

REGULARS	LTTE	CRICKET	ROVING EYE
2	2	3	4

In Conversation with the Professor

Dhruv Velloor, Sriyash Kishorepuria and Shashank Peshawaria interview Dr. Harold Snedcof, a visiting professor from Bard High School, New York

The Doon School Weekly (DSW): How does it feel to be in Doon? Do you feel there is relevance in the world today for a school like ours: ie. single sex, boarding?

Harold Snedcof (HRS): Doon seems very welcoming and I'm very glad to be here. It feels like you're in the presence of people who are learning what it is to be a person and you have the feeling that each of the boys is figuring out what to be good at and adapt to living in a community with his peers. Of course, a school like this is relevant. Here you learn skills which equip you intellectually, and encourage you to see the consequences of your actions. The school teaches you to be disciplined and somewhat humble, not very lofty. Here people come from diverse backgrounds. Everyone takes the same cold shower and plays on the same hot field.

DSW: What about your schooling?

HRS: I came from a very poor family. My father was a clerk and my mother was a secretary. I went to a public high school on scholarship. In those years, there was not much of a sense of individual achievement; there was a lot more conformity. I majored in philosophy from Colgate University. That, of course, opened my eyes, like Plato's cave. The idea of self-questioning was important to me. I took up Art History and a year-long course in Hinduism and Buddhism. After that, I graduated from Brown University. I was also pretty good at tennis and my wife was an expert hockey player. 1970 was the year of protests. People were being shot by the National Guard. I protested against the Vietnam War. I then went to work for the Rockefeller family when they were giving away money in education. I wrote a book on Civics and after that raised funds for the New York Library; and then I was in investments. When I retired, I didn't know what to do. I decided I would teach a seminar. When I met Kanti Bajpai in Delhi, we agreed I would come to Doon. It was a very impulsive decision. That

was three years ago. Now, I've finally come here!

DSW: Just like you have been affected by India, many Indians who have left the country have written about the diaspora. Do you think American diaspora is also so diverse?

HRS: Henry James, one of our greatest writers, moved to the UK and he had a very unique view of the American experience. The challenge for American novelists is to write critically about it while living there. I have already ordered on Amazon, Amitav Ghosh's *Sea of Poppies* and *Confessions of a Xenophile*. I also want to read *Remembrance of Things Past* by Proust.

DSW: Do you think India's poverty is photogenic and attracts tourists?

HRS: To frame poverty in a photo is to remove yourself from it. It would not attract me. And I don't think it should attract any sane person.

DSW: You have been studying the poems of Frank O'Hara. What was it like to meet Vincent Warren, the subject of his poems and someone he once loved? What did you ask him?

HRS: It was an amazing experience. Just imagine *Ode to a Grief Unheard* or maybe *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock*. What if I had been with TS Eliot and he said, "This is the building where I got my inspiration"? This would have made the poem a lot more real. It gives you a different lens to look through. You sort of see why the poet wrote the poem. You can always interpret it but it's not the same.

DSW: You have read a lot, and have already written a book. Is there another book in you?

HRS: I hope so. I hope to write about India. Not a travelogue, but rather about conversations. Maybe like the ones I'm having with you. Maybe about reflections but not abstractly, something to do with my experiences around schools. I was very impressed at the Welham Girls' School, talking to the Headmistress about their plans and ideas.

(contd. on page 3)



DEBATING NEWS

The following are the results of the Preliminary Round of the **Inter-House Senior English Debates, 2009:**

Hyderabad vs Jaipur
Best Speaker: Varun Gupta
Winner: Hyderabad

Kashmir vs Oberoi
Best Speaker: Shoumitra Srivastava
Winner: Kashmir

Tata vs Kashmir
Best Speaker: Dhruv Velloor
Winner: Tata

Tata vs Oberoi
Best Speaker: Ankit Chowdhary
Winner: Tata

Hyderabad vs Kashmir
Best Speakers: Aashray Batra, Shoumitra Srivastava
Winner: Kashmir

Hyderabad vs Oberoi
Best Speaker: Aaditya Vicram Gupta
Winner: Oberoi

The remaining debates will be held next term. Congratulations!

APPOINTED

Tejasvi Mathur has been appointed boy-in-charge of the Slum School Project, '**Gyanodaya Vatika**' for the year 2009-10.

