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# The Doon School WEEKLY



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REGULARS

2

POETRY

2

HINDI  
PAGE

3

SLATER'S

4

## Trying Times!

*It's that time of the term again, when students carry thick, dusty textbooks and battered notebooks around the campus looking as if they were actually imbibing some knowledge (perhaps through osmosis) from them. We do, however, see some boys enjoying Trials as they give up the struggle and loaf around the tuck shop. We also see others who have already memorised their course-work three times over and are reciting whole chapters to themselves. And then, there is the third category that has not made significant inroads into the syllabus to be covered, but who still refuse to give up. Their books remain open right till the last few seconds before the Trial and by the end of it, they still haven't progressed much. The Doon School Weekly presents a cross-section of opinion regarding the dreaded 'T' time*



**Shashvat Dhandania (D form):** I have been here for a month now, and the fact that I am going to take Trials for the first time is making me nervous. There is a lot of pressure; and the pressure comes from within. I know that the first impression is the last one and that these Trials will lay the foundation for my development as an all-round character in school. My family members are expecting a good result from me, and I must be able to live up to those expectations.

**Kanishka Malik (C form):** I consider Trials as a time when a boy does his last important task for the term; when

on paper that will have a deep impression on our lives, and it is high time that we should get down to some real studying.

**Sriyash Kishorepuria (A form):** Trials are an inseparable part of every term, and their being placed at the end of every term does not, in any way, reflect their importance. Trials fulfill two important requirements: firstly, it prepares us for the 'all-important' Board examinations that we will take at some point in time, and it tests our knowledge. Both of these are an integral part of any educational system in the world: the exams and the actual process of learning. Trials give us a fair idea of where we are lacking, and how we can improve. It is that time of the term when we are all trying our very best to study.

**Kanishka Agarwal (S form):** Not having to take Trials is great; but, truly, if I had a chance, I'd probably give Trials this term, anyway. I think the biggest problem with the eleventh grade is the huge course and its complexity. It is a big jump, and it is not easy to cope with all of that. There would be two advantages for S formers, if they were to give Trials: first, all the aspirants of the Scholar's Blazer would find it easier to earn their internal points and second, less of the course would be covered, thereby making us feel a lot more comfortable. There is, of course, a certain amount of pleasure that I derive from studying other people's misfortunes in the light of my ad-

when a boy does his last important task for the term; when he puts in everything he has after working for three and a half months. I consider it to be an apt ending to a segment of our academic year. It is only after we give our Trials that we can truly say that the term is over. Frequent visits to the Tuck Shop and super-saturation of the brain are what Trials are condensed to.

**Arnav Sahu (B form):** Trials are the things we dread the most, and I despise the monotonous drudgery that one has to go through during this period. It is just like another sport, where the competition marks the end for that sport in the term. The only difference is that Trials are a lot more scary! Let's get real. We all know that it is the digits printed

studying other people's misfortunes in the light of my advantages. In that one week, when the rest of school will be slogging it out, I will be able to go to bed early and not work very hard, and whenever I think of that, I feel delighted.

**Ankit Durga (Sc form):** The first thing that I think of when we talk about Trials is the futility of the entire system. I mean, how can one boil down a whole term or a whole year's experience of learning to one 'final test'? We are constantly reminded of the importance of Trials and the impact that it is going to have on our lives, but even these reminders are overshadowed by our overwhelming desire to go back home. And that is where Trials end: where the thought of holidays begin!

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*1. The Doon School Weekly Saturday, May 12*

## REGULARS

### DEBATING DUES

Shikhar Singh, Ashish Mitter, Vivaan Shah and Chinmay Sharma represented the school in the **12th Slater Memorial Debates** held at Bishop Cotton School, Shimla, from May 2 to May 5. Vivaan Shah won **Second Best Speaker** awards, while Ashish Mitter won **Second Best** and **Third Best Speaker** prizes. Shikhar Singh was adjudged the **Best Speaker** of the Debates and set a record by winning six Best Speaker awards. Well done! A report runs in this issue.

