



THE OLIPHANT

No. 140

WELHAM BOYS' SCHOOL

24th April 1993

THINK ABOUT IT

Wink at small faults; for thou hast great ones.

—Thomas Fuller (II)

“Will it?” “Won’t it?” “There is to be one but not this term, may be in September”. “No it is not being held. We’ll put up our own show this time”. So the rumour mill ran. The topic under discussion was the joint production. Traditionally, the JP is held every May. It is eagerly awaited for it takes place just ONCE a year, and gives the Welhamites the chance to display the Christian virtues (which they any way very strongly believe in) ‘Love thy neighbour’. But this year there was much ado about the staging of a play and speculation reached its peak this month. Tongues wagged, eyes rolled, hearts beat. Then one fine morning (and what a fine morning it turned out to be) the Principal announced that the great event was to be held. Welhamites heaved a sign of relief. Rehearsals are on in full swing. There is to be a home production as well in May so things are rather dramatic at the moment.

Another notable feature has been the introduction of the scholar’s scarf. There was a sort of sensation in the intellectual circles of the senior school on reading the criteria for getting the scarf. The minimum number of points required to get the distinction is seven. Although it sounds simple, in reality it is not so. Every single point has to be achieved by putting in a lot of toil and effort. A student has to be really good in academics, debates, elocutions and other ‘scholarly’ co-curricular activities to be able to achieve the scarf.



It is the equivalent of the scarf in sports but certainly some more prestigious, more elusive, more competitive and more difficult to attain. Don’t be surprised if there are increased demands for more debates and elocution contests now.

The gym has become functional. It is well equipped with all modern and up-to-date equipment. The weight-training and physical conditioning classes have started, and many ambitious and enthusiastic to-be-body-builders can be seen rushing towards the centre, with a towel on their shoulders very eager to flex and pump their muscles and broaden their biceps. Even the puniest of creatures is to be seen there. Many have already begun to see their muscles develop. Its a different thing, no one else, sees them, Our hero feels tough and confident.

A few days ago the school had the great honour of having the function to mark the reprint of the book ‘Memoir of the Doon’ by GRC Williams. The well known writer, Ruskin Bond, was the chief guest. This was one of the highpoints in the school’s literary history. In future we hope many more famous writers will grace the school. Those of us on the Board who were lucky to meet him found him warm and gracious and readily accepted his invitation to visit him in Mussoorie. One wonders if one could call it a scholarly visit and get a point for the scarf!

Prashant Goenka

Welham Now !!

1. A function to release the reprint of the book 'Memoir of the Doon' by G.R.C. Williams was held at the LRC steps on the 3rd of April. It was organized by Natraj Publishers. Ruskin Bond was the chief guest. Dr. Vandana Shah, a well known environmentalist and writer, also attended the function.

2. The Inter-House (Sr.) English Elocution contest was held on the 4th. The following received laurels :—

SECTION A	SECTION B
1st Karan Gulaya	Sudeep Chaudhuri
2nd Abhinav Pathak	Vidur J. Bahadur
3rd Kumar Abhijeet & Mehul Mayank	Simran Nurpuri

Jamuna lifted the trophy.

3. Nepali has been introduced as a second and a third language in school from this term.

4. A ten-day workshop (29th March - 12th April), 'Towards Adulthood' was held for class XI and XII by Dr. Rakesh Chandra in the LRC. It dealt with sex education, how to understand oneself better and how to create a good impression on others. The boys were very enthusiastic and certainly benefited from the workshop.

There were two other workshops held in March. Class VII attend a week-long workshop (23rd-1st April) on 'Creativity' conducted by Mrs. Nishi Behl. Its aim was to help the boys break free of the stereotyped ways of looking at and doing things, and use the imagination for creative purposes. It covered a range of activities - painting, acting, use of waste material, cooking and fun games.

About the same time there was another workshop held for class-V. This was on 'Optimizing Performance' and was conducted by Mrs. Suman Nangia.

The gym-equipment in the Activity Centre has been fully installed and has become functional. Mr. Akash Saxena is to train the boys in its use. Two new appointments have been made in this

regard. Neil Grant has been made in charge of Physical Training and Jigme Lachungpa has been made incharge of weight conditioning.

6. The 7th Golden Jubilee Commemorative Basketball Tournament started on 17th of April in the Activity Centre. Lieutenant-General Billimoria inaugurated the tournament.

