



Established in 1936

The Doon School WEEKLY



Saturday, April 28, 2007 • Issue No. 2150

REGULARS **2**

AFTER THE
DEFEAT **3**

CROSSWORD **4**

STUDENT
TALK **4**

Debating Around Dehradun

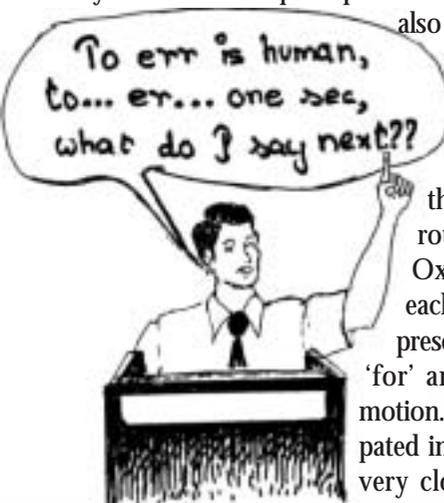
Bharat Ganju reports on the Inter-House English Debates held on April 21.

Saturday was a day that most of us dreaded. Some because they were to speak before The Doon School students on that day, and others, because they were to listen to them speak. The first round of the Inter-House Senior English Debates began at six-thirty in the evening and the Oxford format of debating was to be practised. The motion that was chosen by tossing a coin read: *People do not run the world, egos do.* One-and-a-half hours to prepare, and the debate was set to begin. The next hour or so saw an amazing display of reason, logic and passionate speech, all at once. While Shikhar Singh's clarity of reasoning left the audience spellbound, Ashish Mitter's coolly logical presentation was memorable. Vivaan Shah's refreshingly no-nonsense, informal style was also received positively. Oberoi House fielded two speakers, who had had little experience in the field and, it has to be said, they did very well, considering that it was their first attempt at extempore debating. Rohan Gupta was, probably, penalized for reading, but then again his points were concrete and his reasons were sure. Shrivats Chandra was confident and convincing. At the end of the day, we were all left guessing as to who would qualify for the next round. It was a pretty close competition. Of course, while the results were being tabulated, the JAM 'activity' did help to lighten up the atmosphere, with chairperson Sachin Uppal faced with being eloquent about *pinky-pink*, and Seif Khan, for once, speechless about *chatterboxes*. And so, to the outcome: Fifth...Oberoi. And there was a sigh of relief from all the other Houses. Fourth...Jaipur. The other three Houses let out a collective shriek of joy as they had qualified for the next round. Third...Tata. Now, that left only two more Houses. Who would come first? In the end, Kashmir emerged victorious while Hyderabad came a close second.

Saurav Sethia reports on the Hugh Catchpole Debates

Thursday, April 19. The Doon School team comprising Saurav Sethia, Vikram Aditya Chaudhri and Shaurya Kuthiala set off for RIMC for the Hugh Catchpole Debates. The next three days promised to be quite verbose! The first round was held in the Parliamentary format. We were up against the Scholar's Home team who gave us a run for our money.

The motion before the House stated: *This House believes that the value of natural resources is found in their exploitation* and we were supposed to speak in support of the motion. With Shaurya Kuthiala's eloquent presentation, for which he was also named Best Speaker



of Debate V of the first round, we managed to make it to the semi-final round of the Debates. The next round was held in the Oxford format, where each team is supposed to present two speakers – one 'for' and one 'against' the motion. Vikram and I participated in this round, and in a very close competition, we

beat RIMC by four points, to emerge the victors of the semi-finals. The topic was: *Terror from the east, merely a myth?* And, while Vikram spoke against, I presented my views in favour of the motion. I was named the Best Speaker of the round, and we had qualified for the final round to be held that very evening. The final round was to be held in the Cambridge format (actually, their Cambridge format is no different from their Parliamentary format) and the topic read: *This House believes that change is not progress.* While we were speaking for the motion and RIMC against, it has to be said that some very good debating on the RIMC front and a disappointing performance by us saw them through. We were placed second, and rightly so. Yet, it was a great experience. Although, it has to be said Vikram was definitely a lot more confident than the two of us combined. We were all beginners and we had never been exposed to a debate at this level. All said and done, we can really not discount the efforts put in by NRK, DEB and PCH in helping us organize our debates.

