

THE EAGLE

(A NEWSLETTER OF ONA)

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ROUSER

Baljit Singh Uppal(S-300,1976). The name may not strike a cord in every Old Nabhaite's memory. **Baljit** was not a well-known politician turned minister; Baljit was not a high-ranking Government official. Baljit was not a Corporate Honcho. Baljit was not an industrialist with a clout. Yet we dedicate this issue of The Eagle to his memory. The simple reason for it is that he epitomized what an ideal PPS student and an ideal Old Nabhaite should be. In PPS, he was a highly talented sportsman with abundant sportsman spirit; a brilliant student and most loved Head Boy. His peers admired him, his seniors adored him, his juniors respected him and His teachers patronized him. What more could a school ask of its students? As an Old Nabhaite his letter published in an old issue of "The Eagle" showed his love for the fraternity when he compared his time in PPS to that of growing up in a large Family of four hundred cousins. When his classmates, a few years ago got together and were discussing who had been the most successful of them, the calm and decisive answer came from **Baljit**, who said, "Obviously **Capt. Harjit Aulakh(S-297)** who in his very short life, lived and died for his country, while we are still struggling and working hard to find the meaning of *Success* in life." It seems he was too good a human being and God needed him more, therefore He snatched him away from this world on 13th June, 2003.

1968-69-70Batch Reunions

This is the last call or reminder regarding the reunion of batches which passed out in **1968, 69 & 70**. This reunion will be held on 22nd of October in PPS. The Founders' Day and the ONA Day will follow on the 23rd of October. "The Eagle" hopes that Old Nabhaites of these batches will take a keen interest in the reunion and make this bonding with Punjab Public School, Nabha and themselves, a great success. All ONs coming to attend their Batch reunion should please reach **Junior School Lobby 1.00pm onwards**. For those who come early, lunch arrangement will be made. If you have not already contacted your batch coordinator please do so now. The coordinators are given below. **Also let them know if you need accommodation.**

1968 Batch Col Tej Inder Singh, VSM (S-70)
Provost Unit, HQ 9 Inf Div c/o 56 APO
M:0983714559, Tel:0121-2653808(O)

1969 Batch Naveen Talwar (S-71)

M/s Talwar Gas (Opp Govt College for Men),
33, College Rd, Civil Lines, Ludhiana
Email: talwargas@vsnl.com
Tel: 0161-2428433, 2410634

1970 Batch Col Sukhpal Shoker (S-117)
13/4, Mall Road, Jalandhar Cantt
Tel: 0181-2661394

You can even send information to *The Eagle or ONA Secretariat, 50 Mahavir Marg, Jalandhar 144003* and if very late directly to the Headmaster, PPS

Whom Gods Love More

*(I did not know **Baljit Uppal(S-300,1976)** but the outpouring of emotions of so many Old Nabhaites to his untimely demise in June was simply overwhelming. What stood out in all the emails, phones and letters was the human aspect of his soul and his love for everyone and everything related to PPS. To add to all this was the sense of responsibility shown by all the Old Nabhaites in California to Baljit's family in the moments of grief and tragedy. It is a tribute to the ON spirit and its bearers in California. We cannot but devote space to this legendary Ex-Head Boy of PPS and those closely affected by his sad demise.*

Dr Jashanjot Singh (S-52,1967))

BALJIT SINGH UPPAL- AN EULOGY

The first time I saw **Baljit (S-300,19760)** was during a soccer game in 1971. We both were a couple of skinny nine year olds, wearing shirt and shorts several sizes too large, shivering in the cold Nabha winter. While I could barely kick the ball, **Baljit** dribbled past several boys older than him with relative ease. Clearly his thin build was deceptive! I noted with satisfaction that he wore the 'green' shirt, which was the same color as mine, showing that he was also a Sutlej House boy. I remember thinking, "Thank God he is on my side!_ rather than against us." Over the next few months it became apparent that Baljit was a rare asset to our side. Not only could he play soccer but also run and jump better than anyone else. I was drawn even closer to him after he stood first in the class exam.

Over the next few years the legend of **Baljit** was born. He became the yardstick against which all excellence was measured in PPS. When **Baljit** left the school in 1979, he

had been the school captain for soccer, field hockey, athletics and tennis teams. He was the best extempore speechmaker in all the three languages taught in our school.

He was the only boy to be the school Head-boy or the captain for two years in a row. In addition to this he also stood first in the class. The year **Baljit** and I joined school our Sutlej house had only one shared trophy. The year we left, we had won seventeen!

While I can go on and on about his exploits on the playground and the classroom, I want to talk today about the special and sensitive human being that was my friend **Baljit**.

From the very beginning, he was always a patient and a kind listener. Over the last many years I called him many times to talk about anything and everything. He always remained the same friend that I knew. He would listen with patience, offer encouragement and never failed to infect me with his endless optimism. His advice was always measured and balanced. He was never judgmental.

Not only that, **Baljit** was also the most loyal friend a person could have. After our schoolmate **Harjit Singh Aulakh(S-297)** died fighting for the Indian army in Kashmir, **Baljit** literally adopted his parents and family. He visited them at every opportunity and shared his own special moments with them. I don't think I ever talked with **Baljit** since then without his bringing up 'Monkey', as **Harjit** was affectionately called.

If **Baljit** had any faults, it was that **Baljit** was a born non-complainer. I never saw him go to the school hospital for anything during his eight years in PPS. Recently he was involved in a car accident in India and fractured his hand. He complained that his fracture was missed in India. I was only half joking when I told him that for any doctor to diagnose a disease, the patient had to complain first!

Baljit always saw the best in every one and every situation. We talked a few months after his recent car accident he was not bitter at all. He told me that he felt that God had been unduly kind to him. He said he had survived the accident and had also had a great life.

He started talking about his life from the very beginning. " In India I had great parents. Now I have a brother who is one of a kind. God blessed me with a wife who has stood by me through thick and thin. My children are my best friends. What else do you think I should hope for?"

Though a loving family man, **Baljit** adored his friends, especially his childhood friends like us. Last year I asked him to send a message for the Old PPS Nabha boys meeting. His message to us was especially moving.

