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REGULARS **2**

NEW 90s
CLUB **3**

SOCCER
REPORT **4**

MODEL
UN **5**

Art and Activism

On September 24, the School celebrates the hundredth birth anniversary of **Sudhir Khastagir**, the first art teacher at The Doon School. To mark this occasion, **Shikhar Singh** and **Ashish Mitter** interview his daughter, **Shyamoli Khastagir**, a remarkable personality in her own right

The Doon School Weekly (DSW): Your father's hundredth birth anniversary falls this year, on the 24th of September. What sort of man was he, as an artist, a father, and one of the first teachers at The Doon School?

Shyamoli Khastagir (SKG): Before joining The Doon School, my father was a freelance artist, travelling from city to city and selling his paintings for a living. However, he left this profession because of the intense sense of competition it required him to develop. He turned to teaching, and joined The Scindia School, Gwalior, from where he came to Doon. My father was greatly influenced by the teachings of Tagore and Nandlal Bose, who both encouraged students of art to in turn become teachers instead of professional artists, because this enabled them to spread their creative talent and powers of imagination to future generations. He had strong opinions on art, and believed it to be an integral part of Indian culture, and so he ensured that boys had access to as many forms of art in school as possible, including painting, pottery and stone carving. He also encouraged boys to learn, not only by listening to his lectures, but also by watching him paint. As a father, he meant a lot to me, as he was the only parent I had -- my mother passed away when I was ten months old. However, I was lucky to grow up in a school like Doon, where the entire community was one extended family. I remember playing with a number of other children on campus, and visiting other teachers' houses regularly. It was a close-knit community, and this gave me a sense of belonging, which helped me throughout my life.

DSW: You have led a very interesting life yourself, having studied at Shantiniketan and then gone on to become a dedicated activist abroad. What influenced you to take up activism?

SKG: I remember being sensitized to issues of vital human importance from an early age. Although my father was not a 'political' person in the strict sense of the term, he was 'anti-war' by principle. He was also a Gandhian of sorts, using the *charkha* and always stressing on the need to develop handicrafts and cottage industries. As I grew up, I was troubled by a number of events, which influenced me

to gravitate towards the path of activism. For example, a student of my uncle, who was a physicist, and handled radioactive substances regularly, had a child who was born without a spinal cord. This really disturbed me, and the feeling was exacerbated by the Pokhran tests of 1974. However, I really took up activism for the sake of my son. I had moved to Vancouver in 1968, and was worried that my son would forget about his roots, and grow up meeting people from only a privileged section of society. In Vancouver I had come to know a number of activists, and went with them in 1977 to Trident Base in Washington state, where the infamous Trident submarines were manufactured, for a protest meeting. My son was only eight years old, but I took him along. It was a non-violent protest-- we carried placards and planted trees. I was arrested for the first time that year, and was to become somewhat addicted to it!

DSW: What was the philosophy behind your activism, and what were some of your more memorable moments as an activist?

SKG: Well I was primarily involved in protests against nuclear weapons, though this subsequently led me to campaign for the preservation of the environment fairly extensively. All our protests were strictly non-violent, and we were greatly influenced by Gandhi in this regard. We were also influenced by Tagore, and his concept of a humanity that transcends nation-states. As for my most memorable moment: well, I don't have one, but some events that do stand out in my mind include the time when I went to Washington D.C. to work with the Community for Creative Non-violence, and we held a prayer meeting and sang protest songs inside the White House; and all the trials I had, especially one in 1979, when I was put on trial on Hiroshima Day, and allowed to be my own lawyer, and argue my case. Interestingly, the judge that day was an American of Japanese descent!

DSW: You have talked of being influenced by both Gandhi and Tagore. Who do you think has more relevance in today's world?

(contd. on page 2)

REGULARS

DEBATING DUES

In the **Kamala Jeevan Inter-School Hindi Debate** held on Saturday, September 15, in the MPH, Vasudha Thirani (Welham Girls' School) was awarded the **Best Speaker**, while Anant Kukreti (RIMC), and Akshit Batra (The Doon School) won the **Second** and **Third Best Speaker** awards respectively. Prachi Sharma (Mayo College for Girls), and Sachi Seth (Mayo College for Girls) were given the **Consolation Prizes**. The school positions were as follows:

- 1st: Mayo College for Girls
- 2nd: Rashtriya Indian Military College
- 3rd: Welham Girls' School
- 4th: The Doon School

KICKED!

