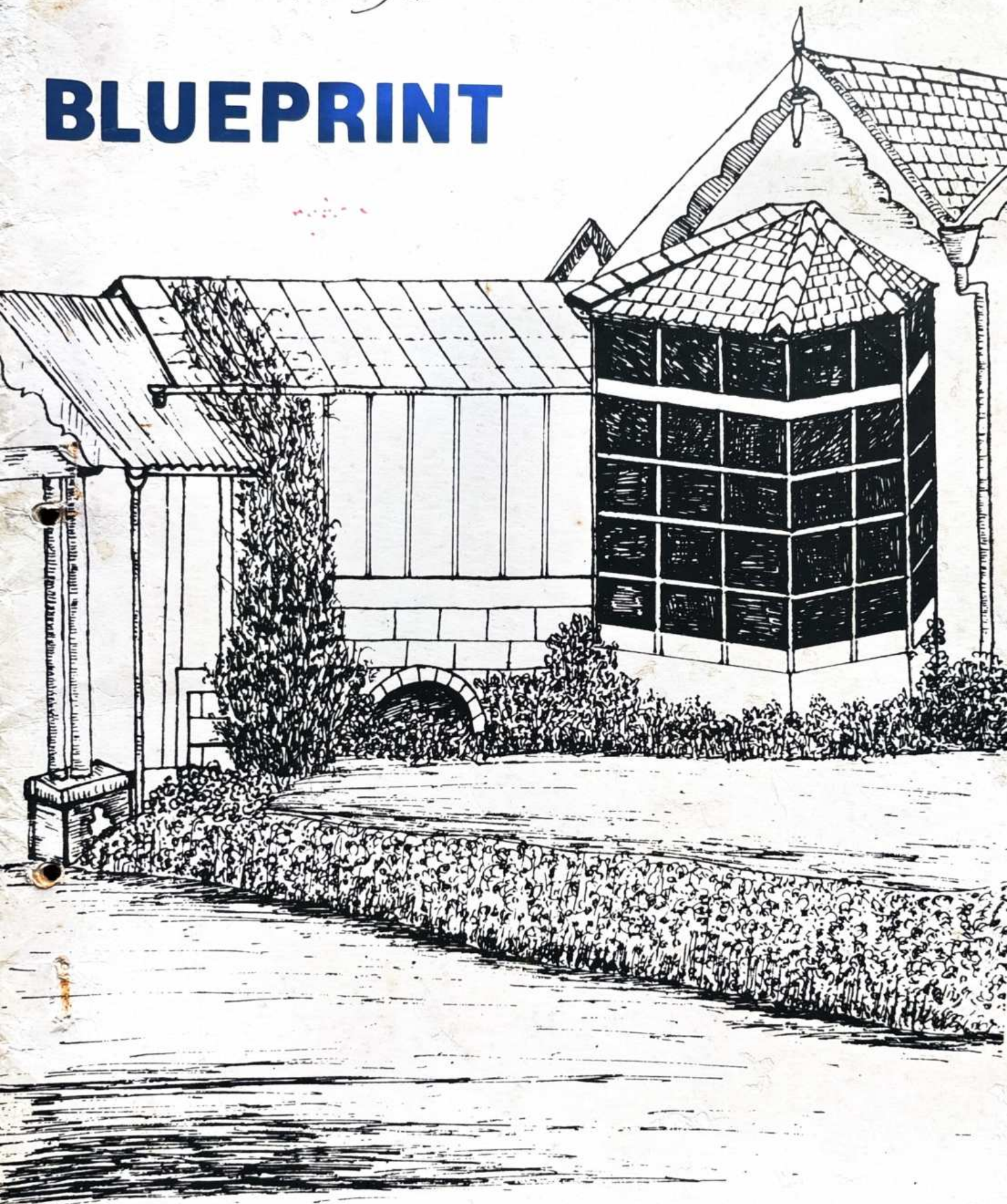


Mr. Deb

1987

BLUEPRINT



THE BLUE MOUNTAINS SCHOOL
OOTACAMUND

EDITORIAL

One of the issues that has come up repeatedly for discussion during this term has been that of a wholistic approach to life. During the discussions this was increasingly seen as perceiving existence in its totality, as a whole; rather than allowing the dichotomous thought processes of the mind to classify and categorize life into mutually exclusive black and white areas. To this end, we have been using the Tuesday evenings to meet and enquire into this deeper approach to life. But the emphasis has been, specifically, on the wholistic functioning of the individual, more particularly the exploration of the thought - feeling - behaviour continuum.

Previously, during these discussions, it was assumed that the participants would be able to relate the psychological and behavioural topics discussed to their own personal life situations. But this is no longer taken for granted. In fact, it was seen that people were discussing psychological state or behavioural trait as if it was an independently existing entity, completely divorced from life. Consequently the discussions tended to become intellectual and take off into the realm of the abstract.

One of the countermeasures adopted, to rescue these psychological enquiries from the trap of abstraction and ground it in reality, was the introduction of various psychologically-based activities. These activities aim at stimulating awareness of the thought-feeling - behaviour continuum through role playing, psychodrama, enacting sub-personalities, verbalizing feelings, constructing attitudinal profiles, etc. What these activities have in common is that, though they are done in a group, they are intensely personal; each participant being compelled to look into his or her own life and use real life situations and experiences to perform the activity. Thus reality is inexorably drawn into the picture and this forms a suitable base for subsequent enquiry.

Anil Kumar

THE SUN SET

Zia T.
14 years

*The sketch inside of Hirudian perched on the cypress hedge has been done by Anuja.

HERE & THERE

August 1 - Teachers arrived - a peaceful week with discussions on how to improve our Educational system.

Vrinda Ashoka A warm welcome to who has joined our staff after completing her M.A. in English literature. Her grandmother was an associate of the late Mr.F.G.Pearce the founder of our school

and

Hannah Gunasingh who has taken over as Matron - and also teaches Economics (She is a B.Com)

August 8 - Children arrived accompanied by luggage, and noise and noise and... We had about 25 new arrivals - The little ones were seen latching on to certain teachers, and older children.

September 6 - A group of Rishi Valley students and teachers on tour of the south paid us a visit - It was good to exchange views, and outlooks with them.

October 1 - Mrs Pearce returned from England, after spending a few months with her son's family.

October 2 - Special Assembly for Gandhi Jayanthi. We began by singing the hymn "Raghupati Raghava Raja Ram". Mr Deb spoke briefly about Gandhiji's search for Truth. The X class students then read about his life and his philosophy where love for his fellow men played such an important part in his life. We ended by singing the hymn "Abide with me". We dispersed after a minute's silence.

October 13 - 17 Excursion to Mahabalipuram. Readers will find in this issue of Blueprint numerous articles, sketches and poems on every aspect of our excursion.

November 14 - Bal Din: The whole school enjoyed the fireworks and crackers let off by the students on Bal Din.
There was much anticipation and excitement all day - There was special Lunch too, which looked very festive. (The only ones who didn't enjoy the noise of rockets, catherine wheels, and "bombs" were Punch and Judy, the school alsations. They took shelter under various tables, beds and such like).

November 21 - "An Informal Evening of Two Plays" That is how the invitation read.

It was a gathering of close friends, those who appreciate drama. The evening began with the play "Red Carnations" by Glenn Hughes. This was performed by the students.

After this, the audience drifted into the library where coffee and biscuits were laid out. In the meanwhile the backstage crew had changed the set from a park to an apothacary's cellar - with skulls, and stuffed birds and things bubbling on the oven and stream leading out of the cellar.

The audience returned to the hall for the second play "The Laboratory" by David Campton. This was done by the members of the staff. Both the plays were comedies and were appreciated by our audience.

We hope to have more of such evenings in the future.

November 23 - 29 Teachers' experience a learning situation. An exhilarating week, both for students and teachers. Teachers went through a period of learning; of Art, science, drama, basketball and throw ball and last of all (but not least) the learning difficulties students feel, and problem- solving techniques. What about the students? The X class were having their trial exams, so the students of the IX handled all the FG classes (I-VIII) and showed a certain amount of maturity in doing so.

December 2 - School Picnic - "a good time was had by all"

December 4 - 7.45 p.m. Breaking up Assembly.