### CLASH OF WITS

The following are the result of the **Inter-House Chess Competition for Seniors** held from April 20 to May 7:

**1st:** Kashmir and Tata (51 points)

**3rd:** Jaipur (44 points)

### LITERARY ACCOLADES

The following is the results of the **Shankar Dayal Sharma English Essay Writing Competition for Juniors**:

**1st:** Arnav Sahu

**2nd:** Revant Nayar

The following are the results of the **B.P. Chandola English Essay Writing Competition, 2007**:

**1st:** Eeshaan Puri

**2nd:** Gaurav Sood

Congratulations!

### QUIZ MANIA

Saurabh Tiwari, Eeshaan Tiwary and Vishnukaant Pitty represented the school at the **Scholar's Home Quiz** held on May 5. The Doon School was placed fourth in the competition.

### MUSIC PERFORMANCE

There was a music presentation by Pt. Prateek Chowdhary on the sitar and Ustad Akram Khan on the tabla at the Rose Bowl on May 5. This was a **SPIC MACAY** presentation. The concert featured Raga Rageshwari, and the brilliant performance was interspersed with comments and explanations by the artiste, to enable an already-enthralled audience understand the intricate structure of a raga.

## unquotable quotes

*My infectious disease is not contagious.*

**Vahin Khosla** spreads the word.

*I need to go for a hair facial.*

**Samaay Mangalgiri** has a close shave.

*I will only say a single word – 'Move out!'*

**VKL** is terse.

Alexander Gama Bell invented Penicillin.

**Manuk Nalin Singh** dials a wrong number.

*No, Alexander Flemingbell did.*

**NRK** takes the call.

*I will talk to you a hundred years ago.*

**Ujwal Khanna**, centurion.

*I waked up at twelve midnight in the morning.*

**Animesh Gupta** rocks 'round the clock.

*Write 'topic' with T.*

**Abhaas Shah**, conscientious to a 't'.

*They are going for the squash Grand Slam.*

**Devashish Agarwal** thinks big.

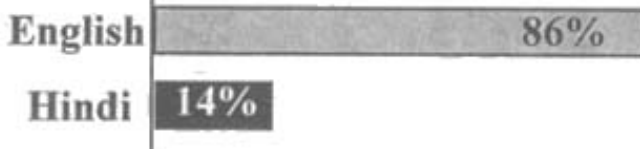
*There is no funny in this.*

**MNP**, missing the humour.



## Opinion Poll

Which do you prefer watching: Hindi movies or English movies?



**Next week's question:** Do you think the new report card system is better than the previous one?

## CANADIAN CALL

Aditi Diwan from the **Mount Allison Academy, Canada**, visited the campus on April 16, while other representatives from Canadian institutions, namely, **Acadia University, Nova Scotia Agricultural College, Cape Breton University** and **St. Mary's University** were on campus on April 19. They had interactive sessions on arts, sciences, commerce, environment and agriculture-related courses with the S and Sc form boys.

## CAREER CALL

The careers' notice board will focus on **Medicine** this week. All potential doctors should definitely



The careers' notice board will focus on **Medicine** this week. All potential doctors should definitely look it up.

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*2. The Doon School Weekly Saturday, May 12*

## आज की नारी-नहीं रही बेचारी

-अभिषेक शर्मा

हाथ अबला, तेरी यही कहानी, औचल में है दूध, औँलों में पानी।

मैथिलीशरण गुप्त ने ऐसा कहा था तो था पर अगर सच कहूँ तो यह पंक्ति आज के ज़माने को उतनी सच्चाई के साथ चित्रित नहीं करती जितनी सच्चाई के साथ उस समय की व्याख्या करती थी जिस समय इन्हें रचा गया था। आज की नारियाँ या कम से कम बहुत बड़ी संख्या में नारियाँ ऐसी निरीह और बेचारी नहीं हैं।

एक ज़माना था जब औरतों को कमज़ोर और लोक-व्यवहार से अनभिज्ञ माना जाता था। उन्हें भोग की वस्तु के रूप में देखा जाता था। उस काल की नारियाँ कोमल स्वभाव वाली होती थीं और उन्हें पुरुष समाज की सम्पत्ति के रूप में देखा जाता था। उस समय नारी को पतियों की दासी माना जाता था। उन्हें घरों से अकेले बाहर निकलने की मनाही थी। उन्हें महत्वपूर्ण निर्णय लेते समय कोई अहमियत नहीं दी जाती थी। समाज में औरतों और शूद्रों की स्थिति में कोई खास अंतर न था। दोनों को ही समाज के स्वामी अर्थात् पुरुषों का त्रास झेलना पड़ता था। उन्हें निर्बुद्ध माना जाता था। शायद इसी कारण तुलसीदास जी कह गये थे-

