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## The End of an Era

Arjun Kamdar

An institution is not made by brick and mortar but by the people in it. There are very few institutions such as ours left in the world and even fewer people who have dedicated their entire lives to such institutions. They have subordinated their needs in lieu of the greater good; in order to make a difference in the community, in order to mould the future of this country, to produce the aristocracy of service that we have set out to be. They are the pillars of strength and solidarity from which innumerable younger generations draw inspiration, knowledge and the much needed direction.

Mr Dinesh Chandra Bhatkoti spent a large part of his life, thirty-two years, at Doon. He has been one of the few rock-solid constants in a fast-evolving Chandbagh. He has seen the Bulls come and go, seen the walls get higher and boys jump even higher, twisted the ears of the leaders of the country- the ones sitting in Parliament today, survived the Swine Flu bout, seen the trees he planted grow and be felled, seen the birth of a new House, been a tutor to every House, lived through a war, an emergency and has left an indelible mark on Doon.

During our innumerable tutorial meetings (or 'eatings' as he prefers to call them!) and on our nocturnal walks around campus, DCB has shared his awe-inspiring anecdotes and evergreen stories of various research projects that he was part of across the country in a technologically unsophisticated era. Very few people know how



difficult it is to leave behind the forests and mountains of the Himalayas once they have entered a man's bloodstream and yet, ever since Sir joined the education sector there has been no looking back. On asking him how he could leave behind the forests, where his heart belongs, to teach in a school; he simply answered, "If all the people like me went where they wanted to, then would you teach you?" This is the beauty of an institution such as ours- we learn as much from our masters outside the class as we do during! I will forever be indebted to Mr Bhatkoti for his generosity and for the faith that he put in me; trusting the novice of a C former that I was with his priceless snake-catching cleft stick that he crafted in the DT Lab himself!

Mr Bhatkoti was the first person in India to get a pair of night-scopes to aid his research on the Musk Deer in the Tungnath Valley, getting himself a pair even before the army! Mr Bhatkoti was a pioneer in the field, spearheading a research project in one of the most unforgiving and hostile places on the planet at 12000 feet above sea level isolated by kilometers of snow and ice on all sides. To track these elusive ungulates, Mr Bhatkoti would have to head into the snow covered forest trudging through a couple of feet of snow at sub-zero temperatures from midnight till dawn; as that was the time when the deer's senses would be less agile. However, they could still not venture close enough to use the tranquilizing gun as the deer were extremely perceptive to sound and would take off in a jiffy! After spending more than a year at the austere research station, Mr Bhatkoti returned and published a comprehensive research paper that is still in use at Cambridge University, England today! While Mr Bhatkoti was working on this project he also found time to publish a research paper documenting a species of Pit Viper, *Gloydinus himalayaensis* for the first time from the Chopta region! The specimen lies in Cambridge University's museum and another one in our Biology Department.

Almost immediately after Mr Bhatkoti decided to join School, he got an offer from the esteemed Bombay Natural History Society to be a part of the research team working on elephants in Corbett National Park, an offer too good to refuse but still, with his heart set out to shape the younger generations, he declined. The rest, they say, is history.



## Regulars

### Publications

The following appointments have been made to the Editorial Boards of the following publications:

#### The Grand Slam:

**Editor-in-Chief:** Rohan Chaudhari

**Chief-of-Production:** Shashwat Arya

#### VIBGYOR:

**Editor-in-Chief:** Devansh Agarwal

**Editors:** Krishna Lohiya, Parth Khanna

We wish them a fruitful tenure!

### Appointments

The following have been appointed as **Boys-in-Charge** for the forthcoming year:

**Senior Hindi Dramatics:** Madhav Bhardwaj

**Public Speaking (Hindi):** Rudra Srivastava

**LAMDA:** Yash Dhandhanania

**Scholars' Cup:** Riyan Agarwal (**Boy-in-Charge**),

Abhiraj Lamba (**Curriculum Coordinator**)

**Film Society (The Final Cut):** Rudra Srivastava

**RLSS:** Agastya Shetty

We wish them a fruitful tenure!