7. A short musical programme was put up on the 18th to celebrate Baisakhi.

8. The following boys in the Junior School have been awarded prizes :-

Class-I

1. Consistent hard work	Ayush Agarwal
2. For trying	Shabeer Singh
3. Good conduct	Raunak Agarwal
4. Helpfulness	Aditya Goel

II-A

1. Consistent hard work	Sukant Goel
2. For trying	Atin Ansari
3. Good conduct	Pranay Patodia
4. Helpfulness	Rishabh Kejriwal

II-B

1. Consistent hard work	Prayas Rana
2. For trying	Ashutosh Pandey
3. Good conduct	Nitin Agarwal
4. Helpfulness	Jai Shankar

III-A

1. Consistent hard work	Siddharth Kumar
2. For trying	Trinayan Bhattacharya
3. Good conduct	Mohnish Charan
4. Helpfulness	Saumya Khaitan

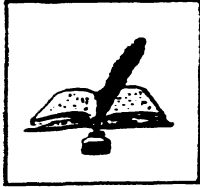
III-B

1. Consistent hard work	Archit Baweja
2. For trying	Kaushik Chaudhary
3. Good conduct	Varun Gupta
	Rahul Lohia
4. Helpfulness	Vir Bhadra

Contd on pg...

Literary Affairs

FAIR IS FOUL.....



It was just another day at work when I opened my shop that morning. I told Raju to sweep and dust the shop as I prayed to the goddess of wealth, Laxmi. As usual my third employee, Suresh, arrived late and gave me all kinds of excuses the way he usually does.

I felt pleased, every thing was just perfect. Our days in misery and poverty were now over. I was able to send my children to good schools, give them good food to eat, a beautiful house to live in and provide other luxuries. I was now able to give my wife good medical treatment for the stomach tumour which had caused her severe pain for many years. Things were fine now and my shop was steadily developing. From an ordinary ribbon-and-comb-selling shop it had grown to one of the city's best gift shops. It was an achievement worth feeling proud of.

Just then a lady wearing an exquisite saree and with a good amount of make-up walked into the shop. I approached her and asked her what she would like to buy. She answered in English. The accent was good, I noticed. She said that she was throwing a party that weekend and would like to buy a gift for each of her guests.

I was filled with a pleasing sensation. 'This lady' I thought, 'must be inviting at least 20 people to her party; if she buys a gift for each one of them, I will earn at least Rs. 2000/-. She's my first customer of the day, today must be a good day for me. I think.....', 'Er., How much is that pen set for?' She broke into my thoughts. 'This will cost you Rs. 190/- each, they are beautifully made, they write smoothly and are long lasting.' 'And how much does that deodarant cost?' 'That'll be Rs. 200/-, it is imported and has a heavenly fragrance,' I answered in my best salesman-talk. She asked the price of various items, each item was priced at nothing less than Rs. 150 -.

Finally she made a decision. 'For this party', she said, 'I am inviting 23 ladies and 31 gents, so I will

need a total of 54 items.' I could't believe my ears, this woman had never come to my shop before and was already wanting to buy over 50 items each costing a small fortune. 'It seems Laxmi is pleased with me,' I thought.

The woman chose several different items for her guests. She bought perfumes, bangles and lipstick for the women and ties, pens and cologne for the men. By the time she had taken all that she wanted, the bill ran upto an astounding Rs. 50,000/-.

My face was almost red with excitement as I ordered Raju and Suresh to pack all the items.

When all was done and I began making the bill, the lady spoke up, 'I do not carry all the money in my bag for fear of 'bag-snatchers'. I have left the money in my car with the chauffeur. What you can do is to send one of your men with me with the bags and I'll pay him there.'

On hearing this, I turned apprehensive. I was a bit reluctant to let Suresh carry all that money, but I had no choice, it would'nt look good for me to leave the shop and go all the way to the lady's car. And would it be polite to ask the lady to get the money from the car and then collect her things? I decided that I would have to send Suresh after all.

So carrying all the bags, Suresh trod off after the lady in the expensive saree. As they mixed in the crowd I experienced an immense feeling of accomplishment. I could now buy the micro-wave oven my wife had been asking for such a long time. I could also buy my son the C.D. player he had been pleading for. How nice it felt to earn Rs. 50,000/- from the first customer in the morning.

Such thoughts were racing through my mind when I heard loud shouting from the street. I got up to see what was on and found Suresh running towards me shouting, "We've been ceated! We've been cheated! As I put the packets in that woman's car, she slammed the door on my face and zoomed away at full speed!"

