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CHUCKERBUTTY ROUNDUP

Utkarsh Jha and Shashvat Dhandhanian report on the 56th Annual Chuckerbutty Memorial Inter-School English Debates, 2012, held in School from September 7 to 9

Since the School Debating team has made it to each and every Final Round of the Chuckerbutty Debates for the past seven years, it did not seem over optimistic for us to expect success at this year's 'Chucks'. Furthermore, our debaters, bolstered by their success at the Mayo Girls' Silver Jubilee Debates had sharpened their attack, tempered their sarcasm and brushed up on their knowledge. So what if our arch rivals, La Martiniere for Boys, Kolkata, was missing from action? We were confident and prepared.

The debates started on Friday, September 7, with the Preliminary Round in which the thirteen participating teams were divided into two pools with the aid of a lucky draw. The debates were held in the Oxford format, where each school is represented by two speakers- one speaking for the motion and one against. The motion for the first debate was, 'This House would support the Right to *Hartal*'. The topic seemed apt, considering the workers strike at the Maruti plant at Manesar, the Anna Hazare movement and the various other revolts that have shaken different parts of the world recently. The School was represented by Shashvat Dhandhanian (as the proposition) and Rahul Srivastava (as the opposition). Even though they seemed to have no dearth of knowledge, we must concede that they were definitely not at their best. Shashvat lacked confidence and his debate lacked structure. On the other hand, Rahul's debate was well crafted and his presence (even as the last speaker of the debate) was memorable, though the matter was not necessarily the best. Before the results were announced, it seemed as if it would be difficult to qualify to the next round, and even if the School did qualify, their performance would have to improve manifold if they wanted to advance any further in the competition. The Preliminary Rounds were of an extremely high calibre considering that the motion was not entirely open-ended. In Pool A, Anand Ravindram from Dubai Modern High got Best Speaker and Shreyas Ravishankar, also from Dubai Modern High got Most Promising Speaker. In Pool B, Aishwarya Agarwal from La Martiniere for Girls, Lucknow got Best Speaker and Rahul Srivastava from The Doon School got the Most Promising Speaker. Dubai Modern High School, Dubai, La Martiniere for Girls, Lucknow, Welham Girls' School, Bishop Cotton's School, Mayo College for Boys, Vasant Valley School, Welham Boys' School and The Doon School qualified for the Quarterfinal Round.

The format of the Quarterfinal Round was by far the most challenging. The Round was held in the Parliamentary format, in which participants were paired with students of other schools and had to prepare their debates in half an hour. The motion to be debated was 'This house believes in having justice at all costs'. While most teams did a good job of defending the motion or arguing against it, a few teams outwitted and outperformed the others. Shashvat Dhandhanian stuck to the basics in this round and presented a well thought-out debate, devoid of any hysterics or unnecessary humour and was adjudged the Best Speaker in his pool. The debaters from Dubai Modern High, Welham Girls' School and Vasant Valley School also performed well, presenting well crafted speeches replete with sound arguments and crushing counter-points. They remained calm and composed, thinking on their feet and using the Points of Information wisely, enabling the teams to make it through to the Semi Final Round.

The Semi-Final Round was, if not more, as innovative as the quarters. Here the teams had the luck (or misfortune!) of creating their own topic on the basis of a slideshow shown to them. In The Doon School versus Vasant Valley School debate, the debaters narrowed down and argued on 'This House has forgotten the ghosts of the past' while Welham Girls' School and Dubai Modern High debated on 'Technology has taken over our lives as masters'. The Doon School team did a good job of defining their case and playing with semantics. The debaters from Vasant Valley School found it difficult to cope with the arguments that the Doon debaters were presenting, and eventually got entangled in their own arguments. At the end of an intense round, The Doon School qualified for the Final Round. In the other Pool, the wit and sarcasm of



(Contd. overleaf)

GOALS!

The **School Soccer Team** played a match against the **Raja Ram Mohan Roy Academy** in the **Council's Tournament** and won 3-0. In the **Quarter-final round**, the Team played against **St. Jude's School** and won 5-0. The School Team played their **Semi-final** match against **Moravian School** and won 6-0. In the **Final Round**, the Team played against **Colonel Brown School** and won 6-5 on penalties.

