. Naadir Singh (Stand-in for Smayan Sahni)	T House Junior Representative

Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by Arjun Parmar and seconded by Raj Surana.

Matters arising from the previous meeting

1. There should be free seating in the CDH for the entire School on holidays and weekends

Mr. Philip Burrett informed the Council that free seating had been experimented with, but the entire School was not present. He requested a vote of the Council. The matter was passed.

2. IB Classes should be equipped with functional technological facilities

A decision was not taken as the Technological Council Meeting had not been held. The matter would be reverted to after the Technological Council held its meeting.

3. Both a Hindi and an English Play should be staged at Founders' Day

The Chairman explained that though the Main Play for the year would get preference, a smaller production could take place on Thursday evening. The production would be like the plays performed at the Inter-House One Act Play. Mr. A Qezilbash agreed with the idea and added that the Boy-in-Charge of English Dramatics would be helped by the Master-in-Charge. Mr. Philip Burrett said that the cast should be chosen so that people would not have to go for two practices at the same time.

4. Ties

The sub-committee brought a list of ties and samples. The Council took a decision to change the ties for other activities. The sub-committee was going to look at this possibility for the next meeting. Karan Kairon and Devansh Aggarwal were also made a part of the sub-committee which was formed in the previous meeting.

5. Increase in the number of Honour Boards for activities like debating, quiz etc.

Abhishek Bansal gave a list of Honour Boards that should be added for activities including Social Service, Senior English Debating, Secretary General MUN, AV, Quiz and Dramatics. The Council decided that it would be difficult to remove Honour Boards and there was no place to add more. It was decided to have a system of record for these activities. Arjun Parmar suggested that an honour book could be kept and displayed during Founders' Day.

6. iPods should be allowed for S Formers

The Chairman decided to take a decision next term after a review of the discipline of School.

7. The Academic Council should have at least one student representative

Mr. PK Nair reverted to the Council regarding the Studies Council that was to be formed. A list of boys, from various forms and Houses would be formed, including a representation from different streams. This Council would start next term. The Chairman added that boys who are not academically strong should also be represented and it need not be proportional.

Proposals for the Current Meeting

1. The Doon School Cup should be awarded

Abhishek Bansal explained that there was no point not to have the Doon School Cup as the House Cups had been restarted. The Chairman brought to the notice of the House that there was a problem regarding the weightages of activities. A sub-committee including Mr. Philip Burrett, Abhishek Bansal, Raj Surana, Madhav Dutt, Sahir Chaudhary and Nikhil Saraf was formed to look at a composition of weightages which would look at the all-round performance of the House.

2. The Art School should be open for boys till 7:30

Madhav Dutt introduced the proposal, saying that this provision would help boys to complete their work and portfolios. The Chairman thought it was an interesting idea for boys who have taken up the subject. He said that the prospect of opening Music School could also be looked at for next term.

3. Prevention of mosquitos and other insects in the Houses and the Main Building

Abhishek Bansal expressed his concern regarding mosquitos and insects in the Houses and the Main Building. Mr. Samir Katre expressed that everything that could be done was being done but he added that he could look at repeating the treatment more often.

4. Popcorn should be served when movies are screened on Saturday nights and nights before holidays

The Secretary gave a passionate speech to enhance the movie experience in School, but the Council declined the proposal.

5. Renovation of the MPH

Siddhant Sachdev brought to the notice of the House the acoustics of the MPH and hoped that it would be improved before DSMUN and the Chuckerbutty Debates took place next term. The Chairman agreed that refurbishing was necessary. Mr. Philip Burrett said that wall mounted fans would be a better option in the short-run, considering costs. Karan Singh also added that leakages should also be taken into consideration.

6. Socials should be more frequent and longer

Raj Surana expressed the desire of most S and Sc formers to have longer and more frequent Socials. Mr. A Qezilbash said that Socials were meant to be for two hours, but people arrive late. The Chairman said that he saw the point and would continue talks with the other girls' schools.

Other Matters with the Permission of the Chair

1. JAM Session for the entire School on Golden Night

Abhishek Bansal suggested the idea to have the entire School in a JAM session in the MPH (Multi Purpose Hall) after the dinner on Golden Night. Mr. Philip Burrett said there was no reason why it could not happen. The Chairman concluded that it would be interesting and lively and that a final decision would be taken in the Houemasters' Council.

Secretary

(Shashvat Dhandhanania)

Chairman

(Dr. Peter McLaughlin)

| Poetry |

Dear Home

Madhav Dutt

The now un-touched Playstation
Makes me scream with exasperation!
'Facebook'ing people at night and other nonsense
Is now strictly replaced by Websense.
Getting entertained by the plasma television
Is substituted by attending The Inter-House Music
competition!

And waking up late in the afternoon
Has made way for MLJ's early morning croon.