### Hindi Essayists

The results of the **Kanwar Rani Tara Devi Hindi Essay Competition** are as follows:

**1st:** Hrithik Shukla

**2nd:** Vibhav Gupta

Congratulations!

### Shooting

Arjun Singh Mann participated in the **Delhi State Shooting Championship** and the **North Zone Shooting Championship** both held during October this year. In the **Delhi State Championship**, he won **Gold** in the **Shotgun Skeet Men (ISSF)** and **Shotgun Skeet Junior Men (ISSF)** events, setting a **new record** in both events. In the **North Zone Championships**, he again won **Gold** in both events, beating his own record with a score of **107/125**

Well done!

**Dosco Doodle**



### Fiery Orators

The following are the results of the **Inter-House English Debating Competition 2014:**

#### **Juniors**

**1st:** Oberoi

**2nd:** Jaipur

**3rd:** Tata

**4th:** Kashmir

**5th:** Hyderabad

#### **House Cup**

**1st:** Jaipur

**2nd:** Tata

**3rd:** Oberoi

**4th:** Hyderabad and Kashmir

Congratulations!

#### **Seniors**

**1st:** Jaipur

**2nd:** Tata

**3rd:** Oberoi

**4th:** Hyderabad

**5th:** Kashmir

### Athletics

Rajkumar Vijay, Varun Narain Sinha and Siddarth Sarin have been selected to represent the **IPSC Team** at the **SGFI National Games** in Athletics.

Well done!

### Science Prodigies

The following are the results of the **Dipankar Sen Science Quiz 2014:**

**Seniors:** Anvay Grover

**Juniors:** Omar Chisti

Kudos!

### AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 WORDS

The G20 Summit was held in Brisbane from November 15 to 16. The killing of four rabbis in Jerusalem by Palestinians has sparked fresh religious controversy in the nation. North Korea has been referred to the International Criminal Court for its Human Rights violations. A second French militant has been identified in the ISIS videos. Four people have died in New York due to plummeting temperatures. A Swedish appeals court has upheld an arrest warrant against WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange.

### Trials and Tribulations

*Dhruv Pais*



# Blood, Sweat, and Victory

Daksh Bhatia and Nehansh Saxena write on this year's Inter-House Boxing Competition

The Inter-House Boxing Competition 2014, as always, made a very memorable mark at the end of the rather eventful term that was infiltrated with various activities and sports. In addition to this, the Competition attracted a lot of talented aspirants this year, as well as those who have been consistent in the sport for a long time. It is true, boxing as a sport by nature an oxymoron, and requires a balance of mind and strength. Thus, for the participants to meet the requirement, practices began towards the end of September, with the introduction of the new coach: Mr. Anil Kandwal, who proved to be more than just a boon for the boxers. This year's boxing competition also witnessed the previously held standards of boxing surpassed, which was courtesy to the encouragement of technical boxing. The RSC's, victories, the closely contested bouts added to the thrill this year.

In the Juniors Division, each of the categories proved to be as competitive as the other with the '*josh*', power, well-practiced techniques and living up to the spirit of the sport. The boxers showcased immense enthusiasm by showing up for practices during the morning and evening sessions, and also by quickly learning the art of throwing



