



The Rose Bowl

NEWSLETTER OF THE DOON SCHOOL OLD BOYS' SOCIETY

January, 2008

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A Message from the President (Gautam Chadha, 389-H '71) on the year gone by and the year ahead

Dear DOSCO,

January 2008

Seasons Greetings and our Very Best Wishes to you and yours for the year ahead.

On behalf of your Executive Committee, I am taking the liberty to briefly recap the year gone by and share our agenda for the year ahead.

During 2007 your Executive Committee met most of the goals we had set for ourselves (refer "The Way Ahead" in the January 2007 issue). Amongst others, we

- * launched the **DOSCO Card** which each of you should have received. If not, rush inform the Secretariat via email addressed to, dsobs@airtelbroadband.in;
- * initiated an **Affinity Program** around the DOSCO Card with several major brands participating via benefits offered to you ; (see page 35 of this issue)
- * **collected further amounts for the Rose Bowl (this publication) corpus**. The collection has yielded **over Rs.17 lacs** with over 400 contributors – the goal remains to triple the numbers;
- * **renewed our Section 80G status for income tax benefits** as also set out to re-arrange the funds held within the DSOBS under various headings to conform to your societies memorandum and articles;
- * have a vibrant, engaging and up-to-date **website** www.dosco.org;
- * **reviewed the election process of the office bearers of your society (as mandated)** and obtained concurrence for most recommendations at the recent AGM (see minutes of the AGM featured separately in this issue at pages 23 to 33 and the flyer marked '**Response Card**' seeking your views on the options for election of Vice President/ President of the DSOBS which you are requested to fill up and return to the Secretariat by e-mail, fax or post);
- * **enhanced our commitment to contribute to Indian society** via the Navodaya Fund and have agreed to fund 7 children annually (cost Rs.1,05,000.00 per annum) at the John Martyn School in Dehra Dun in addition to an *ad hoc* donation of Rs.2.50 lacs for building a concrete structure; and,
- * **initiated an effort** (with the blessings of the HM) **to introduce the young DOSCO to the DSOBS** by welcoming and introducing the DSOBS to the SC batch a few days before they left school – a first!

As is inevitable, a few ongoing and pending items remain which need to be addressed. These include, an updated DOSCO Record and Register (can't be done without your active support!) and a more presentable office premise. In addition, we have found that the co-branded DOSCO credit card seems to have outlived its utility and its continuity will be reviewed in the immediate future.

Allow me to share our plans for the year ahead.

- We propose to organize a "**DOSCO Dialogue**" in New Delhi on 5/6 April 2008 with the intent to retrospect and introspect our contributions and performance over the first 72 years against those as originally envisioned by our

founder. The submissions made during the Dialogue could form a part of a collection to be printed in a book form to coincide with the School's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in the year 2010. **Please block these dates and do plan on participating as we seek to make it as interactive as possible – you will agree that a Dialogue warrants the participation of many? Details will be forthcoming shortly.**

- We have to hold an EGM in New Delhi to finalize the pending portion of the process for election of office bearers (see minutes of the AGM re-produced separately in this issue) and we propose to hold this on Sunday, 06 April 2008 immediately after the conclusion of the DOSCO Dialogue – we would earnestly seek your participation.
- The DOSCO Card will be expanded and the efforts to build the Rose Bowl corpus will continue.
- Many of us on your Executive Committee will demit office this year, and we will pursue the agreed procedure to form a new Executive Committee which will take over after this year's Founder's (11 October 2008).

Finally, and with your permission, we should seek to foster a closer and more effective working environment with the school, the IPSS (for the uninitiated the IPSS or the Indian Public School Society is the legal owner of The Doon School), and, the Board of Governors. We share a common goal and, effectively, have a joint ownership of the school. We hope you will agree that the more we engage you, the greater will be the eventual benefit to the school and future DOSCOs. Hence while we, the DSOBS, concentrate on us and allow the school to carry forward the good work they do, there are areas of common interest that we can supplement each others efforts. These can include; a shared secretariat in New Delhi, fund raising efforts for the school, planning the 2010 Platinum Jubilee celebrations, and more. Our intent remains to collectively pursue a common path towards ensuring the well being of all things "DOSCO".

Before concluding, I must mention that **we have a request from the old boys of Mayo College to join them in celebrating the birth centenary of Jack Gibson – his birth date was 03 March 1908.** As many of you will know, Jack Gibson was one of the original teachers at The Doon School and in the mid fifties he moved on to become the Principal of Mayo College. We already acknowledge Jack Gibson with a "Gibson Goodwill Golf" event organized annually between the old boys of Doon and Mayo. As a part of the centenary celebrations, there is a proposal to organize a Doon versus Mayo cricket match on Sunday, 02 March 2008 and a dinner event at the India International Centre, New Delhi on 03 March 2008. There will be other activities through the year and we will keep you informed appropriately.

Once again our Very Best Wishes for a successful and prosperous 2008.

Gautam Chadha
President
The Doon School Old Boys' Society
New Delhi, India

OLD BOYS IN THE NEWS

- Our congratulations to **Mr. Karan Thapar, 238-J '71** for being awarded **'The Best Current Affairs Presenter'** from the Asian Television Awards **for the fourth time.** The earlier occasions were in 1999, 2003 and 2005. In 1999, he received it for the programme "On the Record" made by UTV for Doordarshan. In 2003, for the BBC programme "Face to Face" which was an interview with dancer Raja Reddy. In 2005, for the BBC programme "HARDtalk India" for an interview with Mr. Arun Jaitley, parliamentarian and former Law Minister. A news item which appeared in the New Delhi edition of "The Hindustan Times" of Saturday, December 1, 2007 in this regard is scanned and reproduced on the right.
- Our (belated) congratulations to **Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar, 55-T '57,** for being awarded the **best Parliamentarian Award 2006** for the **third year in a row.**

Nation

HINDUSTAN TIMES, NEW DELHI, SATURDAY
DECEMBER 1, 2007 PAGE 8

Asian Television Award for Karan Thapar

New Delhi: Television personality and *HT* columnist Karan Thapar won the prestigious Asian Television Award for Best Current Affairs Presenter at a ceremony in Singapore on Thursday night. The awards received a total of 1,374 entries, out of which seven – including presenters for CNN, Al Jazeera and NDTV – were shortlisted as final round nominees. Thapar won for his presentation of CNN-IBN's interview programme *Devil's Advocate*. The winning episode was an interview with lawyer Ram Jethmalani, broadcast on November 2006. This is the fourth time in nine years Thapar has won the award. He also won in 1999, 2003 and 2005. No other Indian or South Asian anchor has won this award so far.

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OLD BOYS NEWS

- Our congratulations to **Aseem Tiwari, 520-K '76** on his recent appointment as **Senior Vice President, Corporate Affairs of The Oberoi Group**.
- Our congratulations also to **Manuj Ailawadi, 224-J '67** on his appointment as **Class Representative of the Class of 1967**.
- **Vijay Soni, 153-J '60** had both knee replacements done by **Dr. S.K.S. Marya (415-T '74)**, Director Max health Care at Saket, New Delhi on April 2, 2007. The operation was successful with quick recovery helped by fitness and no over weight problem. Within three months Vijay is back in the outdoors, fishing and hunting around the world. Dr. Marya has performed numerous successful surgeries and Vijay strongly recommends him and Max Health Care which has very good facilities and is very efficiently run at Saket. Dr. Marya has a very distinguished medical career, details of which are too long to be published in this short space. Max is run by **Mr. Analjit Singh (Dosco – 132-J '71)**. Dr. Marya is also a **Dosco (415-T '74)**.

MARRIAGES

- Our heartiest congratulations to **Inderpreet Dhanoa, 414-H '74** and **Nandita Puri, 607-T '79** on their marriage on December 06, 2007. Nandita and Inderpreet have created a record for being **the first DOSCO couple to marry**. Nandita's sisters, Chandirka (735-T '80) and Kavita (794-T '81) are also DOSCOs. Our good wishes to Nandita and Inderpreet for a long and happy married life. Some articles appearing in Chandigarh edition of 'The Tribune' and the 'Hindustan Times' are scanned and printed after these columns at pages 5 and 6.
- **Varun Mohan Soni, 335-J '99** was married to Wasiqa Qasuria of Pakistan in December 2006. Our congratulations. Wasiqa and Varun live in New York. They can be contacted at vmsoni@gmail.com



Wedded Bliss
A beaming Inderpreet and a radiant Nandita

BIRTHS

- Our congratulations to **Tariq Sayeed, 190-OB '97** who was recently blessed with a son.

OBITUARIES

- **Arun Puri, 599-JA '88** passed away on November 18, 2007 at his farm in Kashipur, Uttar Pradesh. Our heartfelt condolences to his mother Amita, his father Anil (Bunny) Puri, 180-J '55, his wife Ruchi, their young children, Inder and Deia and all other friends and family members.
- Our condolences to family members, friends and well wishers of **Tejeshwar Singh, 354-T '63** on his unfortunate demise on Friday, December 14, 2007 in Mussoorie of a sudden heart attack. Tejeshwar schooled at Doon, graduated from St. Stephen's College, Delhi and pursued his Master's from Balliol College, Oxford, UK. Tejeshwar was a publisher, theatre actor and television news reader whose deep baritone demanded compelling attention from the viewer. He was in his early sixties. Tejeshwar founded Sage Publications (India) in 1981 and nurtured it into a prominent publishing house within a decade. Son of distinguished diplomat Gurbachan Singh, he was also a famous television newsreader on Doordarshan in the 1980s and early 90s. His voice left a lasting imprint on television viewers of an earlier generation. He was also associated with theatre and cinema. Tejeshwar was an established publisher when he ventured into news reading on Doordarshan, the national channel. Those were the heydays of Doordarshan – it had no competitors as cable TV had not arrived in India – and Tejeshwar became a household name with his clear diction. His heavy voice and salt & pepper beard made him stand out among other newscasters on the small screen. May Tejeshwar's soul rest in eternal peace. Some news items are scanned and printed at page 7.



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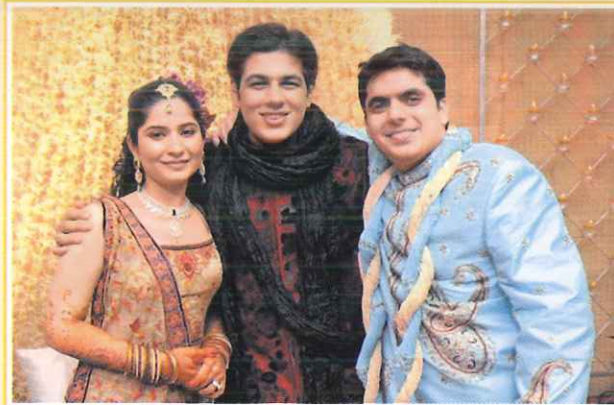
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CLASS OF 1974 NEWS

Manohar Chawla's (434-K '74) daughter, Varun Chawla's [158-K(B) '03] sister and Sanjay Chawla's [61-K(B) '83] niece, Ritika married Rajeev Salwani in Mumbai on April 09, 2007.

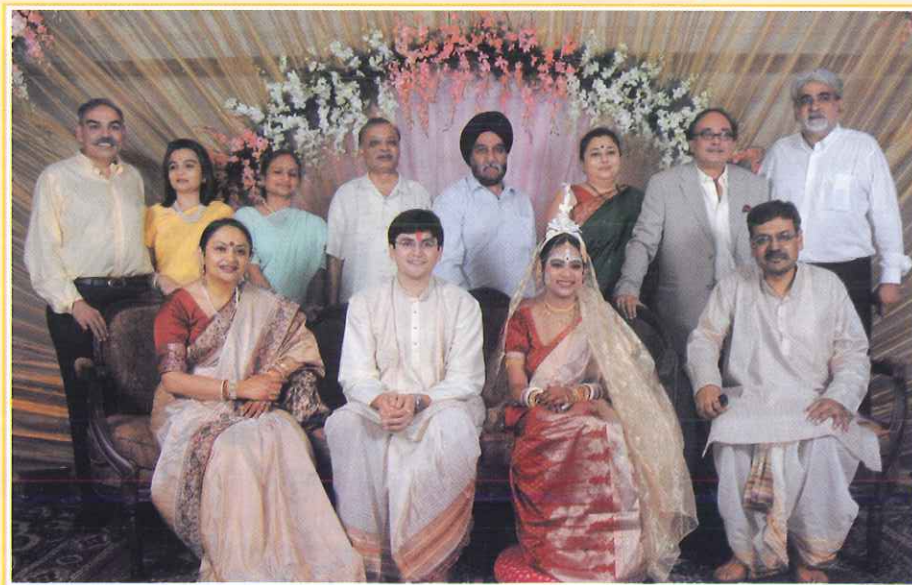


L-R – Preeti Ummat, Neha Ummat, Kishore Lahiri [30-K(B) '74], Anil Ummat [308-K(B) '74], Manohar Chawla [434-K (B) '74] and Varun Chawla [158-K(B) '03] at the Cocktail Party on April 07, 2007. Though present at the wedding but missing from this photograph - Vidhu Nivetia [292-H(A) '74]



L-R – The glowing bride Ritika Chawla, the handsome bridegroom Rajeev Salwani and Varun Chawla [158-K (B) '03]

CLASS OF 1970 NEWS



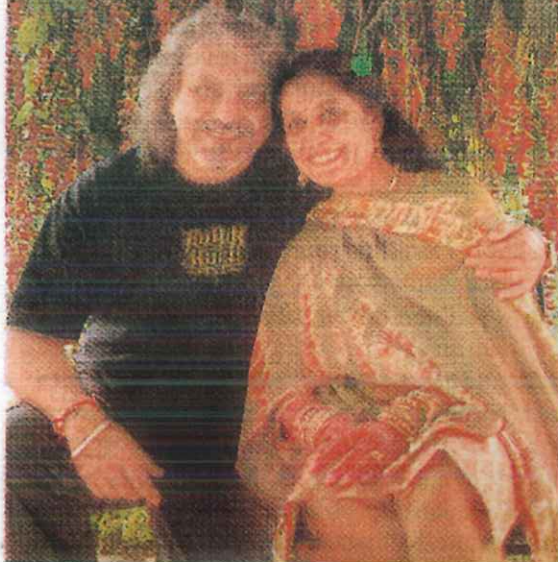
Some of the Class of 1970 in Bhopal on 8th August, 2007 on the occasion of Sumona's [daughter of Sumit (360-T '70) & Sanghamitra Bose] marriage to Ashwin Bishnoi.

