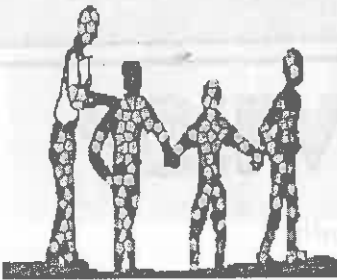


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The Doon School WEEKLY

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ALVIDA

RSF bids farewell to the School community

Mujhe bhi yaad rakhna jab likho tareekh-e-Doon 'Rashid'

Ke meine bhi guzara hai Chandbagh mein waqt apna...

As I prepare to bid farewell to Chandbagh after eleven years of service, I am short of words to convey what I have gone through in these last few months. I certainly never thought I would leave Doon before retirement. I am overwhelmed, deeply touched, and humbled by the many parents, Old Boys, colleagues and present boys – across age groups and Houses – who have appealed to me to “reconsider my decision” and to “give it a second thought.” But I think the decision has been made for good reasons and I hope that those who know me will understand and appreciate this. All I can say is that, in leaving Doon, of all those who are sad, I am probably the saddest. And I really wish that I didn't have to go. What I am leaving behind is a whole family that made me its own.

Hina, as usual, has been bombarding me with questions. The latest is: among all the things that I will miss about Doon, what will I miss most? And the answer for me is clear. It is the students who I will miss the most. It's for them that I joined the profession at 21.

Not surprisingly, Hina often complains that I am much happier with “my boys” than with her. It is indeed true that I have spent a lot of time with my boys. It's not just the bond that we built in the classroom, in the Boarding Houses, on the sports field, during MUN conferences, making Maggie and mutton qorma in the windowless 12' x 12' room above the Teachers' Centre, or discussing politics or a myriad other things about life – but for me it goes far beyond all that. It is a bond that remains strong long after the boys have left School.

When I was courting Hina, at first she found it rather unusual when I would land up for lunch or dinner dates with a few of my former boys in tow, only to then get completely immersed in talking about Doon, Jaipur House, cricket and MUN, and practically forgetting that she too was there! I am sure anyone else would have dumped me right away, especially since she ended up paying our bills! And it did not end there. At our marriage, one of Hina's relatives commented that our wedding party looked more like a Doon School reunion!

Through these eleven years, even though I have been let down by many of my former and present boys in various ways, I am still willing to trust them, and most of my memorable moments have been with them. Without the boys, teaching would have been just another occupation.

One day, I was rather taken aback when Brooke, on one of his walks with me in School, turned around, rolled his eyes, flapped his ears, and asked me how I would want to be remembered in School? I ignored him as I generally do (and he is getting used to it now) but that made me think that all this was as if I was about to die and people were waiting to write my obituary. But then, in a way, it is indeed going to be a disassociation from all that I have held dear for the past 11 years. At the end of our walk, as I turned into the driveway, I picked Brooke up and whispered into his ears that I would like to be remembered as someone who did his duty till his last day in School, and who did it well, even at the risk of being unpopular. Before Brooke ran off chasing a squirrel, he fired his last salvo at me – “Would I still leave if I was allowed to work with the cricket team?” I just bit my lip and glared at him.

I know I will also miss my colleagues immensely. They have laughed with me, laughed at me, and looked after me rather well, and they have been patient with me all through the long years I have been here. We had some great times together, and I want to thank them for making our lives worthwhile and happy in School.

I am obliged to the members of the administrative department and the School support staff for looking after us. I also owe gratitude to Mr. Analjit Singh, Mr. Gautam Thapar, Dr. Bajpai and Headmaster Dr. Peter McLaughlin, and also to all the parents for their valuable support at various stages of my career.

And I am grateful for Hina; for her good humor, constant support, and valuable inputs. Without doubt, she is truly the best thing that happened to me at The Doon School. And with that said,

*You and I will meet again
When we're least expecting it
One day in some far off place
I will recognize your face
I won't say goodbye my friend
For you and I will meet again
~Tom Petty*

Alvida! And Allah Hafiz.



BASKETBALL

Suhel Karara has been selected to represent Uttarakhand State at the Youth U-18 National Basketball Championship to be held at Ernakulam. Congratulations!

DRAMATICS

Yash Dhandania has been awarded Dramatics Colours. Congratulations!

CRICKET

The following boys were awarded Colours in Cricket:
Half Colours: Raghav Bansl, Akshay Sarawgi, Aditya Vir Roy.
Akhil Ranjan was re-awarded Half Colours, for the first time.
Well done!

