Squad Halt!

Adhip Chopra and Saurav Sethia report on the 71st Inter-House PT Competition held on April 27

Friday, April 27. The finality of the date struck us. It was as bad as Friday, the 13th. We generally avoid the things we abhor, but with PT, it's quite the contrary. No matter how much we detest doing PT in the morning, on the final day - the day of the competition - we still end up putting in heart and soul to win the competition.

PT was scheduled to begin at five in the evening, but, owing to the people who could not bear the heat, it was delayed by about half-an-hour. Vishesh Kochher said about the delay, “So much for proper timing, but nothing for proper time!” But, PT was underway before we knew it, and the Nizams of Hyderabad House double-marched to the field and displayed a well-synchronized table. It has to be said that their performance left most of the other Houses feeling insecure about their chances of winning the Gong. As they left the field, having made a positive impression, Jaipur House came on to, hopefully, outdo the Nizams. The junior squad certainly seemed impressive. It was surprising that they ranked fourth in the junior category.

As Narinder Kapur commented on the senior squad of J House, “We expected to do much better, but things did not turn out as we had hoped.”

Next up was Oberoi House. This was the squad we were all supposed to derive our inspiration from. All the hands were raised at the same time and were perfectly in order, at the same height. If you were the last person in the squad, you would not have been able to see the third last person, such was their alignment; and the same goes for the junior squad. Characterised by precise movements and unmistakable dexterity, Oberoi House left the crowd spellbound with their PT display. As Harshal Bidasaria put it, “We worked very hard for it and our performance on the final day reflected the effort we put in.”

Kashmir House followed. The senior squad did not quite meet the expectations of the audience, but the junior squad did put up a respectable show, which augurs well for future PT competitions. The last House for the evening was Tata House. With renewed energy, the Warriors proceeded with their exercises, and a marked improvement could be seen in their attitude towards PT already. They did reasonably well. It seems that Tata House has this uncanny knack of pulling a rabbit out of the hat on the final day. What Gurshant Singh (ex-73 T, ’07) remarked last year is applicable this year, too: “We slacked, but we cracked.”

After a crisp speech by the School PT Leader, Anirudh Kapur, followed by speeches delivered by the Chief Guest, RIMC Commandant, Col. Prem Prakash, and the Headmaster, the prize distribution began. Suryajit Singh won the award for the Best PT Leader. Oberoi House was placed first in the junior and senior categories and defeated Tata for the Gong by a huge margin. And, while Oberoi shouted, “Oberoi ne pukaara hai, PT Gong humara hai”, Tata House, which had won the Gong last year, was content with shouting, “Tata ne pukaara hai, Best Leader humara hai.”

**Trophy Flash**

*The Best PT Leader Cup was donated by Pushpinder Chopra (ex-74 T).*

*The Indian Military Academy Gong was presented by the Indian Military Academy for the Inter-House PT Competition. It was first displayed in 1939 and Kashmir House won it for the first time.*

*Mahant Surendra Prakash donated the Junior Cup in 1974. Hyderabad House won the Cup for the first time.*
PHYSICAL T(orture)RAINING

The 71st Inter-House PT Competition was held on Friday, April 27th. Suryajit Singh was adjudged the Best PT Leader of the Competition. The House positions are as follows:

In the Junior category:
1st: Oberoi House (Udai Singh)
2nd: Tata House (Tanveer Angad Singh)
3rd: Kashmir House (Sachin Uppal)
4th: Jaipur House (Kausbubh Verma)
5th: Hyderabad House (Vishal Singh)

In the Senior category:
1st: Oberoi House (Dilshad Sidhu)
2nd: Tata House (Suryajit Singh)
3rd: Hyderabad House (Ankit Durga)
4th: Jaipur House (Anirudh Kapur)
5th: Kashmir House (Tanuj Bhramar)

The overall House positions were:
1st: Oberoi House
2nd: Tata House
3rd: Jaipur House
4th: Kashmir House
5th: Hyderabad House

A report runs in this issue.

