

Established in 1936

The Doon School WEEKLY



Saturday May 6, 2006 • Issue No. 2118

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SQUAD! LEFT TURN...

Saurav Sethia reports on the 70th Inter-House PT Competition-2006

School PT Leader Shilavadra Bhattacharjee's address to the gathered House squads on Saturday, April 29.

Apart from cross-country and marching, PT is an activity that brings the whole House together. While many may curse it, calling it a waste of time, it is on this very day that those curses turn into words of joy and pride when all the Houses get together to bring home the PT Gong. All the hard work and dedication starts from the beginning of the term when Doscos come to the field in the chill to exercise, along with their PT Leaders. Well, all the hard work that is put in through the days is displayed in the arena for competition on this very day. Indeed, I have been honoured to have worked with such a dedicated lot of PT Leaders, who have trained and managed their squads adeptly. Shaping up a new squad is a rather daunting prospect, which these PT Leaders have, however, achieved. PT in our school is the mark of a true disciplinarian and brings out the will-power and dedication in a true Dosco. All the effort that is put in by seniors and juniors alike, in doing the same exercises over and over again. In the end, I would like to thank all those who have put together such an impressive display as we see assembled here today. Making this PT Competition a success would not have been possible without the guidance and support of the respective Housemasters and the masters-in-charge of PT, Mr. Michael James, who worked with us every day and shaped up each and every squad with his firmness and congeniality. Mr. Nitin Chauhan, who is behind the brilliant performances put up by the respective junior squads. And last, but not the least, Mr. Deepak



Oberoi House started its PT display in the Inter-House PT Competition 2006. Shilavadra Bhattacharjee, the School senior PT leader commanded his squad in the most authoritative manner, while the junior PT leader of Oberoi, Shoaib Ahmed, ordered the junior squad to perfection, or so he hoped! The senior PT squad definitely lived up to its standards, while the junior PT squad has some way to go before they can match the senior Swans. The real manifestation of their awesome skill lay in the fourth sitting exercise which they did extremely well. Then came the Jaipur House PT squad. Rohanjit Chowdhury tried with the senior squad's performance to add points to the junior PT squad which was doing exceptionally well. He commanded with precision, catching the attention of the judges and for his efforts was awarded 'Best PT Leader'. His role in the alignment of the senior Eagles was most significant. But the senior squad did not manage to save the reputation of Jaipur House. Some of their members were out of time in the Double March Time and especially in the fourth sitting exercise, the judges definitely saw a sharp contrast between both the squads of the House. The junior one was ably led

Sharma who was always there to extend a helping hand to us. At the end, congratulations to the winners and the others alike, for their active participation in yet another successful Inter-House PT Competition. As we come to the end of the 70th Inter House PT Competition, I would like to say that the keen participation in this event shall continue to be an integral part of the Doon School traditions. It will perhaps never die out, for this activity has been carved into the very ethos of DoscOs.

In the end, I would like to thank all those who have been associated with this event.

by Siddharth Swarup. Then in marched the Warriors of Tata Hose, who started with the will to win and the determination to crush everyone else in the competition. Their knees were raised high throughout their 'fall-in' and their hands were rock-steady during the time. The senior PT squad was well led by Pathare who did his best to enthuse the squad. The junior squad, led by Siddharth Sharma, was also doing its very best for the House and, it has to be said, they put up a very commendable show indeed. Next, came the Nizams of Hyderabad House to prove to the school that they were not far behind in

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Regulars

Debating Circuit

The school was represented by Akshit Batra, Chetan Aggarwal, Ashish Mitter and Uday Pratap Singh at the **Rev. Samuel Slater Memorial Annual English Debates** held at Bishop Cotton School, Shimla, between April 27-30. The school reached the final round after seven years. However, we lost to St. James' School, Kolkata and were placed second. Akshit Batra was the Second Best Speaker in the final round and, in total, won three Best Speaker awards. Ashish Mitter won two Second Best Speaker awards, while Chetan Aggarwal bagged the Second Best Speaker award in the quarter-final round. Uday Pratap Singh also won a Third Best Speaker prize in the same round.

