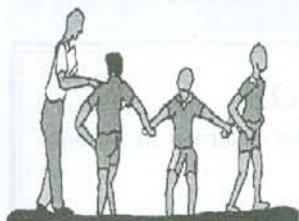


The Doon School

WEEKLY

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A Fight Between Mind and Matter

Arnav Joshi

Last Saturday, as I opened issue 2343 of *The Doon School Weekly*, I was looking to read the usual constructive criticism, thought-provoking articles or a report of some recent activity in school. However, I was quite “flabbergasted” by the rather “hair-raising” article on the front page. It actually sent a shiver down my spine. In his article, Kunal seems to have found problems with Madhav’s statement that “Our government is facing an extremely difficult time, but to add to these woes we criticize its efficiency”. In fact, he goes on to call it an “implicit paradox” and states that “if 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”.

Despite Kunal’s absolute conviction that we all will agree with him, I beg to differ. What Madhav meant to say was that it is a difficult time for our democracy, and that if we elected the ruling party, we might as well have faith in it and look at the good it does for us instead of only criticizing its inefficiency. We must realize that the poor farmer tilling the field is indeed as much responsible for the government being in power as the rich man in his mansion because he did not exercise his right to vote and elect his own government. What Madhav is saying is that we must criticize less, appreciate more and act to bring about change to make our democracy better. Pointing out “implicit paradoxes” and “hair raising” faults in the government’s policies will be of little help unless we learn to be more optimistic and active (while still being aware of the shortcomings of our democracy). Kunal also goes on to criticize Madhav’s opposition to pessimism and suggests that pessimism will take the democracy forward. Now that is what we call a paradox: negativity resulting in progress. Pessimism does nothing to take a democracy (or for that matter anything) forward. There is a difference between constructive criticism and pessimism. Pessimism is absolute dejection. All pessimism does is demoralize the nation, its people and put down the government. It is positivity and optimism coupled with action to change things that will make a difference. If we take Kunal’s suggestion then we would expect the government to make our democracy perfect and insulated from all the crises it is facing while sitting at home cursing their shortcomings. In fact, the propagation of pessimism as productive for democracy reminded me of an essay I had read in Hindi called “*Main aur mera Desh*” by Kanhaiyalal Mishra ‘Prabhakar’ which spoke of how the backbone of a

country is the optimism of its people towards its progress and their faith in this very progress. The pessimism professed by Kunal’s article would crack this very backbone, leaving our country an immobile, spineless and useless mass.

I agree, we need to identify the shortcomings of the government but being overly critical and “pessimistic” is something we need to avoid. Sometimes, we need to be able to look at a mirror and ask ourselves what we have done for our nation before being “pessimistic” and raising “insinuations” on the government. We may think that such debate over the way to approach our view of the government is only a matter of individual concern but we must take it seriously as sometimes the wrong beliefs can aid in the rise of a Pol Pot who misinterprets communism or a Hitler who seeks to exterminate a race due to his own individual beliefs.

Should We Become Specialized?

Anvay Grover

Often DoscOs can be seen running around complaining about the fact that the House Captains of the respective major sport have made attending practices compulsory. These DoscOs might not have the least bit of interest in the sport, but since it is a major one they have to start learning it. Moreover, the boy might have to spend countless practice hours learning a sport at the cost of the sport he is actually good at or interested in.

The result of this is that DoscOs often end up playing multiple sports sufficiently well, but not being exceptional at any sport. They will learn all major sports and will be playing at House level, but rarely at School level. I believe this is why Doon wins lesser number of trophies as compared to those schools where students are free to make their own choices in terms of which sport they would like to pursue. Unlike DoscOs they focus on one sport and do well in it.

But what we must understand here is that instead of complaining about the lack of ‘specialization’ in School, it is the fact that DoscOs try their hand at everything that has made Doon what it is today. The basis has always been different—an all-round education, where students are focused on different sports, academics and co-curriculars. This is one of the reasons why Doon has different seasons for every sport, to give DoscOs a taste of everything and not just one single activity. The issue of specialization has been debated over in the past in our School, but it has not been implemented because it would impact the ethos behind the Doon School education model.