MUNA MEET

The Intra-School Model United Nations was held on Sunday, April 29th. Nine countries were represented by the participating students. The three Councils were ECOSOC, UN Security Council and the UNEP. While Vishnukaant Pitty (Russia) was named the Best Delegate of the UNEP, Arnav Sahu (France) was the Best Delegate of ECOSOC and Saurav Sethia (Russia) was adjudged the Best Delegate of the UN Security Council. The Best Delegation was that of Russia represented by Saurav Sethia (UNSC), Vishnukaant Pitty (UNEP) and Abhaas Shah (ECOSOC). A report runs in this issue.

CRICKET COLOURS

The following boys were awarded School Cricket Colours on Tuesday, May 1st:

**Full Colours:** Tanveer Angad Singh, Aryaman Sengar, Dhairy Khera, Vivan Rai, Shailendra Singh, Ritunj Raizada, Chihwanjot Singh, Aayushya Bishnoi.

**Half Colours:** Tanveer Angad Singh, Dilshad Sidhu, Dilsher Khanna.

A report runs in this issue.

PT Leader's Speech

Good evening ladies and gentlemen.

As juniors, we never thought very highly of PT. All we saw in it were a bunch of grinding, deplorable and detestable exercises. We never gave PT its due worth. We have hardly ever given thought to the holistic benefits that this time honoured ritual bestows upon us.

It increases our physical and mental strength. It nurtures our physical abilities and will-power. Most importantly, it highlights our drive, our determination and our discipline, making it a truly character-building exercise.

PT comprises many things at many levels. The very essence of PT lies in coordination and perseverance. It also requires hours of dedicated practice and commitment. This strenuous exercise involves mass participation and outstanding skill. It is one of the few activities in the entire school that brings the entire House together as a disciplined and determined unit, striving to beat all odds and overcome all obstacles to reach for what we all call ‘elusive perfection’.

But, the most important element of PT is undoubtedly josh. Josh is more than a feeling. More aptly defined, it is an elevation of the mind and makes an individual want to do his very best, which is what all these doscos have done here today.

Now I would like to thank a few people without whom this event would not have been possible. I would like to thank the Headmaster, Dr. Bajpai and Deputy Headmaster, Mr. Burrett. I would also like to thank Mr. D. Singh for his valuable guidance and unflinching support. The ground maulis, for their hard work and commitment toward making the grounds suitable for today, as well as the practices. I would also like to thank Mr. Chauhan for being one of the key factors behind the success of this competition. I would also like to thank Mr. Makija, the A V Squad and the Stage Committee. And last, but not the least, I would like to thank our Master-in-Charge, Mr. Michael Chauhan for being one of the key factors behind the success of the competition. He laid the foundation for another memorable PT Competition.

I do not know who is going to win this competition but let me rejoice in the fact that on this day the Swans, the Warriors, the Chinars, the Nizams and the Eagles gave in their hundred percent. Giving your best is what matters, because success is never final and failure is never fatal; it is courage that counts.

Unquotable Quotes

We will study the events from nineteen-o-four to nineteen-o-fourteen.

RSF keeps up with his dates.
Australians beat South Africa by thirty-three wickets.
SDA is bowled over.
You should have been a glue stick.
Keshav Prasad sticks to his point.
The keys are here.

Vishnukaant Pitty’s key to perfect grammar:
Please don’t clearscreen the board.
VSM uses C++ syntax.
Take the remote and put on the TV.

AKM instructs his student to put on the projector.
He is the best drawer.
Milind Pundit shoots from the hip.
I can see the fire. It is off.
Sharad Lal has X-ray vision.

2. The Doon School Weekly Saturday, May 5
The Trumpets sound. The horns blow. Ten thousand trample on the barren earth. The assault begins. Folded in the embrace of the mighty ridge, lies a fortress: unbreachable, invincible, or so they thought. Many men guard its towering walls and man its gargantuan turrets. Spies spot the enemy and the hordes of the fortress prepare themselves for a long, hard siege. The invading soldiers pillow their way to the main gate of the fortress. There is a deadly silence. Not even the wind dares breathe for the fear of the suffocating hand of cold, bloody war. "Fire," comes a scream from the depths of the fortress atop the ridge. The young gentlemen from opposing factions. What should they do? They are weaponless and exhausted. The two of them face each other. One of them sees a blade glinting near his feet. He picks it up and swings it with a mighty lunge straight into the sole defender of the fortress. The day is theirs, and the last man who draws breath falls upon his knees. Finally, the war into the sole defender of the fortress. The day is theirs, and the last man who draws breath falls upon his knees. Finally, the war claims lives and the ruin of both armies were fated upon the last stones of the fortress atop the ridge.

