EDITORIAL

I am often asked the question – how do members of the board of the Weekly have the capacity or time to write articles and reports every week? I usually respond by saying that we have an immensely talented board and they enjoy writing. However, each time I answer this question, I am filled with guilt for having lied. Please don’t get me wrong. The Weekly does have an immensely talented board and they love writing. They are good at it too. However, what I say is only half the truth. I tend to hide, rather downplay the fact that board members of the Weekly are usually forced to write because no other member of the School community is willing to contribute.

The Weekly was meant to be a platform just for the members of its editorial board. As stated in its mission, the purpose of the Weekly has always been to echo the voice of the School community along with being a chronicle of various events that take place. This mission is highlighted every time I go to the archives and peruse through yellowed, ancient issues, trumping with ‘Letters to the Editor’ and other articles contributed by those who are not on the board of the Weekly. In sharp contrast, I can literally count the number of times we have received articles and ‘Letters to the Editor’ from members of the school community over the past few years. Furthermore, half of them are exchanges between masters and members of the editorial board rather than contributions from students.

The Weekly needs students to write more. It needs healthy debates and passionate letters. I believe a lively debate and communication between members of a community is the only way for it to continue growing. Furthermore, debate sensitizes us to the various viewpoints that a community can have. As French essayist Joseph Joubert said, “It is better to debate a question without settling it than to settle it without debating it.”

There is one other issue I would like to bring to the notice of the School community. I do receive a large number of submissions from C and D form students who are extremely enthusiastic about having their work published. However, considering these students are very young and many have not yet developed a balanced style of writing, not all of their articles can be published. Even though we try and work on these articles, mould them and rephrase them, some are not of the quality to be published in the Weekly, even after much surgery. And that is a fact. But I also urge members of the school community, especially the junior most ones to not be disappointed if that does happen. Continue writing, for that will improve your powers of expression and thereby, chances of your work getting printed.

On that optimistic note, I look forward to receiving your views and pieces of creativity and sharing them with the entire community.

The Matter, Not The Mind

Kunal Kanodia writes in response to Madhav Dutt’s article in Issue No. 2342.

I write today, keeping in mind Madhav Dutt’s article “The Mind, Not The Matter” printed in issue 2342 of the Weekly. I was flabbergasted by the rather hair raising insinuations made by Madhav in his article. He writes “our government is facing an extremely difficult time, but to add to these woes, our citizens criticize its inefficiency” This perplexing statement underlines an implicit paradox if the government of the world’s largest democracy is “facing an extremely difficult time”, I am sure that you will agree, it must be subject to criticism to help it overcome this very “inefficiency”. Woe betide a government that is elected for the people, by the people and of the people but is hindered in its working by the very same people! The article refuses to relent to this premise of democracy when it goes on to say that “there will be no [economic] progress and the only people we will have to blame is ourselves.”

This scarily reminds one that rather conveniently lets the burden of responsibility off the government’s shoulders and places it in the hands of the people is an idea that can destroy Indian democracy – mistakes are not the educated mantri’s responsibility but the large multitude of the Indian janta.

The article seemingly implies that the voting farmer who tills the land in and day out is more responsible for the National Budget than Mr. Chidambaram. Indeed democracy might just be the worst system of governance, but it sure is the best available. The very fact that democracy allows us to critique, discuss and deliberate ensures that the government is responsible to the people. I concede that there is a growing pessimism about everything that’s wrong with the government, but then again, this same pessimism is part of the fundamental tenets of any successful democracy. The outrage over the government’s indecision over gun control in the United States illustrates just this. The extent of public criticism and pessimism has reached such a stage that a significant number of citizens in Texas have signed a petition demanding President Obama to allow Texas to secede from the United States!

The article also reads: “If our nation is to flower, then this negativity must stop.” I believe such a comment to be stifling the basic idea of a free media’s opinion, it is this very negativity that pervades our thought, which forces the government to take stock of the situation so that it is not voted out of office. It is a critical indicator to the government of what the people believe and require. That’s how this media negativity will make our country “flower”, not by forcing positivity in an attempt to cover up the existing realities, but by bringing negativity to the forefront to allow it to make a difference. Once the government starts to act, it will in turn, eliminate negativity in the long run.
CRICKET UPDATE
Following are the results of the Inter-House Cricket Competition 2013.

