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The Doon School WEEKLY



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And The Winner is...

The Doon School Weekly interviewed the newly elected School Captain *Sidharth Sethi*

Doon School Weekly(DSW): According to you, what is the role of a School Captain?

Sidharth Sethi (SST): The role of the School Captain is to lead by example; he has to maintain discipline and decorum in school and ensure that the school reaches the zenith of glory. Whenever guests visit I plan to make sure that they feel welcome and are treated hospitably. Furthermore I plan on making sure that stringent action is taken to improve and introduce punctuality and etiquette.

DSW: How did you feel when you heard your name announced?

SST: When I heard my name announced I felt elated. Although, I was somewhat shocked, I was also proud that six years of my hard work had boiled down to this moment of glory. The post of the School Captain is one that I have always viewed with awe. As I walked up on stage I felt overjoyed and the standing ovation from the School only added to that feeling. However, as I stood on stage and saw the newly appointed prefects coming to take their place I also felt very anxious at the responsibility that had been placed on my shoulders.

DSW: What are your views on the new schedule?

SST: It is good that the School is trying something new and experimenting with the daily schedule. The new schedule focuses more on all-round development and I hope it has full support from the students as change is always welcome. The schedule has a lot of benefits; we shall, hopefully, get to know them as time flies. My belief is that the PE classes shall inoculate against obesity and also improve standards of fitness in Doscoc. Even though students get less time to play, they get more time to focus on STA's and SUPW's. This will aid in Doon's production of all-round students.

DSW: What is the School's main flaw and how do you plan to rectify it?

Rapid Fire!

Favorite School Captain: Vihaan Khanna

Favorite Sport Season: Athletics

Favorite Co-curricular Activities: Dance

Favorite Publication: Weekly

Person you voted for: (*laughs*) I promise to disclose this information if anyone tells me how many votes I won by.

SST: Doscoc seem to have a care-free attitude these days. This stops us from achieving our potential. To rectify this I plan to make sure that boys do not display this attitude in any daily activity - from making their beds to the work they put in their studies. I believe that the quintessential attitude of a Doscoc must be to make the best of everything and this must be preserved sincerely.

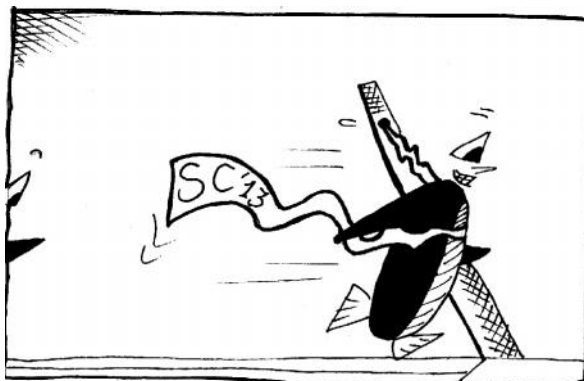
DSW: Do you believe in self discipline?

SST: I don't believe in cancellation of punishments, on the contrary I believe that punishments promote discipline and also stop students from making repetitive mistakes. We all are human beings and we ought to make mistakes, but learning from them is the most important part. It is when we stop learning from our mistakes that problems begin.



School Captain '13 . Winner from the field
to the School

Madhav Dutt



THE A-TEAM

The following are the prefectorial appointments for 2013-2014:

School Captain: Sidharth Sethi

Hyderabad House

House Captain: Agni Raj Singh

Prefects: Dhruv Prasad, Kabir Sethi and Rahul Srivastava

Jaipur House

House Captain: Shivaan Sethi

Prefects: Aaryaman Scindia, Raniz Bordoloi and Ritesh Shinde

Kashmir House

House Captain: Madhav Dutt

Prefects: Abhishek Kakkar, Kunal Kanodia and Rishabh Tusnial

Oberoi House

House Captain: Nipurn Datta

Prefects: Nakul Talwar, Suraj Bishnoi and Vishal Tummala

Tata House

House Captain: Zorawar Singh

Prefects: Chaitanya Fatehpuria, Jai Khanna and Vikramaditya Kapur
Congratulations all!

