



Established in 1936

The Doon School WEEKLY



Saturday, April 27 • 2013 • Issue No. 2343

REGULARS

2

ROVING EYE

3

WEEK GONE

BY

3

BOARDING

SCHOOLS?

4

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 not 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 the various events that take place. This mission is highlighted every time I go to the archives and peruse through yellowed, ancient issues, brimming 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 is 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 onto say that "there will be no [economic] progress and the only people we will have to blame is ourselves." This scary statement, one that rather conveniently lifts 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's*. The article seemingly implies that the voting farmer who tills the land day in and day out is more responsible for the National Budget than Mr. Chidambaram is. 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 criticize, 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

CRICKET UPDATE

Following are the results of the **Inter-House Cricket Competition 2013.**

Junior Cup:	Senior Cup:
1st: Oberoi	1st: Oberoi
2nd: Hyderabad	2nd: Jaipur
3rd: Tata	3rd: Kashmir
4th: Kashmir	4th: Hyderabad
5th: Jaipur	5th: Tata

House Cup: Oberoi
 Congratulations!

POETICAL!

Following are the results of the **Inter-House Hindi Poetry Competition:**

1st: Oberoi
 2nd: Jaipur and Kashmir
 4th: Hyderabad

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!

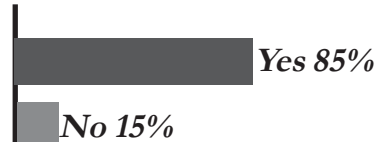


Around the world in 80 Words

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?



(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!

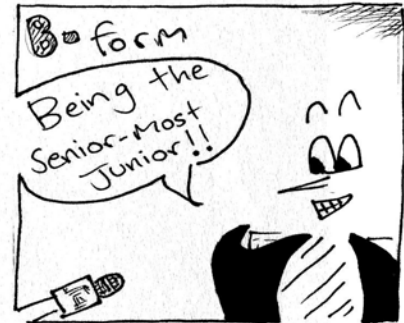
FACULTY UPDATE

Mr. Aditya Sharma has joined the **Music Department** as an instructor for **Hindustani Vocal Music**. We wish him a fruitful tenure!

Dosco Doodle

Madhav Dutt

Doon to you is ... (6 Stages of Penguinkind!)



(contd. from page 1)

run. The Indian media might be far too critical or too harsh on government policies, but Madhav Dutt seems to believe that criticism of the government raises questions at our “sense of patriotism.” I am somewhat bewildered: is it the government that is an element of the Indian nation or the Indian nation that is an element of the government? By criticizing, we are acting out of this very sense of patriotism that drives us to fight for what is right in our country. It is this very sense of patriotism that is the primary motivator behind this criticism and is thus reflected in it. Putting curbs on our thought processes or opinions, as “*The Mind, Not the Matter*” seems to espouse, is not only an attack on Indian democracy but is also an attack on the Indian people. That is just as “undemocratic” as it gets.

*** Roving Eye Associate Ed.

After much wait and preparation, our first socials with Unison 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 inched closer, 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 hit 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 bated breaths we found that there was not a single girl in sight! We had no choice but to endure another half hour of nervous anticipation. Finally, the objects of our anxiety arrived punctually late. While we stood there, gaping at the bus, it did not require keen powers of observation for us to notice that there were only 30 of them, and 80 of us. The socials were not off to a great start.

Once we had settled at our respective tables, one could hear a variety of conversations taking place throughout the hall. The table in the far right corner of the MPH was busy discussing the impending ICSE results, a conversation which was to spread to every other table which had a girl sitting on it, and soon dejected DoscOs could be seen heading for the ‘stag’ tables. The exodus alarmed the organizer of the event from our form to such an extent that he started requesting (at gunpoint) single DoscOs to mingle. A variety of interesting facts were unearthed in the process of conversing with the

Unison girls. One trustworthy source revealed that Unison plays Quidditch on the school grounds, while another claimed that every DoscO tried to pass himself off as the School Captain of some activity or the other.