Congratulations!

IPSC UPDATE

The **School Squash Team** took part in the **IPSC Squash Tournament** held at **Mayo College, Ajmer**. In the **Under-17** category, the School Team stood **3rd** and in the **Under-15** category, the School Team stood **4th**. Well done!

MATH WIZARDS

Following are the results of the **S.L Sharma Senior Math Colloquium Prize Test**:

1st: Shaurya Agarwal

2nd: Arnav Joshi

Congratulations!

SOUND OF MUSIC

Following are the results of the various categories of the **Inter House Music Competition, 2012**:

Piano Solo:

1st: Oberoi (Yuv Vir Khosla)

Drum Solo:

1st: Tata (Arjun Sharma)

Choir:

1st: Oberoi

Tabla:

1st: Oberoi (Vrindam Nagpal and Aditya Gupta)

Hindustani Instrumental:

1st: Jaipur (Hamza Khan)

Light Vocal:

1st: Hyderabad (Siddhant Gupta, Rishabh Nautiyal and Navraj Randhawa)

House Position:

1st: Oberoi

Congratulations!

BUSINESSMEN

Imroz Suri, Karan Singhal, Himanshu Todi and Harshil Aggarwal represented the School in the **8th Kirloskar Business Quiz** held at the **Lawrence School, Sanawar**. The School Team won the **Second Consolation** prize. Well done!

The WHO?

Who is Antonio Salieri?

Paul McCartney- **Yash Jalan**

A salmon chef- **Utkarsh Jha**

An Italian gangster- **Arnaav Bhavnani**

A Spanish writer- **Azan Brar**

A F1 driver- **Karan Sethy**

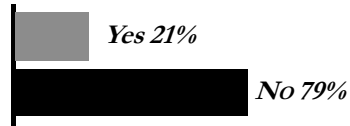
A Chilean war-hero- **Shivaan Seth**

A painter- **Shreshta Khetan**

He was a classical composer and conductor

Opinion Poll

Would you think twice before representing School before your House?



(384 members of the School community were polled)

Next Week's Question: Do you think TMC's backing out from the UPA II is justified?

(contd. from page 1)

the Welham Girls' debating team gave them the edge over the debaters of Dubai Modern High. It was going to be a Final Round to look forward to.

The Finals, held on Sunday, were eagerly awaited and the anticipation of seeing 'The Doon School' painted on the Chuckerbutty board in the MPH was palpable. The motion for the Final Round was, 'This House believes that it would think twice before claiming to represent civil society'. The Doon School team seemed bogged down by a slightly feeble case, and Welham Girls' School made the most of the situation with a set of unrelenting attacks tangential to the argument. At the end of a fiercely contested debate, the Welham Girls' School seemed to get the better of us and managed to clinch the trophy after twenty long years. Rahul Srivastava did give us a reason to celebrate winning the Best Speaker award in the Final.

We must add, like every other year, it did not appear as if anything went wrong. From the time that the teams arrived, to the time they left, everything was under control. Considering the formats that were used and their complexities, the organization needs to be commended. And what was even more impressive was that from arranging umbrellas when it rained on the first day to explaining the formats, everything was done by the boys. Having said that, we must acknowledge that the boys could do so only under the guidance of PKB and DEB, without whom none of this would have been possible. We cannot recollect any team that went back cribbing about the organization.

The debates showcased great style, spontaneity, wit, humour and depth of content. Our team losing in the Final Round after a spirited performance was disappointing indeed, but the debates were, without doubt, a great success. Let us hope that 'Chucks' continues to challenge minds, like ours, in the future!

Unquotable Quotes

He is awesome swimming player.

Ishan Sandhu, what stroke does he play?

I request to you all.

ANC, puts forth his wishes.

The end of the bottom of the box.

Madhav Dutt thinks out of the box.

The first Prime Minister of Punjab.

Utkarsh Jha, future Pol. Science teacher?

His experience in field of stupid is great.

Shourya Kishorerpuriya, apparently so is yours.

I knows a great amount of English.

Ritesh Shinde, you sure do!

