

Healing the World

Jai Ahuja reports on the **Round Square Conference** hosted by the School between February 15-17

On February 15, delegates of various schools from all over the Indian subcontinent arrived for the first ever Round Square Conference hosted by The Doon School. There was a strange feeling to hosting the conference for the first time but it was all overshadowed by our excitement and enthusiasm. The conference was inaugurated by a highly influential keynote address from arguably India’s most popular footballer and youth figure, Baichung Bhutia. His speech was focused on the the role developing the youth and fostering young talent had in promoting sport in India. He also spoke about how sports like football and cricket brought people together and generated a sense of optimism. His interesting views on healing the world through sports, in concurrence with the theme of the conference, were quite moving. Following his speech, the Headmaster and the President of the Conference addressed the audience and discussed relevant issues that greatly distressed the Round Square Community, and the world at large.

The first activity that the delegates participated in was an ice-breaking session, perhaps one of the most important activities for the delegates as they interacted with their fellow delegates and hence created bonds which were to last for maybe even a lifetime. The delegates then proceeded to offer their personal opinions on leadership. The Barazza Leaders must be appreciated for doing an amazing job in holding discussions and mediating and facilitating them as and when it was required. Various crises were also presented to the delegates, who reacted to them with admirable composure. The day ended with a formal dinner at the Multi Purpose Hall (much to the delight of the Doscoss involved), after which all the delegates were escorted back to their respective hotels.

The next day was spent participating in one of the most fundamental ‘Ideals’ of Round Square: adventure. Much to the delight of the delegates and the organizing committee, the day was rather bright and sunny even though it had rained continuously the day before, which had us all worried. We all to the banks of the river Ganga to experience the adventure of river-rafting. After a short safety briefing session, the delegates stepped into their rafts, still unaware of the enthralling experience that lay in store for them. Driven by the fear of the rafts capsizing, the swelling waters of the Ganges, and the dangerous rapids that lay ahead, the delegates paddled with all their might. The excellent teamwork resulted in the teams in effectively overcoming every obstacle they faced and hence made them not only have a lot of fun, but it also taught them lessons for life. After a strenuous journey, the delegates enjoyed a much-deserved and sumptuous meal on the shore. In the evening, the delegates reflected on their experiences in their Barazzas and enumerated almost every aspect of adventure that they had gleaned from the day’s experience. The delegates were also addressed by Ms Tashi and Ms Nunghshi Malik, who were the first twin sisters ever to scale Mount Everest. They were both happy to be back at the School, and were figures of inspiration for all the delegates. The highlight of the day, however, was the cultural performance, which saw all the schools showcase their talents, and our very own School Popular Band and our Dance Troupe’s performances were greatly enjoyed and appreciated by Doscoss and delegates from the other schools alike. From popular Pakistani music to indigenous folk dances from parts of India to pieces of excellent theatre and mimicry, the cultural session was indeed a highly diverse and memorable one.

(Contd. on page 3)



Regulars

IAYP

The following boys have completed various levels of the IAYP.

Bronze:

Vansh Aggarwal, Dhruv Aggarwal, Tanmay Nautiyal, Mukul Goyal and Shreyash Aggarwal

Silver:

Ayush Sarawgi, Nachiket, Siddhant Gupta and Sayuj Dhandhanian

Congratulations!

APPOINTMENTS

The following are the **Art Society** appointments for the forthcoming year:

Boy-in-Charge of STA: Ashutosh Goyal

Boy-in-Charge of SUPW: Sudhansh Agarwal

Art Secretary: Digvijay Gupta

Jai Ahuja has been elected the **Secretary** of the **School Council**.

Guruansh Singh has been elected the **Secretary** of the **Technology Council**.

Aashim Bansal has been elected the **Secretary** of the **Mess Committee**.

Yuvan Kumar has been elected the **Secretary** of the **Library Council**.

Aashim Bansal has been appointed the **Boy-in-Charge** of the **Boys' Bank**.

We wish them all a fruitful tenure.

UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

The debate will be much competitive.

Nikunj Agarwal, and hopefully in Hindi.

He slept quite back a long.

Shrey Raj Kapoor, half-asleep?

The ball has pained me.

Yashoraj Agarwal, your grammar pains us, too.

Sing the national anthem of Dubai.

Daksh Bhatia, would the UAE's do?

What basically it is means that is this.

SRT, what does it mean?