Weekly Selects

The Many Lives of Aubrey Lee Price
Atlanta Magazine
Secret Of the Stacks
Medium
Animal Magnetism
Aeon
Rogue Element
New Yorker
The Truth About Chicago's Crime Rates
Chicago Magazine
Making Up Hollywood
Cabinet
The Dogs of War
National Geographic
Nothing Can Stay Buried
ESPN
The Rise of Nintendo: A Story in 8 Bits
Grantland
The Reykjavik Confessions
BBC
Who Gets to Graduate?
New York Times Magazine
Robert Capa's Longest Day
Vanity Fair
Big Water
The Morning News
The Devil's Bait
Harper
The Long Ride to Riyadh
New Statesman

THE WHO?

Who is Rajendra Mal Lodha?

Jehan Jhaveri- An architect
Aditya Verma- A guitarist
Nikunj Agarwal- A debater
Chaitanya Kediya- A cricketer
Vivan Sharma- A fashion designer
Ritvik Khare- An environmentalist
Bhavya Rajgarhia- An artist
Tejveer Kohli- A South Indian actor

Rajendra Mal Lodha is the newly appointed Chief Justice of India.

AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 WORDS

An attack in the Xinjiang district of China has killed about thirty-one people. Russia and China have signed a thirty year gas deal worth about four hundred billion dollars. The Thai government has been taken over by the military which has promised reforms after months of turmoil in the country. According to reports eleven Ukrainian soldiers have been killed in eastern Donetsk. The search for a climber and two Sherpas near Mt. Kanchenjunga has been cancelled due to bad weather.

UNQUOTABLE QUOTES

Water-polo was invented by Marco Polo.
Samarth Bharadwaj, re-inventing history.
It has starting to annoying me off!
Aditya Bhattacharya, we feel the exact same way.
Sir want it.
Jaideep Singh Gill, attempting to gain extra credit.
Don't run like a polio.
Dhruv Kharbada, the doctor.
I think he should have keep the bag like this!
Nehansh Saxena, giving much needed advice.
Germany declared war on itself.
Atrey Bhargava, Trials pressure overhead.
Is anyone doing Lotation and Ratitudes?
Bharat Choudhary, last minute confirmations.
English caused my percentage to crashing down.
Nikunj Agarwal, you don't say?
It's time to buying a watch.
Ishaan Kapoor, upon being asked what time it is.
When the going gets tough, the tough going gets.
Varun Seghal, sounds about right.
I can't waiting for golden night.
Arth Gupta, hallucinating about food.

Was Russian annexation of Crimea justified?

POINT

CHAITANYA KEDIYAL AND C.C.
CHENGAPPA

As we pen down our thoughts, the first thing that we would like to say is that no one is supporting the notion of invasion in any way nor is anyone encouraging it. Simple facts relating to and justifying Russia's invasion of Crimea are being put forth in this particular article. This is just a mere highlight of a major crisis which the world is or has been witnessing for the past few months.

The first stage of this crisis dates back to 1992 when the Republic of Crimea declared itself independent. It was at this point, however, that the Ukrainian parliament annulled this decision and a compromise was reached, in which Crimea was given the status of 'Autonomous Republic'. It has been theorized by many individuals that in this compromise Crimea received the sore end. At the beginning of this year, the Ukrainian president Viktor Yanukovych was ousted from his position, on grounds of incapability to fulfill his duty. The Russian government declared that this newly-formed government was illegitimate and therefore Russian troops, under the name of 'self-defense forces' would be stationed along the Russia-Crimea border. When the Crimean government collapsed, the Republic Of Crimea filed for independence and wanted to join Russia. The legislature of Crimea, as well as Sevastopol held a referendum to enquire what steps the citizens of this region would want in the future. There were two choices given; the first being as stated earlier, the choice to join Russia and the second to restore the 1992 Crimean Constitution. Though the referendum was deemed invalid by the Ukrainian government there was an 83% voter turnout, and 96% of those voters wanted Crimea to merge with the Russian Federation. The UN Security Council saw thirteen member nations vote in favour of a resolution stating that the referendum was invalid but ultimately Russia went on to veto the resolution.

Russia sent forces into Crimea to protect the 58% of its population, which are ethnic Russians. This decision was taken by the Russian Parliament itself. The forces deployed have been instructed to remain stationed there until the situation has not been resolved and the primary justification given by Putin is to protect the many ethnic Russians who live in Ukraine. But at the same time, the fact remains that in 1992 Crimea should have been given the chance to become independent. Further building on this point, Putin has also stated that Crimea needs a government which is strong and stable so that efficient and proper governance is carried out. He believes that this cannot be met by the newly-formed government, and so wants to take over Crimea. Thirdly, Russia believes that it is a great atrocity to state that Russia wishes to invade Ukraine. Russia only has vested interests in Crimea, and once it becomes a part of Russia they will, not take any further action vis-à-vis Ukraine. Thus, seeing both sides of the crisis we can now make a reasonable choice as to why Russia was right in invading a neighboring state.

