



THE OLIPHANT

No. 106

WELHAM BOYS' SCHOOL

15th September, 1990

THINK ABOUT IT

*The saddest thing
I can imagine is to
get used to luxury.*

—Charlie Chaplin

Editorial

At 5.30 pm it is as clean & quiet as a hospital (probably that doesn't say much). At 10.30 it is as crowded & noisy as the obstreperous Bombay Stock exchange, and at midnight it is once again quiet, though as dirty as any garbage dump minus the vultures (which are sometimes compensated by the numerous stray dogs who seem to be as attached to the school as any of the students). 'What, O what is our confused editor talking about,' one may ask

Well the reference is to the mini tuck-shop & kitchen which is one of the many attractions of the hostel which is often compared to a hotel—PH.

Every morning, the music minded Cacophonix of the hostel enters the hostel, croaking in discord, with his weapon (a broomstick) in his hand. After his early morning concerts all over the hostels (and several curses due to them) the-sweeper clears the mess made by the eating 'PH'ites the previous night and wonders 'How do they manage to make such a mess of this place?'

The whole day the cleanliness & peace of the room is preserved. Then the clock shows 10.30. Prep time is over. Cooking time has started. In other words—chaos! The favourite dishes are of course chow mein (boiled noodles) & Spanish omlettes (in the shape of a map of Spain) not to forget scrambled eggs (made & eaten in quite a scramble).

On some rare days tins of baked beans are also opened (and finished in record time).

Needles to say that owing to this mini tuck shop, the culinary skills of all the inmates has increased many fold. Many 11thies realize that being a good cook can be quite a curse (11th) because from a hobby it becomes a profession (without pay of course). Frying eggs & tossing omlettes for one 12thie after another is not always too much fun, but the hope of the comforts to come in the next year pacify their despaired souls!

After that the UWS (utensil washing squad) comprising of a few eleventhees who do not excell in cooking, get into action & clean the utensils and dump them in some corner of the hostel. In this way another day is rounded up & once again the next begins by the painful voice of Hazari & his melancholic tunes, with the kitchen once more transformer into serenity personified.

Anyway, it's 10.30, time for my snack break, until next time.....

Yours Grubbily
—Saurav Sinha

Letters to the Editor

Dear Ed.,

We're going stir-crazy! For two weeks agitations in town have prevented most of us from going out.

Yours etc.,
Restless.

Ed—Keep your cool! Don't get agitated,

From The Old Boys' Desk

An extract from a letter written to the Principal, by Shashank Swarup (EX-62 PH) :—

Dear Sir,

I was very grieved to hear about Mr. Kaushik, the head of the senior school Music Department, who is no more with us today. I didn't know of it until I received the school newsletter, The Oliphant.

He was a great musician and he had devoted his whole life to music. I was with him since he joined school (I think, in 1985). He had tried to improve the quality of music in school and had succeeded in developing an orchestra for the morning assembly. Under his guidance, the school had taken part in music competitions held in Dehra Dun and this brought fame to the school.

His devotion had instilled in me the spirit of music. I hope this spirit will not vanish but will stay forever. I hope that with the co-operation of the students of the school, you will do something in this direction. My best wishes in that concern."

Through the Keyhole

SB reading out : "Of course music was always important, the chief household deity of a family by tradition "

Sharma as usual dreaming : "Mmmmmmm, Porsche D T. !!!!"

* * * *

Student ; "Inky pinky pony . . . "

Teacher (horrified) : "What are you doing?"

Student : "I'm trying to select the right preposition to fill in the blanks !!!!"

* * * *

Litrary Affairs of Welham

The Headlines

'Airbus crashes' the major heading,
Punjab is serious, the blood is shedding,
Kashmir's peace is gradually fledding,
Jagmohan is troubled, his thoughts are dreading,
Next is the earthquake that occurred in Armenia,
Fishes die of hunger in the city of Tanzania.

Then are the elections,
Divided into sections.
The topics are down,
Begging for the crown.
VP reduces taxes,
While Rajiv relaxes.
Chandrashekar toils hard where VP's the winner.

