

Isaranyand

2

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# BLUEPRINT

1983

First Term

THE BLUE MOUNTAINS SCHOOL  
OOTACAMUND

COVER DESIGNED BY AEJAZ STD VII

EDITORIAL -----: THE SCHOOL

I thought that the school would be a good topic to write on as hardly any of you parents seem to come to the school, except for the occasional one who comes to take his or her child out for the weekend. Very seldom does a parent inquire deeply into what the school is doing and how its functioning.

We think that total growth can only take place in an environment of freedom and to have freedom there must be no compulsions at all, internal or external. Here we are slowly removing the compulsions and we hope that a day will come when we will not go to class because we have to, but because we will realize the necessity to.

Perhaps you do not know of the "Block System". After assembly we choose the two subjects we would like to do for that morning. If I choose Physics and Maths I take my books and go to the Physics Lab. The 2-hour class is called a "Block". It can hold any number of students from 1 to 13, so that each child will get individual attention. In the block we are given a "Unit Card", on which assignments are given with questions. References Books are also listed on it which we can read. After that I go to the Maths Room and work the same way. It is an enjoyable system and yet is most helpful to the student.

Ours is a competition free society - There are no examinations. No marks and grades are ever given.

We have also made morning P.T. and evening Prep optional, we find that many people do make the right choice and go for Prep and P.T. so our system is slowly showing results.

Chetan Pradhan

13 years

## HERE & THERE

### Arrival of the staff

- Jan. 19 - from various corners of India to go on an E E Workshop.

### E.E.W. Avalanche

- Jan. 20 - 25. Details in the following pages of this issue.

### Arrival

- Jan. 28 - Mr. Gunawardhana our resident trustee arrived from Sri Lanka after an absence of 2 years.

### More arrivals

- Jan. 29 - School children arrive - many with their parents for the

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### P.T.A. Meeting

- Jan. 31 - Parents and teachers spent a whole day together - discussing various aspects where they could work together for the child's welfare.

### Tuesdays

- Every Tuesdays the students of the upper school and teachers meet, to learn how one can watch oneself and move together without friction within ourselves -

### Out of the Blue

- March 16 - Mr. Mehdi Ali (See B P June 1982) paid us a lightening visit, before succumbing to his wanderlust.

Shirley Keith from California March 19 - Gave us a talk on bringing up wild animals. Miss Keith has been working for more than 12 years with wild animals. She is associated with a person who trains wild animals for motion pictures. Miss Keith is also interested in total environment.

### Founders Birthday

- March 24 - Special assembly, gifts to school servants from Mrs. Pearce, hockey match in Fancy Dress, festive lunch - film show at Assembly rooms - a long, full and enjoyable day.

### Excursions

- March 25 - 27 - All six parties left for various destinations in the Nilagiri Forests for a 3-day environmental study, fun and trekking.

- Welcome back - March 30 - Mr Sardar Mohammed has returned to B M S after 11 years. We wish him "a happy stay."
- Music - April 1 - Mrs. N. Sharma, part-time teacher, has started singing and music lessons.
- Welcome - Mr & Mrs David Horsburgh spent a week (24 April to 1 May) in the Nilgiris and were frequent visitors to the school.  
We also welcome Akka (Mrs. Naoroji - Chairperson of the B M S Trust) and Mrs. Pearce after a long absence. Mrs. Naoroji will be staying in Ooty till June.
- Assembly - April 29 - The Court Scene of The Merchant of Venice - was read - The cast included Mr & Mrs Horsburgh, Mr Deb, students and teachers.
- Fete - Sunday May 8 - The excitement began early but classes went on smoothly till the last working day - Plenty of colourful posters, decorations, dancing at Chicks Disco '83, delicious eats and games of chance. Handwork was on Exhibition and sale - Everyone had a jolly time.
- Us & Them - The Play by David Campton was performed on the 16 May\*, at the Rex School auditorium for the inaugural function of a seminar organised by the Jaycees (Ooty and Madras) under the patronage of Martec Trust on Interdependence - The Play was performed again on the 17th of May for the school and a few, select invitees. You will find elsewhere in this newsletter a critique by Mr Sardar Mohammed.
- \* by the B M S Staff and Students
- Staff Show - May 28 - The Staff Show was a variety of songs, dance and skits - including a bit of Urdu "Shairi". It was quite a hilarious evening. Something the students look forward to.
- Last Assembly - Friday 3 June 8 p.m. The Principal spoke of "Learning". Learning must continue wherever we are - we must remember this, now that we will be going into a different environment for 2 months.

"Break up" morning June 4 - Suitcases piled up in corridors - spilling on the porch - rushing feet, fond goodbyes, promises to write - Miss Grant standing in the porch - dishing out Travel Sickness pills - One more term has ended.