-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-

MOVIES SEEN THIS TERM

Juniors

*The Blue Younder
*Conderman
*Now you see him
now you don't
*One of our Dinosaurs
is Missing
*Winnie the Pooh
*The Wild Stallion
*One Little Indian

Seniors

*We are no Angels
*Condorman
*Top Gun
*Amadeus
*Back To The Future
*Ferris Beuller's Day Off
*Young Again

Common

*Why did you pick on me?
*Gizelle

A DIFFERENT EXPERIENCE

For the past week we were on the other side of the fence. At nine o'clock every morning, instead of going to our respective classrooms, we went to the library. And instead of telling children what to do, we listened to talks on different subjects - Biochemistry, Biology, Learning Difficulties, Health, Chemistry and Environmental Education. Our second period was drama - an hour of activity organized by Mrs Rikh and Anil, after which came games, singing, art and yoga, all organized by different teachers. We met for an hour before dinner to share experiences.

The learning week for teachers was introduced because it was felt that the BMS should be more than a school for children. It should be a place where every individual child or adult, finds the climate to learn and grow.

So we found ourselves doing things we had been out of touch with for years, or never done at all. Personally, I found it interesting, as an adult, to note my own response to these activities - a response more studied and cultivated than that of a child.

The program was a refreshing change from our usual routine. It gave us the opportunity to spend time together and get to know each other better and to interact as a group in a learning environment, sometimes slipping into behaviour we habitually discourage in students! It also gave us the opportunity to shed some of our inhibitions - an opportunity not all of us made full use of.

The new routine was more tiring than our usual one. There was more physical activity involved and we were busy all day. I realised how much more energetic the children are to go through a day like that and still want to talk and romp about.

Our FG classes were taken over by a group of senior students during this period. Not the least of our learning was to find out what they had learnt in their new roles as teachers. From their astute observations, it was evident they had learnt a good deal too.

I think the learning week was an enjoyable experience and could be repeated, maybe in a modified form, from time to time.

Vrinda Ashoka

A TASTE OF TEACHING

It was with a certain reluctance and insecurity that I left F.G.2 to go to the senior section, almost three years ago. I had never dreamt that I would one day go back there to teach the same class.

The class nine were to take over the junior classes and the upper F.G. classes while the teachers were having a week's workshop on learning situations and other educational problems. In other words, the teachers were to take over functions similar to those of the students and vice versa.

I was made in charge of F.G.2, in place of Cherry akka. I had no problem as far as settling down with the children was concerned. I liked the class, especially since I have spent more than four years of my school days in the same class, under Cherry akka.

The main problem that most of us felt was keeping the restless children quiet, getting them to sit at their own desks and do some work. In order to succeed in this, I had to use my voice very often.

Doing science with the children was something I enjoyed most. When I was a student of F.G.2 I used to love doing science. This situation was a reflection of my own junior school days in F.G.2.

The thing I hated most was the pretence. If they did not understand what I had taught them and put on a look of full understanding, I felt very irritated and totally confused about how to teach them. There were times when I was willing to teach them over and over again. Yet there were times when I felt sick after explaining the same difficulty more than twice. For the first time I realised how it was for Sara akka (our maths teacher to see us sit dumb as ever in the class!)

At the end of five days, I was growing more and more impatient looking after the children temporarily in place of Cherry akka. I began to feel the pressure of correcting their homework. I could not stop studying and give my full attention to teaching because I was to appear for the Maths exams a couple of days after the seven days' exchange. Unlike the teachers, I had to teach and study,

The class nine and some teachers met before the end of the week to talk about our experiences etc.

I would not like to become a teacher! I found it a job full of responsibilities and it revealed too many negative aspects about myself! Though, I would like to

teach F.G.2 again for a shorter phase of time, after about two-three months. There are many things I regret doing while teaching and I would like to take them into consideration if I ever teach again.

All in all, it was a hectic but enjoyable experience of responsibility and learning about myself.

Natasha Wariavwala
16 years

A WEEK WITHOUT TEACHERS

I was very happy to know that for a whole week there would be no teachers.

The teachers wanted to try an experiment. They wanted to know how it was to be students again and the difficulties we students had to go through. All teachers had classes on different subjects and played games.

The 9th standard had to look after us because the 10th had their trial exams.

The first day I thought of doing a lot of work because I was quite scared of the 9th but later my fear grew weaker and weaker and I began to act normal. There was quite a lot of disorder but when we were told to listen, we kept quiet. The week rolled on until the last day of the week. I was equally happy to get my class teacher back.

Ishita
12 years

*SARDAR

He came again,
Like a homing snow-bird,
Whitened by age,
But still strong and upright.
A Warrior
Of Learning.

His life had been
Long absences from home
To find another.
Amongst children,
And spirits of things
You can touch and feel.
And those you cannot.
The stuff of Sufi saints:
Poetry, Love, Friendship,
And that Something
Nobody can know.

He passed out of earthly life
In the manner he dreamed of:
In his sleep, quietly and quickly,
Perhaps smiling.

And smiling we remained,
Unbroken, unteared, whole.
He had left but hadn't gone
And one could see him
If one wanted to.
Or so the feeling was.

Then,
They came and took
His things away,
And left nothing
For the children
And the ones he loved
And would have left for.

Someone cried.

B Narayan Deb

* Note: Mr Sardar Mohamed Khan Malik passed away on 22 June '87 while travelling by train from Madras to Bhopal en route to his home town, Indore. He was travelling first class and passed away in his sleep in the afternoon just before the train reached Itarsi. He had succumbed to a massive heart attack the doctors said. He was buried amongst his parents graves on 23 June '87 in Indore. He was about sixty-nine then.

MR SARDAR MOHAMMED

The Scholar I knew

The other day I came across a word, and wanted to know its root - immediately my thoughts turned to Mr Sardar Mohammed.

Whenever I wanted the meaning, origin, pronunciation or connotation of a word, any word, in English or in Urdu, I would turn to Mr Sardar Mohammed.

I often saw him slowly walking up the hill to school immersed in a book; I envied him this habit. I, for one, am always lamenting; "I don't have enough time for all the reading I want to do". But he always had the time - any time was reading time.

Hours were spent in the Public Libraries, no doubt imbibing more knowledge, to add to what he had already accumulated.

"..... still they gazed, and still the wonder grew
That one small head could carry all he knew".

(Gold Smith)

What a collection of dictionaries he had! Of all types and for everything. He had a fund of knowledge - of poetry, of literature. He could pull quotations out of his head as a magician pulls rabbits out of a hat. Quotations in English, Urdu and Persian to suit any occasion, any circumstance.

His "Shahiree" was a pleasure to listen to, specially when he put melody to the verse, and sang it in that rich and melodious voice of his.

I will not believe that "we shall never more behold him nor hear his winning voice again".

It is only befitting that I should end with a few lines from John Donne's "Death be not Proud".

"Death, be not proud, though some have called thee
Mighty and dreadful, for thou art not so;
For those whom thou think'st thou dost overthrow
Die not, poor Death; nor yet canst thou kill me.
From Rest and Sleep, which but thy picture be,
Much pleasure; then from thee much more must flow;
And soonest our best men with thee do go -
Rest of their bones and souls' delivery!
....."

Mona Rikh

MY TEACHER, MY FRIEND

Mr Sardar was a teacher in my school. After some days he became like a grandfather to me. He did not teach me anything except manners. He bought me 3 t.t.balls, 3 Target magazines, a Moby Dick Book, a book called King Lear. He gave me a birthday card. He was a very healthy man and took me and my mother to many beautiful places. He was a very kind man and he helped me a lot. He used to walk a lot.

Rajit Patankar
9 years

SCHOOL LIFE

Here you can see
Hirudian at work
Busy cutting the hedge.
Chitch-chatch-chitch-chatch.
His sickle's busy
As busy as can be.
Down below the ladder
There's a little tiny tot.
He's trying to climb the ladder
But the little one cannot.

Rani & Anuja
16 & 12 years



MY LIFE IN B.M.S.

A little girl, age seven, very fat, with short curly hair was going to join the Blue Mountains School. Her mother wanted her to join a different type of school. Not the book and ruler type, but a school of complete education.

Her first welcome to the school was an invitation from the other girls to play house (a doll game played by youngsters) where she got totally immersed in the playful transaction of dolls. So immersed was she that when her mother came to say "Goodbye" and that she would see her in the holidays, all that she did was to give her a kiss and say that she was sorry she couldn't say a proper "Goodbye" because she had to hurry or miss her game.

That was me. I can hardly believe it but it was me alright. I was wild and untamed, having lived in a kind of semi-wild area all my life.

The years flew by and from "a,b,c," I began to write "I am a dog," etc. I liked everyone very much, the teachers the students, everyone.

Then I was taken to Yellow dorm (The big girls' dorm) and that's where my main problems began originating from. The inferiority complex. I became stubborn and willful. I began to be disliked.

