

WE REMEMBER

-Ngukivi Chishi, School Captain

"I want to prove that a good school will produce a good student, and that a good student will produce a good citizen, and a good citizen will produce a good country."

-Mr. Brij Mohan Khaitan

June 1, 2019. Mr. Brij Mohan Khaitan, founder of The Assam Valley School, is no more. An era has come to an end.

The Assam Valley School was an idea that was envisioned and turned into a reality by this stalwart who believed in the power of good and holistic education and its necessity in the North-East, a region consumed by violence and insurgency at the time of its inception. He led this mammoth task along with the Williamson Magor Education Trust and saw his dream take shape. He would go on to oversee more than just the structural establishment of this institution nestled amidst the lush tea gardens of Assam- the state that the Williamson Magor Group would nurture into 'the World's Cup of Tea'.

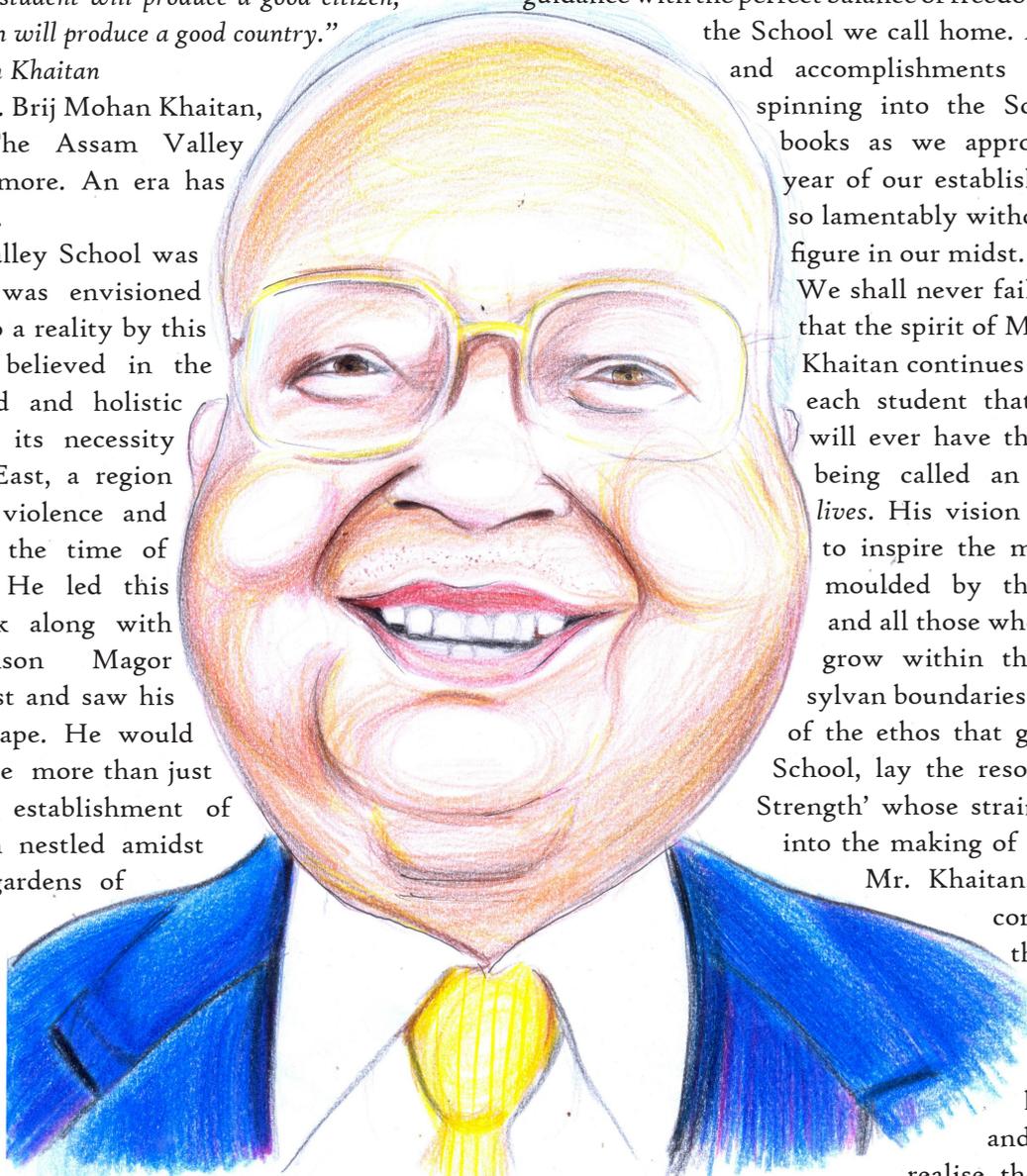
The Assam Valley School as it stands today, in all its splendour and magnificence is essentially and fundamentally the brainchild of Mr. Brij Mohan Khaitan. It always will be. There is no doubt that we would not be celebrating our achievements and commemorating our accomplishments if not for the leadership of Mr.