(contd. on page 3)

D-FORM CRICKET

In the 3rd Foot vs. Martyn cricket match, Martyn scored a total of 158 runs in which Viksit Verma scored 91. Foot house was all out for 54 runs. Martyn won the series 3-0.

Congratulations!

ARTISTIC

Sahir Chaudhary and Kismat Chopra represented the School in the art competition held at **The Indian Institute of Remote Sensing**, Dehradun on Earth Day. They took part in the 'Best Out of Waste' category and won the second prize.

Congratulations!

CRICKET UPDATE

The School Senior Cricket Team played a match against the **Mayur College, Ajmer** and lost.

In the 4th Invitational Pinegrove School Cricket Tournament held at Pinegrove School, Kabir Sethi was adjudged the **Best Batsman** of the tournament.

Congratulations!

BADMINTON UPDATE

The School Badminton Team played friendly fixtures with **Pestle Weed School**. In the **Singles Category** the School team won 10-0 and in the **Doubles Category** the School team won 2-0.

Well done!

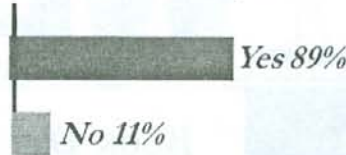
HINDI DEBATING

The School Hindi Debating Team comprising Ritesh Shinde, Arnav Joshi and Yashraj Agarwal took part in the **Annual Hindi Debates** held at **Welham Girls School** and were runners up. Ritesh Shinde was adjudged the **Best Speaker**.

Well Done!

Opinion Poll

Has the standard of sport declined in school?



(302 members of the School community were polled)

Next Week's Question: Should Doscos be allowed to start their own social service initiatives?

QUIZZING

Karan Kairon, Aditya Bhardwaj and Hussain Haider represented the School in the annual **Welham Girls Environmental and GK Quiz**. They finished 5th, having qualified for the final round.

Congratulations!

THE MATHEMATICIANS

Following are the results of the **Junior Maths Colloquium Test**:

- 1st: Tejit Pabari
- 2nd: Anuman Goel

Congratulations!

Unquotable Quotes

What a cordness!

Atharva Shukla, indeed!

I will never make jam-up in toye again.

Zaid Shameem, are you sure you won't?

I didn't threw up.

Tanay Kulbushan Agarwal, let's hope so!

I never says this unquote.

Nikhil Chauhan, well you did.

Dosco Doodle

Aryaman Saluja

4 days before TRIALS

Day 1



Day 2



Day 3



Day 4



(contd. from page 1)

On the other hand, some improvement has been made in School on this matter. Now Captains allow boys who have no interest in learning the sport or are better off playing something else to pursue the other activity. This is good to know, but because of Doscocs still not being able to give more time to a certain sport, those Doscocs who are exceptional at a particular sport and wish to carry it further suffer and are forced to leave School. To give an example, a student in our form left School recently to give more time to cricket.

At this point a relevant question crops up: which is more important, preserving the traditional system of education provided in our School or retaining such students who have the capacity to accomplish a lot in a particular field and can enhance the School's name? At one glance, most people will say that an all-round education comes first but the School simply cannot let such talented students leave as they ultimately are the future of the School as well as India. The solution is definitely not an easy one, and I believe that since we cannot entirely deviate from our philosophy of an all-round education, the School will need to bring about a change which tries to provide the necessary facilities to boys who require them, leaving the all-round education unblemished as far as possible.

World Book Day

Udbhav Agarwal

"And you read your Emily Dickinson. And I my Robert Frost. And we note our place with bookmarkers. And measure what we lost..."