Harsh Khanna
X-A

* * *

DRUNK !!!

Cook it in a pot,
Do not serve when it is not,
Do not keep for long, it will rot.
Must be puzzled what I'm talkin' about,
Feel like hitting me in the mouth.
Made from an apricot and banana extract
It is not a lie, it is a fact,
Cook them together, in a ratio of 1:3
It'll get you so high, your spirit will break free,
You shall live till eternity.

But there is problem you shall face.
The apricot and the banana,
come from the southern beaches of Havana.
Where colour and Castro rule the place.

While looking for the apricot and banana
take a look at great Castro,
Take lessons to become a musical maestro,
Watch Frank Sinatra.
entertain the Mafia of Havana.
Get yourself shot through the head.
In heaven you can say
This poem you have read.
Snooping around for the banana and apricot,
You searched Cuba in the heat of the day,
This dammed poem should be burned,
This poem whose poet is sly,
After all this is a lie.

Sudeep Chaudhari
IX-B

* * *

TO GRANDFATHER

What more should I say ?
Just that I am missing you,
Though I don't know the address of heaven,
Still I think this letter will reach you.

I remember the day when you were
wearing new clothes,
Though you don't like the colour white
Still the people forced you to wear it.
You lay numb on the ground,
Acting as if you were sleeping.
You must have fooled everyone excepting me.
For I was hiding and seeing.

I saw people in white,
Many of them crying,
Making the house a horrible sight,
Mother and father too loudly weeping
I could not understand why
Seeing them,
a tear trickled down my eye.

I controlled myself, and went to Grandma's room,
There she lay, quiet, her face damp with tears.
I said,
"Grandma wake up, see Grandpa is acting so well."
She raised her arm to touch my face: it fell.
I thought probably she was unwell.

Later, I was told
Grandma has also gone to heaven.
I hope she is better now.
Please come home soon.

Love,

Simran

* * *

MY HOUSE

The first letter of my house's name is K.
You can do any thing you like there.
You can sing, dance and make jolly
While the Triveni guys are getting punished for their folly.

The reason for this is very clear.
Krishna is far and Triveni is near,
Shout if you like, no one can hear your voice.
Scream, screech, howl and rejoice.

Change-in-break ? no thats not for us.
If prefects tell us to do so, we start creating a fuss,
When its PT, we take our own sweet time
Who can tell us any thing even if we come at 9 ?

For us games time is the worst,
For it is at that time, when favours come with a sudden burst
It's a tiring walk from Krishna to the Dining-Hall
Unless we get a chance to play Basket Ball.

We are told to take a bath
Clean ourselves and look respectable
But once a day, rebuke's no great shakes
East or West, Krishna is the best !

Raihan Ahmed
VII-B

A Day in School

The shrill ringing of the 'rising bell' in the morning causes disgust in the half-sleepy-half-awake Welhamite. Its time for P.T. Groan!! Knowing that shirking P.T. will lead him and his class-mates to being punished ruthlessly, he walks up to the bathroom. He is not astonished to see no water there. It is as he expected. He treads mournfully, covering vast distances to other buildings to collect water for his cleaning/freshening operations.

After P.T., a few droplets of water are available for those who prefer to be fresh after their little sleep, and after P.T. Drool! Thank God for little mercies. Then is the terrible journey to the classes. Sleeping during classes is not at all awkward. Not even for the teachers. They know that it is a better substitute than boys restlessly squirming around and yawning endlessly.

Before breakfast, when the boys are asked to move into the dining hall, seeing an awesome prefect staring at him, he whispers to his partner - "Yaar, today we've just had to stand in line for 15 minutes, seems the prefects are in haste."

A 'tikki' and a mere egg is never able to fill the stomach of the glutton who is soon pushed out for assembly. Our austere school captain lets us go for our 3rd and 4th schools, at the end of that boys are soon seen returning in little bebies for fruit. Choosing one out of the many rotten fruits is an agonising art; worse, an unlucky boy may be told by some authority to pick up some peels. The daily 'darshan' of bananas is for him a headache. After two more periods is lunch when a Welhamite has to strive to keep his eyes open after his nap in the last periods.

After a hearty lunch and a banana in his pocket, one can see the prefects giving 'ragra' to those who do not conform to the school rules. There is no sign of magnanimity in the prefect when he has to rebuke a boy. The boys in push-up position squeal 'sorry' while looking like sand dunes in a desert. The ones doing change-in-break and taking rounds strive to keep themselves from smiling and getting into deeper trouble. Class X and XI frequent the peacock stage the most.