Khaitan who gave this organisation his benevolent guidance with the perfect balance of freedom to grow into the School we call home. Achievements and accomplishments that are fast spinning into the School's record books as we approach the 25th year of our establishment, we do so lamentably without the father-figure in our midst.

We shall never fail to remember that the spirit of Mr. Brij Mohan Khaitan continues to live within each student that ever has or will ever have the privilege of being called an Aviator. He *lives*. His vision will continue to inspire the minds that are moulded by this institution and all those who will live and grow within these cherished sylvan boundaries. At the centre of the ethos that governs life at School, lay the resolve, 'Truth is Strength' whose strains were sown into the making of the School by Mr. Khaitan. This is the

common resolve that acts as a beacon for Aviators as we struggle harder to seek and strive to realise the dream seen

by our legendary founder. Yesterday, today and forever, Mr. Brij Mohan Khaitan will occupy an irreplaceable place at the heart of The Assam Valley School. As we witness the passing of a legend and the end of an age, *we remember*. We thank you, Sir, for all that we are and all that we will be.



Illustrator: Nilasha Bhimsaria

DEATH'S PASS

-Letminlun Haokip, XI

The pain was a constant throb but he had felt it for so long it seemed to be a part of him. The fact that he couldn't really feel it anymore scared him.

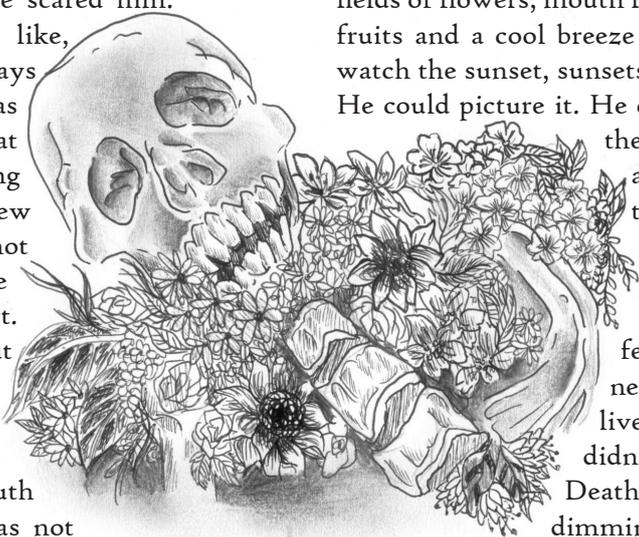
So this was what dying felt like, empty and void. He had always accepted the fact that he was going to die, eventually. What he'd not counted upon was dying in foreign land. A land he knew nothing of, a land he would not miss, a land that held no place in his bruised and battered heart. Dying didn't scare him, no. But that was because he had always assumed he would die at a ripe age, by a warm fireplace with countless tales of his youth to keep him company. He was not afraid of dying, yes; but not like this.

"Don't let me sleep" he rasped out, cutting through the silence. "Please." "It's really nice here in the summer" a gentle voice answered, distant yet near "The fields get covered in all shades of flowers, red, pink, yellow, white, you name it. The trees bear juicy summer fruits. The

sun is warm and the breeze is cool. My favourite thing to do is to sit on a small hill overlooking the endless fields of flowers, mouth filled with the sweetest summer fruits and a cool breeze blowing through my hair. I'd watch the sunset, sunsets are beautiful here."

