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## Making a Song and Dance...

*Sriyash Kishorepuria reports on the recently-concluded IH music and dance competition*

As the inter-house music competition was divided into many venues and over a period of three weeks, it lost its usual atmosphere of expectancy and excitement. Inevitably, the ten-day break also affected the quality of performances. Yet, the music competition this year (at least the part the entire school witnessed) did not fail to impress. I can confidently say that the standards this year were exceptionally high and each House came up with original and innovative ideas, both in the dance and popular band sections.

The piano solo was the first event held this year, without an audience, though. The festive décor of the marigold garlands only emphasized the forlorn appearance of an empty, echoing MPH. The judges, much to the consternation of the performers, who were already thrown somewhat off-balance by the announcement made that evening cancelling the show, elected to sit onstage. Nevertheless, there were some scintillating performances, featuring virtuoso pieces from the classical piano repertoire: Chopin's *Revolutionary Etude*, Beethoven's *Sonata opus 27*, Grieg's 'Puck', to name a few. Along with seasoned performers like Nikhil Sardana, Aditi Joshi and myself was Sumer Saigal of C form who made a poised and confident first appearance, playing for Jaipur House.

The next three sections – Hindustani instrumental, classical vocal and tabla were also held (almost) in camera. A variety of instruments – violin (Aditi Joshi, Lakshit Joshi and Akshay Sharan), flute (Pranoy Bohra and Prashant Bhandari), mandolin (Shresth Khaitan) – were featured in the classical instrumental section, which saw some fine performances of *ragas*. This was the last year of inter-house performance by two of School's best singers: Amit Gupta of Tata House and Yashvardhan Jain of Kashmir House, and the School certainly missed out on these. A promising stage debut was made in this category by a Jaipur House D former, Suyash Shivam.

The 'swine flu break' over, the competition resumed with the House choirs performing in the more intimate venue of the Music School Hall. Aided by good acoustics, the performances reflected the hours of work put in by all the Houses. The demanding '*Chatarang*' structure, featuring *Chhota Khayal*, *Sargam*, *Tarana* and *Tiravat* made for a lively concert and certainly kept the conductors on their toes (pun intended).

The rest of the competition was played in front of the School. The drum solos this year saw innovative compositions. Drummers Vedant Chandra and Vigya Singh from Jaipur and Kashmir House respectively incorporated melodic lines on the xylophone while Ashray Batra from Hyderabad House even used a cow bell in his solo. A noteworthy debut was made by Tata's Siddharth Bathla. The popular band selection was also very well contested. Kashmir House performed songs not only in English and Hindi (Gold Spot's *Today's Friday*) but also in German (*I Wanna Hold Your Hand*, an early Beatles number). Their instrumentation was neatly done and their vocalists stole the show. Kashmir was followed by Oberoi, who ambitiously played numbers by the Beatles and the Wonders' foot-tapping number *That Thing You Do*. Jaipur House, with both the School popular band leaders and the School music captain, managed to pull off Simon and Garfunkel's *Kodachrome* and the evergreen *Smoke on the Water*, both difficult songs for an amateur performance. Their harmonies were commendable and Arjan Maini's stage presence made all the difference. Tata played their beloved *Mairi and Mehfuz*, both by Euphoria. The use of the tabla, flute and the mouth organ, together with good keyboarding and confident vocals, allowed them to put up a good show. Hyderabad House stuck somewhere in Jacksonmania from this year and Cold Playmania from last year, played *Life in Technicolor II* and *Heal the World*. Their use of two pianos and a violin, sitar and tabla which backed strong and well harmonized vocals, got them deserved appreciation.

The last event of the evening was the much awaited Dance extravaganza. In my six years in School I have altogether seen thirty choreographies, but this year's five were by far the best I have ever seen. Unlike other years, each House was restricted this time by a theme. Kashmir chose to enact the haunting *Bohemian Rhapsody*, while Oberoi presented the musical muse(s) of a broomstick man. Jaipur brought to the stage the legend of Krishna, Tata commented on racism and Hyderabad was still stuck in Jacksonmania with their tribute to the 'King of Pop'. Oberoi House pioneered the use of UV light and paint. Tata and Hyderabad used audio-visuals to enrich their presentation.