The following are the results of the **Inter-House Soccer Competition, 2007**:

Junior Cup:	Senior Cup:
1st: Oberoi House	1st: Tata House
2nd: Jaipur House	2nd: Hyderabad House
3rd: Hyderabad House	3rd: Kashmir House
4th: Tata House	4th: Jaipur House
5th: Kashmir House	5th: Oberoi House
House Cup	
1st: Tata House	
2nd: Hyderabad House	
3rd: Jaipur House	
4th: Oberoi House	
5th: Kashmir House	

SOCCER COLOURS

The following boys have been awarded **School Soccer Colours**:

Full Colours	Half Colours
Aryaman Sengar	Dhairy Khera
Tanuj Bhramar	Shiva Gururani
Alexander Hoysted	Shivaj Neupane
	Ayyappa Vemulkar
Congratulations!	Rishabh Bir Singh (Re-awarded)

PT JERSEY

Chitwanjot Singh, Kaustabh Verma, Tanuj Bhramar, Sachin Uppal, Vishal Singh, Ankit Durga, Dilshad Singh, Samaay Mangalgi, Suryajit Singh, and Tanveer Angad Singh have been awarded the PT Jersey. Congratulations!

WINNING WRITERS

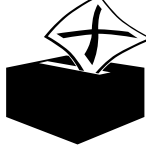
In the **Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma English Essay Writing Competition** for Seniors, Dilsher Dhillon was placed first, while Ayyappa Vemulkar was placed second. Well done!

NUMBER ONES

In the **Senior Mathematics Colloquium** held on September 18, Skand Goel was placed first, while Eshaan Puri was second. Kudos!



Unquotable Quotes

My head is headaching.
Saurav Sethia suffers doubly.
He climbed the toppest mountain of the world.
Bharat Ganju, superlatively challenged.
If you talk I'll make you out of the class.
JCP requires 'in-house' silence.
What did I did?
Neel Madhav declares his past.
Tata House House XI have a Juniors I match today.
Suryajit Singh, aspiring D former.
I want an omelette without an egg.
Arvind Sharma redefines breakfast.
It is raining in the MPH.
Aditi Joshi finds no shelter.



Opinion Poll

Do you think the Twenty-Twenty format makes for better cricket?

379 people participated in the poll

Next Week's Question: Do you have faith in the effectiveness of the United Nations?

(contd. from page 1)

SKG: I feel that both are equally relevant, regardless of the fact that they had their differences. Both stressed on universal values such as self-reliance, respect for each other's freedom, and the need for constructive criticism. Also, they realised that the true India lay in the villages, and that it was this India that we of the privileged class had to constantly keep in mind.

DSW: Finally, after coming back to school, what do you feel about the campus?

SKG: Well, I have come back once before, in 1984, but this time I have noticed a lot of change. However, while I know that some trees and buildings (including my old house!) have gone, this was bound to happen, and I think that the campus is still extremely beautiful. The new construction has been very aesthetically done, and well-planned. This is refreshing, coming from a place like Shantiniketan, which is in a mess in this regard. I would also like to say that I have noticed a change in the atmosphere here at Doon – things are less formal now, and I feel it is better this way. It really is very nice to be back!

The 90s Club

The following is a list of the boys who secured 90 percent and above in their Board Examinations. These results have been calculated with the EVE marks taken into account.

Indian Certificate of Secondary Education (ICSE)

Sarthak Misra (91.4%)
 Jaspreet Singh (92.4%)
 Ayush Agarwal (91.2%)
 Shaleen Chikara (92%)
 Hamza Iqbal (90.8%)
 Dilsher Dhillon (90.6%)
 Mansher Dhillon (89.6%)
 Ayyappa Vemulkar (92.8%)
 Ankur Saxena (92.8%)
 Abhaas Shah (93.6%)
 Madhav Bahadur (92.8%)
 Mehtab Chima (92.2%)
 Akshit Batra (96.2%)
 Samridh Aggarwal (90.8%)
 Vikrant Jain (90.8%)
 Abhimanyu Chandra (92.8%)
 Shashvat Sikroria (90.8%)
 Rushil Singh (91.6%)
 Salil Gupta (95.6%)
 Mayapati Tiwari (90.2%)
 Harshvardhan Mediratta (90.2%)
 Gurbaaz Sidhu (93.2%)
 Abhimanyu Malik (95%)
 Utkarsh Agarwal (95.2%)
 Varun Agarwal (93.8%)
 Yash Aggarwal (90%)
 Saket Mahajan (94.2%)
 Shaurya Kuthiala (90.4%)
 Divyang Prateek (91.6%)
 Tanay Garg (93.8%)
 Hanumant Singh (93%)
 Saksham Sharda (92%)
 Vishnukaant Pitty (95.6%)
 Pratham Mittal (95%)
 Shantanu Garg (92%)