CRICKET UPDATE

The School Cricket Team played a match against Sports College Raipur and won by 7 wickets.

The School Junior Cricket Team played a match against Sports College Raipur and won by 20 runs. Well done!

A SHOT AT HISTORY

Samarjit Singh participated in the 56th National Shooting Championship held at Delhi from December 18 to 28. Samarjit won two **golds**, two **silvers** and one **bronze**. He became the **Junior National Champion** in **Centre Fire Pistol Category**. Samarjit was also ranked **4th** in the **Air Pistol Category**. He won an individual **silver** in **Sports Pistol Category** and won a team **silver** in **Youth Air Pistol**, as well as a team **bronze** in **Seniors Centre Fire Pistol**.

Congratulations!

MUSIC APPOINTMENTS

The appointments of the **Music Society** for the following year are:

School Music Captain: Hamza Khan

School Orchestra Leader: Namanshree Jain

School Choir Leader: Suyash Raj Shivam

School Popular Band Leader: Imaan Pariat Mehta

School Music Society Secretary: Agni Raj Singh

Trinity Examinations Boy in-Charge: Harsh Bansal

School Dance Coordinator: Agni Raj Singh

Congratulations all!

LIBRARY

Udhbav Agarwal has been elected the **Library Council Secretary** for the forthcoming year.

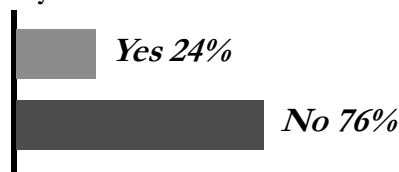
Congratulations!

NEW MASTERS

The school welcomes new masters Inderjit Singh (IDS), Jitendra Tiwari (JTR) and Mrigank Pandey (MGP). We wish them a fruitful tenure!

Opinion oll

Are you aware of the situation in Mali?



(281 members of the School community were polled)

Next Week's Question: Have you heard about the Verma Panel recommendations?

SPORTS CAPTAINCIES

The **Sports Captaincies** for the year 2013-2014 are:

Cricket: Kabir Sethi

Hockey: Ashish Rao

Soccer: Shivaan Sethi

Basketball: Waseefullah Sherwani

Athletics: Siddharth Sethi

Table Tennis: Raghav Kothiwal

Badminton: Kabir Sethi

Squash: Ishaan Sandhu

Boxing: Durgesh Agarwal

Senior PT Leader: Karan Pratap Singh Kairon

Swimming: Sumer Sehgal

Congratulations!

HMMUN

The School was represented by fourteen delegates in the 60th Session of the **Harvard Model United Nations** in Boston. Aahan Menon was awarded **Most Outstanding Delegate** and Arnav Joshi received a **Special Mention**.

Congratulations!

EXCHANGE

The school welcomes exchange students **Fabio Richter** from **Salem School, Germany**, and **Thomas Leadbetter** from **Ballarat Grammar School, Australia**.

We hope they have a good time!

HONOURS

In December 2012, the **Uttarakhand State Pitambar Dutt Barthwal Hindi Academy** selected and honoured Dr Mohd Hammad Farooqui for his contribution in Hindi creative writing, theatre, research and teaching

THE EQUESTRIAN

Govind Sandhu took part in the **Inter School Equestrian Show** in Chandigarh and won a **gold**, **silver** and **bronze** in Jumping, a **silver** in Tent Pegging and Pole Bending, and a **bronze** in Trotting Race and Dressage.

Well done!



Around the world in 80 Words

An earthquake of magnitude 6.2 rocked the Solomon Islands on Thursday this week. Elsewhere, France wants a UN peacekeeping force in Mali in order to be able to reduce their troops placed there. China has detained 70 people in ethnic Tibetan regions in an attempt to stop self-immolation. Trouble continues in Syria, with rebels battling the army to end President Assad's reign. Also, highest Iranian authority Ayatollah Khamenei has refused direct talks with US.