Across:
1. Dracula hails from; anagram - 'rat slain navy'
14. Numismatics is the study of
16. New ______ in the army
18. Dorothy was in the land of
19. To scratch a design on glass
20. Laughing gas
22. Stitched line
25. Evening (abbreviation)
26. Brewed drink
31. A volcanic mountain
34. Dilapidated remains
35. Fairytale monster
39. Either this that 41. Pole
42. United Nations
43. Chartered Accountant
44. ______ route
45. You need to breathe
46. Last name
49. Antonym of 'out'
50. To give up
51. A musical instrument
54. An extremely long period of time
56. Antonym of 'come'
57. Rome is the capital of
58. Radius and
60. To jot down
61. and fro
62. Ahhor
65. A brand of coffee
66. Microbes are types of this
68. Lair
70. Canine
72. United States
73. Full form of pram
74. A musical note.

Down:
1. Sweet confections
2. Regret
3. Small segment of the circumference of a circle
4. WW II court trials city
5. Plakes of soot
6. Foam
7. Repent
8. Hitler
9. Collect payment
10. Antonym - 'off'
11. Round Square Conference
15. A reptile
17. International Convention (abbreviation)
21. A small portable blackboard
23. Exclamation of doubt
24. First three letters of a blood vessel in the heart
28. Biology
29. Antonym - start
30. SMS abbreviation of 'you are'
32. To tread upon
33. David and
35. To force someone out from a position
36. An African antelope
38. Gigantic
40. Arcane letter
43. Purity of gold is expressed in this
47. German river
48. North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
51. Not beautiful
52. Charged atom
53. Marine mammal
59. Brother of Cain
61. ___ or false
62. I am 16 years of ___
63. Long and distinct period of history
68. Millimetre
69. Not Applicable
70. To perform an action
71. Ten Across.

Career Call
The careers’ notice board will focus on film-making this week. All potential directors and cinematographers should roll into action.
Where ends are but beginnings and beginnings ends,
Of significances lost in the existence of the cause,
There are a million other feelings that we can feel,
Pain, it pierces the heart, meddles with the mind,
Some are really sweet; some can be pretty mean,
Now reveal their essence in solemn quietness,
Or is it the 'cause' of which you're the result?
Nostalgia! The title you're so rendered with,
Hence, I beseech: find us along time eternal
Still yet bound to Nostalgia's parallel walls.
Joy, it's something one should always feel,
With each and every breath one breathes.
Its cure is something only you can make.

Stress, an overwhelming pressure,
Sometimes too much to measure,
Doesn't let you get your leisure.
Fear: it hits you suddenly,
Messes with you mentally,
Makes your body shake,
Its cure is something only you can make.
There are a million other feelings that we can feel,
Some are really sweet; some can be pretty mean,
But by everyone they are felt and seen.

Diplomacy In Doon
Vishnukaant Pitty, Saurav Sethia and Abhaas Shah
recount their first-hand experience with the MUNA
We sat down in our respective Councils from nine-thirty in the morning till five in the evening. For most of us, MUNA (Model United Nations Association) was an almost alien concept. We did not know how to negotiate and we were not confident of our speech. And, above all, we were not overly convinced that all the participants would have been guided by their reasoning faculties. So, we did participate, but I think we were very sceptical about the success of the event. Needless to say, we were wrong. Every member had prepared himself to the point where he could have answered, extemporaneously, almost any queries about his country's foreign affairs.
Nine countries were represented by the students: USA, UK, France, Russia, China, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Japan and India.

Each country could be represented by only one member in each Council. So, we were each on our own, at least in our respective Councils. All day long, we made speeches about our country's policies, refrained from using personal pronouns (that was actually the toughest part), and affirmed our trust in the UN to the representatives of other countries. It was nice to know that everyone was being reasonable. So, obviously, it was a very fruitful experience too. We compromised and learnt to play the game so that we gained the maximum out of it. It was a lesson in diplomacy, and I can safely say that we put a lot of thought into what we did and what we said.

