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# The Doon School WEEKLY



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## PLAYFUL EVENINGS

### STK reports on the recently held Inter-House One-Act Play Competition

The excited buzz and the craning necks of crowds of boys in the corridors of the Main Building alert one to the posters being put up to publicize the Inter-House One Act Plays, and the tempo begins to build. Much effort goes into making this first impression a memorable one. Every year, the posters and brochures get more innovative and unique, and this year it was no different. The Competition took place on May 2nd and 3rd, with Tata, Kashmir and Hyderabad houses presenting on day one and Jaipur and Oberoi on day two.

Mahesh Dattani's 'Seven Steps Around The Fire' was Tata House's offering this year. It is a play that brings to the fore issues related to a community that society not only alternately mocks and fears but also always marginalizes—the transgender community. The sub themes of misuse of wealth and power and the deplorable state of our jails run alongside the expose on the plight of the *hijras*. Credit must be given to the brave actors of Tata House for the realistic and poignant portrayal of the *hijra* characters. The audience immediately felt their sense of alienation and humiliation. As the play progressed, the pieces of the murder mystery began to fall into place, thanks to the relentless investigative efforts of Uma Rao, the protagonist. The direction was handled well and attention had been paid to use the stage space effectively. The costumes too had been given intelligent thought.

The impact of this social commentary would certainly resurface in our minds later but in the Rosebowl that evening the mood suddenly changed with the Kashmir House adaptation of 'East Is East', written by playwright Ayub Khan Din. The entire ensemble pulled off the difficult task of relocating the audience to Salford, a borough in the city of Manchester, and into a home that has to deal with the problems that arise out of it being a culturally-mixed one, with surprising ease. Age-old patriarchal values clash with modern ideas and the play explores how adjustments have to be made in order for families to come to grips with changing times. Although there is love and affection, there is also anger and rebellion. Inter-racial or not, it is the same with most families. There was a commendable attempt to adopt the correct accents and mannerisms, and they drew many a laugh from an audience whose attention did not waver for a second. The actors were in their element and instantly established a rapport with the viewers. Sustaining comedy and not letting it turn farcical is a difficult task indeed, and Team Kashmir rightly won first place for its impressive effort. The final play on that first evening was also a Mahesh Dattani one—'Tara', brought to the Competition by Hyderabad House. It dwells on another social evil that prevails in our society - gender discrimination. There were also subtle references to regional prejudices and a bias against differently abled persons. Something, that unconsciously many of us too, are guilty of. The predicament of the Siamese twins is both literal as well as metaphorical. Conjoined, yet two separate entities, human beings both, yet divided as man and woman. The script was a challenging one and required many scene changes. Stage space was used to the fullest. The main characters admirably portrayed being young and precocious as well as drew the audience's attention to the deeper issues they had to convey. The play needed to be edited in order to stay within the prescribed 35 minute limit and that would have also resulted in a tighter, more gripping presentation.

Jaipur House opened the concluding day's show with Don Zolidis' hilarious take on the fairy tales of the Brothers Grimm, titled 'The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon'. As described in their creatively designed brochure, the play was a "fast-paced, rollicking ride" and "a wild, free-form comedy.....and mad-cap fun". It certainly lived up to that promise! There was a laugh a minute and the highlights were of course when the actors 'broke the fourth wall' and interacted freely with the audience members. Everyone participated on cue and hoots of good-humoured laughter followed the pointed jokes. The actors had the challenging task to switch roles and voices which they all executed with great skill. The energy on stage was palpable and one knew the actors were all caught up in the momentum. That kind of involvement is infectious and the audience responded in equal measure.

The fifth and final play sobered down the audience almost immediately. Oberoi House chose 'Halfway House', Bindu Batra's English translation of Mohan Rakesh's classic, *Adhe Adhure*. The young directors expert handling of this extremely intense play earned them the Best Directors' award. With little action occurring on stage, and relying mainly on words spoken and unspoken, the family drama plays out against the backdrop of 1970's socialist India. Fraught with underlying tensions, the home tragically becomes a 'half-way house' for its occupants. I am quite certain that a

(Contd. on page 3)



## Regulars

### INTER-HOUSE DANCE

The results of the **Inter-House Dance Competition 2014** are as follows:

- 1st:** Kashmir House
  - 2nd:** Hyderabad House
  - 3rd:** Jaipur House
  - 4th:** Tata House
  - 5th:** Oberoi House
- Well Done!

