



THE JESTER

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OPINIONS TOWARDS FLOATING CLASSES

The editors of the Jester have carried out a project to ask a number of our fellow schoolmates how they feel about this floating class system and to what extent it affects them. Students of the same form have more or less the same point of view about this system. Their opinions are stated below:

- Form I**
- I feel sorry for them as they are just like people escaping from war.
 - It is a waste of time for the upper forms and it puts the whole school in chaos.
 - We are frequently disturbed and distracted by the noise made by the floating classes.
 - The upper forms sometimes make us wait for quite a long time outside.
 - It is better to have a new building to accommodate the floating classes.
 - People tend to sweat a lot when floating, especially in summer, so they have less concentration on their school work. (The upper forms may enjoy it as they in fact can get a fresh breeze of air.)
- Form II**
- A funny system, but

- it is very troublesome to wait outside the classroom.
 - Sometimes I find pieces of rubber or pencils on my desk left behind by students of the floating classes.
 - Pupils of the floating classes are so selfish as to put their schoolbags at the back of the chairs and put ours onto the floor. I am extremely annoyed!
 - I admit that it is very noisy when people float outside but it just serves as relaxation for me.
 - The upper forms have a chance to look at others' composition books and notes.
- Form III**
- The upper forms are so mischievous as to use our pencils and erasers.
 - They can talk a lot at the staircase causing traffic congestion and noise.
 - It is difficult for them to run their class clubs.
 - The monitors should act as traffic policemen to keep order.
- Form IV**
- How dull it is to remain in the same classroom all the time! Floating acts as a sort of change,

- especially during double periods.
- The Lecture Room is our so-called classroom and we cannot stay there even for a short while in the post-examination period, because every day it is booked. We have to end our class club meeting earlier every Tuesday as we are forced to leave.
- How nice it is because we can sit at random with our good friends when we change our classroom.
- Sometimes we do not have enough time to copy the notes on the blackboard when we have to change our classroom.
- It would be excellent if we could choose any classroom to float to while the teachers would have to find us (like playing hide-and-seek). It is good to have the lessons (especially the dull ones) shortened a little.
- A good chance for thieves to steal.
- We very often tend to leave our belongings behind and it is quite difficult for us to find them again. (A good opportunity to train our memory?)
- It is very difficult to concentrate on our

- lessons.
 - We can't make use of the time between lessons to have class club meeting.
- Form V**
- I enjoy seeing others suffer from floating as we don't have to float. It is comfortable to sit inside our classroom.
 - Very often we are forced to leave our classroom by the floating classes.
 - The staircase is too crowded.
- Lower VI**
- It is very difficult to remember the 'classroom number' especially during triple periods.
 - We are luckier than the F.4 students as we have our own lockers.
 - We have no sense of belonging. We don't even have a board to pin up any posters or circulars. The notices have to be circulated during lessons and they easily get lost.
 - My schoolbag is too heavy!
 - The floating class system is really perfect! (?)
 - It is difficult to carry out any class club activity, e.g. we have to rehearse our play in the car park for the concert. We can't

- have any X'mas decoration.
 - I enjoy looking at the different boards of different classrooms while we don't have to prepare them ourselves. (How economical it is!) I find fun in examining others' textbooks, pencil cases and notes secretly. (Mischievous!)
- Upper VI**
- It is desirable that we can have a fixed room to study in.
 - The system is not too bad but I wish that at least we could get a place as headquarters. Of course it would be the best if we didn't have to float.
- From what has been mentioned above, the lower form students pity the floating class people a lot while most of the floating class students seem to treasure this chance of floating despite the inconvenience it brings. Most people suggest that only the F.2, 3 or 4 students should float. Of course the system brings a lot of trouble to all of us, but as the school must accommodate this number of pupils, we have to remain patient and try our best to float in good order.

HERE IS SOMETHING FOR YOU ... he...he...ha...ha... LAUGHTER !!

A professor of a certain university asked four students of four different nationalities to write an essay about cows. The title of the essay written by the German was, "The Physical Structure of the Cow's Body". The one written by the American bore the title, "The New Uses of Cow Hide". The Chinese wrote, "The Methods of Cooking Beef", and the one by the Russian was, "How to Get the Application Form to Buy Beef".

It is a blessing to have a sore throat sometimes—people tend to believe what is whispered to them.

