

## Editorial

In 2001, Mr. George Bush concentrated all his energy in eradicating undesirable and 'unfriendly' elements in Afghanistan to purify it, and to an extent, the world. In 2003, Mr Bush devoted himself, and in fact his country behind him, to liberate a 'dictator-devastated' Iraq and preach to the whole world the essence of democracy. Well, now in 2005, our man Mr Bush has pledged to make up for the mal administration and the bungled rescue work to give relief to the victims of Katrina, a disaster in his very own dominion. Do not laugh Welhamites- the joke is on us.

Every year our school participates and sometimes hosts, at least two social service projects in both north and south India, which are aimed at serving the community by working for, and interacting with the less privileged. Further, our students take part in international and regional conferences, where they try to reach out to and understand people and cultures alien to them. Without doubt, these are wonderful activities and should be encouraged whole-heartedly. Still, we should not forget that while we travel miles to find a way in which we can serve the community, such an opportunity is totally discarded and neglected here back at home, or rather in our school's hometown. Though Dehra Dun does boast of Welham for being one of the

elite schools of the country, Oli hopes that the city does not hold Welhamites guilty of such elite chauvinistic beliefs due to their ignorance of the city and lack of communication with the people. Thus, as a natural consequence of such a concern, in this issue

Oli has tried to focus on what the Welhamites are doing for the community of the city. What Oli has found out is that the proverbial tunnel is not as dark as was anticipated, and that Welhamites are carrying a torch, which does not burn that brightly but will, provided it is fuelled with more initiatives and motivations. Realistically, at the moment we cannot think to match schools like Gordonstoun, which provide fire brigade services for their city, but we can get inspired and do everything, which is in our stride. *Oli's call to all Welhamites- 'come on'!!*

Of course, in this issue we do have the variety, which has characterised all the previous issues. Oli just wishes that this time too, he satisfies all the readers and his supporters, whose numbers by the way, seem to be increasing after every issue. Want evidence? Read the Response Column!!

(Nishant Joshi)

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### Response Column

Dear Editor,

Every fool knows that you cannot touch the stars, but that does not stop a wise man from trying.

Great effort!!

Ashna Ghai  
School Captain,  
Hopetown Girls' School

Dear School Captain,

*Thank you for your response, it is a pleasure to hear from you. Also, to kiss the stars one needs to love and have passion for the sky and believe us, Oli has enough of it!*

Dear Editor,

I was very glad to read the latest issue of The Oliphant. The magazine has not only improved in quality but unlike yester-years its regularity is quite consistent. Hope you and your team continue the good work.

I really liked my own cartoon and would want to congratulate the cartoonist, Sameer on his ability to draw. Finally, I thank Oli for having faith in our team and assure him that our team would be back from the upcoming IPSC with flying colours.

Gagan Jyot Juneja  
Basketball Captain

Dear Gagan,

*Sameer is eagerly waiting to sketch your cartoon again, this time holding the IPSC cup! Best of luck to you and your team!*

Dear Ed,

This Oliphant board has really taken the school magazine from strength to strength. You people are doing a 'fantabulous' job! The desktop editor (Aamir Nizam Ansari) has been doing his job with perfection and he certainly deserves a pat on his back. It is a pleasure to see the increasing professionalism of the board, which can be realized issue after issue.

Deepak Kumar  
Class XII

Dear Deepak,

*The board is completely flattered and we hope that in issues to come, we satiate you in the same way that we have done till now. The Desktop Editor deserves not only a pat on his back, but together with the junior DTE, deserves a standing ovation for the hard work he puts in.*

Dear Ed,

The Independence Day Issue of the Oliphant was one of the most interesting issues I've ever read. Sameer's cartoons are getting better with every issue. Best of luck to him. All in all, a great issue.

Keep up the good work.

Rahul Wadhwa

School Prefect

Dear Rahul,

*Thank you very much. Hope you find this issue even more interesting than the Independence Day Special.*

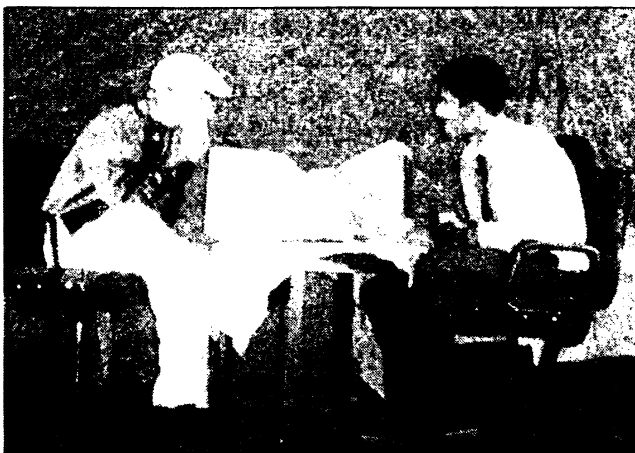
### Welham Now

- \* We have finally moved to a new address – from 'Hughes Block' to 'Seven Seas'. Phew!!!
- \* On 11<sup>th</sup> August, **Dr. Kanti Bajpai**, Headmaster, The Doon School and an expert on international affairs delivered a talk on Terrorism.
- \* **Ram Kumar, Chandan and Kaustub Shukla** represented the school at the ONGC Golden Jubilee Quiz held on 14<sup>th</sup> August.
- \* Independence Day was celebrated in the school with the usual gusto. The day was dedicated to the Support Staff and was followed by a community lunch.
- \* **Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar**, Minister of Oil and Natural Gas and Panchayati Raj and also an old boy, visited the school on 20<sup>th</sup> August.
- \* The school soccer team and the U-17 team played The Doon School in friendly fixtures. The school senior team won their match 2-2 whereas the U-17 team drew theirs 1-1.
- \* **Sushant Singh, Sudipt Juneja and Akash Godara** represented Dehra Dun at the 4<sup>th</sup> State Youth Basketball Association.

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- \* Tapti House won the Middle School Science Quiz held on 23<sup>rd</sup> August.
- \* The Inter-House Basketball matches concluded with Ganga defeating Krishna in the finals.
- \* **Mr. A.K. Sharma** of the Meteorological Department- Survey Of India gave a talk on Global Warming on 27<sup>th</sup> August.
- \* On 28<sup>th</sup> August, **Mr. A.B. Lall**, ADGP, Uttaranchal, gave a talk on Narcotics at the LRC.
- \* The school soccer team participated in a tournament at Lawrence School, Sanawar.
- \* **Ankit Sahay** and **Apoorv Kumar Singh** represented the school at the Arthur Hughes OBE Inter-School English Extempore Debate was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September. St. Georges' College, Mussoorie, took away the trophy while **Apoorv Kumar Singh** won the award for the best rebuttal.
- \* **Mr. Ajay Bahuguna** has joined the Welham community on 1<sup>st</sup> September. He will teach Mathematics to the Middle School. We wish him a happy stay at Welham and want him to enjoy his work.
- \* Teachers Day was celebrated on 3<sup>rd</sup> September – two days in advance, when the boys staged a cultural programme.
- \* On 9<sup>th</sup> September **Mr. Suniti Dutta** gave a talk on Hidden Wildlife in the Nilgiris.
- \* **Mr. Chris Tudor**, Headmaster, St. Philip's College, Australia, visited the school on 12<sup>th</sup> September.
- \* From now on **The Oliphant** will be regularly updated on our school's official website, [www.welhamboys.org](http://www.welhamboys.org).

