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A "Chucksessful" Moment

Chaitanya Kediya *reports on the recently concluded Annual Inter-School Chuckerbutty English Debates.*

The 58th Annual Chuckerbutty Memorial Inter-School English Debates began on the 5th of September, 2014. There were thirteen participating teams in addition to the host team. This year the competition reached a whole new level, and the House was treated to both high-quality speeches and witty remarks.

The format of the competition, as with previous years, began with a preliminary round held in the Oxford format. Two participants from each team spoke for and against the motion. The preliminary motion this year was "This House Will Not Return The Ring To Mordor," a reference to Tolkien's "Lord of the Rings." The motion was subject to a wide-range of interpretations, leading to discussions on nuclear power, yin-yang, and even links to Germany!

The crux of the preliminary debate was the constant tussle between good and evil: whether in every good there must be evil, and vice-versa. Another analogy that came up often during the proceedings was that such God-like power cannot be given to people who do not possess God-like morals and values.

The following day promised to be even more taxing for the debaters, with two very different rounds in one single day. First, the quarter-finals were held in the Parliamentary format, which has an interesting procedure at Chandbagh. The two speakers from each team were split up and paired with speakers from different schools on the basis of pools and rankings. The quarter-finals motion was "This House Will Refrain From Putting Women On A Pedestal," which

proved thought-provoking, and was well addressed by both sides of the House. The quarter-final debate revolved around the need for a meritocracy alongside the need for the upliftment of women. While both sides could informally agree that women had been oppressed in the past, they still debated the methods that could be used to create gender equality today.

The four teams that qualified for the semi-finals were then shown a short clip based on which they had to frame a motion. Three teams framed one motion each, and each was allowed to veto one motion, while the team that had won the previous round was allowed to propose two motions but was not allowed to veto. Of the remaining motions one was then selected by chance. By luck of the draw, the motion for the semi-finals was "This House Believes That The Mandate Of The Majority Prevails." Two very different debates followed. In one, the motion was interpreted to ask whether a democracy was more powerful or whether it was an oligarchy which was more powerful. In the other, the opposition argued that it wasn't the majority but rather the morality that prevails. After fierce contest and aggressive speeches, Bishop Cotton School and The Doon School emerged ahead in their respective pools.

The finals of the Chuckerbutty Debates was a remarkable battle of words and wits. Three motions were put forward, and each team was allowed one veto. The motion which survived was "This House Would Seek Justice For Ekalavya," a reference to the Mahabharata. In the story, the young archer Ekalavya gave his left thumb as gurudakshina to Dronacharya, who Ekalavya considered his mentor even though Dronacharya did not instruct him directly. The motion was taken to stand for the fight for equal opportunities. The Doon School, in support of the motion, argued that we live in a meritocracy in which everyone should be provided with the necessary resources to succeed. Bishop Cotton School, in opposition, spoke on how classification and division is ever-present in society, and gave as examples the Indian National Congress and the United Nations Security Council, both of which have an unequal distribution of power and opportunity. By a close margin, The Doon School emerged victorious – for the second consecutive year! The debates were intensely packed and the speeches by all participants were of high quality, making this year's competition memorable not only for the winners, but for all those who took part.





Regulars

BADMINTON

The **School Badminton Team** played a friendly fixture against Pestle Weed College on September 5. The School Team won **7-3** in singles and **4-1** in doubles. Congratulations!

SOCCER

The **Senior School Football Team** played a match against RIMC and Gorkha Military Academy and won by **2-0** and **2-1** respectively. The **School Sub-Junior Football Team** played a match against RIMC and won **3-1**.

GAMES' BLAZER

Aditya Vir Roy has been awarded the **Games' Blazer**. Congratulations!



WEEKLY SELECTS

The Boy They Couldn't Save

Minneapolis Star Tribune

The Force That Drives The Flowers

The Atlantic

The Trans-Everything CEO

New York

The Source Of All Things

The Backpacker

Dignity

The New Yorker

The Forsaken

Rolling Stone

Medicine And Its Metaphors

Guernica

On Bigfoot's Trail

The Inlander

How To Get Into An Ivy League College -Guaranteed

The Bussinessweek

AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 WORDS

The alcohol ban in Kerala has been put on hold. Kashmir has been recently hit by massive flooding, thousands being affected and around 450 people killed .The Indian military is assisting victims by airlifting and supplying food and other essentials. John Kerry is to meet Arab leaders in Saudi Arabia after President Obama vowed to act against ISIS in Syria. 70% of Russian troops have withdrawn from Ukraine. Sierra Leone plans a three-day lock-down in an effort to stop Ebola.