We wish him a fruitful tenure.

GOLF CAMP

Arjuna Award-winner and professional golfer, **Nonita Lal Qureshi**, is conducting a month-long golf camp for enthusiasts of the game in School. Boys across all forms are availing of this opportunity.

ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENTS

The following boys were awarded **Athletics Colours:**

Full Colours
 Sumer Singh Boparai
 Aaditya Vicram Gupta
 Praman Narain
 Ambar Sidhwani

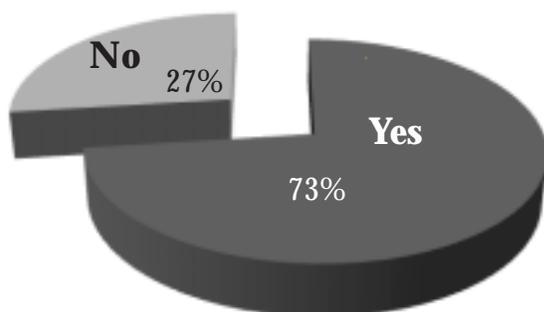
Half Colours
 Nikhil Sinha
 Vidur Vij
 Shivaj Neupane
 Rishiraj Neog

Congratulations!



Opinion Poll

Do you think it is a good decision to have morning toy replace PT in order to prepare for Trials?



(372 members of the School community were polled)

Next Week's Question: Do you make the best use of your time?

Letter To The Editor

I received the *Weekly* of 11th and 18th April today and read the article, *Sparing the Rod*, as well as Point and Counterpoint, with interest. I would like to compliment the School Captain and the Prefectorial body for their bold and novel initiative and wish them all success in this

I am of the opinion that it is 'idealistic' to believe, however laudable the intent, that society can exist without any form of deterrent for those who infringe on the rules and regulations that govern particular communities, or society at large.

The purpose of 'punishment' is correction and to induce the person at fault not to repeat the misdemeanour. The rod must not be biased (Piroune Balachandran) or the very purpose of punishment would be defeated. It must also 'fit' the so-called crime and not be disproportionate to it. In other words, punishment must be fair. Where administrators (read Prefects) tend to go wrong, however, is when they lose sight of the rationale, or the 'end purpose' of punishment and why it is given and what it should achieve. Those who are charged with the maintenance of discipline should always remember that authority, to be meaningful, must command respect.

It would be interesting to hear the outcome of this innovative experiment which, by now, must have concluded. I look forward to this month's issues of the *Weekly* which, hopefully, will carry feedback on the subject.

Yours faithfully,

Ratanjit Singh (ex-218 H '59)

* * *

Unquotable Quotes

S-Form enti got suspended for three coming years.

Piyush Upadhyay, another day at the office.

Old people tend to lose count with their family.

JKA, English at its best.

My lost got watch.

Jagrit Sethi contacts the LPO.

I suffer from dehydration.

Arifeen Chowdhury, we can see that.

Both the will be same.

Shikher Chawcharia, but the meaning will not.

Everyone of the House, move out of the House.

Rishab Kothari, traffic policeman.

It's a Delhi.

AKC, but it doesn't sell sandwiches.

I want to become the the sports school captain in swimming

Pranjal Bhatt, not this year.

Get me a French Lime Soda.

Aditya Kothiwal, uber cool.

I did not ask her to out.

Adhiraj Singh on an outing.

I didn't drop even one drop of chips.

Arjun Midha, back in business.

The entire Main Field was lined up.

Jai Sharma, Best PT Leader.

WINNING SPREE

Deep Singh reports on the matches played by the School Under-15 Cricket Team in Ajmer

While news of our school team's success in vanquishing the formidable Mayo College seniors bolstered our spirits, the team felt all the more compelled to prove their mettle against Mayo's U-15 unit on the morning of April 6. The weather played spoilsport as we awoke to a slight drizzle, threatening the very possibility of play. However, the mercurial nature of the weather saw the day clear up in no time. The two captains set out for the toss as Vihaan beat his compatriot and chose to bat – a brave yet somewhat ill-considered decision considering the windy conditions that awaited the batsmen. I, for one, thought the outcome of the toss would be the very difference between two evenly-placed sides.