## An Evening to Remember...



*'Amitabh Bachan' conducting the 'Kaun Banega Welhampati'*

3<sup>rd</sup> September?? 3<sup>rd</sup> September?? 3<sup>rd</sup> September?? Naa, doesn't ring any bells! Nothing special... not a Sunday, no one's birthday. and NO. not a festival at all, yet we Welhamites made it special. The day being a Saturday, we decided to celebrate Teacher's Day ... yes two days in advance! That's how much we love our teachers. After all, the teachers do deserve some rest after grinding themselves against our 'brick like brains' for an entire year, don't they?!! . Thus on that day, the School Captain, most generously, conducted the Assembly and Mr. Lahiri, for once, sat amongst the other teachers.



*Our very own 'Aishwariya Rai' performing 'Kajra Re'.*

The main programme was in the evening on the same day. Our very own Zubin Nautiyal began the celebrations with an excellent song. There were some astounding dances performed by our very own Welham Boys' 'girls'! Even the 'Wacky Woodseaters' were not far behind in expressing their love for their beloved teachers as they performed a short skit, which showed how the teachers go out of their way to help the students. 'The Gated Petals', 'The Wilted Flowers' performed some acoustics for the teachers, which elevated everyone present to a different level... but were the songs aimed to get something else?!!

We saw a new, and to some extent, an improved version of the famous KBC, as the students organized a 'Kaun Banega Welhampati'. While Prateek imitated the Big B, Mr. Lahiri saw himself being imitated, almost perfectly, by Sameer. His performance made the students and the teachers 'roll over' with laughter. Some of the other teachers who couldn't get away without being imitated were Mr. Vinod Singh, Mrs. Bajwa, Mr. Joy, Mr. Sridhar, Mr. Dhingra, Mr. Vashisht and our very own Mr. Kandpal who fortunately was the only one to get 'Umeed Se Dugna'. But was it luck or was it pre-planned, after all, he is the 'Dean of.... hmmm.'

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The play by the 'Twelfthies' transported us back to the times when our teachers, in their school days, were at their peak of chivalry to win the hearts of the newly admitted girls. Now that's what the presence of girls on campus can do to us. Something definitely to be thought of seriously!! Socials for the whole of senior school would probably be a good step in that direction.

The evening concluded with a dance by Ankit Bansal and others on the song *Kajra Re*. We don't know about 'rocking the nation' but it surely rocked the Welhamites.

All in all, the teachers were as happy and proud, as they were impressed which comments on the success of the student body in conducting Teacher's Day. That's good news for the student body, but the bad news is that the Children's Day is round the corner.

- Vanshaj Agarwal

### Excerpts: Letters to the Principal

Dear Sir,

With great pleasure and a sense of pride, I like to inform you that my son, Akshat Jalan has secured admission in Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay in the department of Civil Engineering, this year.

You are aware that Akshat has been a student of your school from 1999 to 2003 from class VII to class X and passed ICSE examination in 2003.

While applying for his admission in your school in class VII, I had hoped that the atmosphere of your school will help Akshat bloom to his full potential. Today, in my moments of pleasure and pride, I feel greatly indebted to the staff and administration of Welham Boys' for their contribution in shaping Akshat's career. I would like to specially mention about Mr. Kandpal, the then housemaster of Jamuna, Akshat's hostel, for his continuous guidance and care of my son. Kindly convey my feelings to all your staff.

I wish the school and its staff a great and proud future and sincerely hope you will continue to produce quality students, who will do the school, the society and the nation proud.

Thanking you once again.

Yours truly,  
Dr. B.K. Jalan

My Dear Lahiri Ji,

I remember when in April 2003, Shri Kandhari visited Cochin and spent quality time with my son Shri Bharat Vaid, an old student of Welham Boys' School.

We never thought that it was Shri. Kandhari's last visit to Cochin, where he expressed his pride for Bharat. He wanted that all the students of Welham spread the name of their college all over the world.

Shri Kandhari was not only my good friend but also a teacher, an ideal person who worked for the better future of his students. Not only myself but all those countries wherever his students go are indebted to him, rather the humanity is indebted to him for his excellent services to mankind.

We all salute and pray to the almighty that He from heaven guide us to the right path of life.

I feel proud that my both sons Bharat and Siddharth got his blessings in school.

With warm regards,

Sincerely,  
Vinod Kumar Vaid

## Cosmic Calendar

Before, we human beings get carried away by an exaggerated sense of our own importance, it would be worthwhile to pause a while and see our existence and achievements in the right perspective.

The universe is thought to be 15 billion years old. If we compress these 15 billion years into one single year, then every billion years of our history would correspond to about 24 days of our year and one second of that cosmic year to about 475 years of our period. The following calendar, taken from Carl Sagan's "Dragons of Eden", helps us recognize our insignificance.

Big Bang	1 <sup>st</sup> January
Origin of Milky Way	1 <sup>st</sup> May
Origin of our Solar System	9 <sup>th</sup> September
Formation of Earth	14 <sup>th</sup> September
Origin of life on Earth	25 <sup>th</sup> September
Formation of oldest rocks known	2 <sup>nd</sup> October
Oldest photosynthetic plants	12 <sup>th</sup> November

### Many events occur in December:

Oxygen formation on Earth	1 <sup>st</sup> December
First Worms	16 <sup>th</sup> December
First Fish & Vertebrates	19 <sup>th</sup> December

First Insects	21 <sup>st</sup> December
First Amphibians	22 <sup>nd</sup> December
First Reptiles / First Trees	23 <sup>rd</sup> December
First Dinosaurs	24 <sup>th</sup> December
First Mammals	26 <sup>th</sup> December
First Birds	27 <sup>th</sup> December
First Flowers /	28 <sup>th</sup> December
Dinosaurs become extinct	
First Humans	31 <sup>st</sup> December

**The last day of December is even more interesting**

**31<sup>st</sup> December:**

Probable ancestors of apes and men	1.30 p.m
First humans	10.30 p.m
Use of stone tools	11.00 p.m
Domestication of fire	11.46 p.m
Beginning of recent glacial period	11.56 p.m
Invention of agriculture	11.59.20 p.m
Neolithic civilization; first cities	11.59.35 p.m
First dynasties in Egypt;	
development of astronomy	11.59.50 p.m
Invention of alphabet	11.59.51 p.m
Bronze metallurgy; Trojan War	11.59.53 p.m
Iron metallurgy	11.59.54 p.m
Ashoka's India; birth of Buddha	11.59.55 p.m
Roman Empire; birth of Christ	11.59.56 p.m
Zero invented; Muslim conquests	11.59.57 p.m
Mongol invasions; Crusades	11.59.58 p.m
Renaissance in Europe;	11.59.59 p.m
Widespread development of science;	Now
Nuclear Arms; Extra planetary exploration	

Reading this can be disturbing and if we wish, very humbling. Dinosaurs emerge on 24<sup>th</sup> Dec and are dead by 28<sup>th</sup>. Humans appear on stage only on the last day and almost the last hour of the year. Christ is born in the last 5 seconds. All of recorded history occupies the last 10 seconds of December 31; and the time from the Middle Ages to the present is 1 second.

