



THE OLIPHANT

No. 180

WELHAM BOYS' SCHOOL

March 31th, 1996

Think About it

The True University of these days is a collection of books.

--Thomas Carlyle

EDITORIAL

Well, I guess I am the lucky one who has been selected to occupy the slightly used chair as my over worked predecessor has been relieved of his post to make some room in his hectic schedule.

I personally, and on behalf of the Oliphant Board, would like to congratulate Rumaan on the brilliant work he did during his stint as the editor. He can now turn his full attention towards being the good School Captain that he is.

Mid-term break has just ended. The new Class XII has returned, tanned and brown, from Auli. A few have actually learnt how to ski while others have improvised upon their tardiness. Coming back to school, there was much joy and frivolity amidst the new Class XII as they felt they had managed to skip the March exams. All hopes, however, were put to rest the very next day as the Head announced, in his matter-of-fact style, that the exams would take place. The announcement immediately cut short the festive atmosphere and once again plunged us into nights of tension as we all realised how unprepared we were.

The new academic year has since commenced, and a new summer time-table has come into effect. The teachers are busy trying to kick-start the mid-term rusty students back to the normal schedule. The Dean is a busy man, as he is seen running around, ironing out the wrinkles in the time-table and making sure that everyone is aware of which class to attend and there is no confusion.

The entire school recently made a trip to the hospital as everyone was

innoculated against the Hepatitis-B virus. It was an amusing sight as even the macho-men of P.H. were reduced to shivers upon seeing the length of the needle. Some tried making weak excuses to escape from the hospital, but the nurse remained steadfast in her purpose and made sure everyone got his dosage.

Several projects that were under-construction before mid-term are now complete. The sleek new computer laboratory, which is every computer freaks dream come true, is now fully equipped and ready for use. The cricket pavilion too is, at last, ready for the hockey season. The extension to Mr. Das' house is also complete.

A new hostel has been added to the school's list. It is called 'Rispana' and is exclusively for the children of classes two and three. Ms. Anjali Menon, previously the matron of Trivent, is now the matron of this junior school hostel.

The last I.S.C. batch has just left. There was many a misty eye at their departure as we all realised how close we had become to each other over the course of the past year and how much we will miss each one of them. I would like to wish all of them, on behalf of the school, the very best for their future.

The new academic year once again gives everyone a chance to start anew and forget the mistakes one may have made in the past. Hopefully we will all strive to work harder and come up with some positive results. Till the next issue, Good bye.....

--Aditya

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Ed,

Recently, our Principal has been emphasising the point during assembly that any student caught breaking school rules will be dealt with very sternly. However, I feel that if nothing is done to improve the meals, especially lunch, soon, the boys will probably undergo malnutrition since breaking bounds is not everyones cup of tea. The students who do break bounds do it for no other reason than to fill their hungry stomachs.

Lets hope that things change for the better.

Yours hungrily,

A. N. Khan
Class XII

Ed : Breaking bounds is not the answer. Lets hope that we are served better lunches.



' ON MY RARE TRIPS ABROAD... '

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Excerpts from a letter to Mr. Kandhari.

Dear Mr. Kandhari,

We don't know whether you remember us but we, Sumeet and Sandeep Misra (Ex-312 and 311) had studied in Welham from 1983-1990. This has been our first visit to school ever since we left. The school sure has changed quite a lot. We were very happy to visit school and meet our teachers and what touched us the most was the fact that all the teachers still remembered us. It is quite unfortunate that we could not meet you as you had left for the States.

We are currently doing our engineering at the Manipal Institute of Technology, Manipal which is in Southern India. We have about four more months to go before we pass out as graduates in Electronics and Communication Engineering. I am very happy to inform you that we have been performing excellently in our college and both of us have been selected by Tata Consultancy Services (T.C.S.) through campus recruitment. We have also taken the Graduate Record Examination (G.R.E.) and we intend going to the States for our M.S.

Our stay here has been pleasant and we are what we are, today because of Welham and we are proud to be Welhamites.

Sir, we look forward to hearing from you and if you happen to visit Jamshedpur, please do get in touch with us.

Yours sincerely,

Sumeet Misra & Sandeep Misra
(Ex-312 C & Ex-311 C)

W.O.B.N.

Ashish N. Debroy (Ex-498-C, Batch of Class X 1991) is completing his major in Biology (pre med.) at the University of Illinois at Urbana, Champaign.

