

THE OLIPHANT

No. 64 WELHAM BOYS' NEWSLETTER 15, November, 1987

THINK ABOUT IT

The lot of man is ceaseless labour,
Or ceaseless idleness, which is still harder,
Or irregular labour, which is not pleasant.

—T.S. Eliot

Editorial

'Pallavi', a rather strange title for the school's major English production for the Golden Jubilee celebrations. It had the audience guessing as to whether this was a long tedious documentary on angiosperms, gymnosperms and other such members of the plant kingdom, or a crude distortion of the French lament, 'C'est La Vie'.

What the audience was in for was an excellently produced show outlining the theme of the Golden Jubilee; a celebration of nature. Unconventional theatre did indeed seem to have become Welham tradition, to quote the director, Miss Yadav. Complete with influential sound effects and expertly timed light effects on the screen, the tempestuous ocean and the sprouting of life on the planet earth, 'Pallavi' left the audience breathless at first instance. Best use was made of all the adjoining areas of the new stage, with Neanderthal man plodding down the bamboo stairs and Red Indians performing a rain dance on the sub stages adjacent the audience.

'Pallavi', a young shoot, is symbolic of the vulnerability of nature. It was for man to

choose, and it still is, how to mould this shoot.

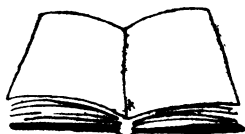
'Pallavi' traces the existence of man on earth with respect to his environment. It displays man's rudimentary apotheosis of the nature's flora and fauna. Gradually this eternal bond between man and nature begins to crumble. Man adopts an air of nonchalance, and at times even brutal destruction, as regards nature. The alienation of man from the environment is the beginning of the detrimental process.

The last scene epitomizes it all. A number of men in mechanical motion with horror mingled with insecurity and trepidation adorning each face. The ominous words cut through the audience, "This is the way the world ends, not with a bang but with a whimper".

'Pallavi' succeeded in putting forth its message. Perhaps the guess of it being a deviation of 'C'est la Vie' wasn't altogether absurd.

'Pallavi' was a classic in itself. An apocalypse.

Aresh Shirali



The Literary Affairs of Welham

Doctor Anil

Once a boy named Anil was wondering how he could go to Canada because he wanted to become a doctor. But his father wouldn't let him go as he didn't have the money to pay for his passage. One day Anil ran away from home and started working in a restaurant as a waiter. He

worked from day to night and slept on the streets. It took him two years to save enough money to buy a ticket to go to Canada.

At last Anil was in Canada. He went to a college and requested the Principal to let him join

his college. The Principal heard Anil's story and thought he would give him a chance. Anil said he did not have any money. The Principal was kind and said that it did not matter. He let him join the school and he gave him a scholarship.

Anil always stood first in class. He was able to

join medical college. He was there for 5 years. Then he wanted to become a specialist. Some years later he became a child specialist.

He returned to India. Now his father was very proud of him.

Sachin Dhin
III-B

My Dream

Once I was sleeping, I dreamt that I was walking in a lane. I saw a thief coming towards me. I was afraid, so I ran and ran. He followed me and caught me. He started to pull my shirt, and at last my shirt tore. He started to tie me with a rope and pushed me. I fell into a man-hole. When I came out of the man-hole I was

dirty all over and when I looked for the thief, I saw him running away. So I shouted after him. My loud voice woke me up. I found myself safe in my bed. It was just a bad dream.

Dibayanshu Poddar
III-B

The Brave Boy

Once there was a boy whose name was Raju. He was very poor. One day he was very tired so he went and sat in the park. There were many boys and girls playing there. Suddenly a snake came out of the bushes. It went towards the children. But nobody saw the snake. Suddenly Raju saw the snake. He jumped up, caught the snake and pressed its neck. When the children saw the dead snake they ran to their parents and

told them what had happened. After a while their parents came and asked Raju, "What do you want?" He replied very gently, "I only want to work. Without working I will not take anything from you." They gave him work. From that day onwards, he was very happy.