So let us pause awhile and remember that a lot was achieved before us. Our life span does not occupy even the time taken to blink an eye. This world can function without us, as it has till now. The Earth has existed and will exist without us. We are nothing.

The Universe is very old, very wise while we are very young and still very ignorant.

Researched by,  
*Mr. Vikram Chopra*

## Death Circus '69

Angered by the approach of the Sun  
the blood-shot firmament appeared  
smudge with an immaculate shade of  
luminous reddish orange.  
The mighty golden ball of life sank low,  
and from a growing white turned to dull red,  
without rays and without heat,  
As if about to go out suddenly,  
leaving a grotesque mass of men  
on the ground, in crimson wilderness.

Like sluggish beetles crawling on red soil,  
helicopters flew at astonishing heights,  
thirteen men could stand on top of  
each other and touch them.  
The grasslands reeked of legal butchery; and,  
Naked natives - immune to the virus of materialism,  
gazed in amazement at their rival weaponry,  
loosing count of the dead,  
when 'nausea' was the best  
mankind could offer.

The solemn dirge of the wind,  
enfeeblement of the villagers,  
clouds of fire in the forest, red river itself -  
all joined hands to create a hellish image.  
A gift to us from the heinous spirits of capitalism.  
No religious text, constitution or library  
could justify this morbid chapter of death,  
An illicit debt of nature,  
The spirit grew in strength and stature.  
Others could only watch.  
Let us reinvent the gods and myths of alien ages  
for ours are little aid to us,  
Let us start a new religion, beyond good  
and evil, with cannibal priests who live  
in abandoned pagodas or dark shrines, but,  
Before some meaning be given to such futile words,  
I found my corpse floating on a river,  
with eyes popped open in the calm calculus of reason,  
spelling Apocalypse with capital 'A'.

- Parth Prasher

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### Nature's Diary: Snakes

Those deadly fearful eyes. That hissing, that speed, that long scaly body. Yes people, I am talking about snakes. Snakes have been in our world since a long, long time ago. But now a days people all over, kill snakes for their skin and to eat them.

Most parts of the world had beautiful snakes but people did not understand their beauty and eventually killed them. In the world about 10,000 snakes are killed every day or are eaten. Not all snakes are harmful reptiles. A snake, which when left alone is not harmful but if you trouble it, it might strike at the speed of lightning.

Snakes are of two types – one venomous and the other non-venomous. In the world 80% of the snakes are non-venomous. Those that live in water are called water snakes. The Python and the Anaconda are non-venomous, depending on physical strength to squeeze their enemy by first crushing its bones and then swallowing it. But snakes like the Viper, Black Mamba, King Cobra, and Rattlesnake etc. are highly poisonous. A bite of a King Cobra produces enough venom to kill 25 fully grown people in no time and the Black Mamba, the world's most poisonous snake moves like lightning. Its venom is so strong that it can kill an elephant in two minutes. There was an incident in South Africa where a Black Mamba entered the house of a family even as they lay asleep. Before they could realize what was happening or could shoo it out or even run out of doors, the snake had bit every member of the family, killing them all.

People killing snakes are people who have no kindness. Snakes help us in one way. Their venom is used to make anti-venom serums, which saves us if a snake bites us. However, it's not so simple nor can we ask it to donate the venom! So, after the target snake is caught, it is forced to bite through a rubber sheet covering a bottle or a jar. That's when the venom oozes out, and is collected. People have been killed when they were 'milking' a venomous snake because of their foolishness. So people, do not try to milk a snake or fool around with it because it can 'come and get you' anytime!

-Anirudh Shrestha

### Scrambled Egg !!!

"I'm going to take over my father's business" said one of my friends. "I'm going to be a doctor", said the other. We were sitting on the pavement, munching on pizza and drinking coke, and discussing or rather boasting about our future plans, after we leave school. So, in order not to feel out of place, I mistakenly, blurted out, "I'm going to be the Prime Minister of India!". And that is, what will be my greatest problem when I leave school – 'How will I become, the Prime Minister of India?!'...

I'm always late for the class, my shoes aren't polished, my clothes are not ironed and I've forgotten to brush my teeth. I hope these do not lie in the category of qualifications to be a Prime Minister.

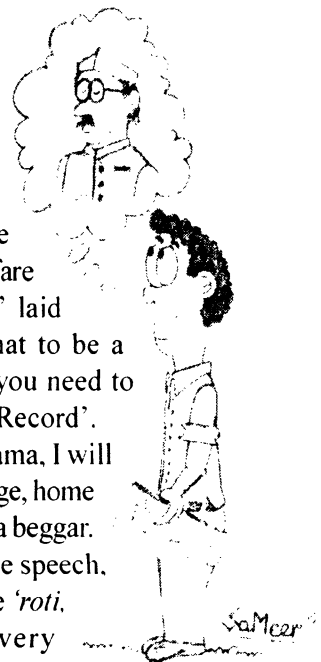
The first problem I'll face is how to enter politics. Four hours of studying, a day is enough to get ninety percent, to 'land' me in St. Stephen's College. As I don't have a political background, I'll have to stand for Youth elections. I'll need enough money to cater to the needs of my voters, such as coffee in the cafeteria, and gifts, presents, etc.

I'll learn up a good speech from '1001 Speeches by 1001 Great People'. Martin Luther King's 'I Dream.' will win me enough votes.

After becoming the President of the Youth Congress, I'll swindle some money from the 'Student Welfare Fund' because it is 'strictly' laid down in the constitution, that to be a Member of the Parliament, you need to have at least 'One Criminal Record'.

Dressed in kurta pajama, I will have to go from village to village, home to home, asking for votes like a beggar. I'll have to shout out the same speech, everywhere, promising to give '*roti, kapda aur makaan*' to every Indian in the country. I'll be hailed as a hero by some, and a traitor by many. I'll be greeted with flowers at one place and shoes at another.

