



Established in 1936

# The Doon School WEEKLY

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## Play-Time

*Shashvat Dhandhanian and Raghav Puri* review the Inter-House Hindi Play Competition which took place on May 6 and 7



A scene from the Kashmir House play, *Holi*

If there is one activity in which every member of the House is involved, it is the Inter-House One Act Play. From handling props to arranging costumes, from acting to directing, it is all managed by the boys. Staging the play is a feat in itself. The positions, as we are told each year, do not make a difference.

This year, the competition started on Friday, May 6, in the MPH (and not the Rose Bowl, due to bad weather). The first House to take the stage was Oberoi. The play they performed had been scripted by Saud Amin Khan, for which he must be given due credit.

Next was Hyderabad House, performing *Sultan* by Mahesh Elkunchwar. The play had multiple connotations and was undoubtedly a difficult one to perform. It revolved around the ego of a man and the animal instinct within him. The lead role was

played to perfection by Rahil Badhwar. The introduction of Yash Aggarwal as the priest, Rohan Shriram as the doctor and Sanat Verma as 'Julie' - the girlfriend lightened the mood of the play. Although I enjoyed the play to quite an extent, I felt that there were several occasions where it failed to connect with the audience. One of the difficulties of performing the play was that there were no changes in the scene or the set. Saransh Seth's contribution must be acknowledged for his elaborate and yet effective stage set-up.

The last play of the evening was *Joota*, staged by Jaipur House. The first problem with the play was that it was not audible at most times. The play revolved around the role played by destiny in our lives. Saif Ali's performance aptly brought to light the frustration he felt because of the pair of shoes following him everywhere. In accordance with what the judges said, I feel that the video clip had very little to do with the play. However, Akshay Sharan and Arth Gupta must be acknowledged for their convincing performances.

The next day started off with Kashmir House's *Holi*, another play by Mahesh Elkunchwar. The play not only conveyed a strong message but did so in an entertaining manner. It was about a bunch of badly behaved, disrespectful college students. The ending was highly unexpected and enthralled the audience. Moreover, K House made effective use of the whole stage and the play was not centred around a protagonist, giving all the actors a chance to showcase their talents.

The last play to be staged was *Inspector Matadin Chaand Par*, by Harishankar Parsai. It talked about the moral corruption plaguing the Indian Police force. The play revolved around the lead character; Inspector Matadin (played by Pranoy Bohara), and his mission of going to the Moon to improve the law and order situation there. Pranoy's performance was commendable and so was Aditya Dhingra's, his side-kick in the play.

The most challenging task, I suppose, was adapting to the new venue at such short notice. It is never an easy task to change the entire stagecraft in a single day, but credit must be given to the directors for doing so successfully. In the end, Hyderabad had a clean-sweep, leaving the other houses with a few points to prove in next year's competition.

### Play Laurels

- Best Playwright:** Saud Amin Khan (Oberoi House)
- Best Supporting Actor:** Akshay Sharan (Jaipur House)
- Best Stage Committee:** Saransh Seth (Hyderabad House)
- Best Technical Director:** Shantanu (Hyderabad House)
- Best Producer:** Saransh Seth (Hyderabad House)
- Best Actor:** Rahil Badhwar (Hyderabad House)
- Best Director:** Rohan Shriram (Hyderabad House)
- House positions:**
- 1st:** Hyderabad
- 2nd:** Oberoi
- 3rd:** Kashmir
- 4th:** Jaipur
- 5th:** Tata

## COLOURS

Adhiraj Singh, Dhruv Aggarwal, Siddhant Sachdev and Anmol Jamwal have been awarded **Cricket Half Colours** while Ashwin Dokania and Sumaer Sandhu have been awarded **Cricket Full Colours**.

Anmol Jamwal, Agni Raj Singh, Rahil Badhwar and Spandan Agrawal have been awarded **Music Colours for Dance**.

Well done, all!

## QUIZ MASTERS

The School was represented by Aditya Bhattacharya, Agni Raj Singh and Revant Nayar at the **Scholars' Home Quiz**. The School bagged the third position. Congratulations!

## TENNIS ACE

Following are the results of the **12th Uttarakhand State Open Tennis Tournament** held between May 6 and 8. Yuvraj Nathani and Devang Mehra reached the semi-finals in the **Under-14 Doubles Event**. Arush Sood also reached the semi-finals in the Under-18 Singles Event while Divij Budhraj won the **State Championship** in the **Under-18 Singles Event**.

Well done, all!

## TT UPDATE

The Martyn House Table Tennis Team played the Foot House Table Tennis Team on May 8. Martyn House defeated the Foot House Team with a score of 4-1.

Well done!

## Unquotable Quotes

*Shut up and shout*

**Arnav Matta**, teach us how.

*Off from my class*

**SDA**, sure sir.

*Something say.*

**Prabnur Bal**, demands an answer.

*I not unquoting*

**Harshvardhan Singh**, why? please do.

*May I say you a suggestion?*

**Anuroop Jouhal**, any more suggestions?

*Are you a mental?*

**SNA**, maybe.

## | Report |

# Recounting Debating

*Shashvat Dhandhanja reports on the Inter-House Senior English Debating Competition which concluded on May 9*

The Inter-House Senior English Debating Competition, 2011 has come to an end, finally. We did not change the format much this year, though we were influenced by the style of debating we learnt in the World Individual Debating and Public Speaking Competition (WIDPSC).