As the years began to roll away, my wildness too began to roll away. I was no longer wildly angry or frustrated all the time, though I still had flashes of this behaviour.

Entering the sixth standard was a big break in my school life, it signified a growing up inside me and I began to feel more responsible.

Inbetween, incidents of both happiness and sadness took place. Other things like hikes etc. went on and I was still excited at the thought of going on a hike. I am not like that now. I no longer like hikes and I keep resisting them, thereby making it worse for myself and everyone else.

I entered the eighth after an insignificant year in the seventh. I did averagely well in academics and my behaviour was much more contained. Towards the end of my last term in the eighth I began to feel restless. I didn't like what I was doing. I didn't like studying for the sole purpose of passing a small exam instead of learning for information and understanding. I became insecure.

The beginning of ninth marked a break in action and thought. I stopped studying and I started teaching the youngsters of the school. I liked doing this. It was nice to work with (almost) innocents: children with no knowledge of hardship. I learnt a lot about the minds of youngsters and how each individual had his own way of tackling his problem. Each child was more a giver than a taker. This carried on till the end of my ninth year. Then suddenly out of the blue I decided to do my I.C.S.E. I was, you could say, scared that just teaching would lead to nothing. I wanted more out of life. I wanted what most children want, namely, glamour. This was the first term of my tenth and having missed a lot of work and an awful lot to make up for, I worked hard yet something inside me kept protesting; saying that this wasn't really what I wanted to do. I ignored this feeling and carried on with my work. But the inner uncertainties began and I began to have problems with my dorm mates and for about half that term even gave up talking to them.

This term (my second term in the tenth) I began with studying hard and keeping good relationship with everyone. Then after the middle of term I began to feel restless again. I carried on studying but I could see from my relationship with my friends how insecure my mind was. On meeting my mother during the excursion period she said that I need not do the I.C.S.E. I have stopped studying and started doing the thing I enjoyed most: teaching.

This school has seen me through the bad times and taught me how to live. I do not think I could have got this type of an education anywhere other than in good old B.M.S.

Melaika Boseman
16 years

OUR SCHOOL LIBRARY

Our school library has many kinds of books like 'Bed time stories' 'National Geographic' 'Amar Chitra Katha' 'Nursery Rhymes' comics and so on.

*Some children and some teachers have presented books to the library. Parents have also presented books. I like all the stories I have read from the time I joined. There are nice books in the library. There are lots of 'Knowledge' books and the seniors come to the library and study from the 'knowledge' books.

Sridevi T.
10 years

*The school spends large sums on books from time to time, and tries to keep the Library up-to-date — specially regarding Literature and the Sciences.

Editor.

POCKET MONEY DAY

It was Saturday. Everyone was quite excited because it was Pocket-money Day. After break I went to the dorm and change into my uniform. I played carrom until the lunch bell rang. I ate lunch and afterwards I went to get my rucksack. At about 1.50 p.m. I went to the porch to get my money. Aniruddha and I were sharing. At two o'clock we set off and I went to a video game parlour. We played about five games each. Then we went to Chellarams and bought five grams of chocolates, a bar of chocolate, a packet of pop corn, sweets, some bubble gum and a packet of biscuits. Then we went to Archies and ate a plate of Bhel Puri. Then we went to Chellarams again and bought a few stickers. When we had only four rupees left, we went to Kurinjis and had a masala dosa each. Soon akka called us. We went back to school and reached at four fifteen. When the tea bell rang I could eat only my biscuits, because I was so full!

Pablo Chaterji

10 years

FOOTBALL Vs St. Peter's Crownwoods School

It was a Saturday when the match between B.M.S and St. Peter's Crownwoods was played at the B.M.S. grounds. B.M.S. were tough as well as the backs. Their team was tough too.

Time was ticking very quickly and Harshad who was as fast as the wind shot 3 goals. Suddenly, Santosh, who was a back for B.M.S., headed the ball and unfortunately it went straight over the head of our goalkeeper (who was taken by surprise) and went straight into the goal. This is how St. Peter's got one goal.

After sometime it started raining and St. Peter's boys told us that they were sorry they couldn't play in the rain so the game was abandoned.

Zameer V.
13 years

People go to gardens and eat there and dirty the place.

That is a sad thing about people.

Kartik D.
8 years

I AM HAPPY

I am happy when a bird sings	- Hari Krishna
I am happy when akka is happy	- Avinash B.
I am happy when I see an elephant	- Puneet P.
I am happy when my parents come	- Jyothi
I am happy when my father makes me laugh	- Bharani K.
I am happy on my birthday	- Bharath K.
I am happy when I see gardens	- New Kartik
I am happy when I swim	- Rosie
I am happy when my father comes	- Veeresh
I am happy when I play video games	- Srinivas V.
I am happy on Sunday	- Inderajeeth

F.G.1

Average age 7

SUB-JUNIOR HOWLERS OR OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES

(6 to 8 years)

- * On being given a dose of Waterburys Compound:

Child: "I hate this water compound".

- * On rebirth/reincarnation:

Suseela akka: "I don't want to be born again".

Child : "You have to be born again because
god doesn't want you there (Heaven)".

- * On watching the fish in the aquarium:

Nandita akka: "Look at that big one over there".

Child : (Pointing to a small fish)"and, akka,
look at that small puppy in the corner".

* On trying to stop a fight:

Nandita akka: "If you all fight so much at this age,
what will you be like when you grow up"

Child : "We will be rubbish people".

* Heard after games:

"Even if Madonna* comes, we can thrash him in football".

"Why, even if god comes we can thrash him".

"But god never comes down. He likes to stay up in heaven".

** Maradonna

HOWLERS

We have included here School boy (Why not school girl?!)
Howlers.

Can any of them be attributed to the Blue Mountains School
students? Your guess is as good as mine -

* Q. What are cereals?

A. Cereals are films shown on T.V. in bits.

* Q. What is Evolution?

A. It is something invented by Darwin.

* Q. What is a Primate?

A. Wife of a Prime Minister

* Q. What are X-rays?

A. X-rays are produced when the suns rays cross each other.

* In the USA people are put to death by elocution

* Blood consists of two sorts of cells. White copper cells
and Red copper cells.

* Gravity was invented by Isaac Newton

* Geometry teaches us to prove what we already know to be
true.

* Explain why a cockroach does not die when its head is
fully immersed in water.

A. Because his head is waterproof.

OUR EXCURSION TO MAHABALIPURAM

MAHABALIPURAM

Our bus reached Mahabalipuram and we all got up to see what it was like. It was the second time I was visiting it after five years. I remember it was then my first excursion and I was very small and so I could only remember it vaguely. I looked out of the window and saw that many new buildings had come up, out of them quite a few were new hotels. As the bus came closer near the gates of the Shore Temple Youth Camp (That's where we were staying) I saw the same little shops which sold necklaces made out of beads and shells, straw hats and many other things of the same kind.

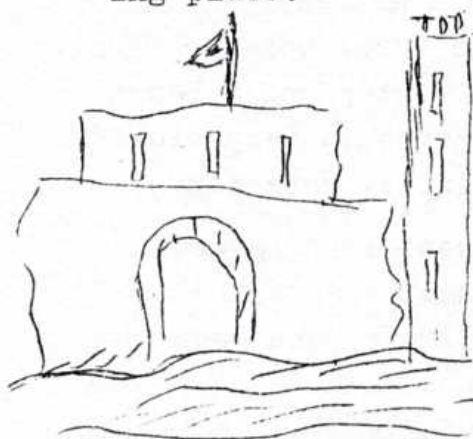
We entered the gates and drove up to the main building. It was quite hot and the sky was a lovely blue and sometimes a little breeze would blow.

The town of Mahabalipuram is very small and has many little shops. It is sandy everywhere since it is near the beach. Mahabalipuram is famous for it's temples and sculpture. Some of the well known temples are the five rathas which are five individual temples made out of one big stone each. Each of the temples is dedicated to a Pandava. The main theme of the carving on the temples is the five Pandavas and the three main Gods which are Shiva, Brahma and Vishnu.

When tourists visit Mahabalipuram they usually go to see "Krishna's Butter Ball", which is a huge rock, about 16 feet high, which rests on a slope with only the bottom tip attached to the slope. They say that seven elephants tried to pull it but did not succeed even to budge it.

About five kilometres away from Mahabalipuram is the Kalpakkam atomic power station which generates electricity and distributes it to different towns and cities.

Altogether I think that it is a very nice and interesting place.