### A CRICKET AND A T. T. MATCH AGAINST NEW ERA HOSTEL.

On Saturday, 23rd of April a Cricket Match was played between B M S and the New Era Hostel. The weather was good for cricket with a cloudless sky. The pitch was slow and the ball was not bouncing much. At about 10.30 B M S went into bat. Jaishankar opened with Manish and they went on to score 31 and 46 respectively. At 69 the first wicket fell. Jaishankar was stumped. He played a captain's innings and hit some spectacular shots to the boundary. He hit 5 fours, two of them elegant square cuts through the covers, two of them very good glances and one went through the gully. Manish also played well, hitting 8 boundaries in his score of 46. The New Era Hostel team fielded very well making some spectacular catches and dismissing one or two of our good batsmen. Sydney was unlucky to have missed a six, for the ball dropped just about 2 feet inside the boundary. The B M S, innings ended at 106. The New Era started their innings at 2.15 p.m. The captain hit some beautiful shots but was run out for 7 after a fantastic throw from Mohan. The other players, too, hit very good shots. Our fielding was good and Vinay Vasant made some good catches and Vinay C.P. made a spectacular catch in the slips. The lunch was a good and friendly meal. New Era served us very nicely. At the score of 39 New Era's innings ended. Then they left for their hostel after thanking us for playing with them.

### THE T. T. MATCH

On Sunday the 1st of May a T.T. Match was played against New Era Hostel in the Blue Mountains School. The game started at 5 p.m. and the Junior team played first. The first set was played between Orang and himself. I won the set and then Toto played with his opponent and also won his set. The Junior doubles won their set too. Then the Senior team played their matches: Jaishankar played with the New Era Hostel Captain and beat him. Sydney lost his set to his opponent who hit a lot of spectacular shots. Manish and Mohan won their senior doubles set but their opponents produced some beautiful smashes which started Manish and Mohan. After the match we had dinner and said goodbye to them. After they left we moved the table back to its normal place and heaved a sigh of relief! Our thanks to New Era for 2 enjoyable matches.

Ajay Sharma  
13 years

### FOUNDERS DAY CELEBRATION - HOCKEY MATCH

Babujis and Bearers, mingle with Clowns, Red Indian Chiefs and Grandmas from outer space. A pair of Gypsies look rather colourful- ah, there a Philipino lady, trying not to trip over her skirt. What's it all about? They are taking their positions for a match. Its a hockey match played with a tennis ball.

The spectators line up on the hill to roar and cheer the two sides called the "Disasters" and the "Calamities" - Fortune sways first one way then the other - there are plenty of "fouls", because the rule of the game says you must play with one hand only!! Eventually the Calamities win -

After the game a tired and hungry set of people sit down to a festive lunch - before leaving for the Assembly Rooms to see 'The Mad Mad Mad Mad World'.

M.R.

### FRIENDLY CRICKET MATCH WITH HEBRON SCHOOL.

The match with the Hebrons was interesting from the moment we got to watch it upto the very end. I didn't see it from the beginning because I got there late.

I always found cricket a slow game. There is hardly any running around. I watched the match and soon found it was quite exciting.

The Hebron players were much older than ours. The last to play was Vinay Vasant. I enjoyed that bit very much because he is the youngest in the cricket team and also because this was the first time he played for the school.

We played a very sporting game - and lost.

Radhika N.

14 years

SATURDAY LEAGUE MATCH BETWEEN SCHOOL AND REST OF SCHOOL TEAM

FEBRUARY 5TH.

Perhaps you know that the Rest-of-School team is a student-teacher team. The so called league matches have an air of comradeship and light-heartedness both among the teams and the spectators - Lets read some of the remarks Toto (Satyajit) overheard:-

- Srinivas Kumar : Went quite smoothly
- Mrs. Rikh : It was very enjoyable - I enjoyed every minute of it.
- C.P.Vinay : It was very good.
- Manish : Fielding was poor on both sides while the bowling was pretty good.
- Jaishankar : The batsmen didn't do their best.
- Siddharth : Horrible! (gassing)
- Rucha : Match was quite good
- Anoop : They were bowling very fast and the match was good.
- Reshma : I wasn't there!
- Macollin : It was good
- Samir : It was outstanding (One would think we had Imran and Roberts playing) Ed.
- Maam : It was "Chalta hai"
- Usha Akka : It was all right
- Chetan : Scoring was boring.

THROW BALL

The School introduced Throw Ball this year.

It is becoming quite increasingly popular.

## E. E. W. AT AVALANCHE

Mr. Deb organised an Environmental Education Workshop (E.E.W.) for the staff of the school at Avalanche in January.

I feel a little introduction is needed before I write about the workshop.

Mr. Deb attended a 7-day course in EE at Bandipur, last October, organised by the W.W.F.,-India (WORLD WILDLIFE FUND-INDIA) and took the responsibility of organising a workshop for our school -

On his return we had numerous talks, often with students joining in.

Perhaps our readers already know that we have always laid great stress on relationship with Nature. Twice a month we go off on long hikes in groups. These groups are made House-wise, Age-wise, or Family-wise.

(A family group - called F.G. by us - is a vertical grouping which may include the oldest and youngest students.)

These hikes are meant not only to foster in us a love for nature, but to make us feel a part of it.