*Vatsal Agarwal, the School Boxing Captain, fights Naadir Singh of Tata House.*

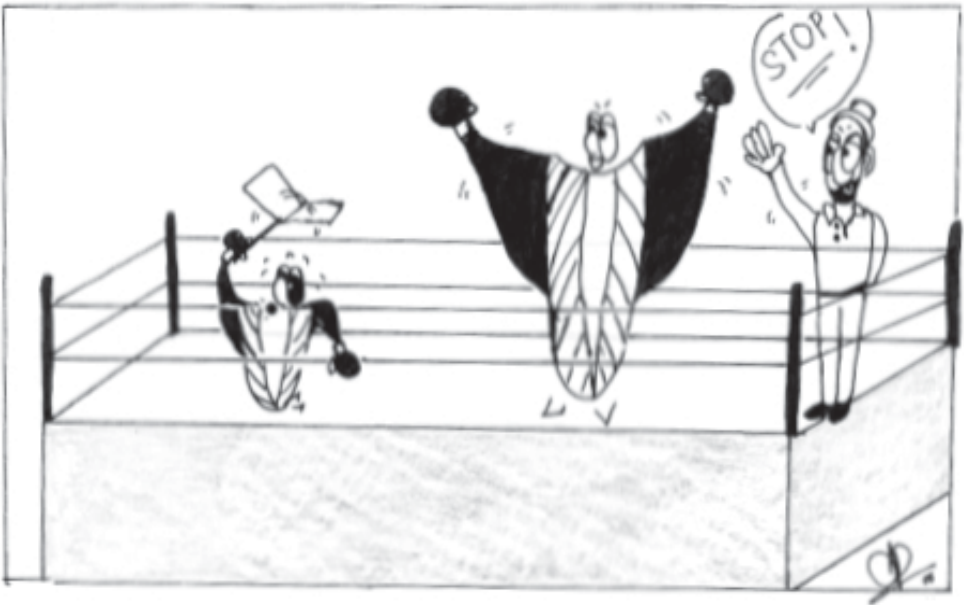
punches, the guard position and the movement inside the ring which they reflected on the final day of the Competition. Tremendous enthusiasm was shown by Deepak Dhiman, Nandil Sharma, Anirudh Bazari and Ram Attri, and though the Juniors Cup was won by Hyderabad House, it faced stiff competition from Tata House.

The Medium Division boxers showed a good level of technique with a flavor of undiminished strength. They practiced regularly, and their practice bouts motivated and taught the junior boxers. It was heartening to observe the talent and determination, along with high level of fitness of these boxers. Blossoming potential was seen in the forms of Nikhil Chauhan, Sashyak Patnaik, Shreshth Mehra, Shubham Dhiman and Keshav Maliah. Ahaan S. Gupta proved his worth in his bout through his courage to face defeat and was the '*Best Loser*' of this year's Competition. The

Mediums Cup was collectively won by three houses: Oberoi, Hyderabad and Jaipur, which reflected the fierceness of the Competition.

The Seniors Division was even more exhilarating to watch due to the highly vibrant and charismatic boxers, who really knew how to implement their skills learnt over the years with delivery of performance and strength. The style of boxers increasingly improved as compared to the previous years, as they practiced the act of balancing the mind and strength for boxing. Their commitment to the sport inspired many juniors as well and also the debutantes who boxed for the first time this season. Vatsal Agrawal, the School Boxing Captain proved himself on the ring through his domination in all his bouts. Ruhaan Dev Tyagi showed a very high standard of boxing, especially his stamina and swiftness in his final bout. Tanishq Agarwala, an immensely technical and powerful boxer won his category without losing breath, and maintaining his stamina throughout. He was also awarded the trophy for the '*Most Scientific Boxer*'. Hrithik Shukla and Arunabh Uttkarsh demonstrated their will power and dedication in winning their respective categories, and other inspirations were Daksh Bhatia and Sai Swayam Samal, whose guidance helped the boxers to improve their skills. In the end, it was Oberoi House who won the Seniors Cup. The House Cup was collectively won by Hyderabad and Oberoi Houses in joint position, which further showcases how boxing as a sport is gaining a wider platform around the School.

Thus, the boxing season ended on a high note, with many expectations met, and proved to be an oasis for aspirants. The standard of boxing is certainly expected to go higher in the coming years.



# Reviewing Tuglaq

Rudra Srivastava writes on the Founder's Hindi Play: *Tuglaq*.

Theatre has transformed into a popular activity in school due to its engrossing nature. An activity requiring both determination and patience, Dramatics has attracted many towards itself resulting in participation across all forms. Honed by inputs from eminent actors and thespians, Doscocs have developed theatrical skills and understanding which no doubt showcased themselves in the Founders Hindi Play "Tuglaq" directed by Dr Hammad Farooqui. Written by the popular playwright Girish Karnad, the play was specially bestowed upon the school by him without any copyright charges and is considered one of his best works.