Wet patches on the pitch would have given the heebie-jeebies to batsmen of any ilk. Nevertheless, unfazed, our openers Kabir Sethi and Vihaan, strode out to face the bowling. Kabir's natural proclivity to play on the up proved disastrous as he played early to a delivery to find his stumps shattered. Ashwin joined Vihaan and was rock-solid as Vihaan was adjudged lbw to a delivery that fiercely cut in and trapped him high on the pads. This sent tremors through our camp as we had lost 2 wickets for a mere 8 runs. I tweaked the batting order to send in Siddhant Sachdev for his cricketing acumen.

Siddhant combined wiliness with ingeniousness to unsettle the opposition. His deft square cuts and drives through mid-wicket were a delight to watch as he put us on the road to recovery. Dokania played a sheet-anchor's role as Siddhant relentlessly continued his onslaught. This partnership continued smoothly until we lost Dokania to an lbw decision. Abhishek Choudhary departed uneventfully as a result of impatience. Chandrachuda joined Siddhant and failed to display the unassailable ferocity we had all witnessed in the previous match. Ujjwal Khanna's running between wickets and Siddhant Sachdev's sly dexterity gave us a respectable total. However, a collapse ensued in the lower middle order and the innings folded up for a meagre 117 runs – an insufficient total by any standards.

Recklessness and indiscipline by our pacers in the bowling department set the Mayoites onto a flying start as they cruised at 47-0 in just 8 overs. It was truly Siddhant's day as the wunderkind yet again broke the crucial partnership that provided the opening to our spinners. Even though Ghilotra was belted on the onside as a result of some long hops, his flight was unsettling. Udit and Siddhant tore through their batting line-up and contained their relentless display of shot-making. From 42-1 to 67-6 the match titlited in our favour till Maulik seemed to take the match out of our hands by playing some powerful strokes on the onside. A mix-up between the batsmen and some quick fielding on our part saw Maulik return to the pavilion. This was the turning point and we assured ourselves of another victory as Mayo was precariously placed at 100-9. Nevertheless, the vagaries of the game saw the last partnership continue for three overs before Adhiraj took the final wicket and clinched an 11-run victory for the School. A fine display of fielding and some deft bowling by our spinners made the difference and gave us victory.

Scores in brief:

Doon 117 all out : Siddhant Sachdev 52*, Ashwin Dokania 21, Dhruv 3-20, Udit 2-27

Mayo 107 all out : Maulik 17, Ghilotra 2-35, Udit Kapur 3-15, Siddhant Sachdev 2-10

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(contd. from page 1)

Then I went to Mr. Nagalia's parents' school. It is a school for very young kids. They all said "good morning" to me. I wonder if they meant it or was it just ingrained into them! I'm learning about life, culture and discipline. This is what I'd like to write a book on.

DSW: What do you think draws so many people from the west to the east, and particularly to India?

HRS: I think it is the sheer mass of humanity. The population, the people. In Jaipur there is a movie theatre called the *Raj Mandir*. There are two little ticket booths, one for men and women each. In the crowd, I was pressed up against people in a non-sexual way. I was just there. But I didn't feel threatened. There is a sense of security in this density. A sense of trust.

I went to buy some oranges in Dehradun – not exactly something I'd do every day. I also bought a Coke. It was very nice. Anyway, in the shop, the owner offered me cold water, and then escorted me to the fruit market on Bindal Bridge. He even left his shop open. No one in NYC would do that. In India there is a sense of hu-

manity and you're a part of it. You have experiences in India, like seeing the Taj Mahal in the morning or a cremation in Varanasi. All these are very unique experiences. I was once in Ranthambore on a train, sandwiched between the guys who serve you tea. The mustard fields were going by. In India, in addition to the spiritual level there is this panorama of humanity.

If tourists would expose themselves and get off the tour bus they would learn a lot. I wish American public schools would come here. I could only come when I was fifty. My wife was luckier. She was twenty-three when she came through the Khyber Pass en route to the Philippines.

DSW: Do you think The Doon School is a society only of the upper class or the rich middle class?

HRS: Not really. In fact a lot of people are on scholarships. In Doon, however, I do not find the opulence of wealth. Everyone sleeps on the same hard bed, takes the same cold shower and plays in the same hot sun. When you come to Doon you become a citizen of Doon, a Dosco. That means you are judged by your ability, your open-heartedness and leadership qualities.

