

# THE OLIPHANT

No. 187

WELHAM BOYS' SCHOOL

September 21st, 1996

*Think About It*

*He who desires, but acts not, breeds pestilence.*

*-Blake*

## EDITORIAL

The Joint Production on classical music by us and the girls proved to be an unqualified success, the evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Full credit must be given to the music departments of both schools as they regular practiced, over came the few obstacles and finally presented a slick, professional programme, proving all sceptics wrong. The positive reaction and accolade's from the audience some of whom were well versed in this form of music has given students of both schools an impetus to now hold such a Joint Musical Production annually. As for me, it cured me of my insomnia.

Recently, the Oliphant editorial board was told that a television crew was coming to school and also that it would interview them on matters pertaining to the school. Sure enough, all of us were there at the L.R.C. on the appointed time only to discover that the interview was to be conducted in Hindi and that too on 'sex awareness.' Somehow we stuttered and scrambled our way through the interview without botching up too much.

One wonders as to where the mixup occurred as it should have been the 'Sankalp' board that should have been interviewed.

### 'When the cats away the mice will play'

This is the classic case that seems to grip our school everytime the Head makes a trip out of town. The entire school seems to switch to a lower gear. Punctuality, in particular,

amongst the students, takes a nose dive as many students are seen strolling to class late. This time however, the Dean and the P.H. House Master were extra vigilant and kept the entire student body on its toes.

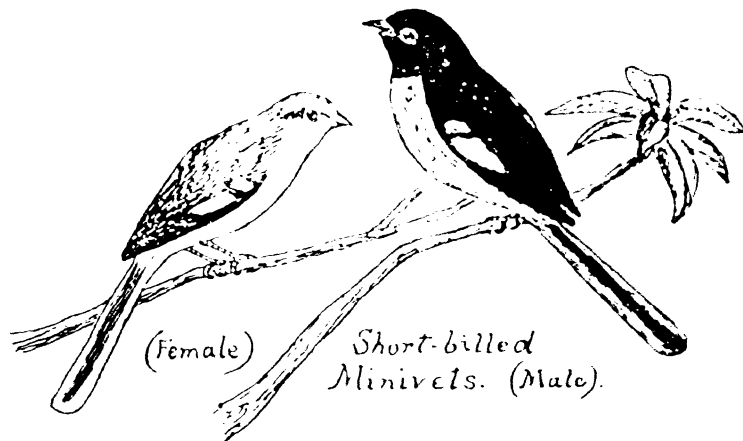
Why is that only the presence of the Head evokes fear amongst the students? I was told while being

reprimanded by a teacher, 'Discipline amongst the boys should be even better when he is away.'

With the mid-terms approaching once again we are all presented with an excellent opportunity to visit remote areas of Garhwal, and see nature at its untouched and unspoilt best. We can also revitalize our selves for the two months of the school left.

--Aditya

### KNOW YOUR BIRDS



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Excerpt from a letter from Vidur Jang Bahadur  
(batch of 1994)

'I acted in a play 'Andha Yug.' I did it because it was directed by Nirmal Pande (Bandit Queen). Great experience ... and I had a substantial role. The play is considered to be classic.... my character was pretty stylized ... I played 'Time' involved in it was a bit of Kalayanipithu (Kerela martial art ... a dance form).

This was performed at Malhan'96, our college fest. We won but that's not what disturbed me- obviously.

The way the whole event was treated was disturbing. The English play first prize was Rs. 8000/-, second prize Rs. 6800/-. whereas the first prize for the Hindi play was Rs.4800. The stipulations and regulations for the plays English and Hindi were the same.

The reason for this difference given to me was that the English play was a 'flagship event', i.e. they were promoting that event. Well my argument is that the English play was performed on the 'Pro Nite'- an evening when an outside pro play is called to perform. This means that the auditorium is packed to capacity- thus the desired publicity. They cannot differentiate on the prize money. More than the money it was the way they treated us. The English play prizes were awarded on stage. In our case an obscure announcement was made. I strongly feel it if we do not respect fellow humans.

No need to hold 'Malhan' when you cannot even respect performers and performances. There is no need of pretending. I think they should have done away with the Hindi event.