Indian School Certificate (ISC)

Gurshant Singh (92.75%)
 Rohanjit Chaudhry (95%)
 Rajnush Agarwal (90%)
 Vishal Sonthalia (93.5%)
 Vratul Kapur (91.25%)
 Pradyot Shahi (92.75%)
 Sahil Aggarwal (95%)
 Shoumit Mukhopadhyay (93.75%)
 Uday Pratap Singh (91.25%)
 Chirag Nangia (92.5%)
 Avyay Jhunjhunwala (92.5%)
 Vishesh Goel (94.5%)
 Aditya Ajmani (96.25%)
 Amritesh Rai (96%)
 Vashisht Garg (95%)
 Gaurav Gupta (95.5%)
 Prannay Agarwal (95%)
 Shubham Gupta (95.5%)
 Pulkit Baheti (95%)
 Chetan Agarwal (95%)
 Arjun Sengar (95%)
 Himanshu Mishra (93%)
 Alok Arora (93%)
 Sharad Bajla (95.25%)
 Kushagra Kumar (94.75%)
 Chirag Hirawat (93.25%)
 Varun Khandelwal (94.25%)
 Kinshuk Kocher (93.75%)
 Zain Rehman (91.5%)
 Arjun Anjaria (95%)
 Akaash Maheshwari (94%)
 Akshay Kumar (95.75%)
 Akshat Ojha (92.5%)
 Yash Rajiv Gandhi (93.%)

Know your alphabet

A word root

Know your alphabet

H: The form of the capital 'H' is through the Roman and Greek from the Phoenician (Semitic) letter *Heth* or *Cheth*, which, having two crossbars instead of one, represented a fence. The corresponding Egyptian hieroglyph was a sieve, and the Anglo-Saxon rune is called 'hail'.

I: The ninth letter of the alphabet, representing the Greek *iota* and Semitic *yod*. The written and printed 'i' and 'j' were for long interchangeable, and it was only in the nineteenth century that in dictionaries they were treated

as separate letters. In Samuel Johnson's *Dictionary* of 1755, 'iambic' comes between 'jamb' and 'jangle'. Hence, in many series, such as the signatures of sheets in a book or hallmarks on plate, either 'I' or 'J' is omitted. 'I' is number one in Roman notation.

J: The tenth letter of the alphabet, it was differentiated from 'I' only in the seventeenth century and not completely distinguished from it until the nineteenth. In the Roman system of numeration it was used in place of 'i' as the final figure in a series.

(Sourced from Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable.)

Dribble, Pass, Kick...Goal!

Shaurya Kuthiala and Yash Lalwani report on the recently-concluded Inter-House Soccer Competition



Loud cheers, breath-taking skill, powerful shots, disappointment at defeat and elation in victory, were all seen during the Inter-House Soccer Competition this year. Everyone played with what is so well known to all Doscos, *josh* – giving in their very best for the competition. There was also a great deal of speculation, as no side gained an early lead.

In the House XI matches, Tata House started off shakily, but the warriors fought their way to the top, winning three out of four matches. Jaipur House and Hyderabad House, too, performed well, winning two matches each. It was interesting to note how the School team members, so used to working with one another, had to contend against one other. All the work that the School team had put in during the season was exhibited in the matches. Furious competition ensued, and many gasps were heard from the spectators.

The defensive, as well as offensive play showcased in the matches was commendable. Many good forwards could not cope with the excellent defense of the backs. Yet, some forwards managed to find chinks in the armour of the defense, and capitalized on them occasionally, scoring cleverly placed goals. The halves, too, did a great job, running up and down, making passes for forwards to convert into goals. They kept the ball in play, bringing it up during an attack, and falling back for defense as and when required to do so. Their contribution, though not as evident, was immense.

Soccer is a sport which is loved by almost everyone in School. It is enthusiastically pursued by boys from all forms. During the competition, huge numbers of boys were seen cheering for their Houses. I feel that this sport does not only bring a team together, like any other sport, but also brings the House closer together. All boys of the House are ecstatic with every victory and sorrowful with every loss. While some fine goals were scored by the School soccer captain, Suryajit Singh and Nelson Kumrawat of Jaipur House, the Tata House defense did especially well, ably led by Aryaman Sengar. Alexander Hoysted and Shailendra Singh's contributions cannot be forgotten either.