Now we turn the page to the business age,
Some people are wealthy, while some are in a rage.
The sugar rates are low while rice stays high.
The owners of rice give a joyful cry.

Now are the sports,
All the players are very big shots.
Good season for Gooch while Waugh hits tonnes.
Player of the season is the mighty Richardson.
India and Pakistan on the clash,
While Holland comes in with just a flash.

Lastly the weather,
The troublesome weather.
The nights become short and the days are long,
Cuckoos stop singing merry sweet songs.
The hottest season without a reason,
The heat is just too strong.

Here we end this lengthy poem
And if you don't praise it,
We will be completely heartbroken.

—Ankur Nigam & Amber Sinha VII B

Le Napkins

After remaining absent from the Welham tables for quite some time, it made a comeback. I refer to that white piece of monogrammed cloth called a napkin.

Previously the Welhamite used a napkin in almost any way he could. Some myopic members of the Welham clan wiped their spectacles clean with it. Sherlock Holmes' fans wrapped it around their cutlery in order to prevent their fingerprints from being left on it. Some wondered if a little of the school's porridge on a folded napkin held over a person's nose and mouth would kill him (sadly, nowadays the porridge isn't as lethal as it previously was). Others used it to wrap up their dessert and yet others used it to polish their shoes. In short, the enterprising Welhamite used the napkin for everything except its intended purpose.

Gradually, the Welhamite learned. Most necks were found to be adorned with napkins. Traces of jam or anything else were merrily wiped away until the Principal himself announced instructions for the proper use of napkins, namely, laid in the lap to protect one's clothing and occasionally brought up to the mouth to dab away morsels of food.

As a result of these instructions our prodigious soothsayers have predicted that the 'breakfast-scarred' napkin will now become a rarity, but let us see. Only time, I beg your pardon, only meals shall tell.....

—Ashish N. Deb Roy

Yet Another Literary Slip-UP

"In co-education institutions, the students receive training on social behavior. That is why many schools have social service."

Black Hawk

Once in a forest there lived a small village of Red Indians. Their chief's name was Swift Hawk and his teenage son's name was Black Hawk.

One day Swift and a few men went to search for some food, but on their way back, their dear chief was shot dead by their sworn enemy—an Englishman! The others ran after him but in vain. He was too fast for them.

When Black Hawk got to know this he vowed not to rest till he had killed his father's murderer.

Black Hawk grew up and replaced his father as chief of the village.

Once he went into the forest for a hunt and saw an Englishman aiming a gun at him. Before he could fire Black Hawk threw his tomahawk at him and cut his arm. Black Hawk went up to him and asked, "Why did you want to kill me?"

The man replied, "I wanted to kill you and your father....."

Black Hawk did not wait to hear more. He knew he had found his father's murderer! With one swift stroke he chopped the man's head off.

At last Black Hawk had avenged his father.

—Ankush Sachdeva-V-B

Nature's Diary

(1) Poisonous animals often have brightly coloured bodies—like the South American arrow-poison frog. This warns predators to keep away. The world's most poisonous creature is the golden arrowpoison frog of Colombia. An adult contains enough poison to kill 2200 people.

(2) Antelopes and gazelles usually rely on their speed to escape from predators such as lions, cheetahs, hyenas, etc., but African impalas have an even quicker form of evasive action: it is called prancing. The animal arches its back and leaps repeatedly 10 feet straight up into the air. The repeated jumps can frustrate an attacking predator into leaving the prey unharmed.

(3) The North American owl butterfly, frightens attackers away by exposing a pair of startling eyes on its wing. The owl-like false eyes even include a glint of light to complete the illusion.

Welham Now !!!