The Doon School was represented by Rijul Kochhar and Aditya Ajmani at the **Frank Anthony Memorial Debates** held in Marshall School on Friday, April 28. Rijul was adjudged the Best Speaker of the debate and the School was placed second. The team has qualified for the final round of the debate to be held later in the year.

Well done!

New Librarian

We welcome **Pankaj Kumar Das** to the community. Mr. Das has been working with the Sagar School, Alwar before this and will be our new librarian. We wish him and his family a happy stay in Doon.

Creative Credits

The following are the results of the **BP Chandola English Essay Writing Contest** 2006:

First: Pranay Agarwal

Second: Anindya Vasudev

The following are the results of the **Kanwar Rani Tara Devi Hindi Essay Writing Contest** (Seniors):

First: Vishesh Goel

Second: Chetan Aggarwal

Third: Varun Khandelwal

The results of the **Smt. Mirchandani Hindi Essay Writing Contest** (Juniors) are as follows:

First: Aditya Vikram Gupta

Second: Pranjal Singh

Third: Chandra Narain Deo

Flying High

Pranav Matta, Harshit Tiwari, Dhruv Babbar, Shatrunjai Diwan, Vibhav Gaur, Ishaan Khanna and Aseem Balraj Sahini represented the School in an Aeromodelling Meet held at Welham Boys' on

In the **Staff vs Mediums** I match held on Tuesday, May 2. The staff was leading 2-0 till half-time, but by the end of the game, lost the match 2-5.

Shuttling Success

Following are the results of the Inter-House Badminton Tournament 2006:

Junior Category

First: Oberoi

Second: Jaipur

Third: Hyderabad

Fourth: Kashmir

Fifth: Tata

Senior Category

First: Tata

Second: Oberoi

Third: Hyderabad

Fourth: Jaipur

Fifth: Kashmir

House Positions

First: Oberoi

Second: Tata

Third: Hyderabad

Fourth: Jaipur

Fifth: Kashmir

Unquotable Quotes

I'll cut your mind-flowing limit.

Aadhar Sharma, the violent intellectual.

Shut the lights on.

Vinayak Paliwal, confused as always.

I'll make you into a two-cut fungus.

Yash Agarwal, the butcher.

I like cakeless eggs.

Angad Singh mixes it all up.

Don't stain it. Let the water remain white.

NRK wants it clean.

The flu bird is killing people.

AKM identifies a deadly species.

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the race. An amazing effort by each and every one of the junior squad members highlighted their performance. The senior squad, led by Akash Maheshwari and marked by our very own School Captain, Avyay Jhunhunwala, also put up a spellbinding display. The Kashmir House boys 'sprinted' on to the field with much excitement and the second they began their table, everyone knew that they were, potentially, contenders for the Gong. And, as Kashmir House left the field, they had certainly left an impression on the minds of the judges. Even though there are a few among us who find PT to be the most detestable and abhorrent activity in School, we can't deny the fact that it is an integral part of the School's traditions (although one can't say for certain how long it will

Sunday, March 30, and were placed third.

Hockey Hungama

In the **Council's School Hockey Tournament**, the School played its semi-final match against the GRD Academy and won, 2-0. In the finals, however, we lost to the Moravian Institute 1-3.

In the **Kandhari Memorial Hockey Tournament** held at Welham Boys' School, the School team played against RIMC and won, 1-0. They lost to YPS Patiala, 2-5 and were defeated by St. George's School, 0-2.

In the **Oak Grove Tournament**, the School Team drew against Wynberg Allen, 2-2 and lost to the Oak Grove 'A' team, 1-3.