### BASKETBALL

In the **14th Under-18 State Basketball Tournament** held at Welham Boys' School from May 8 to 11, Nachiket Jain and Suhel Karara represented the **Dehardun District Team**. The team **won** the cup beating Haridwar district. Congratulations!

### DRAMA

Yuvan Kumar has been awarded **Dramatics Colours**. Congratulations!

### CHESS

The results of the **Individual Chess Championship, 2014** are as follows:

#### Juniors

- Winner:** Raghav Bagri
- Runner up:** Akshat Jha

#### Seniors

- Winner:** Sarthak Gupta
  - Runner Up:** Chaitanya Agarwal
- Congratulations!

### TABLE TENNIS

The results of the **Inter House Table Tennis Championship, 2014** are as follows:

#### Juniors

- Winner:** Ishaan Jhavar
- Runner Up:** Arunav Vaish

#### Seniors

- Winner:** Kanav Agarwal
  - Runner Up:** Siddhant Gupta
- Congratulations!

### TENNIS

The results of the **S.R. Vohra Junior Individual Tennis Tournament** are as follows:

- Winner:** Viksit Verma
  - Runner Up:** Ishaan Vaish
- Congratulations!

### The Week Gone By

**Yuvan Kumar**

The end of last week saw the dazzling dance competition, with its anticipated antics—not to mention dance! Starting the evening's performances, Kashmir House gave a rather thought provoking performance, with efficient use of expression. Stepping up to the stage next was Oberoi House with their stellar use of coordination and innovation. They also managed to portray their theme effectively. Tata House then performed their sequence, working well with the theme of love. Hyderabad House's tribute to five legends of entertainment was the true epitome of a powerhouse. To end the evening, Jaipur House gave us a taste of their usual robot formation, but packed a punch using the lighting and extreme dynamism.

Following this evening of high-adrenaline, the School saw the masters put up a full-length play on Sunday. High credits are due to all the masters for taking out time from their schedules to rehearse such an intense drama. The plot line of the story kept everyone gripped to the edge of their seats, as did the acting of many an unexpected master.

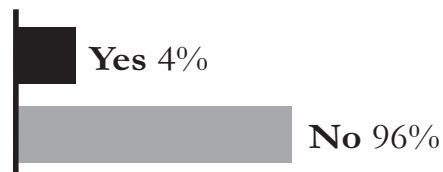
On a more active note, the Inter-House Hockey Competition seems to be reaching closure with quite a bang as Trials approach nearer and nearer. One could say that it is cutting it very fine nonetheless.

The School at large seems to be falling victim to the viral fever that is on the loose. If anyone is able to catch it and handcuff it, the Wellness Centre will be more than pleased to award them heftily.

This is the eve of Trials, we wish you all the best!

### Opinion Poll

Are you aware that there is a sexual harassment cell in school?



*(352 members of the school community were polled)*

### AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 WORDS

A fatal explosion took place in a mine in Turkey killing over 240 people. Three people were killed and more than 20 injured in an attack on anti-government protests in Bangkok. 20 factories were set on fire during anti-China protests in southern Vietnam. Frederik Pleitgen, Syria's deputy foreign minister has denied allegations that the government launched chemical attacks and deprived people of food. Up to 300 school girls have been kidnapped by Boko Haram from Chibok, Nigeria.

(Contd. from page 1)

lead actor taking on four different roles was a feat never seen before by most of us. With an elaborate set and suitable costumes, the play displayed a professionalism that was applauded by all.

Once again, the audience was treated to a rich variety of performances from all the five houses. As members of the community we all know what a tremendous task it is to put together such productions. There are all kinds of constraints, Time being a major one. But no outsider would ever believe that if they saw the quality of the end product. The entire House contributes to the effort, and it is the grandest tribute to itself that its boys and girls and staff collaborate in such an enterprise.

One waits for next May!

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| Viewpoint |

# Gender and the City

Devansh Agarwal

In recent times there has been a lot of talk about the position of women in society. There have been a lot of questions asked regarding the safety of women in our country. Many fingers have been pointed at people, as well as organizations, who are being held accountable for these heinous crimes. Our School community too has begun to debate and opine about these. My question; why have these issues been raised by us only now?