Delving into History, the play focused on the regime of Mohammad Bin Tuglaq, a king of the Tuglaq Dynasty. Also known as the "Mad King", Tuglaq committed heinous crimes by beheading all those who crossed his path and took erratic decisions which brought about adverse outcomes. He shifted his capital from Delhi to Daulatabad and introduced bronze coins resulting in large scale fabrication. Betrayal, murder and rebellion had become insipid terms on each and every person's lips. The play treads through elements of suspense, incest, fear and courage; all of them blended into an amalgam that gives us a mixed flavor of each.

With such an amazing plot for the play, implementation was the only requirement on behalf of the cast, with interpretations worked upon by each actor. Working with such a huge cast of around thirty five was no easy task. Each one of us had to put in all our efforts and respect every role. The play explored each and every

location of "mise-en-scene" available in the Rose Bowl from the high ledges to the interiors of the *Khad*. The massive structure that marked the throne of the king indeed served as a surprise to many, towering midst the Rose Bowl. The howling of the jackals and the neighing of the horse enhanced the impact of the play establishing the scene in proper accordance. What actually made the audience feel that they were in the 12th century was the impression of *Nagada* beats continually ringing in one's ears.

One of the favorite and applauded aspects of the play was the costume design. The bright and vivid colors of the *chogas* and *shalwars* filled the Rose Bowl with optimism and their flamboyance alleviated the gravity and intensity of the play. Props and additional items, especially the beards, drew out cackles and guffaws from the audience.

The addition of chess pieces to the play was indeed critiqued by many but was one of the most innovative features of "Tuglaq". The connotative meaning of the planned movement of the chess pieces required deep interpretation and showcased the strategic and political mind set of the Sultan.

Acting was one of the most appreciated parts of the play. Mihir Kiran as "Tuglaq" managed to indulge the audience in each and every one of his lengthy monologues through his convincing voice and vigorous movements on stage. Even the smallest roles such as the chess pieces required a lot of coordination and patience as they had to stand static for a long time. Female roles were aptly played by Doscocs and the role of the stepmother played by Atrey Bhargava was established extremely well. The characters of Azam and Aziz played by Sachin Mehra and Jai Ahuja brought in the comic relief when required and Divij Mullick managed to hold up the audience's attention through his energetic speech and perfect Urdu as Giasuddin Abassi. The Azan delivered was potent and emphasized the Islamic setting of the play.

Doscocs managed to work through the language barrier which presented itself as a huge problem at the beginning. None of us had conversed in Urdu before, but by the end of the two months of rigorous practice most of us were fluent Urdu speakers.

The performance of the play was extremely entertaining and was applauded for the immaculate acting and design. One of the toughest plays chosen, Tuglaq required hard work and determination that the cast and crew managed to fulfill. Props were delivered and handled flawlessly by the stage committee through a minimalistic approach by Sabir Singh, Ishmaam Chowdhary and their team. The Audio Visual Squad comprising Shubham Sikaria, Tanmay Gupta and their team successfully provided their light effects that managed to stupefy the audience. It was a pleasure working and acting in the play and I hope similar plays are performed in the future to lend learning experience to each budding actor on campus. Quoting Juliette Binoche, a French actress "Choosing to be in theatre is a way to put your roots down somewhere with other people. It is a way to choose a new family."



Mukul Goyal, Mibir Kiran and Jai Ahuja were actors in the Founder's Hindi play.



# Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

When I was in C form, I completed the bronze level of the reading award and it was one of the first few times that I went on stage during assembly to collect an award. I went on stage, collected the certificate, shook the Headmaster's hand and returned to my place. Later in the day I was stopped by my English teacher, who first congratulated me for receiving the award and then told me something that really put me off. She told me that I had accepted that award in a wrong manner. At first I was stupefied. I recalled the assembly; my going on the stage, accepting the certificate and coming back. Nothing seemed wrong. I kept wondering and thinking till she pointed out to me that I'd extended only one hand to receive my certificate. I still couldn't figure out what she meant. What difference did the number of hands extended make? Well. It does.

