



WINNING ACT: The winners from Vidya Niketan School at the Times Best Play contest are (from left) S. Sankirth, S. Shiva, S.M. Suraj, J. Santosh and K. Murali. Their play titled *Hewers of coal* was staged in Bangalore on Tuesday. -TOI

VNS steals the show CURTAIN CALL

When the curtain rose on ACT 1 PLAY FEST '92 another milestone had been achieved. 14 schools participated in this theatrical event for which the prelims were held on Nov 4, 5, 6, the judges being Kirtana Kumar, T.S. Nagarajan

* Profile [Pg. 2]	I	*
* The Pioneer Pioneer [Pg. 3]	N	*
* Thoughts on ICSE [Pg. 4]	S	*
* Graffiti [Pg. 6]	I	*
* Ask Alicia [Pg. 7]	D	*
* View Point. [Pg. 8]	E	*
* Sport -if? [Pg. 10]		

and N.K. Navasimhan. The prizes to be awarded were for original script, sets, costumes, sound and light and of course best male and female artists.

Our school staged the play, "Hewers of Coal" by Joe Corrie. The cast and crew arrived at Yavanika on the 5th with elaborate sets and lighting to typify a coal mine, only to find that the place was a hive of activity. The mood, already set by the previous days performances, was one of seriousness, expectation and hope. Tempers rose and tempers fell.

Curious glances were cast as we arrived in our sooty state. We had the last slot for the day and it was this, that kept us in sus-

Profile

If you can conjure up an ever smiling face with a pleasing disposition walking up the corridors of VNS senior school then I am ever sure you have made the right guess as to the identity of the person - Veena Kanuga, the std. IX class teacher.

It was an extremely pleasing thought to be writing a profile of my class teacher in this Maiden issue of The Pioneer. As all of us know, Mrs. V.K. has now been with us for almost five years and forms one of a core of the teaching faculty of VNS. The learning and teaching of history could have been a tedious

experience specially in these days of exciting, new vistas exploding in the scientific fields. But with her, Mrs. V.K., history has become a very intriguing experience and I can think of nothing but positive breakthroughs during our classes. History has become a dreamland of the most romantic anecdotes and episodes interspersed with facts.

We can actually see the fascinating events unfold before our very eyes.

Mrs. Kanuga, though dedicated, has never made the subject seem a drag. She is one of those
contd. Pg 5

-pended animation. We peaked just in time to justify expectant hopes and were ready to ignite and grab each others throats when our turn finally arrived (which was what was exactly required of us). Yes we were ready to take on the whole audience.

Joe's deep cough, Billie's appealing youth, Bob's commanding presence, Peter's rasping voice pleading for water and Dick's mature handling of a desperate situation left the audience breathless and spellbound. There was little doubt that we had made it to the finals. We were informed the next day that we had walked away with the creative sets, costumes and a special mention for acting prizes.

The exciting final round was held

at the Ravindra Kalakshetra, where the five finalists vied for the Best Play prize on the 10th of November. There was an air of expectancy as the three judges Arjun Sajani, Mahesh Dattani and Ms. Nanda adjourned to make this decision. We waited with baited breath since we knew we were in the final victory lap. As the judges announced their so called unanimous decision, there was a whoop of joy from the Vidya Niketan corner. He had made it. We had won, won the coveted Best Play trophy of the Times Playfest '92. We had made the Cotton boys, girls, Arites and the Sindis lick their own toes. VNS had arrived.

contd Pg 5

THE PIONEER

Thought for the month

Three things are necessary to make a man great: conviction of the powers of goodness; absence of jealousy and suspicion; and helping all who are trying to be and do good.
- Swami Vivekananda

The Pioneer Pioneer.

In the beginning, there was a dream. A dream which pondered on a way to express ourselves, freely without any hassles or restraints. We expected our talents to go undiscovered to our still unknown surroundings, but the desire to express ourselves made this dream a vivid reality.

It was with that intention, the primary focus of having suppressed opinions expressed, which made the hard seed of ideas, sprout into the soft flowers of The Pioneer.

