



# THE OLYMPIANT

No. 152

WELHAM BOYS' SCHOOL

12th April 1994

## THINK ABOUT IT

*Beware of the man who says he knows all.*

-J.Krishnamurti

### EDITORIAL

*Well, it's a matter of time. Two months have passed since the beginning of the term and boys have been promoted, the respective positions have been announced and juniors are back at condemning the Prefects.*

*Everybody's full of stories about their mid-terms and lets hope the mid-terms were refreshing ; we have another examination coming soon !*

*The most controversial of all the topics at present is the Weather. It's impossible to say if one will reach the hostel without getting wet, even if the sun is out. One moment the day is bright and cheerful and the other it is dark and gloomy; reminding us of doomsday.*

*Everybody seems to be taking it easy, just now, (so does the electricity department; there's no electricity when one needs it most !). Boys, because they have just been promoted and it will take a week to get their textbooks and copies. Teachers, because they know that no matter how they try, nobody will get down to studies right now. I find the students' claim fully justified; have we been sent to school only to study ?*

*At present, however, boys are busy decking up their new cupboards with all sorts of mind boggling posters. Put P.H. at present steals the show ; with all five music systems blaring throughout the day, one never feels lonely or bored. One gets to hear the most flabbergasting lyrics combined with a mind-blowing cacophony of instruments ; occasionally of course, in some corner Bhimsen Joshi triumphs over Guns 'n Roses and Deep Purple.*

*There are a lot of new faces around the campus. The new class 6 boys have now come under the scrutiny of the Prefects and are now less boistrous than they were in junior school. One gets to see an occasional lost boy*

*in the classes block looking for his section in the pandemonium between the first and the second bell.*

*Talk of excuses. Nowadays, if you catch anyone throwing orange peels or banana peels the typical answer is : 'C'mon ... It's biodegradable.'*

*The blackboards are now put to good use since the term is in its latter half. Soon one will be seeing various countdowns. The system, however, is being a bit modified. Instead of the countdown beginning from 10, it begins from 50 (or 60 if some one's really feeling homesick).*

*But a sight not worth missing is the Dining Hall; the Monitor is running helter skelter because of the complaints and the Caterer is in a fix. All other matters are dropped at once at meals as there is nothing more important. As it is often quoted : "We don't eat to live, We live to eat "*

— Kirtiman Singh

*We are grateful for the following donations received*

*for the Squash Courts :*

*Rs. 3 lakhs from the SIEL through their Managing Director, Mr. Sidharth Shriram (an Old Boy).*

*Rs. 1.5 lakhs from Mr. V.K. Gupta, a parent.*

*'NEPAL GYM'*

*Rs. 3.72 lakhs collected by the Nepal parents.*

## WELHAM NOW

1. Mr. and Mrs. Painuli have been blessed with a son: our heartiest congratulations.
2. The film 'Beethoven 2' was screened on 1st April.
3. 'Quantum Learning' and 'Learning to learn' classes conducted by Dr. Chandra have begun. Majority of the senior school students are attending.
4. The following boys achieved distinctions in the examinations held during 1993-94 (75 % or above).

Sanidhya Sindhwani	Sandeep Jha
Ashish Mathur	Manav Goel
Nitin Bhanot	Gauravjeet Singh
	Gaurav Chaudhary
Kumar Abhijeet	Amit Kuthiala
Rahul Choraria	Nimish Agarwal
Shariq Ansari	
Gaurav Dubey	Amit Gupta
Digvijay Lamba	Vikas Prasad
Anshul Anurag	Puneet Bansal
Dibyanshu Poddar	Vatsal Arya
Vivek Garg	Ankur Jindal
	Kartikeya Narayan
Manu Talwar	
Raja Talwar	Ajay Kumar
Rohit Bagaria	Arjun Trivedi
Ashok Roy	Abhinav Pathak
Shiv Kumar	Abhinav Agarwal
Prashant Khemka	Nikunj Gupta
Sachin Dhir	Amol Ballani
Amiya Setu	Gaurav Shekhar
Amit Kumar	Amarnath Jaiswal
Ankit Agarwal	Ashish Gupta
Ankur Chakore	Kaushal Kishore
Sarthak Pany	Maneesh Kumar
	Vikas Kumar
Karan Gulaya	Sameer Raina
Ajeet S. Bajaj	Arjun Bhatia

## LITERARY AFFAIRS

### SEPARATED AT BIRTH

Anurag Aggarwal <—> Vishwas Kohli

## THROUGH THE KEYHOLE

Mr. Manmohan Sharma to class 9-B  
MS - 'Boys switch on to exercise 2e.'  
Amit Sharma - 'Sir, there is no electricity.'