The topic for the Security Council was: UN and Security Council Reforms, while that for UNEP was: International Hazardous Waste Management. The ECOSOC discussed Protectionism and Free Trade. Although the criteria for marking had been very well delineated, we could appreciate how difficult it must have been to select the best delegation from a bunch of boys, who had clearly done their research, throughout the deliberations. One cannot discount the role of the chairpersons of each Council in maintaining decorum throughout, and reminding the delegates of the rules of procedure.

The most difficult part was drafting a Resolution. We had to go through it clause by clause to make sure that nothing could go against us. It was definitely a challenging exercise. After all the Councils had passed their resolutions, we were supposed to be seated in the General Assembly (AV Room). Here, we were given an emergency situation to tackle to display our crisis management skills, along with a press statement, on the basis of which we were questioned. The emergency situation brought to our notice was that Japanese seismic stations had detected tremors in North Korea, in sites suspected of nuclear activity. Japan, Israel and Australia had appealed to the UN to take immediate action. We were to present mature statements to protect our position in the UN and safeguard our ties with other countries as well.
Here again, we saw delegates tackling difficult questions from the panel of judges with calm composure.

In the end, all that is left to be said is the fact that this exercise made all of us work together as a team; it taught us to speak logically and made us think in a positive direction. And, before we end, let us say that it was a lot easier to write this article with personal pronouns than speak without them.

4. The Doon School Weekly Saturday, May 5
A Tale of Two Schools

The Doon School Weekly interviews Edward Trower and Frank Sanderson, who were in Doon during their gap year.

The Doon School Weekly (DSW): Tell us something about yourselves.

Edward Trower (ETR): I live in Hertfordshire. I went to a school in Oxfordshire and then to Eton College in Berkshire. So you can see the evident diversity in my person, I guess.

Frank Sanderson (FRS): I am nineteen. I live in London and went to Ludgrove Prep School and Eton.

DSW: What are your interests and hobbies?

ETR: One of my greatest passions is frisbee. I also won a few competitions in the sport and actively pursued it. I tried my best to get people to appreciate this sport here too, but it did not work out as I had hoped. I also enjoy playing soccer, and I definitely rate it as one of the most popular sports in the world today. I am also intrigued with classical writings. I enjoy this genre.

FRS: I am rather interested in delving into past events and learning about renowned historic figures who have influenced the world around them. I also used to play a ‘field game’, a game unique to Eton - it is a tasteful mix of rugby and soccer. Other hobbies of mine include skiing, running and watching the races. Theatre has always been a fatal attraction and a lot of my time does go in the movies.

DSW: What made you want to take up teaching?

ETR: Academic enhancement has always been on the top of my list of priorities. Eton made me realise that teaching is, by far, the most effective method of doing this. So, I decided to teach in my gap year.

FRS: I just wanted to give it a shot. I like teaching.

DSW: Why did you choose to teach in India?

ETR: India is a fascinating place with a diverse and developing culture. I wanted to be among a race which was fast making its name across the globe. As it is, I have been visiting places on and off, and am quite impressed with the magnanimity of the people out here.

FRS: After having travelled in India, we wanted to live in an Indian community and be one with them. We also wanted to stay somewhere for a while as we had been going from place to place for quite some time.

DSW: Do you plan to do after leaving Doon?

ETR: Uttar Pradesh is next on my list of destinations in India. Then, I’m going to Edinburgh University in September. As for a career, it’s not decided as yet. In India, people think a bit too much about their careers. But in England, you can take various random subjects and still get employed on the basis of your knowledge in a specific field.

FRS: Apart from India, we plan to visit Thailand too.

DSW: How has your experience been with teaching Doconians?

ETR: Everyone is friendly, industrious and conscientious and very easy to teach. I got to teach the D form, and both of us, being new members of this community, got on pretty well.

FRS: It has been good, quite relaxed and very different from Eton.

DSW: Do you think that Doon’s title as the ‘Eton of the East’ is justified?

ETR: In terms of academics, perseverance and excellence, Doon is very similar to Eton, but the setup of the two schools is very different. Doon being a campus and Eton being in a town.