Standing (L to R): Jamboo (59-T '70) & Ritu Bhandari, Reena & Asutosh Mishra (387-T '70), Dilsher Singh Kalia (88-J '70), Mohini Kalia, Vikram Srivastava (323-J '70) and Vikram Kalia (422-H '70)

Sitting: (L to R): Sanghamitra Bose, Ashwin Bishnoi, Sumona and Sumit Bose (360-T '70)

Though present on the occasion but missing in the photo was Raj Nath (Winnie) Khosla (349-K '70)

When Dan met Puri



Saadi kudi Nandita Puri ties the knot with the charming Dan Dhanoa

PARBINA RASHID

WHO says love at first sight is a myth? Or how do you explain our homegrown actor Nandita Puri and 'once upon a bad guy' Dan Dhanoa's short and whirlpool love story which just culminated in marriage? We catch the couple on their wedding reception to know how it all started. After all, there is nothing more interesting than a love story that has all the *masala* — boy meets girl, falls in love and live happily ever after!

"We met on July 5 this year when I was in city and I felt something special towards this man, but I told myself — this cannot be happening to me! But when the feeling persisted even after the second meeting, I knew he is the man I want to spend my life with." They took the plunge on December 5.

Dan confirms — "Yes, it was love and the similar background that drew us to each other." While Nandita is the familiar mother of small and big screen (*Mayaka* being her latest), Dan had played character roles (read villain) in films like *Mard*, *Karma* and *Vishwatma*.

Does that mean that we will get to see them both on screen together? "Have not thought about it," says Dan, who is now working with a company here. It is going to be a shuttling kind of life for a while. But Nandita has chalked out her life more or less. "I do have some commitments in Mumbai, but I will gradually lessen my commitments there to give more attention to my new life," she tells us.

Besides teaching kathak at Sangeet Mahabharati in Mumbai, she is committed now to play the mother's role in *Dil Ke Mamlu*. But now she refuses to accept serials that go on and on.

"If it is of short duration, then definitely I am game," she says. But her main commitment of teaching classical dance will keep her busy for a while. After all, she is now quite a name after she trained Soha Ali Khan for the latest flick *Khoya Khoya Chand*.

How was the experience teaching someone like Soha who did not have a background in classical dance? "Her dedication and hard work made up for her lack of knowledge and it was amazing how she shaped up just in three months," she says.

"I am planning to continue with my teaching there, but slowly I want to cut down to be a visiting faculty."

She is adjusted to the idea of a shuttling kind of a life for the time being. After all, it will take a little time to untie bonds with Mumbai after spending 27 long years!

So what is her long-term plan? "I want to start my own classical art institute here and do choreography for ballets," she says. "Her last dance-drama on the architectural heritage on Agra made quite an impression on the performing art circle. "I want to try out unusual subjects and present them as ballets," she adds.

Well, as we leave the newly-weds to get on with their party, we smile to ourselves — it looks like Dan's gain is city's gain too!

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JAB WE MET

Nandita Puri & Dan Dhanoa.
Just about touching mid-life.
Just Married.

Between gulps of dreams, they talk their tale. On our eardrums, the words fall like sounds from the deep. Mind voyages. Or Richard Bach & Leslie. And alternative lifetimes. With a pinch of Brian Weiss, past lives & destinies. Those who know these guys, well, you got the hang...

Those who don't, well, here's how: Dreams. Raw & throbbing under that hot rush of audacity. They can cost. Like they can cost the years. The years that could have seen the dream merchants do the 'done-thing'. Marriage. offspring & safety.

Alternatively, you chase a deeper inside voice. Some dream. "Because you owe it to yourself". Nandita, actor & *kathak* dancer from our own City, right now shy & soft & every inch the bride, is a breath of relief with that assertion. She stretches her un-cliche: "When you're very young, you get married because it's mentally driven into you by family & fraternity. But I was very fired up on marking a space after my heart. Acting, dancing... & I knew I was pressing the right buttons in me. As I melted into dance, I gave up on marriage. Because where was this man who saw it as I saw it - a beautiful heritage being restored! They came, they nodded to this "nice hobby" & expected

us in return. Of course, I didn't pause. Then came Dan - this sculptor, traveller, dreamer... who saw me dance & said how I should never let such a wonderful part of me wane. By then, I'd touched a plateau where fame & money had begun to shrivel up against a gnawing need for that someone to share it with. Then it happened... we met, I found a friend who was secure enough in his skin to be with a woman into her own. Here we are." In newly-wedded bliss.

We touch the delicate nerve. At age 40 plus, how does the paradigm shift over 'what I am looking for'? The couple's beautifully forthcoming. Dan, a onetime actor/model & a forever shippie with an oil company, tosses candidly: "Companionship. *Jitne teer chalaane the chala liye...* now it was time to pause, retire, share our stories. I see shadows of destiny's handiwork. I was her Doon School senior; she - one of the rare girl students (it's essentially a boys' school). Friends



SANJAY GHILDYAL

LIFE'S JUST BEGUN: Former actor/model & a shippie Dan Dhanoa who belongs to the City & his wife - City's own dancer/actor Nandita Puri at their wedding reception at SAS Nagar on Saturday evening.

got us to meet & then this whole graph of shared values & creative voyages began to scroll out. That did it. And it helped that she's so beautiful, graceful & a brilliant actor".

Nandita matches his language: "We've followed our hearts & it helps that he's interested in the fact that I worked hard to be what I am. It more than helps that we both seek a life beyond the *wake up-go to work-return-dine-sleep* rigmarole. We have sipped on the arts, learnt from different cities, and there are so many stories to tell each other. You know, mar-

riage at this stage sits on a totally different ground. Baked in experience, here, reactions aren't volatile, there's no 'profile level' to reach, speed is a worn-out word, and after knowing the hollows of singledom, you're keen to share". And she smiles more.

"We feel lucky," they tell us separately.

"Have you talked to her/him? You'd love her/him," they again tell us separately. *One*, said Bach.

Ah well... we go.

BALPREET

balpreet@hindustantimes.com

A disciplined newsreader



TELEVISTA

AMITA MALIK

LAST week-end we paid tributes to Tejeshwar Singh, one of Doordarshan's best known faces in the seventies. Tejeshwar was educated at St. Stephen's in Delhi and Balliol College at Oxford and it showed in his newsreading. But there was much more to Tejeshwar than intelligent, imaginative newsreading. He showed his principles as well. Three hours after the Emergency was declared, he was asked to mention it in the

news headlines and after. Being a disciplined person, Tejeshwar did not indulge in melodramatics right then.

But as soon as he finished the bulletin, he got up and said: "I shall never read the news again". Most aptly, last week-end the channel Times Now was telecasting the programme on the evolution of news on TV in its admirable series 'Total Recall'. One saw Tejeshwar actually getting up from his chair in the studio and making that courageous statement. TV soon lost him to publishing. After a stint with publishing companies, Tejeshwar founded his own Sage Publications and brought out some books on communications and the media.

All this was a reminder on the role of a newscaster in a democracy. He or she is required to be apolitical as well as detached. But Tejeshwar showed that when the occasion arose, the newscaster can protest. Of course, there are also instances of both political parties and newscasters acting a little differently. There was



Tejeshwar Singh, one of Doordarshan's best known faces in the seventies

an example, not so long ago, of a well-known Hindi newscaster who was the lead newscaster in an independent channel. He was persuaded by the political party which then came to power at the Centre to cross over to Doordarshan, still a very *sarkari* channel. As soon as that government fell, he was back with the independent channel and has remained there, although it remains to be seen what he will do if that party comes to power again.

However, there are channels

which make no secret of their political views. This is particularly true of South India, where channels are not only run openly by political parties but they take their names from their leaders, such as the Jaya channel. At times of political crisis they fight their own battles and are interesting to watch. In the north, east and west of India, too, channels claim to be neutral and newscasters also follow suit. But here and there, their political sympathies certainly show through.

Now interesting things are happening across the border in Pakistan, where President Musharraf has been playing his own games with TV and radio channels. But here our colleagues across the border are putting up a spirited fight. Channels are closed down from time to time, and like judges, inconvenient electronic mediapersons are also thrown out and forced to leave. But with courage they keep up the fight, to our great admiration, and democracy survives.

Everybody knows that we have our own version of English, especially as far as the media is concerned. Bowling becomes "balling," and so on. But there are distortions of some words which are not only puzzling but also misleading. For instance, it beats me why both in Hindi and English news and programmes, Olympic is pronounced as 'Ollum-pick' and Y made into U. This goes on without any checks, and it seems strange since the word is used quite often in view of the coming event in Beijing. Why is the word distorted? A little more understandable and even amusing but still absolutely incorrect is how the Indian media has made the Macmahon Line into our very own 'Mach-Mohan' line. The gentleman in question, whose version of the border has led to such controversy, was British, and the second half of his surname was Mahon. So we have no business to convert him into 'Mohan' because that is not only incorrect but bad for the records.

Tejeshwar Singh, a writer's publisher

by T.K. Oommen

THE information about Tejeshwar Singh's very untimely demise came as extremely unwelcome news.

Tejeshwar was a Doordarshan newsreader who left an indelible impression on the Indian public with his superb, masculine voice.

For those who are in the world of social science scholarship Singh was a bi-word for Sage Publications, although he started his career as an editor with Macmillan India.

My interaction with Tejeshwar started more than three decades ago. My first encounter with him was when Macmillan published a book of mine in 1978. But we intensely interacted during 1985-86 when I was Secretary General of the XI World Congress of Sociology held in New Delhi in August 1986.

Tejeshwar managed to get the Programme Book of the Congress which had nearly three hundred A-4 size pages printed with "brutal" efficiency; brutal because the material was given not in one go, not even sequentially, but in different install-

ments as and when it was prepared, to be fitted into different sections of the Book.

And yet, when the production was over, the document was perfect! I told myself: "Only Tejeshwar could have done such a professional job".

Although Tejeshwar set up Sage India in 1981 I started publishing

Professional editors in the world of scholarship are indeed a vanishing species in India

with Sage only in 1990. During the fifteen years from 1990 to 2005, I have published seven books through Sage. Understandably, we have had very close interactions during that period.

Two of my books, both collections of my own research papers, were published in 1990 by Sage. When I submitted the manuscripts for consideration the busy Editor came and met me at

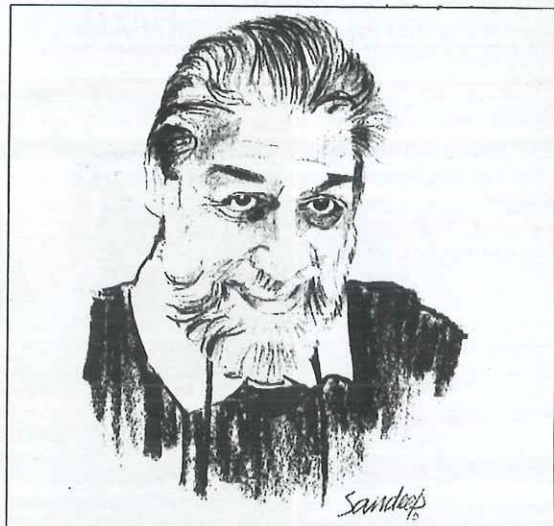
Jawaharlal Nehru University, where I was teaching those days, to say that Sage cannot publish them. Admittedly, I was upset and insisted on an explanation.