In the Leagues I matches, Hyderabad and Tata dominated throughout. The teams played with immense determination, fighting to the very end. The level of

soccer displayed was extremely high, with goals being scored from as far back as the half-line. To be fair, however, the keepers did make some excellent saves. Promising displays were put up by the teams, guaranteeing that the high standard of soccer in school is in no danger of showing a decline.

As the competition progressed, Tata House comfortably won the Senior Cup, while Hyderabad House came second. The junior matches were progressing steadily. An outstanding performance was seen by Vahin Khosla, who smashed the ball into the back of the net quite a few times. As a result, Oberoi House did well, taking away the Junior Cup, with Jaipur House following them.

Eventually, however, Tata House would not be denied. They won the House Cup and enjoyed a small celebratory party after the last match, with some boys spraying Pepsi on everyone else – champagne style!

Overall, this year's soccer competition started with the new hopes of new teams, all eager to prove themselves. The high standards displayed in the competition were proof that soccer is gaining popularity, with more and more boys showing a deeper interest in the sport. It ended with happiness and disappointments, but, after all, in all competitions, there have to be winners and there have to be losers.

Trophy Flash

The **Junior Soccer Cup** was presented by Sahu Jagdish Prasad. The first proud recipient of the Soccer Cup was Hyderabad House in 1941.



The **Senior Soccer Cup** was introduced by the School in the year 2006. It was first displayed on September 29, 2006, when Kashmir House won it.

The **House Soccer Cup** was presented by N. Bhattacharyya. The first proud recipient of the Soccer Cup was Tata House in 1936.



CAREER CALL

The careers' notice board in the coming week will focus on the groupings of terminology commonly used in Universities around the world. All those hoping to study abroad should look it up.

Model United Nations

As the first day of the Sishya School Model United Nations 2007 commenced, things didn't look very encouraging. We found out that schools from UK and Sri Lanka were also a part of the event. We also noted, with butterflies in our stomachs, that the delegates of the host schools and even some other schools had been preparing for the past two months, while we had prepared for only the past two-three weeks. Thus, it was with a lot of apprehension and nervousness that we entered our Committee Rooms. The Doon School delegation was representing UK. There were seven committees in all. Rohan Gupta was representing us in the Security Council; Skand in the ECOSOC; Vivaan in the Human Rights Commission; Brahmar in the Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Committee; Abhaas in the Eco. and Financial Committee; Keshav in the Environment Committee and myself, in the Disarmament Committee.

I felt very out of place in my Committee. All the delegates looked very casual and nonchalant, full of camaraderie. It was within the first hour that I stepped into my diplomacy shoes. I quickly sided with the delegates of USA and France, and got them as co-submitters to my resolution. The resolution was aimed at preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction, and thus, with some new-found support, my resolution was passed, helping me achieve recognition. I learnt a lot on the first day. I learnt that it was vital to have allies supporting your every move and that in all MUN meetings, the Chairman of the Committee must know who you are and mentally separate you from all the other nameless delegates who weren't very verbal in the Committee. There was a quick question-answer session on my resolution, where dissenting delegates aimed their questions at me. Thanks to my involvement in debating in school, I answered their questions convincingly and cleared all their doubts. Thus the morning session ended with my proposal and resolution for the formation of a machinery and comprehensive agreement to end proliferation of chemical conventional weapons, and a framework to combat nuclear proliferation with the G8 countries taking the main initiative.

Resolutions were passed on various current and relevant issues discussed in the Committee. Interestingly, UK, USA and France were at the centre of all passed resolutions.

As you may have guessed, there were resolutions passed on all topics debated in all other Committees, most of which figured UK at the centre. All of the other UK delegates spoke exceedingly well in the other Committees arguing vigorously on issues like oil shocks, child prostitution, the death penalty, the withdrawal of US troops from Iraq, toxic trade, the role played by international NGOs and the UN peacekeeping issues.

Even though we had only prepared for two to three weeks, the UK delegation was definitely a force to reckon with. That is why I think a Dosco is unique. He has the ability to shed his inhibitions and just speak on what he thinks is right.

We were totally bowled over by the professionalism of this conference. There was a world press, and 5-man Executive

Boards for all the respective Committees. What's more, there was actual live coverage of the event from *The Hindu*.

Everyone was clad in western formals. There was also a different emergency situation prepared for each Committee. It was a tense situation, but it enabled me and all the other UK delegates to rise to the occasion.

At the end of the three-day proceedings, the resolutions from each committee were all debated in the General Assembly, with a majority of proposals featuring UK being passed. Then there was the prize-distribution ceremony. Abhaas, Vivaan, Skand, Tanuj, Rohan and I were nominated as best delegates from our committees. Rohan and Tanuj and I went on to win the Best Delegate Award from our Committees. The UK received the Overall Best Delegation Prize, capping a dream result.