He could picture it. He could picture the flowers, taste the juice of the fruit in his mouth and feel the breeze blowing through his hair. He decided that it was something he would have loved to look at. He wondered if it was possible to feel nostalgic about a place he's never been, memories he's never lived. He sighed. The numbness didn't seem so scary anymore. Death watched the youth's eyes dimming. She sighed, the gentle smile on his boyish face looked so out of place.

It wasn't his time; but here she was, early as ever. Death walked closer, her footsteps soft and divine, like mist in the morning. "I wasn't here for you," she explained, trailing a hand over his empty eyes. "I was merely passing by. The stray bullet led me to you".



Illustrator: Takhe Tamo Reela

To Be Continued...

-Nandini Garodia, XII

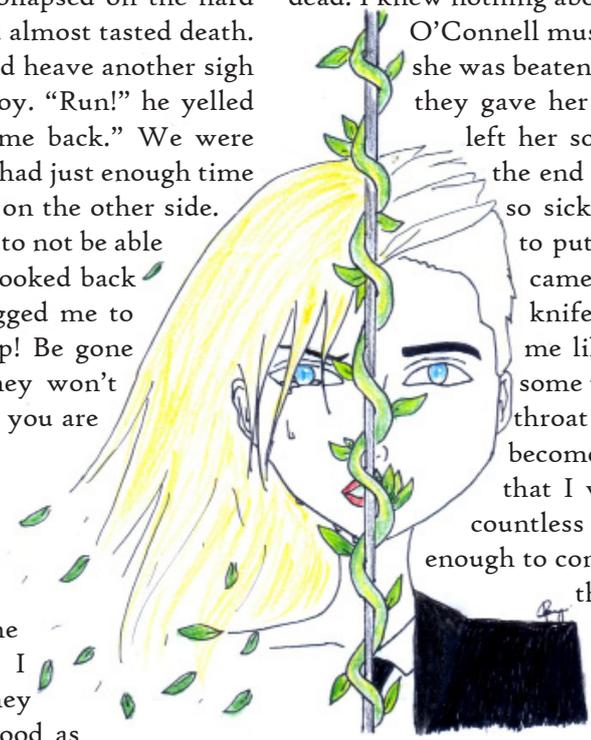
My body shook violently and I collapsed on the hard ground, my eyes full of tears. I had almost tasted death. I spat on the floor but before I could heave another sigh I was yanked to my feet by the boy. "Run!" he yelled at me, "Run away! And don't come back." We were standing at the edge of a cliff and I had just enough time to steal a quick glance at what lay on the other side.

The gorge was deep enough for me to not be able to see the bottom. I shivered and looked back at the young boy. He hastily dragged me to a corner and whispered "Hurry up! Be gone now. They are in the van but they won't wait for long. If they discover that you are alive they will kill you first and come for me next." By the look of him, I could tell it was his first time. I remembered my first kill. I was not to shoot her directly for she was betrothed to the leader of the neighbouring gang. I was instead to torture her until they were convinced that she was as good as

dead. I knew nothing about her except her name. Alyssa

O'Connell must have been a beautiful girl but she was beaten up to a pulp and violated when they gave her to me. Most of her fight had left her so she didn't last very long. By the end of the second day I had gotten so sick of her wailing that I decided to put an end to it. The painful part came when I approached her with a knife in hand and she looked up at me like a wounded dog. It took me some time but I managed to open her throat and run away. I knew I had become a monster but I also knew that I was not meant to be one. The countless counselling sessions were not enough to convince me that I deserved what this boy was giving me, my life.

If he was not yet a monster perhaps then he wasn't destined to be one. I decided that I wasn't leaving alone.