His answer was simple and forthright: Sage does not publish collections of research papers by a single author. But I argued that it is a wrong policy and Sage should revise it. I suggested that he could submit the manuscript for the most rigorous peer-review. Tejeshwar relented and the rest is history, in that some of the most successful books by Sage are such collections.

My last book published by Sage in 2005 is somewhat topical: *Crisis and Contention in Indian Society*, released by a former Lok Sabha Speaker. Neither Tejeshwar nor me was enthusiastic about release functions and this is the only book of mine published by Sage which was subjected to such an ordeal.

Speaking on the occasion he remarked: "Both me and Prof. Oommen lost count of his books published by Sage", to everybody's delight. Indeed Tejeshwar had a sense of humour often soaked in sarcasm.

Professional editors in the



world of scholarship are indeed a vanishing species in India: from Samuel Israel through Ravi Dayal to Tejeshwar Singh, one can count them on one's fingers. As we are creating a knowledge society they are indeed indispensable at present. Hence the sense of great loss in Tejeshwar Singh's

sad and sudden departure. I hope that his role as a professional editor will inspire many young, talented youth to pursue a career adopting him as a role model.

The writer is Professor Emeritus, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi



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SHIV REMEMBERED – THE SHIV MEHTA MEMORIAL AWARDS

SHRIVINDU MEHTA, 65-J '74

NOVEMBER 29, 1957 TO FEBRUARY 23, 2006

Shiv left us very suddenly about two years ago. He was much, much too young and in the prime of his life. In Apsara, he had a beautiful, talented and loving wife and in Pavi and Avani, he had two darling daughters who were the apples of their parents' eyes. He had so much to give to the world and to all of us. However, I guess the Almighty loved him too dearly and was much, much too impatient.

Shiv was a gem of a friend. It has been difficult, actually impossible, to forget him. Even the passage of time has not dimmed the memories. Some of his dear friends and batchmates therefore decided to perpetuate his memory in the school he loved so much and where he made some of his lasting friendships. With this in mind, his dear friends **Bahram Vakil, 372-J, Anil (A.K.) Kumar 453-K, Sanjiv (Sanju) Sharma, 74-K, Sanjeev (Swappy) Swarup, 298-H** with the usual leadership exhibited by **Rajiv (School Captain) Sarin, 44-H '74** and a little help from **Arjun Mahey, 477-J, Kishore Lahiri, 30-K and Sanjeev (Bittu) Kassal, 295-T** put together over Rs.10 lakhs by way of a Corpus and two trophies for what have now come to be known as the **Shiv Mehta Memorial Best Assembly Speaker (English and Hindi) Awards** to be given each year to the Best Assembly Speakers. What was touching was that apart from these friends who pooled in over Rs.10 lakhs, a sum of US \$ 627 (then over Rs.25,000/-) was also sent by some of Shiv's colleagues from ING Investments, New York, which has also been added to the corpus.

Originally the idea was to have a running trophy in Shiv's memory for the best English Debater of the School since (as his batchmates will remember), Shiv was a prolific debater. However, Kanti (Headmaster, Dr. Kanti Bajpai) mentioned that there were already too many prizes and trophies for debating. Therefore, he suggested trophies for the Best Assembly Speakers in Shiv's memory. However, since School does not give cash Awards and since the corpus would generate over Rs.1 lakh per annum even on a conservative basis, it was felt that the money should be used annually for a faculty member to upgrade and hone up his or her teaching skills.

It was therefore fitting that **on Thursday, the 29th of November, 2007**, the day Shiv would have turned 50, **the first Shiv Mehta Memorial Trophy was awarded to Shikhar Singh, 46-H 2008, for the best Assembly Speaker in English.** The Award could not be given for the best Hindi Speaker since very few assemblies had been conducted in Hindi this year. Hereafter, however, both trophies would be awarded annually to the best Assembly Speakers in Hindi and English.

Given below is a photograph of the Headmaster, Dr. Kanti Bajpai giving away the first Shiv Mehta Memorial Best Assembly Speaker in English Award to Shikhar Singh during Assembly on 29th November, 2007. Also given overleaf are reminiscences of some of his dear friends who put together the awards and trophies in Shiv's memory to constantly remind themselves that though Shiv is not physically in their midst today but his memory lives on forever.



With compliments from

*K.K. Lahiri, 30-K(B), 1974 and
Karan Lahiri, 306-K(B), 2004*

Rajiv Sarin, 44-H(B) '74

November 29 marks Shiv *bhai's* (yes, I came to openly regard him as my mentor and brother sometime during the 90s in America) birthday. It is ironic that Kanti (Bajpai) will be announcing the first SMMA's on that day -November 29, 2007- in the Rose Bowl. *Manzoor-e-khudah*, I plan to be there in person. For those of us who came to know him as a *jigri*, Shiv *bhai* was as steadfast as *Lakshman rekha*. He was unafraid to question *status quo*. He loved a good laugh. His love of family was infectious. And, he provided me a shoulder to lean on.

He called me photographic, but in the final analysis he went out into the sea having already laid a foundation for his daughters -Pavi and Avani- and with a heart filled with pride and joy for celebrating Pavi's sweet 16th birthday. Beam me up, Shiv *bhai!* Salut.

Sanjiv Sharma, 74-K(B) '74

It is fitting that we present a prize bearing Shiv's name today, on what would have been his 50th birthday.

In 1970 my parents sent me to Doon to get an Indian Public School education.

Ironically, the most lasting gift I took away from Doon were my friendships.

Look around yourself, at your friends, and ask yourself: which of these relationships will I cherish over the next 38 years and beyond.

Who here will help me shape my value system; share his love for his family with me; engage me intellectually and emotionally; offer his support and guidance; make me laugh?

Which of my friends has "Character" with a capital C.

I asked that question 38 years ago and knew Shiv was that friend.

I speak for many when I say that we miss him very much.

Bahram Vakil, 372-J(A) '74

What can I say about a friend I made literally in the first 15 minutes of Dosco life, with whom I shared a room every year thereafter, every midterm (including my first Mussourie trip with his beloved parents), first gurdwara visit, first extra tuck via wonderful Bachan Singh at Foot House (yes food was always a shared passion), first change in break, first busting bounds, first loves at Welhams (I think we even drafted Gajju's romantic communications to ...M...T... together!). The list is endless but suffice it to say that it reinforces, again & again, the cliché that Doon friends and memories are forever.

Through the years we always stayed in touch, sometimes more, sometimes less as Apsara & Shiv wafted in and out of Bombay but by God's and Apsara's grace (too personal and foot in mouth to elaborate!) and thanks to AK's indefatigable spirit (second only to Kishore) we spent more time together in the last few years, especially a magical (and now cherished) New Year's holiday thanks to the golden hearted Sanju, topped off with a NYC time square 31st bash and impromptu dance party at Apsara & Shiv's where school captain Rajiv decided to show his school colours thru a funky bhangra rap dance much to the dismay of his kids and most of us, only Shiv cheering him on!!

So my superbly balanced, warm hearted, full of life and sunshine smiles friend, the music, food & history (3 of your very infectious passions...football you gave up on me!) will never stop. All I have to do is look into Pavi & Avani's eyes and the spirit I have known and loved since 1970 comes shining through.

Sanjeev Kassar, 295-T(B) '74

Will share my thoughts here:

Buggus was a very big hearted guy and one who made a very good friend. He 'stepped up' for his buddies and it is no wonder that we think of him so often and miss him so much.

An interesting episode that comes to mind: In college Buggus had this girlfriend (whose Dad was not for her and Buggy dating). So the pretext for them to meet was to take on early morning tennis lessons. Well we three were in a car one morning when she spotted her Dad taking his morning walk. She asked both of us to 'duck'. Buggus was far quicker than me, because the old man did spot my hair! Needless to say, the poor girl had it when she got home!!

Apsara Mehta

Dear All,

Please forgive me if this is less than coherent, but I wanted to express what this Award means to Pavi, Avani and me. That it is presented today, on what would have been Shiv's 50th birthday, I take as a sign. As we navigate the day, missing him terribly, still struggling to deal with losing him, it enables us to remember that today is essentially a day to celebrate him.

With heartfelt gratitude,
Apsara

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THE HEADMASTER'S 2007 FOUNDER'S DAY ADDRESS



DR. KANTI BAJPAI, 264-T '72

Ladies and Gentlemen, and students of the Doon School:

Welcome to our Founder's Day celebrations.

Let me begin with a brief introduction of the **Chief guest**.

Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar is the Hon'ble Minister for Panchayati Raj, Youth Affairs and Sports, and Development of the Northeast Region in the Union Cabinet. From 2004 to 2006, he was Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas. Mr. Aiyar was born at Lahore. He studied at Welham Preparatory School and The Doon School. He went on to an Honours in Economics at St. Stephen's College, Delhi University, and topped the university. From Delhi, Mr. Aiyar moved on to Cambridge University where he did a Master's in Economics. Mr. Aiyar joined the Indian Foreign Service thereafter, and served in Brussels, Hanoi, New Delhi, Baghdad, and Karachi in various capacities. During Mr. Rajiv Gandhi's Prime Ministership, Mr. Aiyar served in the Prime Minister's Office. He sought voluntary retirement from the foreign service and entered politics. Mr. Aiyar was elected to the Lok Sabha from the Tamil Nadu constituency of Mayila-du-tharai in 1991, 1999, and 2004, and lost in 1996 and 1999. Mr. Aiyar is not just a diplomat and parliamentarian, he is also a very successful commentator and writer. Since 1989 he has written regularly for a number of newspapers and magazines. Amongst his books are *Remembering Rajiv, One Year in Parliament, Pakistan Papers, and Confessions of a Secular Fundamentalist*.

Mr. Aiyar has been a standout Parliamentarian and Minister. The Indian media, on more than one occasion, has listed him as one of the most effective Ministers in the present UPA government. **Most recently, in September 2006, Mr. Aiyar was recognized for his parliamentary attributes when he was awarded the Outstanding Parliamentarian of the Year Award for 2006.** He is widely regarded as an articulate, witty, and often combative Parliamentarian, and has stood for issues of inclusiveness, tolerance, and social justice. Speaking as an Old Boy and as someone who grew up in Tata House, it is most gratifying to have such a distinguished Old Boy from my House as Chief Guest.

May I also introduce the Board of Governors: Mr. Dhruv Sawhney is Chairman of the Board of Governors, Dr. Krishnamoorthy Srinivas has helped the school with medical and counseling issues, Mr. Ajay Shriram is Honorary Treasurer of the Board, Mr. Anajit Singh chairs the Fundraising Committee, Mr. Vikram Lal is head of the Human Resources Committee of the Board. Mr. Mahesh Sahai helps the School with financial and tax matters, Mr. Rohit Handa is the Chairman of the Architecture and Projects Committee, Mr. Ratanjit Singh helps the school with estate care and has a particular interest in the role of values in education, Mr. Gautam Chadha is President of the Old Boys Society and a Special Invitee to the Board.

It is my great pleasure to welcome all visiting parents, Old Boys, and other friends of the School who lend such colour to the occasion. May I extend a special welcome to those Old Boys who have come to celebrate their jubilees and get together. These are the batches of 1957, 1972 and 1982. My batch, the batch of 1972 is here for its 35th year, and it is very exciting for me to see

them here. I welcome back into our midst former Headmasters Gulab Ramchandani, Shomie Das, and John Mason. I would like to recognise my former teacher and a revered master of the School, Mr. Gurdial Singh, who is here every Founder's Day. Just weeks ago, he was awarded the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award for lifetime contributions to mountaineering. In his long and distinguished career, Mr. Gurdial Singh has received several awards including the Arjuna Award, Padma Shri, and the President's Gold Medal of the Indian Mountaineering Federation (IMF). I would also like to recognize another one of my former teachers and an iconic personality, Mr. Sheel Vohra, who also is here every Founder's Day. Mr. Vohra lives in Dehra Dun, and he continues to visit and help the school unstintingly when asked to do so, both on and off the sports field. Thank you, sir.