The boys of class XI show no sign of malice and are seen fawning before the twelfthies as soon as their punishment is over. As one of us would say, 'They have already started scoping.'

After a miserable rest-hour is the CCA, SUPW or other activities that engages the Welhamite for one full hour. On Wednesdays, he can be seen relieved from work and resting to his heart's content. Then is the time for tea. Now tea in summers acts as a punch on a wound. Boiling with the tea in him, the Welhamite does a bit of eavesdropping outside the catering officer's office, just to listen to him telling Nitin, "The bananas were very good today. Only 450 out of the 700 were rotten." He can see Nitin in the air, with a sly smile on his face.

Seeing the azure sky, the Welhamite decides to play hockey, only to be driven into the Activity Centre by the crackling heat. The basketballers can be seen preparing for their forthcoming tournaments and the badminton player, waiting to get a chance to play. The boys of PH and a few members of staff can be seen flexing their muscles in the gym but fail in attracting the attention of the visitors in the building.

In the evening, back in the hostel, the Welhamite celebrates the supply of running water. Wrapped in a towel to protect his primordial beauty he is totally disheartened to see the taps run dry after having given out water for 10 whole minutes! Frustrated he complains to the authorities who, having anticipated the church have already thought of a suitable excuse. The Welhamite thinks. "It's just been five days since I have had a bath year! "Kal Naha Lenge."

With this ray of hope, he rushes for an uneventful dinner. Then comes prep. After complementing loads of work, he returns to his hostel, yawning and gets into bed quickly, striving to get a little sleep after the day's exhausting work.

Amber Sinha
X-B

* * *

Contd. from pg.....2

Prizes for Music :-

Class-I

1. Saloni Dhingra
2. Varun Chaudhary
3. Aseem Sethi

II-A

1. Sukant Goel
2. Atin Ansari
3. Anubhav Menta

III-A

1. Sahil Vohra
2. Arjun Sabarwal
3. Mohnish Charan

II-B

1. Neha Joshi
2. Nitin Agarwal
3. Ashwini Todi

III-B

1. Aditya Malhotra
2. Raghav Priyadarshi
3. Archit Baweja

9. The winners of the English Essay Competition (Jr. School) held on the 13th of March are as follows :-

II-A

1. Siddharth Saraf
2. Gautam Mahajan
3. Tarun Saraf

III-A

1. Siddharth Kumar
2. Rajat Kumar
3. Fatehpal Singh

II-B

1. Snehanshu
2. Ashutosh Pandey
3. Abhishek Singh

III-B

1. Varun Gupta
2. Archit Baweja
3. Raghav Priyadarshi

* * *

Scholar's Scarf

A proposal to award the scarf on the basis of the following criteria has been made. Comments and suggestions may please be sent to the Principal by 20th May 1993.

Eligibility : Classes X to XII

I	Good Assessment	1
II	Above 85% Annual Exam. (or ICSE)	1
III	Trophy for the Best Student in the Annual Exam	
	a) Physics	1
	b) Chemistry	1
	c) Biology	1
	d) Computers	1
	e) Maths	1
	f) Accounts & Commerce	1
	g) Economics	1
	Languages	
	h) English	1
	i) Hindi	1
	j) History	1/2] Will be up-
	k) Geography	1/2] graded when a full class forms in Class XI.

IV	Inter School Debate - First (Hindi or English)	1 1/2
V	Inter-school Elocution-First	1
	Second	1/2
VI	Inter-School Quiz - First	1
	Second	1/2
VII	Chief Editor	1
	Editorial Board*	1/2
VIII	Dramatics*	
	Best Actor	1
	Supporting Actor	1/2
IX	Essay Competition	
	Hindi/English 1st	1
	2nd	1/2
X	Handwriting Hindi or English	1/2
XI	Convenor Library Council*	1

7 points to be attained in any ONE academic year.

A maximum of 4 points from Academics.

*Only when recommended by the Teacher concerned.

Please let me have your comments.

S Kandhari

* * *

We Met Him



Ruskin Bond stayed for a very short time at the function to release the reprint of 'Memoir of the Doon.' But he very graciously agreed to give us an interview.

In between signing autographs, he answered our questions :-

Q-1 What made you change from writing for adults to writing for children ?

Ans I still write for both. I started writing for adults, I enjoyed childhood and therefore decided to record events from it.