Kirtiman comes 20 minutes late to Miss Siddiqui's class.

RS - 'What is your excuse now ? Hospital ?'

Kirtiman - 'No ma'am.'

RS - 'Water shortage ?'

Kirtiman - 'No ma'am.'

RS - 'You fell down from your bunk ?'

Kirtiman - 'No ma'am.'

RS - 'Nobody woke you up ?'

Kirtiman - 'No ma'am.'

Exasperated she finally asks

RS - 'What is it then ?'

Kirtiman - 'Ma'am ... I'm really sorry ma'am.'

Zayed Khan to Mr. Khaira

Zayed - 'Sir, you scolded me because I was in bad company. But, tell me what to do.'

KH - 'Come to my factory.'

## A GLANCE AT LIFE

I have often wondered  
What life really is  
Lying awake night after night  
Vividly imagining many a sight.

Strolling along the moonlit lake  
Seeing life's beauty in it's wake.  
Life, it's truth so very sheer  
Even with evil, so near.

When you are feeling down and out  
You want to hold your head and shout.  
When you feel you're going mad  
Or need something real bad

Short is your grief  
Cause in time, so brief  
Your spirits begin to soar  
And you dissipate no more.

I'm not very sure  
As to why this happens  
They say it's to do with human nature  
And now accepted as a feature

No one can define life  
'Cause in it lie both peace and strife  
To anything and everything that happens everyday  
'It's all part of life', the people say.

Whatever we do  
And wherever we go  
It is evidently true  
That the winds of life blow

From the time we go to bed  
Till we awake on the morrow  
Life is with us, as I said  
Life follows us through joy and sorrow

'What is Life?', people sigh  
And even though hard they may try  
This riddle remains a mystery  
For all and one sundry.

— Rumaan Kidwai  
X-A

## BASKETBALL

### ADVICE TO A BEGINNER

Pass to a player unmarked  
You escape being 'remarked'  
Dribble only when you need  
Which is your coach's creed  
Shoot when you are free  
To put the team on the winning spree  
Follow the ball to rebound  
And prove your skill - is profound  
Shouldn't you forget the defence  
When your team is on the offence  
You will be considered 'a cream'  
When you play for your team.