In the Preliminary Round this year, we debated according to a modified Parliamentary format. The modification was that we introduced a round of cross-examination in the middle, which usually, ended up in a verbal argument. We also introduced a variety of interesting topics to be debated upon. The very first topic of the debate was *This House Believes In Lady Gaga*.

As the better teams advanced to the next round, the style and quality of debating also improved. Speakers became confident and adopted a more diplomatic manner of speaking. More importantly, we also incorporated current affairs in our debates, thus avoiding long winded metaphorical interpretations. At the end of the quarter final round, Hyderabad, Tata and Kashmir qualified to the next one.

The topic for the Semi-Final Round was *This House Would Let Armies Overthrow Corrupt Governments*. This debate was held in the Oxford style of debating. As pointed out by the judges of the debate, the quality of arguments had immensely improved, compared to the preceding round. Tata and Kashmir Houses advanced to the Final Round.

The final motion of the competition read *This House Would Grant Osama a Fair Trial*. The motion was topical and rather unexpected. Both Houses put up a strong case, though Tata House seemed to have overlooked a few important points. Moreover, the Kashmir House team was a lot more experienced and maybe that was what took them the extra mile.

### Final Round (T vs K):

**Best Speaker:** Piroune Balachandran

**Most Promising Speaker:** Kanishka Malik

**Winner:** Kashmir

The following are the final results of the **Inter-House Senior English Debates 2011:**

**1st:** Kashmir

**2nd:** Tata

**3rd:** Hyderabad

**4th:** Jaipur

**5th:** Oberoi

Well done!

doontoon  
Madhav Dutt



# Osama's Death: Worth Rejoicing?

*Vikramaditya Kapur presents a counterpoint*

The American President announced "We did it" and the world erupted with joy. Osama Bin Laden was dead. He was no longer the mystery-man who seemed to have dropped off the edge of the earth, but a mortal whose life had ended and the world celebrated. People say we have evolved as a society but we still cheer when a man dies!

The Senior English Debating Society recently debated *This House would grant Osama a fair trial*. When the topic was voted on by the house, it showed that a majority of the people present would have shot him rather than give him a fair trial that every human deserves. The judges also remarked that as students, we are the future of our nation and it is worrying to know that we would end a man's life without even letting him defend it. In hindsight, members of the Nazi High Command were also given a trial, despite the Holocaust and other grave acts of genocide

Indeed, he was responsible for thousands of deaths, but even Americans and NATO forces are as complicit for their atrocities in Iraq. Millions have been displaced in Iraq and Afghanistan; there is still no stable government in either of the two countries. American drone attacks still kill civilians in the mountains of Pakistan. In such circumstances, maybe we are cheering for the wrong reason.

## Not so Cheerful

*Kanishka Malik reviews the shortcomings of mandatory cheering*

Due to some misplaced sense of house spirit, compulsory cheering has not been parted with. It seems more important to make a student cheer reluctantly instead of letting him spend time productively.

As the number of activities in School increases, the time devoted to each one of them reduces. The school tries its best to fit all these activities into the schedule so that no one's interests are compromised. At this stage, we must take stock of what is central to the school and retain those activities which are important. The less important activities have to be parted with, in order to create time for what is important.

Cheering is undoubtedly one of those activities which consumes a lot of time and every student below Sc-form is compelled to take part in it. One might say that according to the rule-book, cheering is optional, but it is practically impossible to evade. Moreover, organized cheering results in students being admonished for not showing enough enthusiasm or for not shouting their lungs out to boost the morale of the team. The biggest shortcoming of cheering is the time that is wasted. A student interested in art, writing or any other activity is compelled to spend his valuable time shouting at the top of his voice. Also, one of the other shortcomings of mandatory cheering is that it invites insincere support, since people are forced to do something they are not interested in.

Moreover, due to some misplaced sense of house spirit, compulsory cheering has not been parted with. It seems more important to make a student cheer reluctantly instead of letting him spend time productively. Like other redundant activities

that come under the banner of 'traditions', cheering has not been parted with and students have not been allowed to spend their time in a more fitting manner. Surprisingly, cheering of this sort is rarely done for inter-school events.

Over the past few years, a number of futile traditions have been abandoned. The purpose of this was to let students use their time as per their convenience. Cheering is one of those traditions which must be questioned.

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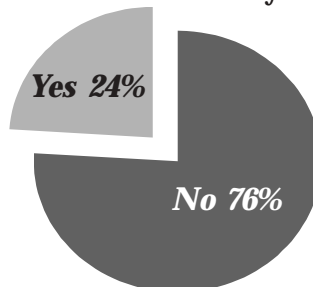
**doonspeak**

*Mandatory cheering. . .*

- Not worth it - **Rohan Nath Behl**
- Does not let a boy concentrate on the game- **ANC**
- A waste of time - **Jai Singh Yadav**
- Enforced happiness - **PKB**
- Not cheering - **SSM**
- Great for spirit but does nothing for the quality of the game - **PBR**
- Undesirable - **MHF**
- Not in the right spirit - **ANJ**

### Opinion poll

Are you in favour of mandatory cheering?