Shaurya Kuthiala reports on the Asian Challenge Debate

While most of the school debators were fretting over the Inter-House English Debate last Saturday, Anindya Vasudev and I were being escorted for the Asian Challenge Debate to be held at Asian School, Dehradun. The topic had been given almost a month in advance to the teams. However, the two of us had only had a couple of
(Contd. on page 2)

REGULARS

DEBATING NEWS

Shaurya Kuthiala, Vikram Aditya Chaudhari and Saurav Sethia represented the school in the **Hugh Catchpole All-India Debates** held at RIMC on April 19 and 20. The team qualified to the final round of the debates and was eventually placed second. Shaurya Kuthiala was declared the Best Speaker in the preliminary round of the debate, while Saurav Sethia was adjudged the Best Speaker of the semi-final round.

*

Shaurya Kuthiala and Anindya Vasudev represented the school at the **Asian Challenge Debate** held at the Asian School on April 21. The Doon School was placed second in the debate. Anindya Vasudev and Shaurya Kuthiala were jointly awarded the Best Rebuttal Award and won a cash prize of five thousand rupees.

*

Shikhar Singh was adjudged the Best Speaker of the first round of the **Inter-House Senior English Debates**, while Saurav Sethia was awarded the Most Promising Speaker. The House positions are as follows:

First: Kashmir, **Second:** Hyderabad, **Third:** Tata, **Fourth:** Jaipur, **Fifth:** Oberoi.

Hyderabad, Kashmir and Tata Houses have qualified for the second round of the debates.

QUIZZICAL NEWS

Ashish Mitter, Eeshan Tiwari and Aayush Bengani represented the school in the **RIMC Challenge Quiz** held at RIMC on April 19. The Doon School was placed second in the competition. Well done!

PUSHING HARD

The Doon School Hockey team participated in the **Kandhari Memorial Hockey Tournament** held at Welham Boys' School. The school played two matches and lost both, 2-3 against Welham Boys' and 2-3 against St. George's College, Mussoorie.

*

In the **Council Schools' Hockey Tournament**, The Doon School has won all its matches so far and qualified for the finals to be held on Saturday, April 28. The following are the results of the team's matches:

- against Raja Ram Mohan Roy Academy 4-0
- against JRD Academy 3-0
- against Moravian Insititute 2-1
- against Col. Brown's 2-1

We wish the team best of luck for the final match.

*

A friendly match between the **School Junior Hockey team** and the **Staff** was played on Wednesday, April 25. The match was drawn at 2-2.

SAVING LIVES

Lt. Gen N S Mallik, President RLSS, North Zone (Delhi) spoke to boys of D and C forms, along with swimming enthusiasts, in the AV Room on April 26. He commended the school's efforts in imparting the vital skills of life-guarding and life-saving, and encouraged more participation.

Unquotable Quotes

Aap kya sookhey paani se nahaatey hain?

MHF's example of dry humour.

Ouch! He cut myself.

Vivek Santayana knows where it really hurts.

Send him to there.

Sharad Lal orders.

The stems will always be above the underground.

AKM is down-to-earth.

Rohan Mehra is a K form Sc House.

ADN, lost in his physics.

Tomorrow is the final finale.

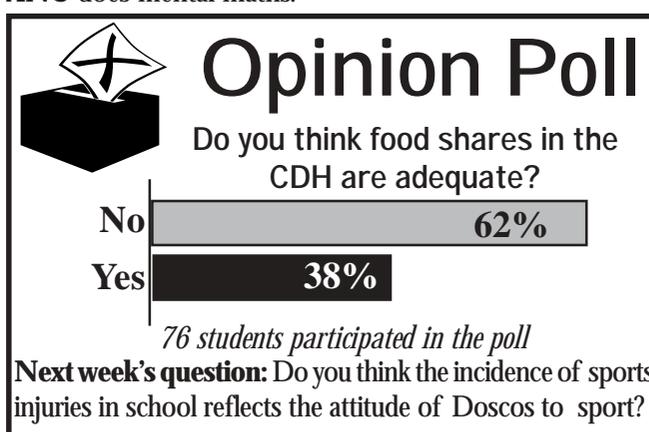
Nikhil Sardana, with a grand closure.