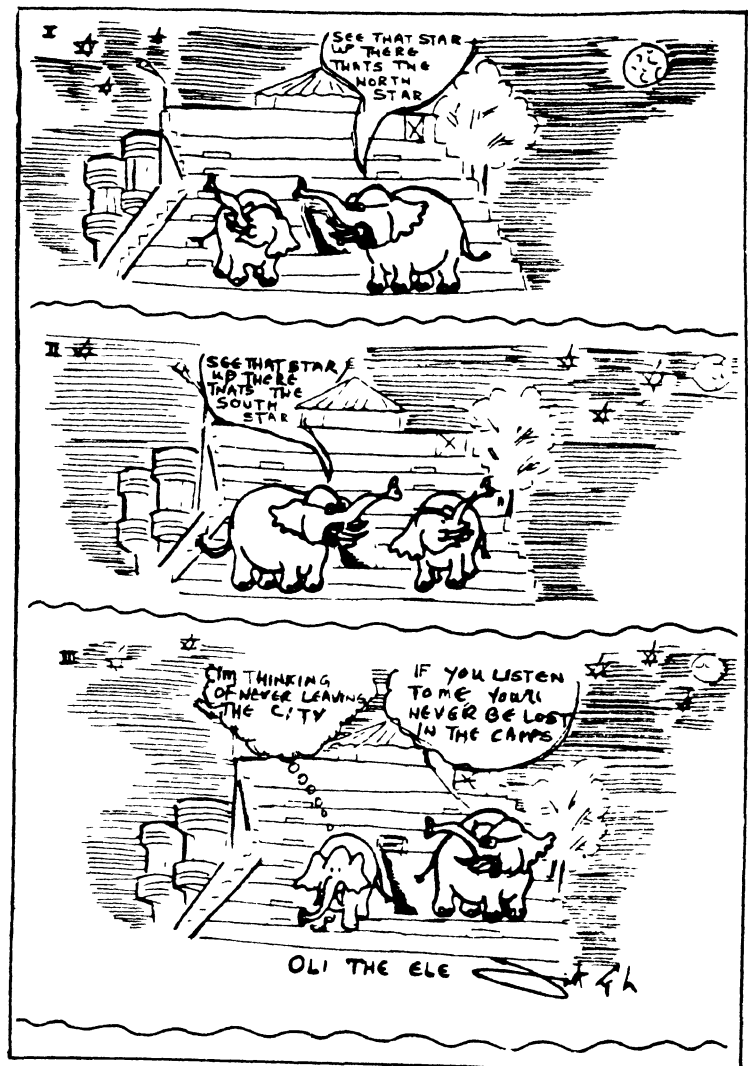
— Mr. Vinod Vachani

## ABOUT TWELFTH YOU BET

It's a great time being in twelfth,  
Provided you relish it as your dad's wealth.  
For freaking there are various factors,  
In the class, there are some comic characters.  
Bala is thin and lean,  
But his cracks will sweep you clean.  
Nathu's the wise guy,  
Compared to 'Shakuni', he's more shy.  
Singhal hails from Assam,  
Looks like as if comes from a way side farm.  
About Hora I'll tell you in a jist,  
He's registered in Punjab's terrorist list.  
Mandy is destructive and the peppiest,  
Always in the hospital on the day of the test.  
Praty's the Maggi man,  
Atin's like a child in the pram.  
Shaad's a classic actor,  
Mohit's everyone's benefactor.  
Thaigi's presence is trickling, -  
Vidur's in for modelling (clay !!!).  
Nial's got his st'

Chh ! Chh ! Chhaju's so fragile.  
Oh my God ! Chirdeep feels he's tough and well built,  
But, who'll make him understand,  
He's merely a muscle strand.  
Rakshat's cool with a capital 'C',  
Jigme - Wangchuck seems to be programming on MTV.  
Thus, twelfth is fun, it's a dream as  
In summer its like having an ice-cream.  
Twelfth is the soul of Welham  
And P.H.'s heart is HUM and  
Of all it's fellows, I'll give you a description :  
Pavan is HUM's cute surd,  
Simran is HUM's (across the road) flirt,  
Jairaj is HUM's big boss,  
Without Udit HUM is a loss,  
Kohli is the ultimate,  
Himanshu is no less - You bet !

— Himanshu 'Hum - ingly' Gupta



Keep expectations alive Keep nourishing them Let much promise more, and let great deeds make people expect still greater ones Don't show everything you have on the first roll of the dice The trick is to moderate your strength and knowledge and advance little by little toward success

## FOR AND AGAINST GIRLS ?

'Girls ?', said my grandmother, 'I didn't know they allowed you to see girls.'

These were my grandmother's first words on her visit to Gordonstown. Still living in the days when a boy went to a boys' school and a girl went to a girls' school. She had no idea that boys and girls went to school together, let alone to a public school.

Having never had the misfortune, (Or the fortune dependingly on where you stand), of being a member of the single sex school, one really doesn't know what goes on. However, I have friends who are the products of such institutes.

'You have Girlfriends !', one of them said to me once.

'Yes', I replied.

'What do you do with them ?', was his response.

People who went to a mixed school, can sometimes have this image of young adolescent boys coming out of their Public School for Boys', not having the faintest idea of what a girls is. This is a complete fallacy.

Boys of this sort know exactly what a girl is, they just wouldn't know what to do were they to come across a member of this particular species (which may be a blessing in some cases).

At Gordonstown, where there have been both boys and girls for quite a number of years, it is generally expected that some of the pupils are more friendly to one another than one might wish. The staff don't encourage such relationships, - far from it.

Many a time I have seen a boy and a girl walking hand in hand along the silent walk suddenly become completely strangers at the sight of a teacher. Once this sight has gone the two separate entities become one again and resume the picturesque scene as before.

Naturally the question of relationships must leave quite a heavy burden on the mind of the residing Headmaster. And it is true that rather than inter-house cricket, inter-house relations can become the preferred sport of the pupils.