When Simon and Garfunkel, the 60's rock duo wrote these lines, there was an honest sense of concern that, with every passing page, with every published book, one loses the power of sheer literary brilliance. And to resolve this very concern, a group of five boys and masters assembled in the Kilachand Library on the 21st of April to celebrate the festivities of World Book Day. The final product was an amalgam of efforts put forth by the Library Council, The Final Cut-the-Film Society and the Hindi Drama Society. The evening began with a rather mellow yet succinct introduction by Jai Ahuja. On the auspicious occasion of Shakespeare's birthday and Cervantes' death, the seats were arranged in the form of a kidney for the audience to settle into. Symmetrically superior, the evening promised to be full of literary escapades and indulgences.

First in queue was a reading of the poem 'A Tribute to Papa', by post-Partition poetess Mamta Kalia. Udbhav Agarwal lent his voice to the poem. Brimming with attitude and disdain, Kalia's words aptly settled the mood for the evening. Followed by the 1940's non-archetypical free verse, the evening took a streetcar to the post-modern influences of the 21st century, with Eshaan Bhardwaj and Udbhav Agarwal's reading of Paromita Vohra's screenplay 'Raat Akeli Hai/ No More Lonely Nights'. Unabashedly crude and suspense-fully woven, the reading managed to fixate the audience with its strange and twisted narrative. Taking a toss at vampires, alter-egos, and Bombay, the script, in itself proved to be true to its modern sensibilities. With a crooked twist in the end, the reading invoked both gasps and shrewd smiles. All in all, with complete vocabulary of a movie screenplay, the reading provided a different texture to the otherwise known palate.

After the reading of the script, Ritesh Shinde, Yashraj Agrawal and Arth Gupta read their individual roles of the 'phandi', the 'lawyer' and the 'hawalदार' respectively in Shankar Shesh's play 'Phandi'. Gripping and engaging, the forty-minute reading saw the boys shout and smirk, displaying a variety of emotions that such a reading required. With its interrogation-cum-interview based narrative, the play in itself created a sense of urgency and hurriedness. Whether it be the myriad accents employed by Ritesh Shinde or the wise owl act by Yashraj Agrawal, all the three students completely submerged themselves into their roles, resulting into a satisfying, ironic and unconventional reading. Finally, to conclude the evening, Udbhav Agarwal came back to the floor, reading the poems, 'After Eight Years of Marriage' by Mamta Kalia and 'I Speak for those With Orange Lunch Boxes', by Arundhati Subramanian. While the former reflected a tone of melancholy with its sad and dark conclusion, the latter proved to be like a breath of fresh air, ending the proceedings on a glad and joyful note.

In the end, the evening as put by Simon and Garfunkel carefully 'measured' and revived the things which we had lost. The show was not so much for the sake of it, but more so for the love of it.

Aeromodelling

Nirvana Dogra

It is safe to say that ever since the birth of mankind, humans have been fascinated by the sky. To celebrate the one hundred and tenth year since the Wright brothers' revolutionary invention, twelve Doscocs attended an aeromodelling workshop in Noida. The aeromodellers, accompanied by MTS, left Chandbagh on Friday afternoon immediately after classes and travelled by train to Noida. By the time we reached the guesthouse we were all tired and sleepy. The next day we attended the aeromodelling workshop. During the workshop, the glue stuck to our hands more than to the aeroplane, and I believe that the patience and helpfulness of the instructor was the only reason we were able to successfully complete constructing our air planes. It took four hours of continuous hard work to build an air plane with the pieces that were provided. At the end of the workshop we were able to fly our air planes successfully. Seeing the planes fly made everyone happy. We then went to a mall nearby where we visited various shops and had our meal at KFC. After the mall and a great dinner we took a taxi to the railway station. In the train everyone was so excited that no one slept. We all talked about our day and especially our air planes. We slept late and reached Dehradun at five o'clock in the morning.



Around the world in 80 Words

Sarajit Singh succumbs to his injuries in Pakistan. Rising unemployment rates cause riots in Europe. Bridge collapses in Thailand, leaving five dead and forty-five injured. Suicide attack in Peshawar kills six. Syrian PM escapes bomb blast in the capital. A 5.8 magnitude earthquake hits Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir. Toxic water starts pouring into the reactors at the ravaged Fukushima nuclear plant. A man is charged with sending ricin-laced letters to President Barack Obama and two other public officials.