We could, no doubt, compete with the variety of schools on a vast assortment of issue or topics, but there were small indiscrete links missing. Those were the links between a handful of students - to

the teachers - to the school. Why should this simple link go missing in our school? We thought!

The follow ups of these thoughts brought forth this maiden issue of The Pioneer, and with a bountiful of thoughts, ideas and opinions coming forth, you can be guaranteed of many more issues to come.

The Pioneer has been founded by a core group of students of the highest class in school, the IX std. We hope to continue the publication of this newsletter until "time is no more".
- Ashwini Somasunder

The Editorial Board Today

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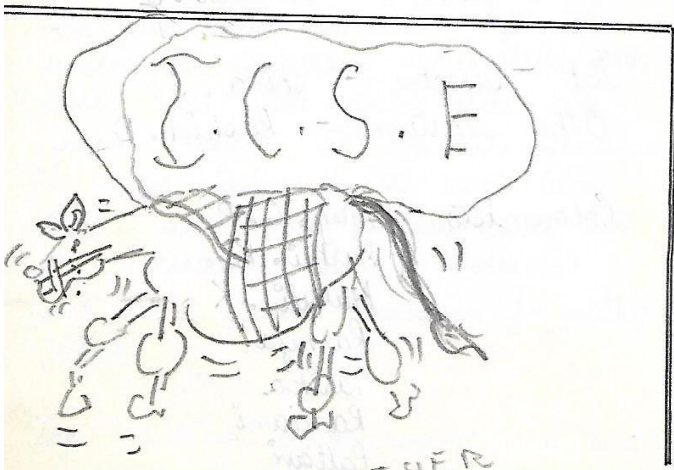
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Thoughts on J.C.S.E

Being Vidya Niketan's first batch has no doubt put undue pressure on us for setting good examples in all aspects of conduct. But as we are in the third term of the ninth and nearing the tenth there is an onslaught of pressure, encumbering us from both home and school, to ensure good results in our board examination come April 1994.

We have had this pressure for quite some time now we have been dealing with it as it comes. We don't let it get to us to the point where it affects us emotionally, yet we need some mental pressure to encourage us to progress further.

It seems although all



We hear now is J.C.S.E this, and, J.C.S.E that, we seldom are allowed to have free time to simply chat or play. We seem to be fed up of the very thought of the J.C.S.E exams but we full well know, that this is just a battle, we are prepared for and capable of fighting and winning.

We are confident that we can tackle the prelims in January 1994. Then, bring on the board exam, when we, the first batch of VNS, sit for the country-wide exam, we will, no doubt, have the support and encouragement of our teachers, principal and families, as we defeat the monster that has been creeping upon us, sending it back to the next batch to follow.

Our outlook on the J.C.S.E exams is one of nervousness and uncertainty. With no one ahead of us to make the first mark it is upto us to set the tempo and goal for the future Vidya Niketan's to achieve and maintain. This task will no doubt be accomplished, but accomplished by the Vidya Niketan flair of "discipline and excellence."

- Ashwini Somasundar.

..... Profile

from pg. 2.

few people, who has achieved in opening up new avenues in the process of the development of thought and this is what we will carry with us through life after we leave school.

However, I do hope, that these encomiums will not turn her into a starchy, stereo-type school teacher (mām) overnight. Our earnest request to you is that you be you presently plump self. We like you the way you are!

- Santosh. J.



.... Curtain Call

from pg. 2.

It was finally curtain call for one of the most exciting and successful (for us!) events of the year.

Act 1 '92 Playfest will clearly remain etched in our memory as an event when participating schools developed a special kinship with a keen spirit of competition which brought out the best in the students with levels of dramatic talent not seen before in the amateur dramatic circles of Bangalore.

- Santosh. J.



- From the Editorial Board
of
THE PIONEER

Graffiti

Daylight Robbery! Heart Stolen.
(Best actress steals best actor's heart).

According to the students of VNS, best actress Helena stole the heart of the best actor Dick in the NIE Playfest. The latest reports say that they have even shook hands. Too bad Helena is in Sindhi High School; Dick can't see her too often. Let us hope that they atleast get to talk on the phone - but the only thing she might say is "Moo-moo"!