Q-2 It is said you are a recluse and do not like to meet people. What motivated you to come for this function ?

Ans I like meeting young people, not always adults. I might not have come but when I heard it was being held at Welham and there would be a lot of intelligent ones like you around I decided to come.

Q-3 What type of books do you enjoy writing and why ? What inspires you ?

Ans I enjoyed childhood and therefore wanted to record its events. I like writing about childhood. Nature, childhood, people and discipline inspire me to write.

Q-4 How did you come to the Doon ?

Ans I grew up here and I studied in Shimla. My parents lived here. I was born in Kasauli near Shimla.

Q-5 Your short stories are prescribed for school curriculum, and your stories seem to be very

popular with paper-setters. What do you feel about this ? Is this how you like your work being appreciated-studies for exams ?

Ans I did not write short stories with the idea that they would be prescribed for school curriculum. I would not like my stories to be a burden on anyone or taxing for people but I do not mind if questions are set on them in the examinations. My basic aim in writing stories is that people read them and enjoy them.

Q-6 What do you think about some of the new writers-any new writer who has particularly impressed you ?

Ans Hard to think of any particular writer. I like R.K. Narayan. I like Vikram Seth, his poems.

Q-7 What are you working on at present ? Of all your books which is the one you like the best ?

I am writing a sort of autobiography. My best book was 'Roo n on the Roof', probably because it was my first.

*Never despair - But if you do,
then work on in despair!*

Ruskin Bond

Sports Trivia

Soon after the mid-terms the Inter-house (Sr.) net matches were completed. Jamuna played against Krishna in the third match of the tournament. Jamuna batted first. Absar played a responsible knock of 25 runs for Jamuna. For Krishna, Shaad Ali and Vidura Prasad bowled impressively. Krishna had to chase a target of 134 runs to win but with the contribution of Rajesh Sehgal (20) and Ankur Nigam (20), the Krishna batsmen lived up to expectations. Jamuna collapsed for 93 due to the splendid bowling by Shanker.

The next match saw Jamuna pitted against T.H.D.C. Atin Sharma played a defiant knock of 25 and helped Jamuna to notch up a respectable total of 124. The bowlers Shantanu Singh and Ashish Dungwal and Vidura bowled commendably. However their captain, Vijay Sushant failed to click and was out at gully by Absar. Anirudh Singh played a knock of 36 runs. In spite of a tremendous knock by the tailenders, Ganga lost to Jamuna by 10 runs.

The fifth match was played between Cauvery and Krishna. Varun Lamba's patient knock of 64 runs helped Cauvery attain a huge total of 157. None of the Krishna bowlers did well. The Krishna batsmen did not do well. Rajesh (24) and Ankur (19) provided a foundation but their mates did not build on it. Most of the batsmen succumbed to the Cauvery bowlers. Cauvery won this match by 40 runs.

The last and the much awaited match was played between Cauvery v/s Ganga. The Ganga bowlers restricted Cauvery to a total of 116 runs. Chirdeep alone did not perform well. He put in a spirited knock of 24. Ganga's captain, also, did not perform well. Once again the

batsmen failed to do justice to their potential. A tremendous effort by Vijay Sushant (22) was the only redeeming feature of the abysmal performance. Mohit Mehta raised the spirits of his team by hitting a six. It was a nail-biting match with Cauvery winning narrowly.

Overall Results :

Cauvery - 6 points, Jamuna - 4 points, Ganga - 2 points, Krishna - 0 points.

Best bowling average - Varun Lamba

Best batting average - Gaurav Jain

Discovery of the year - Pratyha Chopra

The school cricket team played two matches. In the first match we faced T.H.D.C. Ltd. Our bowling line-up proved too good for them. None of their batsmen were able to withstand our bowling attack. Shaad Ali bowled extremely well taking 4 wickets. T.H.D.C. were all out for 56. Our openers led the team to victory. Vijay Sushant made 22 and Gaurav Jain 26.

The second match was against St. Joseph's Academy which is a renowned team in Dehradun. We were put into bat first. Mohit Mehta (36) hit a couple of good shots and helped Welham pile up a total of 140 runs in 30 overs. But the first 10 overs of their batting and everything looked lost. They scored 66 runs in 10 overs, for the loss of just 1 wicket. Vidura came into bowl and gloriously changed the direction of the match. He bowled economically bagging 4 wickets. Another 36 runs, and the other 9 batsmen of S.J.A. were sent back. They were all out for 102. Thus Welham was again victorious.

Gaurav Jain

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