Yusuf Anis Ahmed (Ex-654-K, current batch of class XII) is doing his 'A' levels and has taken English, History, Economics, Business studies and European Politics as his subjects in Stowe, England.

LITERARY AFFAIRS

The Betrayal

'Snap', the last wire swung free. Rahmat threw the wire cutter to one side and motioned us to move forward. We silently walked out of the German concentration camp, the fifty of us. It was pitch dark and Rahmat had seen to it that the guards had been taken care of. When Hitler had started imprisoning the Jews, we were among the first to be caught and this was our first escape attempt.

I trembled with fear at the memory of the concentration camp and the atrocities we had suffered. We had been beaten up and thrown in damp, over-crowded underground cells without any food or water. We received food only once a day from a small window from which it was thrown down to us. For three years we had been imprisoned and many of us had died as a result of several untreated illnesses. For three years we had suffered cruelty and injustice at the hands of the Germans, for three years we had plotted and waited for a chance to escape. Now was our chance to make a bid for freedom.

We assembled in the forest outside the fence and started running away with Rahmat in the lead. The further we got, the more hopeful we became. Finally, after an interminable run, we crossed the forest and reached a marshy area. From here Rahmat led us to the north. It was he who had first conceived the plan and put it into operation. Now we had reached a large grassy plain and were about two miles from the camp. We rested here for fifteen minutes and suddenly heard a growing rumble. It was the pronounced and frightening sound of tanks and armoured vehicles. Some of us ran forward and some back to the marshes. We were in a state of panic, as soon as the armoured vehicles stopped, troops alighted from them and surrounded all of us. We were handcuffed and shoved inside the trucks. The ones who resisted were brutally shot and left on the field. All our hopes had been dashed. We knew our fate now; we had to die.

The trucks took us to a place where there was only one large building and three small rooms around it. We were hustled inside. Here we found about five thousand more people.

The room was so full that there was no place to move and hardly any air to breathe. We were all inside with the exception of Rahmat. He was standing outside talking to the police. So it was Rahmat who had betrayed us to the police. I felt a feeling of intense anger rising up inside me and then one of utter helplessness as I realised that there was nothing I could do.

The massive doors shut and white fumes of some gas started coming out of ducts in the ceiling. At first I felt nothing, then slowly a wave of nausea swept over me and I felt bile rising in my throat. I tried to suppress my feelings but I could not and vomited on another man. Everyone around me was doing the same and I felt someone's bile on my shirt. Breathing was becoming more and more painful and my breath came in thick, short pants. I looked down at my hands and my legs, it seemed as if someone had eaten my flesh from the inside out and my bones had become very soft. I could feel my eyeballs bulging out of the sockets and a searing pain in my ears. The same was happening to everyone in the hall. Everyone was in extreme agony and it was unbearable. I begged for it to stop but it went on and on. There was no end to it. Now the gas was everywhere and had occupied the entire chamber. The hall resounded with the cries of thousand of mortals in their final death throes. Then, after prolonged agony, I finally came closer and closer to a void that seemed to beckon me and plunged into it. Then there was only unearthly silence and nothingness.

—Abhinav Agarwal
Class XI

The Need to be a Computer Literate

Computers are one of the most powerful forces in society today, be it medicine, education, technology, business administration or at home. There is no field which has been left free from their influence.

It is not an understatement to say that,
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today in this modern world, a person with computer knowledge certainly has a distinct advantage over one deprived of such knowledge. Computers can rightly be said to be the backbone of society. The impact of computers in our daily life is on the increase and there are certain areas in which computers are being used without us being conscious of their existence. No other field has had as much impact on society in such a short time as computers.

The need for imparting computer train-

ing at the grass root is a must if we wish to exploit the benefits of this wonder machine. Today the yardstick of being educated has shifted, from the ability to read-write, to computer know-how.

Lets join hands to make computer education a mass movement, explore the wonderworld of computers and make an effort to keep the torch of computer literacy shining.