MAHABALIPURAM

The sun was shining,
The sea was roaring,
Thr crows were cawing
And I was making sand
castles on the shore

Anuja M
12 years

Royston Lopez
11 years

MAHABALIPURAM: study of group dynamics

The excursions on the whole went off well. I did notice a few groups and a few loners but I would prefer not to name them. I found the students very co-operative. There was a "clear" atmosphere as it were. The conversation was usually about previous excursions and those who had come to Mahabalipuram for the second time seemed to be talking mostly of the previous time and how they had enjoyed it. There was hardly any conversation as far as I heard.

Time which was free was mainly used for lying down and chatting or those who had books to read, read and some went out to the shops to look around and maybe buy something. There were a few emotional but very minor problems in the group I was in. I found that some teachers kept to themselves and didn't mix as much as they usually did. There was a nice atmosphere though and I think everyone enjoyed it as much as they contributed!!

Personal feeling: As for helping the children, I think everyone was loaded with their own things and that's why they couldn't help the younger ones. I found myself in such a position that I could barely help Inderajeeth or Mahesh or someone who had heavy pieces of luggage. I did notice the suffering they were going through but was concerned mostly about my dorm things or my personal belongings to be able to help them.

Everything else was peaceful!!! I think this is the only thing I noticed.

Indumathi
16 years

MAHABALIPURAM - A field study

Mahabalipuram is a great tourist attraction mainly because of its beautiful temples and sculptures, making it very historical.

The Youth Hostel in which we stayed was a very nice place and in my opinion an ideal place for a holiday. It is situated very near the beach. I think it is ideal because when one goes for a holiday to a warm place the picture of a beach comes immediately to your mind and if the beach is very close to the place you are staying at it is absolutely gorgeous.

The hostel park naturally did not contain a natural plant community and though there were a lot of plants and trees, they had all been planted. All the plants were ones that could survive in sandy soil.

Some of the plants that we saw were casaurina, datura

and calotropis. Both datura and calotropis had latex. Situated below the datura and calotropis was a small plant of the Euphorbia species. We also found a thorny plant of the acacia species and a water melon plant.

A very interesting observation was made; some very small plants did not grow as they would in any other place but grew flat against the sand and all grew towards one direction and when uprooted we saw that they had very strong tap roots. We came to the conclusion that the plants were like this because if they grew upright they would not be strong enough to withstand the sea breeze.

There were quite a number of crab holes and crabs and these were mostly found among a very prickly grass which is called spine grass. The crabs were camouflaged very well and only if you were quick enough you could spot one of these small creatures scurrying across.

On the beach there were three different colours of sand. First there was sand which was a mixture of light brown and black and when you went near the water it was dark brown. Though there were a lot of shells in the water the ones on the sand were all broken.

Another very interesting observation was that no seaweed had been washed up at all on the beach and I think because either the sea was too rough or seaweed just never existed there.

This study which we made was very interesting and made my excursions a bit more enjoyable and worthwhile.

Reshma M.
14 years

MAHABALIPURAM AND IT'S TEMPLES

We were very tired after reaching our destination. But we went sight seeing after a few hours.

We went to the Rathas(temples). They were all carved out of one rock. They had beautiful designs on them. The Rathas were 5 chariots and they were named after the Pandavas, Bhima, Arjuna, Nakul and Sahadev(shared one), Darupati, and the king.

They had written something in the Palava's language but no one could read it.

We then went to a hill where there balanced a rock which was called "Krishna's Butter Ball". It balanced on one side of the hill. It was amazing because the guide told us that seven elephants tried pushing "Krishna's Butter Ball" but could not.

We also saw "Bhima's kitchen". It had huge rocks that made a shelter.

At the end we went to the "Shore Temples". They were seven out of which six were under water and one out of water. This was not made of one rock but different types of rocks.

Ishita
12 years

THE SEA

The Sea comes rushing out
And then goes back again.
It never stops but goes on and on
Taking with it whatever it can,
Leaving only you and me.

Sometimes rough and sometimes calm,
It is never the same
But is forever changing
Never giving you a clue
To what its going to do.

It is full of creatures that you can't see
But they can see you.
There is always a chance
That you could start to dance
If someone unexpectedly
Took a fancy to you!

Reshma M
14 years

ATOMIC REACTOR: KALPAKKAM

When we went for the excursion we were given the opportunity to visit the nuclear reactor. The security was tight. After a long wait at the entrance, we finally entered the compound. No photographic equipment was allowed and adult foreigners weren't allowed.

We first visited the mini-museum with our shaky guide. I was quite impressed by the size of the reactor. The reactors were cylinder-shaped, with dome at the top.

As I found out, India uses a different system of harnessing Nuclear Energy. The building that housed the Electric transformers was amazing. We saw the main control room which checked the whole plant through computers. We also found out that Jellyfish were the plants biggest problem.

I only have one regret about the trip, I couldn't understand the guide. We saw the building that housed the cooling system for the reactor, it was hot.

As we boarded the bus I thought of how a Third World Nation like us had gone so far in the most challenging field in Modern technology?

Thomas Sebastian
12 years

THE KALPAKKAM NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

There are three ways of making electricity through a turbine. These are: Thermal, Hydro and Nuclear Power.

The Kalpakkam nuclear power plant is only 4 km from Mahabalipuram by the private road. Otherwise, it is 35 kms by Chingleput.

The security at Kalpakkam is very tight. The guards took the bus's video cassette to their office and returned it only when we came out again. The guards brought a metal detector into the bus and checked the inside of it. While they were checking, I noticed ammunition belts round their waists and pistols in holsters.

After going into the area we went to an office to receive passes, while the officer telephoned for a guide. The guide took us to the reception centre and explained to us how the whole thing worked. He talked like an engineer using too many technical words, and we all got very bored.

After he finished explaining, he took us to the switch room. It was as big as our school. The guide allowed us to peep in. He said that the plant produced two hundred and thirty kilo-volts a day and distributed it to 3 places in Tamilnadu and Karnataka.

When we went through a room and came out the

other side, we had to put our hands to our ears. There was a deafening whistling sound. I felt it would break my ear drum. We saw the place where sea water was brought in through a tunnel. The sea water was filtered for any Jelly-fish or fish. There was the bad odour of dead jelly fish.

We climbed a flight of stairs which led to the Turbine and control room. The turbine filled half the space of that room, which was about 70 metres long and 20 metres wide. The room controlled remote control operations. We saw an operation shown on close-circuit T.V.

We returned after that.

Hari Selvarajan
10 year

EXCURSIONS

We visited Mahabalipuram for our excursions. We visited many historical places like the Ratas.

The Ratas were built by the Pallawas. It was built by Narasim Varma I. There were altogether five Rathas. (Rathas in Hindi means chariot). They are called Draupadi, Bhima, Arjana, Dharmaraja and Sahadeva. They were built in the late 7th and early 8th century. These Rathas were carved from one single rock.

We visited a place where a huge rock has been standing like this for many years. Seven elephants had tried to pull it but they did not succeed. This is called Krishna's Butter Ball.

We also saw "Bhima's Kitchen". After this we visited the shote temples but they have sunk in the sea. We saw only one. One thing we noticed in all these temples, they were incomplete because of the war.

Anita Kotval
10 years

AN AFTERNOON AT MANU'S PLACE

It was a cool day, the sun was out and the wind was blowing. It was a beautiful place to live I thought.

We also had lunch there. The lunch was dry* and it did not taste nice.

We also decided to go swimming in the sea and we had half an hours swim. We had stopped because the sea was getting rough.

When we returned back to their place, I went under a hose pipe to have a bath. For tea we had something which

Manu's mum gave.