Illustrator: Moom Lego

“Come with me,” I told him. He looked at me as if I were mad. I pulled at his sleeve. “What are you doing? I can’t go with you.” But I had started to drag him by the time he finished speaking. “Yes you can and you must. This is your only chance.” He tried to resist. “I am the last of the O’Connells and I cannot betray my family”

he said. I turned around to face him and for the first time I took a good look at his face. I felt as if I had seen a ghost. I stumbled away from him. His blue eyes seemed to burn into mine. The same haunted look. He had no idea that he was risking his life to save that of his sister’s murderer.

mitra online

-Anoushka S. Rabha, XI

On the 25th of May, 2019, the WMH was packed with students to witness the Inter-house Hindi debates. The motion for this year’s debate was “Internet and media are keeping the Indian society under an illusion.” The judges for the debate were Dr. Kuljeet Singh, Head of Upper School, Mr. Tushar Bharadwaj, the Director of Admissions, Marketing and Activities and Mrs. Shakila Banu, the Deputy Head of Academics. The Hindi debate proved to be a war of words sprinkled with humour and witty remarks. The Speakers highlighted the positive aspects of internet and social media while also talking about how the internet is reinventing the way we look at the world. The usage of internet was aptly quoted by Shagun Agarwal, “*Ek chaku se phal bhi kata ja sakta hai aur kisika gala bhi.*” (A

knife can be used for cutting fruits or for slitting someone’s throat.) In the individual category, Shagun Aggarwal was awarded the Best Speaker and it didn’t come as a surprise to anyone in attendance. The Chair of Hindi Department, Dr. Sanjay Dixit in his concluding speech stated, “*Agar Shagun hai toh sambhav hai.*” (If there is Shagun there is possibility) Aryan Khatuwala was declared the Most Promising Speaker and Shasank Aggarwal as the Best Questioner. The overall House positions were as follows:

1st: Kopili-Dhansiri

2nd: Subansiri-Namdang

3rd: Jinari-Manas

4th: Bhoroli-Lohit

New Kid On The Block:

The Shattered Cycle

-Likha Riza, XII

Wounded heart on dusted land
A lone voice with no band
He who differs shall not mend
In this world it will end

No hope to give or life to make
Upon death’s door will victory wake
For peace is a concept of no merit
Foolish minds are ones who wear it

So far gone is our peace
Truth and justice now will cease
And if you challenge this way of life
Prepare to be met with blood and strife



Illustrator: Lydia Timungpi

CAMPUS NEWS

On the 28th of May, a workshop was organised by the Department of English on Etymology to help the students build on their vocabulary. A two-member team from the organisation Logophilia, were on campus to conduct the workshop. Classes 9 to 12 participated in it.



INTER-HOUSE MUN

-Harshika Deorah, MUN Captain

Model United Nations (MUN) is a simulation of the United Nations whereby individuals role-play actual delegates of the UN. On the 18th and 19th of May, the School hosted its first ever Inter-House MUN with three committees namely the Security Council, the Human Rights Council and the Disarmament and International Security Committee. It proved to be an engaging opportunity for students to become aware of world affairs and the proceedings within the United Nations Headquarters. It left the young MUNers more aware with a sense of solidarity with the planet. With a clear notion of what MUN is, the School readies itself to host the first ever AVSMUN.

SECURITY COUNCIL

-Sempisang Toy, XII

The Inter-House MUN simulation of the Security Council had a slow start but ended in a furious and feisty endgame between the Delegates of USA and Israel on one side and the Delegate of Palestine and Russia on the other. The agenda for the Council was 'Recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.' The delegates battled it out like seasoned diplomats rallying their arguments

around events and shifting perspectives. In the end, it saw the delegate of USA triumph along with Israel and France as their Resolution for the agenda was passed with a landslide majority.

Best Delegate: Harshika Deorah, Delegate of Israel

High Commendation: Sempisang Toy, Delegate of USA and Aarav Jain, Delegate of France

DISEC

-Aakangsha Dutta, XII

The Disarmament and International Security Committee was set with the agenda of Resolving the issue of 'China's aggression over the South China Sea.' A problem that has the potential of swiftly turning into a major international crisis saw the delegates of the South East Asian countries fight it on a strong footing. Rallied by 'big brother' USA, they cornered the delegates of the People's Republic of China, North Korea and Russia vehemently. The later part of the sessions saw a growing turn of arguments in the Committee as diplomatic moves

went underway and saw delegates settle to mutual agreements and concessions, as opposed to the initial challenges and accusations. The Committee successfully passed a resolution to ensure peace and sovereignty for the countries in the South China Sea region.