"Environment" therefore, to us is not just a word, or a long-winded lecture in a class-room, but something we humans are very much a part of.

To get back to our E.E.W., we left for Avalanche on the 20th of January and returned on the 25th.

The objectives of E E W - briefly-were, to enable us to (i) "Examine and understand the interaction and interdependence of environmental resources particularly in relation to mans activities" (ii) "Determine practical teaching strategies for demonstrating the same" (iii) "To create a plan for expanding environmental awareness".

Each day we woke up to temperatures of  $1^{\circ}\text{C}$  or below, and started our work. Each day was scheduled for a particular activity. We made use of Task Cards, using question strategy, tables, and diagrams to make our observations, collect data and interpret it.

Our study included (i) Wild life (ii) Plant life (iii) Soil (iv) Water and (v) Human Community. We learnt how to use \*"SPICE" strands techniques to study the environment - how to make a Soil Profile and study the layers or horizons. We learnt a plant community by the \*\* Quadrat method. We observed and studied the interaction and relationships between soil, water, temperature Flora and Fauna.

For the Human Community we chose a Toda Village called Mulimund and spent a whole day there studying their history, culture, population, politics and education, and the impact of environmental changes on a once flourishing people and their impact on the environment.

Every evening found us around a roaring fire, holding discussions about the day's activities - but this wasn't all; there were quite a few nature games that we enjoyed playing which taught us so much about ourselves, each other and the environment-moreover they generated a lot of fun and laughter.

We returned to Ooty feeling the richer for our experience. We have now involved our students in EE. In fact their write-ups about their hikes in the following pages show that environmental awareness is getting under the skin.

(\* "SPICE" has been explained by Radhika and \*\* the Quadrat by Aadore in their articles on hikes.)

Mona Rikh

#### OUR QUADRAT

The place where we (the Yellow Dorm) went hiking was a forest area. We had our lunch and were just sitting around when Akka (Mrs. Rikh) asked us if we would like to play a game related to our "Environmental Education". We were supposed to take a rope and measure a quadrat but since we didn't have a rope and were already sitting around, a sort of square was formed, we started playing the game. We were supposed to note down all things found in the quadrat.

There were 8 mimosas, 1 everlasting, 3 brooms, some moss and 4 grass plants of 3 types. The litter that we found were a few sweet wrappers (which Mrs. Rikh was ashamed to say, had been thrown by us!!) dry leaves and twigs, seeds, dried mimosa fruits, string (which Akka was also ashamed to see) blobs of gum from mimosa trees, chewed sugarcane, stones and seeds of eucalyptus fruits. The duff we found were leaves and twigs rotting.

This is all we found in "our quadrat".

Aadore S.  
13 years

## ABOUT "SPICE STRANDS"

Environmental study may become difficult with a teacher who has limited scientific background, or lacks the research skills of a scientific investigator.

The SPICE strand approach eliminates the difficulty mentioned above, and both student and teacher can feel more comfortable as it requires little or no scientific training.

The strand approach uses 5 broad universal concepts which makes it possible to study the environment as an integrated whole.

- S: Similarities and Variety - The likeness and differences are observed in rocks, animals, vegetation and people- This increases ones understanding of the world.
- P: Patterns: Patterns or designs are carefully noted - These may include functional patterns or patterns occurring in nature.
- I: Interaction or Interdependence - Of various species on each other and on non-living part of environment.
- C: Continuity and Change: Matter and Energy living and non-living are changing constantly.
- E: Evolution and Adaptation. How organisms adapt themselves to environment.

Teachers should think of themselves as catalysts - allowing the students to develop answers. The strands exist simultaneously in all things at all times.

## OUR GAME OF SPICE. PART OF OUR HIKE

On our way to Lovedale Mrs. Rikh stopped us and started telling us about the game the teachers played on their excursion to Avalanche.

There are five concepts known as "SPICE STRANDS" because the first letter of each concept makes up the word SPICE.

We watched the scenery for a few minutes on the 12th of February 1983. It was very peaceful. Each of us studied the environment using the method S P I C E offered us, and it was almost like playing "I spy" with nature. Although the younger girls were not very interested and an interesting talk took place between us. We saw how things adapted themselves to their surroundings, how they changed, how they interacted and interdependent on each other, their patterns, and their similarity and variety.

After our brief discussion we continued on our hike.

Radhika N.

14 years

### A TRIP TO MUKUTHI HUT

I went to Mukuthi Hut on 25th in the van. When we were on the way to Mukuthi, there was another school bus in the middle of the road with the wheels off so we had to walk from there. A lorry took us part of the way. We went the wrong way and we reached another place. A man told us that the place was not Mukuthi hut so we had to go back from there. In the evening we reached the hut. We didn't have any lunch that day. After tea we went for a swim and came back at about 6.30. After dinner we made a bonfire. At 9 o'clock we went to bed.