The results brought their share of heartache and happiness. But that was only to be expected. What singled out this year's competition was that this was the final one for Gursharan Singh, the Director of Music, who has been at the helm of affairs for the past nineteen years. The Headmaster applauded the service rendered by him and the School gave him a standing ovation.

## Regulars

### KINGS AND PAWNS

The following have been awarded **Chess Colours**: Harshit Tiwari, Aditya Kothiwal, Uday Shriram (re-awarded) and Saurav Mediratta (re-awarded). Congratulations!

### COLOURFUL STROKES

The following have been awarded **Half Colours in Swimming**:

Aditya Gupta, Nikhil Narain, Netesh Dev, Sambuddha Naha, Angad Singh, Angad Bawa (re-awarded) and Kanishk Gupta (re-awarded).

The following have been awarded **Full Colours in Swimming**:

Sriyash Kishorepuria and Devvrat Patney.  
Congratulations!

### IH MUSIC RESULTS

The following are the results of this year's **Inter-House Music and Dance Competition**. First positions in the individual categories are:

**Piano Solo**: Sriyash Kishorepuria (Oberoi)

**Classical Vocal**: Yashvardhan Jain (Kashmir)

**Classical Instrumental**: Aditi Joshi (Hyderabad)

**Tabla**: Vedant Chandra (Jaipur)

**Drum Solo**: Vedant Chandra (Jaipur)

**Popular Band**: Jaipur

**Dance**: Jaipur

**Choir**: Jaipur

**House Positions**:

**1st**: Jaipur

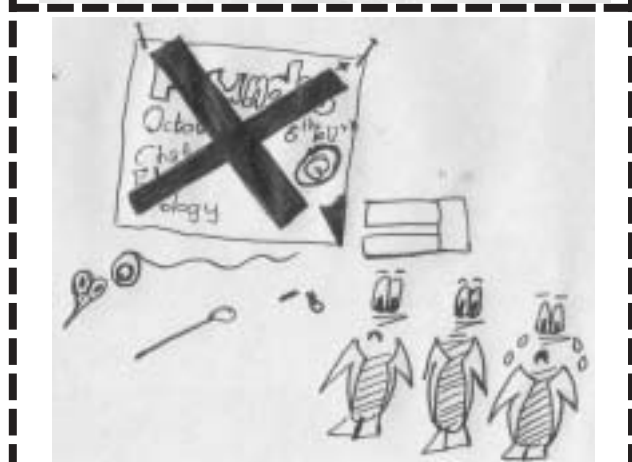
**2nd**: Hyderabad

**3rd**: Tata

**4th**: Oberoi

**5th**: Kashmir

Congratulations!



Oh well, at least we've got a Domino's lunch...

| Poetry |

## COLOURS

*Abhishek Choudhary*

Three shades of red,  
A hint of orange,  
A splash of yellow,  
All fading against  
A mystical blue.

The clouds at once,  
The purest of white,  
Appear to be on fire,  
And glow with a silver lining.

Just for a moment it  
Brings me tranquillity...  
Just for a second in time  
All my turmoil goes away.

Taking out time to notice  
What we tend to miss,  
The beautiful things in life,  
Life is calm.

As the sun goes down  
I am enclosed in the  
Colours that surround  
Me with peace.

\* \* \*

## HOPE

*Arnav Joshi*

There's a silver lining on every dark cloud.  
It is a truth that many saints profess,  
Though all in different words and ways, yes.

There's just one common linking thread.  
That hope is not just some feeling to be had,  
It is like a hard day's work's nightly bread.

It should be felt by every one,  
For it is what keeps off despair,  
And holds power to make things fair.

If with such hope you are not blessed,  
You will lead a life distressed.  
So, let life be a blessing in every way,  
And let us be optimistic every day.



## Opinion Poll

Do you think the swine flu scare is over?

Yes: 64%

No: 36%

( 225 members of the School community were polled)

**Next week's question:** Are we really 'blocked' from the outside world?

| Creative |

## UNHEALTHY MUSINGS

*Shashank Peshawaria*

Here's the requisite disclaimer: any similarities to people (which I have tried best to avoid), places or other things is coincidental; this is a work of fiction.