I'll have to please some rich businessmen, in order to have enough money, to put my children in a



public school in Dehra Dun. I'll have to talk sweetly with my senior counterparts, even if they don't know how to read or write, but can still count money on their fingertips. I'll have to attend parties, where I will have to nod my head at everyone even if I don't know which planet he belongs to.

And mind you, there still will be a lot of time left for me to become the Prime Minister! At this stage, I would just be a full-fledged MP.

In order to go ahead, I will have to strike out at the President of the Party. Invite him to dinner, take his children to school and bring them back. Ask my spouse to flatter his spouse and what not!!

At this point of time, I would have come to know some journalists personally so that if I want my picture to come in the newspaper, I can contact them.

I will have to poke my nose into every matter. Even if it's just about the divorce of Karishma Kapoor and her husband. Well this would fetch me enough publicity!!

After reaching the age of 60, I will finally get a say in Indian Politics. I will surely become the party president, because of my experience and contacts! The latter, will be more useful.

At election time, I'll remind all the people, of the favours I have done for them, and will promise them, the same promise my predecessors have made.

No doubt, I'll then be sitting at the Prime Minister's desk, writing an essay on "What will be my greatest problem, when I leave Politics?!?".

Contacting Rahul Gandhi,  
- Ajitesh Kir

## Our Neta came calling...

*The following is an excerpt from a dialogue recorded between Mr. Dev Lahiri, Principal, Welham Boys' School and Mr. Darshan Singh, Chairman, Board of Governors. The proceeding of this dialogue is on a purely fictional basis i.e. it has not necessarily taken place, but the scriptwriter would like us to believe that it has.*

*However, the person present, Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar, in this dialogue is NOT on a fictional basis. Any events or occurrences DO bear a resemblance to things living or dead.*

*This dialogue is not subject to alterations without prior permission from the scriptwriter.*

"So, Dev, what do you think? Was he a hit?"

"I think so, Darshan. For the first time, it looked like the boys enjoyed someone I invited to speak at school. Unlike the usual boring old timers I call, I think this was a mighty decent catch, no?"

"Yes, he is a brilliant man, with just the right dash of humour, wit and charm. Quite an electric mix!"



*Yes Minister! Mr. Aiyar interacting with Surya Bhatia*

Must be his South Indian background. They always have the best brains! (It is at this point that the scriptwriter would like everyone to know that he is from the south himself!) Perhaps humility is something they lack!

"I was very pleased when he agreed to take time off from his busy schedule to come and visit his old school and meet the boys, you know, being a politician and all..."

"Which reminds me, that makes quite an occupational hazard. He is certainly a 'man of a LOTTA words'. Must be those day-long sessions in the Parliament! Didn't seem to have any trouble talking non-stop for, what, two hours or so?"

"Yes, Dev. I think so. Although, I was quite relieved when he announced that he wasn't going to 'enlighten' the boys with a lecture on his work with petrol. I think that decision of his met with the boys' approval. Both, the man and his audience seemed quite thrilled with idea of discussing Mani Shankar's life at the, then, Welham Preparatory School for Indian Boys"

"Remember he said that his mother had left the two toddling brothers at the Welham gate for the first time. The bumbling woman had thought it was The Doon School!"

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"Poor Mani, he was terrified at the thought of having to stay in a boarding school, never to see his mother again."

"Yes, and then, to top it off, was his encounter with the young 'Sardar' boy who after challenging him to a game of marbles, eventually put him in debt of about 30 marbles!"

"Quite marvelous for a boy of only 6 years of age, don't you think? Perhaps I could get him to open a casino or something! Could've run a booming business, that sardar, he could...!"

"Certainly, Dev. Although I feel terribly sorry for young Mani. Such an awfully terrifying start to his long stay at Welham."

For a moment, they sit back laughing, as they dwell upon the image of the slightly pot bellied, never the less, elegantly charming kurta pajama (*Neta hai na!*)

"You know, Dev, I seriously wish Welham hadn't been just a preparatory school back then. Everyone who leaves Welham almost always, finishes his schooling as a Dosco. Somehow, I feel that they miss out on the complete Welham experience."

"I'm not so sure about that something tells me that laid back sophistication, commanding presence and stylishly witty sense of humour was certainly the Welhamite in him!"

Scriptwriter  
*Kartik Vishwanath*

### Blind Faith

He asks himself, why he believes in a superficial existence of something or someone whom the Christians call God, the Hindus by every conceivable Sanskrit name, the Muslims Allah.

Is it because his elders have taught him when he was a kid and could not reason against any prevailing fashion of faith? Is it because he has read stories, and plays written by scholars roughly two millenniums ago? Or is it because everyone else in the world does so? He says that the feeling comes from 'within', although he has never seen that existence.

He fundamentally asks himself if he should limit his own faith and reason to something which so far idols, paintings, manuscripts, books, sculptures, mythology etcetera have preached and taught.

He thinks, if oxens, horses, cows and all other animals had this ability to think and reason, then perhaps

'God' would have the skin of a tiger, a horse's body, webbed feet, ivory tusks, broad nose and glowing eyes, but in the same inanimate form.

He sees his friends reading little religious books called Chalisa, written in a language which he nor his friend has been taught to understand, only read and wonders if reading long sentences of un-understandable Sanskrit helps or is it only a fashion amongst learned "scholars". It is his perspective that matters most.

He needs help, so he remembers his faith in God. But then forgets his own virtue, which eventually solves the problem, and his faith strengthens. On the contrary he agrees with Murphy's law.

At traffic lights, when he sees half-naked men and, women wearing patched saris with missing arms, or no fingers or legs, begging for alms, he wonders, that if instead of building huge and fancy temples and churches and mosques, people built small economical and good hospitals, reachable educational institutions for all ages, organized jobs for such people, a very minor part of the total poverty-stricken populace, wouldn't have to witness such a destitute case.

He wonders how can one except that temples can cure diseased humans, educate the illiterate or feed the poor.

To seek the answer, he asks his peers and his elders and teachers, why they believe in God but still he is confused. He has grown now and luckily, been nurtured into a thinking individual.

He doesn't know that some things are beyond science and technology and normal intellect but he is still trying to find the answer.

He now knows that the answer is within himself, he has now established a firm faith in something more real – his soul. His God is his faith in himself.

He believes in himself.

- Prateek Modi

### Tributes

*Oli regrets that due to space constraints, the following tributes could not be published in the Supplement issued with the last edition of The Oliphant.*

Mr. Joshi, as we knew him, pure in thought, work and deed, a gentleman par excellence. He was a self-made man and experienced delight in giving happiness to others. Generations of students owe him gratitude for



his guidance and support.

He would always be remembered as one of the finest teachers as well as a fine human being among the Welham community and his own people.

His untimely demise shook us all. May his soul rest in peace.

*-Miss Rubina Siddiqui*

Ever so smiling, ever so humble,  
Whatever may come, he would never grumble;  
Ever so sensitive, wouldn't hurt a fly,  
I wonder, o' Lord! Why he's gone and made us cry?

