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ENTERING THE DRAGON'S LAIR

Zayaan Khodaiji reports on the WEMUN conference held in Beijing, China between the 7th and 11th of August.

The World Education Model United Nations Expo 2014 was an enriching experience for all twenty one of us. After a rather tiring airplane ride to Beijing we got onto our bus where we met a lady named Rainbow who was to be our guide for the next few days. This is when we got to learn that most Chinese people have two sets of names; one being their Chinese name and the other being an 'English' name by which foreigners can call them. This is done so that non-Chinese people do not knot their tongues trying to pronounce tongue twisting Mandarin names! The next morning we left for the Beijing Convention Centre, the venue for the WEMUN Expo.

After a quick opening ceremony where the keynote speaker Ruining Zhang spoke about the relevance of the United Nations in our world supported by a few personal anecdotes we were led to our committees. The Expo comprised close to twenty five committees presided over by chairs from leading universities from all over the globe such as Columbia University, Yale University and various other ones. After a short briefing on the procedure to be followed, we began debate. The topics were unique with Anubhav Agarwal discussing 'Bioethics and Organ Trafficking' in the World Health Organization, Swayam Samal debating on the viability of Space Tourism to Uday Rathore assuming the role of the leader of the PDP in the Tunisian Uprising committee. Though the topics were challenging, our research and hard work kept us engaged throughout the conference.



That night we went to a local food court where we were treated to all kinds of Chinese delicacies, such as fermented eggs, chicken claw, oyster, duck neck and bamboo worms! Bamboo worms managed to kill the appetite of a few delegates while a few thoroughly enjoyed the cuisine!

While in China, we noticed the best of their improvisation skills; every commodity was thought of and produced to ensure the maximum utilization of resources. For example, the disposable glasses at the airport were conical rather than cylindrical as they were meant for a one time use and did not need to be balanced on a table. Changing their shape into a cone meant that lesser material is used in making the glass.

On the eve of the second day of the conference, all the delegates met up at the Global Village which was followed by the Delegate Dance. During the Global Village, various schools put up performances representing their cultures and countries. Handmade memorabilia was also being sold at this event. The delegate dance brought out the 'wild' side of the delegates who had been having a serious conference so far. In between the committee sessions there were seminars by the faculty and students of the various universities present on topics ranging from how to write a Common Application to the relevance of the SAT examination in the present day scenario.

After spending sleepless nights formulating draft resolutions and directives with the other delegates, the last day of the conference arrived. Serious debating was seen in most committees, but it being the last session called for some entertainment as well. After the last session pictures were taken and the delegates' placards were filled with parting messages. We headed to the closing ceremony where the school won two awards; the Outstanding Organization award as well as the Outstanding Delegation award.

We stayed in China for two more days during which we went to the Great Wall, Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City. We thoroughly enjoyed the sightseeing and our last few meals in China. Finally, it was time to bid goodbye to China, its culture, language and hospitable people. With a heavy heart we began our journey home



Regulars

The Week Gone By

Yuvan Kumar

We are back to a regular schedule. Given the luxurious four-day weekend that school received beginning with Independence Day, the daily drudgery of classes, meals and games now seems drab and uninteresting. Between the fires and the floods, many wouldn't disagree that these were, in fact, the four most eventful days that school will see this term. That's saying a lot, considering that this is the Founder's term!

I believe that all boys at this conference were more than content with the number of delegates that attended. I say this with conviction, because even if one did not have an assigned role, there were enough people (yes, I mean girls) to lose their way! Many individuals on campus would agree that the campus has not looked as beautiful as it did in the last few days, for quite some time now! Chandbagh was seen welcoming, in all its glory, delegates from places far beyond.

However, what is commendable is that the sole purpose of a MUN conference was not lost. Most committees were able to pass a resolution at the end of the three days. Despite being bombarded with crisis over crisis, the delegates managed to come out unscathed. Furthermore, the crisis in the General Assembly was also tackled deftly and presented with a solution. Kudos! Not to mention the numerous nominations and awards by our very own Delegation of Russia. Well done!

All other activities seem to have duly come back to normal functioning and the road to 'recovery' does not seem too long. We are fast heading towards various competitions, examinations and confrontations. This weekend will prove vital for most SC's who seek seats on flights headed overseas this time, next year. Likewise, the weeks to come will demand a great amount of labour from everyone. Take cover, it's going to get hot in here!

GERMAN DELIGHT

Imaad Parvez

Last term, I was awarded a scholarship from PASCH for a German language course to be held in Sankt Peter Ording, North Germany.

This course helped us gain international exposure through means of games and language classes with students from the Philippines, Thailand and other countries from all over the world. As we had to speak in German throughout the course, my vocabulary, grammar and fluency in the language increased. At the end of the course I was able to have a conversation in German without any hindrances. We were living the German life; at times we would play football and volleyball or go swimming with the locals. We also had an educational visit the covered places of historical value namely Hamburg, Flensburg and Tonnig. Towards the culmination of my stay, we had an informal get-together with special focus on each other's countries. We sang our respective folk music and exchanged information and stories about our respective countries.