Does the Weekly come out once a week?

Arjun Midha counts the days.

Write this sum orally.

ANC does mental maths.



(Contd. from page 1)

days' warning and could not prepare to the point where we did not need to consult our notes. Yet, we felt confident enough of our debates and the matter they contained. The topic for the debate was, *Cabbages are better than roses*, with me speaking for the motion and Anindya against.

We arrived at the venue to find all sorts of preparations going on. After running through our debates one last time, we went in for tea, and then took our places on the stage. The debate was held in the Oxford format with active rebuttals. A maximum of two questions could be asked to a speaker by any of his or her opponents. The debate started, with the first speaker from RIMC. The teams delivered their speeches in alphabetical order. There was a great deal of entertainment for the crowd, especially during Anindya's speech, which was full of wit and humour. The varied questions had even more varied answers. Our turn finally came to speak, and I felt that we put up quite a good show; our rebuttals in particular, were very good. At the end of the debate, the topic was thrown open to the House, and we heard a few useful points worth noting. At last, the time to declare the results was at hand. Anindya and I were given the prize for the best rebuttals, and we stood second overall. The Asian School won the debate, and as the host school did not compete for the trophy, we brought it home with us.

This debate was a great experience for both of us, and granted us valuable exposure. I have realised that in the end, it's not whether you win or lose that matters, but whether or not you yourself are satisfied and happy with your performance.

"Replacing Greg Chappell was a good decision"

Greg Chappell is a retired professional cricketer who played for Australia in 87 matches and captained in 48 of them. He holds records such as the first Australian to ever score 7000 runs in test cricket and he and his brother, Ian Chappell, are the only brothers to ever score a century in the same test. He was also a commentator after retiring from professional cricket, before his span of two years as the Indian coach. He was heavily criticised, though. Some people say that he deserved to remain the Indian coach and some people disagree.

View

Chitwanjot Singh

After the Indian team's dismal performance in the ICC Cricket World Cup 2007, it wouldn't be very wrong to blame Greg Chappell for India's not making it to the super-eight. After all, a coach should be like a beacon of hope and should always encourage his team. In my opinion, it is his sloppiness as a coach that has brought about the downfall of Team India.

Chappell's constant rows with the experienced players like Ganguly and Tendulkar often affected their performance and that of the other, younger players. On top of that, he blames the players for not playing hard enough. His total neglect and disrespect towards the fans have turned many an Indian against him, for example, when he stuck out the wrong finger towards the protesting fans in Kolkata after his spat with Sourav Ganguly.

I agree, Chappell is not solely to blame, but, after his carelessness in the email to the BCCI, my confidence in the coach was shaken. He did not understand and appreciate the players and after a bad match, he would demoralize the entire squad by swapping and changing the batting order and the players themselves. The way in which Greg Chappell used to coach was not right, as his unchecked criticism demoralized the team to a great extent. The day of the India vs Bangladesh match was an ominous one for all Indian cricket fans, as was, for that matter, the clash with Sri Lanka. Both these losses have (hopefully) taught India that something is wrong. I am glad that India is now focusing more on fielding, with Robin Singh as the specialist fielding coach.

I think Ravi Shastri, Venkatesh Prasad and Robin Singh are a good bet and they will fill the void left by Greg Chappell quite well. Hopefully, India will have better luck in the series to come.

Counterinterview

Kaustabh Verma

The booms and depressions of Indian cricket over the years have always resulted in the creation of a new superstar or a new scapegoat. The debacle in the Caribbean this year saw the tragic fall in the status of the players from heroes to zeroes. Faithfully providing support to our fallen heroes was the characteristic blame-game which saw the soft-spoken coach of the team, Greg Chappell, being subjected to the outrage of our cricket-crazy fans.