"Nabha!!!" he wrote, "The very name evokes so many emotions that it is impossible to describe. Every kid in the world grows up in the company of a dozen or so siblings, cousins and friends. I, on the other hand was luckier than most and grew up with 60-80 siblings who were my classmates and over 400 cousins who were my schoolmates."

Such a person was my friend **Baljit!**

Indeed **Baljit** had everything- Good luck and great intelligence, a charming personality and a doting family, friends with extreme loyalty for him, and colleagues and co-workers who mourn his loss. What he did not have was a life long enough to allow him to wrinkle gracefully into old age.

Every life he touched, that he ever touched, he changed for the better. He left the world a far better place than it was when he found it. Unfortunately he also left it far poorer now that he is no longer in it.

In a society where materialism often becomes a measure of success, **Baljit** stood out as being refreshingly different. He was a Prince among men because of his complete lack of concern for materialism and a complete faith in humanity and the goodness of others.

Baljit was many things to many people but embodied all that was good and all that was noble in my generation. I am proud to have walked with him for so many years for a walk with him was a walk in the shadow of a true giant. His abrupt departure leaves a gaping hole in our lives that will never be filled.

I stand before you today, in a very public place in a very public ceremony yet my grief is also very private. I only want to say Goodbye my friend, my leader and my Head-boy.

Baljit, You rob me today and make me a poor man. But you make the place where you go a far better place by being there. Someday I will meet you in that place and then I will never lose you again.

Dr Rupinder Brar (S-291,1976)

FineMan

I think of that very responsible, straight talking, yet soft-spoken young boy in school, who turned into an equally fine, responsible man, very understanding and generous. **Rupinder Brar's** rival... who turned best friends as they grew older and settled down. A very well reputed dentist. I wish this was just a bad dream and someone would wake me up and say that it wasn't so... that he was ok.

Amy Tandon (858) 484-2808 or
Email: amytandon@yahoo.com

ONA - a Family

I am proud to say that bad times brought the best out of all ONs.

Within hours of receiving the sad news about **Baljit**, people swung into action. **Robin** first called me (He had started driving to my office on the assumption that if I was not on the mobile phone he would see me directly). **Shavinder, Seepja(J-388), Navdeep and Amy** got on the phones and started calling. **Archana(R-307,1978)** cooked food and went to **Baljit's** along with **Rashpal** and his wife.

Before nightfall **Birender, Shavinder, Amritpal, Manjeet , Amy ,Archana and Rashpal** had cancelled everything and reached the bereaved family. **Jimmy(J-452,1982)** flew in the next day. **Arvinder Sandhu** wanted to fly from Canada and I had to dissuade him with difficulty since the cost involved was enormous. (It is amazing since the distances in California itself are vast ie like between UP or Rajasthan and Punjab). At the funeral people were amazed that not only were **Baljit's** ex-classmates present but also many people who joined school after he had left! **Baljit** had called us his siblings and cousins. He will be proud that this family of his takes care of those it owns.

Rupinder S Brar , MD

Cool and Calm

He was a very talented person with a dynamic personality. When my thoughts go back to school, I remember him as a cool and calm person, always in control of everything around him.

Jaskiran Kaur(B-314,1976)

Email: jaskirank@yahoo.com

Loss of words

Words can't describe **Baljit**, We have all lost a great lad, family man, perfect gentleman and best classmate.

Govinder Lally (R-294,1976)

Email: govlally@hotmail.com

Humane

Many of my relatives have passed away in the past. However, **Baljit's** unexpected departure has left an indelible mark on me. It means more than the passing away of any of my blood relatives.

Baljit was a brilliant student, highly talented sportsman and above all, a picture of total composure and calmness, I can go on praising him endlessly. There are many fine instances that I always cherish. Here is one incident that very simply highlights the humane aspect of a fine soul.

After school we were together in Amritsar in the eighties I, in Medical College and Baljit in Dental College. Every Friday we would have dinner together. In 1981, I met with a road accident in Amritsar. I was in coma for a day. The colleges had a break for holidays. There was no way I could have made it to Faridkot, where my parents were working as Medical teachers, on my own. It was **Baljit Uppal** who accompanied me, subsequently. No other friend of mine had the courage or the courtesy to battle three and half hours of

journey from Amritsar to Faridkot and back the same day (as **Baljit** returned after leaving me in the safe confines of my home) by Bus on a miserable and dusty road.

We talked for a good one-hour on the phone when I last visited USA in 2001. Little did I realize that that would be the last conversation that I would have with him. The last I saw him was on his wedding (probably 1985).

Baljit was a yardstick with which all PPS Head boys were measured. In fact he was a unit with whom all human beings should be measured.

K S Sangha, (B-371,1976)
Email: sanghass@jla.vsnl.net.in

Thanks-Nabhaites!!

We thank all of you, the entire PPS ONA fraternity, for extending your heartfelt condolences on the most tragic demise of my elder brother **Dr Baljit S Uppal**. I know that each one has felt this loss in no way less than it has been for the family. Each one of us knows of him as an excellent student, head boy, sportsman, friend and human being. In spite of being a man of few words he has been one of the most awe-inspiring Head boys the school ever had. Words simply fail when it comes to consoling ourselves. His sudden departure has left the family in utter shock; each one of us is waiting for this bad dream to get over. We can make out your wet eyes as we read out your messages through our misty ones. **Mr Gill's** (Sports and PT Instructor) voice was so shaky when he spoke to me on the phone that it was difficult to imagine him as the same man whose voice used to make our legs tremble in school.

A very special thanks to all my brethren at California for being with **Baljit's** mother, his wife-Harveen, his brother- **Prabhjit**, during this tragic moment and having done what only **true Nabhaites** can do.