The next day we packed our lunch and started the climb up to the peak. We came down from the peak and had our lunch near a stream. The stream water was lovely. We lost our way to the hut but after a long time we found the way. We came back to the hut for tea. We took our tea to the lake. After dinner we played two night games. We had our breakfast and went to some parts of the forest with a pencil and paper and wrote all the things that we could smell, see and feel. We all wrote a lot of things. We went for a swim to the lake again and came back at 12.30, cleaned the hut and packed our things. The van came to take us back to the school. We came back to the school for tea and the next day was Sunday timings. That is how we spent our excursions.

P.V. Srinivas

10 years

OUR HIKE TO KANDAL AND BEYOND - 12.3.83

Aejaz, Rajesh Bathija and P.V.Srinivas report: "We saw a woodpecker with a brown back - black and white stripes on its tail and wings and a crown. The crown was also brown. We went along the stream and saw a fat bird who kept nodding its head. Another bird we saw had a pinkish body and a white tail. We saw an eagle just hovering in the air - it looked very still."

Bhaskar writes: "I saw some men playing golf - I followed them. I like the game of golf. Soon it was 11.49 and I rushed back through thorny bushes to LUNCH!!"

(The thorny bushes were gorse - Ed)

This is what Leo said: "The hills have only small bushes so that clump of dark tall trees look very odd - - - I saw a plant which was green but had sets of thorns".

(The plant is Barberis - Ed)

C.P.Vinay, Sanjay, Senthil & Chetan write: "We saw a dove-sized milk-white bird. Both were glittering over the hills. The hills were covered with GORSE - But the quantity of gorse has been reduced tremendously since we were last there. We noticed a clump of trees on top of one of the hills. The stream was extremely dirty. The contours of the hills formed an attractive pattern."

### OUR TRIP TO LOVEDALE

It was on the 12th which was a Saturday, that we went for a long hike. We woke up at 5.30 a.m. and got ready. At 6.30 a.m. we started our hike. We had to climb a lot of steps and once we went running down some steps and could not stop ourselves till we reached the end. Then we came to a stream with a bridge over it. We had our sandwiches near the stream. Then we decided to go to Lawrence School. It is a very big school. There are 800 children in the school. It has a swimming pool and they are going to use it from next month. When we saw it we wanted to swim because we had our swimming costumes.

We went to the office, left our belongings there and then we were taken around the school. We saw the art class, the craft class which was very nice. Then we went to the other nice classes. We saw the boys dorm. After a nice look around the whole school we went to a small waterfall. There we bathed which was very nice. After a nice swim we went to a wood where we played some nature games and had lunch and tea. Then we started back to school.

Melaika B.

11 years

### MY LONG HIKE

The Green Dorm children went to Wood House for a long hike. On Saturday the 12th we started at 8.45 a.m. and arrived at 9.40 a.m. we rested for a while. Then we put up claps for I spy. There was no spying. So we all had to stay hidden but we all were out soon. We played for a long time. After that we had our lunch. After lunch we played "chain after chain". We went down to Parsuram Sagar. We saw many insects in the water. We saw some brown things coming out and going in. They looked like beetles. We saw water skaters and tadpoles. I found a bracket mushroom.

We left Wood House at 4 p.m. and we took the short cut. But after sometime we found out that that was not the correct way! We got stuck in the thorny bushes. We pushed aside the thorny bushes and made way for ourselves. On our way back to the gardens some of us slipped and fell. On the whole we had a good time. We came back to school at 6 p.m.

Vinay T.

8 years

## ENTERTAINMENT

### FRESHER SHOW

On the 5th of February was the Fresher Show. It started at 7.45 p.m. As I don't know who came first and last I'm just mixing them up. Safuiddin sang a Hindi song; it started like this "Meh Hoo Don". Srikanth told a story. I couldn't catch the words so I don't know what the story was about. Rakesh sang a song from the movie "Star"-it was something like this: "Ovy, Ovy". Samir asked a riddle it was a very funny one. It was "Why is a fire engine painted red?" The answer: it had 4 wheels and 3 men;  $4 \times 3 = 12$ ; 12 inches make a ruler; Queen Elizabeth was the ruler of England; the "Queen Elizabeth" was also a ship that sailed on the sea. In the sea there are fishes. Fishes have fins. Fins remind us of Finland. Russia is near Finland and Russia's flag is red. That's why they are painted red! Pihu was supposed to do a Baratha Nathayam dance. She came on the stage but, feeling too shy to do it, ran back again. I can understand her feelings because I felt the same when I was new. Oh! I forgot - Chetan was the announcer. He told us that Pihu would do it afterwards. Ramaswami told us a story about a - - - Crab, I think. Rajini was supposed to do I don't know what but she too felt shy and wanted to do nothing and at last got her way. Umesh told us a Hindi joke but as I don't know Hindi very well I did not understand it. Senthil sang a Tamil song - I don't know the song so I can't say how it started or anything about it. Sridevi, a girl who is  $5\frac{1}{2}$  years old was supposed to sing a song. But as she was little and feeling shy did not do anything. Anita told us a story about rats and a cat and how the rats tied a bell around the cat's neck. Rebecca told us a story about Robert Bruce and the spider. It was good. Gautam and Siddharth sang a song "God has given us a new day". But after forgetting the words they rushed off the stage but then remembered and came back on again! On the whole I enjoyed it.

