



THE OLIPHANT

NO. 126

WELHAM BOYS' SCHOOL

01 April, 1992

THINK ABOUT IT

*We recognize that flattery is poison,
but its perfume intoxicates us.*

- Marquis De La Grange

EDITORIAL

Another year has passed and so has another batch of class XII. Their absence will be felt by one and all. They are now part of history.

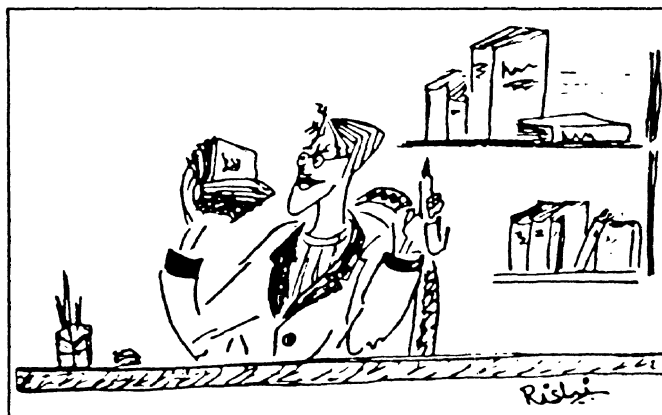
I stayed with them for a whole year. Before entering P.H., I had been ready for a tough time and for seniors who were bullies. But they changed my thinking. They changed my way of looking at life and P.H. They changed it all.

A day without Anurag's pranks was a day without the sun. I'll miss him bursting eggs on my head or wetting me. His unique laugh will echo in the dormitories of P.H. for a long, long time to come.

The long talks I had with Varun are now a thing of the past. Yet they will remain evergreen in my memory. They pulled me up, when I felt low. They brightened my whole day.

Here I must say that I speak for my whole class. Thus, I substitute the word 'we' for 'I'.

Ranjeet's hilarious imitation of teachers and his recounting of past experiences was one of the best things about P.H. It always made your day. His sense of humour was 'in a style of its own'.



So was Ritesh's. The way he talked brightened up the whole day. We shall always remember his sarcastic comments and also his laugh.

If I write about each person in the same way, it will fill up volumes.

I take this opportunity to voice the feelings of class XI about

an incident that took place on the XII-ths last day in school. The depression prevailing over P.H. caused by the XII-ths leaving was further deepened by the fact that the XIth was not given what it deserved, the farewell feast. After spending 12 long years here at Welham that was one thing that would have made them say 'Yes, this was our home, our school, and will always remain so'. No matter what they did, the feast was one thing they had looked forward to since they joined school. Depression changed into disappointment and distaste. That should not have happened for it made them feel like outcasts.

The day they left, we all cried. We cried our hearts out. It is going to be very awkward in P.H. for sometime with our guiding lights missing. But then life must go on.

- Varun Sood

Welham Now!

Mr. R. Oberoi got married in February. We regret the delay in announcing it. Congratulations and best wishes to him and his wife. His wife, Mrs. P. Oberoi, has joined as a Hindi teacher.

Dr. Saxena has been appointed teacher-in-charge of the senior school.

Mr. D.K. Jain has rejoined as a permanent staff member of the Computer Department.

Names of House Captains were announced :

Krishna - Rajveer Singh
Ganga - Munish Suri
Cauvery - Manav Khullar
Jamuna - Dhruv Sehgal.

Ganga bagged the Inter-House Cricket (Jr.) Trophy. Cauvery lifted the trophy in the senior section.

Work on the multi-purpose hall is in full swing.

The Gardening Club held an exhibition-cum-sale on 15th March. Tulips from Holland and daffodils were the star attractions.



Literary Affairs of Welham

Boris Becker

Boris becker sent an ace
which went right on Chang's face.

Chang was injured in the eye
And soon began to cry.

Boris came up and said, "Sorry".
Soon came a lorry with a red cross.

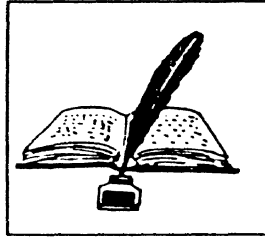
The Doctor came out and began to
shout, "Where's injured Chang?"

Doctor gave him some tablets and
covered his eye so that it stopped bleeding.

Chang shouted, "I'm better,
I will surely beat Boris Becker."

But for Chang it was difficult
For Becker started his aces
This time with full force.
And Chang soon lost the match.

- Vivaan Menezes VA



Don't harshly condemn me
For what I'm not as yet,
Don't crucify me
Without being tried
I never cheated,
I never lied.