THE ATHLETIC MUSICIAN

The Weekly interviewed Mr. Aditya Sharma, who joint the School as a Vocal Instructor in Hindustani Music

Doon School Weekly (DSW): Can you share with us your background and why you chose music?

Aditya Sharma (ADS): Everyone in my family is a musician, from my grandfather who was the founder of the Music Department in Punjab University, Chandigarh, to my father, who is a professor there. My mother is the principal of the Gandharva Mahavidyalaya Academy in Panchkula. My brother is a guitarist and a western musician. He has also composed a few songs. It can truly be said that music runs in our veins! Though I am a Hindustani Classical Vocal musician, I also play the harmonium and the tabla. I studied at St. John's, Chandigarh. After that I went to Kolkata for my professional training and was taught by Padamshree awardee, Pt. Ulhas Kashalkar at the ITC Sangeet Research Academy. I was a music scholar there. Currently, I am working towards a PhD at the Punjab University in voice cultivation in both Hindustani and Western Music. This is the first time I am teaching at a school, though I have taught at the Gandharva Mahavidyalaya Academy.

DSW: What is the standard of teaching at School, and how do you plan to better it?

ADS: I believe that the standard of music at School is excellent. The students are keen and have a passion for music, while the teachers are great and work as a team teaching both Hindustani and Western music together and not compartmentalizing them. When I compare them to the students I had at Gandharva Mahavidyalaya Academy, these boys are smarter and more talented. I am going to try to find more vocalists and teach them vocal techniques, methods to improve their voice and exercises for their voice projection. The School choir comprises some great vocalists but I would like more boys and girls to take part.

DSW: Apart from music, what else do you plan to contribute to at School?

ADS: I love playing soccer and have represented my state at National's and I am eagerly waiting for the soccer season to start in School. I also like Athletics and have won the Best-Athlete Award at my alma mater. I am an All-India Graded Radio artist, and I sing for them from time to time. I have also held many concerts all around India and have planned a concert tour to USA.

DSW: Do you believe that India is becoming more westernized in terms of the music it listens to?

ADS: Actually, I believe quite the contrary: the standard of Hindustani Classical music has risen and there is a general awareness and pride in our rich music. If one goes to Maharashtra or Kolkata, it is a different story altogether. There, everyone plays Indian instruments and sings classical songs. I am against compartmentalization of music. Music is a method of expression and the different ways in which it is produced should be respected and appreciated. I listen to various types of music including great bands such as Coldplay and other rock music.

DSW: Why did you choose the Doon School?

ADS: It was pure coincidence that I got to know about a vacancy at the Doon School, and as soon as I did, I applied for the job. It was an opportunity I did not want to miss. I am not missing home and everyone here has been very kind and helpful. The city is beautiful and the weather is great. I am eagerly waiting to join a house by becoming a tutor.

The Week Gone By

Devansh Agarwal

It finally arrived. Hair was sacrificed, sleep was lost and changes were run, but after three months of arduous physical torture training; the PT competition arrived. As always, the competition had its own aura; especially with Jaipur House showing the rest of the School why they were no ordinary eagles, but the almighty bald eagles. Everything said and done, Jaipur House did put up a spectacular gong-winning show. Kudos on their hard earned victory. In other news, the D formers have their very first PTM this weekend; we sincerely wish that their souls rest in peace, that is, during their first night out. Inter House Hockey is fast approaching and hopefully, after this exhausting week, students have enough stamina in them to put up a great show. It seems that the Main Building walls have been getting a facelift, thanks to the One Act Play posters. With a bit of luck, this may have helped lift spirits but only for a short while, for in that very place, on one of the notice boards there is a more intimidating 'poster' which reads "Trials Schedule". Just a few more days of peace left!



Weekly Selects

The best articles, this week, from around the world

Robbing Banks for the CIA - **Businessweek**
Everything Is Rigged - **Rolling Stone**
Schizophrenic Killer. My Cousin. - **Mother Jones**
102 Hours in Pursuit of Marathon Bombing Suspects -
The Boston Globe

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