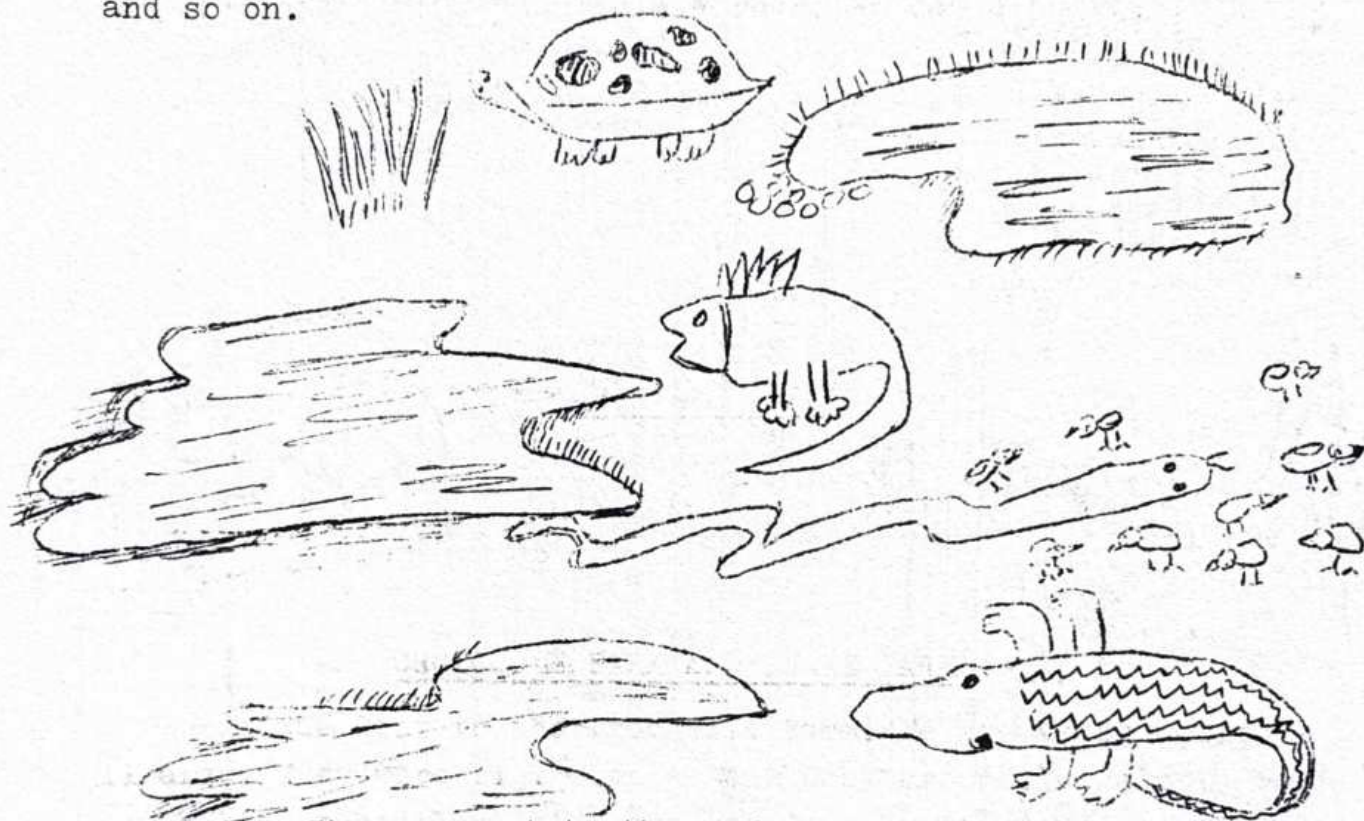
{ *The food was supplied by the Travel Agency and not by Manu's mother, who later gave us a sumptuous tea

Ed.

Zahabia V.
11 years

CROCODILE FARM AND SNAKE PARK

We went to the Crocodile Farm. We saw water monitor lizards. They were big. Then we saw baby crocodiles also. We saw a big crocodile. It's name was Jaws 3. It was 4 metres long. Jaws 3 was brought from Singapore. We saw snakes like cobras, and so on.



Then we went to the snake park in Madras. We saw a big tortoise lying down in a corner. We saw a cobra. In a big cage we saw monitor lizards. They were big. In a big cage there were seven pythons eating chicks. There were different kinds of snakes.

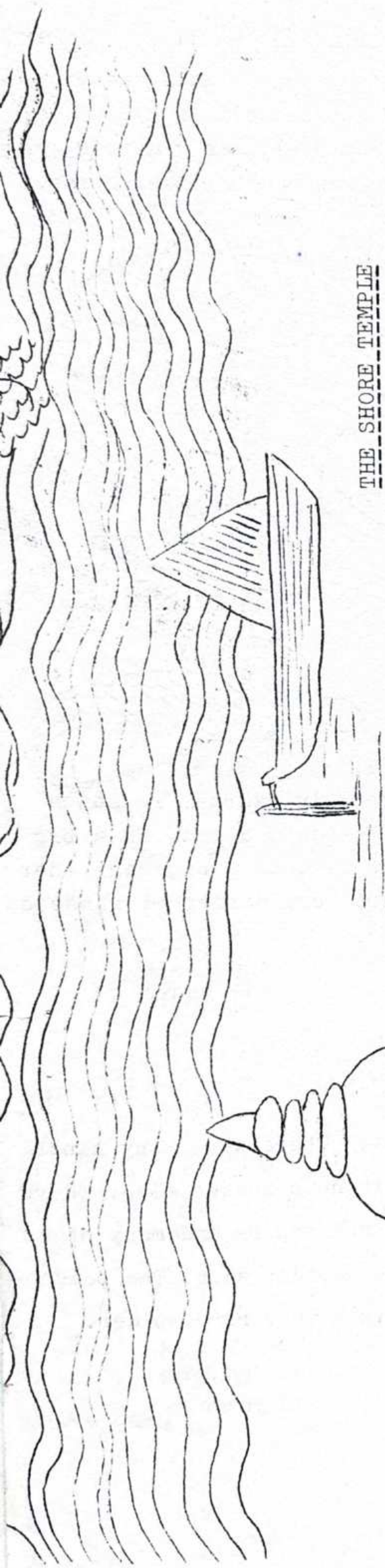
Anuj Amin
11 years

THE SNAKE PARK

I liked the snake park a lot. There were many kinds of snakes and lizards. There were poisonous snakes also. There were pythons, rat-snakes, king-cobra and vipers and many other kinds of snakes. There was a poisonous spider* also. The poisonous spider is not found in India; it is a very rare spider.

Manu Seshadri
10 years

*The Tarantula (Ed.)



THE SHORE TEMPLE

We went to the Shore Temple. It was very very old. It was very nice. The Shore Temple was near the sea. The Pallava people built the Shore Temple. It was made more than 1000 years ago. There were some statues inside. It was very nice. The statues were of bulls. They were Nandi. We saw a Shivalingam. It was very black.

Hari Krishna
7 years



SKETCH BY KETUL PATEL
10 years



A CRITIQUE ON DAVID CAMPTON'S "THE LABORATORY"

Gabriotto: "I do not sell death"
(an apothecary)

Emilia: "Are my pies ready?"
(Gabriotto's servant)

Alberto Da Brescia: "I nose out criminals"
(A court official)

Violante Del Ponte Nero: "I am not cruel, am I?"
(Alberto's Mistress)

Gianetta Da Brescia: "I can be granite"
(Alberto's wife)

The stage was very well set and it really put the feeling of a smoke-grimed cellar across to the audience.

The scene starts with Mr Deb, who played the part of the apothecary, writing at his desk.

He is constantly interrupted in his work by Emilia who is always worrying about her pastries while he wants to cook his herbs and his brew. Mrs Rikh who acted as Emilia really brought on many laughs.

Then enters Mr Anil as Da Brescia looking very Mephistophelian and as usual displayed his very impressive acting talent. He asks for poison which the apothecary refuses to sell. The bell is heard ringing furiously and Nandita akka as Violante Del Ponte Nero walks in gracefully and tries to coax him to sell her some poison to kill her lover's wife and she succeeds in getting enough poison to kill a horse!!! This conversation is overheard by Da Brescia who is hiding on stage. Finally the dragon, Gianetta Da Brescia played by Vrinda akka,

arrives, Vrinda akka was the exact opposite of her gentle self. She asks for poison to kill Violante, her husband's mistress and manages to bully the apothecary for it.

One felt quite sorry for Gianetta during the course of the play.

At the end there was a real twist to the play because the apothecary realized that the poison which he thought he had sold was actually "love brew"!! Emilia had again messed up his vessels containing the poison and the love brew!

The play ends with Mrs Rikh chasing Mr Deb around the stage screaming "My little pigeon, come to my arms"!!

It was very well done and ofcourse very well directed like the school plays always are.

The costumes were colourful and they helped in putting the general atmosphere of the play across to the audience.

Although this was a play for light entertainment, it contained various emotions like love, anger and jealousy. The audience's response was positive and the humour of the play came across very well.

Atreyee B.
15 years

"There are rhythms and pattern everywhere.
But only some feel the vibration."

Minou Drouet

A CRITIQUE: Top Houses-cum-Blue House Show.

For three houses to get together and have a "Dorm Show" is a brave effort indeed - and indeed this was no exception.

The items to be commended were the Hindi skit called Free Style Gavahi (by the Top Houses), and the song "Memories" sung by the Blue House Girls - They sang well, and their voices sounded youthfully melodious.

In the Hindi skit, Gopal & Alyosha handled their parts with conviction. Although Anuj Sethi and Subir seemed a little nervous, they remained with the plot, and carried off their roles fairly well.