Harvinder Uppal (B-432,Munshi) ,Chandigarh.
Email: harvinderuppal@yahoo.com

Brushes with life

I am sure that all the PPS hearts around the world weigh as heavy as lead today. He was an ideal idol of every Nabhaite. I have been one person who has literally grown up with this name. First when he was the Head-boy (The word itself seems to be **Baljit** personified) and I was four years his junior. I was always in awe of him and yet had the respect for an elder brother for him. This became true years later when I got married to **Harvinder Uppal** and got **Baljit** as my brother-in-law. He was most sweet and affectionate in this new relationship and my respect grew even more during this time. He was a wonderful son, brother, husband and father. Very soft -spoken, softhearted and a pleasant company, totally non-fussy about food, clothes and discomfort, he had the quality of making us bring out the best of ourselves.

Whenever we talked about the school times, his eyes would glow with nostalgia and a feeling of pride would suddenly envelope us all.

Baljit had very close shaves with death during his lifetime. His first death escapade was when he was a mere 8 year old and he fell into a 20 feet deep well (tube well pit) on the farm. Again at the age of about 12 years he managed to rip his right ear with an air gun while hunting. In the medical college, the ceiling fan came down on the bed the moment he got up one morning. And now lately he had a very narrow escape when he visited India in Feb, 2003. He met with an accident near Chandigarh. It was astonishing that he got away with a broken wrist and few bruises while the vehicle was totally damaged.

I can only say that death chased him all his life and mercilessly caught up with him this time. He leaves behind an equally sweet wife Harveen and two sons Virpaul (14) and Ramneek (12). He was a proud father but unfortunately could not be with his children on Fathers' Day this time.

I am sure each one of you joins me today as I stand and pray to WAHE GURU to rest his soul in peace and give all of us the strength to bear this loss.

Harleen Uppal (R-387)

I wish

I did not personally know **Baljit Uppal**. I wish I had the opportunity to interact with him. May I humbly suggest that we consider contributing towards a prize named in his honor at PPS?

Jagmohan S Raju (S-125,1970)

Fortunate..

I did not know **Baljit** in PPS as he had already left when I joined but I feel fortunate that, even though briefly, our paths crossed when we met at Amy's house in March. I could tell right away that he was highly respected by everyone. I still remember Amy telling me that he was the best Head Boy the school had ever had.

Ramneet Bhullar(S-426,1983)
Email: ramneetbhullar@hotmail.com

A teacher's tribute

Baljit has deserted his exercise room forever- the hobby of bodybuilding; he carried on for more than three decades, left abruptly. Perhaps he preferred building of *SOUL*. While at PPS, any body could see him standing at the entrance of the Dining Hall of PPS when the boys were collecting. He emerged as the *SILENT* administrator through the shouting - prefect system. He stood firm in the interest of the school during its most undisciplined era.

S M L Nigam (Ex-Teacher)

Email: calonaus@yahoo.com

Elder Brother

Baljit was my senior and he was a person who I very much respected. He carried his duties of a Head Boy with his own under-stated quiet style. He brought dignity and pride to the position and I looked up to him as an elder brother. He will always be in my thoughts and prayers.

Dildeep Dhillon (ex B-405) Toronto, Canada

Email: ds.dhillon@utoronto.ca

Heard about **Baljit's** sudden departure, my heart skipped a beat. He was someone whom you always wanted to be your... brother. He will always be in my heart, and in my mind until I join him.

Sunil Bhopla

Email: rsnanak@mac.com

Baljit was not a friend but a brother. To some he was older and to some he was younger. But to most of us he was the Inspiration. I was deeply touched by **Baljit's** death. I played with him at Nabha and then against him while at Sanawar. Meanwhile, I feel PROUD that my colleagues are doing the best they can for **Baljit's** family and that makes me feel very happy. Our best course of action would be to organize something in his memory so he is always remembered.

Arvinder Singh Sandhu (J-298) "KARELA"

PPS Bonding

All of you have put a seal on what a true PPS bonding is. You may not even realize what you had done but let me tell you that you guys did a job beyond any words can explain and it meant a lot for the family. Thanks to all of you for sharing the grief of the family. Our family praised your efforts, PPS bonding. I did not know everyone but here are the

people I came to know and appreciate for what they did for the family during this hard time. Sorry if I miss anyone. **Rupinder Brar, Shavinder, Satvinder, Barinder, Archana, Amy, Robin**: I could see in your eyes the pain that you were going through with the loss of a cousin, as Baljit would say. But you were all still running around to get things done that were assigned to you by the family. Prabhjit always said "I am not worried about things that I have asked PPS guys/gals to do as I know they will be done in the best possible way."

There are a lot of incidents from this funeral that I will never forget. I will share one with you.

I remember the day of the funeral when Prabhjit asked Archana to get the camera and he wanted to give the money but she just shook her head as she was crying and could not even say No (That's how hurt we all were). She was back in no time, explaining to **Prabhjit** how to use it.

Once again Thank you. Thank you to all of you!

Gurvinder Uppal(B-542)

The Final Goodbye..

It is really nice to hear from you. I wish the circumstances were different... and I was not getting back from one of my friend's, mentor's funeral. It was a beautiful ceremony... very touching.. very loving.. very true. Only it came way before its time... **Baljit** was one of the people I really looked up to and had utmost respect for... a person who just leaves you standing there in awe... the Head boy we all respected so much that everyone of us kept quiet when he was around... I was just a mere 10-11 yrs old then. And then... after a gap of quite a few years, I met him as an adult. I can assure you it was the very same **Baljit**... same style... still very soft spoken... a gentleman to the core... but this time... I saw him interact with me and the others at a different level... as peers... and I saw a side of him that really made me understand him better.. got past that awe... which to a large degree will always be there, but.. I could go past it and realized what a wonderful friend he was... and so very generous, so very involved in his children's life... he truly made any ex-PPS guy/gal feel right at home at his place and his wife knew all his friends.. interacted with everyone as if we were her friends, too.

I must say **Baljit** was a very lucky guy.... he had the most wonderful wife, really good kids, a wonderful brother, parents he was very proud of and an equally wonderful set of friends. ...

Talking of friends... where do I start... **Murgi (Rupinder Brar)**.. who went past his own sorrow of the loss of his best friend and took care of everything that was thrown his way... trying always to think like **Baljit** and how he would want things handled...