We were truly despondent when we left Chennai. We had made a number of good friends, swapping email IDs and numbers with one another, and we had definitely had a 'cracker' of a time. More school trips like this should be encouraged. Also, I feel the need to lay importance on MUN, a relatively new concept in school. It helps in not only our intellectual development and oratorical skills, but also increases our awareness of the world around us. It requires an extensive knowledge of foreign policies and current affairs. To end, I would like to say, that the Chennai trip was, in the true sense of the word, an invaluable learning experience. * * * * *

Shoumitra Srivastava tells us about MUN at Mumbai

On August 15, five Doscos (Pranjal Singh, Govind Singh, Bharat Ganju, Arnav Sahu, and myself) escorted by PMV, reached Mumbai to take part in the Cathedral School's CMUN. In the evening we had an orientation session on 'MUNing'.

But it was nothing like we had anticipated.

There was no stiff formality or any serious UN business. We all (including our chairpersons) were very relaxed. You could use personal pronouns to a small extent (which are generally a complete no-no in Doon MUNs) and the chit-passing business was a rather amusing affair, a conduit for people to have some light-hearted fun with fellow delegates.

Our Chair used to throw us chocolates for any moving speeches, and a motion of entertainment was the time when you could see your fellow delegates dance or even sing in their native language (a delegate sang in French in the Security Council). To top it all was the press corps, which came out with two issues every day.

Emergencies on the second day were more fun. In the joint session of the Security Council, the Human Rights Commission and the Counter-Terrorism Committee, our delegation of UFDR rebels was accused of supporting Al Qaeda. At this, a rather verbose Pranjal Singh came up with speeches which supported Al Qaeda. But in the end, it all had a happy ending when he was awarded a certificate of Special Mention and Govind Singh was specially recognised by the Chair. Thus, all the Dosco diplomats returned with a smile on their faces.

*Vanquished**Rachit Khaitan*

The fiery red orb rips through,
Sailing over the azure sky,
The shroud of obstinate cloud giving passage,
After many a dreary day of shedding tears.
Apprehension and bleak tension plague the mind;
For some odd reason,
Sanguine thoughts are ephemeral,
As I proceed for battle.

The scores begin to roll, tipping over either side,
Transient boosts of confidence; crests of despair,
Blow after blow marring me;
A feeling of frustration, rage; my insides seething,
Spurting out grit.

The mind in a state of oblivion,
Pulse racing, heart thumping,
Photographic images flashing,
Of catcalls, frolic, support and advice;
Amplified conversations with the mind,
Flitting images of inspiring moments, films and
literature,

In the quest for glory; reputation at stake.
Like a pitchfork, piercing the fragile state of mind,
The final blow that comes ricocheting,
Thundering and clobbering; down to the core.
Havoc, devastation, obliteration.

Sirens blare, lights dazzle,
Myriad voices swarm like pests,
A cacophony of noise, shatters the solitude,
The trauma takes its toll,
A lump forms in my throat.

The obscured world replenishes its vitality,
The visual spectrum of the living world,
Hurtles towards me like bricks,
Hammering my very existence;
The victor, the champion, basks in glory;
While I walk away, dejected.

The grim clouds return, pale and ominous,
A placid wind blows and bucketsfull of tears flood
the earth,
The world becomes devoid of the snug streams of
fiery light.

I take one last gaze at the arena,
Where I met my match,
Where I was left mangled,
Where I was left an object of mirth,
Where I was left...vanquished.

Eternity

and

*Time**Kenilworth Yambem*

Am I these words saying
I'm estranged from the writing itself?
It's just another eternal flow,
And I am the medium.

I look at me, this portrayed piece,
I can't see its entirety.
I am just trapped in existence,
That is how I am defined.

Look at them, you know, my kind...
Very absurd are they, and so am I,
The notion of us and them,
For there is only you, me, and the other.

Sometimes, I drift to escape
In a space and time undefined.
I feel me but see all the rest,
I am different, so are they.

In a wilderness, you see,
This notion of an empty flow,
Which is merely titled
Eternity and time.

And from that space, I see
The zero-ness of eternity.
How about the rest?
I'll tell you so:

Coupled, lined-up spontaneity,
To propagate their kind.
Another vision for another being,
They call it life...

Visions narrowed to their convenience,
To see that which they please to.
Sometimes, to the size of a currency note,
Ah! They push themselves to the peak of
misery.

Behold the greatest confinement,
That which we call life.
If I were to sum it up,
A moment lived in eternity.

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