The other items entertained, specially the playlet 'Cinder Archie' where "Cinderella" is a boy - The situation is reversed and Cinder Archie has two step-brothers, and a step-father. The plot in itself calls for a lot of amusement.

The playlet was performed by the Blue House girls; Ishita and Zahabia made a pretty couple - while the old step-father, ably acted by Zia (who kept a dead-pan face) staggered tipsily about, trying to dance with every pretty maiden at Princess Charming's Ball!!

Some original ideas did emerge like three old jokes used in a skit and given a new look - However the general production became a bit chaotic with lights being switched on and off unnecessarily and often longish waits between scenes and items, and a lot of noise back stage. Perhaps a little more attention should be given to stage discipline, neat entrances and exits, and less "noises off"!

There were one or two more songs, and a skit to finish the evening.

As I said at the beginningⁿ of the article, it was a brave effort, and gave us quite a few amusing moments.

Mona Rikh

THE RED & GREEN HOUSE SHOW

The Red and Green houses of our school contain the youngest and they are going to put on the customary dorm show.

Children and adults come into the hall and settle down while the actors prepare themselves backstage.

The first item is a dance by four new children. They dance to a song called 'Skip to my loo'. They do it very sweetly and then, once again sweetly go off the stage.

The second item is a song by six small children and the song they sing is Camptown Races. I have always liked that song and it

sounds lovely to hear them in their high voices, sing it.

The third item is a skit named 'The Two Mice'. The grey mouse keeps giggling, which the audience loves. The bees are small and cute and so is the bird. I thought the skit was very touching and sweet.

The fourth is a lovely Irish song. It is sung in the dark and really sounds lovely.

The dormshow as a whole is sweet and short. At the end I am left with an unfulfilled feeling because it is over too quickly.

Melaika Boseman
15 years

YELLOW DORM SHOW

The Yellow Dorm show, I had heard, was always worth watching. It was, therefore, with some anticipation that I noticed that preparations were discreetly under way - from snatches of song and drama rehearsal, picked up at odd moments, as well as the purposeful air about the Yellow Dorm girls.

Anticipation was more generally evident on the evening of the show after the snazzy notice announcing 'An evening of Farces and Songs' was put up. To add to the excitement, the power failed at dinner time. An unscheduled candle-light dinner was followed by speculations about a candle-light dorm show. And, of course, there was the chaotic hilarity that invariably descends upon children when the lights go off. The lights came on, fortunately, just in time.

The first item of the show was an adaptation of John Galsworthy's 'The Little Man'. It was remarkable for its impressive assortment of characters. There was Melaika as the German, complete with overcoat and Hitler-moustache, Debbie as the beer-thirsty American, nasal drawl and all, Jina and Reshma as the 'propah' English couple and Nevi as the deadpan German Official, not to mention Atreyee as the smart young waiter, Kanchan of 'mein buby' fame and Annu as the endearingly timid 'little man'. The parts were played with authenticity and ease - in spite of stray smiles peeping out in the wrong places.

Mrs. Rikh had announced, at the beginning of the show, that the mutilation of the original text would probably make the playwright turn in his grave. But it was the Indian characters who proved to be the scene-stealers (and laugh raisers)

Natasha as the 'guffawing Sardar with silent wife (Shloka) and Indu as the fussy, frightened little South Indian, also with silent wife (Rajini).

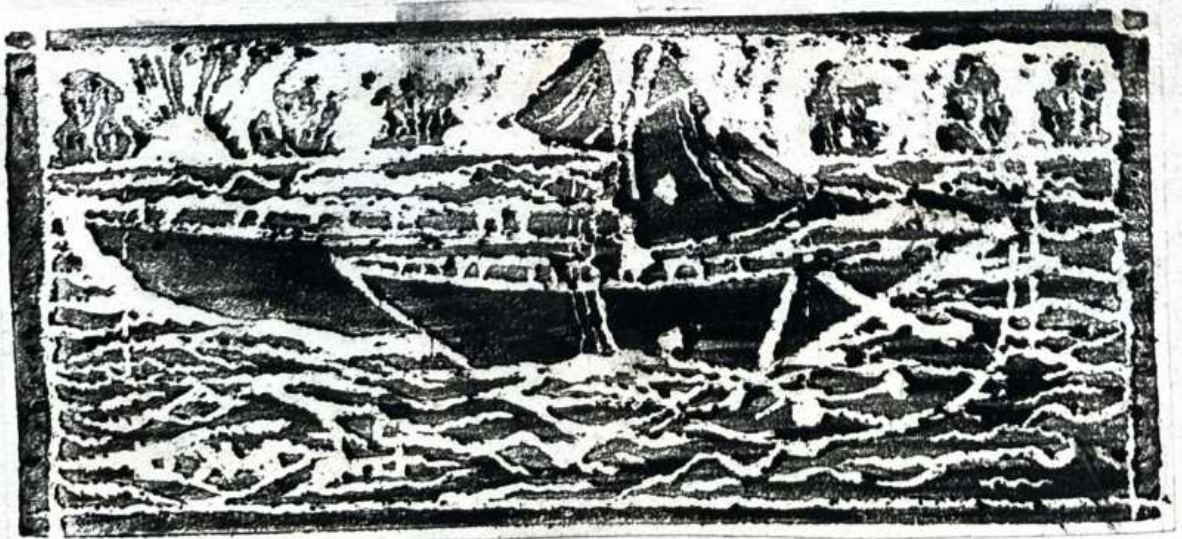
There were two songs, 'Johnny Come Lately' and 'Grandpa' both old favourites, well sung. 'Grandpa' especially was an appropriately nostalgic end-of-the-evening number.

The skit 'The Phantom Sausage Stealer' provided plenty of the promised farce. The actresses did justice to the absurd situations and amusing dialogue. The highlights were Indu's performance as the pompous, bumbling policeman, the two dramatic wheelbarrow entries and the man in the pan episode with Mrs. Pugh's (Shloka's) delicate expostulations to the policeman's stupid remarks.

The finale was the ballet 'Camouflage' - a strikingly innovative item, the special light-effects giving it an almost magical quality. It was performed with flair and spirit, bringing the show to a satisfying close.

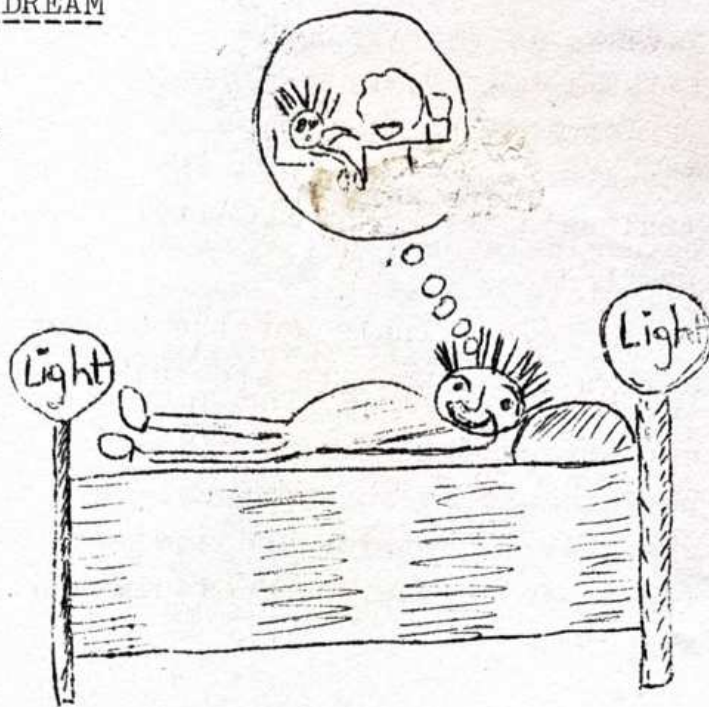
It was, on the whole, an enjoyable evening. Apart from the good deal of talent apparent, it was a pleasure to watch the graceful Yellow Dormers on stage. For my part, I shall certainly look forward to the next Yellow Dorm Show.

Vrinda Ashoka



A LOVELY DREAM

Last night I had a dream that I was going home. I was so happy when I met my parents. I went to my house and had a nice breakfast and then I had a bath and played on my cycle all day. Suddenly my mother called me for lunch and when I went for lunch, I began to eat. My lovely dream vanished. When I opened my eyes I was in School. I was sad that my dream had ended!