'ढोल, गँवार, क्षुद्र, पशु, नारी  
सकल तारणा के अधिकारी।'

इक्कीसवीं सदी की नारी के लिये ऐसा कहना अनुचित होगा। समय में परिवर्तन के साथ नारी में भी परिवर्तन आया। उसने अपने अधिकार के लिए बोलना शुरू किया और समाज में अपनी स्थिति मज़बूत बनाने के अथक प्रयास करने शुरू किये। ऐसा नहीं कि केवल नारी ने ही अपने पक्ष में बोलना शुरू किया अपितु पुरुष भी उसके समर्थन में सामने आया। उसके लिये अलग-अलग संस्थाओं में आरक्षण किया गया। अनेक नारी-संस्थाओं को नारियों के उत्थान के लिये ही खोला गया और नौकरियों में लगी हुई नारियों को पुरुषों के समान ही वेतन और अधिकार दिया जाने लगा।

ऊँचे-ऊँचे पदों के लिये अब नारियाँ भी अपनी योग्यता के अनुसार चयनित होती हैं। दिल्ली की मुख्यमंत्री महोदया भी एक स्त्री ही हैं- श्रीमती शीला दीक्षित। कई कॉरपोरेट संस्थाओं में भी महिलाएँ ही प्रमुख निदेशक आदि हैं। इन सब महिलाओं ने ऐसे काम करके पूरी महिला जाति का नाम रोशन कर दिया। किरण बेदी जैसी सिंह-हृदय महिला ने भी दिखा दिया कि पुलिस और सेना में भी महिला पुरुष जितनी ही सफल हो सकती हैं।

आज की नारी में भी, दृढ़ता व साहस है। नारी आज हर वो काम कर सकती है जो मर्द कर सकते हैं। अलग अलग क्षेत्रों में महिलाएँ अपनी योग्यता दिखा रही हैं। चाहे वह दुकानदारी हो, या फिर देश की रक्षा या फिर किसी कम्पनी की मालिक। उनके लिये समाज में नये रास्ते खुल गये हैं- अब बच्चे पैदा करने की मशीन बनकर घर में बैठकर खाना पकाना ही उसकी नियति नहीं रह गई है।

ऐसी नारी को बेचारी कहना कैसे उचित हुआ? वह मर्दों को चालाकी से काबू में कर सकती है, और अपने मोह जाल का भी प्रयोग अच्छी तरह से जानती है। उनको बेचारी तब कहते थे जब इनको मारा-पीटा जाता था और सेवकों की भाँति रखा जाता था। आज तो इसके विपरीत नारी ही पुरुष को दास बनाने की सामर्थ्य रखती है।

समय के साथ सब बदलता है और लोग भी। नारियाँ भी

पीढ़ियों से मुझे अलग-अलग नाम दिये गये। वैदिक काल में जब मनुष्य सूर्य, चंद्रमा, तारों, ग्रहों, पानी, हवा, पृथ्वी, आदि से डरते थे तो मेरे ही कारण सूर्यदेव, चंद्रदेव, जलदेव, वायुदेव, पृथ्वी माँ आदि को देवों के रूप में सुमज्जित किया गया। अगर इसका कारण गहराई से खोजने की कोशिश की जाए तो पता चलेगा कि जब इन लोगों के मन में अपने चारों ओर फैले वातावरण और उसके उपादानों के बारे में जिज्ञासा जागी तो उन्हें पता चला कि यह सब तो प्रकृति का खेल है, सूरज और चंद्र उदय होकर अस्त ज़रूर होंगे, पानी का तो काम ही बहना है इत्यादि। आज मनुष्य इन सभी के बारे में बहुत जानता है फिर भी डरता है। इन सभी उपादानों के कारण होने वाले नुकसान के भय ने उसे इनसे बचने के उपाय सोचने पर विवश कर दिया। ज्योतिषियों ने अपनी तरह से सोचना प्रारम्भ किया तो वैज्ञानिकों ने अपना रास्ता पकड़ा। प्रत्येक आविष्कार के पीछे मैं ही तो हूँ। मैं न होता तो दवाइयाँ क्यों और कहाँ से आतीं, सुरक्षा के उपकरण क्यों बनते?