Apoorva Patandia
III-A

Principal's Address

Hon'ble Chief Justice, Board of Trustees and Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a singular honour for us that Hon'ble Mr. Pathak has come to address us on the occasion of our Golden Jubilee and that so many of you have joined us to mark this important milestone in our history.

Mr. Pathak is too distinguished a jurist and public figure to require any long introduction from me :—But I would like to inform our pupils and their Parents that inspite of his very busy work schedule he finds time to do a fair amount of writing and also patronise his gold club. Thus, being the "whole man" which has been the goal we all strive for our pupils to attain.

Though we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of our founding (which means over fifty years of an exciting existence) in many ways we are just born. Let me explain :—when I first came to Welham as an infant of seven years of age, it was a preparatory school with less than one hundred pupils, all of whom were preparing to leave at the end of class five. Today we are upto the Higher Secondary level, having sent our first batch of class XII or their ISC exams in March this year.

Many other major changes have taken place since 1937 : we are now 546 strong and in practice are two schools sharing a common campus : a primary section with 245 pupils and a secondary section with 301 pupils. Our campus too has

developed so that today we have 27 acres with all the facilities essential to a good boarding school. I will not list them but those of you who have been around the school will have seen for yourselves.

One interesting development is our new Principal Hostel, which houses class XI and XII boys only. Here live our pre-college boys and school rules are somewhat relaxed for them, also they have the privilege of having a proper kitchen/pantry where they can brew their own coffee, etc. This concept of a separate boarding unit for the seniors is now beginning to get wide acceptance.

Another interesting change in the last few decades has been in the backgrounds of our Parents : formerly our Parents were drawn from the Armed Forces Civil Services and landed (often feudal) gentry. Today, our Parents represent a much wider cross-section of society, with many drawn from mercantile, industrial and farming backgrounds. This change has taken place partly because of the remarkable appreciation of the benefits of boarding school life by people who formerly would have sent their children to learn from "the shop floor" as it were, and partly because the rising costs of boarding school education has hit hard Government servants and others with somewhat inelastic incomes.

As you have seen, the school has invested large sums in providing facilities for our pupils to develop. Our proposed library, whose founda-

tion stone was laid yesterday—is another step towards providing up-to-date equipment to our School community of the teachers and the taught. Towards attaining this goal we are beholden to many friends and Parents who have in some measure helped the school. As you have read in my printed report, we have collected nearly Rs. 10 lakhs for our Golden Jubilee Project—the Library. We are still Rs. 5 lakhs short of our target. Incidentally, to cover the cost of our Jubilee celebration, I have not put any expenditure on the School Budget but will utilize what we have collected from advertisements and from the Pankaj Udhas Night, (approx 5 lakhs). For this I must thank my friends (many who have no connection with Welham) and Parents. A special word of thanks to Kamal Saigal for successfully twisting many arms in our drive for advertisement revenue and to Bhagwat Devidayal our old Boy for his keen and hard work effects in the Welham cause.

It is because of this collective effort, that when we were inspected by a team from the Headmasters Conference the school was not found wanting in any manner—in equipment or in staff, and as a result I will be representing the school for the first time at the Annual Meeting of the Indian Public School Conference, later this year. A good omen for the Golden Jubilee.

To reach this level of excellence and to get to the plus two stage from the original KG stage has been a difficult, arduous and exciting journey. To develop and maintain standards in keeping with the ideals and spirit of our Founder—Miss H.S. Oliphant, who we remember today, we had to build and develop systems, so to create a structure that enables the staff and the students to give of their best. Thus you can picture for yourselves the hectic pace we have led during the last five years.

Miss Oliphant, with financial help from her mother, started this school with six students : it is a warm feeling that some of those pioneers are here with us today.

The odds that were stacked against Miss Oliphant when she started out with this small group, the battles she fought with banks, landlords and various bureaucratic offices are now of the past. You will be able to get some idea of those early years from the “History of Welham” which we have just published. But alas—battles continue : you’ll observe later the pall of smoke from the lime kilns and understand why those of us who cater for children get disheartened when we have to go to City Hall for redress and get no response.