Perhaps, you needed this, good human just with you,  
So let him dwell and nest, in Thy love so ever true;  
There's emptiness around us, but no matter what,  
Mr. Joshi shall live, in every child he's taught!

*-Mr. Mohit Mitra*

None of us ever realised how Sir had so profoundly affected our lives, though we are not sure if he ever realised it. After Sir's passing away I realised what makes a person important. There are people in the spotlight whom we may honour, but they pursue their own lives. Then there are people like Mr. Joshi, who made an immense difference, but for him no streets have been named nor no monuments built. He will always remain in our hearts.

*-Trishang Choudhary*

## Importance of Computer Education

Now days Computer Networks have a tremendous impact on the ways in which individuals, groups and organisations communicate with each other. It has made it easier to share information and knowledge in a global way.

Computer education provides a teaching medium that can result in more effective learning, based on the concept of Student Centered Learning.

School computer education must respond to the following:-

1. Does it make learning more accessible?
2. Does it promote improved learning?

These are tough questions but can be applied.

Firstly what do we mean when we say "access to learning". It has many interpretations but most will agree

that it means making education more attainable by more people. That is, it provides educational opportunity in the work place, community and for those unable to attend school or college because of economic or social barriers. Earlier they relied mainly on correspondence, print material, T.V. etc.

One of the most effective applications of computer education is "learning together". It inculcates the feeling of responsibility in students. It gives them confidence as they are part of a team.

Earlier, students used to work hard to keep pace with the teacher. Presently it is the other way round Teachers and parents have to struggle hard to keep pace with the students. As we know the Internet is an ocean of knowledge, therefore, it is better to open this ocean to all the students as early as possible. Introducing INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY and related tools in school education can do this.

With introduction of web-based education, at school level, our children will grow up as computer kids. They will have more exposure and the knowledge level will definitely improve. Seeing the era of computers more exposure must be given to application software through which students can do the given assignment as per need instead of using readymade applications.

In initial stage of school education students are not expert in reading and writing. Subject understanding increases if they learn the things through visualization.

Before I end I would like to say that the world is growing and we need to keep pace with the changes around us. Computer Education is the need of the hour so let's make it a mass movement.

*-Mr. Rahul Sridhar*

## The Unknown Sacrifice

Failure is an epitome of sacrifice, an unknown sacrifice. Why is it that we often destroy the thing we love most? Why is it that we actually preserve the thing that we might hate the most?

Often in life people have seen their happiness fade away, their hard work razed to the ground through no fault of their own, but maybe because they tried too hard; they are too hard on their selves and ultimately when their dreams and aspirations crumbles, they look up to God and say, "Why, oh God, why me?" But what they fail to realize is that God never wanted them to suffer so, this life is theirs to shape; they are the sole

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writers of their destinies. Man has always caused suffering to itself in the name of God. We take the punishments that God never actually gave us.

Man's enemy is man himself. We cherish the fact that there is someone on whom we can take out our frustrations; there is someone who he can blame for our loss, and who willingly replies in the same manner. We actually love...our enemy! The enemy or rather the object of our hate is indefinitely very important to us. If man were to have nothing to hate he would have difficulty in channeling his energy. When people feel envious they forget that envy is also a kind of hate; you hate to be inferior, to be lacking in any way. It is a latent source of motivation. Something that stimulates you, something that unleashes the "thing" inside you, the animal that seeks mountain faces to climb, that devours only on success.

And it is this animal inside you that destroys the thing you love. Sometimes when it is hungry and some times when this animal feels insecure. Insecure of the fact that someday your need to love will overpower your need to hate. But that day never comes; you only destroy what you love and never what you hate. How often have you quarrelled with your loved one just because it had been too long since the last time, just because you wanted something more out of life that you already had, just because you had never imagined so much love could actually come your way!

I would like you to think about this phrase I read somewhere:

"And each man kills the thing he loves,  
By all let this be heard,  
Some do it with a bitter look,  
Some with a flatterer's smile.  
The coward does it with a kiss,  
The brave man with a sword!"

- Ankit Sahay

## Welham News...

...And you thought that news was not a Welhamites' cup of tea.

Welham News first went 'on air', or rather 'on screen' in November 2003. For the first few months and bulletins, Welham News was a new and wonderful concept which left most of us amazed and enthusiastic. Today, it is not uncommon to have the Welham News cameras during Inter House matches, functions or even, believe it, classes! Of course at the moment a Welham

News presentation is much awaited and every Saturday Welhamites speculate and hope that they would be treated with one such episode (Welham news is presented fortnightly). Without doubt, this brainstorm of the Vice-Principal has come a long way in quality since it was first screened. Welham's own Pranoy Roy, Aamir Ansari, with his team has wielded

the regular serious news with appealing innovations like gripping background music, captions and special effects (such as Karamveer Singh Sohi's fabulous goal in slow motion). One step further, who can forget the Independence Day Special of Welham News, which was entirely in Hindi (a first time for Welham News). Of course, it is the unanimous opinion that the newsreader was as good as anyone on 'Aaj Tak'!

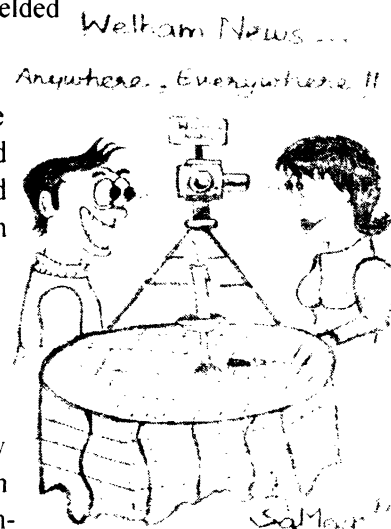
Still, Welham's expectations from the news team are very high, and though they have done an impressive job till now, we do hope that they keep getting better.

Finally, a message to the Welham News from the whole school, 'Great job, guys!!'

Till the next Welham News Presentation, in the true Welham News style, *Salaam | Namaste!!*

## Ever Wonder Why

- After the Teacher's Day celebrations Mr. Lahiri has started hating Muradabad and Butter chicken to an even more extent?
- Mr. Kandpal doesn't carry his lip guard nowadays?
- Mr. Tripathi has already started feeling homesick?
- The moment you enter the gym you have to first sign?
- Mr. Joy Arora was heard singing 'dost dost na raha...?'
- Girls in school are 'flying' in the air?
- The LRC is out of bounds on Saturday Nights...?
- Mr. Vinod Singh thinks twice before putting his hands in his pockets?
- Maa Tapti is looking desperately for the KBW director?



## Those Whacky Woodseaters

### Jungle

Have you ever been to a jungle? It is a very quiet, cool and lovely place. I will tell you about my adventure in the Jungle.