Priya R.  
11 years

## TOP HOUSE II

The 5th of March this year I think was a tiresome day for the boys of Top Dorm II, who had to know their cues and and parts. But it wasn't for the rest of the school, because we were all excited and wanted to see the show they were putting on for us.

After the bell had rung there was a great commotion in the Assembly Hall. Every one was soon seated and the show began.

The introduction was very funny. It brought quite a few laughs. The whole show was slicker than the other shows they had put on for us before except for a few minutes delay between two of the items.

The rest of the show was over before you could say "Jack Robinson" and pairs of sleepy eyes went to bed.

Radhika N.  
14 years

### THE RED HOUSE SHOW - 10.4.83

The show started with Aejaaz announcing and he also apologised for the delay. The items were short and I liked their slickness. They were also well acted. Some of the items were jokes turned into skits.

There was a play in which I anticipated the end, but it turned out to be quite different.

There was a dance in which the Red House boys came on stage with white sheets and masks. There was music throughout. It turned out to be quite nice. I felt that they could have danced with the light switched off and only with a dim light switched on. It would have looked better. There were three songs, one sung by Dipesh another by Bhaskar and Arvind and the other by Bhaskar and his mother. The songs were sung well and were quite new to the audience. The show ended with the boys coming on stage and saying Good-night.

Rucha P.  
12 years

### THE BLUE HOUSE SHOW

Everyone was eager to see the Blue House Dorm Show.

It began with a play called "The Machine Man". It was good but would have been better if it had been more organised. It was about a wife and a husband who did not like each other. The wife wanted to take away the baby with her but the baby was guarded by a robot, made by her husband. She tried to kill the robot by pressing the "death button" but by mistake pressed another button. The play ended when the robot killed the wife.

The second play was called "Tit for Tat". This was about a man who annoyed a monkey by peeling a banana, showing it to the monkey and eating it himself. The next day the monkey got hold of this man's cap, refused to give it to him and ran away with it. The Juniors enjoyed this play very much!

The third item was titled "Lucky Lakshman". It was about hungry animals asking a man called Lakshman for some food in return for a sentence which would help him in future. The animals were: a rat, a cat, and a deer. The sentence was: "You did like a rat, hide like a cat and run like a deer".

He reached a village and slept in a man's house for the night. In the night a robber tried to dig a hole through the wall and get into the house. Lakshman got up but did not know that there was a robber outside the house digging through the wall. Lakshman then tried to remember the sentence. He said loudly, "You dig like a rat." The robber heard this and thought that someone had heard him. Then he hid behind a bush and Lakshman said "You hide, like a cat." The robber thought that someone had seen him hiding and started running. Then Lakshman said, "You run like a deer". This frightened the robber out of his wits and he ran even faster. The house owner had been watching all this and rewarded Lakshman for his work and so the play ended.

The fourth play was a Hindi play. The fifth and the last play was called "Shibu and the Ghost". This play did not end well, but on the whole I and everyone enjoyed the show put on by the "Blues".

Srinivas Kumar  
13 years

THE YELLOW HOUSE SHOW - APRIL 23.

The girls began what was to be a very entertaining show with a quasi-Russian dance set to Beethoven's "Turkish March". This was followed by pertinent comments on 'real-life' - in the dormitory (Mr. No-body, the one who's always to blame!) and in the classroom (so many reasons why it's not possible to attend 'prep'!)

"The Floating Stone" was a clever idea which had everybody guessing until the end and then came a delightful 'send-up' of Blue Mountains vernacular - 'change-up', 'stuck up', 'syrup', 'stirrup' and so on . . . . .

This was followed by a rendering of the Irish air "Danny Boy", sung by the more senior girls and "Candy Kisses", sung by the whole dormitory.

The girls performance of the playlet "Pyramus and Thisbe", as produced by Quince and company in 'Midsummer Night's Dream' was perhaps the highlight of the show: an ambitious venture for a House Show but nevertheless it was very well done. Also it made a good introduction to Shakespeare for the younger members of the audience.

This well-produced, variety-filled show was brought to a fitting close with a recitation of Puck's speech, "If we shadows have offended", which in its turn brings Shakespeare's play to a close. Well done and thank you, all the Blue Mountains girls!

L.F.

"US & THEM"

Music and the reflective attention - catching comments of the Recorder, with a touch of the poetic in them. The Recorder (B.N.De'b) himself, immaculately dressed in black, with a quill in his hand. He made the "trace of an echo" linger in our minds and roused our curiosity about what was to come, so that, unlike him, we could hardly "wait and see".

We did not have to wait long, nor indifferently, because the footsteps that the recorder heard, were of the two Parties,

A and B, who made their dramatic entry through the audience.