But the school has not merely met hurdles on its journey, it has also received help : it is mete that today we remember our former Trustees the late Mr. J.A.K. Martyn, Sir Edmund Gibson,

Bhan Srivastava and B.S. Bhagat, C.R. Ranganathan. Also, Gen. Rudra, Mr. J.T.M. Gibson of our original Trustees who I am happy to say are still active.

Personally, I’d like to thank our chairman Mr. Dharma Vira and our Trustees for their co-operation and assistance. But whatever help and advice a school may get, whatever fancy building a school may put up, whatever else it provides, the quality of a school eventually depends upon one thing : the quality of its Staff. In the field of academics our standards are high. My printed report will have informed you of our ISC and ICSE results—which though not an accurate index of a school’s standard, do indicate the hard work and dedication of the teachers. Of course, we also have a regular procedure for teachers to prepare their schemes of work and of monitoring both their work and that of their pupils, an important task in the academic world.

I would be most remiss if I don’t touch upon sports. This year our teams have really celebrated the jubilee by winning all sports trophies in the Inter School tournaments. Our Basketball team under the Captaincy of Viresh Sharda has beaten all the Dehra Dun School sides by wide margins. I touch upon Athletic activities because I do not want my reference to our rising academic standards be misconstrued, that they are as high as a result of neglect of other aspects that go to make for all round development of young people.

The NEP has much to say about schooling and much of it is well written but after reading it I was reminded of what somebody has said : “There is an easy solution to every problem; neat, plausible and wrong.” It is us teachers who are on the battle front as it were and it is in the classroom, the games field and the dining room that the battle to improve schooling has to be fought. We teachers have been trying hard with only some measure of success to change our orientation from the teaching process to the learning process. But that too is not enough, for what we want our pupils to acquire is not merely the ability of “how to learn” but the ability to solve problems. This is of special significance because to be extremely intelligent is not the same as to be gifted. So the burden on us teachers and you Parents is a heavy one.

Because of this, I have been trying to direct our School’s thrust towards real life situations, away from the old rut of rote-learning. To achieve this orientation we have taken many steps; a new style of debating which involves rapid thinking on ones feet, a style that is now being emulated elsewhere; a conviction that our own pupils (guided by our staff) must cope with and find a solution to their own problems, e. g. : those arising during the process of planning and organising of our Golden Jubilee Programmes.

Whether it was lighting or stage setting or production, the students managed more efficiently and effectively than many professionals. You will judge for yourselves if the labours of Mrs. Devendra, Mr. Raina, Miss Yadav and others of the teaching staff in organising their pupils (or is it the pupils organising the staff?) have been fruitful. It is with great pride and pleasure I report to you that every single pupil of the school has participated in our Jubilee preparation.

The programme that we present to you today —“Pallavi” deeply reflects the late Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi’s concern for the world we live in, so it is appropriate that it should be put on her death anniversary.

The efforts of our staff are there for you to see. Thus it is wholly in keeping with the scheme of things that the Board of Trustees has sanctioned decent pay packages for all employees of the school. I’m sure that for most of our Parents will mean a considerable raise in the fees. Simultaneously, the Board is also increasing the number of Bursaries/Part Scholarships for deserving candidates.

Money matters, especially for us school teachers seem to be a gloomy affair. But I do hope with the recent pay raise, not any longer for my colleagues. I appreciate though that I will be causing some gloom in the ranks of the fee payers.

That we have improved our standards considerably, that we have a body of students who by and large are a confident, self-respecting and

disciplined lot is a result not of the efforts or vision of any one person but of the team work and esprit-de-corps of many. On behalf of the Board of Trustees and myself, I would like to express our gratitude to the Teaching staff, the Matrons, the Bursar and the Administrative staff, to our Catering Adviser and her colleagues, to our Subordinate staff and specially to our medical team—both on and off the campus. Here I’d like to mention Dr. N N Kapadia who has been our friend for many years and helper of the school right from the start.

To Anurag Chadha—my school captain and his team of prefects, my thanks for the good work particularly as they have begun to remember that once they too were juniors and it is the welfare of our juniors that is most important.

