



Established in 1936

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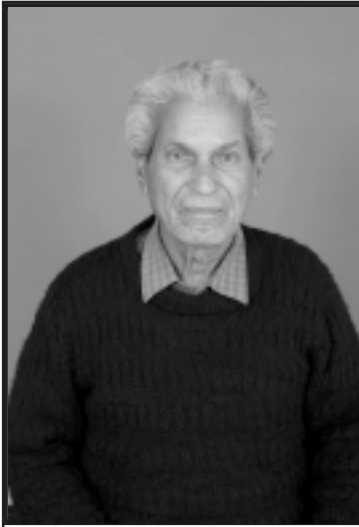
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IN MEMORY OF...

On behalf of the School community, the Weekly mourns the passing away of Dr Hari Datt Bhatt 'Shailesh', who passed away on September 19, 2011. Dr Mohan Joshi writes a tribute



*Dr. Hari Datt Bhatt
'Shailesh' (June 15, 1926 –
September 19, 2011)*

Late Dr Hari Datt Bhatt 'Shailesh,' joined The Doon School in 1953 in the Hindi and Indian Languages Department. He taught Hindi and Sanskrit upto 1984, after which he sought voluntary retirement. I joined the School in January 1979, and at that time he was the Housemaster of Foot House and the Head of Department of Hindi and Indian Languages.

Dr Bhatt served the School for 33 years and in these years he contributed to many spheres of the

school's life. He was a part of various Doon School mountaineering expeditions like the one to Jaonli, and trekked to almost every destination in the Garhwal and Kumaon hills. Not only was he a great presence in the classroom, he was very active on the sports field as well, his favourite games being hockey and football. He contributed a lot to the School's community and social service programme under the banner of the 'Dehat Sabha', later called 'Village Development'. He successfully ran the Panchayat Ghar for the children of our support staff, and the Tunwala School for underprivileged children for many years.

Our Hindi Department gained strength and respect because of Dr Bhatt's sincere endeavours, sheer hard work and transparent methods of operation. He selected Hindi and Sanskrit teachers very carefully and helped all freshers to become effective and caring teachers. Along with Hindi, he saw to it that other Indian languages like Bangla, Punjabi and Urdu were also taught at The Doon School.

As Housemaster of two boarding houses, Kashmir and

Foot, he will be remembered as a very caring and affectionate person. His doors were always open for students and teachers. I never saw or heard Dr Bhatt angry or raising his voice at anybody. He was a very simple, down to earth person with great self respect, ever ready to assist anybody who sought his help. Many people from the hills and from neighbouring local areas used to come to his residence almost regularly to seek his advice in getting jobs. Nobody went back disappointed. I was also amongst one of those whom he helped, and I am thankful to Sir for this.

Apart from being a sincere and affectionate teacher, Dr Bhatt was a litterateur par excellence. He successfully tried his hand at almost every form of literature. He penned almost a hundred books in Hindi, English, Sanskrit and Garhwali. He is one of the few writers who wrote short stories and novels based on the mountains and mountain life. His story, 'Snow and Snow' was aired by BBC for three days in a row on a New Year in the early '90s. He wrote short stories, novels, drama and poetry with equal dexterity. His book on the Garhwali language is considered to be the most authentic one on the subject. It might have well been the first time an erudite book was written on the subject. He received many awards for his writings from the Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand governments, and he was felicitated a number of times by various institutions. Last June he was bestowed with the Dr. Shivanand Nautiyal Memorial Award for his literary achievements.

“Dr. Bhatt was a litterateur par excellence. He successfully tried his hand at almost every form of literature.”

Dr Bhatt was highly respected by people from all walks of life. He had friends and well wishers across political parties, as was evident when people from across parties like the Congress, BJP, CPI, and CPM came to offer their condolences after his sad demise.

At this hour of sorrow, on behalf of the entire Doon School community, we pray to the Almighty God to give strength to Mrs. Bhatt, Himanshu, Malvika, Himani, Katyayan, Pranjali and all other family members to bear this loss. Dr H D Bhatt 'Shailesh' will always remain in our memories. May his soul rest in peace.

