



Established in 1936

# The Doon School WEEKLY



Saturday October 21, 2006 • Issue No. 2132

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DOSCO  
'DRIVE' **2**

KUSH  
KALYAN **3**

LEISURE **4**

*We wish the school community a very happy and prosperous Diwali!*

## PARTING WORDS

*Ashish Mitter interviews Mr. M Sayeed, who is leaving school after over forty years of service*

**Doon School Weekly (DSW): How old were you when you joined the school?**

**Mr. M.Sayeed (MSY):** I joined the school on January 1, 1965, at the age of nineteen. I joined as an office assistant. Some of my other early jobs included working in the despatch office, and looking after boys' late marks.

**DSW: You have been in school for 42 years. You must have seen a lot of changes...**

**MSY:** Yes, I have seen a lot of change. I saw the CDH being built, and the system of house dining halls abandoned. This was done firstly, because it was more economical and secondly, because it helped the then-Headmaster, Mr. Miller, advance his desire for centralization of school activities. I also witnessed the building of Oberoi House, which caused a lot of upheaval in school, with a number of boys being shifted, rather unwillingly, to the new House. One of the biggest changes I have observed, though, has been the change in the type of teachers coming to The Doon School. Earlier, teachers came here fresh out of college, got married in school, rose to the position of Housemaster, and finally retired from school. Today, teachers stay for five or six years only, often to get their children educated. Very few teachers today feel a sense of loyalty towards the school. However, one thing that has remained the same over all these years is the typical Dosco, who is generally helpful and energetic.

**DSW: What are some of the interesting incidents that come to mind when you think about your time spent here?**

**MSY:** Well, there are many interesting incidents; after all, 42 years is a long time! However, one incident that I shall never forget is when the Class IV employees went on strike during the Golden Jubilee, 1985. Mr. Ramchandani, the Headmaster at that time, wished to meet the employees face-to-face, and resolve the matter. However, some unions had got involved, and the employees refused to compromise. Mr. Ramchandani wanted to show that he would not give in to their demands and lodged an FIR. The workers were quickly rounded up and jailed for a night. There was a lot of resentment inside the campus. The Headmaster defused the situa-

tion by withdrawing the FIR and forging an agreement with the concerned employees. A similar strike occurred during Mr. SR Das' tenure, when the CDH staff went on strike, and the staff, their families and even some Doscos, were forced to cook and feed the entire school! Of course, a caterer was hired to help with the cooking, but for five days, members of the community were told to cook!

**DSW: You have been assigned various responsibilities in school over the years. Which job did you enjoy the most?**

**MSY:** I think I enjoyed arranging the boys' travel arrangements the most, because it gave me an opportunity to deal with both students and parents. The job is not without its challenges. This year it was difficult getting the Bombay party back to school on time. We had to arrange bookings at the last minute, inform all those concerned, and arrange an escort. Ultimately, though, things worked out.

**DSW: What are your retirement plans?**

**MSY:** I plan to live in Dehradun, and have got a house in Vasant Vihar. Hopefully, I will be able to go for the Haj in December, and return by January. After that, I hope to start some form of work again as I have received quite a few offers.

**DSW: So you plan to work?**

**MSY:** Oh yes! One should continue working as long as one is able to. Sitting idle at home does not do us any good. I think that in order to remain physically and mentally fit, one must definitely work.

**DSW: What are your views on the construction activities going on in school?**

**MSY:** While I am not aware of the technical details, I feel that the demolitions need not have been done on such a large scale at one time. With work taking place in three different parts of the school, members of the community are obviously inconvenienced. Moreover, with so many labourers moving in and out of the campus, there is a considerable security risk.

**DSW: Describe your stay in Doon in a few words.**

**MSY:** That is very difficult to do. Doon is a lovely place – peaceful, clean, and safe. I thoroughly enjoyed my time here. It was a memorable and enriching experience.



## REGULARS

### ESSAYING A VICTORY

The following are the results of the **Historical Circle Essay Prize Test, 2006:**

**1st:** Pradyot Shahi

**2nd:** Vishnukaant Pitty and Amritesh Rai

The following are the results of the **Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma English Essay Contest (Seniors):**

**1st:** Rushil Singh

**2nd:** Ashish Mitter

In the **Bakhle Memorial English Essay Competition**, the following are the results:

**1st:** Yash Gandhi

**2nd:** Rohan Gupta

More power to your pens!

### SPORTING BLUES

The following boys have been awarded the **Games' Blazer:**

Arjun Anjaria

Zain Rehman

Shilavadra Bhattacharjee

Congratulations!