Manu Seshadri
10 years

THE FRONT LAWN TREE



There is a tree in the front lawn. It is so old. It grew so many years ago. It had so many beautiful leaves and flowers. In the trunk it has cracked because it is so old and dead. It has moss on it. It has mushrooms on it also. It has holes on it. Insects made the holes. They live inside. Around the tree there are plants. Belu planted them because the tree is dead. It is a Magnolia tree.

Rosie
9 years

SATURDAY IN SCHOOL

I like Saturday very much. I don't like Sunday. I like Saturday because there are so many different things to do. Some times we go for hikes and some times we have pocket-money and put up shows. And there is no prep. In the night when the seniors go for a movie, the juniors play all types of games. We have lots of fun. When we are tired we go to bed.

Mihika T.Raha
9 years

EDGAR ALLAN POE

Edgar Allan Poe was born in Boston, U.S.A. He was the son of theatrical parents. He was adopted at three by a wealthy man called Mr John Allan. He received a good education. After escaping from the army in 1831, he published three volumes of poetry, they were Tamerlane, Aaraaf and Poems. After some fame he was called by some people to work for a magazine. Right after joining he printed a poem called 'The Raven' which overnight made him the most talked about man in New York.

Following the above writeup on Edgar Allan Poe, Frank writes a critique on Poe's short story "The Tell-tale Heart" which was read to the class. It is a story of a murder committed by a man verging on madness, and how he deals with the corpse, and eventually how in his madness he betrays himself and exposes his guilt.

Editor

This story overall is quite a gruesome, and to an extent a violent one. He has a very grotesque way of writing. Most of the time reading Edgar Allan Poe's stories is unpleasant, but on the other hand he makes you feel as if you are witnessing the story (or the poem).

He also sometimes makes you feel the way the characters are feeling in the story. Most of Edgar Allan Poe's stories consist of feeling within or emotions.

Frank
13 years

A TRIBUTE TO MR SARDAR

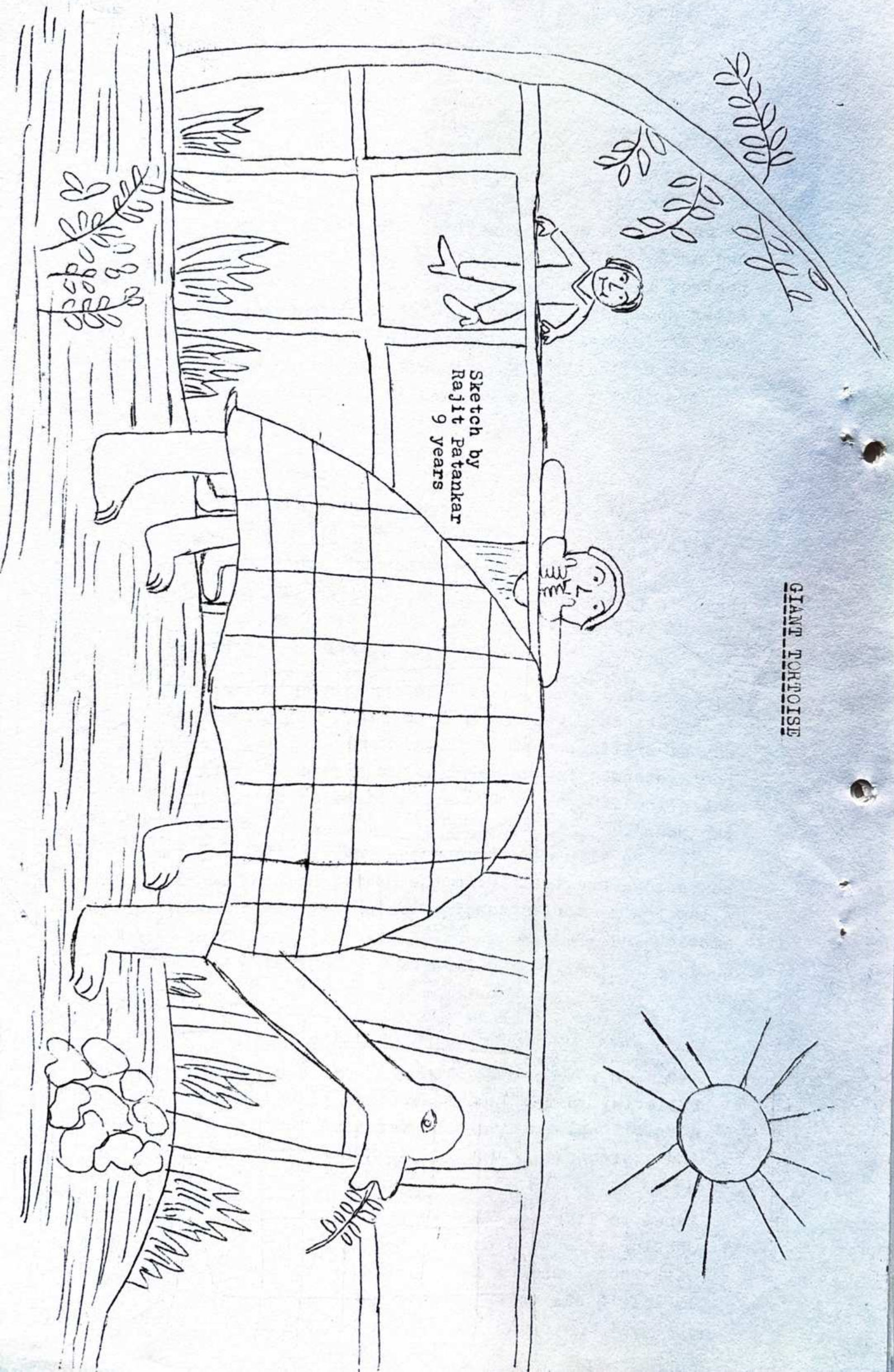
A man of immense strength and gentle kindness
Believing in the human potential for "limitlessness".
A spirit calm, alive and ever questioning
And a presence of comfort in times of despair.

Dared to live the life he chose.
Showing affection on all whom he met
With whom I shared a "hallowed th".
In life's all too brief a walk.

M.P.

GIANT TORTOISE

Sketch by
Rajit Patankar
9 years



TEMPTATION

In my youth I was very fascinated with the concept of the soul and the eternal. As I grew older my fascination increased.

Finally, when it came to choosing my occupation I wanted to research on mysticism. I met a lot of mystics and tried to learn about the soul. Unfortunately, none of them were really interested. So, I took to wandering in search of a Guru.

One day, I was roaming about in the forest of the Himalayan foothills, when I felt a strange attraction. I allowed myself to be led by the attraction.

I found myself in front of a cave in front of which was a man in saffron. He was meditating.

When he opened his eyes and saw me, he asked me what I wanted. I said, "I want to learn to transport my soul and I want to investigate into this." He studied me carefully, and it was at this time that I noticed his appearance. He was quite short and he had extraordinary large eyes. He seemed to be quite old. He had a long nose which gave him the appearance of being extremely learned and wise.

After this brief pause he said "you must be ready to work hard and always follow me. On no account must you disobey me. If you do, a great misfortune will befall you".

After this followed a period of vigorous training for the lesson to follow. I had to learn to fast for periods of more than two months and I had to stay under water for more than three hours.

The hardest of the exercises was that I had to learn to master my senses and emotions and gain control of every part of my body.

After a few years when I finally mastered all these things my Guru said "All you have been doing is nothing compared to the things to come". Then I began learning basic things about the soul and its properties. I began studying the Upanishads which dealt with such things. After this I practised going into deep meditation. Finally my Guru told me the secret of transportation.

I was elated at this revelation. My Guru said the moment when first the power is used should be chosen carefully. He fixed a day in the following week as the chosen day. He forbade me to use the power before that day.

I was very impatient for the day to come. The next day my Guru went away somewhere and told me that he would come back the next day.

The day was bleak and cloudy, the atmosphere was weird. I saw all sorts of evil omens. The atmosphere was tense and there was a sense of expectation. I thought something was going to happen in the world of common man and I felt relieved that I had detached myself from that world where everything was misery. I was feeling very pleased with myself. I was almost proud of my achievements though I would not have accepted it then. I felt I was the cause of this achievement and not my Guru.

At midday I saw a dead body being carried past. I was solely tempted to test my new power. I had a battle within myself. I thought, "The Guru is gone. If I try the power and come back fast to my own body there would be nothing wrong and the Guru won't know". Finally I convinced myself that there really was nothing wrong. I then transported my soul to that of the dead body.