The Annual Report, in its entirety, will be on the school website. I will, therefore, turn to some of the highlights of the year. Let me begin with the Board examination results. We had an excellent year. The ISC batch averaged over 85.6% and 34 boys out of 78 scored over 90%. In the ICSE, we averaged 84.5%, and 28 boys out of 92 scored over 90%. Aditya Ajmani topped the ISC batch with an average of 96.25%. Akshit Batra topped the ICSE batch with an average of 95.4%. The ISC result is probably the best we have ever produced. The school began the IB Diploma in April of this year. We have made a reasonably good start. Boys and teachers alike are enjoying the challenge of the IB which is demanding and rigorous. Our first IB batch will take the examination in November 2008. As important as academic excellence is excellence in sports and other curricular activities. It has been a busy and fulfilling year for the school in this regard. In sports, we continue to excel at basketball. The school was runners up in four tournaments and won the Hilton Fixed Five's Tournament. Less than a week ago, it won the IPSC basketball tournament – we think for the first time ever. Several of our boys played for the state's under 16 and under 18 team in the national championships. In cricket, we played night cricket for the first time, against the Old Boys in Delhi and then again in Dehra Dun, and split the matches. Soccer is also very popular and is attracting a lot of talented junior boys. Our junior team played eight matches, winning five. Vahin Khosla scored twelve goals and got two hat-tricks. He also represented the Shimla Under 16 team in the Welsh International Super Cup in England in the summer of 2007. The squash team won both the junior and senior Uttarakhand state championships. In tennis, our boys went to semi finals of various tournaments. Abhishek Gupta and Kanav Mehra won the finals of the doubles of the under 14 category in the Uttarakhand State Ranking Tournament. Abhimanyu Chandra has just won the Under 18 Uttarakhand State Ranking Tournament. Swimming and life saving are vital skills. Eighteen out of 28 boys who appeared for the Rashtriya Life Saving Award became lifeguards and lifesavers. In the inter-house swimming competition, records continued to tumble. Oberoi House broke the 12x25 meters relay event, Vishesh Kochher broke the 100 metre breaststroke in the medium section,

and Aditya Bishnoi set a new record in the 200 metre freestyle in the medium section. In the IPSC Swimming Tournament, just a few days ago, we came second in the boys' category.

In debating, we had an outstanding year. Twenty five boys represented the school in various debates – an unprecedented number. We had emphatic wins in the Slater, Gibson, and Chuckerbutty debates. We brought back the Slater Trophy after ten years, and came second in the finals of the Frank Anthony Debate. Shikhar Singh and Ashish Mitter won a massive 18 Best Speaker Awards between them.

The Lamda Speech examinations attracted a large number of boys again. 32 boys got Distinctions and 17 got Merits. **While I am on the subject of speech you will recall that senior boys take Assembly twice a week; and boys of all forms give Assembly talks on Mondays and Saturdays. From this year, we will award a prize for the best Assembly speaker in English and Hindi. The prize is in the memory of the late Shrivindu Mehta (ex-65 J 74). His Doon School friends have given us this award, and I expect it to galvanize even greater interest in these talks.**

This year, the school got serious about the Model United Nations programme. Students represent different countries in simulated debates and discussions. Two years ago, we sent our first team to Delhi and came back second in an inter-school competition.

This year, we won at Woodstock and went to competitions in Chennai and Mumbai where we went up against teams that had been in the fray for over a decade. In September, we hosted our own MUNA competition.

Mountaineering has a great history at Doon. In the summer of 2007 our mountaineers climbed the Dhumdar Kandi Pass at 5576 metres. The Doon School became the first school to climb up to the pass.

Music attracts boys like perhaps no other activity, as you will see in a few minutes on this stage. In the inter-house music competition, over 120 boys participated, nearly one quarter of the school.

Similarly, our publications flourish. Here too, over one hundred boys are involved in everything from writing and editing to production. I know of no other school where so much publishing occurs. This year we launched a Mathematics magazine, *Infinity*. We hope it will stimulate an interest in Mathematics and will be a regular feature.

Our quiz team was very active. Led by Ashish Mitter, it won the Riverdale, RIMC, Scindia School, Gibson, and Welham Girls quizzes.

The list of House and individual awards this past year, as always, is immense. Let me just report three items. At the inter-house level, The Doon School Cup was awarded for the third time. The cup goes to the House that scores best on academics, sports and other co-curricular activities, and discipline. This year, once again, The Doon School Cup was won by Oberoi House, closely followed by Kashmir House. At the individual level, our most coveted awards are the Scholar's Blazers, Games Blazers, and Proficiency Cups. The following were awarded the Scholar's Blazer: Skand Goel, Pranay Aggarwal, Pradyot Shahi, Pulkit Baheti, Shikhar Singh, Vishnukaant Pitty, Vishesh Goel, Yash Rajiv Gandhi,

Akshay Kuar, and Akshit Batra. The Games Blazer went to the following: Rajnush Aggarwal, Abhimanyu Chandra, Tanveer Angad Singh, Jehangir Chinoy, Aditya Ajmani, Pulkit Baheti, Shubham Gupta, Dilshad Sidhu, Samay Mangalgi, Rituraj Raizada, Tanuj Bhramar, and Suryajit Singh. **Pulkit Baheti won both the Scholar's and Games Blazer, a feat which has only been done thirteen times since the School's Blazer was instituted 36 years ago. Incidentally, the first winner of both Blazers is here in the audience, my batchmate, Vinay Sheel Oberoi (ex-327 T'72). Finally, the senior Proficiency Cup was awarded to Pulkit Baheti and the junior Proficiency Cup to Sriyash Kishorepuria.**

The school continues to be involved in a variety of social and community service projects. This year the boys have worked in surrounding villages in Dandapur, Fatehpur, and Mulookchand. They built toilets, a community center, and primary school buildings. Other boys went to Ladakh where they worked in Wanla village for nearly a month. Four boys went to the nature reserve project in Forfar, Scotland, where they helped build various facilities. In April, for the first time, we sent an entire form to work in local villages for about a week so that every boy once in his school career gets the opportunity to do village development work and experience life in rural India. The new S formers, having completed their Board examinations, went to nearby communities and worked at various development projects. It was hot and demanding work, but they learned a lot about themselves and about the lives of people less fortunate than themselves. I want to thank Rahul Roy (ex-926 J '82) and Bhaskar Vira (ex-286 J '85), who gave us the idea of sending boys after the Board exams. Within the school, the boys continue to serve in various ways – at last count, we had twenty-five SUPW squads. Scores of boys are involved and learn the importance of service and working together.

Ladies and gentlemen, students, that concludes my review of some of the highlights of the year. I want to end with my thanks to those who have helped the school. This year the school has attracted a number of generous donations. I would like to take this opportunity to express our very great thanks for these gifts. **Nearly three years into our fundraising programme, we have received over thirteen crore rupees, from our Old Boys and from corporate houses.**

Before I close, may I also take this opportunity to thank the entire Doon School community for its cooperation and good humour; the students, who are the life and soul of the school, my colleagues on the teaching staff, who are tireless and dedicated to the cause, the Heads of Departments, Housemasters, and Deans, who are in the front lines every day, the Deputy Headmaster, Mr. Philip Burrett, who does so much with great good humour and understanding, the Head of Human Resources and Head of Finance, who allow us to get on with schoolmastering and, finally, the administrative, technical, and subordinate staffs, who serve the school with diligence and affection. **On behalf of the school, may I take this opportunity to thank Mr. Dhruv Sawhney for his leadership as Chairman of the Board of Governors. This is Mr. Sawhney's last Founder's day as Chairman. The School has witnessed many changes in the past five years. These would not have been possible without his experience, energy, and astuteness. Dhruv, thank you very much.**

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ADDRESS OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS



MR. DHRUV SAWHNEY, 37-K '61

Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Welcome to the Doon School's 72nd Founder's Day celebrations. Every year we gather to pay homage to the vision of the Founders of the school, led by Mr. Satish Ranjan Das. It is a time of recall but also of renewal for the school community. Mr. Das did not live to see the founding of the school, but his family and many of the original moving spirits behind the formation of the school and its establishment in Chandbagh were witness to the early years of Doon. I am confident that if they were with us here today, they would be proud of what they see.

Founder's Day is a time to reflect on what has happened in the school in the past twelve months - the achievements and changes. The Headmaster has outlined these for you in his remarks this evening.

As Chairman it is my duty to speak to you about the larger direction of the school, and this is what I have tried to do in my brief remarks to you every year. This year, I would like to share with you my thoughts over the past five years and the directions and changes we have charted in my time as Chairman of the Board of Governors.

It has been my great privilege to serve as Chairman these five years. I took over from Mr. R.C. Bhargava in December 2002, and have attempted to build on the fine legacy of my predecessors. As I hand over the baton to my successor, I thought I might place before you a review of the road we have traveled together. I could do this by listing the many initiatives that the school has taken. Instead, I have chosen to take you through our shared journey with a little "show-and-tell". The Board and the School have prepared an audio-visual review. Do take a look.

[AV presentation]

The past five years have been exciting ones for the school: we have been conscious of preserving the great traditions and values of the school while ushering in change and development where has been needed. This is never easy. I must pay tribute to the boys, masters, parents, and all other members of the community for taking these changes in their stride, indeed in being very much a part of the process as it has gone forward. I especially want to compliment the boys who have, at a young age, dealt with the disturbances to their lives with considerable maturity. The boys of Jaipur House deserve a special mention here: never in the history of the school has an entire house had to be moved out of its residential facilities and they have shown patience and good humour. Boys, there is a little more disturbance ahead, but as Doscocs I know you will adjust with your customary good sense and practicality.

Before I say a few words about Mr. Aiyar, I would like to record my most sincere thanks to all those I have worked with since 2002 in taking the school forward. I could go further back of course, to my days as President of the Doon School Old Boys' Society and as a Governor before I became Chairman, but that would turn this into the Oscar or Grammy ceremonies you see on television!

Let me begin with my fellow Governors on the Board and those who have been on it in the past 5 years. You have all been such a great support to the school and to me as Chairman. These are

all people of eminence in their fields of endeavour and lead very busy lives, yet they have given of their time and have been extremely closely involved with school matters, with virtually all of them participating in subcommittees of the Board at one time or another.

Let me also thank members of the Indian Public Schools' Society or IPSS who are the "shareholders" as it were of the school. Many of them come regularly to the general meetings of the Society and have been a wonderful source of ideas, encouragement, and support.

Then there are the Old Boys of the school who remain so attached to Doon. We have the most energetic and loyal group of Old Boys whose love of school is legendary. No school has more affectionate and thoughtful alumni.

The school's daily work and maintenance is in the hands of the non-teaching staff, many of whom have been with the school for many years. Their diligence and love for the school is a source of stability, and they deserve our thanks in making the campus secure and comfortable

Most importantly, let me thank the boys and masters. The school is run for the boys, but at Doon, uniquely, it is also in considerable part run by the boys. The masters are the heart of any school. If the school does well, it is because the masters are professionally competent and caring. Over the past five years, in particular, I have had many fine interactions with the masters, and they have been generous with their feedback and cooperation. We have an excellent group of masters, 35% of whom are lady masters, and I am proud to have been associated with them. I wish you all luck and the very best in all your future endeavours.

If someone asked me what was my foremost achievement in the last five years I would have no hesitation in saying that it was to get Dr Kanti Bajpai to join as Headmaster. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with Kanti, and we made a good team. He really has been the central point in our success, and will be in the year to come. Thank you Kanti.

I will hand over the Chairmanship in a few hours, but will always hold the school dear. The school gave me a lot as a boy and has given me the great privilege of serving it as a Governor and Chairman. No Old Boy could ask for more.

The members of the IPSS have chosen Mr Analjit Singh to take over as the new Chairman after Founders. We could not have made a better choice. Manu, you have my very best wishes.

It is time now to hear our Chief Guest. The Headmaster has introduced Mr. Aiyar to you. Let me just say that I was delighted when he accepted our invitation. I could not have asked for a better finale to my term as Chairman than to have my friend and senior at Doon (and Cambridge) as Chief Guest today. Mani has had a very distinguished career, is a passionate and outspoken politician, and a gifted and entertaining speaker. I first found this out when I heard him speak at a Cambridge University Union debate in 1962, and you will no doubt all agree with me in the next twenty minutes or so.

Mani, may I now invite you to address us.

Founder's Day, 2007
Chief Guest's Address



Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar, 55-T '57

Governor Dhruv Sawhney, Members of the Board of Governors, Headmaster Kanti Bajpai, my young friends and spiritual successors at the School, my fellow classmates, parents, ladies and gentlemen,

To be a Doon School boy, is privilege enough, but to be invited to deliver the Founder's Day Address – and that too on the Golden Jubilee of one's class, is surely indulgence *in extremis*. My grateful thanks to the Governor and the Board and to the Headmaster for this rare honour. A few years ago, a Doon School Old Boy, much more distinguished than I can ever hope to be, stood at this podium and explained why he had had such a miserable time at School. I think all of us would concede that five years here is not "*Roses, roses all the way! With myrtle mixed in my path like mad*". (I owe that quote to a poem taught me here by a great and unforgettable teacher, Mr. S.P. Sahi). For one thing, adolescence is a terribly difficult time and to have to cope with it without the reassurance of a familiar home friendly parents is a challenge enough. Add the army of tyrannical School Captains, House Captains, Prefects and Monitors, in descending order of tyranny, and one begins to sympathise with those burdened by cowering loneliness. With that, mix the agony of those like me who were hopeless at sports, in a stifling atmosphere where brawn was certainly celebrated over brain, and the poison of remembrance starts rising in one's throat. And overlaying it all, the oppressive absence of girls just when all kinds of unknown hormones have started sloshing around one's system – and one knows why any true recollection of one's days at Doon cannot be those of Elysium remembered.