Congratulations to the School team on a commendable performance!

continue to survive). Both, the Chief Guest for the evening, Headmaster, Dr. Kanti Bajpai and School PT leader Shilavadra Bhattacharjee, felt that there is a need to uphold this tradition. When it was announced that the young Warriors had won the Junior Cup the Tata House squads erupted in huge outbreaks of elation and joy. The crowd fell silent once again. The announcer continued, "In the senior category: fifth...fourth...third...second..." and once again Tata House revelled in their success as the Senior Cup too, was won by them. PMV and PKJ, Housemasters of the victorious House exclaimed, "Honour regained! The Gong returns!" Of the other Houses some rejoiced, and some didn't; but, at the end of the day, we were all part of this magnificent event, which, in itself, means a lot. Pranay Shah very aptly told our reporters, "Even though PT is one of the events we Doscocs like the least, most of us do actually end up making an effort to win the competition."

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The School Council Minutes

Held on Saturday, March 25, 2006, in the Kilachand Library

The following members were present:

- 1.) Dr. Kanti Bajpai Headmaster (Chairman)
- 2.) Mr. Philip Burrett Deputy Headmaster (PBR)
- 3.) Mr. Prabhakaran Nair Dean of Academics (PKN)
- 4.) Mr. Deepak Sharma Dean of Sports (DKS)
- 5.) Dr. Mohan Joshi Dean of Activities (MCJ)
- 6.) Mr. Piyush Malaviya Housemaster's Rep. (PMV)
- 7.) Mr. Harinder Chakhaiyar Masters' Rep. (HCH)
- 8.) Avyay Jhunjunwala School Captain
- 9.) Chirag Hirawat OA Sr. Rep. (Secretary)
- 10.) Aditya Ajmani Prefects' Rep.
- 11.) Akash Maheshwari H House Sr. Rep. 1
- 12.) Shoumit Mukhopadhaya H House Sr. Rep. 2
- 13.) Abhishek Sharma H House Jr. Rep. 1
- 14.) Arjun Kapoor H House Jr. Rep. 2
- 15.) Pranay Aggarwal J House Sr. Rep. 1 (Stand-in)
- 16.) Pranav Swarup J House Sr. Rep. 2 (Stand-in)
- 17.) Arjanvir S. Maini J House Jr. Rep. 1
- 18.) Siddhant Gupta J House Jr Rep. 2
- 19.) Adil Sg. Boparai K House Sr. Rep. 1
- 20.) Achshay Singh K House Sr. Rep. 2
- 21.) Yashvardhan Jain K House Jr. Rep. 1
- 22.) Sumer Boparai K House Jr. Rep. 2
- 23.) Aruj Shukla OA Jr. Rep. (Stand-in)
- 24.) Sagar Agarwal OB Jr. Rep.
- 25.) Kushagra Kumar T House Sr. Rep. 1
- 26.) Siddhartha Sharma T House Sr. Rep. 2
- 27.) Aditya Sukhia T House Jr. Rep. 1 (Stand-in)
- 28.) Ankit Chaudhry T House Jr. Rep. 2 (Stand-in)

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting: The minutes were confirmed.

2. Matters Arising out of the Minutes

a) Music in the Weight Room: DKS presented a report on the issue and concluded that it would be best to have a CD System in the Weight Room, monitored by the coach. He then explained the problems regarding the World Space Radio System. The CD System would be installed, he hoped, by the middle of April.

b) New Floaters: PBR brought samples of floaters of different brands to the meeting. They were as follows-
Adidas- Rs 1030 Liberty- Rs. 525

Bata- Rs. 150 Aspen Crew-450

They were displayed, and it was decided that some Council members would wear them for a week after mid-term and report back to PBR.

c) Separation of Senior and Junior Cup: DKS reported that this idea was passed in the Games Committee. The Chairman agreed to bring it into effect immediately. New cups were also to be invested in. The Council agreed that this change would be reviewed periodically.

d) Looser Schedule for S and Sc formers: The sub-committee formed at the last meeting presented a draft to each member of the Council. This draft contained ideas as to how the school can loosen the schedule for S and Sc formers. The Chairman felt there should be a special meeting of the Council after mid-term to discuss only this issue. The meeting was scheduled for 14 April, a Friday. The Chairman also pointed out that this draft would be circulated in the Housemasters' Council. Aditya Ajmani suggested that students be present in the Housemasters' Council to explain their views. The Chairman decided to think over the matter and get back to the School Captain.