The teacher said, "Don't forget that it is impossible to be first all the time. Even great people may be second sometimes."

"How about President Washington?" One naughty student asked. "He was our FIRST president, the FIRST to fight in the wars in America, the FIRST to put 'pacifying America' into practice and is always the most respected man among us Americans."

"Yes," said the clever teacher, "but don't for-



get that he married a widow!"

The manager said, "Why are you always reading magazines without performing your duty whenever I come into the office?"

The office boy said, "It is because you are wearing rubber shoes."

A writer in New York said in his will that after his death, he would like to have his body donated to Harvard University for scientific research. He explained, "My parents have always been trying to send me to Harvard. I am afraid it is the only way I can enter Harvard."

Inside a bus, a gentleman discovered that a thief was feeling for his wallet. The gentleman then said in a humorous way, "Fellow, you are late already. My wife is even quicker than you."

DO YOU WEAR GLASSES?

Recently, you may find that many of your short-sighted schoolmates have stopped wearing spectacles. It is not because their eyes are now functioning properly, but because they have put on contact lenses.

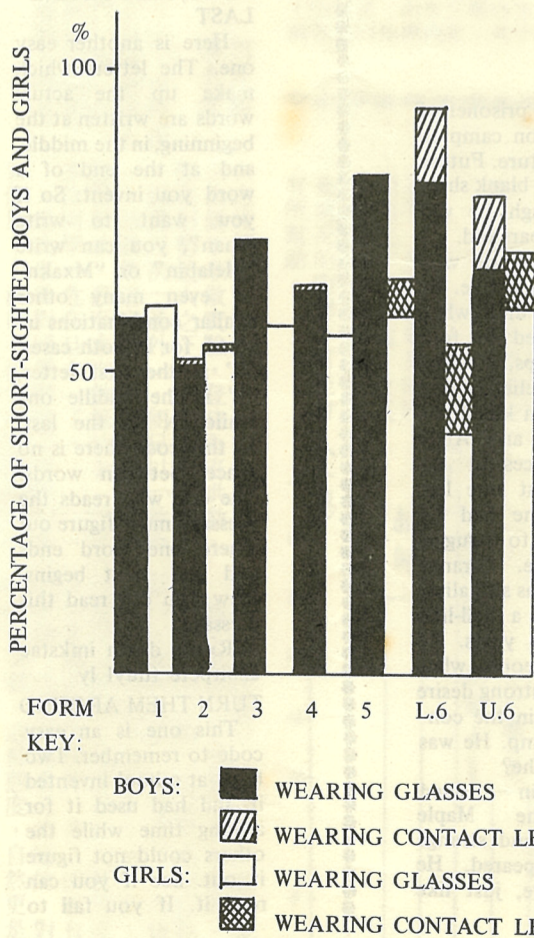
After carrying out a survey, the following statistical data were obtained: none of the form 1 and form 3 schoolmates wears contact lenses, and the form with most people wearing contact lenses is lower 6. On the whole, the ratio of boys wearing contact lenses is lower than that of the girls. May be girls like to make themselves prettier.

As for the ratio of students wearing glasses, it is, in general, increasing from the lower forms to the upper forms. As exceptions, the highest ratio of boys wearing glasses is not in form upper six, but in lower six and the lowest is in form two. On the other hand, the ratio of girls wearing



glasses does not follow any particular pattern. The ratio varies a lot from form one to upper six.

The ratio of short-sighted students in this school is quite high. Even in the form with least short-sighted people, the ratio is over 50%. The highest ratio found, in the lower six boys, is about 95%. Does this mean that they are very deligent? Is this a result of straining their eyes in television watching and reading? Nevertheless, we do hope that the ratio of short-sighted students may fall, since short-sightedness is somehow a hindrance in life.



Q.E.S.=Quick-eating Students?



As there are so many clubs and societies in our school, lots of meetings are held every day both at lunch-time and after school. In many cases, students are so busy that they have to attend meetings one after another during lunch hour and there is no time left for their meals. The five-minute

interval between the ringing of the bell and the arrival of the teacher is the lunch time for these students. Like performing miracles, they swallow a lunch box or some bread and soft drinks within that precious moment. This practice has been going on for years and it is now accepted as 'normal' by our schoolmates. Therefore, it is not surprising that many of our schoolmates suffer from stomach-ache.