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House Cup: Oberoi
Congratulations!

D-FORM CRICKET
In the Foot vs. Martyn T20 Cricket Match held on 21 April, Martyn House scored 120 runs and won the match by 1 run.

Well Done!

Blazer
Devesh Sharma has been awarded the Scholar's Blazer. Congratulations!

Around the world in 80 Words
102 people have succumbed to the rapidly growing bird flu in China, as reported by the World Health Organization. In Tripoli, Libya, a car bomb exploded outside the French embassy, injuring two French guards and a local girl. An earthquake with a magnitude of 5.9 struck near the Pacific Coast of Mexico. In Seattle, five people were shot dead in an apartment complex, and the gunman was shot by police. Finally, France is the latest country to legalize same sex marriage.

Opinion Poll
Should boys be allowed to clap after assembly talks?

| Yes 85% | No 15% |

(328 members of the School community were polled)

Next Week's Question: Has the standard of sport declined in school?

DEBATE UPDATE
Yashraj Agarwal, Ritesh Shinde and Arth Gupta represented the School in the Inter-School Hindi Debates held at Daly College, Indore between 16 and 20 April. The team finished as runners-up. Ritesh Shinde was adjudged the Third Best Speaker in the preliminary round and Most Promising Speaker in the final round. Congratulations!

HOCKEY
The Junior School Hockey Team played a match against Scholars Home and won 2-1. The Team also played a match against Aaryan School and won 2-0. Congratulations!

SWIMMING
The Junior School Swimming Team participated in a swimming tournament at Lawrence School, Sanawar from 20th to 21st April. Pratyaksh Parmar, Varun Sehgal and Udai Nath Behl won their respective categories. Congratulations!

FACULTY UPDATE
Mr. Aditya Sharma has joined the Music Department as an instructor for Hindustani Vocal Music. We wish him a fruitful tenure!
criticism and is thus reflected in it. Putting curbs on our what is right in our country. It is this very sense of patriotism that drives us to fight for the Indian nation or the Indian nation that is an element bewildered: is it the government that is an element of believe that criticism of the government raises harsh on government policies, but Madhav Dutt seems run. The Indian media might be far too critical or too to believe that criticism of the government raises harsh on government policies, but Madhav Dutt seems run. The Indian media might be far too critical or too
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That is just as “undemocratic” as it gets.

bated breaths we found that there was not a single girl who
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**Roving Eye**

Associate Ed

After much wait and preparation, our first socials with Uni on Girls’ School was finally upon us, an event that some believed had the potential to be life changing.
The excitement had been brewing for weeks and many anxious hours had been spent on looking up pick-up lines and trying out new deodorants and shampoos during outings. And as the day of the socials crested, S-form boys were seen experiencing myriad emotions, from nervous excitement to sheer depression. Most of us developed knots in our stomachs after it finally dawned upon us that we were going to meet absolutely unknown girls and would have to lut it off with them. Then there were a resilient few who did not let the thought of socials hamper their activities — the S-form Popular Band practiced with such fervour that they had to be reminded of the plight of those close living the to music school more than once.

Finally, on the evening of April the 20th, boys were seen chanting their lines in front of the mirror with furious concentration, all the while trying to fix their hair (yet another example of Doscos being adept at multi-tasking).