e) Free Time after Dinner: The Chairman told the Council that this issue had not yet been discussed in the Housemasters' Council, and he would get back to the Council in the next meeting.

f) Usage of Laptops: Kushagra Kumar and Shoumit Mukhopadhaya submitted a report to the Chairman on wireless internet and its security. The Chairman noted that the school had already thought of this possibility but was concerned about security. The report would be sent to the Technology Committee of the school and perhaps also the Board of Governors.

g) Common House Colours Scheme: A subcommittee was formed in the Housemasters' Council, including PDT,

GSS and PKJ. The subcommittee proposed a number of disqualifications which should be common in all schemes. Adil Boparai and DKS felt that the point disqualifying a previously suspended student from applying to House Colours was too harsh. Several members felt that a boy who has received a Yellow Card should only be unable to apply for House Colours in that term. Others argued that it should not be mandatory to sign the Good Conduct Book for two terms in order to qualify for House Colours. The Chairman decided to note the suggestions and take them back to the Housemasters' Council.

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h) Horse-riding: After reviewing all the possibilities and given certain circumstances, DKS and MCJ reported that it would be impossible to continue horse-riding for the term.

3) Proposals

a) Entertainment in the Hospital: Adil Boparai informed the Council that a stay in the Hospital can be very dull. He suggested that there should be various forms of entertainment. The Chairman rejected the idea of television as television shows might disturb those who are sick, as also there might be quarrels over what to watch.. However, the idea of a magazine rack and a board game such as chess was accepted. The Secretary would follow up to purchase the needed items.

b) Hygiene of Hospital: Shoumit Mukhopadhaya explained to the Council that the general hygiene of the Hospital was lacking, referring to quality of water and changing of bedsheets. PMV also mentioned that mopping and sweeping was not done correctly. There was also a common feeling that admitted boys should have a different diet. PBR offered to look into the matter and report to the Council.

c) Frequency of Extra Classes to be Reduced: Pranay Aggarwal complained that there were too many extra classes in a week and hence boys are unable to study during evening toye. PKN agreed and decided to hold a maximum of 3 extra classes a week. This was to be implemented after mid-term.

d) Update of Client Server: Siddhartha Sharma and Kushagra Kumar felt that the client servers were too slow and hence requested an upgrade. The Chairman reminded the Council that too many boys were playing games and using chat software. Shoumit Mukhopadhaya then told the Council that the Technology Committee did discuss the issue, and it was likely that the school would acquire a new server.

e) Better Ambulance with Necessary Equipment: Aruj Shukla felt that in the past there have been emergency cases in which better equipment in the ambulance was required. The Chairman said that it would be too expensive to purchase a fully-equipped ambulance for every emergency. In any case, such an ambulance itself would require specialized staff. The discussion then shifted to emergency cases and their treatment. It was decided that a roster of volunteer teachers would be made. These teachers would drive the ambulance in emergency situations, particularly at night if the ambulance staff was not available.

f) Number of Outings Left in a Term to be Carried Forward to the Next Term: Adil Boparai said that if a boy has not used all his outings in a particular term, they should be carried forward to the next term. The Chairman explained that if a boy did not exhaust all this outings in one term, it was unlikely that he would use even more outings the next term.

g) Increase in Private Outing Money: The Council agreed to increase the money granted to Rs 300/-. He also reminded everyone that no food was to be brought in, and there would no further increases this year. This would be effective from immediately after mid-term.

h) Revision of Test Schedule for S and Sc-formers: The SC representatives complained that they had two tests on Tuesday. PKN agreed to try and schedule the Environmental Education test on a Saturday.

i) Mosquito Repellents in Classrooms: Aruj Shukla suggested that there should be mosquito repellents in the classrooms. However, the Chairman felt that devices like All-Outs should not be left on all night in the Main Building. The Council agreed that the classroom doors would be opened earlier than usual, thereby allowing the mosquitoes to disperse. The Main Building staff would turn the fans on to help air the rooms.