It is now time for students to stop this abnormal way of having their meals for the sake of attending meetings. Though taking up responsibilities is vital to a person's success, he should, first of all, take care of his health. It is indeed very stupid to sacrifice one's health for the sake of taking up numerous responsibilities as a member of so many clubs. We should keep ourselves healthy, so that we could achieve greater goals.

**THE JOINT SCHOOL
ASTRONOMY EXHIBITION '78**

After a long preparation of about one year, the second Joint School Astronomy Exhibition is going to be held from 22nd to 25th July in the Hall of our school.

This exhibition is a joint project of thirteen schools, all of which are members of the Joint School Astronomy Society. Compared with the last exhibition, this exhibition is more well-planned and it will display more models. The content includes a wide variety of topics, such as Space Exploration, Cosmology, U.F.O. (Unidentified Flying Object), Astro-Photography and Variable Stars. Films and lectures will also be presented. All the materials needed, such as photos, information etc., are obtained from abroad mainly. Emphasis is put on both theory and practical work. A collection of apparatus and models will be put on show.

Probably the greatest difficulty encountered is finance. Such a large exhibition certainly causes large expenditures. The committee of the J.S.A.S. has to write letters canvassing for financial support from various organizations.

The Mobil Oil Corporation has promised to sponsor the financial expenses of the exhibition and about \$9,000 has been raised. The sum will be spent mainly on publicity. Posters are published and are to be put up both inside and outside the school, along Sai Yee Street and in the Mongkok district. Pamphlets are also published for distribution on the days of exhibition. So propaganda is being carried out on a large scale.

After all, 15,000 people are expected to come to the exhibition. Therefore, ventilation in the Hall is another problem to be solved.

On preparing this large-scale exhibition, the committee finds it difficult for its members to co-operate and communicate among themselves. But it cannot be denied that more people will be available for doing the time-consuming work if the project is undertaken by joint schools.

Nevertheless, all of them are making their efforts unanimously for an aim—to bring astronomy to the public. So here we wish them success.

Something About Codes

People have studied ways of writing secrets for thousands of years. Such a study is called CRYPTOGRAPHY.

The following are some of the ways secret messages have been written.

FORWARD AND BACKWARD

Here is a simple way to write secret messages. Can you read this?

Uijt pof jt fbtz jt ju opu?
The letter which follows the actual one has always been written to replace the letter itself. So, B is written for A, C is written for B and so on.

Another way is to replace the actual letter by the preceding one. So, instead of A, write Z; instead of B, write A. You will find this easy to read.

Dcfzq Zkkzm Ond vqnsd sgd Fnkc Atf

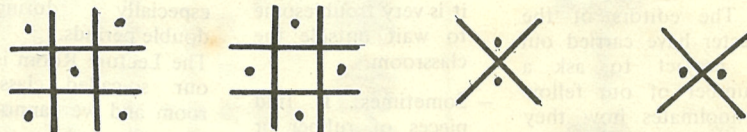
MORE SQUARES AND TRIANGLES

A still easier one is very similar to the one you have just learned. It has been used for hundreds of years. Perhaps you can remember it more easily.

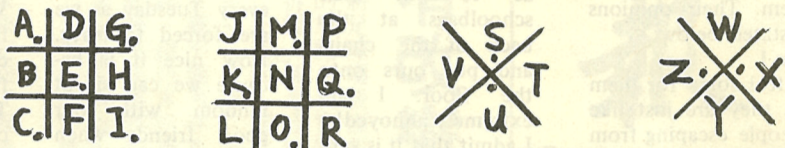
SQUARES AND TRIANGLES

Here is another way. You will be able to learn the new alphabets

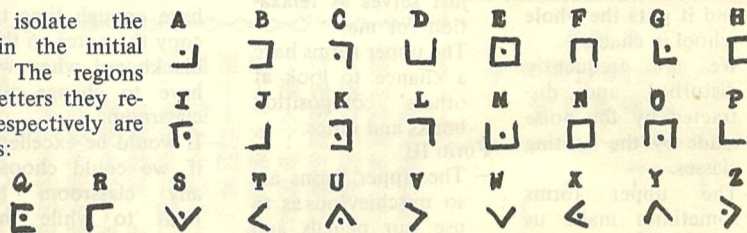
easily. Just study how the letters are made. You have to put down the lines and dots as shown in the following patterns.