* We warmly welcome :—

Mr. William Balman	(English)
Miss Neena Puri	(English)
Mr. Rajesh Kalra	(Maths)
Mr. Abdul Abid	(Junior Engineer)
Mr. Oberoi	(Hindi)

- * The School staff played a match against the School team and the Doon School staff. Both matches were lost. (5-0, 10-1)
- * A group of boys went to Cheshire Home on the 7th to participate in an entertainment programme staged for the inmates. The Doon Darpan people interviewed a few of our boys there.
- * The badminton tournament in Sikkim stands cancelled.
- * The swimming pool was proclaimed out of bounds from the 10th to the 14th.
- * Maneka Gandhi, the country's minister of Environment, visited the school on the 14th.
- * The Hindi Essay writing Competition was held on the 30th of Aug. and the English Essay Writing Competition on the 6th of Sept.
- * The school will be participating in a one act play staged in Welham Girls.
- * A second group of boys went for a rock-climbing course on the 8th & 9th.
- * A party of boys was to go to Delhi to see the electronics and art exhibitions at Pragati Maidan but the trip was cancelled owing to unfavourable conditions.
- * Another batch of boys was successful in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. There were 9 bronze level awardees and 3 silver awardees.
- * Congratulations to Mrs. Neera Singh on becoming mother. She has been blessed with a son.
- * A generator is being installed in Triveni.
- * The 'flu' has taken its toll on a few members of the staff and students.
- * The school debating team consisting of Saurav Sinha and Varun Bhaskar could not go to Gwalior for the debate because of agitations all over the country.
- * The school will be participating in the Chakravarty debate which will be held

on the 26th of September, at the Doon School.

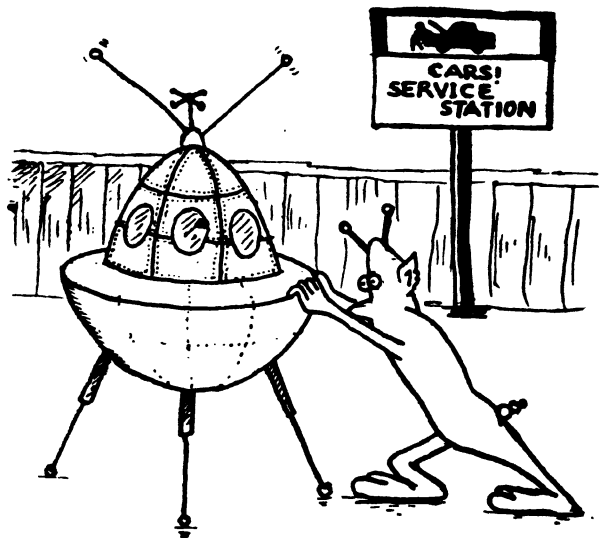
- * The audition for the school Founder's Day play was conducted on the 7th of Sept. The play will be staged on the 27th of October, and the Fete will be held on the 28th.

Discovery

On the Rock...s

The idea in itself was very exciting, adventurous and appealing. I had wanted to go as soon as I heard of it. It was a most cherished invitation for an opportunist like me. We were getting a golden opportunity to go for a day to the small wayside village of Maldevta, for a lesson on rock climbing.

The whole management was done by Mr. Painuli and our group of nine boys was assisted by Mr. Wilkins, Mr. Madhup Seth and Mr. Painuli himself. We left on Saturday evening and reached a small Primary School in Maldevta within an hour. Once you cross the ordinance factory you leave all the hustle-bustle of the town behind and you come across large expanses of greenery and



ADWIL/NEK

majestic mountains. I was thrilled to see some parts on the way so green that they would put a whole mine of jade to shame. The sky, like a chameleon, changed colours from chrome-yellow to mandarin orange, then to crimson, gradually turning into amber red and then lavender, fading further into a warm

grey colour. In no time the darkness would be upon us as the Sun had taken shelter behind the mountains which stood silhouetted against the eastern sky. Even the sky was covered by the threatening black clouds. A canal flowed parallel to the road and everywhere you could see a myriad of green shades. From emerald green to olive green, from deep green to blue-green. As the dark curtain fell the vicinity was lighted up by fireflies. An enchanting display of lights so to say. They outlined trees and spread on the ground with the phosphorescent light throbbing in their abdomens.

Our instructors Mr. Dobhal, Mr. Thapliyal and Mr. Gupta showed us how to pitch tents which included both the alpine tent and the normal tent. We then had our dinner and in the veranda of the small school we laid our sleeping bags. We had a session of 'anthakshri' till late in the night in which the teachers proved to be formidable opponents. The Next morning, after completing our morning ablutions, we had our breakfast of eggs, buttered slices and sweet cups of tea. Then we reached our final destination, the rockface on which we were to climb.