Metaquizziks!

The annual quiz competition of Vidya Niketan School

was held as usual in the month of November. This time too, the quiz was mastered by J. Santosh of IX std. The competition conducted by the Literary Club of VNS was a huge success as the prelims attracted over 30 teams. Six teams were chosen for the final out of which the duo of Anmol and Ajay C. Ramdors triumphed. Well done, the two of you!

Dignity of Labour

The annual junior sportsday was held on the 21st of November. This too was a much acclaimed event in which the Senior school actively participated in organization. Jal-Jera, juice, chaat, lassi, mmmm. But the claps must go to us. A standing oration?



Ask Alicia

Dear Alicia,

The girls in my class tease me by saying that I like a certain girl. They know that this is un-true yet they continue to tease me. What should I do?

- Not laughing

Dear gentle reader,

At this stage it is simply a joke to tease people this way. It is unhealthy for you to take all this seriously. Your friends tease you because they seek a very very definite response from you. If you ignore the teasing I'm very sure they will stop this mischief. If this does not work try teasing them back. Once they see you are part of the fun, they will get bored of the game and stop. "If you can't beat them, join them."

Dear Alicia,

I'm the oldest son in the family. My younger brother is three years old and does nothing except make a mess with his toys and I always have to clean up. What should I do to make him more responsible?

- Not a garbage man

Dear Gentle reader,

Your brother is still very small and incapable of accomplishing certain tasks. I'm sure that once he is old enough, your parents will impart on him, responsibilities. At that time your brother will be grateful to you, that you cared so much to help him, all this while.

Entries to this column are welcome. Any student wishing to be anonymous may use pseudonyms towards the question.

- The Editor.

View — Point

Books

BLINDSIGHT - Robin Cook.
(Rupa Paperbacks © 1992)

This explosive new bestseller of 1992 written by Robin Cook is a new experience of medicine and its world. Dealing with the hazards of Cocaine and drug abuses, it probes deeper into a series of "coincidental" drug overdoses of young financial wizards of Wall Street mixed with intriguing wars of unruly Manhattan. Discover what it takes a New York pathologist to investigate these murders in Robin Cook's latest stunning thriller — **BLINDSIGHT!**

A COLLECTION OF STORIES
- Edgar Allan Poe.
(Aerie publications © 1988)

His life was a nightmare as gruesome as any of his stories. And his stories are dark masterpieces of gut wrenching horror

Have you ever thought about being buried alive? Covered with wet dirt, clawing your

coffin, screaming, trapped beneath the ground. Have you ever thought of being tortured? He did. Tied in the dark with rats and agony on all sides, knowing your enemies can watch you shriek? Have you ever thought of death and madness as men, seeking you ruthlessly. Have you ever thought of — He did, and more and more

Which is why, the name of hell, stark terror is

EDGAR ALLAN POE

Movie

GOODFATHER III (FRANCIS FORD COPPOLA)
[Direction]

A sequel to the highly successful **GOODFATHER I** and **II**, it is the story of a much subdued Michael Corleone's fight against the crime ring that killed his father. A soul stunner, but not good enough to beat its fabulous predecessors. Some good acting is missed due to the absence of Tom Hagen as Michael's friend and mentor.

Partially good entertainment. Michael is played by El Pacino, an Academy award winner for **GOODFATHER II**.

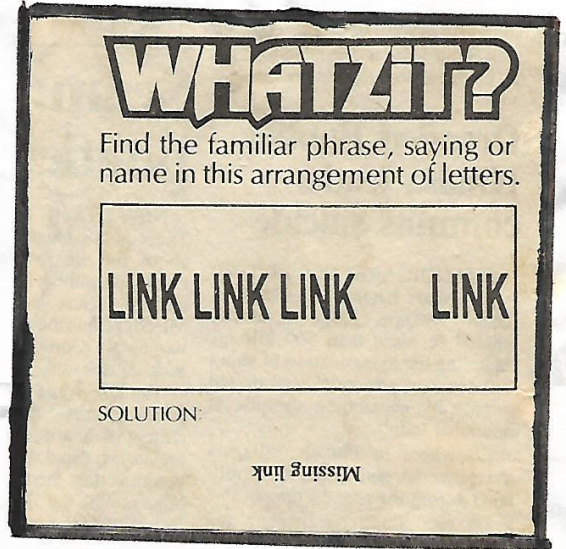
- Santosh. J.