Then ask oneself how it is that if there was so much unhappiness, oppression, injustice and deprivation through those critical formative years, **what is it that brings back so many of us to this Golden Jubilee celebration of our Class of '57? Why do we talk so fondly of the years we spent in these sylvan surroundings** – so "pleasing to the eye and soothing to the mind" as I remember Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, later President of India, saying when he was Chief Guest at our Founder's day in 1954, and I a wide eyed 13 year old C former? **What makes us feel so special?** I, of course, came a cropper for feeling special when I went to a supervision (which is what they archly call a tutorial at Cambridge) wearing my Old Boy's blazer. My crusty supervisor took one look at my badge and sourly asked, "What is that?" "The lamp of knowledge", I proudly replied. "A pity," he retorted "they didn't light it while you were at school!" I still think I had the better of the exchange; for, after all, I was a Doon School boy – and he a mere Cambridge don!

To return to my initial question; what is it that makes so many of us – I would say almost all of us – agree that we had a rotten time here, which has left us with so many fond memories and such sweet nostalgia that we have returned a la *recherché d'un temps perdu* – which for those of you who did not attend Mrs. Sahi's French Classes, means "In search of a time gone by". I daresay there are as many individual reasons for this as there are Old Boys. But distilling the essence, I would hazard the suggestion that three or four causes are common to all of us.

First, the teachers. True, there were some bad 'uns. I remember one particularly aggravated Hindi teacher screaming at a Hindi-hopeless Tamil classmate of mine: "Murugappan, I do not want to hit you. I want to kill you. Blood! Blood! Blood!" (All, incidentally, in impeccable English!) But part from the occasional ink-pot, thrown but missed to the vast amusement of the rest of us who were not the target, there were some compensations in going up to another Hindi teacher who had spent his holidays in the Gir Forest to ask what he had seen. "Loins", he would reply and every one of us followed up with, "And how big, Sir, were the loins?" and got the innocent reply, "Very, very big loins." He never quite understood why all of us wanted to know.

But, all in all, it was, in a word, the most outstanding assemblage of teachers ever gathered in one place. It is, therefore, no accident that my class immediately and unanimously decided that our first Golden Jubilee contribution should be towards commissioning a Doon School Old Girl, the sculptor Latika Katt (daughter of our Biology teacher, Mr. B.S. Sharma, who never quite understood our obsessive interest in the properties of Vitamin E – and if you don't know what those are, you are no Doon School boy!) to do a bust of a Holdy, pipe in mouth, to adorn the new pavilion that is coming up on the edges of this Main Field. Nor any accident that our second contribution is to honour the greatest Headmaster of our generation, John Martyn, in whose memory a school for the less privileged is being run on the lines of our own *alma mater*. Nor, indeed, any happenstance that our third contribution is to the Shivalik Fund for scholarships for the children of Doon School Masters and, unlike us the lucky ones, kids born with a plastic spoon or no spoon at all in their mouths.

This is the occasion for us to pay tribute to all those great teachers of our time who are no more with us – Messers. Jack Gibson' Sudhir Khastagir; old Gombar (despite some curious goings-on) and Webb, the New Zealander who taught us English for a while; the ambidextrous S.K. Roy; K.B. Sinha; V.N. Kapur and O.P. Malhotra; Kunzru and Nair; Ghushti and Gupta of the chemistry class; Viji Hensman; Shirodkar and Deshpande at the Music School; Joshi at Kashmir House; Kishore Lal of the carpentry shop and Mumtaz, I think his name was, the book binder; Sister Gibbs at the hospital, Mela Ram, the photographer ("Ishmile Pliss"); Darshan Singh in the boxing ring – and those I have already mentioned. As also those other great teachers of our time who are happily still with us – the "*paanwala gang*", chaired by Dr.S.D. Singh for the largest number of paans consumed in a single life time; the Hindi litterateur who has made possible a career for me in our gravely *Rashtrabhasa*-titled politics – Dr. H.D. Bhatt 'Sailesh' (some of whose short stories I translated as a school boy into English and who, in turn, translated my melodramatic adolescent outpourings into Hindi); Rathin Mitra at the Art School, and many, many others; above all, the immortal Gurdial Singh whom I had the honour, as the country's most unlikely and undeserving Sports Minister ever, to select this year for the Tenzing Norgay Award for lifetime achievement. **For Indian Mountaineering was born in The**

Doon School and made possible only because of the tremendous imagination, leadership and grit of the great Guru.

When I contrast this galaxy of greats with schools that I know where the Principal comes drunk to Assembly, the Headmaster turns out to be a serial molester, and the Housemaster a thief, **one knows what makes the Doon School the Doon School is, first and almost last, its Masters and Staff. Thank you all for the great start in life you gave all of us.**

The other great institution which has left a mark of a life time on each one of us and rough-hewn the destinies which we have been later left to hone for ourselves is morning Assembly. If secularism is the hallmark of a Doon School education its origins lie in the eclectic collection of non-denominational prayers and songs with which we started every working day, the thanks we were taught to give:

For hills to climb and hard work to do

For all skill of hand and eye

For music that lifts our hearts to heaven

And for the hand-grasp of a friend

Remember? And can you hear over the waves of time the deep and sonorous baritone of Headmaster John Arthur King Martyn subtly imbuing us with all that is of the best and the brightest in our tradition and the heritage of humankind? More, I think, than anything we were taught from text books, it was the profound and eclectic lessons learned through our pores, as it were, in Assembly that have lasted longest with us, permeating our thoughts and actions with those instinctive values which make us citizens we have, by and large, turned out to be.

Third, I believe, is the lessons we were taught in the dignity of labour. We all came from extraordinarily privileged families. Few of us were required to look after even ourselves at home. It was an era of servants by the dozen and pampering for the asking. The School could easily have degenerated into a haven for neo-feudals, as so many sister institutions in India and Pakistan had indeed become. I think it was making our own beds, polishing our own shoes, compulsory labour – “quota work” as we then called it – and Tunwala that saved our souls. That – and fending for ourselves in the midst of mindless bullying, petty tyranny and the proud man’s contumely – that gave us the inner strength to face fact that it was even tougher at School made for a successful launch. I wish there were gentler ways of doing it but I wouldn’t know of any.

Fourth, a sense of community – a sense of community that is both exclusive and inclusive. The exclusion is the sense of superiority over all those who fall outside the walls of Chandbagh. It gives us Doscocs our well deserved notoriety for snobbery and conceit. It gives us our inestimable self-confidence, the belief, not unjustified that the world is our for the taking. (When I went up to St. Stephen’s, some guy said he couldn’t stand Doscocs. When I asked why, he said, “You chaps walk around this place as if you own it.” I replied, “We don’t. Neither do you. So why don’t you walk around as if you own it?”) The inclusivity comes from there being perfect equality of treatment and opportunity within these sacred walls. For there were among us and I daresay still are, ridiculously rich scions of princely families and fattened calves of industrial magnates, children of the powerful, the famous and the merely vainglorious. But because we all received the same pocket-money and had to do ourselves the same menial tasks and competed with each other on a level playing-field with no favourites and no nepotism, it bred in us, I think a belief in equality and equity, of justice and fair play, for enduring conviction that “*It matters not who won or lost/But how you played the game*”. It also inured most of us from the temptations of corruption. If success has come to so many Doon School boys – and I think we can claim over the last 72 years to have produced more men (and a few women) of distinction in a wider variety of fields of human endeavour per capita than any other School in the country, I think that has a great deal to do with rigours of our adolescence and the timeless and universal value system pumped into our blood stream by the best Masters the country and our generation had to offer.

Can any one of us forget Holdy’s injunction to cultivate the “bold, inquisitive Greek spirit” or his astonishment at finding our class, one month before our Senior Cambridge exams, failing to react to his remark, “*Let the punishment fit the crime/punishment fit the crime.*”

On learning that none of us had heard the verse, he put aside all our books and over the next three days sang for us in his cracked voice the Whole of Gilbert and Sullivan’s opera, *The Mikado!* Or Sahi reading out from some poor unfortunate’s Sunday essay on “Water”: “Human beings need water to live. So do animals. Without water, we would all die” – and more in the same vein, then throwing the note book back at the author crying, “*Hai paani! Hai paani!*”

I have but one recommendation to make as the School veers towards its Platinum Jubilee. When I was here, girls were a rumour. The cruelest irony was that Welham Girls started up only in my last term – and I had to wait till the 4x400 girls relay on this Main Field to discover what made them so deliciously different from us. When I eventually founded my family, I had three girls - all of whom went to a co-educational school, inferior in every respect to The Doon School except in that they learned about the opposite sex when they needed to. Our deprivation distorted all of us. I am glad none of my daughters is slated to marry a Doon School boy. For all the Doscocs wives here would agree that we are totally mixed-up inside! So my final plea to you is: make the School co-educational. I think this complex of Hyderabad and Kashmir House would make a perfect girls’ hostel – besides the incidental advantage of reducing the H-House and K-House boys! (My T-House fellow, the Headmaster, would agree that this would considerably raise the tone of the School! (*boos and applause!*) When my eldest was born, I wrote to Headmaster Martyn and asked him whether I might expect Doon to become a co-ed by the time she reached the age of eleven. He replied to say he hoped it would. Now, three long decades later, the School still remains a unisexual Victorian relic. I hope the Board of Governors will summon up courage to make the ‘great change’ by the Platinum Jubilee! I urge them to do so.

I emerged from School a red-hot Marxist (-like Mukul Chhatwal in yesterday’s Hindi play). Others had a more intelligent reaction. I have since moderated my views (again like Mukul Chhatwal in yesterday’s play). So, I am sure, have my classmates. **But on one point we are all agreed: it was great to have been here, a miracle to have survived, and a trauma we recall with affection and gratitude.**

“Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive

But to be young was very Heaven!”

Thank you, School. And thank you to all who made this possible. Jai Hind!

THE 10TH DSOBS INTER-HOUSE GOLF
[By Ranjan Bhalla, 368-J' 72]

The 10th Inter-House Golf Tournament was successfully held at **Golden Greens Golf & Country Club, Gurgaon on 29th September, 2007.**

Two Tee-Off's (at 7.30 a.m. and 1 p.m.) were arranged, with record participation of 71 Golfers in the morning and 87 golfers in the afternoon totaling a record 158 participants.

Gen TB Nanda, 173-T, 1941 was the oldest (and probably the best dressed) participant, whereas Chirag Nangia, 537-K, 2007 was the youngest.

Each 4-ball competed not only for Inter-House honours, but also had prizes for Closest to Pin (2 Holes), Longest Drive and Straightest Drive. In addition, the best golfer for each decade was also awarded a prize.

The Golf was followed by a Prize Distribution Dinner at the Hotel ITC Maurya, New Delhi, where close to 400 DoscOs & their better halves attended. 70 Non Golfing DoscOs also attended the Dinner. The hotel surpassed itself, yet again.

Thanks to Teachers 50 Scotch, Cobra beer and a range of other spirits, the merry-making continued till almost 2 a.m. with the DJ belting out foot-tapping music.

This tournament has evolved continuously over it's previous 9 editions, and is now a much anticipated event on the Dosco Calendar. We have people like Chitranjan Bakshi, 24-J, 1966, Gautam Chadha, 389-H, 1971 and Gurmeet Singh, 883-T, 1982, to thank for initiating & thereafter sustaining this event. Small momentos were presented to all three on behalf of the Dosco Golfer community, as a token of appreciation of their unflagging efforts.

Other Prizes were as follows:-

THE SHEEL SHARMA PRIZE FOR

Rajiv Khanna (126-J/1971) 295 Yards

THE LONGEST DRIVE:

THE PRIZE FOR THE STRAIGHTEST DRIVE:

Rajiv Nanda (576-T/1980) (On the line) with honourable mention Kapil Bhalla (214-H/1972) – 4"

THE PRIZE FOR THE CLOSEST TO PIN:

Donny Singh (878-T/1982) 6'5" (12 hole) with honourable mention Vivek Sehgal (402-J/1986) 6' 9"

Decadial Prizes :

| | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-------------------|--------------|
| 1937–1949 | JM Khanna | (36-J/1944) | |
| 1950's | - | Vishnudharee Lall | (183-K/1958) |
| 1960's | - | Shivinder Singh | (324-H/1965) |
| 1970's | - | Arun Khanna | (90-H/1973) |
| 1980's | - | Arun Murugappan | (272-T/1985) |
| 1990's | - | Virajjit Singh | (461-K/1993) |
| 2000's | - | Dhanurdhar Bhalla | (446-H/2006) |

Bawa Vikram Singh Trophy for Best Gross Scores

| | | | |
|------------|---|------------------|--------------|
| Runners up | - | Amitav Virmani | (260-J/1991) |
| Winner | - | Ajai Denis Kapur | (148-H/1958) |

Yetindra Rana Trophy for Best Net Score

| | | | |
|------------|---|------------------|--------------|
| Runners Up | - | Nauhar Rana | (375-J/1986) |
| Winner | - | Shiv Kunal Verma | (182-H/1976) |

The Inter-House Trophy

| | |
|--|---|
| 5th Place (Due to inadequate representation) | Oberoi House |
| 4th Place 123 points | Tata House |
| 3rd Place 124 points | Kashmir House |
| Runners Up with 135 Points | Jaipur House |
| | [Nauhar Rana (375-J/1986)/Udayan Lall (140-J/1967)/Amitav Virmani (260-J/1991)/Praveer Sodhi(191-J/1972)] |

With compliments from

Kanwar Prem Lal, 155-H '43

Kanwar Vipin Malhotra, 157-H '76

Armaan Malhotra, 157-H

Winners with a staggering 147 Points

Hyderabad House

[Ajai Denis Kapur (148-H/1958)/Vijay Sehgal (201-H/1958)/Harsh Gupta (453-H/1987)/Shiv Kunal Verma (182-H/1976)].