### SWIMMING GLORY

The following have been awarded **School Swimming Colours** this year:

**Half Colours:**

Ayyappa Vemulkar (re-awarded)

Pratham Mittal

Abhimanyu Chandra

Arjun Gulati

**Full Colours:**

Dilsher Khanna (re-awarded)

Arjun Singh

Ajai Atal

Jaivir Singh

Vijai Atal

Well done!

### BASKETBALL BONANZA

In its first match in the **Frank Anthony Memorial 'Super Fixed Fives' Basketball Tournament** held at Hilton's School, the school team beat DAV Inter College, Karanpur, 40-15. In the quarter-final match against the GRD Academy in the same tournament, the school team beat GRD by 26-18. They played Raja Ram Mohan Roy Academy in the final round of the tournament and won by a convincing score of 40-28 to capture the tournament. Eeshaan Puri, Ayyappa Vemulkar, Samaay Mangalgi, Pranav Kapur and Rishabh Bir Singh represented the school. Rishabh Bir Singh was declared **Most Valuable Player** in the tournament.

**'Unquotable Quotes'**  
*It has to pain to hurt.*

**Saib Ahmed** feels the pinch.

*I am the Technical Director of The Echo*

**Swapnil Dhar** creates a sound bite.

*This lake is very chilled out*

**Shivam Nagalia**, the coolio.

*Go in pairs of threes.*

**Devashish Aggarwal**, numerically challenged.

*You must be in ninth heaven*

**SDA**, reaching for greater heights.

## JOSH MEIN!

Shaurya Kuthiala

The player takes the ball. The referee has the whistle at his lips. The player is dribbling, frantically trying to score a goal and break the deadlock before the final whistle. Then, in the last few seconds, something spectacular happens. He feels an electric surge pass through his body. He feels as if nothing can go wrong. He shoots...and scores! He celebrates as the whistles blows, signifying the end of the game.

What really happens to people at these moments? What gives people this armour of invincibility? In school, it is popularly known as *josh*. It is what drives a Dosco to give his very best and then some more. In inter-house matches, it is called 'House spirit,' and in individual events, it is simply called '*josh*'. Practicing is essential, but it is only productive if some *josh* is put into it. Playing or working just for the sake of doing so, never brings success. One's heart and soul must be poured into it. Not only are the results better, but the completion of the task is much more satisfying as well.

What do you feel when you are infused with the power of powers, i.e., *josh*? Is it a ticklish feeling? Does it burn through you like fire? Does it feel like you have been strapped to an iceberg? To me, it feels like a little sun has been ignited inside me, warming my insides, then moving on to my extremities, possessing me with a desire so fierce that it is impossible to oppose. The feeling is not just amazing; it is awe-inspiring. Of course, it may be different for you.

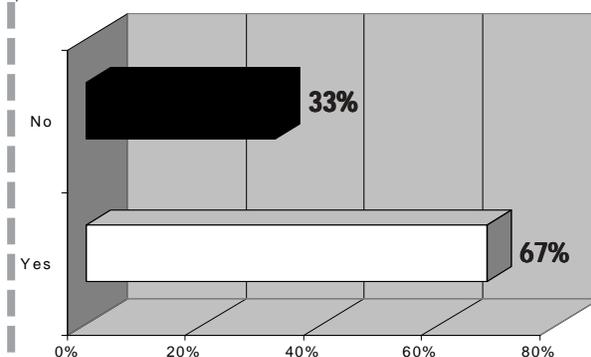
One thing that must be taken into account is that the *josh* may not always succeed. If you were that player taking that shot, full of *josh*, you would have to hope that the same feeling does not fuel the defender as well. If it does, that spectacular victory seen in so many movies nowadays, may not be pulled off. It is, therefore, important to train yourself and hone your abilities to co-ordinate them with the *josh*. The spirit to excel is all very well, but the ability is obviously as, if not more, important.

Constant competition is intense and physically demanding. There is rarely a chance for those who want to have an easy life. People recognise the *josh* of a person if he is sincere. Many Doscos work hard for numerous aims with *josh* being a driving force. As a result, many find the returns satisfactory; sometimes greater than their expectations.

Funny, isn't it? How a little bit of extra spirit can make such a great difference. If we maintain this attitude throughout, who can stop us?