4) Any Other Business with the Permission of the Chair

a) Orders from the Hospital: Aditya Ajmani expressed his concern about not being able to order certain homeopathic and ayurvedic items through the hospital. Referring to the school rule, the Chairman said that only allopathic medicines were allowed to be ordered.

b) Generator for the IT Lab: Pranay Aggarwal complained that the electricity supply was frequently interrupted, and there was no generator for the IT Lab. The Chairman told him to take the issue to the Technology Committee to draft a budget.

c) More Awards: Pranav Swarup felt that there should be more individual recognition such as Cricketer of the Season and Best Swimmer. The Chairman said that there were already too many awards and that the Weekly should play a more active role in acknowledging sporting achievements.

d) Private Mid-Terms for A-Formers: Shoumit Mukhopadhaya felt that Private Mid-Terms should be allowed for A-formers. However, the Chairman explained to him that much thought had already been given to this matter and it was decided that they were not safe for A-formers.

e) SAT Classes: The Secretary suggested that SAT classes should be restarted. PKN told the Council that there was a lack of teaching personnel. However, PKB could teach the English and MMR could teach the Maths section. The classes were to be started after mid-term.

f) Mattresses in Sc Studies: Aditya Ajmani felt that mattresses should be allowed in studies. The Chairman explained that for a number of reasons the school did not permit this. It was not possible to keep the floors clean. Cleaning staff would not roll up the mattresses and clean under them regularly. Others would walk in with dust and dirt which would make its way to the mattresses. Mattresses on the floor would increase the possibility of insect bites. Mattresses could not therefore be put directly onto the floor. The Chairman underlined the need to be sensible about the decoration and furnishing of studies and to operate within the guidelines

that had been circulated by PBR.

g) Different Games Shirts: Akash Maheshwari suggested that a new games shirt be designed for summer. A sub-committee of DKS, Akash Maheshwari and Aditya Ajmani was formed to design the shirts.

As no other matters came up, the meeting was adjourned. The Council was scheduled to meet next on the 14 April 2006.

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The Big Question: Should Doon Turn co-ed?

POINT

Philip Burrett

Of all the changes that one might see at Doon over the next decade or so, I do not think going co-ed will be one of them. And I think this has more to do with tradition than with the ability on the part of the school to bring about the necessary adaptations to receive girls.

There may be many reasons why there was so much interest shown when, last year, the media, misquoting the Headmaster, let slip that Doon was thinking of going co-ed but statistics have shown that single sex schools do the best as far as academics is concerned (all-girls' school better than all-boys') and development psychologists point out that during the latent stage (7 to 12 years), boys and girls do well to stay apart. This is why some of the conservative public schools in the UK have opened their doors to girls in the sixth form only (Wellington and Rugby have girls, Eton and Harrow do not).

However, having started my teaching career at a co-ed institution, I feel this is the way to go and Doon is one place that can do it. Who would have thought we would one day do the IB? One would have had to have been here at least twenty years to realize how much has changed, while, at the same time, the bedrock of Dosco tradition has remained the same. The same can be said of St. Stephen's College, an older and even more traditional place than Doon, which opened its doors to girls in the mid-70s.

One strong plus-point for co-ed is that it is the natural way for boys and girls to grow. After all, most students would move to a co-ed college, so why not get used to girls a year before that? Many DoscOs have complained that they are ill-at-ease with girls, and cry out for more Socials and more interaction. Boys are more conscious of their turn-out, their language and their academic showing when girls are around. Girls have a knack of getting the boys to give off their best in class and outside. Girls out-score boys in almost all public examinations and often force boys to get serious at what they are good at. I have never seen better standards at soccer and most other sports as I saw in my first school, which dispelled the myth, previously held, that co-ed schools produced sissies and softies. Many parents who have daughters as well as sons would find it convenient to choose one school and we would see more applications for admissions each year. But it is true that co-ed institutions are not without their problems; it simply means that one set of problems is replaced by another. It is true that problems of security, the games calendar, additional staff and the odd misadventure, love affairs and emotional problems will have to be dealt with, but, the sooner we learn to accept and understand women, the better for us all.