As I stood up in my new body the people who were carrying the body disappeared. Then I realized my folly; I had thought that it was very easy to learn to transport my soul. Till now, it had been easy. This was the hardest test for gaining the power. All the conditions had been made so that a great temptation was produced in me. If I overcame this temptation I would have passed the test and would have been able to keep my gained power. All the things were "maya" created by my Guru. Why should people be carrying a dead body here, where no man ever came. Worst of all I learnt that the body which I had taken was that of a leper and I was trapped in it. I cursed my temptations, all to no avail. This was the punishment for disobeying the Guru.

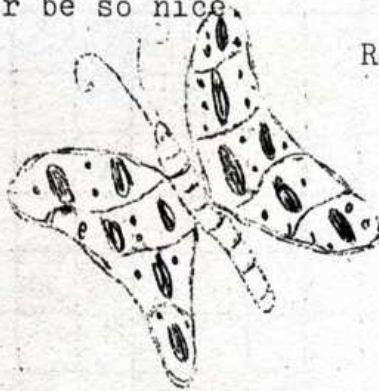
T. Vinay
13 years



BUTTERFLIES



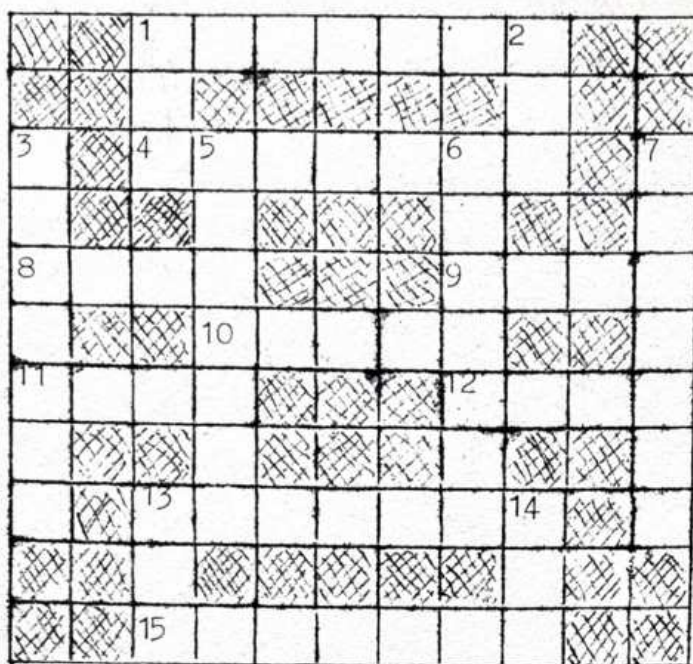
I like butterflies in the garden. I like to see them suck honey from the flowers. When they sit on the flowers, they look like the petals of the flowers. I like butterflies, they are so beautiful and nice. Without beautiful butterflies the world would never be so nice.



Rahul Prabhu
9 years



Chanderasekhar
13 years



CLUES ACROSS

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Talk over or argue (7) | 1. Men's best friend (3) |
| 4. Shalimar, Kew, Brindaban etc.(7) | 2. A signal for help (3) |
| 8. Species of amphibian (4) | 3. The mound of a colonising insect(3,4) |
| 9. Employs (4) | 5. Island in the Bay of Bengal (7) |
| 10. Mimicing or copying (5) | 6. Children are no angles when they are this (7) |
| 11. Muslim Priest (4) | 7. What Scrooge was (7) |
| 12. Perceive or sense sound vibrations (4) | 13. A limb we are very much attached to (3) |
| 13. Months, Weeks _____(3,4) | 14. Teacher or Knight (3) |
| 15. Seen in a Bull-ring in Spain(7) | |

Answers on the last page

— X — X — X —

"The secret of being miserable is to have
leisure to bother about whether you are
happy or not".

George Bernard Shaw

FORECAST OF THE YEAR 1988 FOR B.M.S.

Aries: (March 22 - April 20)

You are sure to move a step up in life, perhaps to Top Dorm. In the case of money you will earn a lot, someone might give you his pocket money. Business will be in full swing and you will make a lot of profit; you might get two shares of jam instead of one. It is a favourable year for love and romance: Punch may pay more attention to you. A fine year indeed.

Taurus: (April 21 - May 21)

It is a bad year for you in school. You will make a lot of mistakes - specially in your maths problems - which will be regretted. No risky things like - making a din in dorm while the houseparents are in their room - should be attempted. But all your mathematical mistakes and the blunders made in Chemistry practicals will be cleared up in time. For your exams and then you will score high marks.

Gemini: (May 22 - June 21)

The year will be full of luck and you might be able to shoot a goal in football before you fall down in the muddy puddle before the goal. It is time to be gay and happy as you won't be woken up too early in the morning by your house parents. There will be a lot of surprises like when one of the craziest articles you have written goes into Blueprint. It is a good year to make amends for what you did last week by gulping up all the soup at dinner and not letting anyone have a drop of it. Not a bad year but you could do with a little less scolding from your class teacher.

Cancer: (June 22 - July 23)

You will take a leap in status by not having to do your Mastering Mathematics Book I and going directly to Mastering Mathematics Book III. You will have success in all the new things you try in order to escape a day's classes. You might become famous for your great appetite

and if you don't have one, you will gain one very soon if you are not aware. You might make enemies with Macavity, the cat, by spilling its milk. This year you should always be on the alert just in case you are caught by a teacher who wants a favour done while you are going to watch your favourite serial on T.V.

Leo: (July 24 - August 23)

This is a lucky year indeed as there will be no trouble in getting out of the way of an angry teacher, when one of your mischiefs has been discovered. It is time to work your way to the top of your cricket teams, make bold advances to please your cricket captain. Luck, laughter, merriment and success are combined together this year to help you in flattering your teacher so put this advantage to its best use.

Virgo: (August 24 - September 23)

Beware! a very alarming year for you are bound to be caught in the action of smuggling your bun out of the dining hall. Your condition might get worse like your breakfast might be taken off on Sunday Mornings if you are not in time. A very bad year. To improve your condition try having a longer sleep than usual.

Libra: (September 24 - October 23)

Time to meet your friends, play and sing and dance together but be careful not to dance in front of your dancing teacher or else you might have to take extra dancing lessons to improve your dancing. A very good year for business and you will have large profits out of your deals at the dining table. This year you are very fortunate for you will be able to escape from estate work more than once. So make the best of it.

Scorpio: (October 24 - November 22)

The year is full of surprises but unfortunately not all are pleasant for you might suddenly find yourself in the sick room with very little to eat. You might

find yourself nearly always in a bad mood. So try not to have arguments with your poor friends over who's going to be first in the tuckshop line. By having these arguments you might destroy important personal relationships. Impatience will lead you into all sorts of trouble like having to stay in the dorm for not making your bed while others are watching a movie. So beware!

Sagittarius: (November 23 - December 22)

Matters related to bets, challenges, and bunking are highly favoured. It is an excellent year to carry out secret missions but it is always better to take Punch or Judy along with you to detect the presence of approaching watchmen. There will be no problems about getting into trouble with teachers, and all will go well this year.

Capricorn: (December 23 - January 20)

You are in need of a quiet life after upsetting all the dishes at the table. Take life at a slower pace and don't get excited about frightening noises in the night for they are only your friends trying to frighten you. There are not likely to be any disputes about who is to be first in the line to see a movie. No new problems or pressures will be applied on you during hikes and excursions. So enjoy this year at school.

Aquarius: (January 21 - February 19)

The name of this term at school is happiness. You will not fall sick as no mosquitoes are likely to bite you during your sleep. You will make no silly mistakes in your physics and maths problems and you will not have to face long lectures. Good luck will reverse all difficult situations, like somebody might offer to sweep the classroom for you. It will surely be a lucky year.

Pisces: (February 20 - March 21)

This is a deceptive year. You should not be too ambitious and try to become the basket ball captain when you don't even know how to dribble the ball properly.

Arrangements to go along with a party for hikes shouldn't be made, for you will be in an anxious state and you will be capable of losing your way even in the Botanical Gardens. You shouldn't be deceived by appearances; your tea might be switched for some muddy water. So be careful not to drink it. This time however, is good for your secret affairs as you will not be caught talking about how you had managed to smuggle out a whole lot of buns from the dining hall on Saturday. It is also a favourable time to write nice long articles which might be sent for Blueprint. So let your imagination have its way and you will get an article like this.

Ramaswamy M.

13 years

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Clues Across: 1. Discuss
4. Gardens
8. Toad
9. Uses
10. Aping
11. Imam
12. Hear
13. And days
15. Matador

Clues Down : 1. Dog
2. S.O.S.
3. Ant Hill
5. Andaman
6. Naughty
7. Miserly
13. Arm
14. Sir