—Mr. R. Sridhar

WACKY WOODSEATERS

The Mighty Titanic

*It was a ship,
With a very huge deck,
It was a big thing,
Which could not be kept.*

*One day it was sailing,
On a dark windy night,
When it was hit by an iceberg,
It started going out of sight.*

*The people on the ship,
Were going to a new country,
And were merry as merry could be,
They were carrying a lot of treasure,
And they loved it tenderly.*

*Suddenly there was a bump,
The engine room sent a message,
That the ship was about to sink,
The captain of the ship Mr. E.J. Smith,
Ran to tell the people to abandon the ship.*

*They asked him, "Why?"
And got a very scary reply.
They quickly put on their life jackets,
And started jumping into the life boats, one by one.*

*Suddenly they realised that,
They were running short of life boats,
Their hearts went pit-a-pat,
Just thinking that some of them,
Were going to die.*

*The other ships were far away,
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*To come to her rescue within an hour,
Out of 1718 travelling on board,
Only 705 managed to survive.*

*The captain stood on the deck,
And very bravely went down with the wreck,
Many years later a man called Robert Ballard,
Found her in the Blue Atlantic.*

*Lying on the bottom wrecked in two pieces,
He wanted to lift her up,
But impossible it did seem,
So he forgot his dream*

**—Karan Mehrotra
Class III B**

The Tiger Cub

*One day I went hunting with my father.
As we entered the forest we heard an animal
making mewing sounds. My father drove the
jeep a little further. It was a tiger cub. I saw that
his mother was not there so I asked my father if
I could take it home. My father gave me permis-
sion. So I put it into the jeep.*

*When we came back home, I gave him
milk. The next day my father's friend came to
meet us. Our pet sat in my father's friend's lap.
Every day he broke many things. My mother
has named him Messey. When he was nearly
one year old, he got lost. While we were
looking for him, my friend's dog jumped into
our garden. He was following the dog.*

**—Sarthak Thapaliya
Class III B**

The Tiger Cub

I want to tell you about Bandit. Bandit is a tiger cub. One day in our village my servant and I went for a walk in the woods. We were talking when suddenly we heard a loud bang! I got scared. Then we heard some animal mew-ing. We went towards the sound and saw a dead tigress. We went near the tigress and saw a tiger cub. I took the tiger cub home with me. I told my Grandpa how we had found it. He allowed me to keep him with me. I named him Bandit because of his black stripes. He is very playful

and naughty. His best game is "Fetch the Stick." One day I threw the stick into the house by mistake. He ran into the kitchen and gave my cook a fright. She spanked the tiger cub hard. He ran to the bedroom and sat on the bed and played with the sheet. Soon it was all torn and muddy. Bandit loves to play with me all the time. My Mom and Dad told me to get rid of him. But I didn't. He is still with me.

—Sarthak Rana
Class III A

NATURE'S DIARY

When one looked over Woodseats one could see that a dog fight was on up in the open blue sky of the Doon Valley. Two small black fighters (Jungle crows) swooped down a bigger brown opponent (Pariah Kite). The kite was guarding a nest on the tall Tun tree. The dog fight continued for a while and finally the kite shooed the crows away. She then circled down and landed on the adjoining branch next to the nest where her male was incubating the eggs.

The Pariah Kite (*Mivus Migrans Govinda*) is 60cm in size. The sexes are alike. The bird has a dark brown plumage, a forked tail and underpants faintly streaked. It is found in India to about 2200m. It feeds on garbage and rodents. Its call is a loud musical whistle, often uttered in its breeding season or when alarmed.

A group of scarlets Minivets were seen in a Mango tree on the 6th of March - three males in their bright scarlet colour and some ten females of non-descript colouring. The

Cuckoo was heard calling on the 8th of March. Has any enthusiast heard it earlier?

The mornings now are bound with the rich sounds of the Magpie Robin who looks sleek and eager in her black and white colouring. The Purple Sunbirds have also appeared hovering over the flowers eager with their 'cheep-cheep' and 'twit-twit' calls.

The Brahmani Mynas are seeking safe nesting places as also the Redvented Bulbuls, the common Mynas, the crows, the sparrows and the fan-tailed Flycatchers. The bird singing months of May and June will bring with them the Paradise Flycatchers, the Pied-crested Cuckoos and the Orioles.

A keen enthusiast informs me that despite his endeavours he has not spotted a single

Blue Jay in the Dalarwala area - which at one time could be often seen specially in March when it would do aerial antics, rolling in the sky and hence its other name the 'Roller Bird'. Where has this beautiful bird gone and why?