It was a bright sunny day. My friends were in my house. We all were talking about some of our adventures. Sushant, my best friend, whose mind is always filled with some facts said, "Hey pals, have you heard of the jewels stolen from the museum last night. The police have found out that they are hidden in the Corbett National Park. The police have said that the one who finds them will be rewarded."

We all got excited. My parents were not at home. We took our bicycles and off we went. Soon we were in the middle of the jungle. It was my first visit to a jungle and started feeling scared. I told my friends that I would stay there and guard the bikes. I was aaaaalll alone. I kept myself busy by looking at the insects, birds and trees all around me. It started getting dark. I was hungry and was waiting for my friends patiently but soon I got worried. I gathered courage and went to search for them. I could find no trace of them. Even I got lost with them. I thought this was my end. Surprisingly, I started hearing sounds like, HukalakaHuka. I craned my neck and looked around at the spot where the sound was coming from - behind some bushes. I looked and found out that my friends were tied up and 'kept' in a pot and there were 'Red Indians' all around them. They were dancing in a strange manner. They couldn't notice me as they were dancing with their eyes closed. I untied my friends and rescued them.

All my friends were very thankful to me for rescuing them. They told me how it all happened. We could not find the jewels but of course it was a great adventure and now we will be scolded from our parents.

-Yuvraj Goswami

## Exploring Mars

Hi guys! I am an astronaut and I have an option to go to any planet. Which one should I go to? Come on make a guess. Of course, Mars because I want to explore if life is possible there. Even some space scientists

have found ice caps on it and there was a meteorite also that hit the Earth many years ago that came from Mars. After researching it well the scientists have found a worm in it. So even I am going to find life on Mars.

So on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 05 I am ready to explore the planet Mars. My rocket's name is NASA 365 Mophas. I have taken a few things to explore like camera, microscope etc. the journey starts. I have some partners to help me. Their names are Rahul and Pranav. Rahul is an astronaut and Pranav is a doctor. In 2 or 3 days I will be in Mars. As soon as we reached in space, our rocket became faster and faster. Its speed was around 23,000 km per hour. We reached Mars. Its sand was absolutely red. "So that's why it is called the red planet", I told my friend. We saw some footprints of a big creature. Anyways we did some experiments, we even saw the beauty of the Earth from there. It was looking Bluish. We started looking for an alien. We got tired and planned to go back to the Earth. As we climbed into our rocket we suddenly saw an unidentified creature. His eyes were big and red, his nose was circular shaped and his body was absolutely different from ours. He was an alien. "Hooray," we all said. We took his photograph and did some experiments on him. We started our trip back towards Earth.

On the trip we looked through the window. We could see the stars shining. As we reached the Earth's atmosphere our shield grew hotter and hotter. Finally we reached Earth. I consoled my friend because he was sad that we could not get the alien along with us. We told our other friends about our trip and they all enjoyed it. I am an astronaut and I am planning to go for one more trip but this time to the biggest planet Jupiter.

-Divij

## Huh!??

KH to the rest of the staff members during fruit break.

Dear colleagues. Did you notice this notice board? It is full of noticeable notices. No notice should go unnoticed else there will be a new notice to notice. There are many notices but I am trying to notice, which notice I should notice because I don't want to notice what I shouldn't notice. Noticeably it is very noticeable to notice all the notices.

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## Oliphant Focus

*'We' love 'ham'. In the most conceited manner, do our lives center too much around ourselves? Of course, in school our community does probably live like a family should. However, in this issue The Oliphant focuses on how Welhamites are reaching out and touching, or attempting to touch the people outside the premises of our school. In other words, does our wonderful city realise the effort made by the Welhamite, in serving the community?*

*Thus, we are analysing one of the most important components of our curriculum, that is SUPW (Socially Useful Productive Work) and how through it, Welhamites are able to reach out and induce compatibility.*

## Latika Vihar

For our SUPW, Nishant, Sameer, Faizan, Udit and myself volunteered for Latika Vihar, a project of Latika Roy Foundation. Latika Vihar was established in 1996 and since then has been dedicated towards inculcating and arousing creativity amongst school going children of Dehra Dun. It is located in a pleasant small campus in Vasant Vihar.

Basically, it is a recreational center for children who are from all kinds of backgrounds and also for 'special children'. The ground rule of the institution is to treat everyone equal. A child going to this place gets to participate in fairly large number of activities as the place is equipped with an impressive library, music and dance rooms, a potter's hut, art and craft facilities, a toy collection and open spaces which are utilised for dramatics and games. The faculty is rather helpful, patient, caring and devoted to the children.

Of course, it is a first-time in our school's SUPW list. Consequently, most of us including our escort, Mrs Rehman were quite sceptical during our first visit there. Still, due to the wonderful atmosphere of the place, it took us no time at all to break the ice and mix up. Instantly, we were given duties to help in organising and indulging in playing sports, acting, art and craft and helping our 'buddies'.

Soon, the children there and us develop a mutual feeling of friendship, which today has developed and progressed to such a level that my whole week remains incomplete without a visit to Latika Vihar. In fact, Tuesday

evening (when we go to Latika Vihar) is the highlight of our entire week regardless of what we do the whole week. In other words, though everyone says that we are serving the community by such an activity, and that these little children do need us around, the fact of the matter is that we need them in our lives just as much. The satisfaction and love that we realize from these interactions is certainly non-parallel. To tell you the



*Udit, Sameer & Marij with the children at Latika Vihar.*

truth, the amazing glow in these children's eyes and their refreshing smile is what keeps us going the whole week.

Finally, I would like to say that Latika Vihar is a wonderful place and I am proud of my association with it as there we do not tell little children what to draw, instead we give them a pencil, sit next to them and encourage them to draw their minds.

*- Marij Khan*

*Well, it is not just the boys who think that they are mixing up well and doing a good job at Latika Vihar. Here is a letter which was addressed to the Principal...*

Dear Mr. Lahiri,

We would like to express our appreciation at the work that your students did at Latika Vihar as part of their SUPW programme during April/May 2005.

The boys were very dedicated in all that they did and creative in their efforts. They were also very courteous and thoughtful in their actions and were able to establish a good rapport with the children of Latika Vihar.

Thank You very much for the contribution of hockey sticks, the children are enjoying their game of hockey. The new harmonium has greatly enhanced our

music classes. We would like to continue this programme with your school and request you to please look into the same.

We enjoyed Mrs. Rehman's presence also as she actively participated in all that was done. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,  
Shipra Pande, Co-ordinator  
Latika Roy Memorial Foundation

*Oli says: Well done boys!*

*Similarly, boys go to Cheshire Homes, Raphael and other institutions where they share time and love with the aged, handicapped and other socially mistreated people. They all are doing a good job and hopefully will cherish such interactions for the rest of their lives.*

*Another SUPW, The Eco Club, is certainly serving the community, and in fact Nature, by planting trees in and around the city, and spreading awareness among the public about the environment...*

## Eco Club Our Commitment...

This statement by a famous Russian author, Anton Chekov, is as relevant as can get. Personally, I'm totally convinced of this thought and can confidently reckon the reason of the negligence shown towards Mother Nature too – 'modernisation'.