I end my peroration by invoking the blessings of the Almighty and so read a prayer which will be familiar to many of you :

“Creator of life and light, we bless Thee this day for the beauty of this world, for sunshine and flowers, storm, cloud and starry night, for the first radiance of dawn and the last smouldering glow of the sunset.

We thank Thee for physical joy; ecstasy of swift motion, for deep water to swim in, for the goodly smell of rain on dry ground, for hills to climb, and hard work to do, for all skill of hand and eye, for music that lifts our hearts in one breath to heaven, and for the hand-grasp of a friend.”

Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi’s Address

Mr. Kandhari, Ladies and Gentlemen,

My first emotion coming here is of slight embarrassment and shame. I haven’t been here since I left in 1951 at a very young age.

Now you may be wondering that how come I am dressed like this and the rest of the Board of Governors like that. It is quite simple. I model for money and they don’t.

I think the 50 years of the establishing of Welham coinciding with the 40 years of Independence of India seems an appropriate time to dwell on a little bit of the past. Many of you will, I am sure, know; but many still are not aware of exactly where Miss Oliphant came from and why she stayed back. In the early twenties, she went as a Governess to the Maharaja of Cooch Behar’s children who were eminent personalities like Maharani Gayatri Devi of Jaipur. She then went back to England. And in those days, as I am sure you are aware, a trip to England did not take 8 hours by jet. You had to go by train, sea and train again. So people went for four or five months and took the children with

them. So they needed a Governess. My great grandmother then asked her to tutor my mother. So our association and relation goes back to way before the school was founded.

I am very happy that the Principal told me that I am a very distinguished guest. There are only two things of distinction that I have done in this school : one is to hit a ball from there into the Ambala House and the second, for a reason I do not remember, to be publicly canned in front of the whole school by I believe Mr. Gaur. Now these are the moments one doesn’t forget. One full of joy the other full of pain. Now I come to the present to look at the school, I do not think I recognise it, I do not recognise it at all. I recognise if anything, the kind of discipline the boys have. I seem to recognise the feeling that Miss Oliphant might still be around, Miss Oliphant who was a very austere, efficient, frightening lady but was also very affectionate when it was required. So, a lot has changed, a lot of buildings have come up, the attitude, as I hope remains much the same, as it was in my time. The attitude being to produce children who

would go to higher education with a fairly bold face for not only education but for knowledge of what was happening in the world.

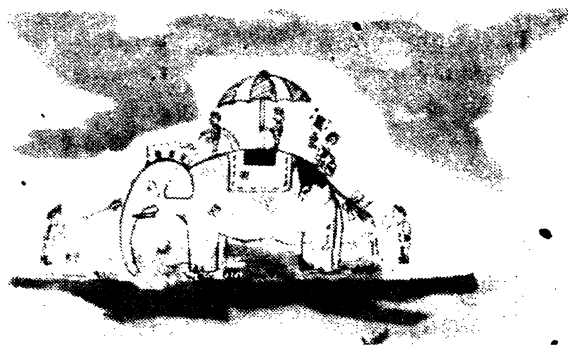
There is a feeling in this country as well as abroad that school like this, elite schools, are not necessary and not required and should be done away with. At least that is what the Labour Party says when they try to get into power in England. Although the majority of the Labour Party Leaders tend to send their children to the best schools available. Very much the same applies here. But I do feel sad that due to reasons which are way beyond our control, these school children have to learn so much and a lot of people cannot afford it. A lot of people who would like to see their children going to the same school as they went to, are not able to send their children. Now I know a lot is being done by the people concerned and as far as donations etc. are concerned also, but all that is not enough but there really is no answer to these sad questions. The school as far as I am concerned reflects the growth of the country in many ways; in many ways I think its role is better than the country likes.