लोगों को एक ऐसे भय ने जकड़ लिया जिसका अभी तक प्रभाव भूलोकवासियों पर मंडरा रहा है। मेरा एक अन्य रूप है माँ। जब इसके पीछे के सत्य का कुछ पता न चल सका तो इसे दैवी शक्तियों का कार्य बताया गया। जैसे जैसे साल बीतते गये वैसे-वैसे धर्मग्रंथों में, पुराणों में राजा महाराजाओं के नाम जुड़ते गये एवं देवताओं की टोली बढ़ती गयी। मेरा प्रभाव लोगों पर दिन दोगुनी और रात चौगुनी गति से बढ़ता गया। भगवान को परमेश्वर के पद से हटा कर मुझे ईश्वर का ताज पहना दिया गया अर्थात् भगवान जो मेरे मन में बसता है उसे भूलकर लोग मुझे, जो उनके मस्तिष्क में बसता हूँ, ईश्वर पुकारने लगे।

क्योंकि ईश्वर ने मेरी शकल ले ली थी, इसलिये लोगों को समझ में आया कि भगवान अच्छे कर्मों एवं पूजा पाठ से ज्यादा खुश होंगे। आज ओसामा बिन लादेन जैसे लोगों की मैजूदगी ने भी लोगों को मज़बूर किया है। बेचारे देवता...कर्ता ओसामा बिन लादेन और उस जैसे लोगों के कर्म, लेकिन गालियाँ देवता ही खाते हैं।

यह तो आज की स्थिति है लेकिन एक दिन ऐसा भी आयेगा जब लोग मुझसे डरेंगे और बाकी सभी डर भूल जाएंगे और अंत में केवल मेरा डर रह जायेगा। उसी दिन मेरा अंत हो जायेगा। इसीलिये जितने दिन मैं ज़िन्दा हूँ, खुशहाली में रहना चाहता हूँ, आखिर 'डर' जो हूँ।

### मिट्टी

-मेहुल गोयल

हवा,  
उड़ा देती है मिट्टी को पहाड़ से  
पेड़ से टकराकर  
मिट्टी के ढेले चूर-चूर हो जाते हैं।  
गददों में गिरने पर  
उसे जो सुकून मिलता है,  
कुछ ही समय में छिन जायेगा वह।  
पानी, उसका वजूद मिटाने की  
कोशिश करते थकता नहीं।  
मिट्टी के ढेले जिन पर कभी  
घास आ करती थी,  
तो कभी पेड़

रखता ह।

समय के साथ सब बदलता है और लोग भी। नारियाँ भी बदली हैं और वो भी कुछ इस तरह कि बेचारी शब्द अब उनका अपमान सा हो गया है।

यत्र नार्यस्तु पूज्यंते रमंते तत्र देवता।।

- यह कथन आज के युग में अक्षरशः उचित हो गया है।

**डर**

-आदित्य विक्रम गुप्ता

पाँच हज़ार साल पहले आदमी के जन्म के साथ ही मेरा जन्म हुआ। जैसे मनुष्य का विकास हुआ वैसे ही मेरा विकास हुआ। मनुष्य की कल्पना ही मेरे पलने एवं रहने की जगह थी। मेरे कारण बहुत लोगों की मृत्यु हुई। मैं कल भी था, आज भी हूँ और हमेशा रहूँगा। मैं हूँ भय।

तो कभी पेड़

जिनमें केंचुए खेलेते थे - कीड़ों से, नमी से  
पुरानी इमारतों पर सालों से बिछी  
चादर में कई राज़ दफ़न हैं।  
विवादों को जन्म देती है मिट्टी  
मगर घर के एक कोने में  
अपनी जगह बना चुकी  
मिट्टी को लापरवाही से  
झाड़ दिया जाता है।  
बिना सोचे समझे इस मिट्टी का मतलब,  
जो समय के आँसुओं की तरह  
बहती रहती है।