I hope such a thing does not happen in school though I remember it was cool to act in an English play... all the joint productions are in English. Probably because most students are more comfortable. I have nothing against this but that is no reason to feel ashamed to speak in Hindi.

I just hope that such a cultural degeneration does not exist in school.'

Dear Ed,

I would like to thank Mr. S. Kandhari and Mrs. S. Verma for granting permission for the Joint Venture which was held on 7th September.

Thanks also to the teachers of the Music Department, Welham Girls' High School, Mrs. Chatterjee and Miss Nalini Sharma for the help rendered. Mrs. Jugran, Mr. Kandpal and Mr. Dhingra for light and sound. The Dean of Activities, Welham Girls' High School, Mrs. Datta and the Dean of Activities, Welham Boys' School Mr. S. Bhushan for their help.

I would also like to thank the participants and Shruti Anand and Amit Sekhri.

Yours faithfully,

**Mr. M. Manuel**

Dear Ed,

In the course of this term we have had a Computer Quiz, a Science Quiz and the first ever Hindi General quiz. What I would like to ask is what has happened to the old fashioned General Knowledge English Quiz that used to be often organised?

Yours faithfully,

**Rohan Sood**

**Class XI**

Dear Ed,

The cuppa that cheers now really refreshes. There has been a marked improvement in the quality of the tea served in the evenings. The snacks offered are also of a far superior quality than hitherto.

Yours faithfully,

A Tea Fan.

Dear Ed,

I was glad to read in the last issue the reference to the condition of chrysanthemums in the school campus. The school garden has flowers and plants of great variety and quality. You may wish to comment on gardening activities regularly for the benefit of the readers.

Yours faithfully,

A Garden Fan.

# LITERARY AFFAIRS

## Much Ado About Nothing

Mist rolled down the opposite mountain and within a few minutes the world would look like a sea of white. I sat curled up with an Edgar Allen Poe's thriller. Wrapped in a thick blanket, the warmth lulled me into a world of security and happiness. My parents were out for dinner with friends who lived quite a distance away on 'Idle Rocks.' Dying embers glowed in the grate. A sigh of happiness came from my lips. This was sheer bliss.

The wind rustled the bush of camellia outside the window and it knocked against the window panes. When I moved to the window to enjoy the fresh breeze, I was horrified to find that there was not the slightest breeze ruffling the leaves outside. Dismissing it as mere illusion, I went and settled down on the couch once again, wishing that I had gone along with my parents. However, not even two minutes had passed when I heard something knock against the pane. A shiver of apprehension ran up my back. Shrugging, I tried to concentrate on the words before me but they failed to make any sense. The clock in the dining room ticked loudly and with each minute a growing fear grew at the back of my mind.

I was aware of the clouds blotting the moon; I was also aware of the slow and heavy ticking of the clock. I dragged my mind away from the noise trying to establish some semblance to my thoughts.

There was another knock followed by the sound of heavy footsteps on the cobbles in front of the cottage. By then I was ready to scream with anxiety. A coal dropped in the grate and I nearly jumped. If had I not been so tense with fear I would have laughed at my own foolishness. The lamps of the room were turned

low and when the moon emerged from behind the back of the clouds a tiny scream came involuntarily from my lips. For, silhouetted against the white lace was the figure of a tall man wearing a hat. It was only for a fraction of a second before he moved on, his silhouette moving with him. I watched him, or rather his silhouettes walk past the window.

There was no doubt left in my mind, this was certainly a burglar. I dialled the local police station with trembling fingers. A disembodied voice answered, and I quickly urged the policeman to come down as fast as he could.

A tile slid on the roof. I now started imagining the burglar being on the roof and wanting to slide down into the glass house at the other end of the house. Panic rose within me, I chewed my nails till they began hurting. I must have peered a thousand times through the eye-hole to catch a glimpse of the man's face.

Waves of relief washed over me when I heard my father's voice in the garden. Hoping against hope, I peered out of the eye-hole but I could only make the dim silhouette of my father.

Feeling brave now, I opened the door wide open and what I saw made my heart sink. For there stood my father, mother and my uncle who had returned from the States just a week earlier holding an overcoat and a hat grinning very wickedly at me. I realized that he had tricked me and blushed with embarrassment. I submitted myself to everybody's teasing. Never again would I touch on Edgar Allen's Poe's book on a moonlit night.