We were first taught how to make some important knots such as the thumb knot, the reef knot, fisherman's knot and the most important one, used in climbing the coil-bow-line. There are two ways of climbing: natural climbing without any ropes and artificial climbing in which you use ropes, nails, carabennes, etc. We were to do rope climbing on this rock-face which was about 80 metres high and at an angle of about 70° to 75°. Mr. Dobhal first climbed up carrying the ropes and tied a rope to a stump of a tree. The rope was thrown down and we were ready for the act. We were supposed to tie the coil-bow-line knot round our waist with a piece of rope and then with the help of a carabenna (a sort of iron ring used to attach two knots) we attached ourselves to the support rope, a precautionary measure for us. Now with

the main rope, which is made of nylon, we climbed up.

The first on the line was Mayank. His face showed how nervous he was. It had turned half red and his green eyes bulged out. He started his ascent Cautiously he pulled himself up taking support of the rock. He reached the top safely except for a slip which he had right in the beginning because of nervousness. He was followed by Abhishek then the little mouse Ritesh, who seemed to crawl his way up the slope—a rather impressive and amusing sight. All of us had a go at it. Even I, successfully, went up, quite confident by the time my turn came. While coming down, the rope goes from between your legs and you have to come down in small jumps. From the top when you look



down it really makes you hair stand but as you come a little lower you begin to gain confidence. The teachers—Mr. Wilkins and Mr. Seth also successfully went up and came down rapelling. It was an extraordinary experience with the passers-by looking up at us in amazement, and we, like little boisterous kids excitedly jumping about on the slope.

After our rock-climbing session we went to the bank of the river where many tried crossing the river with a rope tied to their waist. Noone was able to do it because the river current was very fast, but it was fun.

It was late in the afternoon so we left the

splendid heaven and came back to Dehra Dun. We had our lunch in the town and returned to school with sweet memories of the marvellous outing. It was an achievement for us for which I am thankful to Mr. Painuli.

—Gagan Gahlot

Minutes of the School Committee Meeting

THE minutes of the recently held school committee meeting are as follows :

(1) Nitesh Bajpai suggested that the badminton court near the staff living quarters should be cemented. The Chairman said that this was not feasible, owing to the big trees around it, whose roots would destroy the court.

(2) Shailendra Sharma complained that the brown shoes should be changed, as they wear out very fast. The Chairman decided that he would definitely do something about it, as he was already looking for shoes which were reasonably priced.

(3) Nitin Jain suggested that library books and newspapers should be provided to the hospital. The Committee decided that this would be done, but instead of books, magazines would be provided.

(4) Class XII suggested that the students of Class XII were always in a dilemma about their future. They stated that they were very uncertain and pessimistic about it, and would be very grateful if they could have a guidance counsellor, who would show them the right track and clarify their views. To this the Chairman said, that he was doing a part of this by having matter about this put in the library and he would also discuss it with the class in question and the teachers for the future line of action.

(5) The P.H. boys proposed an ex-Welhamite get together on the day before Founder's. The Chairman had no objection, but it was for the Old Boys' Society to decide, although he had already sent out invitations to them.

(6) Piyush Jain suggested that voltage stabilisers should be installed in P.H because of a lot of voltage fluctuation. The Chairman decided that he would look into this matter and take action accordingly.

(7) Manav Sehgal suggested that more dustbins should be provided around the school campus. The Committee approved of this and decided to have two sets of bins : one for garbage and the other specifically for plastic bags.

(8) Akash Mathur suggested that a night out should be allowed just for Diwali. The Chairman said that this was not possible as the young boys would feel homesick, and even if it was allowed why should it be allowed only for Diwali and not other holidays. Therefore it was not approved.

(9) Gursajan Gambhir suggested that the boys of Krishna house should be given separate cupboards to themselves. The Chairman said that he would go to the hostel and take a look and then do something about it.

(10) Ranjan Lath suggested that boys going for a school outing should be given more than Rs. 25 as pocket money. The Chairman decided to appoint a sub-committee to work out the cost and expenses and tell him by the 27th of August and he would see that it was done.