### OPINION POLL

*Do you think that North Korea's testing of the nuclear bomb has put the world at greater risk?*



# The Kushkalyan Experience

*Utkarsh Agarwal and Mehul Mehrotra write about their experience scaling Kushkalyan*

When we heard that a group of thirty-five boys escorted by MCI, NRK, DEB and VKL would be attempting Kushkalyan at 13500 ft, there was a mixed reaction. The sheer size of the group worried some, while others were concerned about the toughness of the trek, where apparently no Dosco had reached the summit in the recent past. The prospect of a long journey, thoughts of a cramped bus and our apprehensions added to our woes.

We loaded our bags the night before our departure and the break of dawn saw us leaving the school campus. There were the usual oohs and aahs and the obvious complaints about the bus not being a first class airplane cabin, but otherwise we all were pretty cheerful about the trip. The journey was uneventful but due to a mechanical breakdown, we realized that we were running behind schedule! So instead of reaching Latta and pitching tents, we had to stay overnight in Uttarkashi. There was major excitement as we realized who our next door neighbours were, but even the offer of hot soup and a bonfire, unfortunately, wasn't good enough to have them accept our polite invitation.

We slept late and early next morning we left for Latta which is on the banks of the river Bhagirathi. A whole day's trek uphill with our rucksacks through the mountains and meadows ensured that we reached Belak, a hamlet, by dusk. En route we encountered herds of sheep, a refreshing mountain stream and were surrounded by breathtaking scenery. We trekked on steep, narrow tracks, circummetric paths going up many a hill and ridge, with our destination "only half an hour ahead", each time we asked our guide.

At Belak, after pitching tents and getting attuned to our new surroundings, we were all set for a relaxed night when suddenly the commotion began. An unthoughtful comment from an unfortunate Dosco irritated the already tired and irate masters. In a spate of fury we were accused of being selfish, self-centered and irresponsible. Soon the matter was sorted out, apologies were made and everybody finally settled down to some much-needed sleep.

At night the masters had decided to send Xander (the exchange student from South Africa) back to Dehra as he had an attack of asthma (probably triggered by mountain sickness and a dip in cold water). DEB's midterms were cut short as he volunteered to accompany Xander the next morning.

On the third day we left for Kushkalyan. Climbing steadily we crossed the tree line. We had the Himadri vista spread before us - Bandarpoonch, Dyarabughyal and Draupadi ka Danda to name a few. Finding our way over rocks and slopes, we reached the foot of the peak. The guide, whom we found rather uncommunicative, probably thought the same of us, as we failed to live up to his '100-expedition' standards. He was in no mood to take us further. In fact, the route was so tough that only NIM (Nehru Institute of Mountaineering) trained trekkers usually go up. The guide also gave up his responsibility of taking care of us and declared that climbing up would be at our own risk. A few of us, who didn't want to risk our lives, chickened out, while the others, daring and audacious, decided to give it a try.

Nobody attempted to look left or right as the 150 metre slope loomed above us. The risky ridge was the toughest thing we encountered on these midterms. We stepped across brown alpine vegetation, the cold winds both stimulating and refreshing us.

Often we slipped and fell but we never gave up. Often we went the wrong way and had to start all over again but that didn't deter us. With inspiration from irrelevant yet interesting references and other absurd anecdotes, we kept going. We didn't know where we got that *jo sh* and the will to do it. We limped and cribbed as we carried on. We were, however, always optimistic about reaching the top and that saw us through.

Somehow egging each other on, and crawling on all fours, we managed to reach the first ledge. We could not rest long because of deteriorating weather conditions. What a view it was from the top! Through the mist, far below at the foot of the mountain, we could see the rest of our group waiting and their voices came riding on the breeze, cheering us up. All around us were ranges of snow-clad mountains. The feeling is tough to describe – we were completely overwhelmed. It felt like heaven up there!

We had scripted the story of a successful climb which previous parties had failed to do. Doscos had done it after a long gap and NRK and VKL, who constantly encouraged us and reminded us of MCJ's words of advice, celebrated with us in delight and wonder as we panted and patted each other on the back.

Proud of our achievement, we descended with Armaan and Andy hobbling painfully. The trek back to our base camp was a quick one and in record time we were back for a treat of *pakoras* and squash, and a round of applause from MCJ and the boys who had remained behind.