--*Debashish Banerjee*  
Class X

## A REPORT ON THE WELHAM MUSIC JOINT PRODUCTION

A Music Joint Production by the Welham Girls' and Welham Boys' Music Societies was a very interesting proposition, from the beginning. The idea of such a programme was conceived to recognise and combine the talents of both the schools to produce a programme of an

appreciably good standard. Once the initiative was taken, the rehearsals progressed. The show was held on 7th of September, 1996.

We students thoroughly enjoyed the rehearsal and the function. Despite the little difficulties which are inevitable in any

programme; each participant is now more enlightened and confident. Moreover, we have developed a mutual understanding and after this programme we feel that Welham Girls' School and Welham Boys' School have realised the 'Spirit of Welham' and become one, just like the eight musical notes of an octave, which are all separate but combine to make music. How the programme

turned out is for the audience to decide, but we can only say that it was a pleasure preparing for this function and presenting it.

We are very grateful to Mr. Kandhari, Principal, Welham Boys' School and Mrs. Verma, Principal, Welham Girls' School for providing this opportunity.

*--Aditya Jassi, W.B.S.  
Shruti Anand, W.G.H.S*

## THE FIRST ROUND SQUARE SCHOOLS REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF INDIAN ROUND

The First Indian Regional Round Square Conference was held at the Lawrence School, Lovedale from the 2nd to the 8th of June. Our school delegation comprised Mr. and Mrs. Kandhari, Mr. Shashi Bhushan, Arcaprava Datta, Amit Sharma and Gauravjeet Singh.

At Coimbatore, we were received by delegates from Lawrence School, Lovedale. After breakfast, we proceeded to Lovedale, located 5 kms. from Ooty. It took us three hours to reach Lovedale. On our arrival we were introduced to other delegates. We were given folders, programme schedule and identity cards. After lunch we were taken to the Dodabetta peak and around Ooty town. At night we had a formal welcome dinner at J.J. Hall.

The next morning the conference was inaugurated by the Chief Guest/key note speaker Gen.K. Sunderjee. His speech was based on the theories of the changing world order, the general impact of the Info-Tech revolution and futuristic outlook of the world. It was scholarly, well researched and delivered through advanced audio-visual aids. We had our first group meeting after lunch. The groups consisted of teachers and students mixed randomly. There were six groups named after different tribes in the Nilgiri Hills. Each group met in a separate room. The topics discussed were on the main theme 'Education for Democracy'. The meeting lasted for two hours. In the evening we played a soccer match against the Lawrence School team. At 7:00 p.m. we were given a

talk cum slide show on the Toda tribe by Dr. T. Chabra.

On the 4th of June we had our first tribal meeting. The tribes were-students, faculty, heads and governors. The students tribe discussed the school prefectorial system, red-tapism, need for co-education, career counselling and Inter-school activities. The meeting lasted two and a half hours. After lunch we left for the Mudumalai Sanctuary. At Mudumalai we attended an entertaining elephant show. We spent the night in tents. Early next morning we went to the forest in a coach. We were lucky to spot the Gaur and a Leopard. We spent the day in Mudumalai and left for Lovedale in the afternoon.

On the 6th morning we had our final group meeting. In the evening we had our final tribal meeting, after which we went to Ooty. We had an entertainment evening and socials to follow.

The next day we had the plenary session, with presentations by the groups to conclude their discussions. The tribal and group convenors gave a brief summary on the points raised and discussed and conclusions arrived at. This generated a stimulating debate. In the afternoon we were shown videos on the Starehe Boys' Centre, Nairobi and Lawrence School, Lovedale. At night we had a formal farewell dinner at Savoy Hotel, Ooty. Where souvenirs were given to all participants. It was a week of great excitement and exchange of ideas. Bonds of friendship and togetherness became so strong that parting at the end was painful. Serious discussions on even more serious subjects were cushioned well with fun activities and outings.

*--Arcaprava Datta & Gauravjeet Singh  
Class XI*

# NATURES DIARY

Different is the behaviour of sporting anglers at the river. They will enjoy the rising sun at an early outing, hear the birds chirping, observe the otters in the water and they will appreciate, if the fish is showing some promising activity. Even without a catch they may have a wonderful day at a secluded spot at the river side.