(11) Madhupali suggested that the 'Hindu' newspaper should be provided in the library. The Chairman said it was a good idea and approved it.

(12) Mrs. K. Deshpande suggested the oil portrait of Miss Oliphant should be put in the Learning Resource Centre. The Committee had no objections.

(13) Kamal Matta complained that more T.T. tables should be provided. The Chairman said that he has no place to put any more T.T. tables, therefore this was not approved.

(14) Vikramjeet Singh suggested that the Sikh boys should be allowed to wear white patkas under their turbans. The Committee decided that this would not be possible because every time somebody liked to wear something else, and this way the uniform would keep changing, so this was not approved.

The next meeting of the school committee has been tentatively fixed to be held on the 26th of September, 1990.

In the Arena of Sports

The Welham Arena of Sports has been buzzing with a lot of activity during the past fortnight. Besides an unusually large number of soccer matches there is news from the badminton and table tennis fronts too.

Towards the end of August our school soccer team clashed with the Doon School. Now a Doon School-Welham match is always something special, something to look forward to. This one was no different and it too generated a lot of excitement. Loud cheers greeted the two teams as they took the field. From the first few minutes of play it was obvious that Welham was the better of the two teams. Then all of a sudden, much against the run of play the Doon School scored-Vivek Khanna hanging on to a loose ball and sending it crashing into the net. It turned out to be the knock-out blow because hard as our team tried they could not get the equalizer. Call it dame luck or poor finishing the fact remains that our team could not convert its territorial advantage into a goal.

The following Sunday Delhi Champions D P.S. (R.K. Puram) were here to play our team. The visiting teams came with an awesome reputation and a 6-2 victory over the Doon School in its kitty. However our players were not fazed and put up a rather pleasing display. In perhaps the best match we have seen this season our team went down by the odd goal. A couple of shots rebounded off the post and a few gilt edged opportunities were missed. Nevertheless it was a very creditable display by our team.



The Council schools tournament was now approaching and much was expected from our team. However our performance in this tournament was extremely disappointing. Faced with a rather tough draw we faced the Moravians in the first round. The regulation time score was tied at 2-2. When extra-time failed to break the deadlock penalties were resorted to. Samarendra Rautela and Harinder Mann converted the first two penalties with ease. In reply the first three Moravian shooters all hit out and our team was into the quarter-finals. At this stage we faced

Guru Nanak Academy. The Welham domination in this match was so complete that the ball hardly ever came into our half. However it was the same old story of missed chances. They scored a goal out of the blue and our forwards once again let us down-missing the easiest of opportunities to score. Inability to score has been costing our team heavily this season.

A couple of friendly matches were played against club teams. Kailash Club-arguably the best team in Dehra Dun handed us a 6-3 defeat. In another match our team staged a remarkable rally coming back from 0-3 down to beat the Challenge Club by the odd goal in seven. This match was marked by a tremendous performance by Suvig Sharma, our captain who scored a hat-trick. The Welham team seems to have found its scoring touch but alas! a bit too late. As things stand the trip to Mayo for their centenary soccer tournament stands cancelled due to the prevailing circumstances in the country.

The School Badminton team seems to be an untouchable juggernaut. After sweeping all the titles at the UNESCO tournament our team comprising of Harinder Mann and Gurjyot Singh all but did the same at the Y.M.C.A. badminton tournament. We clinched the team championship and open doubles titles with consummate ease. The only title that eluded us was the open singles where the half fit Harinder Mann went down in the final. Our team was to leave for Sikkim on Sunday the 16th of September to play in the I.P.S.C. tournament but this was cancelled. Great hopes were pinned on this team which has proved to be unbeatable as far as the district tournaments are concerned.

The Inter House Table-Tennis tournament failed to attract the attention of the boys. Most of the time the hall where the matches were conducted wore a deserted look-Gurjyot Singh and Gaurav Wahi put up a good performance and clinched the title for Cauvery house. Ganga were second and Krishna third. Jamuna as usual were the wooden spooners.

In the next issue I'll be having lots more news for you from the soccer, badminton and basket ball fronts.