The cleverly contrived quick-fire, cross-fire, dialogue was well acted, the conversation among one group finding an echo, or an answer, in that of the other. Logan, Usha, Nandita, Sydney, made it come alive, ably supported by Rucha, Pratap, Radhika and Sanjay.

The youthful audience responded with full-throated laughter of genuine enjoyment, though, I am told, it was not always at the funny parts. The thought-provoking element was not missed either.

The climax for the youthful audience was, of course, the pulling down of the wall and the fight that followed, with appropriate musical accompaniment. Even the adults and the elderly could "scarce forbear to cheer".

The calm, cool, collected Recorder was there with his ironical, wry comments. His appearances and remarks were looked forward to. He did not complain, he did not judge, he did not moralise. He let the facts speak for themselves.

After the fight came "the last spark in a dying fire", "the last syllable of a fading echo". An A and a B limp on to the stage and come together like the Capulets and the Montagues when after both Romeo and Juliet are dead.

The Recorder is no longer cool, calm, collected. He is angry at the folly, at the nastiness, brutishness and shortness of human beings.

Before he goes, does he regain his composure? His parting "Hah" leaves us wondering and the multitude clapping in undiluted appreciation.

At the first reading only the Recorder's part had appealed to me, the rest of the play had left me unmoved. All praise, and credit, is therefore, due to the Director, Mrs. Rikh, and the actors and actresses who made it come alive so that it was greatly appreciated and enjoyed by the adult audience at Rex Higher Secondary School and our own mixed one of students and staff.

Though by this play the Players could have worn almost any dress of their liking. The Director did not leave even this detail and devised suitable dresses for them. Mr. Basheer and C.P. Vinay did all the necessary and important work behind the stage.

S.D.

### THE GREEN HOUSE SHOW - MAY 14.

It was a pleasure to sit there and see the 6 to 9 year olds of our school present a very orderly, very entertaining dorm show. That they were well-rehearsed was evident. But what was more evident was the stage presence and stage discipline which the children possessed - something which is seldom met with even in older children and adults.

The items were short and well-thought of and left no room for boredom among the audience - Anuja made a delightful Red-Riding Hood, she seems to have a natural flair for acting - and Deepu Sahni as Grandmother brought the house down! The little looks he kept giving his mother who was in the audience, every now and then added to our enjoyment. In the Cinderella theme, Sridevi and Macollin made a very charming Prince and Princess indeed. I specially enjoyed the character roles played by Chandrasekhar, and Pihu. Pihu was a real virago in the "Pot of Gold" playlet. Many remarked on the sweet singing voices of the Kanjilal brothers. The costuming was apt, without being messy or fussy. The dance/gymnastics at the end would have been really attractive, had it been done to music. However this did not spoil the overall effect of a lovely little dorm show that we witnessed that Saturday evening.

My congratulations to all concerned.

M.R.

### ENTERTAINMENT

At Assembly Rooms : March 24 - 'Mad Mad Mad World'.

May 21 - 'Superman II'.

At Alankar : May 28 - 'Gandhi'.

2

WHEN THE RAIN COMES DOWN

When the rain comes down,  
In our small town,  
The dust is driven away  
And once again we are happy and gay.

When the rain comes down  
• In our small town,  
We all shout,  
And love to run about.

The fields of crops,  
Love the raindrops  
And I'm sure they try to say  
We are happy and gay.

Everything is wonderful,  
My feelings I can't express  
Everybody is happy  
Not one of them in distress.

Rucha P.  
12 years

WATERFALLS

When I sit near the waterfall,  
and look at its beauty.  
I cannot hear people call or fall  
All I can hear is the water  
falling from a height.

I like to bathe under the waterfall  
I always wonder how high the waterfall is  
A waterfall is wonderful  
The water is very pure.

When I see the water splashing and the  
sun on it looks like crystals falling  
from a height.

Lots of plants with beautiful flowers  
grow near the waterfall.

Melaika B.  
11 years

## TWENTY THOUSAND YEARS AGO

I wonder how the world was  
twenty thousand years ago.  
I wasn't born, nor was my grandfather  
Nor anybody else I know.

I wonder what the children were like  
And what clothes the people wore,  
And whether they lived in houses or caves  
twenty thousand years ago.

I wonder what kind of animals live here  
And what the people ate,  
And if the children were punished -  
If they went to school late.

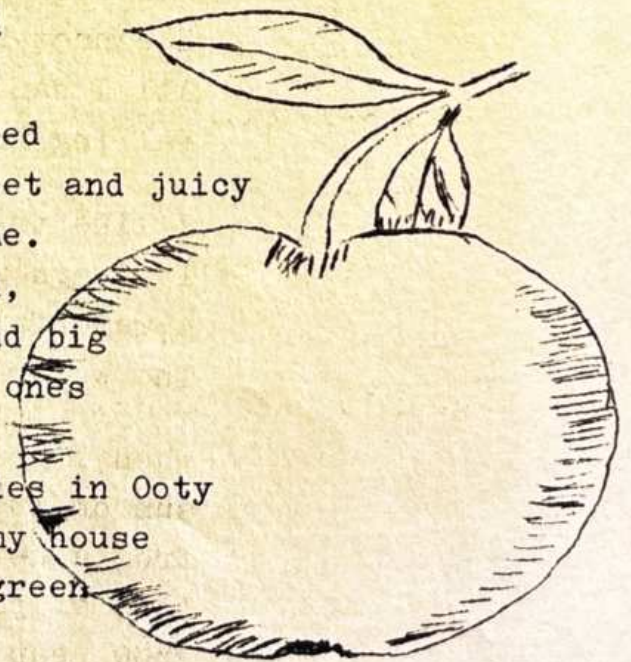
Maybe there weren't any schools at all  
And the children played all day  
And I think the people lived in caves  
Not in houses like to-day.