The difference between a 'pot fisher' and a 'sport angler' is that the former fishes for meat. The latter for adventure.

We were fishing on the banks of the river Yamuna. It was the first day of the month which had 'R' in its spelling.

On reaching the most promising spot Ahmed and Siddharth cast out in the silvery Yamuna. The water was not clear. Vaibhav (Gabbar) and I in the meanwhile went to a nearby village (Matak Majra), to get hold of an 'Ustaad' for reading the fish territory. Hanif Mohammed is an old man of the river, an experienced shikari. He was getting set to run the river with two of his sons. We were greeted warmly and then entertained with a cup of much needed hot tea. Ustaad told us that it was impossible to fish the Mahashir during the monsoon season with a rod. This is because when the water is muddy the fish lie low. But as we were there he would make us run down the river on tractor-tube self-styled rafts with fishing nets spread out between the two of them scanning the river for Mahashir.

Without any doubt the Mahashir (*Tor putitora*) is the fish, most eagerly chased in this river. It weighs as much as 30 kgs., though

catches above 12 kgs. are not frequent. In fact due to heavy dynamiting in the past and present the larger fish, stay in deep waters.

We reached 4 kms up stream from Rampur Mandi carrying the rafts and the nets and placed them on the bank. The final inspection of all the material was done; two boys in a raft with a fisherman was the seating arrangement.

By now the sun was trying to beat it self on the jagged Shivalik Hills which looked beautiful as the green forest glowed in the first sunlight of dawn. Siddharth and Ahmed in raft No 1 got into the river, paddling backwards to keep the raft stationary till the other two rafts were launched and the net well

spread out sinking to the depths of the river. The Chase had begun.

The tube tossed on the waves. It was quite an art to balance on the localised rafts. We sailed for 2 kms then came ashore pulled the nets to see if we had got any bag. A few tiny fish were netted. By midday our final run was made, little short of Poanta Bridge. Again we came ashore this time there was a catch (medium size) three fish had been caught. For our labour the 'Ustaad' gave us two. We departed with the promise to meet again in the first week of October when the waters of the river would be clear and one could angle out Mahashir with the rod.

--An Angler



## Expedition to Mt. Stok Kangri

When we embarked from the plains we were overwhelmed by the beauty of Ladakh's exquisite landscape. The view was breath taking, hill tops capped with snow, puffs of white cotton like clouds scattered all around. It was a site for sore eyes after having been to Delhi where there was scorching heat and polluted air. Ladakh was heavenly.

In Leh we received a traditional welcome from the students who lived there. It is a small but beautiful place. It has a busy market where there is hustle bustle from morning to evening. Tourists are frequent visitors.

In Leh there are Ladakhies, Tibetans and Muslims. There is a beautiful Mosque in the centre of the town. In the evenings devotees can be heard offering prayers. Their voices echoes in the valley. The Tibetans have their own places of worship.

The dominant community, the Ladakhies have houses of prayers all over the town. There are religious 'Gompas' (a conical structure made of stone and coated with white-wash) all over. There is a structure called 'Mani' which is rotated clockwise and prayers are said simultaneously. Ladakh is peaceful and harmonious. In the early hours of the morning Monastery trumpets and drums break the silence telling the people its time to remember the lords.

Ladakh's beauty lies in its bare but beautiful landscape. It has a rock landscape with little vegetation. A large number of rivers flow through this valley such as Indus and Zaskar. From Leh you can see the Stok village and above, the peak we were to conquer, Mt. Stok Kangri. There was snow all around and the evenings became very cool. For the first few days we suffered from mild headaches due to the lack of oxygen in this rarefied climate.

We began our trek with great enthusiasm. It was a thirteen day trek. We had to trek through the Markha valley covering 250 kms. On the way, there were villages and the people were hospitable. The Ladakhies have wrinkled faces with small half closed eyes. Their hair is matted. They wear a number of ornaments usually made of bone and precious Ladaki

stones. Their attire consists of animal skin and heavy thick coats which comes up to their knees. We had learnt a few words of greetings in Ladaki from Tenzin, the leader of our group. Their houses are made of mud and stone. There is no light just one or two small windows from which light comes in. We were lucky to taste some butter tea and even yaks curd on which was sprinkled some barley powder. They usually get milk from yaks or goats.