We must not forget the unsporting world that

tends to creep in every Headmasters mind when considering a co-educational system. This sinful act should not be dismissed as something that won't happen, because it can happen and does. I shall not linger on this subject. However, to those considering giving a long speech on the immorality of such an act, it is most likely to make the people, who weren't thinking about it, think about it and those who already were thinking about it, think about it all the more ! Anybody with the slightest intelligence will see it as forbidden whether morally or not.

But don't lose faith yet. There are many advantages of the mixed school which thoroughly outweigh the disadvantages. For one, choir attendance picks up, this is usually because more girls enjoy singing than boys. (and we know what boys enjoy) Also you will notice a change in the appearance of the average boy : more mature in class, it's amazing how much older a boy becomes in the presence of a female. The general appearance of the whole school is more friendly and welcoming.

It has often been said that mixed schools do not achieve the academic standard of a single sex school ; girl distracts boy, boy distracts girl, girl gets work done while the boy doesn't know what day it is. However, this, as far as I know, has never been proved and is always been said by somebody who went to a single sex school. (obviously defending themselves for doing so).

To conclude I believe the idea of a co-educational system to be an excellent one. The school as a whole looks more attractive and after all we do not live in a single sex society in the real world.

— Neil Howson



## SMOKED

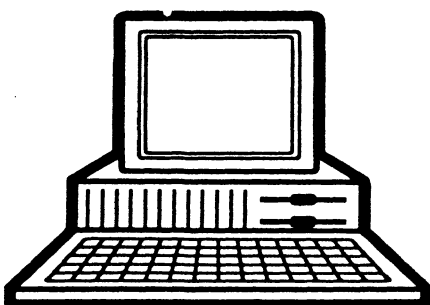
Grey as smoke. Life seemed the same colour. Different gloomy shades of the same colour of despair. The monotony was getting to me and I sat on the steps of my grey novel smoking my lungs out under the gloom and misery of life. I just sat, thinking of death, love, hate, blood. Thinking life. I just sat, facing the tediousness of the situation.

Then through the smoke I saw the figure of man appear. An old man. Hunched, old, greying, on the verge of entering a tomb. Dressed in a monotonous black. Black tie, black coat, black trousers, black shoes, hat, cufflinks. Tedious, tedious dressing, I would say. It added to the gloom and monotony of my thoughts. He had no teeth and his skin was almost translucent and hung over his bones like a wet sheet. The wrinkles covered his face, his bony hands, forming crows feet at the corners of his eyes and mouth.

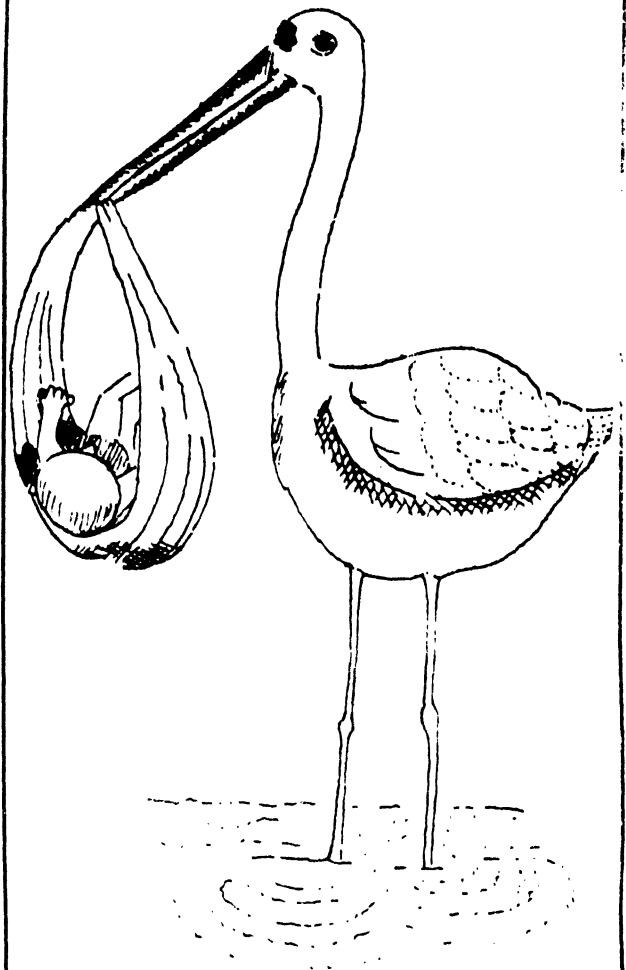
'It's got to you? Hasn't it? They got to you? They stole it from you. You worked hard for it, that beautiful thing. You buried yourself in it, devoted yourself to it. Yes, they stole it from you. God damn it! They stole it. You're an example of me aren't you? It was all that mattered to you and it's gone. And you suffer. Strange. How many hours, days, months, years did you spend on it, this obsession of yours. It haunts you day and night. It took, minutes, a meal perhaps for you to lose it. They just took it and you sat looking. It got bored of you, and you sensed it. Give up your vows, save the city of your soul. Don't die but you can't be expected to live with it either. Die or don't. Face the monotony, gloom, misery, doom. They shall kill you. It's postposterous.'