I wonder how the world was  
twenty thousand years ago  
I wasn't born nor was my grandfather  
Nor anybody else I know.

Priya R.  
11 years

## APPLES

I like apples nice and red  
I have one before I go to bed  
I like apples which are sweet and juicy  
I have one every day at home.  
We get apples in our school,  
At home we get some nice and big  
In cold places we get nice ones  
I just love red apples  
We get small and juicy apples in Ooty  
Every one likes apples in my house  
Apples are red, yellow or green  
But I like red the best  
I wish we would get them today  
During the break time.



Natasha W.  
11 years

### A NARROW ESCAPE

I was walking through the forest enjoying the chirping of the birds. From time to time I would feel a bit scared, when, suddenly I saw an elephant charging towards me. I was all alone. I didn't know what to do. I could hear my heart beat loudly. I ran and ran. I was very scared. The elephant was behind me, it was catching up. I looked for a tree I could climb, but they were all very difficult to climb. I kept on running, faster and faster. I was becoming a bit slow after awhile. It was right behind me. "What would I do if it caught me by its trunk and hurled me high up into the air and I landed on top of the trees and wouldn't be able to get down or it crushed me under its huge foot?" I said to myself. I kept on running. Now I was getting slower and slower. I had to get my breath back and then suddenly I caught sight of a small cave-like thing. It was covered by some trees. I hoped no animal was in there. I got in so fast that I thought the elephant hadn't seen me. It was very dusty and a strange odour was around. Anyway no animal was there and I didn't mind being in there. I thought I had escaped from the elephant and I had. I came out after a few minutes and saw the elephant running away.

And then a thought struck me. Maybe some other animal was after it and it was running away. I was relieved it hadn't been after me.

Aadore S.  
13 years

WHEN TREES DIE THEY GROAN  
LIKE MOTORCYCLES.

Aditya N.  
8 years

### IN A BALLOON HIGH ABOVE THE TOWN

I can see several cars and a bus. The bus has stopped and passengers are getting off. Some people are getting on to the bus and now the bus has started. It has gone into a lane. Quite a number of people are crossing the road. They all look very tiny. A cyclist has had an accident with a lamp-post and a policeman is walking towards him. I can see a garden where children are playing. There are some ladies walking in the garden with their dogs following them. There are many slides and swings in the garden. There are some children going for rides round the garden on horseback. I can see the harbour and a lot of sailors are walking up and down. A ship has just sailed in and people are getting off. Another ship is getting ready to sail away. I can see some men carrying big, heavy cartons. I can see the sea. It is glimmering in the sunlight. I'm flying back into town where I can see a lot of cars and people.

Aadore S.

13 years

### DEW-DROPS



Dew-drops, Dew-drops  
On the trees  
like pearls  
On the leaves.

When we shake,  
the trees  
The dew-drops  
fall on me.

When the sun rises  
the dew-drops  
melt away.

Kanchan B.

10 years

### SUMMER

Summer has come, summer has come and winter gone  
The sunlight falls on the boat lake  
The sun shines in the sky with a smile  
The trees grow with blooming flowers.  
  
The days are passing like a waterfall  
It's holiday time children have great fun  
The birds are singing aloud  
Summer has come, summer has come.

S. Indumathi  
11 years

### STARS

I like the evening star. It is so pretty that  
I wish I could be one. When it comes up in the  
evening I like to see it and I wish I knew a poem  
about it and I think I will learn one. And when  
all the stars come up in the night it looks so  
beautiful that I wish I was up in the sky.

Anuja M.  
7 years

### SUNSET

I observe the mountains  
When the sun was setting  
I saw a twinkle star  
Alone in the deep sky.  
  
I saw the boat like  
All shining in the golden rays  
I saw on the mountains  
The lights flicker and twinkle.  
  
The city was very noisy  
But it was very rare to see  
The glorious sunset  
The one I enjoyed that ere.

Kanchan B.  
10 years

### THE FAR AWAY LAND

I dreamed about a far away land. It was full of trees. The trees had coloured leaves except red. There was a village. In the village everyone was happy. I asked my mother if I could go there. My mother said "no". Then I ran away from home. I travelled and travelled but my dream never came true, even now how I wish to go and visit the happy village in the far away land.