Letter To The Editor

The Most Unkindest Cut

Dear Weekly,

"Three things in human life are important: the first is to be kind; the second is to be kind; and the third is to be kind". Henry James

This is with reference to Mr. Vikramaditya Kapur's "The Week Gone By" in the previous issue (No.2322, Sept.15). I'm struck by the tone in which Mr. Kapur sums up our boys' endeavour: "...we lost the Final Round...hard luck to our debaters". The article continues in that same vein: "Not only does that take away the possibility of a...holiday...a much deeper wound, having lost right in the last round". (How I wish we could have won/lost the cup right at the beginning of the event!) The unkindest cut of all is the line that immediately follows this one: "Not far away, our swimmers did us really proud!" We might want to watch the logical progression of thought in our writing, the implicit connections forged by language!

A line might have been spared to our debating team commending them for their efforts, their poise in the face of "losing". I should like to believe we were runners-up, not losers!

For the record, these were the seventh straight Chuckerbutty Debates where the Doon School team was in the final round, no mean feat in itself. I need not repeat the cliché: It's not about winning...

At times like these, I wish debating was a contact sport: Boom: a point to Red! Pa! A point to Blue! O look 'ere Mamma, the blue guy WON! BY THREE POINTS! No way!

Perhaps we should have a Chuckerbutty where we as the host school do not put up a team at all! No fear of flying, no fear of falling! It might spare us unkind cuts from our own. If I, as a mere Master in Charge of the activity, am thus hurt by the tone and tenor of your reportage, I can only imagine what my debaters must be feeling. One of them, incidentally, happens to be your Editor-in-Chief as well! I could die of the irony! We might want to address the tone, tenor and attitude of *The Week Gone By* column. Casual reportage laced with implicit off hand judgement makes for a dangerous and unpalatable mix. I've referred to the same in a previous letter to you as well.

Finally, let's be kind to the Runners-up. And no, it wasn't "hard luck" at all. It was simply, Matter, Manner, Method, and Rebuttal! It was also, by all counts, a fight fought manfully, and conceded graciously.

Your friend and critic,
Priyanka Bhattacharyya

* * *

| Viewpoint |

For a Realistic Tomorrow

Shashvat Dhandhanian replies to the Letter To The Editor, titled 'For A Better Tomorrow', printed in Issue Number 2322

Although I agree with the thought that people should be more encouraging, I do not agree with the way this change is being brought about. I oppose banning words.

The Letter To The Editor by Yash Johri, printed in Issue Number 2322 suggested that the word 'lend' discourages students from taking part in activities, and he said that its use has been "banned", "for a better tomorrow". This is an effort to change the mindset of the people. No doubt it is a constructive thought, but it fails to strike any chord with reality. Will purges or the midnight knock follow if anyone fails to abide by this new rule? When words are banned, synonyms are quickly accepted, and as I am told, synonyms for lend (which I still use) have already been found. Pardon me, but I am appalled at the fact that we can be so naïve. Firstly, this thought is extremely idealistic. Idealism, I admit, is necessary, but a balance between idealism and realism needs to be struck. Wanting to ban the usage of words will not change the mindset of students. How can we even think that there will be no other source of discouragement at all? To achieve something as far-fetched as eliminating discouragement, it would require us to give all activities and games the same importance and become more accepting of varying interests. This, and only this, will stop boys from being discouraged for being part of an activity. And where does the question of 'greater heights' even rise? If you are passionate about an activity, you will not be discouraged. You will try hard and try harder, till you succeed. Next, we would wish to ban all forms of criticism, as they too discourage people.

Secondly, what we must also note is that in trying to reduce discouragement we are removing words from 'our' vocabulary. We cannot forget that the word 'lend' itself has a meaning in the Dosco lingo. If this is true, then what we are promoting is an entire sect of over-sensitive crybabies who are effected by silly things like 'name-calling', which will be unacceptable.

What I do hope to see are people who are a little more Spartan in nature. Let us widen our horizon and hope for a better and realistic tomorrow, where people accept criticism gracefully and take mockery in good humour. And for those of us who think banning words will stop discouragement- think again. The world waiting for us after School is not so soft.



The Week Gone By...