Clasp your hand in mine
My friend

Share life's venture,
Till the end.

Lead me though caverns
Of doubt and despair.
Help me to travel
Without any fear,
To goals of goodness and integrity
That I may face
Myself, my maker
With head upright
With honour and pride.

- Nilima Sibal

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GROWING UP

I'm not a child
Not meek nor mild
I'm often rude,
But never a prude.

Life's rushing by,
I meant to fly
I'm just a bird taking wing
Eager for a fling
I know nothing about.

Sometimes I'm shy
I don't know why
At times I'm bold
Making adults cold.

I want to be loved,
By you, by all,
I want to be ME
Whom I can't yet see.

The world before me
Lies far and deep
I want to explore
Before I sleep.

To catch the sunbeam
In my rough hand.
Enter, roughshod,
Unknown lands.

THE FALSE DAWN

It was happening for the third time since the past six hours. Each time large formations of the Luftwaffe crossed overhead, the ground shook violently. They dropped incendiary bombs. For about half a minute the illumination was blinding.

Operation Barbarossa, Hitler's invasion of Russia was at its peak. Our town had been under German siege for three weeks. The effects were disastrous. Everyday big convoys passed through our town. Most of them halted for a night. Women were raped, men harassed and property destroyed. It was then that it dawned on me - it didn't make a difference whether it was Hitler or Stalin. We would have to suffer.

So far we had not been harmed but with my wife and two daughters, my insecurity knew no bounds. Each day the SS men came to my house for drinks since I was the Mayor. They got drunk and many a time became obscene. I tightly tied the chests of my wife and daughters with a cloth and splattered drops of blood on their faces. If there was anything the Nazis feared, it was tuberculosis.

Soon the Jews in our town began to be shifted. I knew it would be our turn next. I decided that I had to escape or die.

The convoy started early in the morning. There were enough chinks in the security. So one morning we all got into the back of a truck carrying dairy products. We knew it would be quite sometime before our absence would be noticed. The convoy we were in was heading to a railway station, 20 kms north. From there we hoped to catch a train to the French border. It was the easiest way to get a passage to Britain, because the German army was retreating and the Allies were coming fast. At the station we produced our false passes and were allowed to board the train. As the train pulled out of the station I saw a Focke Wulf Bomber dip on the horizon. A house went up in flames. I shuddered and was happy. I was leaving all this behind. However fear gripped me. The French border was still hundreds of kilometres away.

That evening before going to sleep I looked at the snow-covered landscape littered with burnt vehicles. The stench of burning rubber nauseated me. This was not what we had wanted Russia to be when we dethroned Nicholas II.

The next morning I sat rubbing my eyes. The countryside was lush, with a stream flowing and birds chirping. The last time I had seen it was 27 years ago. I looked at my wife. My daughters were asleep. We both looked at each other. We both knew it was a turning point in our lives. We gazed at each other unaware of the SS guard entering our compartment. Before I could react he banged the butt of his pistol on my head. I was conscious only of a searing pain before I passed into oblivion.

- Sonaal Rampal

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WELHAM WARRIORS

As evening sets the eleventhies get ready for the charge of the Light Brigade. Chaos reigns in the dorms. The boys run helter-skelter for no,

not food this time but HOT WATER!

There is a mad rush to capture a bathroom which is the ultimate goal. Before that, however, many obstacles have to be overcome. Tracing your slippers, of which one has found its way in a remote corner, mug and pail which seem to have vanished from the earth, perfumed soap to erase the muck and dispel the smell and, of course, the much necessary towel.

"Who's taken my bucket?" "You idiot, you've got on one of my slippers." "Siddharth you creep, how dare you take my towel? I warned you last time...!" "Guys, has anyone seen my soap?" Voices and cries, abuses and threats rent the air, as desperate hands search their cleansing kits and not finding any item unabashedly claim another's for their own, promptly setting up a chorus of protests and howls.

The battle is not yet won for one never knows who one may encounter on the way. A sudden ambush is quite common. So with Tarquin's ravishing strides towards his design, moves (the bathing warrior) like a ghost. He boldly pushes away the arms that suddenly emerge to grab him; dextrously negotiates the several legs that stick out to trip him. A 'roll of drums' accompanies his March:

"It's my turn, I am after him!"
"No, it's my turn!"

Once in a while a verbal clash results in a thunderous slap. After much jostling and skipping, at last the warrior reaches his goal and smiles mockingly at the vanquished.

"I've won!" he says and closes the door.

Ah! Heavenly water! Glorious hot water.

Mayank Gupta
XI

* * *



LAMPOON



SOME BEARDY TALK

Gur 'George Michael' Gambhir

I wish keeping a beard was permitted by school rules. My crop would have made Mr. Kandhari pluck his beard in envy.