Opinion Poll

Do you think that we should be allowed to carry our books to the CDH and Main Building?



(274 members of the School community were polled)

UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

Is TEDtalks an interview of Ted Mosby?

Nikunj Agarwal, recent IB recruitment.

Please maintain quiet.

UDV, demanding silence.

He is aiming to the top!

Nehansh Saxena, awestruck in his own way.

He don't know how to spend it!!

Shrey Raj Kapoor, then who does?

I have never caused any destructivication!

Yash Gupta, the creator of new words.

Log 27 and Log 8 have not cannot to be Log 3!

Siddharth Mishra, sacrificing English for Maths.

Dosco Doodle

For Hills to Climb and Hard Work To Do...
Dhruv Pais



THE AURA OF PERFORMANCE

The Doon School Weekly interviewed Mrs Saumya B. Verma, an assistant professor at the Jamia Millia Islamia University who visited the School recently.

Doon School Weekly (DSW): Could you please tell us a bit about yourself and your career.

Saumya B. Verma (SBV): After I graduated from school, I joined the Hindu College, which is part of Delhi University to pursue a Masters Degree in English Literature. Upon completion of my degree I became a lecturer at Lady Erwin College which is also part of DU. However, due to my interest in film-making I took a sabbatical to study at Jamia Millia Islamia University where I completed my Post-Graduate Degree in Mass Communication. I then quit my teaching job and worked as a freelance film-maker for a number of years-working for companies such as Greenpeace, Star Entertainment and NDTV, until I was offered a teaching position by IIM-Ahmedabad. After a few years at IIM, I rejoined my alma mater Jamia Millia University as an Assistant Professor in the Mass Communications and Research Department. I currently teach four different undergraduate programs, one of which is media and cultural studies, a part of which is film appreciation.

DSW: Do you think that technology has made cinematography much more accessible to people of our generation?

SBV: Yes. The advancement and progress of technology across the field of cinematography has made film-making much easier. More importantly, with the invention of hand-held video cameras and smart-phones, anyone is now able to shoot a video, edit it, and share it with the rest of the world. When I was growing up, movies had to be made with huge cameras that were often difficult to move. The editing of these movies was also an extremely difficult task, which isn't the case nowadays.

DSW: As a film-maker, you have researched thoroughly and written papers on the subject of 'Devdas'. Please elaborate on your research.

SBV: In short, 'Devdas' is a fictional character from the Bengali romance novel of the same name by Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyaya. There have been over 15 different movies in various languages since 1927 that were based on the book, the most prominent being the 2002 adaptation which starred Shah Rukh Khan, Aishwarya Rai and Madhuri Dixit. My research work focuses on looking into the transformation and development of Devdas's character across the various decades of his existence. The transformation coincides with the progress of post-Independent India, as the character was often modified to fit the various socio-cultural and economical trends of the time in which the movie was made. This results in noticeable differences between the Devdas of the 1950s, 1980s and most recently the 21st Century, which all reflect the social scenario of India in their respective time frames. Also, in the 2009 portrayal of Devdas by Anurag Kashyap, the movie was set in Punjab with the character being renamed as Dev.D. This is where I look at the confluence of Punjabi and Bengali culture and the significant changes in the character when this is done. My work on Devdas in this view has been appreciated by various cultural researchers in their analysis of cultural intermixing in a modern day India.

DSW: What are, in your opinion, the major differences between on-stage acting and on-screen acting?

SBV: On-stage acting is performing before a live audience. The pressure on the actor to avoid making a mistake is extremely high and it requires a great amount of concentration and resolve to perform this way. Improvisation is something that an actor must be able to do if he or she is performing on stage. On-screen acting is much easier as the same shot can be retaken to the director's liking in order to get the perfect scene. Acting here is merely in front of a camera, whose recordings are heavily enhanced and edited in order to modify the video for a screen. As Walter Benjamin says, in on-screen acting the 'aura of the performance' is lost.

DSW: Do you think that travel has an impact on film-makers and photographers?

SBV: Absolutely. Travel has the power to develop a film-maker's outlook. The information and experiences that a person obtains from traveling to a new place is certainly able to influence his creative expression and his views on society and the world. During my travels as a lecturer and speaker at various seminars and film-making workshops, I always used to observe the environment I was entering and take some inspiration from it for my work. All of this was extremely valuable to me during the later stages of my career thereafter.

DSW: Lastly, what advice do you have for all the aspiring film-makers and script-writers in School?