Weekly Selects

Meet The Most Marketed 12-Year-Old Basketball Player In The World

Tampa Bay Times

The Murders Before the Marathon

Boston Magazine

The Plot From Solitary

New York

All About Eve—and Then Some

Vanity Fair

Fascism, Russia, and Ukraine

New York Review of Books

The Most Thrilling Boring Game In The Universe

Polygon

How Much My Novel Cost Me

Medium

AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 WORDS

This week, dozens of armed men seized the Parliament in the southern Crimea region in Ukraine. Twenty people died in a gas cylinder explosion in Doha, Qatar. In Nigeria, twenty-nine college students were killed by Boko Haram Islamists. North Korea launched four short-range missiles into the East Sea. An Indian soldier shot five colleagues before committing suicide in Kashmir. After much controversy, the Telangana Bill has been passed in Parliament and has been sent for review by the President.

Dosco Doodle

The Impending Doom
Anirudh Popli



The final day of the Round Square Conference was devoted to the 'Ideal' of Service, which is the primary objective of such Round Square Conferences. The delegates visited the various service initiatives undertaken by the School. The delegates not only enjoyed working for the underprivileged, but also understood the value of and the need for such institutions and their place in today's world. Needless to say, they were greatly motivated by the School's role in facilitating such activities and decided to take up the activities in their respective schools, too. Everyone knew what it felt like to receive happiness, but it was the joy of giving back to society that they encountered here, and immensely valued. The evening was commenced by a Barazza session where we discussed the negative aspects of Service and were successful in coming up with a committee statement for the final day. A rather influential keynote address by Dr. Anil Joshi on pollution and the possibility of the next world war on water shortage followed. The closing ceremony was not too far away, though, and soon the commendations for various Barazzas were announced. Mr Prabhakaran Nair then honoured Mr Ambikesh Shukla for his contribution to the Round Square Ideals. After the President declared the conference closed, the delegates were then escorted to dinner where the much awaited delegate dance was scheduled to begin. The organizing committee bid farewell to all the participating schools and hence concluded the conference. All in all, it was a thoroughly successful conference and the credit must go to the joint efforts of the masters and the students alike. This conference certainly took Doon and the Round Square Community to greater heights, both within and outside the walls of Chandbagh, and we have hopefully built a platform for hosting conferences of the same stature in the future.

Playing our part

Nehansh Saxena *reports on the Round Square Conference held at Bangalore between February 20- 23*

Kurt Hahn's concept of 'outbound education' has been kept alive by schools such as ours through the Round Square Program. The recently concluded Regional Round Square Conference, held at the Bangalore International School, was yet another example of Kurt Hahn's concept as well as the theme of Internationalism. Eleven students, escorted by CSG, arrived at the Bangalore airport on February 20. We were warmly welcomed by the host school at the opening ceremony the same evening and we felt at home because of the various cultural programs.

The motto of the conference was 'Umoja', a Swahili word that means 'to a world beyond all differences'. It was inaugurated Mr R K Misra, the winner of the prestigious 'Lead India' campaign in 2008. He is known for his dedication and work towards a better India. Through his speech he tried to sensitize us to issues being faced by those who are less privileged. The following day we also had the honour of being addressed by the keynote speaker, Mr Narayan, who left the audience spellbound with his simple concept of 'Aah', 'Aha' and 'Ha Ha', symbolizing 'observation', followed by 'reason', and finally, 'having an achievement'. For a long time Mr Narayan has been a social entrepreneur on a mission to help bright minds who are from backgrounds that do not afford proper opportunities to thrive and prosper. His innovative ideas, which take root in the self-learning ability of humans, were of utmost brilliance, and we all sat there listening to the many wonderful experiments regarding self-learning that he had carried out across rural India, as well as across different parts of the world.

On both days, the talks were followed by the 'Barazza' sessions, which were group discussions on various topics. These discussions not only allowed us to put across our own perspectives but also made us aware of the different perspectives that were being forwarded by students of different schools and regions of the world. These topics were mainly about the evils that plague our world such as child labour, social and economic inequalities, human trafficking, politics of 'divide and rule' and also communalism, which is tearing the world apart. The two-hour long sessions resulted in delegates being so well-versed with the subjects of discussion that after a while we were all speaking the same language when it came to taking concrete steps to eradicate these problems.

We also did our bit in helping those who needed a helping hand. We worked very closely with young orphans in and around Bangalore, and even organized a fete with various games that was run by us. We manned stalls, participated in various activities and in general managed to bring about a smile on the faces of those underprivileged children. Our teamwork really paid off as we all worked very hard to contribute to this small bit of happiness for the children.