Best Delegate: Aakangsha Dutta, Delegate of the People's Republic of China

High Commendation: Ipshita Kashyap, Delegate of Taiwan and Vasumann Lohia, Delegate of The Democratic People's Republic of Korea

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

-Letminlun Haokip, XI

The proceedings of the Human Rights Council can be summed up in one line, as spoken by the Delegate of France himself: "If this was an actual council, we would be one step closer to WW3."

The Council strove ahead with the agenda of 'Protecting women and children in conflict areas.' Despite the

initial squabbles and arguments, the delegates managed to draw up a resolution without causing major breach of foreign policies.

Best delegate: Aryan Khatuwala, Delegate of Palestine

High Commendation: Krish Agarwal, Delegate of Russia and Shrabona Borthakur, Delegate of Pakistan

BAZINGA

-Mrs. Dayita Dutta, Chair, Department of History

What's in a Name?

Base Camp. How are these big names better known in the world of music and entertainment? Hints have been given (score 1 mark)

1. Gordon Sumner (17 Grammy Awards)
2. Stephanie Joanne Angelina Germinotta (Grammy and Oscar)
3. Reginald Kenneth Dwight (Grammy Awards)
4. Allen Stewart Konigsberg (3 time Oscar winner)
5. Robert Zimmermann (Grammy Hall of Fame and Nobel Prize winner)

South Col. It's getting harder (score 2 marks)

1. Sampuran Singh Kalra (poet and lyricist - Oscar winner)
2. A S Dileep Kumar, his birth name (Oscar winner)
3. The husband and wife team of Diana and Michael Preston, known for their best selling novels of the Mughal Empire such as Raiders from the North
4. Yusuf Khan (the older generation will know this) - known as the great romantic hero of Bollywood
5. His fame has spread from India to Japan but he was born Shivaji Rao Gaekwad - now a super duper star under his single name

SUMMIT! - SCORE FIVE IF YOU CAN ANSWER THIS

She is well known as a singer and songwriter. For the Calvin Harris ft. Rihanna song "This is what you came for" she is credited as a co-writer under the name of Nils Sjoberg. Who is this celebrity hiding in plain sight?

Answers:
 Base Camp 1. Sting
 2. Lady Gaga
 3. Elton John
 4. Woody Allen
 5. Bob Dylan
 South Col 1. Gulzar
 2. A R Rahman
 3. Alex Rutherford
 4. Dilip Kumar
 5. Rajnikant
 Summit Taylor Swift

THE OUTPOST

Illustrator: Eloziini Senachena

Smriti Irani mourned the death of close aide Surendra Singh as she offered a shoulder to the mortal remains of Singh even amidst celebrations of her historic victory in Amethi, proving that the Iron Lady of the Saffron Brigade is here to stay. Even as the Prime Minister took oath, the country waited in eager anticipation about the new members of the Modi 2.0 Cabinet. Nirmala Sitharaman becomes the first full-time female Finance Minister while Amit Shah takes charge as the Home Minister; Rajnath Singh takes up office as Defence Minister, meanwhile Sushma Swaraj is replaced by former diplomat, S. Jaishankar as Minister of External Affairs.



Ripple #103

- Sieyina Meru, XII

The chasm of chaos
had deepened when
the riots began.
The government
had been toppled.
“Dreams require
sacrifices”,
she remembered
as she watched the
dead sleep

Tongue of Slip!!

1. House in the prep - Parikhit Baruah, XI
(Not what we meant by 'homework'.)
2. Are you talking me piggy? - Suyash
Borgohain, XI (No, but oink away.)
3. Is everybody is okay? - Mr. Sachindar
Singh (Everything is, Sir.)
4. Should I go or am I wait? - Nandini
Garodia, XII (We'll keep you waiting.)
5. Couples are found to bright. - Pratiti
Barua, VII (Best not to check the shadows.)
6. The fire was on bed - Sieyina Meru, XII
(So is your English.)

Keep It Reel!

Clouded

-Jeremy Jahau, XI



Editor-in-Chief: Nandini Garodia

Deputy Editor: Sieyina Meru

Associate Editor: Aakangsha Dutta

Correspondents: Sempisang, Saziia, Jeremy, Eloziini & Moom

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E-mail: ave@assamvalleyschool.com

Telephone: 09678074320/08812009627 Website: www.assamvalleyschool.com