Hathi.. (Shavinder Sandhu).. who covered up his loss trying to keep everyone a little distracted... it was quite an effort on his part to not just give in, but then he is always like that... strong, reliable... a very wonderful friend...

Kainchi (Satvinder Saini) ... who stayed the three four days with everyone to help out with the arrangements.. ever responsible and calm. Lali.. Barinder Sandhu.. who took care of lots of things even I am not fully aware of.. Dara..(Archana Katyal) ... some might know her as Phantom.. she opened her house to all of us... and drove us around... so that we could get things done. She is such a generous friend to have... so very giving..

Rashpal Brar, Manjeet Bedi (B-319,1977), Dinesh Khurana (S-468,1980), Seepja (Nigam) Khurana, Gurdeep Deol, Hriday Pal Thandi (Robin), Gursharan Sekhon, Navdeep Gill, Sunil Bhopla, Dr. Bhupinder Singh, Randeep Dhami ... I am sure I'm missing people.... I can see the faces in front of me but the names..... they were all there to support the family and help in anyway that they could.

I am really very proud to a part of this wonderful PPS circle of friends. You all were wonderful in what you all did.. without anyone having to ask you to. You all came thru in the time of need and you all, like always did everything quietly, just going about doing it without fuss or fanfare. You are all my favorite guys.

Bless your hearts for being who you are.All of you who called and wrote.. I'm sure if there was a way, you would have come... I know you were all here in spirit and were thinking of **Baljit**. Take care, all of you and please keep in touch. If ever there is anything that is not going right for you.. you always have a friend at hand... just call... any of the School mates.. none has ever really let us down.

With love to you all,

Amy Tandon Kumar
Email: amytandon@yahoo.com

Yours Nabhaitely

Reaching out

I am ex-Jumna House and left school in 1979, when I joined NDA. Over the years, I gradually lost touch with the School. Now, through the medium of “The Eagle “, I would like to reach out to Old Nabhaites. I am now posted at Secunderabad and I request you to

send me the addresses of any Old Nabhaites residing in Secunderabad / Hyderabad as I would like to get in touch with them.

Col Jasdeep Singh Chattha (Ex Jumna), 1979

OC 554 ASC BN c/o56APO

ONA website

It was great to know about the ONA website. This will prove to be a constant link with fellow brethren of our alma mater. I am leaving for London to do my Masters in Law at King's College. Please send me the addresses of Old Nabhaites who may be there so that I can be in constant touch with them during my stay in UK.

Harinderpal Singh Bhullar (R-786)

Email: hpbhullar@redifmail.com

The Eagle's Contribution

Thank You Very Much. You are making a great contribution to the fraternity of Old Nabhaites.

Warm regards and best wishes

Maj Amardeep Singh Dhillon (J 381)

dhillon10ar@yahoo.co.in

ONA uniqueness

I feel that we are not just friends but a FAMILY. When I left home just like all of you, I had a lot of uncertainty about the challenge of being accepted and being able to sustain life without parents and brothers and sisters. The "BOARDING SCHOOL" staff and students became our family and we all grew into a bigger Family, moving ONWARDS and UPWARDS and it all shows in our deeds

Whether it is TONA or CONA or where ever we sit, we give out this aroma of Uniqueness- a sense of Pride, a sense of brotherhood. Sometimes others feel envious of our group. After leaving Nabha, I went to Sanawar. Even they do not have the sense of companionship to the magnitude that we have.

Arvinder Singh Sandhu "KARELA"(J 298)

Informative

Thanks for sending me this issue of The Eagle online. It was quite informative and it felt very good to read about the school. Hats off to you and your team for this great job. Thanks!!

Kunwar Vikram Singh Dhaliwal (S-0055)

kunwarsdhaliwal@hotmail.com

Thanks!

Many thanks! for sending me this issue and also mentioning about my daughter's marriage. I am back just today from leave after the marriage and happy to see your mail. Let me settle down a bit and I will come back with a long chat. Best Regards

Dilip Bedekar (S-67,1967)

Country Manager, Sensient India, Pvt Ltd

Dilip.Bedekar@sensient-tech.com

Dynamism

There is a discernible dynamism in the events relating to ONA in close cooperation with the School since **Manjeet Bedi** came to the helm. It is most heartening. The Eagle comes as a lovely reminder of the good ole days at School.

Best wishes, aye

Jatinder Bajwa (J-151, 1969 batch).

jitibajwa@hotmail.com

Remembering our Alma Mater

On being selected to attend the US Army War College, I am here at Carlisle, Pennsylvania, USA, for a year with my family. I owe my very satisfying years in the Indian Army to my upbringing and grooming at our Alma Mater! May it continue to grow from strength to strength! I also take this opportunity to record my deep appreciation for the selfless service that you are rendering towards the ON Association.

With warm regards,

ONWARDS & UPWARDS!

(Brig Bikram Singh, SM, VSM) Bikki (B 71,1968)

273, McKnight Street, Carlisle, Pennsylvania 17013,USA

Prompt action

It is very kind of you to respond so fast. I am in receipt of “The Eagle” May issue. It made interesting reading and I came in touch with the world of Nabhaites. Thanks for the prompt action.

Lt.Col.Kulbhushan Singh (R-82,1969)

HQ 79Mtn Bde, 56APO

Interesting Career

It was nice knowing about Old Nabhaites through “The Eagle”. I also want to reach out to all my friends. Thank you for providing me this opportunity. I have had an interesting career after school. In 1992 I was selected to the SPG Force. Due to my performance in 1994, I was selected into the Close Protection Team of the Prime Minister of India. I was Personal Security Officer of *PV Narsimha Rao, Deve Gowda, IK Gujral and Atal Bihari Vajpayee*. This gave me an opportunity to interact with the highest not only in India but also in many countries abroad. It also got me a lot of exposure to the media. Now I am back to my parent Organization, the CISF and will be serving at The IGI Airport, New Delhi.