Then put the letters into the empty as shown.



Finally, isolate the regions in the initial patterns. The regions and the letters they represent respectively are as follows:



Now try to read this message:

V 0 7 7 A N A 7 J 0 7 0 J U F < 7 J 0 A N A 0 7 K ?

RETURN TO THE MOTHERLAND

He got on the train and remained in his seat ever since. He looked out of the window but he could not see anything. The electric train was running too fast. Perhaps, the only thing that he could see was the reddish-brown colour. Everything had changed save the maple trees of the valley. For how many times had this colour appeared in his dreams in the past years? Every night, he had the same dream. He could see only the outlines of many figures which he was unable to identify. They all appeared in a mess of the intimate and familiar colour. He had a strong desire to get off the train and sleep on the ground covered by the fallen maple leaves. He wished to touch his motherland, the return to which he had longed for ten years.

Ten years was not a short period. It occupied one-third of his life. He knew that he could not erase these ten years from his memory even if he attempted to do so. Every now and then, when he closed his eyes, he could see the roaring fighters, the blood, the falling bombs, his dying comrades, the barbed wire of the concentration camp and the screaming and moaning sound followed him like a ghost all the way. From the very moment he sat down on the train, his mind did not have a minute of peace. Even he himself could not describe his feelings. It seemed that he had got used to the past scene. He dare not think about his mother and sister whom he would meet two hours later. In fact, he did not think about his future since it was impossible for a

soldier and a prisoner of a concentration camp to foretell his future. Future was just like a blank sheet to him though he was only thirty years old.

He did not know why he could still survive. He should have died when he was injured by four bullets. Perhaps, it would have been a relief to him if he had been killed. He only lost one arm. After three unsuccessful escapes, he lost one leg. Since then he had no more desire to struggle for his life. Strange enough, he was still alive, after leading a hell-like life for three years. He met many people who, though had a strong desire to live, died in the concentration camp. He was lucky, wasn't he?

The train passed through the Maple Valley. Tall and strange buildings appeared. He still sat there, just like a statue.

FIRST, MIDDLE AND LAST

Here is another easy one. The letters which make up the actual words are written at the beginning, in the middle, and at the end of a word you invent. So if you want to write "man", you can write "Melabin" or "Mxakn" of even many other similar combinations instead, for in both cases, 'M' is the first letter, 'A' is the middle one while 'N' is the last. In this code there is no space between words. The one who reads the message must figure out where one word ends and the next begins. Now you can read this message:

Rxeba dotth imkstac azbirpete fuuy! ly

TURN THEM AROUND

This one is an easy code to remember. Two boys at school invented it and had used it for a long time while the others could not figure it out. See if you can read it. If you fail to

do so, look at the key given after the secret message.

PIKSE EHTE TSALE SRETTELE DNAE DAERE EHTE SDROWE SDRAWKCABE

The boys just wrote all the words backwards and added an E at the end of every word. You can read the message by taking off the last 'E' and writing the letters from right to left. **DICTIONARY CODE**

If you and your friend have a pair of identical dictionaries, secret messages can be written so that words are replaced by numbers. So 37-2-10 represents the tenth word in the second line on page 37 of your particular dictionary. Actually any pair of identical books can serve this purpose. A variation of the method is that the word preceding or succeeding that represented by the above number should be the actual word. **TYPEWRITER CODE**

This is the arrangement of the keyboard

on a typewriter:
Q W E R T Y U I
O P A S D F G
H J K L Z X
C V B N M

In the typewriter code, you let Q stand for A, W for B, E for C and so on. See if you can read this secret message:

AD O FZG Q LDQKZ ZNHOLZ

The following message in codes might have been sent by an American general to the American President. Can you read it?

HANNAVASE, AGE. CEDE. 20, 1864

TNEDISERPE MAHAR-BAE NLOCNILE:

IE GEBE OTE TNESERPE UOYE SAE AE SAMTSIRHCE TF-IGE EHTE YTICE FOE HANNAVASE, HTIWE 150 YVAEHE SNUGE DNAE YTNELPE FOE NOITINUMMAE DNAE OSLAE TUOBAE 25000 SELABE FOE NOT-TOCE.

LARENAGE MAIL-LIWE TE. NAMREHSE