Just for Laughs

Quiz

- 1) The first ashram founded by Gandhi was not Sabarmati. What was it?
- 2) What was the newspaper to which Mr. Winston Churchill used to write (Indian)?
- 3) What is the popular name of the island of Ghazipur, known for its rock cut temples?
- 4) Where in India is the donkey's fair held?
- 5) Who was the "first lady of the Indian Screen"?
- 6) Who was the chairman of Maruti Udyog until 1980?

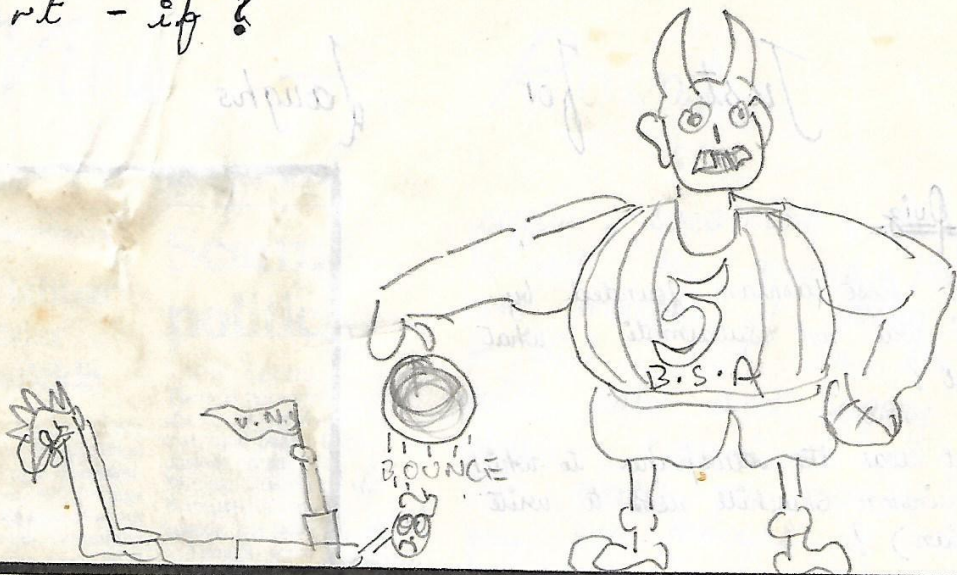
(Answers in the next issue)



- *1) Which is that animals that walks on 4 legs when young, two when an adult and on three legs when old?
Man
- *2) Two mothers and two daughters bought only 3 dresses for themselves? How so?
One was a grandmother, her daughter and grand daughter.



Sport - if ?



High - hopes ?

On you marks - get set...go

This is what rang in our ears for the three red letter days of November 18th, 19th and 20th. The premier schools of the city were taking part in this prestigious sports event of the year, and this year the greys and whites of VNS were also to be seen on the field at the Kantarava Stadium.

How proud we were when we, the chosen few, were called out of the assembly on the 17th Nov. to represent our school at the B'lore School Athletics Association sports meet. Little did we realise that we were just about capable of forming a cheering squad for the other teams! Anyway our innocent lack of knowledge acted as a good incentive for us to participate! We set out with hearts soaring high.

The first few events for the day set the pace and attitude for the rest of the athletic meet. Our best athletes, whom we were used to lustily cheering in our own home ground, could just about make it to the finish. Before long our small band could be seen straining their eyes to ensure that a VNS athlete was not the last one to finish in any race. How happy we were to see a school trailing behind us. There is much to be said about the VNS spirit: we have learnt to lose - smiling, without losing our fighting spirit.

As a note, we would like to add our much deserved "thank you"s to Mrs Nanavati, Mr Williams and Mr Raju for giving us their whole hearted backing and the needed exposure, to ensure victory in the near future.