Ashok Gahlawat (J-394,1983)

H.No.362, V&PO Ghevra, New Delhi-110081

While We Arein school

Last One

(Given below is the last Potpourri written by **Baljit Uppal** as its editor in his last year at PPS but the feelings expressed could be of any PPS student in his last year at the School)

The sky is overcast, strong winds have been blowing since last night and a large heap of dry leaves has accumulated in front of my cabin in the *Dharam Vira Park*. I try to scribble my last POTPOURRI. “Is it really going to be the last one?” I wonder and gaze at the nothingness of the ceiling. I hear the gentle patter of raindrops on the windowpane. More dry leaves have fallen.

Eight memorable springs have come and gone unnoticed. I see quite vividly the kaleidoscope of my stay.... in the Junior School- How I danced, ran, jumped, shouted and quarreled the whole afternoon. The entire panorama of my stay in School comes in a flash back. It was there in the shining corridors of the majestic Junior School building and its lush green lawns that I made so many friends whose number went on swelling every year. In a moment I find myself almost everywhere in School—on the playground, in the swimming pool, in the common-room, under a guava tree and also in front of **Miss Malkani**’s room to spend the rest of the afternoon there.....Saturday comes and there is great excitement among us until the projector exercises its power of veto.

More rain, faster winds and more leaves. I came to the Senior School. There are so many things associated with us the zealous and fiery debates, dramatics, societies, sports, cross-country, games, treks, Physics, Chemistry and also A.P.C. The best part of the day is always spent in the D.V.P. I will miss the jolly crowd, their unbounded love, sympathy and boisterous laughter as well as their not so serious jeers, frowns and quarrels. Even the mute and inanimate objects seem to have a feeling of belongingness today. The tall palm guarding the auditorium, the five domes of the Kairon Block, the generous fruit trees of Shyam Bagh, the oft beaten vertical iron bar that punctuates our routine and the Housemaster's rouser visit.....all come before my eyes like a pageantry of yester years. Once again the iron bar is beaten. Lights out! I get up from my seat. The rain has abated.

A strong gust of wind blows and the heap of dry leaves disappears.

-Baljeet Uppal(S300)

Re-living nostalgic memories

They say that "time completes a full circle" and I agree to it more than anybody else. It seems as if only yesterday I was a student in this School. And today here I am, walking down the same halls and corridors; yet with a difference. Now there are students who look up to me. I am one of the few lucky ones, who has got the opportunity to teach in the School where one was taught.

There is a rush of nostalgic memories each time I think of those golden years spent in this School. It was here that our teachers used "Spit and polish" to shape us into who we are today.

This School is not just 'a school'. It is a tradition for us and I feel proud of the fact that my daughter completes the third generation in this School.

My father **Abninder S.Grewal (J-5)** led us into this and I followed. I feel happy that my daughter **Harsimrat (B-0600)** too is a part of the same culture and heritage.

But the joy ride does not end here. It has been our utmost endeavour to do our best and to give something back to the institution, which gave us so much.

They say that time is constantly changing; contrary to this I feel at times that time stands still. I can see my reflections in my daughter and re-live my past. Where else do you get to experience this!

Gagndeeep (B-678, ICSE-87)

SpONsor

**This issue is coming to you courtesy sponsorship by the California ONA Chapter.
The Eagle is grateful to all the Old Nabhaites in California.**

Eagle's Pride

(Old Nabhaite **Jagmohan Singh Raju (S-125)** is Joseph J Aresty Professor at the leading business school of the world- Wharton School of Business, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. He recently wrote an article on the future goals of Private Healthcare Management in India. Following is a very brief excerpt from the original article.)

Come Health Or High Water (Should hospitals be in the hospitality business?)

(“The Economic Times”, 25 June, 2003)

Professor Jagmohan Raju, professor of marketing at the Wharton School, describes the consumer decision-making process that applies to the just-emerging Indian healthcare sector in this exclusive for Brand Equity, written in collaboration with Yogesh Desai.

Gone are the times when curing disease was heralded as a purely altruistic task. Medical services in India, just like any other professional service, have today evolved into a mega-business. Healthcare is a rapidly growing industry.

Healthcare needs in the country today can be classified broadly into three main categories. First – *Emergency Care*, Second – *Routine Care* and Thirdly – *Elective Treatments*. The Elective Treatments can be further classified into *Life-Stage* treatments (people typically plan for at some stage in their life) and *Life-Style* treatments (activities that people undertake to improve their ‘self’, boost their image, satisfy their vanity).

For-profit companies, engaged in providing health care cannot afford to ignore the financial importance of providing both *life-stage* and *life-style* treatments. Our experience leads us to conclude that the “hospitality” aspect, in many cases, is just as important as “expertise” when it comes to deciding whether to buy these services, and who to buy them from.

A potential consumer goes through three phases: whether to buy a service, when to buy a service, and where to buy the service from. This decision making process is quite different from the one in routine and emergency care.

The consumer considers two types of attributes in deciding where to buy a service from: *expertise* and *hospitality*. The relative importance of these varies depending on type of treatment. Our experience suggests that the *hospitality* level offered by the healthcare provider is more important for *life stage* and *life style* treatments, and goes a long way in making the patient feel safe and secure about undergoing a procedure, as well as assuring that the hospital would provide all the requisite services prior to and after treatment.

Hospitality is not always determined by a doctor’s skills/expertise and sophisticated equipment, but the doctors’ ability to communicate with the patient, the friendliness of the office staff, and the quality of the food, and cleanliness of the environment.

Options such as varying degrees of attention from the doctors and personal service from the nursing staff are some levers that hospitals should pull on to increase the extent of

hospitality they could extend to their patients. It may be worthwhile to study the overall impact on consumers' perceptions of *hospitality* and *expertise* when consumers become aware of the fact that a hospital treats some patients poorly and others well.

Jalandhar Calling

*(Excerpts from an article "Jalandhar Calling" as it appeared in the August 3 issue of Business Today. It speaks of the payback **Darshan Dhaliwal (S-5)** is making to his native region in India after establishing himself in the USA in a big way)*

At Patiala, where Rakhra Technologies is running a 50-seat center providing a whole gamut of back office processing to the promoter's chain of gas stations and convenience stores in US under Bulk Petroleum Corporation, the telecom infrastructure costs twice as much as neighbouring Chandigarh. Nevertheless the company is investing in real estate to set up a 1000-seat center since the professed objective of the exercise is to provide employment to the educated elite of the city. "Whether anyone believes me or not, generating employment was my primary reason for choosing Patiala. I can't deny though that outsourcing does cut my costs," says the US based promoter and founder **Darshan Dhaliwal**.