We also honoured the following:

Oldest Golfer on the Course : Gen T.B. Nanda (173-T/1941)
Youngest Golfer : Chirag Nangia (537-k/2007)
"Honesty is the best Policy Award" : Vijay Sehgal (201-H/1958) for voluntarily correcting his handicap

Wooden Spoon Fourball : Singh Paramdeep 245-K 1985
Singh Jaswinder 344-J 1986
Sehgal Vivek 402-J 1986
Suri Deepak 930-K 1982

We would like to thank American Express, Financial Advisory Services (Golf Sponsors); Western Union (Co-Sponsors), Cholamandalam DBS, & Parrys (Dinner Sponsors).

We also received support from 17 Corporates – DSCL Fenesta, Shell India, Max India Ltd., Eicher Motors, M.W. Mines, Asahi India, Gopal Group, Religare Wealth Management, Class of 1982, Class of 1976, Hero Cycles, Royal Caribbean Cruises, Tex Zippers, Krishna Maruti, Ranbaxy Fortis, Fortis Healthcare – who sponsored a Hole each, and from Teachers 50, Cobra Beer, Reebok, Pepsi, ITC Fortune Park Hotels, Hotel ITC Maurya, ITC Wills Lifestyle and Chowk, all of whom supported the event by contributing beverages/giveaways etc.. Shivinder Singh (324H-1965) yet again donated a "Firefox" bike for the winner which was duly ridden around the hotel banquet hall! Taylormade generously provide some of their Golf Equipment for prizes and Jet Airways gave two tickets for Best Gross & Best Net Score winners. Individual DoscOs like, Rajesh Wadhwa, Arvind "Tappu" Prasad, Jayat Singh, Gobinder "Gobi" Chopra gave Rescue Clubs, Putter & Free Stay Vouchers, to add to a huge prize kitty.

On behalf of the organisers, I would like to end this report on a slightly serious note.

Some of the score-cards received, appeared to have been examples of "Wishful Thinking". The Dosco community is known for their principled and upright stand in matters such as this, and anything less than this, is unacceptable to the community at large. Going forward, we would urge everybody to please be very careful while recording/signing their cards.

Golf is after all a gentlemen's game!

ATTENTION GIBSON AND GOLF LOVERS THE GIBSON CENTENARY CELEBRATION GOLF Ranjan Bhalla, 388-J '72, Sports Sub-Committee

2008 is being celebrated as **Gibson's birth centenary year**. Amongst the events planned by the Doon and Mayo alumni to celebrate this is a **Golf Tournament** slated for **Sunday, March 2, 2008**. **Each team will comprise of one Dosco and one Mayoite**. Gibson was born on March 3, 1908.

We are in dire need of sponsors not merely for the event but for each of the 18 holes. The Golf Sponsor pays Rs.2 lacs and gets 6 signages of 8' x 3' plus 2 at registration point and 1 each at 1st hole, 9th hole, 10th hole, 18th hole. Each Hole Sponsor pays Rs.15,000/- per hole and gets 2 signages of 8' x 3' at Tee-Off and Green of sponsored Hole.

We would be grateful if anyone amongst the alumni or their contacts can sponsor the event/holes.



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The 6th Gibson Goodwill Cup, 2007 [By Ranjan Bhalla, 368-J '72]

The 6th Gibson Goodwill Cup 2007 was held at Classic Golf Resorts on 15th December, 2007.

25 Teams (50 Golfers) each from Mayo and Doon faced off for what is a fiercely competitive event, yet played in a spirit of true sportsmanship & goodwill. The day was bright and sunny, with a bit of breeze – ideal golfing weather, on a Course which had re-opened after a 14 month Lock-out. Despite this, the Classic Course was looking beautifully maintained – our many thanks/congratulations to Ravi Puri/Col. Narinder Singh & the entire Classic Team, for working so hard to ensure a perfect tournament.



The Doon and Mayo teams at the 6th Gibson Goodwill Golf Tournament

Team Doon retained the Gibson Cup, 2nd year running with a 14 ½ to 10 ½ scoreline. While this appears to be a comfortable final score, we must hasten to add that 6 of the matches were decided on the last hole, and had a major bearing on the final score.

Col A.K. Khanna (being the seniormost Dosco present) received the fabulous Gibson Goodwill Cup from Gen. Aditya Singh (being the seniormost Mayoite present) at the prize distribution dinner held on 16th December at Sheraton Hotel, Saket, New Delhi.

2008 is Gibson's Birth Centenary Year, and several events are being jointly planned by Doon/Mayo Alumni to celebrate this.

The individual prize winners were as follows :-

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---|----------------------------|-----------|
| Straightest Drive | - | Deepinder S. Kullar (Doon) | 1' 5" |
| | | Gen Aditya Singh (Mayo) | 2" |
| Closest to Pin | - | Arvind Sethi (Mayo) | 2' 5" |
| | | Rajiv Sikand (Doon) | 2' 9" |
| Longest Drive | - | Pranav Shah (Doon) | 340 Yards |
| | | Samvit Chopra (Doon) | 310 Yards |
| Gibson "Fairplay" Awards | - | Gautam Nair (Mayo) | |
| | | Jayant Kochhar (Mayo) | |
| | | Kabir Advani (Mayo) | |

Three cheers for Team Doon & Team Mayo for making this a fabulous event year after year.

See you at the Gibson Centenary Cup, 2008.

Col. A.K. Khanna accepting the Gibson Goodwill Cup on behalf of Team Doon from Gen. Aditya Singh (Mayo). →



Rollicking rendezvous

It was a three-day event infused with passion, energy, emotions and, of course, fun. The occasion? Silver jubilee for the Batch of 1982 of The Doon School



BACK TO SCHOOL: 82' batch DoscOs with their headmaster

Sharmila Chand

What do you get when you cross perfect mannerisms, decent disposition, above average intelligence sprinkled with dollops of simplicity? You get one amazing product called a 'DOSCO'. And what do you get when you make 70 odd DoscOs meet after 25 years? A 'fest' of its own kind, a rollicking rendezvous infused with passion, energy, emotions and, of course, fun.

Silver Jubilee 2007 for the Batch of 1982 of Doon School was indeed a reunion worth talking about. It drew several old boys of Doon School, including this reporter, who was on a high throughout simply as a keen observer of so much gushing of adrenalin over three days.

Right from staying together, yapping away the whole night, bringing the roof down with loads of laughter, hitting the 24-hour bar, setting the dance floor on fire with full blast music and most amaz-

ing DJs, lots of item numbers, putting together the most exclusive memorabilia, every single activity spoke volumes of the effort put in by the team mates.

Old memories resurfaced, secrets got blatantly exposed and most of all, power, glory, achievements, acclaim, perks and promotions came tumbling down....because here every single 82' Dosco was embracing the other one sans his personal position in life. He was that same kid with 25 years old nickname and

looked as playful, as vulnerable, as innocent. Sizes really didn't matter! There was one single denominator to identify - the 'Dosco Crown' that each one wore with a definite ease.

And here I cannot miss out one special Dosco who not only graced the occasion with his thoughtful speech but merged with the happenings in the most unobtrusive manner. And this was none other than union minister, Mani Shankar Aiyar - who didn't seem in the mood to leave the dance floor. That's the spirit we are talking about.

The incredible memorabilia so thoughtfully designed is worth mentioning. It not only included T-shirts and jackets with names of every 82' batch Dosco but also had the most amazing coffee mugs with the picture of the school main building etched on it. What perhaps made the eyes wet was the audio-visual movie showing the boys in real action 25 years ago. It had to be played twice to enjoy those playful moments. And remember those 5 friends of the batch, the brave young men

who are no more in this world. What a beautiful idea it was to plant a tree in their memory which will always make their presence felt in the school environs. And the curtains came down with a chorus of *Lab pe aati hai...*, song number 11 from the songbook of the school. Their music teacher taught them well, indeed!

While every single '82 Dosco needs to be thanked for being able to join, even if it meant crossing the Atlantic or several seas, there is one 'Little Assassin' - 'Innocent Appearance But Deadly Finisher' - everybody's 'DONNY' who proved what a class rep can do. Well done, Donny! Well done, 82' batch DoscOs!

CITIZEN REPORTER

GET HEADY WITH A WORLD OF CHOICES

Potpourri is hosting a musical evening to raise funds for underprivileged children, supported by Khushi.

Please join Mrigya and Shibani Kashyap for an eclectic evening of music, drinks and dinner on 29th November at 8 p.m.

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- * On minimum order of Rs. 1000 at Nirula's FSR, get a FREE 500ml Ice Cream Tub.
- * Organise a birthday party at Nirula's FSR, get a 20% discount on birthday cake and 10% discount on food bill.

Of Clubs, People and Books

By

Gautam Vohra [154-H '63]

The focus of attention of **The Fellow Travellers [the Class of '63]** during their September get-together was **Harish Tripathi** who has been penalized for exposing corruption. Disturbed by the manner in which the executive committee had been permitting the construction of unauthorized structures within the Gymkhana Club premises, he decided to oppose it. For his pains Harish has been suspended. As Madhulika said, after 40 years of active participation, Harish has been debarred from entering 2, Safdarjang Road.

The petition that Harish had filed under the Right to Information Act got the Land and Development Office into the act which investigated the club premises and discovered not only misuse of leased land but unauthorized commercial and business establishments on it. The L&DO imposed a fine of Rs 74 lakhs on the club. This fine will be borne by the members as indeed they did with regard to Rs 4 crores imposed by the same office in 2000.

Not content with the L&DO's response to his complaints, **Harish has taken the matter up with the Central Information Commission headed by Wajahat Habibullah [Class of '62]. It's a shame that our classmate should be banned from a club which has been a second home to him.** My earliest memories of Delhi are intertwined with the club, mostly happy, some embarrassing. I remember a week after I had joined St Stephen's, a senior from college spotted me in the swimming pool, and made me bowl imaginary balls to him in my swimming trunks while he smashed each towards the lovely lady daintily sipping nimbu-pani and laughing at our antics. Not too long ago, The Fellow Travellers met at the small bar and posed for a snap for the Rosebowl to be scolded by a lady member with "Don't you know you can't take photographs in the bar?"

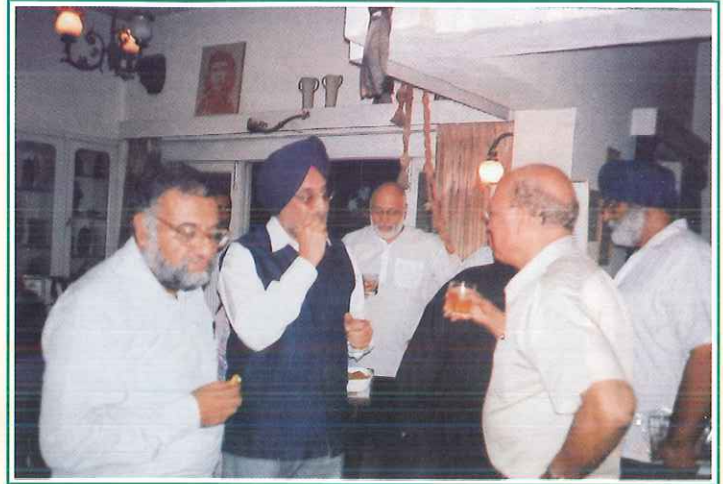
The mood of the September gathering lightened when Tejeshwar took the floor. All the ladies [Mehvash, Vini, Swaraj] were keen to know how he had made a success of 'Sage' publishing. The other popular man was **Woody** that evening which was attended also by **Harish Sood** who brought for me N. N. Taleb's book "Fooled by Randomness" that discusses the role of chance in life and the markets.

At **Sunit and Harpal Singh's party** for those who were at school during the sixties, I wanted to test Taleb's thesis on Binder who invests in the share bazaar, the thesis being that those who win big are 'lucky fools,' the clever, calculating ones aim at remaining in the middle, not winning much, nor losing much; the more daring get knocked out. I never got a chance to ask him as I got busy savouring the mutton chops, Surmai with a succulent sauce, prawns.....



The daring four

Sudhir Sahi, Ramji Narayanan, Gautam Vohra and Harish Tripathi. In November, The Fellow Travellers attended Ramji's sixtieth birthday organized by his daughters Medha and Lavanya. Many of us have celebrated it this year. Didn't Elliot say "I grow old, I grow old, I shall wear the bottom of my trousers rolled", or something to that effect.