At the end of the course, I was a certified A1 level student of German. This trip was one of the most memorable experiences of my life as the friends I made will last a lifetime.

CHESS

The **School Chess team** participated in the 1st **Welham Girls Invitational Chess Tournament**.

The team comprising Sarthak Gupta, Parth Khanna, Anuman Goel and Raghav Bagri secured 27 out of 28 points and emerged as **Winners** of the tournament. Congratulations!

BADMINTON

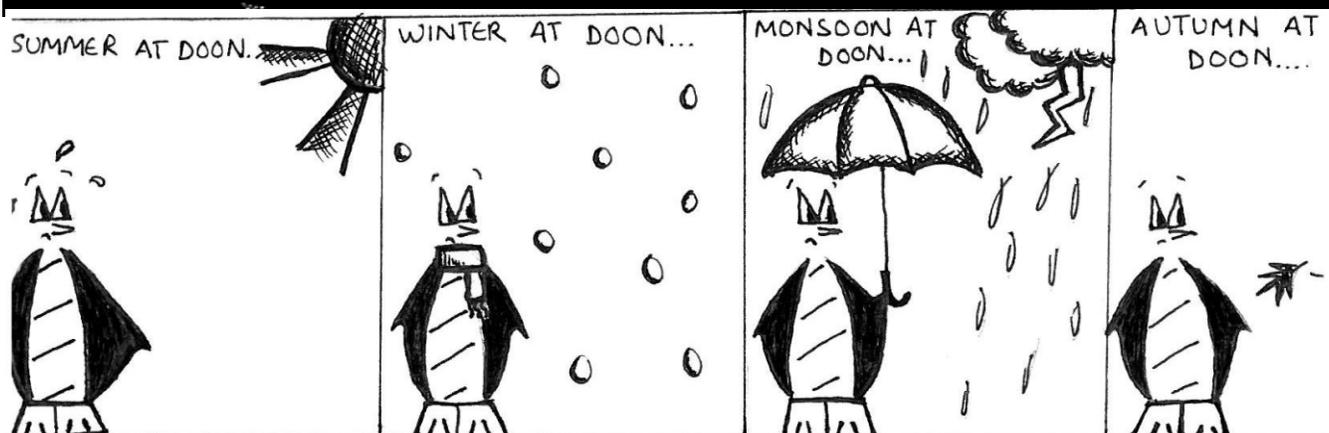
In the fourth **Patrician Inter-school Badminton Championship** 2014 held at St. George's College, Laxman Santhanam won the **Silver** medal in the **Under-15 Singles** category. Laxman Santhanam and Dhairya Rastogi won the **Runner's Up** trophy in the **Under-15 Doubles** category.

Well done!

Dosco Doodle

Four Seasons at Doon

Arjun Kamdar



ICE BUCKET CHALLENGE

Devansh Agarwal

All those of you who have cribbed that there has never existed a charity that fits your definition of charity, have you tried pouring icy cold water over yourself yet? Well if you have, then you're probably one of the many who now have something in common with the likes of Mark Zuckerberg, Steve Aoki, Dan Bilzerian and Cristiano Ronaldo. The ALS Ice Bucket Challenge, from being a simple fundraiser, has leaped continents in the form of a viral internet sensation, literally sending a chill down many spines.

Upon seeing this video for the first time, my second question following the first skeptical "Why on earth would someone douse themselves with a bucket of ice in front of a camera?" was, "How on earth does this contribute to a charity?" It all started with an ordinary golfer by the name of Chris Kennedy being nominated by his friend to participate in the challenge. Originally no particular charity was going to get money upon the completion of the challenge; however Chris had a relative suffering from a progressive neurodegenerative disease known as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS). Having completed the challenge, the money went to the ALS association. Soon after the Ice Bucket hit the ground running.

The next question that people usually ask is "Why 'ice' yourself at all? Why don't you just donate?" The catch here is that if one does complete the challenge then a sum of \$10 must be given. However, if the challenge is not completed, then one is supposed to pay a \$100. Most people both donate and post the video in order to nominate others. At first I too was skeptical of this notion, as I am guessing many of you are. However, after the ALS association reported having crossed over 15 million dollars in the form of donations, all doubts were put to an end.

As much as I've often sympathized with the statement "charity begins at home," this indeed seems to be the first time when I can make sense of it. Many argue that the ice bucket is just a fad. I fear that they may be right. Although what I advocate is that even if it is 'just a fad', it is one that is contributing to a noble cause. Thus, I implore every individual to beat the heat and help society while doing so.

| Interview |

THE DIPLOMAT

The Doon School Weekly recently interviewed Padma Bhushan awardee **Shri Shyam Saran** who visited School on the occasion of the Independence Day and the DSMUN. He has served as the India's Ambassador to Indonesia, Myanmar and Nepal and also as the High Commissioner to Mauritius.