We found our true selves at the Round Square Conference, helping to make a difference for those who needed attention and support. The joy of giving back was so overwhelming that we felt as if we had been transformed into better and more responsible citizens of the world. Finally, as we placed our suitcases at the check-in counter at the airport, we bade farewell to those with whom we had worked so closely, and had become so close to over the last three days, and realized how much we would miss them as we went back to our own busy lives. But we were ready to take initiatives and motivate our peers, making them aware of the difference we can make to society in our own little ways.

| Interview |

The Economist

The Doon School Weekly interviewed Mr Aseem Tripathi, who recently joined School as an Economics teacher

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

Aseem Tripathi (AST): I have been teaching for the last thirteen years. Before joining the Doon School, I was a teacher at Welham Boys. Prior to entering the teaching profession, I was a research scholar at Jawaharlal Nehru University. I have always had a keen interest in learning and spreading knowledge. Another reason for joining this profession was that as a student, I had always liked and respected both my teachers and their posts, especially my Economics teachers.

DSW: How different do you find Doon from your previous teaching experiences?

AST: Since I'm considerably new I don't have much to say, but I believe that both the Doon School and Welham Boys have common visions and ethos for its students. Both the schools are residential All-Boys schools. Hence, there are striking similarities in terms of behavioural and perceptual patterns of students. Therefore, I have observed more similarities than differences in my short stint here.

DSW: What are your views on the changing trends in the Indian education system?

AST: The most instrumental change has been the introduction of international boards in our educational sector. Also, a higher number of national boards have consolidated themselves. When we were at school, only a few boards such as the CBSE and the ICSE existed. Now, the spectrum of choice of students has increased and will surely benefit the quality of education in the long run. Again, the increasing emphasis on classroom learning through lively debates and discussions is a pleasant change. It will surely help the students realize their potential and capacity in the maximum possible manner, while making learning exciting simultaneously.

DSW: What co-curricular and sporting interests do you hold?

AST: Since my childhood I have been an avid reader. As a child, I would read anything I lay my hands on. Over the years, I have also developed an interest in bird watching. When I was at Welham Boys, I was part of the Wings and Feathers Club, through which I was able to nurture my developing interest in ornithology. I have never really been the sporty type, but I like to play tennis, and I plan to try my hand at it in the School. I hold an interest in trekking and have participated in various mountain treks in the past.

| Short Story |

REDEMPTION

Chaitanya Kediya

She lay motionless, as her captor slept. She squirmed, trying her best to loosen the bonds which bound her hands. It was painful: the fibres of the thick rope cut into her skin. She winced. Any sound would awaken him. Each second lasted a lifetime. Her blood oozed onto the bed sheet and slowly mixed with her tears and sweat. She tried to remember what it felt like to be happy, to have dreams and to laugh. She sobbed silently as the knots loosened. She saw the ugly marks that had been left imprinted on her wrists.

She got up and limped across the room. She looked at herself in the mirror. Her face was bruised and weary, her eyes bloodshot. She couldn't remember the last time she had slept peacefully. She traced the dark bruise under her eye where he had punched her the day before when she had asked him for some food. She stared at her legs. There were long gashes in her skin and as these wounds had healed, more had been formed. Every breath was painful, every step hurt. She hope for every second to be her last, so that the pain would stop.

She went back onto the bed. She felt his coarse hands rubbing against the back of her thigh. He grunted, half-asleep. She shook in terror, her hands and feet overcome by fear. She didn't know what to do. Suddenly, she saw something glint in the darkness. She waited patiently as he grunted and turned in his sleep. When she was sure he had settled, she got up and walked towards the shining object. To her surprise, she saw a dagger, carefully concealed under a pile of clothes. Had it not been for the reflection, she would have never noticed it.

She gripped the dagger and a demonic smile formed on her face. She walked with careful, measured steps and when she reached him she raised the dagger up high. Before she struck, she saw a filthy pond outside the window. There in the middle of the dirt and water, she saw a tiny lotus blooming. The girl dropped the dagger in amazement, and walked out of the house which had been her prison for eight years. One step at a time, the fifteen year old girl began her journey, and as she walked on she finally felt a sense of purpose. It was a new morn, and the world awaited her.

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

weekly@doonschool.com



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

Editor-in-Chief: Aditya Bhattacharya Editor: Arjun Kamdar Senior Editors: Husain Haider, Pulkit Agarwal, Vireshwar Sidhu Associate Editors: Anvay Grover, Arnaav Bhavanani, Devansh Agarwal, Arth Gupta Hindi Editor: Vallavi Shukla Hindi Correspondents: Rohan Hundia, Vihaan Bhatnagar Special Correspondents: Varun Sehgal, CC Chengappa, Jaivir Puri, Madhav Singhal, Chaitanya Kediya Junior Correspondents: Nehansh Saxena, Deep Dhandhanika Webmaster: Vishal Mohla Assistant Managers: Shrey Nagalia, Anamika Ghose, Arvindanabha Shukla, Umung D Varma Technical Assistant: KC Maurya