Ved 'M.C.' Krishna

I am tired of using my razor again and again. Despite my serious efforts I have failed to achieve even a solitary hair on my chin. But do not think I will give up so early, I have my fingers crossed for the auspicious occasion.

Anurag 'Tharki' Garg

I prefer to shave my rather disgusting growth. It only hides my dynamic looks and deprives me of the fragrance of the aftershave which drops down from my chin.

Varun Sood

I would love to keep a stubble. My rough and male look would make 'Sting' stare at me with jaundiced eyes. And not only that I could easily walk down the road with looks to kill.

Aziz 'Travolta' Rawat

Well I prefer staying the way I am. Of

course I do not need to mention that I resemble John Travolta. A beard well... would obviously detract from my handsomeness. It would make matters worse for me, sweltering in the sun during the athletics season.

'Macho' Monit Goel

Good Heavens ! Obviously I would like to keep a beard, it would just add to my 'macho' looks. With the shooting season down under I would love to kill some 'Love birds'.

Arjun 'Sleazy' Saluja

I would love to keep a stubble as it would end speculation about my ambiguous looks. It would be my first step in the right direction and no one would have the effrontery of addressing me as 'Lorraine'.

Sunil 'Rhyming' Mittal

A growth of beard,
Well it sounds weird,
And if do have a beard,
I would love to have it cleared.

- Hitesh Mahajan



RINGSIDE VIEW

Ganga v/s Jamuna

Inter House Cricket (Juniors) concluded with Ganga lifting the trophy. Ganga batted first. Absar Hussain's accurate bowling kept the batsman under pressure right from the start. He got the first break through when he bowled out Vijay Sushant, Ganga's anchor-batsman. Akbar Ali with a breezy knock of 37 enabled Ganga to score 132.

Ganga's bowling attack was spearheaded by Anshul Anurag. He successfully brought about Jamuna's middle-order collapse. Absar Hussain's 38 gave a little credibility to the crumbling innings. Jamuna was bowled out for 117 runs.

Cauvery v/s Krishna

It was a one-sided match with Cauvery dominating the show. Cauvery, deciding to bat, got off to a very good start which was maintained throughout. Both Varun Lamba and Maneesh Kumar played an excellent inning. They put together 108 runs for the third wicket before Varun got out. Gaurav Jain made a useful contribution of 18 runs which came in only 7 balls. Manish Kumar remained not out with 60. Cauvery scored 158 runs in 25 overs with the loss of 3 wickets.

When it came to batting Krishna fared very badly. Their batsman were too scared of the ball. Varun Lamba and Ashish Patodia took advantage of this fact and shared the booty. Varun took 5 for 30 and Ashish 4 for 4 runs in 4 overs. Krishna was bundled out for a mere 65 runs out of which 28 runs were extras.

Cauvery v/s Jamuna

Cauvery won the toss and elected to bat but were soon to be disappointed when their first wicket fell at the score of four. Varun Lamba and Surya Toadi played a responsible innings and consolidated Cauvery's innings. They piled up 64 runs for the second wicket partnership. Manish Kumar scored 21 before he was run out due to misunderstanding. Cauvery was all out

for 142 runs.

Jamuna stood no chance before Cauvery's bowling attack. Varun Lamba once again did the job for Cauvery. He took 4 for 21.

Krishna v/s Ganga

Krishna for the first time played sensibly. Their openers though failed to do a good job, but it was the intelligent partnership of Samarath Pratap and Prashant Singh which helped Krishna cross hundred. Samarath scored 32, and Krishna scored 110 for 8 in 25 overs.

Krishna's loose bowling and erratic fielding helped Ganga reach their target easily. Anshul Anurag played wonderfully, scoring 32 runs.

Ganga v/s Cauvery

This match was virtually the finals of the Junior cricket Inter-house. Cauvery and Ganga, both strong teams, boasted of a good batting line-up and economical bowling. Cauvery batted first and once again got off to a good start. Everything was going Cauvery's way when suddenly disaster struck. After the loss of two wickets Cauvery had great expectations from Manish Kumar. They were soon to be disappointed because Manish Kumar was controversially given out. But slowly Cauvery batsmen kept the score ticking. Gaurav Jain's spirited knock of 23 runs and Ritesh Tiwari's support at the other end helped Cauvery to a formidable total of 123 runs in 25 overs.