ARMS AND THE WOMAN

Wing Commander (Retd) Anupama Joshi

This article was originally printed in The Indian Express, dated January 30.

The Pentagon ended its ban on women in combat last week. Indian women in the armed forces must first fight other battles.

Two decades ago, when I arrived at my first posting station to begin work, I asked the orderly for my allotted room. He asked, "but where is sahib?" Which sahib, I asked? "Pilot Officer Joshi", he said. I cannot forget the look on his face when I said that I was Pilot Officer Joshi. The armed forces have come a long way since then, and it has been a rollercoaster ride for both men and women.

It took the armed forces nearly 20 years to acknowledge the presence of women as a regular, and somewhat permanent, fixture in the military. It took seven years of battling it out in court and innumerable internal battles for women to acquire some parity with their male colleagues, though the playing field between the sexes is still far from level. Women were barred from taking professional courses, though they are mandatory for promotions. There were positions a female officer would not be considered for; she was not eligible for guard duty, could not hold security-related positions or carry out Base Operations duties. For this force to see a woman in same bunker, let alone trench, was unthinkable. Many of these bars were, however, lifted after continuous representation from women.

I remember constantly fighting an internal battle, always having to go the extra mile. If you made a mistake, it was because you were a woman and if you performed well, it was because you were hardworking. To be fair, the military had to break away from years of tradition. The officer and the gentleman would always stand up for a

woman and pull out a chair, and to instead see a woman as a comrade-in-arms created some cognitive dissonance. I remember one senior officer would get up whenever I entered his office and address me as madam. It took years of constant reminders that I was a junior officer to get him to call me by my name.

Internally, all women are referred to as "lady officers". But why can't everyone just be an officer? Peer group officers over the years started to resent the soft treatment given to women in hard postings and duties. It is a fair enough complaint, but who made the rules and policies? It was the men. So you had a set who resented "lady officers", and then there were the young officers who resented superiors for favours done for "lady officers", resulting in an unhappy force. Some of these issues have been addressed, and the services have arrived at an uneasy compromise.

It took a seven-year legal battle fought by Sqn Ldr Rukhsana and me for the armed forces to reluctantly, partially accept women in permanent positions after a landmark Delhi High Court judgment. Even today, the judgment has been implemented only for a limited number of women. It is generally observed that most women get married and have children in the first six to seven years, while they are gaining experience and learning. Later, when they are ready to take on more responsibility, they are asked to leave. It is much the same for men — the only difference is that women take time out to raise children. There are arguments that many man-hours are wasted when women are on maternity leave. But this does not seem to affect the private sector, which places a premium on profits. The main determinant should be efficiency, not gender. A woman looking to serve in the armed forces is cognisant of the terms and conditions and ready for the danger coming her way. If I go bungee jumping, for instance, my gender is irrelevant. If I sign off on the risks, I can jump off a cliff.

The military is yet to bring clarity to rules of career progression for women, as higher service courses (and therefore promotions) elude them. The air force website still says that permanent positions are reserved for

It took the armed forces nearly 20 years to acknowledge the presence of women as a regular

men and women are eligible only for short service commissions. A woman must have a specific high grade in her evaluation reports to receive a permanent commission. However, a permanent commission officer — a position offered only to men — can continue to serve till the age of retirement, even if his performance is no better than average.

The services must take a cue from the US department of defence and start to plan for the future. Strategic timelines

need to be drawn up to consider a proper induction plan for women. For now, combat roles seem a bridge too far, but the military can take other steps to ensure equality in the armed forces. Once the details are hammered out and the fine print clearly outlined, with no compromise in the physical requirements, it is difficult to see where the problem is. The question, then, is if women are ready. The standard answer is that in case of war, they would be subject to torture. But are men somehow more impervious to torture, or less likely to be subject to it? When a coffin is brought back to the family, the mourning is not gender-specific. It is as intense for the loss of a daughter as for a son.

| Creative |
THE REBEL
Kunal Kanodia

He threw off his chains. It was not easy— those metal cuffs were all he had known. There was no family; no home or hearth to go back to after a hard day's work in the fields. There was no God; for he knew that 'He' did not exist. If a God had existed, 'he' would have known something, if not someone, apart from the chains. From the time he was born, he wore only the chains.