Dipesh Shah  
10 years

### A COIN

I was born in the mint. From there a man took me and gave me to his wife. One day when the wife was going to the market, there was a banana skin on her way. She stamped it and fell down. There was a hole in her bag. I fell down and another lady came by that side and saw me. She picked me up and put me in her bag. When she came back home, she first washed me. She had one daughter. Her daughter used to collect coins. She gave me to her daughter. She put me with all the other coins. I became friends with them. And lived happily with my friends.

Anita Shah  
8 years

### JOKERS

I'd love to see a joker  
And see the tricks he does  
He slaps another joker  
And that's how  
The quarrel begins.  
If you're watching him  
Just be careful,  
If he slaps you,  
You and the joker,  
Will end up in a quarrel.  
So all I say,  
Is to be careful  
That's all I have to say.

Reshma M.  
9 years



Reshma  
9 years

### NO RAIN IN OOTY

No rain in Ooty,  
What shall we do?  
No, rain in Ooty,  
I wish it wasn't true.

No rain in Ooty,  
The fields are all dry,  
I wish it would rain fast,  
Or the plants will die.

No rain in Ooty,  
People will die of thirst,  
It almost seems,  
As if Ooty was cursed.

But soon life will come back,  
When it rains in Ooty,  
And everything will be filled,  
And water will be plenty.

Rucha P.  
12 years

### RAIN

It is raining cats and dogs. People are running for shelter. Some people are walking about with umbrellas. Oh! two people are sheltering from the rain in our front porch. The drivers are switching on the cars and buses lights. Some people are going into the shop to have some hot drinks. All the trees and plants are getting drenched and I won't have to water them today. Clouds are covering it. The trees are shaking in the wind and the leaves are rushing in the rain.

Hariharan N.  
12 years

### A HOUSE ON FIRE

Fire! Fire! Fire! This is what I heard one afternoon when I woke from my sleep. Anxious to know what was happening I rushed out and saw that there was a huge crowd of people outside a house and they were running helter skelter.

It was terrible scene to watch the house which now was licked by the tongues of fire. Huge flames were coming out of each window and tons of black and thick smoke shot up sky high. People were throwing pails of water but they had no effect on the fire.

Suddenly we heard the familiar 'Clang' 'Clang' of the fire brigade and firemen dressed in dark uniforms jumped out. Soon they were busily engaged in their work. Swaying the hose on various parts of the house. This continuous flooding brought the fire under control and soon the fire was out.

Aashish Sethi  
14 years

### MY FRIEND

I have known my friend for the past five months; his name is Hiten. I was introduced to him by my sister when she went to her in-law's house.

Hiten comes from Nairobi. The first time I met him was in Baroda where my brother's wedding took place. He told us that he wanted to come with us to Madras. He is talkative and I like him. He doesn't like the company of others very much. He wanted to go round places like Bangalore, Mysore, Tirupatti, Mahabalipuram and many other places and we accompanied him. He also wanted to go down south to Kanyakumari, Madurai and Rameswaram, but he did not have the time because he had to rush back to Nairobi, as his school was going to begin.

I hope I will meet him again and will remember him for any more years.

Manish Patel  
13 years

## LEAVING THE SCHOOL

With so many friends  
I have to part  
I have a sad, sad feeling  
In my heart.

On the thirteenth  
I have to go away  
If I had a wish  
I'd wish I could stay.

Soon I'll be saying  
'This is my last day  
And on the next day,  
I'll be going away.

Though I'll write letters to them  
And they'll reply to me  
It isn't like being in B M S  
With my friends, you see.

The kittens and the dogs  
With whom I'll have to part  
I'll never ever forget them  
For they have a place in my heart.

All the teachers of this school  
I'll remember every one  
For they've been so nice to me  
And helped me, in many things I've done.

There's one thing I can't forget  
that's the sunsets of Ooty  
Which we sat and watched  
They really are a beauty  
Leaving B M S  
Really makes me sad  
There's only a few more days to go  
and I'm feeling really bad.

Priya R.  
11 years

AT AVALANCHE

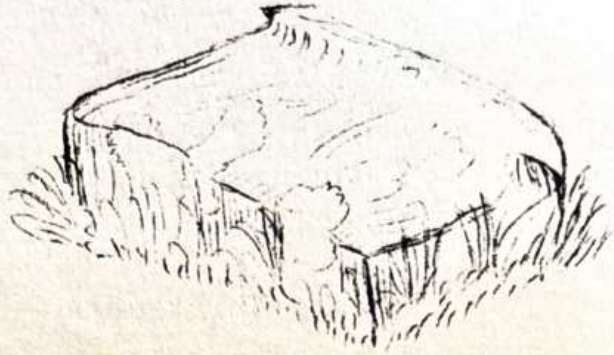
All One

Rock

Hard, alone

Sitting, meditating, waiting

Untouched beside the river.



A Meeting at Twilight

Feathery

Gentle Strength

Bowing, Smiling, Trembling

"Long time no see".

The End of Life

Trunk

Tree trunk

Dying, splitting, drying

Lonely blackened dead trunk.