If probably some of you, specially the young students who are watching, ask yourselves "Why am I out in this school?" Well, it took me 40 years to answer that one. Why should I be sent away at the age of seven and eight by the parents who are supposed to love me, by the parents who are supposed to care for me, to some preparatorial school so that I cannot see my parents and get awful food to eat and I cry and fret through the first week. Well the answer is, I think you tend to make friends which last you or you last them all your life. This is not possible in the schools where most people come today. Staying together, playing together and working together sets a kind of friendship, which establishes a contact on seeing each other even after 30 or 40 years, or so I believe. Specially living in Bombay where not many boys come from Welham and then moving to Delhi, where I met people I had not met for 30 years, and within a half a minute of hesitation we became friends and started talking as if we hadn't seen each other for less than a week.

The other thing I feel is important is the gap made by the social and economic conditions of this country at the moment, and, the joint family system breaking down, so very suddenly and quickly, there was a necessity of a different school which became essential. The other situation was when both parents had to work and they didn't have the time to look after the children and thus a preparatory school became necessary.

I would like to thank you Sir, and on behalf of my wife, for asking us to be here with you, specially as I feel more honoured as I had not

met them for the last 15 years or 30 years and I thought they might have forgotten me but you haven't. And I feel it very deeply in my heart. I thank you for listening to me and I hope and I will come here very much more often. Thank you.



JUBILEE WASH UP TIME

Happenings

- ★ The Golden Jubilee celebrations were held from the 31st of October to the 1st of November. The foundation stone for the new Library was laid by Begum Pataudi on the 30th of November and later the same evening the first History of Welham Boys' was released by her husband and Old Boy, Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi, who was also the Chief Guest for the day. The History was compiled and written by Miss Shashi Chopra.
- ★ A Weather Station has been installed by the Geography Department, near the gate leading to Riverside. The India model has been painted and has an aquarium next to it, which is swarming with fish at the moment and the cause of much curiosity.
- ★ All Welhamites spent four days of leisure during the Mid-Term break, from the 3rd to the 6th of November. A list of the places the seniors visited follows :

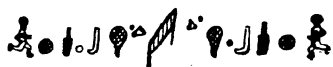
CLASS	PLACES VISITED
XII and XI—	Kotdwar, Duggada, Landsdown and Devi Mandir.
	—Kaddukhal, Mussoorie, Sarkanda Devi.
	—Dhanaulti, Chamba, Rishikesh.
	—Tuni, Rohru, Chirgaon, Khaddhar and Simla.
	—Satyanarayan, Hardwar, Rishikesh, Raiwala.
	—Bareilly, Haldwani, Kaladungi, Ramnagar and Nainital.
	—Simla, Solan.
	—Nag Tibba.
	—Doditaal.

X

IX

- Tugnath, Gopeshwar.
 - Munni-ki-reti, Chila, Motichur.
 - Munni-ki-reti, Hardwar.
 - Simla, Chail.
- VIII, VII, VI—Deoban.
- Tehri.
 - Dhanaulti.
 - Chamba, Munni-ki-reti.
 - Jagjit Nagar, Chail, Kasauli.

- ★ The following boys were successful in the first aid examination this year.
- Nikhil Kriplani
Gurjeet Singh
Ambreesh Mohan
Yogeshwar Singh
Parag Jain
Amitabh Sinha



In The Arena Of Sports

The Golden Jubilee can easily be blamed for limited practice of the athletics team. Never the less the Welham athletic team rose to occasion in the Council Athletic Meet held at the Doon School on the 6th and 7th of Nov. In the sub junior section Ritesh Khanna and Rana Randeep stood third in the 80 m and 200 m sprints respectively. In the intermediate section Vijay Kapoor broke the long jump record. He jumped a distance of 18.3ft. bettering the previous best of 18.2ft. He stood first in the high jump and javeline throw and third in the 200 m sprint. We felicitate him for his excellent performance. Samar Rautela, Devraj Singh, Vijay Kapoor and Rajnish Yadav took the third place in 4×100 m relay.

In the senior section Inderveer Shergill shattered the 100m record by clocking 11.5 sec. but stood second. He stood second in the long jump by bettering the previous record by 41/2 ft. Pankaj Tyagi came third. In the 200 m sprint Inderveer stood first with the timing of 24.02 sec.