—Harinder Mann

डा० माधुरी प्रकाश के साथ साक्षात्कार

प्र० हमारे विद्यालय में हाल में ही आई हिन्दी की अध्यापिका डा० माधुरी प्रकाश का मैंने साक्षात्कार लिया। इसके द्वारा मुझे डा० माधुरी प्रकाश के जीवन की कई रोमांचक घटनाओं का ब्यौरा मिला। प्रस्तुत है हमारी बातचीत का एक अंश।

प्र० अपने विषय में आप कुछ बताएंगी ?

उ० मैंने बी.ए. ऑनर्स (हिन्दी) दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय से १९६८ में किया था। इसके अलावा मैंने एम.ए. दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय से ही १९६० में और पी.एच.डी. मेरठ विश्वविद्यालय से किया है। मेरा 'शोध प्रबन्ध प्रसाद साहित्य' में प्रसाद के साहित्य की अभिव्यक्ति के ऊपर है। मेरा एक लेख 'साहित्य संदेश' नामक पत्रिका में मैथलीशरण गुप्त की अर्चिचिंत कृति (अजित) में उनके आत्म चरित्र के ऊपर प्रकाशित हुआ था इसके अलावा अहमदाबाद-बड़ौदा रेडियो से मेरे कार्यक्रम भी प्रसारित हो चुके हैं।

प्र० वेल्हम के अलावा आपका पढ़ाने में अनुभव और कहां-कहां है ?

उ० वेल्हम में आने से पहले मैं 'होली क्रॉस स्कूल, सिल्वर और एल.डी. आर्ट्स व साबरमति आर्ट्स और कॉमर्स कॉलेज में पढ़ा चुकी हूँ।

प्र० यहां के विद्यार्थियों के विषय में आपके क्या विचार हैं ?

उ० विद्यार्थियों का स्तर अच्छा है। हालांकि यहां पढ़ाने मुझे कुछ ही दिन हुए हैं लेकिन विद्यार्थी मुझे पसन्द आए हैं।

प्र० हिन्दी की महत्ता के विषय में आपका क्या विचार है ?

उ० किसी भी बड़े देश की सबसे बड़ी शक्ति होती है, उसके निवासियों की एकता होती है राष्ट्रभाषा एकता बनाती है और मुख्य जरूरत है। अपनी राष्ट्र-भाषा में शोध करने से और उसमें बातचीत व भाषण देने से उस देश का सम्मान विदेशों में भी बढ़ता है।

हिन्दी, जन भाषा है और देश के चार कोनों को एक जंजीर के साथ जोड़ती है।

प्र० इतने सालों तक शिक्षा में जुड़े रहने के पश्चात आपको कैसा लगता है ?

उ० शिक्षा मेरे जीवन का महत्वपूर्ण अंग बन चुकी है। इसके बिना जीवन नीरस लगता है। हमेशा पढ़ने और पढ़ाने के विषय में सोचना ही स्वभाव बन गया है। शिक्षा के बिना जीवन सोच ही नहीं पाती हूँ।

प्र० पढ़ाने के अलावा आप और किस कार्य में रुचि लेती हैं ?

उ० महान लेखकों की कृतियां पढ़ने और लिखने का मुझे शौक है। मैं आजकल जयशंकर प्रसाद की काव्य कृतियों की परिपेक्ष्य में लिख रही हूँ।

प्रगति

प्रगति शिखर पर आज चढ़ रहा,
भारत देश हमारा।

कहीं न रुकने पायेगी,
इसे गांधी ने ललकारा।
देश प्रेम की अविरल ज्वाला,
जलती रही जन-जन में।
पं० नेहरु ने भी अपनी,
शांति भरी थी सब मैं।

आज वही भारत है अपना,
दीपित मुधर है इसकी।
अजान घटा है जिसकी,
कश्मीर भारत का टुकड़ा।
न है अविभाज्य हमारा,
गांधी ने फिर यहां इसको।
आज यही ललकारा,
कभी न बटने देगें इसको।
यह भारत का गौरव,
जो इस भारत माता के।
बटने की बात करेगें,
बिना मौत ही मरेगें।

पवन अग्रवाल

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