COUNTER-POINT

ARTH GUPTA

Since we are talking about well informed choices and decisions, allow me to explain what well informed choices are. They are taken upon situations where there exists a version of alternate reality. The crisis discussed though, does not have one. Russia's "actions" regarding Ukraine cannot be justified under any circumstances as what they did, was simply stated: wrong. I am not a spokesperson. What I am is an aware citizen of the global community, and I believe that you are too. So before you think of choosing between two sides of a coin, understand that there are no two sides. What exists is the truth, which you may or may not choose to ignore while making your choices.

The crisis, in essence, was regarding the control over the Crimean peninsula, which until February 2014 was under the control of the Ukrainian government. Though Crimea was declared an autonomous republic and was still under Ukraine, it was after the collapse of the Crimean government that the Republic of Crimea filed for independence with intentions of joining Russia. However, one must understand the fact that the decision of joining or not joining the country is one which can only be taken by the government of the country. Just because the people of Crimea want it to happen, does not give them the right to make it happen. Such a crucial decision could have only been taken by the government, which sadly had collapsed. One might say that the will of the people is the will of its government, but since this decision was made in the absence of a properly elected government, that argument collapses in on itself. Russia saw this as a golden opportunity to expand their territory, and sent military troops to 'protect' the Russian citizens in Crimea. The truth is that they were not Russian citizens; they were Crimean citizens, living in Crimea, who happened to be of Russian origin. Yes, I understand that Crimea has diverse cultural and racial ethnicity, and does in fact have a majority of its population coming from Russia, but even then, Russia did not have the right to annex Crimea, because at that particular point of time, those citizens were Crimean citizens, regardless of the fact whether or not they came from Russia. Thus, sending in military troops and taking over the Crimean parliament was not only unjustified, but also wrong of Russia, as was a clear violation of fundamental rights. This was a clear pointer of Russia's expansionist aims; of Russia inflicting upon the freedom and sovereignty of Crimean citizens. I agree, a crisis was at hand and Crimea was facing a problem, but Russian annexation was not and is not a solution. Russia took advantage of the situation by claiming what was not theirs, something that catapults our perception of society and its people back a hundred years into the Age of 'Exploration'.

Let me put it this way. If the House Captain of a House falls ill for some reason and is admitted in the wellness centre, does that give any other House any right to take over that House and make it their own? If your answer is 'yes,' then I suggest you start poisoning some house captain's food soon, so that we 'protectors of the peace' may start our annexation.

Holiday Checklists

The best things to play, watch, listen to and enjoy during the winter holidays

Sporting Events

Rabobank Hockey World Cup	31 May-15 June
Wimbledon Championship	23 May-6 June
IPL Final Match	1 June
US Open Golf	12 June - 15 June
XX Commonwealth Games	23 July-3 August
The Open Championship Golf	13 July -20 July
Canadian Grand Prix	6 June - 8 June
British Grand Prix	3 July- 6 July
FIFA World Cup Brazil :	June 13 - July 13
Spain vs Netherlands	June 13
England vs Italy	June 14
Germany vs Portugal	June 16
Semi Finals	July 8- July 9
Final	July 13

Music Albums

Artist	Album
Coldplay	Ghost Stories
Phillip Phillips	Behind The Light
Yann Tiersen	∞ (Infinity)
Austin Mahone	The Secret
Mariah Carey	Me. I Am Mariah
Marty Friedman	Inferno
[Former Megadeth guitarist]	
50 Cent	Animal Ambition
Andrew Bird	Things Are Really Great Here, Sort Of...
Deadmau5	While (1<2)
Jennifer Lopez	A.K.A.
Lana Del Rey	Ultraviolence
Ed Sheeran	x
Foxes	Glorious
The Black Keys	Turn Blue
Afrojack	Forget the World
Celine Dion	Céline...
Chris Brown	X
Lil Wayne	Tha Carter V
Passenger	Whispers
Tiësto	A Town Called Paradise
Linkin Park	The Hunting Party

Motion Pictures

Hollywood:

The Fault in our Stars
Dawn of the Planet of the Apes
Step Up: All In
Transformers: Age of Extinction
22 Jump Street
How to Train Your Dragon 2
Planes: Fire and Rescue
Jupiter Ascending

Hercules

Jersey Boys

Bollywood:

Holiday
Humshakals
Bobby Jasoo's
Filmistan
Ek Villain
Its Entertainment
Kick
Humpty Sharma ki Dulhania

Video Games

Games

Plants vs. Zombies: Garden Warfare
Mario Kart 8
Transformers: Rise of the Dark Spark
Grid Autosport
Ultra Street Fighter IV
Murdered: Soul Suspect
Madden NFL 15
7 Days to Die
Sniper Elite III
Child of Light
Valiant Hearts: The Great War
Unrest
Quest for Infamy
MouseCraft
Enemy Front
EA Sports UFC
Sacred 3

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