Inderveer stood first in triple jump equalling the previous record of 41.9 ft. Pankaj Tyagi won the 110m hurdles by clocking 18.7 secs. Pankaj also took the third, second and first place in the long jump, javelin throw and high jump respectively. The final race in the council Athletic Meet saw Inderveer Shergill, Manvendra, Pankaj and Ashish take the second place in the 4×100m relay.

During the jubilee celebrations tennis and soccer matches were played against the ex-Welhamites. In tennis Vishal and Sunil beat Kapil Gupta and Mr. R. Jayal. The Soccer match was also won by the present Welhamites.

Manvendra Salkian

महादेवी वर्मा—एक श्रद्धांजलि

महादेवी जी का नाम हिन्दी साहित्य के विशाल सरोवर में एक सीपी का स्थान प्राप्त किए हुए है, जिसमें छायावाद का आखिरी मोती दमक रहा है। उन्होंने,

और कवियों से विपरीत, उपदेशों, नीतियों, कर्तव्यों से दूर, मन की गहन-सूक्ष्म अनुभूतियों के आधार पर सुन्दर व सरस कविताएँ लिखी हैं। इनके गीतों में वेदना की मामिक अभिव्यक्ति के कारण इन्हें 'आधुनिक काल की मीरा' कहकर पुकारा गया।

भारत की इस महान नारी का जन्म १९०७ ई० में फर्रुखाबाद (उत्तर प्रदेश) में हुआ। इनका नाम 'महादेवी' इनके दादा ने रखा। उन्हें यह नाम गौरव भरा तथा उच्चकुल के अनुकूल शालीन लगा। इनके पिता गोविन्दप्रसाद लखनऊ के एक कालेज के प्रधानाध्यापक थे। ये अपने भाई-बहनों में सबसे बड़ी थीं। इन्होंने अपनी शिक्षा इलाहाबाद में एम० ए० की डिग्री प्रथम श्रेणी में प्रथम स्थान पाकर पूरी की।

अपने शब्दों से सदियों से और कितनी ही और सदियों तक वे भारतवासियों को उत्साहित करती रहेंगी। अपने जीवन काल में उन्होंने कितने ही सरस गीतों की रचना की। अपने गीतों में एक ओर इन्होंने ईश्वर के प्रति आत्म-निवेदन किया है, तो दूसरी ओर इनके गीत दुःख और करुणावाद से बहुत प्रभावित हुए हैं—

“आली मैं कण-कण को जान चली।

सबका क्रन्दन पहचान चली।”

इनकी काव्यगत विशेषताएँ हैं कि इन्होंने अपनी कविताओं में सरल तत्सम शब्दों का प्रयोग किया है, जिससे कि साधारण जनमानस भी इनके गीतों को समझ सके।

महादेवी जी छायावाद की अन्तिम महत्वपूर्ण कवियित्री मानी जाती थीं। छायावाद की एक प्रमुख विशेषता-रहस्य की भावना और पीड़ा की अभिव्यक्ति, उनके गीतों का मूल आधार थी। महादेवी जी की पीड़ा केवल जीवन के अनुभवों से ही नहीं उपजी वरन बहुत हद तक इन पर बौद्ध-दर्शन का भी प्रभाव पड़ा है। केवल दुःख की ही अभिव्यक्ति नहीं करती, इनके गीतों में जीवन के उल्लास-भरे और आनन्दपूर्ण क्षणों का भी वर्णन मिलता है।

उन्होंने गीत रचना के अतिरिक्त अनेक भव्य चित्र भी बनाएँ हैं, जो कि उनकी कविताओं को सुशोभित करते हैं। 'दीपशिखा' नामक कविता संग्रह के हर गीत के साथ एक चित्र है, जिसमें वहीं गीत आधार बना है।

ज्यादा उम्र के कारण महादेवी जी अक्सर बीमार रहा करती थीं, और हाल ही में वे हम सब को छोड़ स्वर्ग सिधार गईं। हमारी इस महान विभूति को शत-शत श्रद्धांजलि। भरत बजाज

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