That day I learnt that the way one receives an award shows how much he/she cares for and respects that symbol of achievement. A very casual and informal manner of doing it is strolling onto the stage, swaying one's hand to snatch the certificate and giving a dead fish handshake. A formal and respectable way of doing the same is briskly walking onto the stage, extending both hands to receive the award and firmly shaking the hand of the person handing out the award or prize. Irrespective of the award, it is the respect one shows towards it that determines its true value to him or anyone else. Whatever be the award; big or small, trophy or certificate or even a badge, it has to be accepted with due regard, and the first way of displaying that regard is by extending both of one's hands while accepting the award.

Since that day I have made it a point that whenever I go onto the stage to receive an award, I extend both my hands while accepting it. In C form, after my teacher corrected me I tried passing on the message to others, even at the risk of sounding arrogant. But the advice was perceived as too trivial to be given any attention. My attempts would be over-shadowed by the excitement of getting the award or just be ignored. Now that it's my last month as an active member of the School community, I feel that it is my duty to give this well-meaning advice to everybody. Yes. I know that what I'm talking about is small as compared to the more pressing things in School. However, being small doesn't mean it is unimportant. It is the small things that add up and define a Dosco's character and upbringing.

I would like to request each and every reader of this letter to take note. We must show humility and respect towards any award that we receive, regardless of its size or popularity in School. One should expect to be respected and applauded for an award only if he/she treats the award with the same amount of respect and importance. I want everyone to know that such small things make a world of difference, and hence, if we can, then we must do them right.

Yours sincerely,  
Sachin Mehra

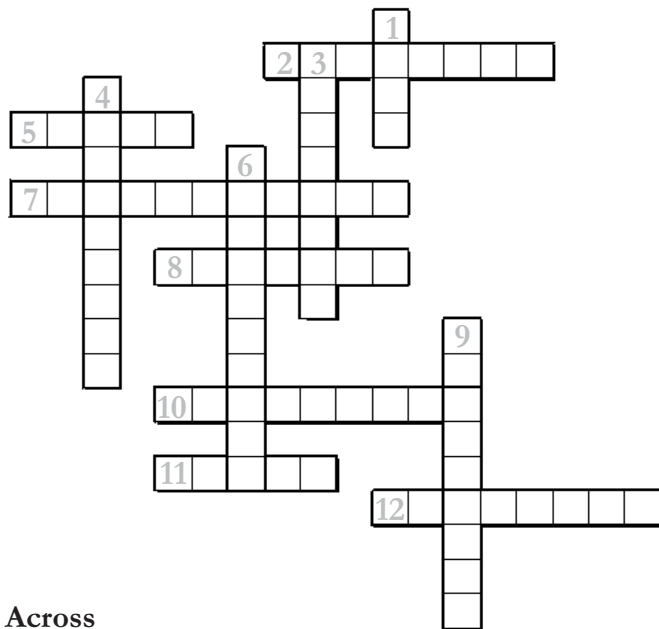
Dear Editor,

I write this with reference to the Editorial, '*Controversially Correct*' published in Issue 2391. I am not going to mince my words. The editorial in the last issue was, in one word: disturbing. Years of tradition, years of upholding the integrity of the School, years of 'serving as a forum for commentary and debates' have transformed the *Weekly* into not only the journal, but also the conscience of the institution. If the author genuinely believes in what he wrote, then well, it is disconcerting to stay the least. The author should have read the '*Journalistic Codes and Ethics for the Doon School Weekly*' before publishing something that contradicts what the publication stands for. The publication is not a creative writing magazine with some intermittent manicured and censored 'point-counterpoints' taking place. It is meant to get the society thinking; it is meant to stir the pot a little and invite the entire School community to provide their opinions on it. It gives power to the people to critique the very system that gave them the power. If simply writing something 'controversial' would turn 'the pillars of this same system to dust' then I dread to think what naive people we have turned into! The author went on to say how the wide reach of the *Weekly* made it 'prone to opinion and controversy from the outside', but let me remind the author that again, the *Codes and Policies* clearly specifies that it is a 'publication by the boys and invites the members of the community to comment on the life of the School'. The *Weekly* is not to pander to public opinion, it is meant to be the School newspaper; free and fair.