As we began the slow walk towards the MPH, we could not help but speculate on the kind of evening that was in store for us, and also whether the alarming rumour of the food being vegetarian was true or not. Imagine our surprise when, on entering the hall with no assurance of the food being vegetarian was true or not. Imagine our surprise when, on entering the hall with no assurance

**The Mind, Not the**

Vikramaditya Kapur

It’s been a while since I have written this column, but it feels good to pen down one more time the happenings of Dehradun believing that their boys were saints. Hope-

While the beginning of term seems like only yesterday

...The Doon School Weekly Saturday, April 27...
One of the arguments that is posited by those who feel that boarding schools have become irrelevant in today's world is that they are out of sync with modern times, that they are still clinging on to those customs, traditions and practices which belong to the days of yore and are, at best, only to be remembered fondly by a generation which is not our own. To them, what has been said to me time and again: we live in a dog eat dog world, a world in which we either make it or break it, and in either case, we do it all by ourselves. In case my line of thought is not very clear, let me be a bit more precise. The fact is that more than any other education system, it is only the boarding schools that inculcate amongst their students the ability to work independently. In an age in which striving for perfection is the only way to get ahead, boarding schools provide the perfect environment for students to try their hand at various activities, get good at them and achieve laurels, all on the backs of their own labour and ability. Hence, if a boarding school continues to teach students to rely on their own efforts and not others', then I think they become even more relevant in today's world.

The next pillar of success in today's age is the ability to lead. Now, I am not saying that day schools lack the capability to produce leaders. All I wish to illumine is that students from a boarding school will always have an edge over other students because time and again, they are given opportunities to lead and take initiative. Moreover, due to the large number of students that are present in any day school, as compared to the much smaller numbers in boarding schools, often day scholars do not get a chance to be recognized for their talents and capabilities. And if these are not recognized, then how will they ever be nurtured?

One aspect that has definitely taken the shine off boarding schools is the perception that they are places where a hostile environment pervades: namely, bullying. Granted, there have been numerous cases of bullying in boarding schools. But can we ignore the fact that similar evils have surfaced in day schools as well? If anything, the kind of supervision that exists in boarding school is far greater than existing in any day school, especially because the jurisdiction of a day school ends as soon as students step out of the gates. Hence, I fail to understand when some people think of boarding schools as having an unsafe environment. On the contrary, as a boarding school student myself, I feel that I often hear is - “leading a Spartan lifestyle”. I feel that students who go to day schools, especially in big cities are losing edges that are far more insecurity, distracted and even over-exposed. And in a world which is becoming increasingly hostile and tough, we boarders are able to enjoy an environment where we can focus, stay disciplined and imbibe all those qualities which give us strength of character. Hence it would be a gross injustice to label boarding schools as being irrelevant in today's age.

The reason why boarding schools are considered to be the epitome of personal development is because of the faith people have in the values and traditions that are a part of their genetic makeup. However, the relevance of boarding schools seems to be waning fast. This contradiction is based upon certain arguments centering on psychology and sociology that this article aims to explore and justify.

FURTHER COMES THE ISSUE OF 'HYPER-COMPETITIVENESS'. The modern boarding school environment is focused upon excessive competition. Students prioritize winning over the essence of learning and experience. Research has shown that students living in a boarding environment have experienced significant change with respect to their personalities. However, this change has not always been positive. If a particular student excels in a field of sport or a non-academic activity, it is generally due to the utility associated with it. With time, the excitement paves way to pressure due to external factors such as high expectations from parents and coaches. This pushes the student to develop a gradual disinterest towards that particular activity. These constant disappointments lead to dissatisfaction and impedes personal maturity. In certain cases, students start entering competitions with the pre-developed attitude of defeat. The lack of faith or belief in their abilities tends to dissuade them from taking up challenges. This is unhealthy for future professional life in which risk-taking is a significant determinant for the achievement rate of an individual.

Furthermore, over-competitiveness can hamper the efficiency of teamwork. Team spirit is necessary to improve productivity of different individuals when people live together, it is their moral responsibility to ensure that others are helped when they require it. Conversely, competition dampens this spirit, and the feeling of empathy and general sensitivity towards others is weakened.

Moreover, education in boarding schools tends to impede the social development of an individual. Restricted social exposure retards personal enhancement. Also, constant threat of bullying can have a disquieting effect on the psychological development of the person concerned.

Boarding schools provide us with a conducive environment to mature, compete and develop in. However, there are startling sociological and psychological concerns which have developed over time, with regard to a boarding school education. The environment being promulgated can hinder the personal psychological growth of an individual. The stress to excel and perform in the absence of familiar mentorship is subsequently regressive in nature.