(416 members of the community were polled)

**Next week's question:** Did toys in the Main Building make any difference to your preparations?

# Education Enlightenment

*The Doon School Weekly interviewed Dilip Thakore, the Editor of the Education World magazine on May 9, 2011*

# Golf at Golden Greens

*Sumer Sehgal reports on the Albatross Golf Tournament held in Delhi between April 12 and 16*

**Doon School Weekly (DSW): Do you think the shortage of teachers will adversely affect the implementation of the RTE?**

**Dilip Thakore (DTH):** Yes, shortage of teachers is one of the main problems the RTE faces and we must double our education budget to solve it. In the last issue of *Education World*, it was stated that Britain is a nation of 60 million people and spends \$119 billion on education while India, which is a nation of 1.2 billion people, spends \$80 billion.

**DSW: Knowing the efficiency of our government, will an increase in funds actually make a difference?**

**DTH:** No. In the short term it may not help, but that is where we as citizens and as journalists come in. It is our job to monitor our elected representatives and see that they carry out the jobs they are elected for. No country can be a democracy without citizen participation.

**DSW: Speaking about marks, what is your view on the new grading system (CCE system) that has replaced the CBSE class X exams?**

**DTH:** It's a good system. It makes examinations less intense. One does not have to panic too much about the margins. Earlier, a student getting a 98.4% would be admitted in a better college than a student getting 98.1%. Now, everyone who gets more than a 90% gets an A.

**DSW: What is the biggest setback Indian universities face?**

**DTH:** One of the main problems Indian Universities face is that their fees are very low. With such low fees, they cannot improve their infrastructure to compete with the top universities of the world. There is immense red-tapism even in the education system. You need to get some 50 odd permissions to start an educational institution. We want the licence permit raj to leave education.

**You need to get some 50 odd permissions to start an educational institution.**

**DSW: With the enactment of the RTE, won't a school's right to admit the best students be jeopardized?**

**DTH:** No. With the RTE being enacted, poorer children will get admission. No child is born a leader and therefore when a child from a poor household at the age of six goes to a private school, it is the job of the school to help him mature into a leader. The top schools in India must not be only for the privileged few; they must have a diverse student body.

On April 12, Zahaan Qureshi, Shivam Goyal, Anant Singh Maan and I set out to participate in the Albatross Golf Tournament to be held in Delhi. It was the first time the School was participating in this tournament. Initially, we thought we were going for a three-day holiday to Delhi. However, we were sadly mistaken.

The objective of the tournament was to promote golf in India by holding various tournaments for different age groups. The tournament took place at the Golden Greens golf course. This eighteen-hole, 7100 yard championship course is a links course with strategically placed bunkers on meandering fairways. The course is located near Gurgaon and provides a unique golfing experience.

On the day after which we arrived, all of us played a practice round on the course to get a feel of it. It took us time to get used to the course and we knew it would take time for us to improve. Completing the eighteen holes in the scorching heat was an arduous task. Somehow, we managed and reached our homes by 4 pm.

The next day, all contenders were divided into different groups according to their ages. The tournament was a two day tournament and around 150 boys participated. We teed-off at around 7am. We all got a couple of pars and even a few birdies. Some of the participants were the kind who practiced 3 hours daily while we practiced only 4 times a month. Our lack of practice put us behind everyone else.

The second day was much better and we all played better than the last two days. We were mindful of the mistakes we had made the day before and changed our game accordingly.

We were unsatisfied with the results; none of us won anything. With more practice, our performance would have been significantly better. Nevertheless, the experience gave us an exposure to competitive golfing and we hope to practice and improve our skills for future tournaments.

## STOP PRESS!

As the Weekly goes for print on Thursday, May 12, Jaipur House has just won the Inter-House Hockey Tournament, beating Tata House 1-0 in the deciding House XI match. Jaipur House has successfully won the Senior Cup, Junior Cup and House Cup for Hockey. A report will feature in a forthcoming issue.

Online Edition: <http://www.doonschool.com/publications/the-doon-school-weekly/latest-issue>

[weekly@doonschool.com](mailto:weekly@doonschool.com)



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**Editor-in-Chief:** Kanishka Malik **Editor:** Abhinav Mittal **Senior Editor:** Raghav Puri **Hindi Editor:** Shivank Singh **Associate Editors:** Shashvat Dhandhania **Special Correspondents:** Madhav Dutt, Vikramaditya Kapur, Raniz Bordoloi, Kunal Kanodia, Utkarsh Jha **Correspondents:** Mihir Kiran, Arjun Kamdar, Harshvardhan Singh, Aditya Bhattacharya **Junior Correspondents:** Devansh Agarwal, Manan Pradhan **Webmaster:** Vishal Mohla **Assistant Managers:** Shrey Nagalia, Aaron Jacob, Arvindanabha Shukla **Technical Assistant:** KC Maurya **Photo Credit:** Aditya Dhingra (page 1)