And of course the faithful dog was always there for protection. The natives of Markha Valley are farmers who grow barley, potato, wheat, rice and lentils.

In the course of our trek we crossed a number of passes and beautiful green pastures and grazing lands. We trekked with our back packs and rested when convenient by the river in small villages and homes. We saw a large number of birds and animals. There were Ghurals, Ibex, Marmatha, wild Yaks, Chakor Partridges, Golden eagles and Rabbits. The wild animals specially, the Ibex, was a great attraction, this is rare. The Chakor Partridges were amazing. They would blend into the surroundings so well that it was impossible to locate them.

We bought a goat from one of the villagers and this was skinned by the boys. It was an experience and an important lesson in survival. We feasted on the mutton for two days. Daily we pitched our own tents and learnt a number of survival skills. It was annoying pitching a tent after a hard days trek. But we had to abide by the rules.

We had rich eyes. We had seen beautiful landscapes, animals and the Ladaki culture and tradition. Their way of living and their way of life. Although the trek was tough, it was enjoyable. Certain passes like Nimaling, Kargmarula, etc. were difficult but the satisfaction felt after reaching the top of the pass was worth it. We could stand there and look around. We saw the Zaskar Hills, Mount Kailash and Khardungla, the highest motorable road in the world, where we went later. There were snow covered peaks, steep rock cliffs, small streams all around and on a sunny day, certain parts of the mountains would shine, rivers which sparkled and produced the most picturesque scenery.

After completing the trek we had to climb the peak Mt. Stok Kangri. We began our climb from Stok and stopped at base camp 1 after a not so difficult trek. Here we snow boarded. A sport none of us had tried before. It was great fun coming down the snow at a tremendous speed onboard. The second camp, base camp 2 was about 500 metres below the peak. Surrounded by snow the place was cold and dull. We began our climb at 2:00 a.m. and had finished by 11:00 a.m. a great sense of pride filled us when we reached a height of 6100 metres. Our Welham banners held high,

cameras clicked away. The first diamond Jubilee expedition, to Mt. Stok Kangri was complete. The team of twelve boys and one teacher returned triumphant.

The team comprised : Director, Adventure Sports, Mr. V. Painuli, Group leader Tenzin Motup, Members : Bikash Gurung, Varun Puri, Yarendra Basnett, Salim Singh, Rohit Lohia, Vipul Munjal, Sarthak Pany, Sumant Pia, Nikunj Gupta, Digvijay Lamba and Amit Kaul. The distance trekked was 250 kms. and the height attained was 6100 metres. May we go 'from Strength to Strength.'

--Team Members

## ***WELHAM NOW***

1. The final round of the Inter-House Science Quiz was held on the 8th of September. The quiz was conducted by the boys of class 11th. The final results were:-

1st Krishna	3rd Cauvery
2nd Jamuna	4th Ganga

2. Mr. Neeraj Jayal visited the school on 11th September. He is now giving lectures on First Aid in various Institutes in U.P.

3. The School was represented by Rumaan Kidwai and Nawaz Khan in the Platinum Jubilee Memorial Inter-Public School English Debate held at Scindia School, Gwalior. We secured 4th position, Mayo Girls' came first.

4. A seminar on 'Sex Awareness' and 'AIDS' was held at Hotel Great Value, Dehra Dun from the 13th to the 15th September. The staff representatives were Mr. Pant and Mrs. Bajpai. The student representative was Surya Sud. Twenty Schools from Dehra Dun, Mussoorie and Lucknow attended.

5. The results of the Inter-House One- Act Play contest were:

Best Actor- Aditya Jassi

Best Supporting Actor- Varun Gupta

Most Promising Actor- Dhruv Dhindsa

Best Director- Sumant Pai

Best Production- 'The Chinese Mask' by Cauvery House.

6. The Oliphant Board was interviewed by a team from Doordarshan on 'Sex Education' and 'AIDS.'

7. Members of the Debating Society met on the 17th of September in the L.R.C.

8. The middle School Inter-House Recitation was held on Friday 23rd of August. The results were:

Class IV	Class V
1st Karan Mehrotra	1st Rishab Mundra
2nd Ahmed Faraz Khan	2nd Saranbir Singh
3rd Tanmay Agarwal	3rd Avinash Agarwal

N.U. came first and won the trophy.