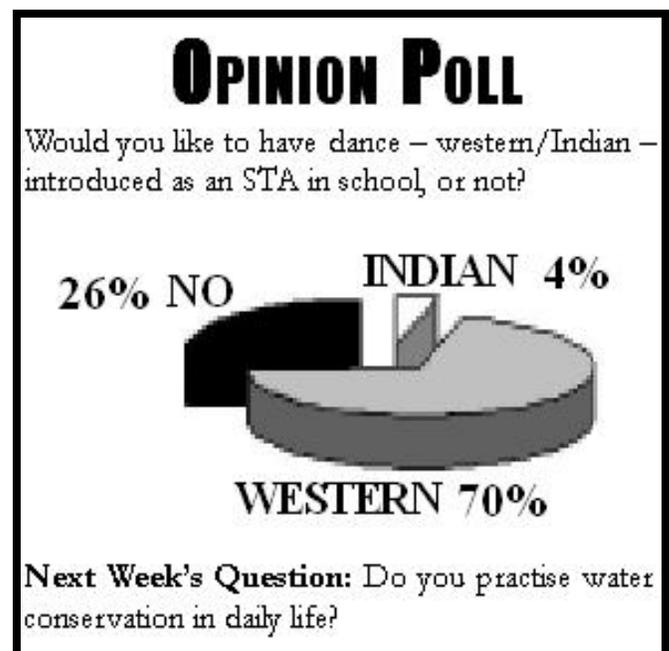
COUNTERPOINT

Akaash Pathare

The Doon School has prided itself in being a single-sex educational facility for seventy years. Why is there a need to complicate things? There are many points I can base my argument on. The following are the reasons why I feel the school must not turn co-ed:

Already, everyone in the community must have noticed how the need for space is increasing. By bringing girls into the picture, either Chandbagh will lose its greenery or the number of boys being admitted every year will have to decrease. Turning co-ed also means that the infrastructure of our school will have to be upgraded in certain areas as the needs of a girl as opposed to a boy's are completely different. Having the girls' hostels in proximity to the boys' hostels also means that the security will have to be very vigilant so as to keep 'intruders' away.

I am sure that the school would also like to maintain a traditional outlook concerning the relationship between boys and girls, probably something along the lines of Mayo Girls and Mayo Boys. Definitely not something like Kodaikanal International School or Woodstock, Mussoorie. Realistically speaking, on becoming co-ed, there will be a whole lot of love-sick boys and girls. It will become a norm to have a girlfriend or a boyfriend, otherwise you would be considered 'uncool.' Instead of competing against each other in studies, sports, co-curricular activities, boys/girls will compete with each other to procure a suitable match. In such cases there is always a chance of taking things too far. Could this be termed as healthy competition? I, personally, would term it as 'distraction' and a distraction is definitely something which we can do without.



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Roving Eye *Ch. Ed.*

Scrubbed and shaved faces, polished shoes, imaginative hair-dos, crisp white shirts and togs and the aroma of a gentleman (no, I'm not talking about a chauffeur) – how could this be possible? A simple answer. Socials. How this one word completely transforms a Dosco, more specifically a Sc, is indescribable (I wonder if the girls also undergo such a drastic transformation; I wouldn't be surprised). Not wishing to be victimised like those in Nach Balli'eye', I was beseeched by many of my form mates to keep them away from the limelight, however successful or unsuccessful they would be. But I have a responsibility to the school community to deliver the truth and I shall not fail.

Tarzan was strictly defining his 'loops' as a mere friend (nothing more but maybe less), an hour at Socials, three drinks (don't get naughty readers, it's not what you think) and down on one knee later – how it all changed. Tragic? Eve would have to disagree.