SBV: First and foremost, you must watch a lot of movies. Take the time to observe various technical aspects of the film. Rewind parts that you find interesting and analyze the movement of the camera, lighting points and setting of the film. Try to connect the setting of the movie to the behaviour of characters in the film, as this will help you to see the influence of societal trends on films set in a particular area. Also, start reading post-production notes made by directors, producers, cameramen and actors. The making of a film is a tedious process, and is done by hundreds of differently-assigned people. No matter how small or relevant a person's job might be on set, it is equally important to the completion of the film. Realizing this will help you on set and during production, when you will have to use teamwork and effort under constant strain in order to produce the end product-the film.

Doon School Chess Tournament

Shlok Jain reports on the recently concluded Doon School Chess Tournament

The 3rd Doon School Invitational Chess Tournament, 2014, kicked off on the 29th of August in The Doon School Kilachand Library. The proceedings began with a speech by the School Chess Captain, Sarthak Gupta who, in his speech emphasised on the skills you learn while playing the game such as, leadership, logical-reasoning and strategic planning. He was followed by our Headmaster, Dr Peter McLaughlin who looked at the game from a historical angle, looking at how the game pans across so many different cultures and civilizations. The Headmaster mentioned that the game requires an amalgamation of simultaneous thinking and ambidexterity. It also requires one to be extremely calm and careful. He also pointed out the characteristics required for a successful chess player, namely boldness and courage. Finally, he declared the Chess Tournament open and finished his speech by leaving the audience pondering over the question, "How many of you believe that there is luck involved in the game of chess?"

Sarthak Gupta then established the rules of the game and introduced Mr Amit Sharma and Mr Pradeep Nautiyal, the Chief Arbitrators of the tournament.

The Doon School A-Team was represented by Sarthak Gupta, Parth Khanna, Anuman Goel and Raghav Bagri while Vatsal Bora, Devansh Sharma, Akshat Jha and Atharv Shukla also represented the Doon School in this exhilarating competition as the Doon School B-Team.

The Doon School A-Team emerged as the champions of the tournament, followed by the Vasant Valley School, while the Sanskriti School clinched the bronze. In all, it was well contested competition and had us at the edge of our seats until the very last move was made.

*** Scholar's Cup

Hitansh Nagdev and **Arjun Singh** report on the recently concluded World Scholar's Cup

A group of thirty scholars participated in the regional round of 'The World Scholars' Cup held at Unison World School from the 6th to the 7th of September. On arrival, we were given a warm welcome by Mr. David Berdechevsky, the founder of the World Scholars' Cup, followed by a fascinating opening ceremony involving the interactive 'Rap' session with the program's entertainment director. This was just the end of the beginning and gave us an idea of what was in store for us over the weekend.

The first day began with the most intellectually challenging part of the competition- the Debates. For many of us, this was the first time that we had ever debated, much less witnessed the mechanics of oration and rhetoric. However, in spite of the extremely constrained preparation time of fifteen minutes, we managed to put up a good fight, emerging triumphant from our debate rooms. Also, for a change, we were challenged to not only pay attention to our opponents' arguments, but also their speaking style and oratory skill, as we were required to present constructive feedback after the debate. We were then escorted to the library for the next major event of the day – the collaborative writing session. This event was not just about writing individually, but also about team discussion and research, as we were allotted time before and after the writing period to research on our topics as well as edit each other's essays. As the name reads 'Collaborative Writing', the key to collective success is teamwork and mutual proficiency. Following this, the Scholars' Challenge, an individual aptitude test on the conference theme 'The World Within', was taken. This proved to be quite challenging. As the name suggests, we had to answer a hundred and twenty multiple-choice questions across a spectrum of six different subjects in a mere forty-five minutes!

The mind-boggling challenges of the first day were, by no means, lost on the second. After our arrival at the school, we were promptly ushered to the school's auditorium, where our respective teams were to take part in the most interactive event of the conference. The Scholars' Bowl is a team quiz, held with all participants, in which we had to answer questions pertaining to the conference motion. In this, we were tested under the heat of time to collectively come to a conclusion on our selection of answer. After three hours of this event, we concluded with our academic events for the weekend, and proceeded with an Exhibition Debate by the top debaters of the conference. This 'heated' debate, with standing ovations at regular intervals proved to be a learning experience for all of us, and was followed by a talent show starring the participants.

Finally, the conference concluded with the prize distribution and closing ceremonies. The group of students who went as mere participants came back as 'Scholars', with an impressive one hundred and sixteen medals that truly reflected the shine of our intellectual capacity. All teams qualified for the Global Round to be held at Kuala Lumpur next year. We bid a temporary farewell to our fellow scholars and, despite sacrificing the weekend, returned to School; elated with our achievements and ready to take on the next scholarly event that was in store for us- Test Week.

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