A number of us will agree that there is a pressing need to address this issue especially now when the media has focused on focusing on these crimes. Truth be told, I am baffled by the nature of the community that we live in today. As a student, I admit that I have been part of that community which sheepishly grins at the 4th page of a HT city supplement. I also admit that I have often engaged in “form gossip” and when I reflect on it I do feel ashamed about it. What I fail to understand is; on one side of the spectrum we as students talk about female empowerment around the country and how we should contribute to such noble causes, on the other side we do not even respect the women already existing in our society.

I understand that I may be accused of blindly ranting about a particular issue which seems to have caught my attention but I have been in that position before and I can assure you this is different. As teenagers we are expected to undergo changes in our thought process. However this in no way can serve as an excuse for this habit of objectifying women that we have developed.

Ultimately what this leads to is us being called hypocrites. We can do all the talking we want regarding

how the country must change; however charity, as always, begins at home. There are certain things such as sensitivity that we must develop and school is an environment that nurtures this, if we are willing for it to happen. As I believe a majority of the school is not even aware of the fact that there exists a sexual harassment cell within the school. Here lies the issue. We as a community are observant of our surroundings and many of us put things in perspectives and criticize or applaud; however we are not aware of most things within these surroundings. We may stand tall and condemn the rapists on TV but at the same time aren't we also in our own subtle ways encouraging the objectification of women?? After all no one is born a rapist, it is the society which conditions us to think in a particular way. Some may argue that all of this 'gossip' is all in jest but what we fail to realize is that this jest is usually the point where a mentality such as the one we observe across all forms of media begins to breed in us this sense of “alpha male-ism”.

In conclusion all I can say is that, the best time to fix this issue is today. The best place to begin our journey towards being responsible citizens is from the “education” we receive in school itself. In case someone is wondering why we must bring about this change? It is because if we do not we will become the people our parents warned us about.



## | School Council Minutes |

Minutes of the School Council Meeting held on Thursday, April 24, 2014

### Thursday, 24th of April 2014 - 3:30 P.M. in the Kilachand Library

The following were present for the meeting:

1. Dr. Peter McLaughlin	Headmaster (Chairman)
2. Mr. P.K. Nair	Assistant Headmaster
3. Mr. Sameer Katre	Director of Administrative Affairs
4. Mr. Vinay Pande	Senior Deputy Headmaster
5. Mr. Kamal Ahuja	Deputy Headmaster (Academics)
6. Mr. DK Sharma	Dean of Sports
7. Mr. A. Qezilbash	Dean of Student Welfare
8. Mr. Piyush Malviya	Dean of Public Affairs
9. Mr. Ashish Dean (Stand-in)	Housemasters' Representative
10. Mrs. Ranjit Kaur	Dames' Representative
11. Jai Ahuja	Secretary
12. Ishan Sandhu	School Captain
13. Parth Vohra (Stand-in)	Prefects' Representative
14. Divyansh Goel	H-House Senior Representative
15. Rohan Chaudhari (Stand-in)	H-House Senior Representative
16. Deep Dhandhanian	H-House Junior Representative
17. Viksit Verma	H-House Junior Representative
18. Sayuj Dhandhanian	T-House Senior Representative
19. Hussain Haider Abbas	T-House Senior Representative
20. Milind Khemka	T-House Junior Representative
21. Rishabh Goel (Stand-in)	T-House Junior Representative
22. Arjun Kamdar	O-House Senior Representative
23. Harshvardhan Singh (Stand-in)	O-House Senior Representative
24. Chaitanya Gulati	O-House Junior Representative
25. Devang Laddha	O-House Junior Representative
26. Gaurav Kothari (Stand-in)	J-House Senior Representative
27. Sachin Mehra (Stand-in)	J-House Senior Representative
28. Ritik Chamola	J-House Junior Representative
29. Sarthak Gupta	K-House Senior Representative
30. Nihal Sharma (Stand-in)	K-House Senior Representative
31. Vedant Mehra	K-House Junior Representative
32. Mihir Gupta	K-House Junior Representative

The Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by **Arjun Kamdar** and seconded by **Ishan Sandhu**.

### Matters arising from previous meetings.

#### **1. Revision of the minutes of the Cafeteria Sub-committee.**

The minutes of the Cafeteria Sub-committee were distributed to all members of the council and were open to discussion. It was decided that during the summers only non-aerated drinks would be served as Café in order to make Café more nutritionally viable. Sayuj Dhandhanian clarified whether the students would be served eatables in Café during Trials. SDA agreed to this proposal. With no further proposals to be discussed the minutes were unanimously passed.