The King and Queen, hand-in-hand, walked past gazing on-lookers as they graced the 'ballroom' for the first dance – I just wish it was so perfect: in reality the two were so shy that they did not even make eye contact. The seasoned and unbreakable pair of Rajnush and their Gamesie were then pushed onto the dance floor – I don't think they realized it was a 'dance'floor, both were content staring deep into each other's eyes, glued to the floor.

Boparai was in a jovial mood as he 'stared' from one end to the other, even though all his plans had fallen through the first time. He later said that, "Ten rejections, lead to one selection!" and mumbled something sounding like 'nino' under his breath. Do we need a mastermind to put two and two together? What Master Aadil did not anticipate was the threat from Aju, quite a chhuppa Rustum, who had already shot off a call to his 'contacts' in the Middle East to set everything up for himself (DSW will keep you updated as and when something happens).

Our very own 'pandit' tried and tried to gather up all his courage, but to no avail. He therefore asked for this matrimonial ad to be published – *ati sundar, sati savitri, shakahari, suchitra svabhav aur honhar ladki* – any Welhamite matching this description should please get in touch with him a.s.a.p. before he gives everyone in Chandbagh a headache. The Welham's editor hadn't quite met anyone to match her wits, so she boldly went up to the one and only RSF, who quickly sent her off packing.

Maheshwari tried killing two birds with the same stone (actually with the same line). He said, "I don't think she's beautiful, I know she's beautiful!" That line

is definitely capable of delivering a knock-out. I would like to inform the school community that the not-so-funny 'Anju' has been paired up with the hard-hitting Tennis Pro from across the 'other court' in the Mixed Doubles category, but they unfortunately lost their match as both of them were getting 'distracted' by each other. With some special sahara, Jamwal moved with ease through the evening. Frail Khandu was terminated by a certain Welhamite/ote; which is the right combination? The School soccer captain was made to stay on his feet throughout the night as he had a certain 'rash' which made him feel rather itchy. We wish him a speedy recovery. Kocher was sadly wrapped around himself, sitting in a quiet corner. He later told us of his illusionary chat with the non-existent Diya – the poor chap was under the effect of Coke and hence mistook a pillar for his beloved Diya; what happened next during this illusion I'm sure you don't want to know...

The socializing came to a halt soon after 10:15 pm and all the Doscos were bundled into the two buses and the 'enti' soon turned 'senti'. Boo-hoo.

This piece gave me a lot of sadistic pleasure. It provided an outlet for my love-lorn state. Anyways, it was all worth it. So till next time...when the poison pen wreaks its havoc again.

P.S: A special message has just come in from Circular Road: All the Scs send a big hug for Niladri Biswas who was unable to recuperate from his illness in time to grace the Socials.

Career Call

The careers' notice board will be posting information regarding law colleges and the legal profession this week. All aspiring legal eagles should get briefed on

To Purge The Dross *Angad Singh (D form)*

Angel riders and horses,
Ride around the world,
Stitching together miles and leagues.
Across oceans they go,
Spreading ripples of friendship.
Across plains they ride,
Showering roses of love.
Through the skies they fly,
Blowing winds of peace.
Cleansing the world of anger and hatred,
Cleansing the world of grief.

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

Email: thedoonschoolweekly@gmail.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: Akaash Pathare **Editor:** Shikhar Singh **Senior Editors:** Rijul Kochhar, Uday Pratap Singh **Hindi Editors:** Amritesh Rai, Suhaas Khullar **Associate Editors:** Ashish Mitter, Naman Goel **Special Correspondents:** Saurav Sethia, Shaurya Kuthiala, Mansher Dhillon, Vishnukaant Pitty **Correspondents:** Dhruv Velloor **Online Editor:** Gaurav Gupta **Webmaster:** Vishal Mohla **Chief-of-Production:** Ayushman Jamwal **Assistant Managers:** Stuti Bathla, Priya Chaturvedi, Arvindanabha Shukla **Special Assistance:** K.C.Maurya **Photo Credit:** Sanjiv Bathla

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