Vikramaditya Kapur

All of us are mightily glad that Test Week is over, but we are definitely not looking forward to the results. However, let us not be bothered by the 'ghosts of the past' and move on to more interesting topics- the Inter-House Music Competition and the Inter-House Soccer Competition has begun. The highlight of the week has to be the School Soccer team's victory at the Councils' Tournament. Well done to them!

Needless to say, after all the training and practice, all boys and girls who were involved either with music or with soccer performed admirably. To quote Keats' *La Belle Dams Sans Merci*, the musicians "Hath thee in thrall!" Oberoi House lifted the Cup. While some questions were raised regarding the marking scheme, most didn't really care about the results (atleast the Houses at the bottom of the table!) since everyone was entertained by the entire show, especially the compere who, with his American accent, kept us amused throughout the evening. But well done to Oberoi House for a good all-round performance.

The one let down this week was the emergency changes in various midterm plans. The cancellation of the re-introduced A Form private midterm has relieved a few parents but has dashed the hopes of many! The weather has certainly been dodgy and all the changes being made, though cumbersome, are necessary.

Interestingly, our School Captain displayed a sense of humor- catching most Sc Formers off guard with a surprise (and false) announcement of Socials this week. One should have seen the look on the faces of the Sc Formers when he led them to believe that they were to have Socials on the eighteenth. Some Sc Formers are said to have begun preparing for future Socials by shaving and stacking up bottles of deodorants, colognes, after-shave, hair gel and more cologne!

With all that is going on this week and Midterms to come, it seems like time is all that is lacking.

| Interview |

Strokes

The following are excerpts from an interview with Pankaj Panwar, a sculptor who conducted an Art workshop in School between September 17 and 19

The Doon School Weekly (DSW): Could you tell us a little about your background?

Pankaj Panwar (PKP): I was brought up in Lucknow and did my schooling at Mahanagar Boys High School. From there I went to Christian College and then to Lucknow University to do my Graduation in the fields of Science, Mathematics and Geology. However, I decided to pursue the Fine Arts; it was a decision that took me a while to make. I did my Graduation in Fine Arts from Visva Bharati University in Shantiniketan, and Post Graduation from MS University, Baroda. I was then awarded the Henry More Fellowship, which allowed me to do more intensive research on sculpturing.

DSW: What got you interested in Art?

PKP: I had always been good at art and drawing. I used to doodle a lot in my notebooks and I loved painting and sculpturing. Initially I had decided to do something else, but finally, I made the decision to work in the field of Fine Arts.

DSW: As an artist, what inspires you?

PKP: Any interesting situation or visual theme inspires me. I work on humans, human psychology, surroundings, objects and nature. The thing which is depicted might remain same for centuries but its representation varies. So many artists have depicted families in their art but each of them has had a different representation of it.

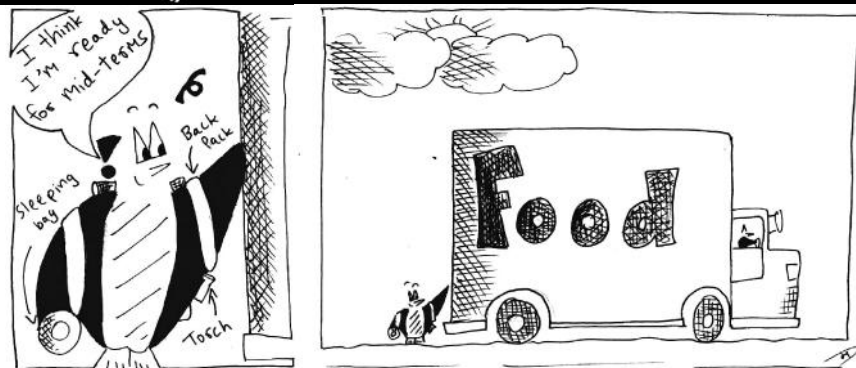
DSW: Do you believe in Accidental Art?

PKP: Accidental Art is part of art. In certain things it plays an important role. In ceramics we use a boat-firing technique to glaze the pot, but the final colour and tone of the pot is always different. It is completely unpredictable and you will always end up with a different glaze or tone of the pot.

Dosco Doodle

Mid Terms

Madhav Dutt



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4. The Doon School Weekly Saturday, September 22