Furthermore, the School Council is not the only place to critique school, for a couple of representatives simply cannot express every individual's opinion for an array of reasons. Statistically speaking; you really do not expect 3.7% (4 boys per 106 boys) of the school community to represent the other 96.3%, do you? The *Weekly* is the one forum where being a junior, a senior or a master is inconsequential, a resounding example of the same is PKB's recent article that provided us some food for thought and did make a difference in the decibel level of the Library! The author has quite interestingly but understandably, failed to elucidate the point of his words: 'criticizing the School for every fault serves absolutely nothing for its progress in the long run'. Time and again we have noticed that what the *Weekly* prints does make a tangible change, however small. If we fail to recognize the feedback loop and refuse to look down from our lofty post, then we have a bumpy, albeit hard road ahead of us. . . Since I am crossing my word limit I will restrict myself to this much; for I do not even want to start on the gross generalization of portraying the students of this School as an anti-establishmentarian, politically incorrect fool. I sincerely hope this marks an end to the *Scoping Season* and that the *Weekly* steers itself back on course.

Yours sincerely,  
Arjun Kamdar

# The Cruciverbalist's Corner



## Across

2. a person whose life is devoted to the pursuit of pleasure and self-indulgence
5. silly and unintelligent
7. done superficially and only as a matter of duty
8. publicity device; a scheme to attract attention
10. in disguise; anonymously
11. the hard tag at the end of a shoe lace
12. delicious, succulent

## Down

1. collective knowledge or wisdom on a particular traditional subject
3. a state of intense happiness and elation
4. an aristocrat; high born
6. inter-religious or inter-denominational
9. odd or unnatural in shape; bizzare

## Answers to Last Week's Crossword:

### Across

1. petulant
8. peruse
10. juxtaposition
11. assume
12. brusque

### Down

2. archetype
3. insurgent
4. leeway
5. frenetic
6. perdition
7. egregious
9. querulous

Source: <http://worksheets.theteacherscorner.net/make-your-own/crossword/>

## The Week Gone By

Rishabh Agarwal

Goodbye Suits, House and Boston Legal, and hello *Krispers* for Cafe; looks like Trials are here. Since my Editor-in-Chief has given me a lower word limit and I don't want to lose my column readers, I am not going to make ridiculous euphemisms like how the Trials are

like a "war's long winter starved". For a change, let's talk about trivial things that will also take your minds off the dates, the equations or the diagrams floating around in your head. The CDH meals are mostly untouched, except for a few tables with overprotective masters. Apart from studying during meals, it is evident people were saving up space for the much awaited Pizza Dinner. With the term coming to a close, a long list of awards are being handed out at Assembly and soon we shall see new badges being stitched on to t-shirts, and let's not forget the measurements for the new blazers (*wink wink*). Talking about awards, our very own Senior Editor (not me, of course) has been bagging a number of prizes this week, and the word is that he too might be getting his measurements taken soon. Outside the academic arena, (just kidding) people are dotted in and around the Main Field, enjoying the winter sun while staring at the 'contents' page of their text-books (told you). To conclude, here's a teaser for the Golden Night Issue: the *Roving Eye*, a special edition on the ever-present S-Form Second Term. Furthermore, don't miss out on the S-Form Entertainment, coming up next week, for as lethargic and tiring this week was, there's so much more to come!

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## |Junior Poetry|

## The Trials

Saatvik Choudhary

We all know its that time of year,  
The November Trials are drawing near;  
One last hurdle before the end of term,  
We'll all face it together standing firm.

There are some who find it easy,  
But just at the thought of it, others get queasy,  
Everything that's been taught in the past year,  
Has come back to haunt us as our greatest fear.

Late night studying will start soon,  
After all its a tradition here at Doon,  
The 'brainy ones' will be seen helping out,  
the weaker ones with all the doubts.

But to the Doscas, 'All I say,  
Is you can easily keep your fears at bay,  
Hard and well if you labour,  
The odds will ever be in your favour.

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