Updates

Addresses

- 1. Mr KC Tandon (Ex-Teacher)**
#22997, Civil Lines
Bhatinda – 151001 (Punjab)
Tel: 0164-2274729-30 (School), 0164-5001017 (R)
Email: kctandon50@yahoo.co.in
- 2. Gurmeet Singh Sidhu (R-827)**
Flat # 1, 59 Ringstead Road
Catford
London SE6 2BT
UK
- 3. Kiran pal Singh Pasricha (Ravi House)**
1534 Martin Luther King Way
Berkley, San Francisco 94709
USA

Telephone No

- 1. Col HPS Bedi (R-58)**
Tel: 26148896 (O), 25687920 / 25692317 (R)

2. **Gurmeet Sidhu (R-827)**, UK 044-2084-650115
Mobile:00447766620634

Email ID

1. **Mr PN Onial (Ex-Teacher, English)**
Email: rhsddun18@sancharnet.in
2. **MC Munjal (S-183)**
Email: mcmunjal@heromajestic.com
3. **Ashok Gahlawat(J-394)**
ashokgals@rediff.com
4. **Capt Manjit Sidhu(R-235)**
ROKAR@CanaraBank.co.in
5. **Gurmeet Singh Sidhu (R-827)**
sidhu21075@yahoo.co.in
6. **Inderjit Singh Dhami(R-257,1976)**
Capt.dhami@vsnl.net
- 7 **Kiranpal Singh Pasricha(Ex-Ravi,1968)**
kiran@kiranphoto.com

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PPS Happenings

PPS riders shine in equestrian meet

(Hindustan Times, June 7, 2003)

PUNJAB PUBLIC School Nabha won the overall trophy in the XII All India Inter Public School (IPSC) Equestrian Championship held in Dehra Dun. Rashtriya Indian Military College (RIMC) hosted the meet. Nabha riders were at top in both senior and junior categories.

In senior boys' section Jaspreet Singh won gold in individual tent pegging event while Sandeep Singh finished second.

In the same category Sandeep Singh won bronze in the show jumping event while Manpreet Singh finished fourth.

In junior boys' section Prithvijeet Singh Bedi and Gurjap Singh won gold and silver, respectively, in show jumping event while Simranjeet Singh came fourth.

According to PPS headmaster **M S Bedi**, the school riders were trained under the supervision of Ris Major Sodagar Singh. Lt Gen TS Shergill, Commandant of Indian Military Academy (IMA) gave away the prizes.

Personal File

Sanjay Rana (J-542) PPS 1979-1987. BE (Electronics). MBA (HRM). Teaching engineering subjects and Physics at various institutes. Address: C/o A-225, Majlis Park, Delhi – 110033. Tel: (O) 27700100, (R) 27700373. Mobile: 98103-00295. Email: sanjayrana10@yahoo.co.in. Married Bindu, who is a teacher, on 11th Feb 1997. Has a son Akhil (5yr).

Brig YPS Samyal (S-43) PPS 1961-1967. BSc. Address (Present): Cdr, HQ 8 Inf Bde C/o 56 APO. Address (Permanent): P2 AO 25 Prince ton Estate, DLF Phase – V, Gurgaon (Haryana). Mobile: 9868106887. Married Girija, who is a teacher in Summer Field School, DLF Phase I Gurgaon, on 3 Dec 1979. Has a daughter Ankur (22yr) and a son Dhruva (18yr).

Pawan Singla (R-149), PPS 1966-71. Rice miller Address: C/o Aggarwal Rice Mills, PO Samana, Distt. Patiala (Punjab) 147101.Tel: (O) 01764-220014,(R) 220068. Mobile: 94170-12891, 98143-54321. Married Madhu on 26 June 1977.Has daughters Moshina(24) , Malvika(21) and a son Ayush(17), all students yet.

Wg.Cdr. Daljeet Singh Shaheed, VM. (Retd.)(B-54) PPS 1961-65. MSc, psc, Examiner MIG 21 BIS &M, awarded *Vayu Sena Medal*. Has flown Hunters, Gnat , Mig 21,BIS & M. Address; VPO Gudha-Indiri, Distt. Karnal 132041. Tel: (R) 0184-2382761, Mobile: 98960-16604. Married Manju on 4 July 1976. Has two sons **Shatrudaman Singh Shaheed (B-056)** and **Vikramjeet Singh Shaheed (B-057)** Both ONs. The elder is Quality Analyst ,Medical Transcription and younger is 2nd Officer in Merchant Navy.

Ashok Gahlawat (J-394). PPS 1975-1983. MA (English), Diploma Personnel Mgmt., PM Security Officer, SPG. Address: H.No.362,VPO Ghevra , New Delhi-110081. Tel: 011-25951304 (R) Mobile:98112-91585. Email: ashokgals@rediff.com . Married Satwanti on 26June 1988. Has two daughters Navita(13) and Manisha(8) and a son Ajay(5) all school going.

Capt Manjit Singh Sidhu (R-235). PPS 1969-1976. BA., Manager Canara Bank. Present Address: Canara Bank, Regional Office, Kunjpura Road, Karnal, Haryana. Permanent Address: H.No.344, Near Khalsa High School, Bassi Pathana, Distt. Fatehgarh Sahib. Tel: (O) 0184-2205157, (R) 2230171 Fax: 0184-2205245. Email:

ROKAR@CanaraBank.co.in . Married Amritpal Kaur on 29 November 1987. Has a son Daman (11) and a daughter Komal(7) studying in School.

ONA News

Gursimran Singh Hayer (B-0376) PPS 1997-2000. Passed XII class. Preparing for Engg Entrance. Address: J-10/4, Gobind Colony, Rajpura –140401 (Pb). Tel: (R) 01762-228293. Mobile: 98155-82914. Email: hayer_gursimran@yahoo.com.