That's the point

Ramji, Harpal Singh, Alok Chandola, the author Murad Baig, Surinder Singh



Did you know?

Mehvash, Woody, Ajai, Madhulika Tripathi



Have you heard this one?

Vini Vohra, Usha Tankha, Ramji

Despite the fact that **Shiv Inder Singh [Class of '65]** has maintained a lean frame, he kept away from the dining table. After IIT Delhi, he obtained a diploma from the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade and left to work in the Far East : Taiwan, Korea, Hong Kong. He is selling bicycles now and bemoaned the fact that it would be a cinch to sell them in China while back home it was an uphill task.

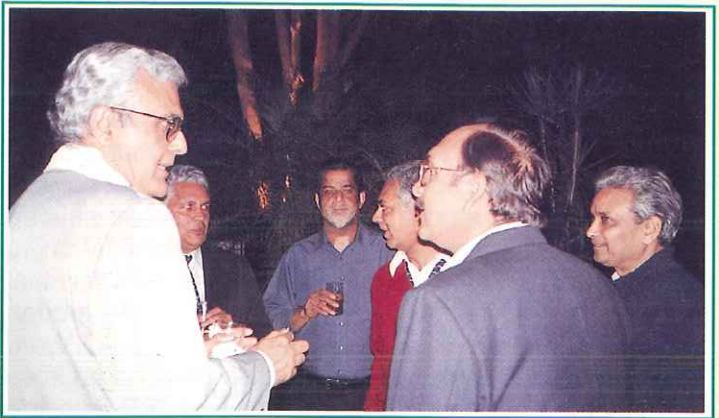
Well, the Chinese provide a special lane for cyclists in their cities. In Beijing you see swarms of them pedalling determinedly alongside vehicular traffic on all major thoroughfares. In Indian urban centres there is no such space for cyclists who are constantly under threat of being run over by buses, trucks, cars scooters, not to mention the occasional *bael - gadi*

Indrave Mann [Class of '62], who has recently visited China, spoke admiringly of its modern infrastructure. All of us who have been to Shanghai, Beijing and other cities along the east coast, and central China, have been similarly impressed. But, like India, China too has an enormous population that lives below the poverty line. Indrave mentioned the freedom to travel anywhere in China. True, there is no one to stop you from visiting any corner of the country. But transport to the western regions, where destitution is rampant, is not easy to come by. We found that out during our trip.

Deepak Nirula [Class of '68] too has been on the move. He was in Montreal. Unlike his Egypt trip this one was not a holiday jaunt. He went to admit his daughter into McGill University where she will train to be a lawyer. Like us at Doon and later at university, she will form friendships that will last a lifetime. Indeed, **Sumanjit** related anecdotes from his visit to Malvern, his old school in England, after 43 years. Life there was an extension of Doon, except that his accent was cause for much mirth. On this occasion he was asked to give a short speech. He bought the house down with his imitation of Peter Sellers. For when he joined the school, no matter how immaculate his diction, his classmates invariably replied in an Indian accent. Sumanjit reminded his listeners that soon enough the largest number of English speakers would be in India and thenceforth we would dictate the way it is spoken.

As on the previous occasion, **the largest number of DSOBS presidents were present at Harpal's party, the host having been one himself. They included Darshan, Sumanjit, Deepak, Nitán, Ajay Shriram, Bishnoi and Gautam Chadha.** I may have missed out a couple.

One of the president's mentioned, not without a sense of pride, that the number of Doscós in mainstream politics was increasing. I drew attention to the book by B.Raman, a former intelligence officer, who has written "The Kaoboy's of R&AW" which has insights on **Rajiv Gandhi** and his brother **Sanjay [Class of '63]**. It has praise for the former for tackling Khalistan and J&K terrorism through his support of the strategies pursued by IB and R&AW.



President to President

Darshan Singh, Timki Brar, Anang Uday Singh Deo, Ajay S. Shriram, Harish Jain

Like his mother, Rajiv extended assistance to the freedom movements of the Africans and enabled them to build their intelligence services. Not all the early leaders fulfilled the promise of ushering in a new dawn: Julius Nyerere, Kwame Nkrumah, Jomo Kenyatta, Kenneth Kaunda, Patrice Lumumba, Hastings Banda as well as Nasser, Senghor, Houphouet-Boigny and Sekou Toure. As the first generation of nationalist leaders they promised much and much was expected of them. In the initial years it seemed that they would deliver. Almost none did. Instead they and their cronies got fat by looting the country. One-party dictatorships were installed to ensure that they continued to maintain their stranglehold on power. While the leaders' tribe gained, the rest of the people were denied their basic rights.

This is well documented in the British journalist Martin Meredith's "The State of Africa" where he goes into some detail describing the disturbing phenomenon of ethnic and tribal violence that erupts in Africa ever so often. Those who want to come to grips with modern Africa can do no better than to go through Meredith's book.

We are in search of our class expert on Africa. At every get-together of The Fellow Travellers the same query is raised: "Where is Chuck?" The last we heard, **Ashok Chakravarti** had taken up an UN assignment in Sudan. From what I could make out, he had shifted, bag and baggage from Zimbabwe, to his new country by adoption, and since then there has been no news of our man Chuck.

Harish Jain [Class of '62] gave us the good news that he is building an eleven-room house in Mussoorie and that a couple of them will be reserved for Doscós. As a boy I used to visit it every summer because my grandparents were living in a bungalow called Hollywood in Happy Valley, where the IAS Academy is now located. For a couple of years I even joined the Convent of Jesus and Mary where I first met the Kapurthala lads, who subsequently I would bump into at Doon.

My earliest memories are associated with Mussoorie where along with my cousin **Satyendra [Karan] Deva [Class of '66]**, we would undertake escapades as members of the Famous Five. Our heroes were Robin Hood and Rob Roy and we would invent situations to emulate them. Later on the Westerns would pre-occupy us: Max Brand and Zane Grey would define our world



The show is the thing

From left, Sumanjit Chaudhary, Anu Kohli, Tejeshwar Singh, Vikram Thapar, Renu Kohli

and thereafter the Three Musketeers of Alexander Dumas and the Scarlet Pimpernel of Baroness Orczy

The two Indias [reminiscent of Disraeli's two Englands two centuries ago] that some of us in the media and the voluntary sector have drawn attention to from time to time, is now common currency. Policy makers, our political leaders, discuss shining India and the not so shining one at every forum, reaffirming their determination to enable the hitherto marginalized to secure a better deal through the promotion of the inclusive growth model. So, you say, there is a lot of talk. What's new? Wait. There are two DoscOs who have taken steps to address this issue. **Sunil Kant Munjal [Class of '73]** with the help of the Confederation of Indian Industry and **Mani Shankar Aiyar [Class of '57]** with the help of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, have set up rural business hubs that have created jobs in the neglected regions of the country. At a recent conference several participants demonstrated through slide presentations how they have been able to do so in the Northeastern states, and Uttaranchal.

The disparities in our country are becoming increasingly difficult to accept. Quoting the Arjun Sen Gupta committee report, Mani said that 83% of Indians live on less than Rs 20 a day. This is a more frightening figure than the one usually cited, that 300 million Indians live on a dollar a day. At the other end of the spectrum we have the fourth largest number of billionaires and the eighth largest number of millionaires. The money spent on the foreign education of the Indian middle class is equal to the establishing of 15 IITs each year.

We have constantly been lulled into complacency with statements like: widening inequalities have always been equated with economic growth; that growth is a tide that lifts all boats. This won't do. Not any longer, with the suicide of farmers continuing apace.

The other night I was watching the film, "Dancing at Lughnasa" with Meryl Streep, set in the wild beauty of Donegal, Ireland, where the protagonist observes. "Then I was young and foolish, And now I am full of tears" and goes on to sing the Isle of Capri song that we used to sing during our mid-term breaks, its words very different to the ones I could recall: "In the isle of Capri where he found her, Under the shade of an old walnut tree, Oh I can see the flowers all around her...."

The protagonist says of the heroine something to the effect of her dancing as if her body surrendered to music, which reminded me of our student days in the London of the sixties visiting Café des Artistes and Les Enfants Terribles. It also recalled to me the atmosphere of abandon captured by **Amitav Ghosh [Class of '72]** in his first book "**The Circle of Reason**" when he describes Zhagloul who "began slowly turning in the center of the ring with short, quick steps.....The claps came in

sharp..... In response, the jerking, twitching movement of Zhagloul's hips quickened, too,...the upper part of his body became more and more rigid and still....his arms flexed above him, his torso motionless, his waist pulsating, hammering, in a movement both absolutely erotic and absolutely abstract, both love-making and geometry...."

"**In An Antique Land**", published six years later, Amitav is at a wedding, when a girl begins to dance and the author captures her movements and mood in similar words: "The crowd pressed closer with the quickening of the beat.....the girl in response, raised an arm and flexed it above her head....Gradually, the beat grew quicker... and in response her torso froze into stillness, while her hips and her waist moved ever faster, in exact counterpoint, in a pattern of movement that became a perfect abstraction of eroticism, a figurative geometry of lovemaking...."

The dancers in the discotheques we visited as students in the London of the late sixties were equally into self-expression. Henry Miller, while describing the atmosphere in one of the Manhattan dance halls of an earlier decade, in his book "Nexus", portrays a world I had once been taken up with: "A thousand different performers clashed with one another, with the heat of the ball, with the sweat and perspiration, the fever... of the inmates....converging upon one another.... The coloured lights playing over their faces, their bust, their haunches, cutting them to ribbons in which they became entangled and enmeshed...."

While Henry Miller reflects the cultural milieu of his time, James Bartleman describes the international issues that he had to handle as a Canadian diplomat. Probably one of the more evocative encounters covered in his book "On Six Continents" is with Fidel Castro, who became his friend. He marvels at the marathon speeches of the Cuban leader, dressed in army fatigues and a cigar sticking out like a gun from his mouth; these could last as long as six hours. As visiting students, in Havana in 1968, he wore us out with the endless harangue he delivered against US imperialism's constant attack on their young revolution. Bartleman met Castro somewhat later, when the visionary in him was still alive. What I found remiss, rather could not reconcile with the diplomat's frank assessment, was his total neglect of Che who was as dominant a figure in the Cuban revolution as Castro. A Swiss-French film on Che suggests a break between the two, which was why Che left for Africa to foment revolution, and later went to Latin America. Bartleman had the opportunity to shed light on this relationship.

A new Curry Club has been formed by the Stephanians of which only one-fifth the membership is from Doon. More Stephanian-DoscOs who join it will discover the culinary delights of Delhi's restaurants. Any takers?

With compliments from

Kanwar Prem Lal, 155-H '43

Kanwar Vipin Malhotra, 157-H '76

Armaan Malhotra, 157-H

MINUTES OF THE 68TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE DOON SCHOOL OLD BOYS' SOCIETY HELD AT THE DOON SCHOOL, DEHRA DUN ON SUNDAY 07TH OCTOBER 2007 AT 11: 00 A.M.

PRESENT : The President Mr Gautam Chadha, the Vice President Kr. Vipin Malhotra, Mr Mahesh Sahai C.A, Dr Kanti Bajpai, Headmaster, Mr Sheel Sharma, Executive Secretary and 192 members including various Executive Committee Members

I The President, Mr Gautam Chadha, welcomed all members to the 68th AGM of the DSOBS. He informed the members that the President's speech had already been circulated and he was only going to highlight some of the salient points.

II He requested members to inform him if any names had been missed out in the List of Members mentioned in the President's report as having passed away during the period October 22 , 2006 to October 6 2007

A condolence resolution was passed and a two minutes silence was observed in respectful memory of the following departed members of the DSOBS

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. Mr C.H. Shodhan | (Ex 133-J) | Class of 1938 |
| 2. Dr Sarinder Mansingh | (Ex 54-T) | Class of 1942 |
| 3. Mr. Siegfried Roy | (Ex 195-T) | Class of 1944 |
| 4. Mr. Brij K Manucha | (Ex 46-K) | Class of 1944 |
| 5. Mr. Arun Kumar Goswami | (Ex 60-T) | Class of 1944 |
| 6. Mr. M Ct Muthiah | (Ex 114-H) | Class of 1945 |
| 7. Mr Lalit Mohan Thapar | (Ex 098-J) | Class of 1945 |
| 8. Mr Krishna Kumar(Sunny) Pillai | (Ex 250-J) | Class of 1947 |
| 9. Capt. Manohar B. Gokhale | (Ex 222-K) | Class of 1948 |
| 10. Mr. Nisar A Mannoo | (Ex 272-J) | Class of 1949 |
| 11. Maj.C R Subia (Retd.) | (Ex 212-J) | Class of 1950 |
| 12. Mr. Ashoka Ranganathan | (Ex 33-T) | Class of 1951 |
| 13. Mr. Pradhumna J B Rana | (Ex 179-H) | Class of 1953 |
| 14. Mr Vijay Handa | (Ex 022-J) | Class of 1957 |
| 15. Mr. P. Vijay Pillai | (Ex 170-H) | Class of 1957 |
| 16. Mr. Deelip Surve | (Ex 69-H) | Class of 1958 |
| 17. Mr. Rajeev Mohan Sood | (Ex 147-T) | Class of 1963 |
| 18. Mr. Kapil Chowdhry | (Ex 43-J) | Class of 1967 |
| 19. Mr Vinod D Jacob | (Ex 146-T) | Class of 1970 |
| 20. Mr. Aditya Aggarwal | (Ex 177-K) | Class of 1984 |
| 21. Mr. Aditya Lall | (Ex 538-H) | Class of 2001 |
| 22. Harbir Singh Aulakh | (Ex 280-K) | Class of 1969 |
| 23. Lt. Col E.J. Simeon (Retd.) | Ex-Headmaster | 1971 – 1979 |

III. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 67th Annual General Meeting.