Are you looking for something funny? Well then, I shall tell you a funny story which is not as funny as it is predictably wretched. There was something that was troubling me that day, other than the usual Monday morning blues. What was it? The *parantha* at breakfast? The sudden announcement of play rehearsals? Rain? What? I wondered as I walked on the pebbled path towards the science block. Ah, it was my floaters. An unbearable stink arose from my damp feet. At lunch, I saw myself in the mirror outside the dining hall. I looked disgusting. What was that white powder-like substance in my hair? Dandruff? Such amounts of it? I tried to push the horrible vision out of my dirty head, but it wouldn't go. Sigh. Another thing to be dealt with.

I didn't brush my teeth that morning because I was in a hurry to reach for an Economics class. And I thought best not to breathe on someone's face while talking. So, when Salil cracked a joke sitting only an inch away from me, I covered my mouth while laughing. I knew girls covered their mouths while laughing. I would look silly doing the same. All the boys started sniggering. But what could I do? It would have been worse otherwise.

I looked at the stain on my t-shirt that was there because of the *rajmah* I had spilled on it the previous day. And while I thought about how that made me look shabbier, I angrily squashed the pimple that had mushroomed among the many others on my face. It squirted some blood and died after that, leaving an uglier and more annoying part of it behind. How miserable a body I was, I thought.

And so, before sleeping that night (with my odour, unfortunately), I thought: I will brush my teeth tomorrow, cut my nails, throw my clothes and myself for a wash, tidy up my sty, and eat an apple. It keeps the doctor away, doesn't it?

| Viewpoint |

## The Founder's Heartbreak

*Vivek Santayana reflects on the cancellation of Founder's Day*

The final verdict was out on Tuesday and Founder's Day was cancelled.

That single statement takes a while to digest. Founder's Day meant a lot of things to a lot of us, the exhibitions, special editions of publications, speeches, a chance to flaunt our blazers, badges and ties, the eminent Chief Guest's visit, the night-out (which would fall really close to a handful of friends' birthdays, if I may be personal) and the ceremonial Founder's Day dinner (for reasons besides the food). For the Sc formers, it was their last Founder's, *their* Founder's. Boys of Oberoi House lost a Pagal Gymkhana. Founder's was considered almost sacrosanct, the one event that would happen, come what may.

What makes it worse are the two major factors responsible for the cancellation of Founder's Day. Firstly, our irresponsibility towards our health. If we had been more responsible, the two epidemics that swept the School would have been contained effectively and the repercussions would not have been so severe. We may not have got

This whole ordeal will sink into our collective amnesia as and when the curfew is lifted. | the surprise holiday, but we wouldn't have paid the price for it, either (mid-terms and Founder's). The second factor: a simple flu.

On a different note, in the year 1994, Founder's was cancelled because of the Uttarakhand riots. Both times, then and now, the decision was taken in our best interest. We should understand that it will always take an issue of such a magnitude to cancel Founder's. It is something to be proud of: we didn't stop our preparations, and we definitely didn't let something like swine flu get in the way of anything.

A lot of things have already gone wrong because of swine flu; the Chuckerbutty Debates were cancelled, we weren't sent for various inter-school competitions, half of the inter-house music competition happened without an audience and a part of our lives in School were derailed. We have reasons to feel sad. But let's not mourn the loss of Founder's. Honestly, we're capable of occupying ourselves without it. Life in School will still go on, and it will be just as busy. Furthermore, it's time to get down to studying, with test week so unbearably close. While all of us are feeling a little 'off' on having lost that one big annual highlight, we should let it be. But I don't feel that anything more needs to be said, really. I have always held our ability to keep ourselves occupied in great esteem.

Ultimately, after the Founder's weekend, we'll be too preoccupied with everything else. This whole ordeal will sink into our collective amnesia as and when the curfew is lifted. We'll have the Athletics and Boxing competitions to take care of. So what if it's currently a major heartbreak? We've all suffered something like this at some point in our lives in School, when something we've been looking forward to for a year, or maybe more, or maybe even ever since we joined School, hasn't materialised. We've seen our ambitions come to nothing. We just have to keep our chin up. It is, no doubt, hard to get over this. But no matter how difficult it is, we must take it in our stride. We must be mature, and overcome our collective heartbreak. If School could go on during World War II (a time when even the *Weekly* continued to run, despite the paper shortage), riots during 1947 (when masters' daughters began studying in School for safety reasons) and countless other crises, losing Founder's should not be a big deal. We'll get over it in time.