ON EXCHANGE

We welcome Michael Van Zyl from **Bridgehouse School, South Africa**. He is staying in Tata House and attending S form IB classes.

We wish him a fruitful and memorable stay.

HINDI DEBATING

The following are the results of the **Inter-House Hindi Debates, 2011**:

1st: Jaipur

2nd: Tata

3rd: Oberoi

4th: Hyderabad

5th: Kashmir

Best Speaker in the Final Round: Varun Gupta

Best Speaker Overall: Ritesh Shinde

Congratulations!

TALK

Rohan Tibrewalla, alumnus interviewer of **University of Pennsylvania**, gave a talk on Tuesday, September 20.

IH MUSIC

The following are the results of the **Inter-House Music Competition, 2011**:

Solo Piano

1st: Oberoi

2nd: Kashmir

3rd: Hyderabad

4th: Tata

5th: Jaipur

Drums Solo

1st: Hyderabad

2nd: Kashmir

3rd: Jaipur

4th: Tata

5th: Oberoi

Tabla

1st: Tata

2nd: Hyderabad

3rd: Oberoi

4th: Kashmir

5th: Jaipur

Hindustani Instrumental

1st: Oberoi

2nd: Jaipur

3rd: Tata

4th: Kashmir

5th: Hyderabad

Hindustani Classical Vocal

1st: Jaipur

2nd: Hyderabad

3rd: Tata

4th: Kashmir

5th: Oberoi

Popular Band

1st: Jaipur

2nd: Hyderabad

3rd: Tata

4th: Oberoi

5th: Kashmir

Choir

1st: Jaipur

2nd: Tata

3rd: Oberoi

4th: Kashmir

5th: Hyderabad

Dance

1st: Tata

2nd: Jaipur

3rd: Kashmir

4th: Oberoi

5th: Hyderabad

House Positions

1st: Tata

2nd: Jaipur

3rd: Hyderabad

4th: Kashmir

5th: Oberoi

Well done, all!

Unquotable Quotes

I am not bother.

NTC, extremely caring.

You think I knowing what is happened?

Harsh Singhania, circumstantial knowledge.

You must not mistaking in the paper.

Shubham Agarwal criticizes errors.

Light on the fan.

Shubham Agarwal, one more?

Newton invented the apple.

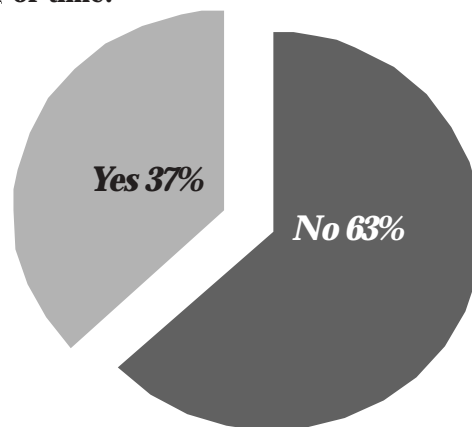
Udbhav Agarwal rewrites history.

He communism! I communism! We all communism!

Kunal Kanodia, what?!

Opinion oll

Should the soccer season be extended over a longer period of time?



(303 members of the community were polled)

Next week's question: Does possession of expensive gadgets undermine the ethos of equality in School?

Film Talkies

Madhav Dutt reports on the film-making talk conducted by Mr Sumanta Banerjee

I can positively say that films, as a medium for communication and entertainment, interest many in the world. Being a movie-buff myself, I was eager to attend the talk on the history of film-making by Mr Sumanta Banerjee - an eminent journalist. Mr Banerjee began his lecture with a brief timeline of the history of film-making, focusing mainly on India, and certain epic events that defined the entertainment industry. He explained how cinema gained popularity around the world and how the first footage was of a fast-moving train which was shot to highlight the potential of fast moving pictures. A detailed chronological timeline of the industry was narrated in the course of the lecture.