FRS: Eton is famous for being the best all-round school in England. Doon is also, probably, the best all-round school in the country. So in that sense, relative to the respective country, this is justified. But, in comparison with each other, they are very different. Eton has 1300 students, it was founded in 1440 and there are a lot more extra-curricular activities going on there.

DSW: What problems do you face in teaching Indian students in general?

ETR: Just the accent and pronouncing the names. Otherwise they are very easy to teach as the intelligence level is pretty high and they are hard-working also.

FRS: One problem is names. They cannot understand us because we speak too fast. To comment on their discipline: they are quite well-behaved. Also, chalkboards, because we are used to using whiteboards.

DSW: What is the British opinion of India?

ETR: The British think that India is an upcoming nation with a high potential of becoming a political, economic and cultural power globally, if only it could even out its inequalities, which it is striving to do.

DSW: Why does Eton not have exchange programmes with Doon? Do you think it will be successful?

ETR: The Eton College has public exams in four out of five years, unlike Doon, where there are only two. So, the pressure of academics does not give them any time for exchange programs. Had there been an exchange program, it would, undoubtedly, have been successful as the two schools have so much in common with each other; but it also depends on the students who take part in this programme.

FRS: I don't think they should, because when students from Doon would come to Eton, it would be around the start of the year and we have exams then.

DSW: What differences do you find in the educational systems of Britain and India?

ETR: I have seen very good education in India in The Doon School and YPS, Patiala. I've not seen much else but I can say that Indians are marks-oriented and focus mainly on mathematics and sciences. This is the only thing that was different from the British system, where we also concentrate on the fine arts and humanities.

5. The Doon School Weekly Saturday, May 5
It is not every day that one sees a movie from the second row in a cinema hall and although it is somewhat painful, it is a highly enriching experience!

A crescendo of unfortunate events on a Sunday afternoon enabled us to arrive at the hall only just before the dreaded House Full sign was put up. Clutching our twenty rupee tickets we were led by the usher towards a couple of wobbly seats (two rows from the screen!). Never before had I realised the sheer size of the movie screen, and once images started moving on it, it was like a roller-coaster ride.

Before the movie started, I tried to get myself into the most comfortable position possible, because a three hour flick, viewed with your neck craned to its maximum length, is no joke. In the stifling heat, I kept moving minimally so as to prevent my shirt from sticking to the seat while the creaking fans fed us some feeble breeze. Finally, the movie started and the auditorium burst into applause: some clapping sarcastically while others were genuinely excited. This was followed by a symphony of wolf-whistles as the lead actress appeared on screen.

One needs huge amounts of patience to see a movie from such an acute angle. Initially, everything is grossly distorted and the sound is just one loud hum. Also, for every movement of the characters on screen, the viewer has to move his head: an interactive experience indeed. But soon, body and soul adapt to their environment and although the experience cannot be christened nirvana, one does feel better than before. The entire concept of ‘being inside the movie’ was thrown out the door as I was constantly distracted by an array of sounds around me. Predictably, the movie was heavily punctuated by shouting and clapping and whistling and comment-passing from the ‘D Duners’ sitting in the immovable rows behind me. Add to that the constant chatter and gushing melodrama were generously supported by chirpy dialogues and frenzied dance steps as the film just washed over us. After another hour-and-a-half of being lopsidedly frozen in those terrible seats, we heaved a sigh of relief as the credits started rolling towards the ceiling. Drenched in sweat, we walked into the boiling outdoors with smiles on our faces.

No matter how much we cursed the heat or swore at the chatter-boxes, at the end of the day, we felt we’d had a hell of a time. Though this adventure went easy on our wallets, it did leave a few stretch marks on our necks.

cold-drink bottles before the coaster ride restarted.

Just as we were becoming oblivious to the sounds of the auditorium, the movie overtook us. Yash Chopra films are truly head-smacking occasions. A statutory warning should be displayed before every such movie, warning the viewer not to use logic and common sense while the movie is in progress. Predictable story-lines and gushing melodrama were generously supported by chirpy dialogues and frenzied dance steps as the film just washed over us. After another hour-and-a-half of being lopsidedly frozen in those terrible seats, we heaved a sigh of relief as the credits started rolling towards the ceiling. Drenched in sweat, we walked into the boiling outdoors with smiles on our faces.

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