He disappeared as fast as he had appeared and ruined the rest of my day, but gave me something to think about ..... again!

— Sudeep Chaudhuri  
XI - Science



*Moving with the Times*



*THE NEW LOCK !*



*Success with Teamwork*



*To accept  
good advice  
from others is but  
to increase one's  
own ability.*

## SUPERSTITIONS

Is there anyone in the world, who is free from the magic spell of superstition. The answer is no ! The main reason for a person to be superstitious is that he has the fear of failure or anxiety about the outcome.

There are many superstitions in which a person believes. Some of them are : that seeing a Jackal at night might bring you distress and disappointment. Seeing common mynahs, a person says one is for sorrow, two are for joy, three are for a letter, one is never to go near a peepul tree at night for there may be demons resting near the tree. When a superstition is taken as a kind of warning, people take extra care and caution.

We need to stop believing in these superstitions or we will descend to the level of the notorious disciple of the great Parmanandaiah. When he was climbing a tree, he heard someone sneeze, and began to descend. But on hearing another sneeze, he remained there moving neither up nor down like an insect. It is a pity that he did not know the mathematical calculation that two negatives make one positive. Had he known that he would have certainly reached the top of the tree. But now people have introduced this superstition that two sneezes are a good sign, and so are two Brahmins crossing someone's way. But this is not true in the case of widows. Whether it is one widow or two widows - it is unfortunate.

There is another kind of superstition which is connected with religion. It is witchcraft and witch hunting. Every ugly looking old woman in rags is thought to be a witch. People believe that if you put two twigs in the form of a cross, the witch will run away frightened. There is an acid test to verify whether one is a witch or not; tie the suspected one to a chair and immerse her in water. If she dies she is not a witch, and if she does not die she is.

Nobody will say that to believe in God is superstitious. If a priest can say he has spoken to or seen god, why cannot someone else. If anyone does, then people of that religion call him a heretic and he is put to death. This happened to Joan of Arc who was burnt at the stake.

Our country is far behind the progressive world because we believe in superstitions. We should stop believing in superstitions.

Shakti Agarwal  
Class X

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Excerpts from a letter from Asad Shamsi to Mr. S Kandhari:

"My University is situated in the southern part of Germany in a very small town called 'Schwabisch Gmund'. If you were to look in a World Atlas then perhaps you will not even find it. But just to give you an idea it is very near to Stuttgart (about 50 km). However I must say that it is a very beautiful town with a lot of typical old German houses and churches. The university called 'University of Maryland University College' is a part of the international programs of College Park, Maryland in U.S.A. It is in the center of the town and has quite a big residential campus with all the modern facilities. Since it opened just two years ago it has only 150 students at the moment but the best part is that they are from so many different countries. The university also has 6 more Indians apart from myself.

"As far as my education is concerned, I am completing my B.B.A. (Bachelor of Business Administration) degree at the moment. My first year is about to get over and I will be able to get my degree in another two years. One good news is that I have been placed on the Dean's List which is an honor rewarded to students who achieve an overall G.P.A. of 3.5 (or above) at the end of the semester. This means that now I am eligible to get a scholarship from the University. Although the studies here are very simple compared to India but they are any day more practical. I have no book that is older than 3 years and all of them have the latest examples covering the most current issues. We get a lot of research papers to do apart from the normal homework.

"Fortunately I have also been given a part time job by the University itself. I am one of the Computer lab monitors here and I am supposed to supervise and assist the students in using Computers. The university pays me 9 marks per hour for this job which I think is not too bad because most of the time I am doing my own work (as I am doing now) rather than helping the students. I am working for 8 hours a week at the moment."