The rate of globalization is increasing by leaps and bounds, as a result of which we are left 'consumed' by modernization and in the end, lose the sense of concern for the environment.

Gone are the days when tree-plantation was practiced extensively. That quality of our ancestors, we the 'modern generation' do lack. But should we lose hope? Shouldn't we change this lazy, careless attitude of ours? Shouldn't we inherit the quality that our ancestors had? I can find no reasons to say 'no'.

Recollecting the famous statement frequently heard, "Charity begins at home", we too decided on educating the masses about the maintenance of their immediate surroundings.

For this, seven volunteers of the 'Eco – Club' were given a task of plantation in a school near ours. The motive - not just planting trees ourselves, but also

educating the students of that school about tree plantation.

Mr. Khaira, along with his evergreen friend his camera, and us seven Welhamites, set out to the government Kendriya Vidhyalya to 'impart' some knowledge.

We carried with us about thirty-five saplings of trees, each to be planted by every individual there. First, we taught them how to dig pits and put the saplings in it and ultimately after covering it with mud, watering it. We taught them all - and the enthusiastic learners did it well too. We also taught them the importance of growing trees.

Soon the children there became quite friendly with us and we discovered ourselves - as I would say 'piled on' with questions; questions that left me completely at sea. One of them, as far as I remember, went like: "When my tree grows tall, would I be able to climb it and reach the moon and fill my pockets with stars?"

Ravi Mohan, an eight year old asked us, "If I ask my tree, from the bottom of my little heart, to give me whatever I want, could it grant my wishes, Bhaiya?"

And I was not a bit startled to entertain this one, from Champa Kali, a six year old girl. "Bhaiya, what are you doing? You have handed us plants, that would give us fruits, but what about one that bears money?"

Oh boy, Champa Kali! I wish there were plants like the ones you asked for - I would surely give to you, but before that I would give it to my (fellow) friends who are usually seen walking from Welham to Prez (in extreme cases, even jogging), it's not because they are addicted to Mr. Biradars physical training but simply because they are 'outta cash'!

Interaction with them is one thing I will never forget! I was really amazed to be entertained with such questions and without a doubt enjoyed them too.

Through this article of mine I take the initiative, on behalf of the Eco-Club to encourage more students to take up this activity and help make Dehra Dun, a clean Doon, a green Doon! (and we wouldn't mind if you plant trees that reach the sky, or the ones that grant all your wishes, or perhaps the one that bears money - especially the one that bears money!)

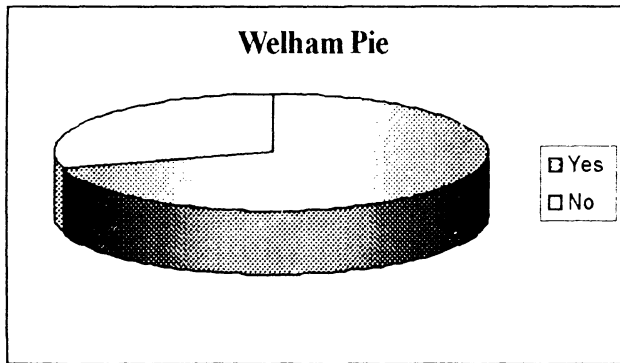
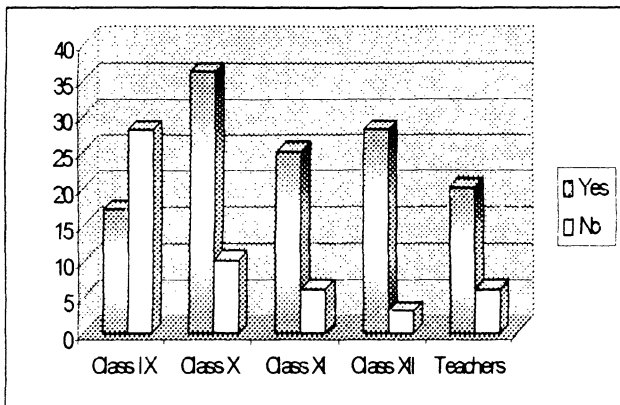
Keep smiling,  
Kushagra Prasher.

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*Well, that is what Welhamites are doing, but Oli also wanted to know what Welhamites are thinking. Thus the focus now undergoes a transformation from the Welhamites' endeavours to their minds.*

*Students from our school go to various places for social projects to improve the lives of people. Still, we are rarely doing anything to improve the lives of the people back here in Dehra Dun. To know what Welhamites think about this, we took a survey. Here it is:*

**Before going to ‘far off’ places for social projects, shouldn’t we first try and improve our own neighbourhood, and in fact, our own backyard, i.e. Dehra Dun?**



**No : 53**

**Yes : 126**

**Total Welhamites Surveyed: 179**

It's already been looked after, as our school boys are often going for tree plantation in and around the city.

-Arshjyot S. Bedi

Yes, if everybody were to take care of his own place, the country would surely be a better place to live in.

-Richeek Gupta

It depends which one is badly affected.

*-Deepak Kumar*

Well, I guess as one does something true to its purpose it does not matter where he or she does it. But it is also important to clean yourself before you go onto cleaning others.

-Mohit K. Shrestha

Yes, we should look into our own backyard before we look to do something that is beyond our reach for that particular time. Walking two steps is rather easy than to spend a large sum of money just to get there.

-Ankit Vinaik

*Well, that was our Oliphant focus. The last part of it (the survey), shows that most Welhamites realize that we are not doing enough, here back at home. Well, that's a good sign as realisation is the first step towards revolution.*

# Through the Keyhole

**Sudhanshu to Shailendra during exams:** “Bhai, do minute ho gaye, get up yaar.”

**Shailendra:** *"Ruk yaar, two seconds are left."*

**Himanshu Deshwal:** “This news appeared on the first page of the *front page*.”

**Ajitesh Kir:** "Guys come to pizza hut for the treat. I'll treat you with chilli flakes."

**Tushar Saini (excited):** “*Ooay, kaunsa pizza hai?*”

**Paramraj:** “*What did do did I doing?*”

**Abhishek Bahrti:** “Are you mad?”

**Paramraj (realizing his mistake):** “*What do did do I doing?*”

**During the Geography class.**

**Mr. Khaira:** “Ya Kunga, why are you looking so sad?”

**Manishek from the back:** "Sir, *Westerly depression.*"

**Tushar Saini to Omit Gurung:** “*Ooay, switch on the umbrella.*”

**Tushar Saini to Sheriff Bajwa (meaning to say take your hands out from the pocket) “Ooay, Sheriff off your hands vaar.”**