Ganga's batsmen were consistent from the very beginning. Their killier instinct helped them thrash Cauvery. Anshul Anurag scored 60 not out, his marvellous innings included 7 fours. He tore the Cauvery attack to pieces and his batting was worth admiring. The skipper Vijay Sushant too played a major role in Ganga emerging as champions. He scored 43 and carried his bat throughout the innings. Ganga reached their target of 128 in 19 overs and had 8 wickets in hand. It was truly a deserving win for Ganga.

हिन्दी अनुभाग

शेर और हिरण

एक जंगल में एक शेर और एक हिरण रहते थे। वह दोनों बहुत ही पक्के दोस्त थे। एक बार जब वह दोनों कहीं जा रहे थे तो हिरण को बहुत प्यास लगी। हिरण ने कहा कि दोस्त मुझे बहुत प्यास लगी है। फिर शेर बोला कि चलो हम दोनों नदी किनारे चलकर पानी भी पी लेंगे और वहाँ थोड़ा आनन्द भी ले लेंगे। जब वह दोनों वहाँ पहुँचे तो वहाँ उन्होंने देखा कि एक शिकारी वहाँ पर बैठा हुआ है। शेर ने सोचा कि वह पानी पीने का बहाना बना कर नदी के पास जाएगा और वहाँ हिरण को नदी में धक्का दे देगा और इस तरह उसकी जान बच जाएगी। लेकिन जब वह दोनों पानी के पास पहुँचे तो शिकारी की गोली शेर को ही लगी और वह पानी में गिर गया। जो लोग दूसरों का बुरा चाहते हैं उनका अपना ही बुरा हो जाता है।

- श्री राम कृष्णा
३ वी

मैं मुजरिमों की वकालत क्यों करता हूँ

एक नीली गाड़ी राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग पर तूफानी गति से दौड़ी जा रही थी। मार्ग अत्यधिक घुमावदार था और गाड़ी चालक के नियंत्रण से बाहर हो गई और पलट कर पास के गड्ढे में जर गिरी। कुछ ही देर में नीली बल्लियाँ जन्मती हुई एक ऐम्बुलेंस गाड़ी जो किसी भी आपातकालीन स्थिति से निपटने में सक्षम थी वहाँ पहुँची। मोटरकार पलटी पड़ी थी। सुरक्षाकर्मियों ने ने बचाव कार्य शुरू किया। कार में एक युवक व एक युवती सवार थे। दोनों की खींच कर बाहर निकाला गया। युवक मूर्च्छित था और उसे अधिक हानि नहीं हुई थी पर युवती के सिर पर कुछ गंभीर चोटें आई थीं और उसकी स्थिति चिंता जनक थी। उसने अस्पताल पहुँचने से पहले ही दम तोड़ दिया। बाद में पता चला कि वह युवती और कोई नहीं बल्कि शहर के सबसे बड़े रईस की इकलौती पुत्री थी और वह युवक उसका चचेरा भाई था। युवक के रक्त में ऐलकोहॉल की काफी मात्रा पाई गई। चालक को शराब

पीकर गाड़ी चलाने की मनाही थी।

अगले दिन समाचार पत्रों में कई प्रकार की खबरें सुनने को मिली। एक में तो सही-सही इस घटना का वर्णन किया गया था पर कई समाचार पत्रों ने पुष्टि की चालक जो कि उस युवती का चचेरे भाई ने जान बुझ कर यह दुर्घटना कराई क्योंकि वह उसके पिता से उसकी जायदाद हड़पना चाहता था। कई समाचार पत्रों ने इसे एक भयानक साजिश बताया। जब उस युवती के पिता को इस घटना की सूचना मिली तो वह आग बबूला हो उठा और उसने अपने भतीजे पर हत्या करने के इल्जाम में उस पर मुकदमा दायर कर दिया।

सुनवाई का दिन आ पहुँचा। मैं उस युवती के पिता के पक्ष में वकील था। युवक को सजा होना निश्चित था क्योंकि डॉक्टरों की परीक्षण और गवाहों के बयान ने सिद्ध कर दिया था कि वह युवक ने जायदाद हड़पने के लिए एक निर्दोष युवती की हत्या कर दी थी। न्यायाधीश ने युवक के हत्यारा होने की पुष्टि कर दी थी और यह कहकर उस दिन की कार्यवाही खत्म कर दी थी कि सजा अगले दिन सुनाई जाएगी।