Thank you Asad, your request for a copy of the Oliphant has been noted and will be forwarded to you on publication. We would convey to you our good wishes for all success.

- Editor

## THE ENVIRONMENT

### SONGS IN OUR SCHOOL

With the passing of the cold winter and the setting in of spring the Doon valley has abundant food for our winged friends. This pleasant weather which once in a while is disturbed by untimely rain and hail, does not bring the music of nature to a halt.

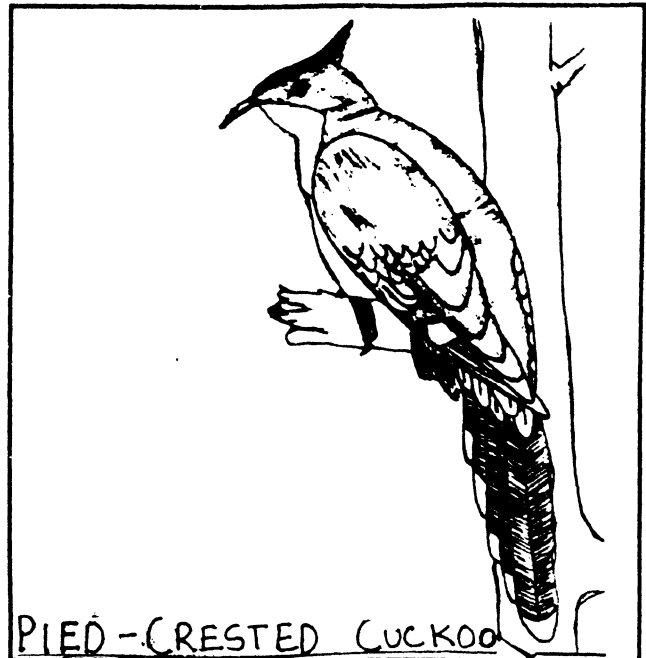
February to May is breeding time for many a bird and is accompanied by their melodious chirping from dawn to dusk.

Scientists are not sure if bird songs pertain to mating of birds. Some say that these songs are sung just for the sake of doing so and that there is no definite reason behind the outburst ; others say that it is involved in mating (i.e. for attracting mates) and for marking a territory. They have understood many different calls of many birds (e.g. alarm calls, flight calls) but no one has fully been able to interpret the meaning of their songs. In most species, the song is sung by the male bird.

A bird does not inherit its song but it learns while growing up. If you were to keep a chick of a songster in a soundproof isolated room from the very first day after its birth, you will observe that the grown-up chick sings a song which is different from the other birds of its species.

The rising bell ringing loud and clear from the Bethney Hall is not just the ding-dong of the brass bell, but is accompanied by the call of the Brain Fever becoming frenzier as it rises higher and higher.

The Koyal and the Magpie Robin are other songsters in our school. The Koyal sings only during it's breeding season and it is thought to be absent the rest of the year when it is actually present in our vicinity. It is heard but seldom seen as it shelters in semi-dense tree foliage. The Magpie Robin is less shy and is usually found singing over tree tops. (tree-tops in the surroundings give it an ideal place to roost).



As the day proceeds, in the academic block one can hear a distant Woodpecker tapping at a tree bark accompanied by the songs of a number of other chirping birds. With the mid-day breaking in and drowsiness having the better of us in our last school, we also here Barbets call. The songs of the Paradise/Fantail Catchers, the Orioles will be fuller throated in another week's time.

In the course of the day the Pied Crested Cuckoo is another prominent vocalist on the stage. These birds are expected here in another one week's time. At night the nocturnal birds (specially our dear friend the Spotted Owlet reciding over the Kapur (Campher) tree next to the Peacock stage) put us to bed like a mama reading its children a bed time fairy tale. And so ends another day to bring in a chirpier tomorrow.

— Digvijay Lamba

## RINGSIDE VIEW

The inter house matches commenced after the mid terms. The boys albeit out of practice, exhibited an excellent show in cricket.

The first match was Ganga vs Jamuna. It was a decisive match as both the teams were equally good. Jamuna batted first. Wasim played an excellent inning of 38 and remained not out helping his team to score a total of 154 runs in 25 overs. Ganga put up an excellent show. Akbar Ali with commendable shots scored 32 runs. However the team collapsed at 128 runs.