This time, of course, Chappell was ready with his defence and before anyone could humiliate him further, the controversial coach of the Indian team had resigned, preserving his dignity and grace in the process. We have al-

ready seen the ugly face of the fanatic element in Indian cricket in Bhubhaneshwar, where an over-enthusiastic 'fan' had slapped the former Australian captain for alleged discrimination against players from Orissa. Before that, he was at the centre of the biggest controversy that has plagued Indian cricket in recent times: the Sourav Ganguly issue. So, we know that he was a seasoned man, who had survived the fluctuating tides of Indian cricket. He had faced the worst that any coach could ever face, and he had faced it with grace. Greg Chappell, as coach of the Indian cricket team, had stood the test of time.

In a country where cricket is religion, and the players gods, Chappell dared to do the unthinkable: he tried to discipline those gods, he tried to bring about order in a reckless team and managed to straighten a bunch of arrogant sportsmen. Greg Chappell got the heart-throb of the nation, Sourav Ganguly, removed as captain, something for which he was hated, resented and criticized nationwide by the public and the press alike. He was probably the first coach in our country who treated seniors and juniors alike and ensured a tight rein of discipline over the team. Now the old guard was no longer secure of their place in the team. They realized that they had to perform to retain their place. Professionalism and transparency had finally been infused in Indian cricket.

It was during this phase of transition that the progress and professionalism of the team got engulfed by the inevitable, heart-rending tragedy of defeat. Within a fortnight, all the work of Chappell came crashing down and he was termed a failure. He knew that he would be sacked by the Board in the days to come, and so, to avoid embarrassing anyone, he quietly resigned, giving vague explanations which seemed convenient to everyone. Thus, the reforms of this straightforward tactician went down the drain.

On maths, and more

Dhruv Velloor interviews the new teacher on campus,
Mona Khanna

The Weekly (DSW): Tell us something about yourself.

Mona Khanna (MAK): I'm from Delhi, and I taught at a World School in Jaipur before coming here. I completed my studies from Delhi and I have two children.

DSW: What made you decide to teach?

MAK: I have always been very passionate about teaching. I was also good at mathematics. I love being with students.

DSW: What are your impressions of us so far?

MAK: I think it's too early to say, but so far, I think it's been good.

DSW: Why are kids so scared of maths?

MAK: I don't think that this is a problem that starts from A or Sc-form. It stems right from Class I. Our peers and parents tell us that we must do well in maths right from the start. Maths teachers are also the strictest, and they, too, tell students that maths is the toughest. For some reason, extra classes are usually taken only for maths. What the teachers should be doing is telling the students that maths is a scoring subject and they should not feel scared of it.



IB: A Student's View

Abhaas Shah shares his initial experience with the IB programme

At first glance, IB or International Baccalaureate was a really exciting prospect, involving a lot of hard work and research, with large doses of creativity, innovation and lateral thinking. At second glance, it was all this and much more.

Our excitement has not faltered yet, with every new class bringing to light another new aspect of IB. Creativity levels are soaring, with every possible corner of our artistic minds being exploited to the maximum. Innovation is involved in every subject, from mechanical subjects like Physics and Chemistry, where one must invent and plan his own practicals, to expressive subjects, like English, where one is told to write first impressions on poets to be studied. As our teachers keep emphasizing, books are not very essential commodities in IB, as there is no specified course; out-of-the-box thinking is a must.

All this we were prepared for, in fact, we welcomed it. What we were not prepared for was the enormous amount of time and hard work expected of us. Piles of assignments are withdrawn and corrected efficiently and regularly on a daily basis, while new, intimidating ones find their way to our folders.

However, IB does pose a few problems, which, though not unforeseen, are major drawbacks to an otherwise smooth system. These problems are partly inevitable, and partly avoidable. Firstly, there is the major problem of the presence of two concurrent facts: there is a lot of research to be done, and we do not, I am sorry to say, have adequate facilities or the proper hours of access to computers to carry out this research. This is not purely due to the lack of foresight of the school authorities. They are making full efforts to provide us with the facilities. However, it would be shortsighted not to notice that IB students round the globe have 24/7 net access, and can work late hours researching and working on their assignments.