The President informed the house that the minutes of the AGM are recorded by the Executive Secretary and endorsed by the then President. The minutes as recorded have been reproduced verbatim. He also stated that the Executive Committee has discussed the minutes and made observations that have been recorded and published along with the minutes in the August 2007 issue of the Rose Bowl. The President also informed the house that he had personally met with the previous President, Anoop Bishnoi, to discuss this matter and that despite of the EC observations, Anoop had reconfirmed the recordings of the minutes should remain as is.

It was observed by members present in the house at both, the last AGM and at this AGM, that the recordings stating that Moin Qureshi was declared elected as the President was incorrect. This was also the observation of members of the EC who were present at the 67th AGM.

Jaspreet Singh(285-T '76) had a contrary view and stated that the then President Mr Anoop Bishnoi did announce Moin Qureshi as the President and that as such the recording of the Executive Secretary is correct.

Rahul Kohli (81-J '75) sought to read out an email from Mr Anoop Bishnoi addressed to the President, Gautam Chadha, in which Anoop reconfirms the recordings of the minutes. The President reminded Rahul Kohli that the mail was in fact a personal one and in any event the same has already been stated by the President, as above.

Gurpreet Singh (325-T '75) wanted his school number to be corrected. It is 325 TA and not 165 TA.

Atul Bahadur (68-K '76) said that he has been wrongly quoted. What he had wished to convey was that the rules as laid down in the societies act are not being adhered to and this could lead to serious implications later on.

Pashupati Advani (220-J '72) felt that a vote should take place to pass the minutes.

Dhruv Sawhney (37-K '61) cited an example of how companies record their minutes of a general meeting and felt that if the matter had any impact on the proceedings then voting could be considered otherwise we should let it go and move ahead.

Kanti Bajpai (264-T '72) was of the opinion that Anoop Bishnoi should be called if available, so that he could clear the matter.

Mr Anil Agarwal (186 -H '65), felt that the House should move on.

Ratanjit (Richie) Singh (871-K '82) felt that many people had said enough and it was time that we moved on to more pressing matters of the Meeting.

At this stage the President sought to place on record the following. He informed the house that the rules of the Society allows an office bearer, once elected, to either resign, or, be voted out by the house, but one cannot "withdraw". The rules have no provision for such a procedure. However, if the House wishes to pass the minutes we will bow to the wishes of the House. He then asked the House if the minutes could be passed with recordings of the views expressed by several members including members of the EC.

Mr Jaspreet Singh (285-T '76) proposed that the minutes be passed. Mr Gurmeet Singh (883-T'82) seconded the proposal. The House resolved that the Minutes of the 67th AGM as recorded by the Executive Secretary and approved by the then President Mr Anoop Singh Bishnoi, be passed with a notation that several members had expressed reservation on the recordings pertaining to the announcement of Moin Qureshi as the President and the recording that he subsequently withdrew from the position. The motion was passed appropriately.

IV. Discussion of matters arising out of the Minutes.

There was no matter arising out of the minutes that needed to be discussed.

V. A report, read out by the President on the activities during the year.

"Welcome back to school and to the 68th Annual General Meeting of your society. A special welcome to those present today who have been celebrating an occasion these past few days/nights and have actually made it here this morning!

At the outset, may I deviate just a bit from tradition and introduce members of your Executive Committee present here today. I am conscious that not all of us will know the other and this is a useful opportunity to not only put a face to a name, but also acknowledge the immense contributions that each member has made in his own way – I cannot help but remind that we all serve on a voluntary basis and that whatever we do is in addition to the "other" commitments we have to fulfill. I thank all my colleagues for their efforts.

I would also like to thank our Executive Secretary, Sheel Sharma, and, our Admin Assistant, A.P. Narayanan who remains the solid pillar that supports the functioning of the DSOBS secretariat.

It has been your Executive Committee's intent to be receptive, transparent and open in our functioning. I have personally traveled and formally met with OB's in Mumbai and Singapore. Many of us have done so informally on an ongoing basis. We have encouraged you to communicate and share your views. Sometimes this has been somewhat of a challenge! However we remain committed to pursuing an open forum and encourage your positive and involved participation.

When this Executive Committee assumed office in November last year we set an agenda for ourselves which was shared with you through the columns of the January 2007 issue of The Rose Bowl – the lead article titled "The Way Ahead", as also posted on your website, www.dosco.org. In this article, we attempted to remind ourselves of your societies "Objects" as articulated in the DSOBS Memorandum of Association and to focus on creating programs and processes that would help us comply and deliver appropriately.

I am now taking the liberty to summarize and share our performance against the goals we had set. To facilitate our working, we set up 13 sub-committees each with a mandate and goal as articulated by its leader. The report of each sub-committee activity is annexed to this presentation but with your permission, and in the interest of time as also in order to allow for adequate discussion on other agenda items, I will try to top-line the key accomplishments of your Executive Committee

Finances of the DSOBS: We created 4 major account heads under which we would operate. These are,

- (a) **Custodial Funds**, i.e., funds held as "Pass Through" or "Committed Funds" – the DSOBS is used as a means to channel funds to school, batch mates, or others as eligible under our Objects – this corpus is presently approximately Rs.45 lacs,
- (b) **Bursary Funds** to financially assist OB's for their sons education in school and to consider the possibility to assist young OB's seeking post school education – this corpus is Rs.31.40 lacs for bursary, and, a corpus of Rs.9.04 lacs contributed specifically by the Singapore Chapter for post school education,
- (c) **Navodaya** – a fund set up to create a corpus for contribution to social causes – presently Rs.1.67 lacs, and,
- (d) Our own **Administrative Fund** – Rs.136 lacs.

We then looked at our funding needs and fund raising opportunities and, with your permission seek to implement the following;

The DSOBS has a need of approximately Rs.15 lacs annually as at present. This includes a minimum of 4 issues of the Rose Bowl and secretariat operating expenses. The ambitions, and consequent needs, are far more. However to fund the basic need of Rs.15 lacs of which the administration need is at least half this amount we propose that surpluses accrued as an outcome of DSOBS activities, e.g., the annual golf and cricket events held in New Delhi, will be divided equally between the Administration Fund and the Navodaya Fund corpus. As on date, surpluses available for appropriation are approximately Rs.20 lacs thus the Navodaya Fund will be enriched by half this amount while the other half will go into the Admin Fund.

We also propose to levy a 5% "pass through" fee on Custodial Funds, which are routed through the DSOBS to School. This 5% amount will be appropriated into the Bursary Fund, which will help us build this corpus given that fees in school are on the increase and we have a commitment to help OB's fund their children through school. I would urge your acceptance of both these initiatives.

Some of the other initiatives, which were undertaken and/or progressed during the year in review and need to be highlighted, are;

1. **Election Process** - we were mandated by this house last year to review the process of election of office bearers and to broad base the same. We had a deadline and I am happy to report that we met the deadline and have shared our proposals with all OB's through, email, posting on the website, featured in the Rose Bowl, and, through Class and Regional Reps. As this item is a separate agenda item and will be discussed subsequently, I will refrain from elaborating at this stage.
2. **DOSCO Card** – you would have received your DOSCO Card (if not please do inform our Executive Secretary, Sheel Sharma). This card was designed by Sheroo Sharma (334J-1985) and sponsored by Samir Kukreja (179H-1984) whose branded eateries “Nirula’s”, is our first partner as well. I am delighted to inform that our intent to create an “affinity” program around this card has got off to a flying start. Apart from our Nirula’s, we have 4 committed partners, **Jet Airways, ITC Fortune Park Hotels, Fortis Healthcare and Max Healthcare**. Each will offer the Dosco benefits and the DSOBS will earn an annual participation fee. The DOSCO Card corpus has already earned Rs.3.75 lacs and we hope to expand the list of partners regularly. We would welcome OB's who have an existing business proposition in terms of products or services that they would like to promote within the community. Surpluses from this effort will support the Rose Bowl and augment our Administrative Fund corpus. I would like to thank fellow EC member Rajat Banerji (135T-1984) who has so ably created this unique proposition.
3. **The Rose Bowl** – as your society gets more active so is the demand for space in the columns of the Rose Bowl. We remain committed to bringing out at least 4 issues annually and have found that in spite of the valued support of Gautam Thapar (200H-1979) in the form of free paper, generating advertising revenues to meet overall costs is always a challenge. Consequently, we set out on a collection drive to create a corpus, which would fund future issues of the Rose Bowl. I am happy to report that so far our efforts have yielded a collection of Rs.13.10 lacs contributed by 332 OB's – the request is for Indian residents to contribute Rs.3600.00 and overseas residents USD150.00. We had a corpus of Rs.1.33 lac thus the total now stands at Rs.14.43 lacs. The collection efforts will continue unabated. Your editor, Kishore Lahiri (30K-1974) deserves special mention – the task is no mean one and in-between courtrooms and client briefs, somehow he manages to get it done!
4. **Website** – we have migrated to a new domain, www.dosco.org. This effort is managed by Shiv Singh (654J-1993) who finds time while he is shuttling between New York, London and New Delhi, apart from impending marriage plans! Our sincere thanks to Shiv.
5. **Interaction with young OB's** – we found that most young OB's were not quite familiar with the DSOBS. Your committee approached the Headmaster with a request for some of us to visit school and introduce the DSOBS to the SC batch boys passing out from school before they actually left school. This was granted and your VP, Vipin Malhotra together with your University Rep, Amitoj Singh (285J-2004) spent a few hours interacting with the boys and gave each of them an OB tie. Our team was joined by Sati Puri (49K-1952) the resident IPSS contact who also addressed the boys. We believe this will be a useful way of building awareness and welcoming the young OB into our fold and aim to make this an annual affair. Our thanks to the Headmaster.
6. **DSOBS Secretariat Premise** – we received notices from several government agencies seeking settlement of arrears and complied accordingly. Effectively we are up-to-date on all “dues” to government agencies vis-à-vis our office premise. In the process we also learnt that cheques for the amount of approximately Rs.2.70 lacs paid by the previous owner had not been honored and we had to make good. Efforts to contact and recover the amount from the previous owner have been unsuccessful so far. In the event we are unable to recover the same I ask for your permission to absorb the amount by debit to our admin fund?
7. **DOSCO Record and Register** – this has been a challenge and we have just over 1420 responses to-date. I would request your active support and assistance to make this happen. In 3 years from now we will be celebrating our Platinum Jubilee and it would be fitting that we have an up-to-date and comprehensive DOSCO Record. Please share info on OB's you are in contact with as also update your own record. Nalin Khanna (563H-1980) and Hemant Sharma (459J-1987) have committed to making this the record reality but will need your support to do so.
8. **Sporting Events** – continue in many cities worldwide with the usual enthusiasm and participation. The Delhi golf and cricket events and the prize distribution dinners that follow are now institutionalized and are looked forward to by all. Several chapters organize local events and all are encouraged to attend and participate.
9. **Memorabilia** – I hope you have the “lamp” on or with you in some form and manner? We continuously strive to increase the range of products on offer and I hope you will carry the lamp with you on one or more of the items on offer.
10. **Bursary** – as stated we have a corpus of only Rs.31.40 lacs and the interest earned (Rs.1.50 lacs) is used to fund 8 students who are sons of old boys. The amounts are small and we must augment and build this corpus. We are also studying how we can implement a post school aid program and will present our findings at next years AGM.
11. **Navodaya Fund** – the DSOBS has been supporting a few students of the John Martyn Memorial School in Dehra Dun with an annual disbursement of Rs.50,000.00. This has been a long-standing commitment of the DSOBS. This year we received two requests from the John Martyn school – to increase the support to Rs.1,05,000.00 (15 students @ Rs.7,000.00 per student) and to assist in part funding the building of a permanent structure to house the children for their studies up to Rs.2,50,000.00. Your committee accepted both the requests and has paid the amounts requested. We would like to continue doing so and seek your assistance to augment the Navodaya Fund to permit us to contribute in a meaningful and pro-active manner towards identified social causes. Maybe some of you would like to individually fund a child's education at the John Martyn School @ Rs.7,000.00 per year?
Reports of each sub-committee are appended to this note and I would urge you to go through them.