The evening proved to be fruitful for those who have always been faithful to embarrassingly terrible jokes and cheesy pick-up lines. The Unison girls were no less eloquent though, and had a response ready to any enquiry directed towards them. When one was asked what she wanted to do after school, she smartly replied, ‘College.’ Another girl, when asked if she watched ‘How I Met Your Mother’, firmly replied that the concerned DoscO could not have possibly met her mother. In the process, introverts turned into extroverts, and the extroverts became so outgoing that they tried to leave early. Only one thing could put a stop to these lovely conversations - food. And food it was that made the DoscOs abandon all courtesy and make a mad dash for the food counter.

After dinner came the jam session and one can honestly say that there was magic in the air. Cripples were healed, socially awkward boys became star attractions of the evening and lunch dates at Astley Hall were fixed with much enthusiasm. During the jam session, a certain lady continually surfaced and resurfaced and directed the dancing crowd to move back and forth. Finally, the last highlight of the evening presented itself in the form of an enterprising young man who dashed in between all the girls, wearing a pair of wayfarers and performed the PT table to much applause. And so ended our first socials. Some were disappointed, some heartbroken, while some others acted as the reminiscing Cinderella who had just returned from the royal ball. After the tearful goodbyes, all that was left was the time that would have to be spent before our outing to their school.

*** The Week Gone By 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 Chandbagh. When you see clean-shaven S-formers, the first thought that comes to your mind is that of scoping season. However, this week we saw these scopats not only clean shaven but also changing their scoping targets from titles to girls. Yes, the first socials as we have been told by them were definitely memorable.

Another major event that seems to have the qualities of becoming an annual event was the Earth Day Youth Conference. It was good to see DoscOs working hard to make this conference a success and to all those who feel they can get away without conserving; beware our ‘waste warriors’ are watching.

It was also heartening to hear from most DoscOs that teachers were sparing this PTM. Most parents left Dehradun believing that their boys were saints. Hopefully our term end reports won’t prove otherwise. Honestly there isn’t much time left for this term to end. While the beginning of term seems like only yesterday there is only about a month left for the spring term to end, the last spring term for some of us. So do what you need to do or rather do all that you can do, so that not only you but even we will be content. You because of your accomplishments and we, because we will have much more to write about.

| Point |

| Counterpoint |

Boarding Schools: Are they Relevant?

Devansh Agarwal

Hussian Haider

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 I say 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 skills 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 illuminate 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 else, the kind of supervision that exists in boarding schools is far greater than one 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, the phrase that I often hear is- "leading a Spartan lifestyle". I feel that students who go to day schools, especially in big cities are leading lives that are far more insecure, 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.

First 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 impede 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 of the achievement rate of an individual.

Furthermore, over-competitiveness can hamper the efficiency of team-work. 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 nurture, compete and develop in. However, there are startling sociological and psychological concerns which have developed over time, with regards 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.

Online Edition: <http://www.doonschool.com/publications/the-doon-school-weekly/latest-issue>

IPSS® All rights reserved. **Printed by:** The English Book Depot, 16 Rajpur Road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand – 248009, India. **Published by:** Philip Burrett, The Doon School, Dehradun.



Editor-in-Chief: Utkarsh Jha **Editor:** Madhav Dutt **Senior Editors:** Vikramaditya Kapur, Kunal Kanodia, Raniz Bordoloi **Hindi Editor:** Ritesh Shinde **Associate Editors:** Arjun Kamdar, Aditya Bhattacharya, Armaan Imam, Pulkit Agarwal, Hussain Haider, Vireshwar Singh Sidhu **Special Correspondents:** Anvay Grover, Arnav Bhavanani, Devansh Agarwal, Vallavi Shukla **Correspondents:** Chaitanya Kediya, Varun Sehgal, CC Chengappa **Junior Correspondent:** Rohan Singh **Webmaster:** Vishal Mohla **Assistant Managers:** Shrey Nagalia, Anamika Ghose, Arvindanabha Shukla, Umung D Varma **Technical Assistant:** KC Maurya