Cauvery vs Krishna was the next match. Krishna chose to field giving Cauvery the chance to bat. Cauvery scored 150 runs in 25 overs. Amiya Setu, evincing great talent, scored 49 runs.

Krishna batsmen were stunned by the accurate bowling of Ashish Patodia. He took 6 wickets. Krishna could only score 136 runs and lost by 14 runs. Jamuna met Krishna in the next match. Krishna spear-headed by Cricket captain, Gautam Khattar, scored 111 runs. It was an easy target for Jamuna. Wasim scored 42 not out and they won by 3 wickets with 6 overs to spare.

Ganga vs Cauvery was the next match. Ganga batted first. Muzaffar Ali scored 43 runs. Gaurav Wahi claimed 3 wickets. A target of 136 runs was set for Cauvery.

Cauvery did not stand a chance against the bowlers of Ganga. They were all out for 128 runs. Rohit Jaiswal scored a marvellous 54 runs. Congratulations Rohit!!

Ganga's last match was against Krishna. Ganga batted first and scored 105 runs in 14 overs. It was an easy target for Krishna but the bowlers of Ganga left the batsmen stunned. They were all out for 66 runs.

The last match was the deciding match. Jamuna had won both matches and their victory in this match meant that the trophy would be theirs.

Cauvery batted first and scored 128 runs. Amiya Setu scored 28 and Saurabh Sinha was 20 not out. Jamuna could not achieve this target. They lost the match by 7 runs. Ashish Patodia's bowling was too baffling to be understood by the Jamuna house players.

The winning house now had to be chosen on the basis of the run rate. The highest run rate was 5.88 which was achieved by Ganga. The Best Bowler award was presented to Ashish Patodia, the Best Batsman to Rohit Jaiswal, the Best All-rounder to Waseem Trumboo and the Discovery Of the Year was Sanidhya Sindhvani.

Meanwhile our basketball team has been sweating it out. They have been practicing every morning and evening under the guidance of Mr. Vachani. Their skill was proved in a match against the Army team, 15 Grenadiers. The tall, hunky six footers did not stand a chance against our skilful players. The final score was 63 - 56.

The Lawrence School, Sanawar visited our school and played a basketball match against us. The invincible Welhamites beat the visitors 75 - 25. Samarth played a commendable game. The boys of class 6 played a match with their junior team. We won with a score of 17 - 10. A hockey match was also played against the junior team. We won 3 - 0. Saswat Prasad scored 2 goals and Mukti scored one.

The Cricket season has come to an end but the action does not stop. Now hockey takes over as the main sport. Every morning and evening the players can be seen practicing in the main field under Vijay Nishant's Captainship. We hope to see quite a few exciting matches. Best of Luck !

## RUGBY ON THE CAMPUS

Delayed winter rains in the Doon Valley brought some excitement in school as the dark clouds rolled over the campus engulfing the valley. The Triveni heroes came out on to the main field to play an exciting Rugby game which started off with Jamuna versus Cauvery and Ganga. The frontline attack was launched by Arjun with his backups, Kaushal, Vikas and others.

They tore through the joint defence many a times with great skill and tact. The joint defence once in a while made its head-way to the cottage side goal led by Muzaffar, Amiya, Jatin, with Khullar keeping the goal.

As the rains slashed on, the ground became more slushy and slippery and the game became more interesting. The first few to go for a rolling toss in their attempt to make a head-way were Mr. Jagjit Singh, Muzaffar and Arjun. The game concluded with Jamuna victorious with a lead of 6 goals.

As the game concluded and the teams broke up there was a final attack towards Triveni for the last few mugs of water for the players to wash up. A game full of excitement. Why is Rugby no longer in vogue ?

Readers will be interested to know that this game is in vogue and is played during the rains in the schools and clubs of Calcutta. In Calcutta, rains are heavy and the grounds are inundated with water. The going is heavy and falls are many; some do sustain injuries but the players and the spectators thoroughly enjoy the sport. Perhaps we could introduce this game in our sporting fixtures during this coming rains?

Football has its own charm and Maradonna and Pele are household names and have done their respective countries proud. Rugby is not a game altogether dissimilar. The only safe guard to be taken while playing Rugby is consideration and respect for the rules of the game and for your fellow player. It should be remembered that the ground conditions facilitate falls and it is necessary that a tackle be as thoroughly pre-planned as in Football.

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