### Proposals of the Current Meeting

#### **1. Half Colours' socks should be replaced with blue Nike socks. (Kashmir House)**

Nihal Sharma raised the issue that Half Colours' socks need to be updated as they are not as comfortable as the Nike socks. He also said that the Nike socks improve the standard of the game. DKS disagreed by stating that the Nike socks do not raise the standard of the game. He said that he would contact Nike as the socks have not been available since the last six months. PKN in response said that he would contact the administrative staff and the G Store. Arjun Kamdar also brought to the Council's notice that the games shorts were of very bad quality and need to be replaced. Sayuj Dhandhanian agreeing said that we could get shorts of Shiv Naresh. The School Council Secretary and Arjun Kamdar decided to look into this matter and get back to the Council.

#### **2. The Inter House Poetry competition should be held in English and Hindi alternatively. (Oberoi House)**

Arjun Kamdar felt that the Inter House Poetry Competition should be held in English and Hindi alternatively since this introduced more variety and allowed students to display their talent more often. Sayuj Dhandhanian said that instead of doing the competition alternatively we could hold a bilingual competition. MCJ and AAQ both agreed and said they would bring this up in their next department meeting and decide accordingly.

### **3. Only iPods without cameras should be allowed for SC formers. (Jaipur House)**

Gaurav Kothari felt that only iPods without cameras should be allowed for SC formers since this privilege had been misused. Since this privilege has been misused and has been bothering the administrative staff he felt that only iPods without cameras should be allowed. Arjun Kamdar stated that the hold on technology is not the solution to this problem and felt that the boy should be punished severely. The School Captain that if this privilege was misused, during classes, the iPod should be confiscated and only returned at the end of your school life. VNP felt that this matter should be discussed in the Housemasters' Council and PKN agreed with this and vowed to get back to the council.

### **4. Speakers should be allowed for SC formers. (Jaipur House)**

Sachin Mehra brought to the Council's notice that some houses are allowed to keep speakers while some are discouraged. PKN stated that speakers were banned and if any house is using speakers it is against School rules. Sayuj Dhandhanian felt that this topic was too subjective as you can listen to music on your laptops. The council agreed with this and felt that speakers could be allowed with restrictions. After some more discussion this matter was left pending.

### **5. Popcorn should be served during entertainment. (Tata House)**

Sayuj Dhandhanian stated that popcorn should be served during entertainment since entertainment is compulsory for junior forms. PKN brought to the council's notice that this matter had been discussed in the past but had been vetoed since there was no one to serve the popcorn. Sayuj Dhandhanian said that this initiative could be brought under the YEP. SDA agreed to this if popcorn was available in the market and budget problems could be sorted out. PKN said that this cannot be assured and he will make a decision in the following meeting.

### **6. Road running in the Cantt. Area should be restarted. (Hyderabad House)**

Divyansh Goel raised the issue that road running should be restarted in the Cantt Area so that athletes could practice. PKN said that this had been misused in the past and was stopped due to security issues. DKS agreed that this would train the athletes but he was against it due to an incident that took place in the past. The games committee had already decided the junior and medium routes but were unable to decide a route for seniors. Parth Vohra stated that this privilege should be given only to select boys while the decision was being taken who would be accompanied by a master. PKN said that he would take this to the Games Committee and get back.

### **7. There should be a jam session after the Golden Night dinner. (All Houses)**

Nihal Sharma explained that we do have the facilities to hold a jam session and the MPH is a suitable venue to hold the jam session. DKS told the council that this used to happen in the past but was stopped due to indiscipline and chaos. VNP agreed and said this could surely happen but only if it is less chaotic. DKS in response said that teachers could monitor the jam session to make it less chaotic.

This proposal has been sent to the Housemasters' Council and its verdict would be announced in the next meeting.

### Other matters with the permission of the Chair

#### **1. Events clashing in the calendar has become a regular problem.**

Sachin Mehra raised the question that what should boys do in case of events clashing in the calendar. PKN said that at any such case the boy concerned should meet him and he would get one of the scheduled events excused for the boy. VNP stated that in a school such as ours boys should learn to manage their activities and coordinate accordingly. PKN agreed and said that he would look into this matter.