It was with the chains that, as an infant, he had been picked up by an old couple on the banks of the river which flowed through the cold country in which he lived. His chains had deterred the couple, and they soon left him back in the cradle in which they had found him. Couple after couple saw him, but quickly left him on seeing his chains. Was it just the chains that caused everyone to leave the poor child? What were these chains anyway? That we don't know. What we do know is that he landed up, with his chains, in a town miles away, many years later. The chains witnessed his first word, his first joke, touched his first woman – indeed, the chains had known him always.

He hardly knew anything about the chains himself. They were as much a stranger to him as the stars in the sky, but then the cold metal was much more reliable than that golden haired pretty lady with whom he often sneaked out. The chains did not give him a moment of privacy. Here, maybe we are being naive, for he knew privacy to exist only when he had the chains on without the chains it was just emptiness. For the metal would never leave his pale wrists, it could not and would not – they were, after all, *his* chains. But the chains knew that they weren't his – they had never belonged to anyone. It was he who belonged to them.

The golden haired pretty lady never felt threatened by the chains. She was able to make him smile, laugh and put him in a mood which he was never in when he was with them. Though she had told him to take off his chains many a time, for she said that she had already taken hers off. He had, in turn, shushed her in fear that the shackles on his wrists would overhear their conversation. How could he take off his only unfaltering friend in so off hand a manner?

By the time he had reached his nineteenth year, the chains began to grow too small for his comfort. Over the years, they had become rusty and cold and the golden haired pretty lady declared that she would go away if he didn't take off his chains. After days and days of thought, he had asked the chains to go away. The chains were taken aback and they grew smaller and constricted his limbs. The chains were still his friends, and although they never made him sad or happy – they at least made him safe of these extreme emotions. But the girl had made him laugh, and cry too - why was it that he wanted to choose her over his chains?

He looked over the wheat growing in the fields and saw a number of men and women walking arm in arm towards the capital city. They had rifles, pitch forks and kitchen knives, but more importantly, they had chains. He decided to join the march. His chains grew colder, and restricted him even more. But he carried on.

In the capital city, the peasants met with fire from the soldiers, who had chains which were loose – loose enough to let them do as they pleased. But he survived the firing. So did all those around him. The bullets had helped release them from their chains. As the chains fell to the ground, he looked down and saw the golden haired pretty girl waving to him in the distance, he waved back – for now, he had no chains.

The Week Gone By...

Arnaav Bhavanani

Once again, the school is abuzz. Change is rife in the air, and people seem to be adapting well to it, especially now, since we have a longer time to do what we Doscos love best: sleep, as PT has been shifted ahead by 45 minutes. The School has changed the entire academic schedule, incorporating schools after lunch to make up for their absence before breakfast. Additionally, the new prefectorial board has been appointed, and they have all taken to their coveted roles well, having left punishments in the backseat (for now). Congratulations are also in order for our new School Captain on his appointment. In other events, the rain seems to be on our side, with PT having been cancelled for two days in a row. Some, however, are not happy with the cancellation of Games for those two days. A, B and C Formers have begun with the new PE classes as per schedule, but again, the rain has impeded any progress. The talk of the School seems to be our star shooter Samarjit Singh, who is now part of the Indian Squad going to Czech Republic and Germany these holidays. The new C Formers also arrived on Monday, and made themselves noticed by wearing the PT uniform to classes. Needless to say, they were much warmer than we were. The At and ScL Formers are in the grip of Boards fever, with their Mocks going on. Even the largest exam of their lives, however, does not stop them from stepping out onto the field to participate in Games. To end on a happy note, the School seems to be shaping up well, to new things as well as old, though no matter what changes, The Doon School will always maintain its own personality.

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