# In the Limelight

*Kanishka Malik writes about what it takes for organisations in School to have enduring value*

Along with living up to the various prestigious organizations in School, DoscOs have to adapt to umpteen changes in School. Besides the changes brought about by the modernization of School, I have noticed a lot of new organizations coming up. There are a number of publications, societies and clubs that have sprung up and they have a number of challenges to face. Many of them are targets of the familiar scorn of our community. It is in such an atmosphere that they are tested. It is here that the members of such organizations will learn what it takes to make something last in the face of hostility or mockery.

In the future we all will face a similar challenge. This challenge is the struggle of starting something new, conceptualizing it and ensuring that it lasts as long as possible. Currently, we have new societies such as the Business Club and STAs such as Karate and Dominoes. We have a number of new publications like *The Infinity*, which is also not more than two years old and has been conceptualized well enough to have recently come into the limelight. The House publications, which are printed on and off, try their level best to appear different whenever they are printed. There are also rumours about a publication related to Economics that is being worked on. All these organizations have to establish their importance by propagating their agendas and concepts in a suitable manner. They all require a certain element that distinguishes them from the rest, and makes them substantial and interesting. Both depend largely on the managers of these organizations and the manner in which they contribute to it. There are many prestigious societies in School such as SEDS (Senior English Debating Society), the Historical Circle and publications like *DSIR* and *Echo* (which are about seven years old) that have established themselves due to diligent management and meticulous conceptualization. I have noticed that the *DSIR* became one of the most popular publications in school despite the competition and restrictions it has. The same reasons apply for the popularity of *RSIS*, *RSC* and also organizations related to social service. This was a result of excellent managerial efficiency.

Noting these factors is important for every member of this community, for it provides an insight into the process of creating something of worth and then making it last. We need to understand the problems shared by all those who try to make something live up to a standard and maintain it.

# Holding Ourselves Back

*Kartic Sharma on the negative effects of peer pressure*

You may want to study a bit longer, but they will call you a 'rutt'. You may want to clear your doubts with a teacher, but they will call you a 'lend'. You may want to go up to your Housemaster for some help, but they will call you a 'scopat'. You may work a little extra to organize an event, but they will call you a 'servant'.

Well, if this is the case, why do anything more in School than what is assigned to you? I feel dejected, sad and held back from doing things when I hear such comments from my friends. To avoid such labels, a Dosco prevents himself from stretching his limits. This is a common fact, and I wouldn't like to hide it anymore, having faced it for five years.

I would like to term this as ragging, a ragging of a different sort, one which may not involve physical or emotional torture, but which holds you back from what you want to do and leads you astray. To put it more clearly, what an ordinary Dosco today thinks is, "If you avoid all this, you preserve your self-esteem or, in other words, you remain *cool*."

At this moment, I would like to give my own example, which I am sure pertains to a majority of DoscOs. In my D and C forms, I used to go regularly for STAs, striving to master a skill. As I grew, I imbibed the Dosco trend, owing to peer pressure. Seniors began to call me all sorts of names for my efforts, and this practice was continued by my own form-mates. In my S form, when I decided to go for my STA, I was held back (literally, by my shirt) by my form-mates. I was called a plethora of names. So naturally, I began to abstain from attending activities that had given me so much pleasure. It seemed more important not to risk my peers' and seniors' displeasure. I was not to be called a 'servant' any longer. Until when, I thought that if my parents asked me what I was doing in School, my reply would have to be, "Nothing. I am not acting like a 'servant'."

I would also like to take this opportunity to convey the consequences of having such peers. A Dosco is known for doing that extra inch more, which distinguishes him from others, but looking at the current scenario, I am afraid it may be lost.

## The Who?

*Who is Sarah Palin?*

- An actress – **Aryaman Scindia**
- An astronaut – **Suraj Bishnoi**
- A famous cook – **Pulkit Bansal**
- A tennis champion – **Vishesh Kochhar**
- A rockstar – **Dhruv Aggarwal**

*She is an American politician who was the Republican candidate for Vice President of the United States in 2008.*

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