I also miss my beloved bed
And the kitchen where I was well fed;
From watching films with 3-D glasses
To getting late for extra classes!

My life has changed beyond recognition,
The School gives it a new definition!
Alas, School offers opportunities as well

Which is why I shall continue like everything is swell!
But don't worry Dear Home, I shall be back soon
Back again to my tranquil cocoon!

A Lifetime Experience

Amaan Naushad

An exchange was, indeed, one of
The most unique experiences to have, said some.

I had no idea how true this was,
Till I came to Doon for one;

On landing in Chandbagh,
A whole new feel was in the air,
For I had to make the transition
From day scholar to boarder, that day!

I was really scared, what was I to behold?
But all fears vanished,
As soon as I started meeting the people,
They each drew a smile on my face!

The staff has been so kind,
Understanding, always willing and helpful,
Along with all the friends I made,
To make the exchange blissful.

'twas marvellous, the whole show,
(Which has given me a lot to learn)
Be it learning to make iced tea,
Or learning to email frequently!

With many pictures and this jolly adventure
I depart from this place,
After a month of fun filled learning,
This has, ofcourse, been a lifetime experience.

WHERE DID WE GO WRONG?

Aahan Menon

Over the course of this MUN I happened to spend a lot of time in the Historical Security Council, set in the backdrop of World War II and the Cold War. I find myself extremely drawn by how both these scenarios were highly influenced by the actions of individuals; individuals who wielded power by virtue of the millions who chose to follow them. I felt the urgency to voice my concern and thoughts, now more than ever. Where did it all begin to go wrong? Was there something fundamentally wrong with individuals such as Franco, Mussolini or Hitler? Or was there something wrong with the general public, which chose to follow these men and continues following men who exhibit the same traits of moral corruption and tyranny?

With time we seem to forget that these leaders leading us is only one side of the coin. The other side reveals that things came about also because we *chose* to follow them. Here I find the need to point out what Freud has established to be the basis of human psychology- that a human being never considers himself to be fundamentally wrong. So how did these despots come into being, with all their savage tyranny? Were they born such, exposed to certain dysfunctional elements which psychopaths often claim to be their corruptors? Yet, in none of these autocrats do we see the usual characteristics of a psychopath. Is it possible that these people were not madmen, but a physical manifestation of the madness of humanity? "I always admired the system of British parliament"- it is highly unlikely that any of you would believe me if I told you this is an excerpt from Hitler's book 'Mein Kampf'. People are shaped by their surroundings, yet we propose not to understand these people when we comprise those very surroundings! Hitler's hatred for Jews was not inborn. He developed his ideals from Anti-Semitic tabloids available in Vienna. Before that, Adolf Hitler did not harbour any Anti-Semitic feelings whatsoever. The violent nature of Stalin was cultivated due to physical abuse by his father and his harsh years fending for himself in exile. The circumstances that existed moulded these individuals, and to avoid being swallowed and torn by the madness, these people became the madness. None proclaim Castro to be a lunatic, simply because he never fell. Cuba lies in shambles today, yet nobody

looks back to the mass killings which Castro perpetrated through Che Guevara. Why? Because Castro manifested the madness into reality, leaving no clear distinction between the two. There was no room for a comparison with the everyday in Cuba, for the madness born of extremity became the everyday. There is a part of us; a part of humanity that says every atrocity, every act of aggression, every single act of frenzied madness is justified. In some way or the other, we justify our actions. We tell ourselves that there is no other option and that it is for a good cause. People say that deep down we know we are wrong, the truth is that deep down we all think our actions are right. And with this madness the weak transform into not the strong, but the powerful. We have always sown the seeds of madness, nurtured it as it grows and then stepping back and looking at the monsters we have created; disowned them. It is time that we, as part of a global community begin to shoulder responsibility for the situations that we create for ourselves. There is a fine line between greatness and madness, that line is humanity.



The Week Gone By...

Vikramaditya Kapur

We began the week not knowing what was in store for us: various school teams returned from outstation competitions and preparations for Test Week began for... well, none of us. However, no matter how mundane this past week may sound to you, it was far from being ordinary.

The swimming competition concluded this week. Yes, the competition, like all past years, was exciting and we got to see great performances by all (other than those who stopped half way). But what was exhilarating was the fact that many swimmers were able to beat past records.

The strategic placement of the PTMs, both before and after Test Week, has ensured that no one takes Test Week lightly. And owing to the hectic life in School, it is also not possible to bypass myriad activities that keep happening in School all the time. Before we knew it, DSMUN was over and it is now time for our debaters to shine during the Chuckerbutty Debates. Unfortunately, this year, even if our debaters repeat last year's feat, the School still won't be able to enjoy a holiday; Monday being prep leave. But that's not going to stop our debaters from trying hard now is it? And one never knows, maybe the Headmaster declares a holiday after Test Week? Now that's food for thought.

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