Inderjot Singh Kapoor (S-0096) PPS 1992-1998. Studying in B Com II yr. Address: Kapoor Niwas, Guru Nanak Pura, Nabha – 147201 (Punjab). Tel (O) 220620, (R) 223940. Mobile: 98146-20540. Email: indercool@hotmail.com.

Sahajdip Singh Gill (B-0258) PPS 1994-1999. Grade 12th (Non-Medical). Student. Address: 1 Gill's Park, Civil Line, Moga – 142001 (Punjab). Tel: (R) 01636-238564. Mobile: 98154-00035. Email: sahaj_gill@yahoo.com.

Harpreet Singh (B-0117) (chamat). PPS 1991-1995. MA (history). Business. Address: Shivalik Gas Company, Red Cross Bhawan, The Mall, Ludhiana-141001. Tel : (O) 0161-2553148-49 (R) 2551807. Mobile: 98145-05445.

Bereavements

Harpal Singh Gill (B-440) expired sometime back at Khanna.

Baljit Uppal (S-300), Ex-Head boy of the school died in LA, due to cardiac arrest while exercising in his gym.

Shamsher Singh one of the original students who joined in 1960, the PPS inaugural year expired. Details not known.

Jasbir Singh Sirohi (S- 108,1967) ,ISC 1967 batch died due to an undiagnosed illness.

Karamjit Singh Bedi (Ravi,1976) expired in September at Zira

Deepak Khurana lost his father

Dr Jashanjot S Bhangu (S-52) lost his father due to a sudden cardiac arrest on 14th June.

Maj Gen Tej Kumar Sapru (S-42) lost his wife due to terminal illness in Bangalore.

ONs Gursharan Singh (B-115,1970) and **Jasbir Singh Rayait(B-143,1974)** lost their mother at Ludhiana.

Posted

Maj Gen B P S Mander(J-38) as MG ,ASC, HQ Southern Command.

Blessed

Sqn Ldr Kedarnath Bansal(J-4) became a grandfather as his son **Mohit (J-654)** became a father to a son. It shows the ageing of ONA

Harinder Khatra (J-597) and **Satwinder Singh(S-514)** won the elections as Sarpanches from Kalarmajri and Tohra villages respectively.

Website Launched

Thanks to the efforts and sponsorship of **Satvinder Singh Saini(J-452,1982)** a rejuvenated ONA website www.ppsona.com was launched in July. By the end of the month it had already crossed the target of 100 registrants. If you have not registered yourself at the site do it today. Get in touch with and be touched by other Old Nabhaites.

ONA Get-togethers

Nabha Chapter

The Nabha Chapter had its bimonthly meeting and dinner on 8th April at **Kedarnath Bansal(J-4)**'s residence with his son **Mohit Bansal (J-654)** as co-host.

Another meeting-cum-dinner was hosted by **Harinder Khatra(J-597)** at Milan palace. It was a double celebration for him, having won the Sarpanch election of his village. Mrs Khatra arranged some wonderful games to keep the ladies and kids involved.

Sanjay Mittal(S-609)

Jalandhar Chapter

The International Student Exchange organized by the Jalandhar ONA chapter had taken the PPS students to UK under **Capt IS Dhami (R-257)**. At the occasion of the Return visit of students of Derby, UK to India in August, the Jalandhar Chapter had two consecutive get-togethers. The first was on 18th August when a formal dinner was held at the Radisson Hotel to welcome the visitors from UK. This dinner was attended by dignitaries and other organizers and had a certain grandeur and formality attached to it. The second was an informal dinner hosted again by ONA Jalandhar Chapter for the visiting students on the 19th August. This was mainly to have interaction amongst ONs and their families and the guests from UK. The visitors were treated to rounds of bowling at the Bowling Alley before the dinner, at Prithvi's Planet.

KS Sangha,(B-371,1976)

Ludhiana Chapter

The visiting exchange students from Derby were hosted by Ludhiana Chapter on 22nd August. Special mention must be made of **Munjals** who hosted lunch for the them and showed them around their factories and also **Navin Talwar(S-71,1969)** who very graciously hosted the dinner at his residence and took them around the city especially Punjab Agricultural university. There was a good coverage by the media of this first ever exchange visit organized by ONA between PPS students and Derby youth.

California ONA Chapter

The much-anticipated **US\Canada ON meeting** was held in Fremont and in San Francisco on August 22nd and 23rd 2003. It was a two-day event attended by about forty ONs and their families, besides the CONA members. The event officially started when the guests of honour, **Mrs and Mr Tandon** and the **ONs** from other States arrived at the SFO International Airport. They were greeted by a group of **ONs (Jimmy, Shavi et. al.)** riding in a limousine, specially hired for the purpose.

Later on we enjoyed a friendly game of volleyball at Jimmy's place. Since the match was accompanied with snacks and a generous amount of booze, no one seems to remember exactly who played whom or who won. Everyone however agreed that it was a lot of fun. The evening was capped by a wonderful dinner provided by Mrs Harveen Saini.

The next day the **Tandons** visited the Legion de honor museum in San Francisco and took in the city sights. The evening started in the Marina in Alameda bay, where people gathered and boarded the Yatch hired for the evening.

Rupinder Brar presented a formal welcome address on behalf of the CONA organizers (**Sunny, Navdeep, Jimmy, Seepja and Dinesh, Amy, Sunil and Shavi**). Honor plaques were presented to **Mr and Mrs Tandon** as well as to Mrs. Harveen Uppal (**Baljit Uppal's** wife) by various **CONA** members. Messages from the **TONA chapter** president and other **ONs** who could not make it were read out.

We agreed to meet regularly. The East coast invitees like **Sarabjit Sandhu** (who had defected earlier from the **CONA**), **Rajiv Vadhera (S-189,1974)** and his brother **Sanjiv Vadhera(S-377)** suggested that next annual meeting be held at Niagara Falls, New York. **Rajiv** offered to help host the event.

An amount of about \$10,000 was raised for a noble cause agreed upon earlier.

The beautiful San Francisco bay and the city lights provided the magically beautiful background for the proceedings of the evening. Later on popular Punjabi tunes filled the air of the bay while the Nabhaites and their families danced with abandon.