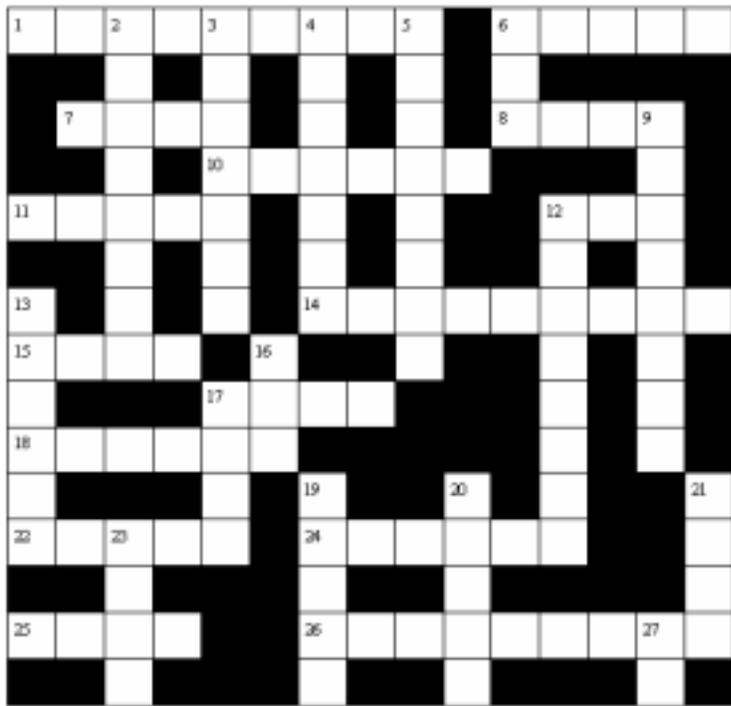
We packed up early next morning after spending a cold night in the company of a bear in the trees next to our tents. After thanking everyone, including our guide, with the memory of the climb embedded in us for posterity, we trekked back to Latta. We had a rejuvenating break near the stream for lunch.

We reached Uttarkashi by evening and spent the night at Mahima Resorts. Sincere hospitality and a 'good' location ensured we had a pleasant stay thanks to Mr. Ashish Kudiyal – an Old Boy. We sauntered about till dinner; some watched a hired movie, while the others enjoyed the bonfire. Some were hopeful yet again of sharing soup and the bonfire with the neighbours but were sorely disappointed.

On the fifth day we left at 4 am to reach Dehradun in time for lunch. The enjoyable midterms ultimately came to an end. Looking ahead we had the test-week to go through, numerous inter-house activities plus the Founder's. We too have cribbed and cried over A-formers not being allowed to go for private midterms, but after the Kushkalyan experience, it made us think otherwise. We would not have been able to organize and prepare for such a midterm, and the fun that we had despite the tough trek was surely unmatched.

# CROSSWORD

Vishnukaant Pitty



**Across:**

**1** Collective term for whales, porpoises and dolphins. **6** A duck's mate. **7** 666 is the sign of the \_\_\_\_ Christ. **8** A fake show; slang for the act for malingering. **10** A cloak, usually worn in the Roman era, now popular with women. **11** To undo intertwined ends of a rope. **12** To fall behind. **14** O \_\_\_\_\_ devil! O lame saint! **15** A dish of meat and vegetables cooked slowly. **17** To poke with a pointed object. **18** Species not native to a particular place or region. **22** A \_\_\_\_\_ with destiny (national independence). **24** A song chosen by a country to express patriotic feelings. **25** Boon or \_\_\_\_\_? **26** To bring peace between two sides.

**Down:**

**2** Liquid medication. **3** A Greek mythological beast (female) with a lion's head, a goat's body and a serpent's tail. **4** Mass of tissue between the back of the nose and throat. **5** \_\_\_\_\_ the Clown by Salman Rushdie **6** Lead-in to 'order' or 'own'. **9** Chronic headache. **12** A floor covering made from a mixture of linseed oil and powdered cork. **13** Approval or agreement. **16** Tolkien's monster. **17** Unit of capacity equal to one-eighth of a gallon **19** A type of sword. **20** Rhythmic pulsation. **21** A large bundle of paper, cloth, cotton or hay. **23** Slang word for a sudden hard pull. **27** \_\_\_\_\_ and behold!

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## Words of Wisdom

A happy person is not a person in a certain set of circumstances, but rather a person with a certain set of attitudes.  
- **Hugh Downs**

What matters is not to add years to your life, but to add life to your years.  
- **David Hume**

It doesn't matter how long, but how you live.  
- **Oscar Wilde**

It is never too late to be what you might have been.  
- **George Eliot**

All looks yellow to a jaundiced eye.  
- **Anonymous**

Wisdom is often nearer when we stoop, rather than when we soar.  
- **William Wordsworth**

(Sourced from 'An Interview with Self' - J.L. Dhar)

Neil Simon's  
**The Sunshine Boys**  
comes to  
The Doon School  
this Founder's Day.  
Relive vaudeville with us on 26  
and 27 October, 2006, in the  
Rose Bowl.

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