#### **2. Publications should be printed in lesser quantity.**

Arjun Kamdar brought to the council's notice that not everybody reads publications and they are all wasted and left lying around the school in various places. Due to this a lot of paper was wasted. The council unanimously agreed to this point. Sayuj Dhandhanian said that some of the traditional publications such as the Weekly and Yearbook cannot be scratched. It was agreed that that the Weekly and Yearbook will be produced in the same quantity but the other publications will be reduced in quantity and will only be available at certain places such as House Libraries and the School Library. PKN agreed to this whole heartedly and this proposal was passed.

#### **3. Tea timings should be changed.**

Gaurav Kothari stated that tea timing should be changed from 3:15 pm to 2:55pm since people who had activities directly after schools could quickly have tea then leave. Devang Laddha agreeing with this point said that these tea timing were a great inconveniences to those boys in Jaipur and Oberoi House since coming to the CDH from there took too much time and they did not have the time to spare. PKN and The School Council Secretary agreed to this point. This point was passed by the council.

Sd/-  
Jai Ahuja,  
Secretary.

Sd/-  
Dr. Peter McLaughlin,  
Chairman.

# Vignettes of my Journey at Doon

**Hina Sharif Khan** *looks back at her brief but memorable time at School*

Though I was a bit hesitant when Rashid asked me to pen my short yet incredible journey at The Doon School, so enriching has been my experience that I could not resist the temptation of revisiting it. Moreover, communicating that experience through The Weekly also seemed a befitting way of bidding adieu to a place I have called home for the past year and a half. Encapsulating my entire experience in just a few words is by no means an easy task. Nonetheless, I shall try.

I vividly remember being completely awe-struck the second I walked into campus, not just by its beauty and tranquility but also by the imposing structures it holds within it, especially the main building. These were my first impressions, or rather reactions to what I saw at Chandbagh. Then, before I could take stock of anything, events unfolded with such speed that soon I found myself having assumed the role of a Housemaster's wife. And as unsure as I was of my role and responsibilities at the beginning, I can say with all honesty that since then there has never been a dull moment. My life was abuzz with a myriad activities, right from cheering for the house basketball team to celebrating every goal we scored, from witnessing every match we won or lost to hosting boys every time they came knocking, from lifting trophies to throwing open my wardrobe for the various productions boys were involved with. Even though for most parts I was not directly involved with the lives of the boys, it felt as if my own life had become intricately interwoven with their achievements and disappointments. The relentless pace of a Dosco's life has

never ceased to amaze me. However, what took me with greater surprise was how quickly I developed an affinity with the School and all that it stands for. A new chapter unfolded when we moved from Oberoi House to Jaipur House. Out of the plethora of memories I have of School, Jaipur House in particular, the Jaipur House Platinum Jubilee celebrations remain closest to my heart. The magnitude of the event was simply overwhelming. Moreover, I was also amazed to see the attachment Old Boys and parents have for the School, and again, Jaipur House in particular! Having said that, I wonder what it is that makes my experience at Doon so special. Is it the mighty splendor of the school building, or is it the captivating sight of the lush

However, what took me with greater surprise was how quickly I developed an affinity with the School and all that it stands for.

green main field circled by tress in every hue of green? Is it the whiff of camphor or eucalyptus that the breeze carries with it, or is it the breathtaking view of the Shivaliks behind Oberoi House? As I prod myself to look for an answer I realize that it's not the buildings or the sights one grows fond of. It is the history of the place, and the ubiquitous "Dosco-spirit" that resonates throughout campus and touches your heart. It is the amusement with which I listened to the never-ending stories of C Formers during my first midterm. It is the experience of celebrating victories with boys or consoling them after a bitter loss. Of all things bright and beautiful in School, my experiences shall also comprise the enjoyment of a 'Mac' that acts as a catalyst for bonding with the boys, the lesson I've learnt that "Never underestimate the power...err...importance of food in a Dosco's life", or the annoyance with which I answered the doorbell hundreds of times in the course of a single day. I know for sure that the beauty of my experience also lies in the heartwarming smile a forlorn, homesick kid gives you after you have given him a 'pep-talk'.

It is with this feeling of kinship, a heart filled with hope and a voice choked with emotions that I say – Adios Doon School. And Allah Hafiz to everyone who has touched my heart in such a short time.

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