उस दिन मैं फिर घटनास्थल पर गया जहाँ पर अभी तक गाड़ी उलटी पड़ी थी। मुझे कुछ संदिग्ध लगा और सूक्ष्म निरीक्षण करने पर पता चला कि जिस स्थान से युवक को निकाला गया था वह चालक का स्थान नहीं था पर गाड़ी के उलटे होने के कारण सबने उसे चालक समझ बैठा था। मैं इस निर्णय पर पहुँचा कि युवती ही गाड़ी चला रही थी और यह दुर्घटना उसी के लापरवाह के कारण घटी थी। अगले दिन जब युवक को सजा सुनाई जाने वाली थी जब युवक को सजा सुनाई जाने वाली थी तो मैंने जज को सारी बात कह सुनाई। बाद में जांच कर पुलिसकर्मियों ने मेरी बात की पुष्टि की और युवक को बाइजजत बरी कर दिया गया। उस युवक ने मुझे बहुत बहुत धन्यवाद दिया।

तब से मैंने मुजरिमों की पक्ष में वकालत शुरू कर दी

क्योंकि मैंने इस अनुभव से जाना था कि एक मुजरिम भी जिसका जुर्म सिद्ध हो चुका हो निर्दोष हो सकता है।

मयंक तिवारी
६ बी

आज से सौ वर्ष बाद का संसार

संसार की सृष्टि का श्रेय भगवान ब्रह्मा का जाता है। इस संसार की जम्म तिथि से लेकर वर्तमान काल तक इसमें सहस्रत्र परिवर्तन हुए हैं। सतयुग बीता, कलयुग को हम भोग रहे हैं। हमारी आगामी पीढ़ियों के सम्मुख संसार का क्या रूप होगा, शोचनीय है।

जब कभी मैं आज से सौ वर्ष बाद के संसार की कल्पना करता हूँ तो मेरे अंतःकरण को अत्यन्त दुःख होता है। प्रश्नों की बौछार मेरे मन को झंझोर कर रख देती है।

क्या इस युग में वास करने वाली जनता प्रकृति की उन शीतल एवं सुन्दर झांकियों का आनन्द उठा सके जो लगातार नष्ट हो रही है। वन उन्मूलन में इस संसार का विनाश के कगार पर ला खड़ा किया है। वनों की वृद्धि न हुई तो आज से सौ वर्ष पूर्व लोगों के पास स्वच्छ वातावरण में सांस लेने का सौभाग्य न होगा, पीने के पानी में कई तरह के कीटाणुओं का वास होगा। उस समय तक प्राकृतिक सौन्दर्य लुप्त होने को होगा।

यदि हम सिक्के को पलट कर देखें अर्थात् सुशहाली की ओर नजर दौड़ाए तो आधुनिकता नजर आती है। विज्ञान में एक लम्बी कूद वरन् एक अविस्मरणीय कूद।

आज मनुष्य पृथ्वी के गुरुत्वाकर्षक की सीमा को लौंघकर चन्द्रमा पर पहुंच गया है। अग्रिम सालों में तो चन्द्रमा पर जाना मनुष्य के लिए आम हो जाएगा। यह भी मुमकिन है कि वहां एक सभ्य समाज का एक शहर भी बसा हो। चौंकि मृत। जिस गति से मनुष्य आविष्कार कर रहा है, उससे लगता है कि वह ग्रह मण्डल के किसी भी ग्रह को छूने में सफल होगा। छोटे से छोटा देश भी स्वचालित अंतरिक्ष-यान बनाने में समर्थ होंगे। भौतिक परिस्थितियों के बारे में और अधिक जानकारी होगी तब के वैज्ञानिकों को यह मेरा पूर्ण विश्वास है।

विलासता की वस्तुएं उस समय आवश्यक वस्तुओं में गिनी जाएंगी। कुछ चीजों का वर्णन करूं तो आप जोर से ठहाका मार के हंसेंगे। बटन दबाया - खाना हाजिर, बटन दबाया - सेवा के लिए मशीनी नौकर उपस्थित। ऐसी हालत होगी की लोगों को घंटे टस से मस न होना पड़ेगा। मशीनी यंत्र मनुष्य के जीवन में इतने घुल मिल जाएंगे और मनुष्य की मानसिक प्रवृत्ति को नष्ट कर देंगे मानों कीड़ों ने खा लिया हो। यह कहना ठीक होगा कि आत्म-निर्भरता का शब्द मनुष्य के लिए निरर्थक हो जाएगा। आलसीपन जीवन का कटु यथार्थ बन जाएगा। आज से सौ वर्ष पश्चात कुछ सुनहरे परिवर्तन भी होंगे और कुछ ऐसे परिवर्तन जिनका स्मरण करके नयनों में गोलापन महसूस होता है और मन को कुंठित कर देता है। जो भी हो हमें और हमारी अग्रिम पीढ़ियों को साहस से इसका सामना करना पड़ेगा।

अमित सरावगी।

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Printed at PRINT WORLD, DEHRA DUN.