—Mr. Jagjit Singh

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WELHAM NOW

1. The following boys' in the junior school were awarded art prizes :

Class V A

Rahul Lohia for Batik
Pranay Patodia for Drawing

Class V B

Varun Sharma for Block Painting
Sukant Goel for Painting

Class IV A

Kanhar Munshi for Block Painting
Surya Vijay Singh for Fabric Painting
Mohit Bansal for Fabric painting

Class IV b

Prabesh Shrestha for Drawing
Aditay Goel for Drawing
Akshay Modi for Drawing

2. The following boys' in the junior school were awarded hindi creative writing prize:

1st Prize

Sukant Goel
Samyajit Das
Abhishek Aggarwal

2nd Prize

Gautam Mahajan
Sidharth Sarraf
Tanmay Jain

3rd Prize

Varun Sharma
Sunny Sarta

Consolation: Jalinder Kumar

3. The results of the Middle School Hindi Handwriting competition was as follows :

Class IV A

First Harsh Rana
Second Ankit Tibrewal
Third Vivek

Class IV B

First Pravesh Shreshtha
Second Arun Dahia & Raunak Agarwal

Third Monica Pandey

Class V A

First Tarun Saraf
Second Anuj Golaknath
Third Sumit Gupta

Class V B

First Tanmay Jain
Second Nihardeep
Third Sukant Goel

4. The results of the Middle School Hindi Essay writing competition were as follows :

Class IV A

First Ankit Tibrewal
Second Harsh Rana
Third Abhishek Narayan

Class IV B

First Animesh Savaran
Second Raunak Agarwal & Aditya Goel
Third Amrutanshu Verma

Class V A

First Snehanshu Verma
Second Saurabh
Third Aatir Ansari

Class V B

First Sukant Goel
Second Samyajit Das
Third Abhishek Agarwal

5. The following boys were awarded certificates for Good Assessment in the Middle School :

Class IV A

Deepak Kumar	Amit Kumar
Abhishek Narayan	Harsh Rana
Saranbir Singh	Kaustabh
Avinash Agarwal	Mohit Bansal
Vijay Vikram	Vivek Kumar
Kanhar Munshi	Pranab Shreshtha

Class IV B

Animesh Savarna	Aditya Goel
Ayush Agarwal	Aseem Sethi

Prabesh Shreshtha Nitin Rai
 Raunak Agarwal Raunak Jain
 Arun Dahia Namgyal Wanhchuk
 Aman Negi Akshay Modi
 Monika Pandey

Class V A

Aatir Ansari Abhinav Kumar
 Saurav Ranjan Anuj Golaknath
 Prayaas J.B. Rana Anant Golyan
 Ashutosh Pandey Nitin Agarwal
 Abhishek Kumar Singh

Class V B

Sukant Goel Amber Sahai
 Tanmay Jain Vibhor Atre
 Gautam Mahajan Prashant Kumar
 Siddharth Saraf Samyajit Das
 Neha Batra Jatinderpal Singh
 Sunny Sarta Varun Sharma
 Abhishek Agarwal Pratik Shreshtha
 Ashutosh Nandan Bagaria

6. The following boys of the Middle School were awarded in Music :

WESTERN MUSIC

Award for Best Performance
 Anubhav Mehta for Electric Guitar
 Pratik Shreshtha for Guitar
 Rishabh Kejrinal for Congo
 Suhail MD. Kakpori for Drum Set
 Monika Pandey for Vocals

Awards for Good Efforts
 Trideep Bhattacharya for Congo
 Atir Ansari for Vocal

INDIAN MUSIC

Vocal
 Monika Pandey
 Aditya Goel
 Neha Batra
 Somyajit Das
 Anant Golyan
 Sukant Goel

Tabla
 Akshay Modi
 Snehanshu Verma
 Sukant Goel

Flute
 Mehtab Sandhu

Mandoline
 Nihardeep Sharma

Piano

Ashutosh Pranay Patodia
 Adhar Ohari Bhavya Grover

7. The results of the Middle School English Essay Contest were as follows :

Class IV A

First Kanhar Munshi
 Second Trideep Bhattacharya
 Third Abhimanyu S. Karki

Class IV B

First Arun Dahia
 Second Raunak Agarwal
 Third Amritanshu Verma

Class V A

First Prayaas J.B. Rana
 Second Ashutosh Pandey
 Third Pawan J.B. Rana

Class V B

First Pratik Shreshtha
 Second Sukant Goel
 Third Arjun Bhuwarka

8. The following boys of the Middle School were awarded for E.V.S. Projects :

Class IV A

First Pranab Shreshtha
 Second Abhishek Shreshtha & Gurjeet Singh
 Third Mohit Bansal & Kartik Mahajan