CONA Organizers

Poona

After a long time, a dinner get together of Old Nabhaites was held in Poona. The following Old Nabhaites attended. **Mr VN Bhave** (Ex-Chemistry teacher and Housemaster, Jamna House, 1961-76), **Vilas Kate (S-96)**, **Jyoti (Kate) Mahajan (R-52)** & **Rajiv Mahajan** along with their daughter Priya, **Maj Gen & Mrs B P S Mander (J-38)**, MG ASC, HQ Southern Command, **Brig G S Dhillon (B-69)**, Deputy MS, MG ASC, HQ Southern Command, **Lt Col & Mrs P S Shaheed (B-270)**, **Maj Mangat Saini (B-506)**, **Col(Retd) N N Dogra (S-61, Head boy)** **Col Dr Anil Kayastha (S-63)**, Sr Advisor Surg & Urology, Command Hospital, Pune, **Lt Col & Mrs H S Sandhu** (Deptt of Dental Surg, AFMC, Pune) **Mr & Mrs Arvind Kamboj** (Syndicate Bank, Pune) **Maj & Mrs J S Chahal (B-238)**, (Union Bank, Pune), **Maj & Mrs H S Sandhu** (attending Technical Staff Course at IAT, Pune), and **Maj & Mrs J S Bath**.

Major Mangat Saini(B-506)

M.O.D.

In the Memory of Mr Katyal

(a communication to Dr Jashanjot, from Vandana Vij, daughter of Mr Katyal)

Mummy is trying to deal with everything now and we are content to see her with the family here. There is nothing that can bring back Papa but at least we want her to be with us longer. She is not in a condition to take care of herself on her own, being Diabetic. I have filed for her immigration and it is being processed. She will make a trip to India as soon as she gets the Green Card approval. She is progressing well though.

We have decided to start a Yearly Award Fund of Rs10,000 for a class IV employee. This is going to be from Mr Katyal's kids **Archana, Vandana(R-344,1978) and Puneet(R-425,1981)** and should be given out on the 2nd Oct Dinner every year. We would like that every year four students (one from each house from each class) should vote for the most deserving employee. That is what we have come up with and will welcome any kind of suggestions.

It is definitely going to be solely under the ONA umbrella

It is going to be a yearly lifetime commitment and we will just require a friendly reminder every year sometime in June- July in case it slips out of the mind. There used to be a Community dinner on the 2nd Oct every year in PPS where all the families of class four employees were invited and they were served dinner by the students and Staff. Small tokens of appreciation followed later. I assume that the tradition is still on and it would be best to hand over the award then. Otherwise whenever you all think is appropriate is fine with us too.

One of the Best

Mr RS Mehta (Ex Maths, Chemistry) was awarded the '*National Award to the Teachers*' for the year 2002 by the HRD Ministry. He received it from the President of India on September 5, 2003. No wonder, he has been given an extension as Headmaster of MGN Public School, Jalandhar, where he continues to serve after his retirement. Most ONs of Jalandhar have entrusted their children to him and his School. **Congratulations Sir!**

spOnsor

This issue of The Eagle comes to you courtesy sponsorship by CONA Chapter



THE OLD NABHAITES ASSOCIATION

Dear Old Nabhaite

This is to inform you about and invite you to the ONA Day "**ONA DAY 2K3**". This year it is being celebrated on the 23rd of October. On the morning of 23rd October you can attend and enjoy The Founders' Day. This will be followed by Headmasters' Lunch. The ONA Day programme which starts after the Lunch will be tentatively as follows :-

2.00 pm	Headmasters' Lunch
3.30 pm	Past Vs Present Football Match (PPS Grounds) Registration will start for arriving Old Nabhaites
5.00 pm	Tea in Junior School Lawns with School Staff
6.00 pm	ONA Meeting, self introduction
7.00 pm	Formal meeting
8.00 pm	Entry to Dinner venue starts
8.15 pm	ONA Dinner

It should be reiterated here that Old Nabhaites enjoy PPS hospitality for Lunch and Tea. The dinner is hosted by Old Nabhaites. The ONs do not pay only for themselves and their families but also for the guests i.e. School staff and others. As the ONA does not want to financially depend on individual sponsorship because of its own self respect, the Old Nabhaites are expected to bear the cost of the dinner. There have to be some charges to be paid for ONA Day by all Old Nabhaites and the drinks are at cost. Please see that you

register yourself as soon as you arrive in PPS to make it convenient for the organizers. The cooperation of all Old Nabhaites is essential to maintain a healthy tradition for all times to come. **The entry to ONA Dinner will be by invitation cards and no personal guests are allowed.** The cards will be issued at the time of registration.

After a prolonged discussion by the ONA Executive, the following registration charges have been fixed:-

Students	Rs 300 (against ID Card)
Others	Rs 500

There will be a Rs 100 extra charge for every accompanying child.

(Life Members will get a concession of Rs 100 on the above charges. Life membership fee at the moment is Rs1400 you can become on the spot member by paying Rs 1300 a concession of Rs 100 plus avail the discount on registration charges)

All ONs who want accommodation should please inform the ONA Secretariat as soon as possible. If you are coming with family do mention it.

Lt Col BS Grewal(S-50,1967)
Gen Secy,ONA(M:98140-57458)
ONA Secretariat
50 Mahavir Marg
Jalandhar-144003
tel: 0181-2459632
Email: bhangu@jla.vsnl.net.in

Eagle's Support

Chief Patron: Mr MS Bedi (J-82), Headmaster, PPS, Nabha.
Email: hmppsnabha@yahoo.com

Patron: Harpartap Singh(B-45), President, ONA.

Editorial Help: Col HS Bajwa (S-25).

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Replies, Responses & "The Eagle", 50, Mahavir Marg, Jalandhar – 144001.

All correspondence and replies regarding "The Eagle" may be addressed to:-

THE EAGLE, 50 Mahavir Marg, Jalandhar, 144003 INDIA
Phone 0181-2459632,

Email: bhangu@jla.vsnl.net.in