As the lecture progressed, the audience became more and more enthralled with the anecdotes and 'fun facts' of the cinema industry. Mr Banerjee said that a good movie should convey a social message as well as entertain. The current state of Indian cinema was appalling to him, with pop-corn films receiving undue attention. What grabbed the audience's attention was Mr Banerjee's sheer depth of knowledge when it came to knowing the inside stories of the life in Bollywood. He talked about his meetings with actors and directors during film premieres and his own experiments with film direction. Most of the films Mr Banerjee talked about were not mainstream films, but ones which were aimed at a select segment of society.

Mr Banerjee concluded the talk with a comprehensive question-answer session with questions ranging from 'Who is your favourite director?' to 'What is your opinion on the future of the Indian film industry?' I'm sure all the boys learnt much about the entertainment industry, and who knows, one of us might just be following in his footsteps in the near future!

| Viewpoint |

Winning the Silver

Shashvat Dhandhanja talks about School's ranking according to the 'Education World' survey

As per results of the survey on school rankings conducted by the 'Education World', the School has now been placed second amongst other residential schools, tied with Mayo College Girls' School, Ajmer, losing its number one spot to Rishi Valley School. In my opinion, any rankings reduce schools to being part of a stock market, though, we must pay heed to the results.

The School community was disappointed, both masters and students alike. We must understand that these ranks matter, if not to us, then to those who aspire to be a part of this community; even though they are essentially materialistic judgments. We cannot afford to disregard these materialist judgments or to boycott them, especially when we agreed with the rankings in the past when we were placed first. This would also then pass other judgments on the School, which would be unnecessary. In my opinion, instead of blaming anyone for these ranks, we must face them and look at the areas in which we can improve. There were fourteen parameters for this survey; the three parameters in which we were recognized were: community service, quality of alumni/students, and infrastructure. I would like to comment on two categories in which we have not fared well: sports and extra-curricular activities.

According to the survey, Doon's rank has dropped in the sports and co-curricular categories. However, this is

“According to the survey, Doon's rank has dropped in the sports category. However, this is due to the transition phase we find ourselves in. At the moment, there is increasing attention towards career planning and academics; sports is probably the price we have to pay.”

due to the transition phase we find ourselves in. At the moment, there is increasing attention towards career planning; sports and co-curricular is probably the price we have to pay. I believe that both the categories face a short-term problem. Pursuing any sport or co-curricular activity requires time and when boys are a part of too many activities, it is impossible for them to excel. I can see only two possible solutions. The first: the need to implement specialization. This has been debated upon in the past and the School Council decided against it, so I will not delve into that. The other: to have a better daily schedule. This will not only efficiently allocate time slots

for activities, but will also improve a Dosco's time management. From what we have heard, such a schedule is already being planned.

Dropping our number one spot to another school should not be demoralizing or even discouraging. Instead, both the administration and students should understand that Doscos are gradually changing their priorities, as I

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have discussed earlier. When priorities change, one always needs to reschedule and then come back on track.

Lastly, considering that we are Doscos, it should not take time for us to regain the top spot.



| Poetry |

Money

Aditya Bhattacharya

I saw you in the hands of another,
Glorious and tempting, a sign of true prosperity.
Your sight made me restless until
I tore you away in a fit of insanity.

You were my love, my passion,
I craved to see more of you every day.
Day and night I thought of you,
And kept you alienated from the world.

One fateful day, you became oblivious
To my presence, which angered me much.
I tried to make you succumb to my will
When you snapped back and strangled me.

The Final Shows

Yuv Vir Khosla summarises the events of this year's **Inter-House Music Competition**

The MPH wore a festive look with garlands of marigold, greenery and the traditional lit lamp transforming its usual utilitarian appearance into something truly appropriate for the event: the concluding part of the Inter-House Music Competition. The pianists were the first to take the stage. I think there is a special hell reserved for performers, one where trembling hands, knocking knees and giant butterflies in the stomach reign supreme. I had all these to manage when, as the evening's first performer, I played my pieces (the evocative *Song of Spain* by Isaac Albeniz and the Baroque *Sonata in F* by Telemann). However, there also comes a point in a performance when the music takes over, and the sheer joy of communicating it to an audience makes the whole experience really worthwhile. The piano section featured a wide variety of styles and composers. Yash Mall's brilliant rendition of Mozart's popular *Alla Turca*, followed by the equally dazzling jazz *Private Detective*, with its catchy syncopation and glissandos was a performance worthy of a concert platform. Our young musicians, like Krishna Lohiya and Saumil Agarwal too gave fine performances. Yuvraj Nathani of H House showed exceptional musicality and technical facility in his *Camp of the Gypsies*.