9. The results of the Middle School Hindi Essay Competition held on the 22nd August were:

Class V A	Class V B
1st Rudraksh Sinha	1st Kumar Prashant
Class IV A	Class IV B
1st Mehul Agarwal	1st Gagandeep & Rajeev Ranjan.

10. The Chairman, Board of Governors and the Principal of Budhanil Kantha School, Kathmandu visited the school on the 17th of September.

11. An unexpected squall hit the school on the 18th of September uprooting a tree near Woodseats.

# RINGSIDE VIEW

The Junior Hockey team participated in the recently held Dhyan Chand Hockey tournament. They played just one match and proceeded to the finals. The match was played against St. Ignacious who we beat 1-0. Aditya Malhotra scored this goal in the last few minutes of the game. The finals were played against G.R.D.A. Vir Bhadra, Vikrant Tomar and Aditya Malhotra scored a goal each. Welham lifted the trophy beating G.R.D.A. by 3-0. Regular matches and practice can be seen on the Volley Ball court. The Doiwala Club lost in straight games 15-7, 15-5, 15-3. Gurpreet Gambhir and Kumar Abhijeet have been selected as players for the District Volley Ball team.

The soccer team played a match with Carmen and crushed them 7-1. The score remained 1-1 till the half time with Varun Puri scoring the goal. Nawaz, Samarth, Sourabh Dhungel each scored two goals after half time. In the councils our first match was against Constancia. Abhishek Malla and Saswat scored 2 goals each and Samarth scored 1. In the second match against C.B.S. we won 3-0, Nawaz, Bikash Gurung and Varun Puri scored the goals.

The results of the Road race were:

## Section A

- 1st Aditya Malhotra (K)
- 2nd Snehanshu Verma (J)
- 3rd Prayas J.B. Rana (C)

## Section B

- 1st Amit Prashar (C)
- 2nd Suman Saurabh (K)
- 3rd Mukti Bikram Shah (K)

## Section C

- 1st Rohan Sud (G)
- 2nd Saswat Sarada (J)
- 3rd Raja Talwar (C)

Soccer Inter-House Section B results were as follows:

Jamuna Vs Cauvery 1-1.

Saswat 1 (J) and Bashar 1 (C) scored the goals.

Ganga Vs Krishna 2-4.

Arif, R. Choraria (G) 1 goal each and from (K) Pandey and Mukti scored 2 goals each.

Cauvery Vs Ganga 2-0.

Prashar and Parivesh (C) scored 1 goal each.

Krishna Vs Cauvery 3-1.

Mukti (K) scored 3 goals and Parivesh scored 1.

Jamuna Vs Krishna 2-2. (draw).

Saswat (J) one goal, Mukti and Bisharad (K) scored one goal each and Charanjeet of (K) helped Saswat Score the equaliser by a self goal.

Jamuna Vs Ganga 6-0.

Rahul Dawn 3, Saswat, Anant Dwivedi and Puneet Bansal scored a goal each.

The finals were played against Jamuna and Krishna. The result was decided by a penalty shoot-out. Krishna won 3-1. Rahul, Ashish and Saswat scored for Jamuna whereas Avneet scored for Krishna.

Soccer Inter-House section C results are as follows:

Cauvery Vs Jamuna 1-1. Bikash from (C) and Ankush from (J) scored a goal each.

Ganga Vs Cauvery 1-4. Akash from (G) scored one goal and from (C) Bikash 2, Varun 1 and 1 self goal.

Ganga Vs Krishna 0-0.

Krishna Vs Jamuna 2-1. From (K) Manas and Abhijit scored one goal each and from (J) Adir scored 1 goal.

Ganga Vs Jamuna 2-1. From (G) Yashab and Akbar scored a goal each and from (J) Gaurav scored one goal.

Krishna Vs Cauvery 1-5. From (K) Malla scored and from (C) Amit Kumar 1, Ashok Roy 2, Bikash 1, Varun Puri 1.

The Final was between Ganga and Cauvery and Cauvery lifted the cup.

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