Roving ye

*Eye spied, seventy eight handsome guys,
Dancing and chatting on Social night.
There are some tales to tell, none can deny,
This, boys and girls, is the Roving Eye.*

Okay, enough with the poem, although the *Weekly* is filled with them these days. Let's begin. The word 'begin' had a special significance these Socials. It was the beginning of a new social life, the beginning of a special night and a delayed beginning, as our buses were half an hour late in arriving. But finally, Socials began with us entering to the song 'Taare Zameen Par'. It was rather surprising to hear it as it is us, not them, who use a facility called the 'Internet'. Next, it was time for the opening dances, with the Social King and the Social Queen, dancing with their respective counterparts. However, they were not the ones with the most interesting experiences of the evening.

The School Fish was desperately trying to see someone, but little did he realise that the person he did want to see, did not want to see him. (Yaaee). Mr. No 1, a.k.a. Mr. Red was seen trying to talk to a girl who was first talking to Mr. Mahavir Lalwani. However, when she got to know from a peer that he was *the one* and the only *one*, she had to 'go somewhere.' Probably Mr. No 1 is missing his special *fragrance*. As for the *international aashiq*, there were two songs dedicated by him. The first one was 'Teri Ore' – *so sweet na?* There were more curious cases. One of the school orchestra leaders spoke with a girl (huh?) and the Soccer Stud from Bilaspur was not seen jumping junior hurdles this time around. The Soccer Stud from Chandigarh tried to apologize for his previous actions, however, despite all his efforts he remains, Mr.

Mister MUN

No. 2. The star to the sequel to the film *Dev D*, 'Me D' finally completed his pursuit of happiness. Finally!

A part of the School community was awaiting the contest between Mr. Pimples from *Udaipoor* and Mr. Badminton from Ahmedabad – who'd commit suicide first. It wasn't much of a contest in the end, as Mr. Badminton clearly overshadowed Mr. Pimple's presence and his own roving eyes. Anamalai was seen dancing in his own pathetic way, but it was still an improvement from the last time around. On being asked to dedicate a song from Bobby to someone, the reporter disclosed to them, how that was impossible to do so, for certain reasons. Beware of the bullets that may fly into you next Socials, Bobby. There were some Scs, however, who were just content to burn up the dance floor. The *devta* from Kashmir was once again seen reciting his *shlokas*. Our own 'Anmol Ratan' and Mikey J. were leading from the front. However, not even they could match the skill and the elegance of the special item number. Our very own *Sallu* and the Tata House Dance Coordinator, thanks to a little help from the fake DJ from Elevate, i.e. Mister MUN, tore up the dance floor with their slick moves on 'Ni Nachle'. However, there was an interruption in the item number, when a special O House prefect had to be pulled off the dance floor by an anonymous person.

Finally, the Sc form would like to thank everyone who made this night possible. Especially SJB, our Socials' father, for escorting us and for not stealing the show.

*So, until next time,
Take care, goodbye,
And beware of
The Roving Eye.*

IH Play Overview



For the first time, the Inter-House One Act Play Competition features the staging of plays in Hindi.

Friday, May 8:

Hyderabad House: *Ek Tha Gadha* by Sharad Joshi (Directors: Rishi Sood and Aditi Joshi)

Jaipur House: *Bandey Sastey Miltey Hain* by T P Jhunjhunwala (Director: Aashray Patel)

Tata House: *Aakhir Kab?* Developed by Vidhukesh Vimal (Director: Amit Gupta)

Saturday, May 9:

Kashmir House: *Charandas Chor* by Habib Tanveer (Director: Shubhro Ganguly)

Oberoi House: *Pagal Ghar* by Nand Kishore Acharya (Director: Aruj Shukla)

RECRUITS WANTED!

The *Doon School Weekly* will conduct an entrance test to recruit new members to its Board. All interested A and B formers must come to STB's classroom in the 6th and 7th schools today. They should carry a pen with them. Those selected from the entrance test will be interviewed on a later date.

CAREER CALL



The Careers' noticeboard will feature being a **Financial Analyst** as a career option this week. All those interested should look it up.

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

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