The crashing thunder and rhythmic complexity of the Drum Solos was next, and all five Houses put on impressive performances. Aashray Batra of H House was a performer in every sense of the word, with a creative and technically demanding piece, ending with some entertaining stick-work. Varun Gupta of J House had crafted a well-planned solo, and Vigya Singh of K House matched his skilful playing technique with original beats.

The most melodious Hindustani Instrumental section got off to a great start with O House's Shreshtha Khetan's rendition of *Raga Durga* on the mandolin. He showed his rhythmic mastery within a traditional format, employing the 'pancham-sawari' (irregular 15 beat cycle). His was a hard act to follow, but the violin duo of Akshay Sharan and Hamza Khan of J House, with their performance of *Raga Puryadhanashree*, dazzled the listeners with their superb coordination and bowing technique. K House presented three instruments: Namanshree Jain on sarod, Diksha Makhija on sitar and Malini Malaviya on violin, and it was a noteworthy stage debut. Even the snapping of two sarod strings did not shake their coordination and presence of mind. Performance is not only about playing the right notes! The final performance of the evening was by Tata's musical duo of Pranoy Bohara on the flute and Harsh Singhania on the harmonica. Their *Raga Jog* was both tuneful and exhibited the rapport that must exist between musicians.

The next evening carried a special buzz of excitement in the audience, with the results round the corner. The first category was the Hindustani Vocal Solo, and Manas Poddar of O House presented a simple but highly effective and moving rendition



on *Raga Jhinjhoti*, a composition by the great maestro of Varanasi, Pandit Bade Ramdas. The highlight of this category was undoubtedly the fine performance of *Raga Desh* by Dhruv Singhal and Suyash Raj Shivam of J House. Their rendition would have graced a concert by mature musicians. Rishabh Nautiyal of H House, too, displayed a fine range of improvisations on *Raga Hansadhwani*. Another noteworthy performance was by Pranoy Bohara, with the greater challenge of attempting 'Vilambit Khayal' on the *Roopak Taal*, something that earned him the appreciation of the judges.

Rhythm then took the stage in the form of the Tabla Solos. We saw some promising junior talent this year. Parth Vohra and Devesh Sharma of H House played a thrilling *Kayada* and Aditya Gupta and Vrindam Nagpal of O House built up the *taal* through 'peshkara' most effectively. Kartikeya Pandey's clarity of expression and good execution of syllables with a cracking 'tihaai' at the end kept the audience spell-bound.

And finally, as is traditional, the House choirs filed onto stage. This year, the compositions of the poet-saint Kabirdas were featured. The mystic, yearning compositions in the earthy yet poetic dialects of Avadhi and Brijbhasha, had required a great deal of practice. The results were satisfying, and the lyrics were enhanced by a splendid instrumental accompaniment on harmoniums, tabla, dholak and even octapad. These five compositions of Kabir all deal with the universal nature of the Divine, a most appropriate theme. Each House had a distinguishing feature in its performance: the fine trebles of H House, the harmonisations of T House, the high melodic register of O House, the scintillating rhythms of K House and the melodic precision of J House. The paraphrasing of the songs in Hindi by MHF, eloquently delivered by Uma Shankar Goswami, added greatly to the unique flavour of this section.

And then, the much-awaited results! But, as PCH said in her concluding speech, for the participants, the only element of competition was with themselves, in honing their skills and bettering their own performance. Each performer had succeeded in this and each deserved applause. Does it matter who won? I don't think so. What mattered was that the community came together to make and listen to music, creating, in the process, some enduring memories.