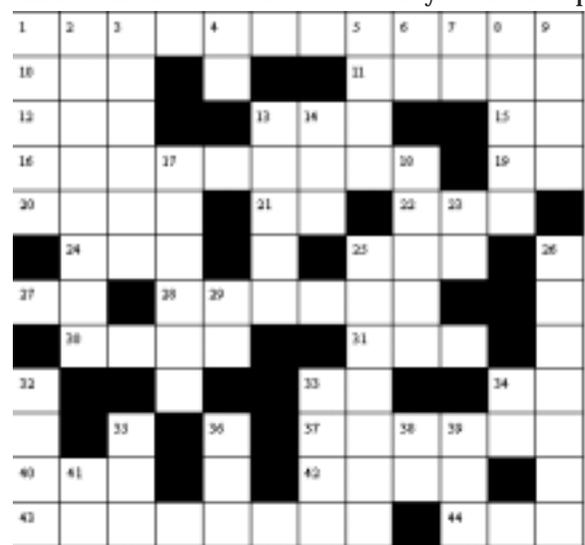
Secondly, there is the major problem of carrying on all our school activities – sports and co-curricular – along with the workload of IB. This is truly a Herculean task, requiring professional time-management skills, deadly focus and an unflinching active mind. It is rare to find even one, let alone all three, of these qualities in a student.

However, it would be wrong to ramble on about the flaws of IB. After all, these glitches were predictable, and the present IB students had a good idea about the consequences when they chose to go in for the IB diploma. The school is making commendable efforts to make the journey as smooth and convenient as possible. The masters involved must be appreciated for the amount of hard work and dedication they display, and the energy with which they conduct the classes. Their situation is almost as bad as ours, if not worse! As Erich Fromm says, "Let your mind start a strange new journey through a strange new world. Leave all thoughts of the world you knew before. Let your soul take you where you long to be... Close your eyes, let your spirit start to soar, and you'll live as if you've never lived before."

CROSSWORD

Vishnukaant Pitty

Across: 1. Hitler's army – 'storm troopers' 10. Past tense of 'have' 11. Romantic Shakespearean character 12. Singular 13. Inter-state telephone call 15. Geometric abbreviation of 'right' 16. Horrible 19. 'That is' (abbreviation) 20. Work shirker 21. A musical note 22. This you find in a pack of cards 24. _____ Angeles 25. Desired by a beggar 27. Delhi



University (abbreviation) 28. A river in Bhutan 30. A canal 31. An Adobe Reader file 33. Approximately 22/7 34. Opposite of 'out' 37. Common name of a fruit and colour 40. First 3 letters of the common prefixes of – 'plane' and 'drome' 42. Drawn using a ruler 43. To scare 44. A small child.

Down: 1. A _____ of fish 2. Titan cursed with eternal thirst 3. Creators of Asterix: Goscinny and _____ 4. I 5. Pakistan's official language 6. River Tsang 7. Prime Minister 8. Scary 9. To jot down 13. Loud sound usually signifying time or an emergency 14. 'Finger' of the feet 17. Marine animal 18. Raw vegetable mixture 23. Chief Minister 25. Medicine for headache 26. Renown 29. Wizard of _____ 32. A _____ of bread 33. A long stick usually of metal 34. Prefix for 'noble' 35. Forest Research Institute 36. Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons 38. The article 'a' turns into this before a vowel 39. A meshed object used for fishing 41. An exclamation of doubt.

Online Edition: <http://www.doonschool.com/magazine>

weekly@doonschool.com



IPSS® All rights reserved. Printed by: The English Book Depot, 15 Rajpur Road, Dehra Dun, Uttaranchal - 248009, India. Published by: Philip Burrett, The Doon School, Dehra Dun.

Editor-in-Chief: Shikhar Singh Editor: Ashish Mitter Senior Editor: Harsh Mall Hindi Editor: Suhaas Khullar Associate Editors: Shaurya Kuthiala, Abhaas Shah, Vishnukaant Pitty, Saurav Sethia, Rushil Singh Special Correspondents: Dhruv Velloor, Pranjal Singh, K.P. Somaiah Correspondents: Shoumitra Srivastava, Bharat Ganju, Uday Shriram Chief-of-Production: Naman Goel Webmaster: Vishal Mohla Assistant Managers: Stuti Bathla, Priya Chaturvedi, Arvindanabha Shukla Special Assistance: K.C.Maurya Graphics: Vishnukaant Pitty