## Separated at Birth

Baba (Udit Agarwal)	Aditya Gaddh
Mr. Chandrashekhar Yadav	Anil Kapoor
Mohit Shreshtha	Wayne Rooney
Tushar Agarwal	All Out Coil
Karamveer Singh Sohi	Navandeep Matta

## What's In

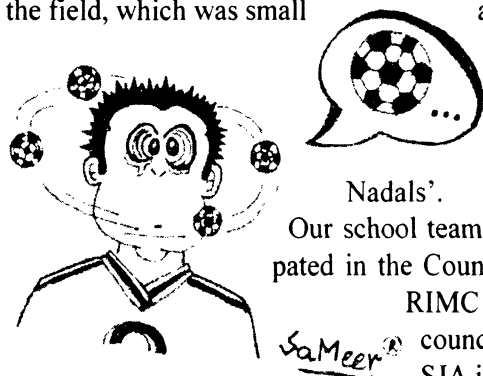
Sunday Lunch  
Super slow Internet  
KBW  
Kajra Re  
Bell Bottoms and Tights  
Mr. 'Sheriff' Kandpal  
Maa Tapti  
Ankit Bansal  
'Thievery' Club

## What's Out

Prezies Lunch  
Slow Internet  
KBC  
Dhoom  
Baggies  
Mr. Mahesh Kandpal  
Maa Krishna  
Aishwarya Rai  
Lost & Found

## Ringside View

Soccer has been the apex of the sports activities in our school. Recently, our school team participated in the 8<sup>th</sup> Bhupinder Memorial tournament in Sanawar, in which we stood fourth. Even though our performance was appreciated by all and sundry we failed to ensure a position because our game plan was not appropriate to the field, which was small



and Roland-Garros type. We are the Federers' and not the

Nadals'. Our school team also participated in the Councils' and the RIMC Cup. In the councils we lost to SJA in the semi fi-

nals in a tragic penalty shoot out and our venture in the RIMC Cup came to a halt in the quarterfinals, at the hands of Raipur Sports College.

Personally one feels that even though the team does not lack panache and determination, we have under performed many times. Even Nemesis came to visit our team in the form of injuries to some key players. Hope they get well soon.

The Badminton Districts passed us like a whiff,

no one was aware of it and the team needs to work very hard, for their performance failed to impress.

The EPL and other soccer league matches have begun, and so has our House league. Through this system we are trying to tap and nurture the hidden talents of young Welhamites. All we need is to scrape the rough edges to produce a perfect artifact.

The basketball team has been practicing very hard for the IPSC's to be held in Scindia from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> of September. Even the A.C. Deb Memorial Tournament is starting from the 12<sup>th</sup> of September. These tournaments will prove the real worth of our team, which has failed to prove its supremacy in the arena.

Here after, the criteria for the sports scarf and sports blazer will also be changed. Suggestions will be welcome but they would only be entertained before the next Sports Council Meeting. So do a bit of brainstorming boys, a sincere request from the sports captain.

Surprisingly, Anju Bobby George and Sania Mirza have taken India from strength to strength and I hope one day out of the billion Indians, we have one bowler like Shane Warne, a hockey team like that of Pakistan and a soccer team that qualifies for the World Cup. Not only that but also a school soccer team school which wins all the tournaments.

In hope,  
-Vishal Choudhury

### 8<sup>th</sup> Bhupinder Singh Tournament, Lawrence School, Sanawar.

			Score
Welham	V/S	Lawrence School B	0-1
Welham	V/S	Lawrence School A	1-2
Welham	V/S	Sherwood College	1-4
Welham	V/S	Pinegrove School	4-1
Welham	V/S	Y.P.S.	4-3
Welham	V/S	The Doon School	3-1

### Councils Soccer Tournament

Welham	V/S	Bala Hissar	4-0
Welham	V/S	GRD Academy	0-0
Welham	V/S	Hilton School	2-0
Welham	V/S	St. Joseph's Academy	3-4 (penalties)

### RIMC Cup

Welham	V/S	Woodstock School	4-0
Welham	V/S	St. George's College	1-4
Welham	V/S	Raipur Sports' College	1-3

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### Gooooaal...

Soccer season comes and the fever hits everyone. This is one sport that everyone is really crazy about, whether talking globally or just about Welham. The young and budding Zidanes and Beckhams of Welham can be seen kicking a football about under the blazing sun. The scorching heat makes them groan and moan every other time, but when it comes to playing soccer they forget all about it. Even heavy rainfall doesn't deter them from going on to the field. Actually it is days like these that they wait for; when the field is filled with water and the rains are still coming down. Soccer soon turns to rugby. Then 'dirty', is the most appropriate word to describe them. Before you even realize it you can see them sliding in the dirtiest, muddiest part of the field. Time for the dhobi to do some hard work.

Soccer brings even those to the field whom you might never have seen without their books. But once it starts raining, on the field, you see a side of them that you have never seen before. Every time it rains, you can hear people whining, except during PT and games. Rain during PT gives us extra time to sleep, which we all crave for, while rain during the games time allows them to play soccer in a way that their mothers would never tolerate.

Soccer is also taken seriously by many boys who do not play the game only for fun. The fact that we have once again started producing teams, which the rest of the school can look up to and feel proud of, proves this. The madness for soccer is such that people here actually spend the whole day waiting for those two hours in the evening during which they work very hard and absolutely sweat it out. If the same effort were applied in their studies, they would have got through IIT straight after passing their 12<sup>th</sup> boards, that too without any extra coaching!!! I have

also seen boys playing soccer even when their 'boards' were going on. This clearly shows the love and passion that they have for the sport. So do not be surprised if one day you see a Welhamite amidst the top players in the world.

Soccer is supposedly the safest game. This is if you look at it practically. The ball is not as hard as the ones used in other sports such as hockey or cricket. It wouldn't even hurt anyone unless it hits someone at the wrong place with great force. This is why players do not actually require any protective guards while playing. But all this does not apply to us Welhamites. We somehow manage to injure every other part of our body than the legs, which are most used during the game. A few years ago, a soccer Inter House produced as many as 4-5 fractures. One twelfthie broke his nose, another fractured his leg, and still more had fractured their wrists and arms. Crazy as it might sound, it is true.

This year, once again the 'TUTI' gang was back. Our Soccer Captain fractured his thumb, the Sports Captain is still suffering from a bad shoulder and 'yours truly' was the unfortunate one to have suffered the worst injury of them all – broken nose. The majority of the rest of the team can be seen limping around the campus due to torn ligaments, strains etc. most of them are in pain, not from their injuries, but because these injuries refrain them from playing soccer. This might surprise you but that's how we Welhamites are. We like to surprise everyone. All this but things still seem to be okay out here even as the season seems to be over with no more tournaments to go. as Triveni, until now hasn't had any broken windows. Not even from the indoor soccer matches!

Let's hope it stays that way.  
-Chirantan Singh.

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