Class IV B

First Ayush & Raunak Agarwal
 Second Rishabh Mundra, Prabesh Shreshtha,
 Aditya Goel & Nitin Rai
 Third Anirush Agarwal, Amritanshu Verma,
 Uday Mansahia, Aman Negi, Shabeer
 S. Grewal & Raunak Jain

Consolation Prizes : Varun Modi, Nikunj
 Agarwal, Adhar Ohari & Akshay Modi

Class V A

First Anuj Golaknath & Aatir Ansari
 Second Tarun Saraf, Ashutosh Pandey &
 Prayaas Rana
 Third Pawan Rana & Shubhashish Thapaliya
Consolation Prizes : Sumit Gupta, Nitin
 Agarwal & Raul Lohia

RINGSIDE VIEW

With basketball back in action, after a gap of a month due to the Boards, it all seemed like one big nightmare to be playing a tournament in Woodstock. It all started with a friendly match being played against Sleswick which we won with much ease due to the absence of three key players from their team. The score board read 62-44 in our favour.

Later, the school team went up to Mussoorie and played a league match against the same team reinforced with their main players. This resulted in our going down 48-55 to them.

This pitiful loss against the Doscocs in the semi-finals. We cruised past them with the slightest of ease, obliterating them 47-32. In the finals, we met Sleswick for the third time in a week. We went down fighting 40-67. Siddhanth took his place on the bench after five fouls in the first half.

One hopes that the Basketball team will tone up as the Golden Jubilee Tournament is around the corner.

The seniors cricket inter-house started with much enthusiasm among the players- one could see the World Cup fever still burning in them as they practised out brilliant and strange cricket strokes learnt from watching the matches on the television.

The first match was played between Cauvery and Jamuna. After winning the toss, Jamuna elected to bat first forcing the Cauvery players to field. Though they lost a wicket in the first over, Jamuna recovered from the set back to put up a good total of 155 runs in 25 overs. Ashish Gupta, Gaurav Katwal and Vinayak Prasad were the main scorers contributing 22, 21 and 31* runs respectively. Gurpreet took 4 wickets for Cauvery. Though Ashok Roy scored 35 runs for Cauvery, he did not receive any support from the rest of the team and they were all out for 127 runs. Jamuna

won the match by 18 runs. Vinayak was awarded the Man of the Match.

The next match was between Ganga and Krishna. Ganga winning the toss put Krishna to bat first. The Krishna team was all out for only 130 runs setting their opponents an easy target. Nawaz bowled the best taking 3 wickets and giving only 15 runs in 5 overs. All was going well from the Ganga team when suddenly they lost 7 wickets in 5 overs. The Ganga team send in their last batsmen when they required over 20 runs to win in 8 overs. Rohan and Nawaz, keeping their cool, hit three well-placed boundaries winning the match for their team. Rumaan left the batsmen wondering by taking a hat-trick during his spell in the last 5 overs of the match.

Krishna and Jamuna played the next match. Jamuna, like its previous match, lost a wicket in the very first over but also like its previous match recovered by setting a massive score of 185 runs in 25 overs. The main contribution to the score was by Gaurav Katwal who scored a half century, supported by Saswat Sarda who scored 24 runs. Gaurav Panjwani was the most successful of the Krishna bowlers taking 4 wickets. It was a crucial inning for Krishna. Though they fought very hard they lost the match by over 30 runs. Jamuna, hence, earned a place in the finals.

Cauvery and Ganga played the next match. Ganga electing to bat first opened extremely well with their openers Yashab Zia and Basudev Gupta making 100 runs in just 13 overs. Ganga made a huge total of 193 runs. Yashab top scored, hitting 52 runs off just 40 balls. Cauvery could score only 130 runs with Wahi scoring a fiery 22 runs alongwith Zaidi scoring the same. Nawaz took 4 wickets for his team taking his total tally of wickets to 7. Hence, the finals of the senior cricket inter-house will be between Ganga and Jamuna.

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