Doon School Weekly (DSW): What do you think is the relevance of the United Nations in the world today?

ShriShyam Saran (SSN): The United Nations, as you know, is the only such forum in the world where so many countries of the world represent themselves by actually gathering around to share and discuss international issues. There is no other forum of such stature in the world. To get to the extent of that, talking is better than fighting. It is a forum where nations can send their delegations to involve and engage in talks and arguments, which may not always be able to find a solution to the underlying problem.

However, as long as the nations at least communicate with each other, or engage in each others' domestic or international issues, it makes management of crises much easier to deal with. As you know, the United Nations is also not merely dealing with political problems; there are specialized agencies which are engaged in promoting public health, some that are engaged in preserving our precious heritage and also some commissions that work towards science and technology. So, it covers a very wide range of aspects. Lastly, in today's world in fact, the role of the United Nations is perhaps more influential and relevant than it has been any time previously.

DSW: Considering that India has the second largest population and the third largest army in the world, don't you think it deserves a permanent seat in the UN Security Council?

SSN: You must be aware of the fact that for the past seven years, we have been trying very hard to push for India's permanent spot in the Council. However, this is not only in terms of India being the second most populated country, or having the third largest army in the world for that matter. What we would like to see is actually the recognition of the flank, also considering that India has made a major contribution to international missiles like the *Agni* and *Brabmos*. India, also being the largest contributor to the UN Peacekeeping Forces, has handled several international crises. We have also given the United Nations assistance in different fields, including in the negotiations in various international contentions. Thus, we would like our record as responsible and actively involved members. This is why I feel India as a member and delegation should really be given a permanent seat in the Security Council.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

A few days ago I was admitted to the hospital, and due to the extreme urge to occupy myself with some sort of pastime, I found myself sitting on the bench outside, observing people as they were coming to collect medicines or to meet the doctor. I sat there for a long time and observed a large number of junior students come and go. And I said one thing to myself - "I've come a long way since then!" The truth is, we've all come a long way since our D and C-form days, when we were young and immature and constantly bickered amongst ourselves. But then, if we've come such a long way, then why do we still act like our juniors sometimes?

The infamous 'S-Form Second Term' metamorphoses some of us into becoming insensitive souls who are capable of passing the most hurtful remarks, even to our own form-mates, just to satisfy ourselves into believing that we are the ones who are 'leading the game'. Putting others down has often proven to be an effective method of suppression. But should that be the case while we're still students? I mean, we're still in school for heavens sake! Having occupied both ends of the spectrum, first as a junior and now as a senior, I feel it is my moral responsibility to remind those who feel, or are made to feel that they 'haven't done anything in school', that what they have achieved here is not superficial. It is long lasting, and they deserve to be proud of themselves for the people they are; instead of being downcast because of what others think they are not.

The amount we have matured since we joined School is immeasurable. We don't irritate the hospital staff with our petty problems anymore, nor do we look for each and every reason to get an 'excuse card'. Serving in the CDH might still be irritating and people still eat each others' dessert shares, but we always figure out a suitable solution without having prefects come over to get us off each other's throats.

It was while pursuing this line of thought that I realized that If we have discovered where our passion lies, then we have used our junior years wisely. This 'passion' is the first thing we want to do when the Headmaster unexpectedly announces a holiday at assembly. It could be a game of chess, or playing hockey, or coding a computer game, or writing music or even practicing Gauss's Hyper geometry. And each

one of us has achieved some degree of expertise in his or her own field of passion. It is something that has taken time and effort and is a proud proclamation of that fact that we have done something worthwhile in School.

My point is that one doesn't need to be a part of five different school-teams, or even one for that matter. One doesn't need to have his name announced every week at assembly to inform the School about goals achieved. As long as one has grasped the fact that doing what one loves means much more than the laurels and 'respect', I think one has done something that will take him much further in life. In an environment like this, what is important is that you now know people that probably know more about you than your parents do, people who know what to say when you ask them to stop talking, and people who will bring you a 'Kolkata Lazez' from their outing when you are bogged down on a Sunday with assignments. Becoming '..... CAPTAIN' is nowhere close to becoming 'A GOOD HUMAN BEING'. I know that I have shared my problems with seniors who are not prefects before going to a prefect, and if you are one such senior, it means people see you as someone they can approach, trust, confide in and that, at least to me, would bring much more joy than punishing people for their transgressions.

I don't mean to undermine the value of these positions, having desired many of them myself. All I want to do is highlight the value of those things that we walk right past and in a mad race to get to the top.

Regards,

Rishabh Agarwal

| Poetry |

Paranoia

Aditya Bhattacharya

Beads of sweat lined my forehead
As I contemplated my fate;
Would I, like the others, be dead:
A casualty of spite and hate?

Fear ripped through my lungs,
Making gashes, but no blood flowed;
Climbing a ladder with no rungs,
My fear of falling evidently showed.

Suddenly, I twisted and turned.
I could feel their eyes on me.
My body feverishly burned.
I gasped as I realized my folly.

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