3. The Doon School Weekly Saturday, May 12



# Success at Slater's

*Chinmay Sharma recounts a debating experience in Shimla*

Shikhar Singh, Ashish Mitter, Vivaan Shah and I, along with STB, travelled to Shimla for the 12th Rev. Slater Memorial English Debates to be held at Bishop Cotton School. Bishop Cotton, for those who haven't seen it, is a boarding school, which is spread vertically up a steep hillside. This naturally entails a lot of hiking up and down the campus if one needs to go anywhere. We were escorted to our dorms, which we were to share with boys from various schools, who, too, would be competing in the Debates. As fate would have it, it was a long way down the hill. However, taking this in our stride, we got ready for our 'campaign'.

Truth be told, we had quite modest expectations at the beginning of the Debates. But, it was a still a shock when the Shri Ram School, over whom we had expected to win easily, defeated us in the first debate itself. We were speaking for the motion that stated "Indians are not lovers of sports". In a way, this shock treatment did us a world of good, as it turned out. We picked ourselves up, dusted ourselves down, put our minds to the task at hand and treated all further opposition with a bit of wariness. In the next debate, held on the same day, we won against the Mayo Girls' College. The topic under fire here was: "Pakistan is the beneficiary of its terrorist incursions". Speaking against the topic, our team put forth a convincing argument and from then onwards there was no looking back. As more debates progressed, our tally of wins (and Shikhar's of Best Speaker Awards) also went up. The last pre-quarter final debate was against RIMC. We had to speak against the motion that read "Children learn more when they begin schooling early". Our victory in this round saw us enter the quarter finals. But, it was only after the quarter final win against the La Martiniere Girls' School, Lucknow, (Topic: "Schools cannot be held responsible for each member of their alumni". Stand: against) did we start thinking that maybe we could win this competition. After defeating Welham Girls' School in the semi finals, our dream seemed set to turn into reality. There was a heated argument on the topic that read "Overcome evil with good – easier said than done", and we had the difficult task of speaking against the motion, but, once again, our team emerged victorious. Our last challenge was against Vasant Valley School and the topic being debated was "News channels have become 'news

Looking back on the whole trip, there are moments that will keep replaying themselves in my head. Shikhar's rebuttals, our brainstorming sessions, which would continue till midnight, the gathering at Chipu's (the amazing BCS tuck shop), almost every team member succumbing to the sudden cold wave, 'Dosco Migraine' being played on our arrival to faze us (which it didn't), and the camaraderie and sporting spirit between the competing teams, will be just some of them. We probably wouldn't have made it as far as we did if it had not been for the help that we received from almost everyone. STB, with her useful points and food supplements, and not to forget, the 'thought artillery' comprising NRK, DEB, PKB, PCH and PDT. It would have been hard going without their inputs.

A win at Slater's after a ten year hiatus felt really good, and I hope the legacy will continue.

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## Letter to the Editor

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### *Announcement Angst*

Lunch comes at the end of a gruelling session of academics, and one looks forward to a relaxed meal, chatting with friends. I do acknowledge that it is also a convenient time to make announcements, but, of late, there have been too many of these. It is not just the number of announcements that disturbs the lunch break, but also their length. Seemingly endless lists of roll numbers are called out, which certainly does not aid in the digestive process. Many of us stop eating to concentrate on those numbers. Some time ago, a notice board was put up outside the CDH to cut down the number of announcements made at lunch. However, the system didn't work as hardly anyone paid attention to it. Perhaps we could put up the longer announcements on the board, and make a short announcement addressing the concerned parties to look up the board for further details. This will certainly go a long way in ensuring a more congenial dining atmosphere.

(Rohit Khandelwal)

Tricky Trivia

Vedant Chandra

being debated was "News channels have become 'news creators' rather than news reporters". We had to oppose this motion and using the remainder of our energy and ideas, we managed to bag the final victory.

Vedant Chandra

Can you arrange ten coins in five lines so that there are four coins in each line?

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