

## Editorial

A lot of people spend too much time worrying about reaching unfamiliar crossroads, where they are supposed to make the right decision and take the right path. But have you ever imagined the feeling that one has reached the end of the road???

Being as optimistic as ever, the nostalgia that we will no longer be the Board, gave us the enthusiasm to bring out this last issue of The Oliphant. Well, we were so enthusiastic that we produced this Oliphant issue in the last three days of the term (the time we got after the examinations) and we are distributing it during the holidays. Of course, we did regret not coming out with our November issue, but the Board was almost paralysed as the Principal had suspended all activities 'other than studies' due to the final examinations. We guess that, no matter how multi-dimensional and 'all-round' personalities one develops, one still has to pass the final examinations! What was ironical though was the fact that this term, before the slated November issue, the newsletter was praised for its quality and consistency! Oli assures you that this issue will win back all the praises again.

With the publication of the final issue of this Board, Oli only thought it appropriate to 'focus' on such an issue which would usually be a taboo. By doing so, he is trying to show what the Oliphant has become in the past one year and what it intends to become in the year to come. The Oliphant is a forum for issues, and both Welham and The Oliphant have matured to such a stage where important, relevant and 'taboo' subjects can be discussed intellectually and realistically. If Welham intends to produce the leaders of tomorrow, these leaders should be ready and comfortable to discuss and analyze any social problems which are kept locked behind huge doors, by our society.

To remind you, this is just a beginning, and we do have a long way to go. But we will see you when we get there. Well, reaching the last paragraph, one can't help but let go of the restraint and finally shed a tear over what has been. Still, one should always smile for what will be, because boards and Editors-in-Chief will come and go, but Oli will always remain. Just to remind you of one thing,

Elvis has left the building,

(NISHANT JOSHI).

## Welham Now

- \* Krishna's monopoly in the year 2005 was very evident when it won two of the school's most prestigious trophies. It won The Chairman, Board of Governor's Trophy for the Best All Round House and Kandhari's Trophy for the Best House in Sports. Way to go!!!
- \* The whole school appeared for Science Olympiad on 24<sup>th</sup> November.
- \* Class VIII for the first time appeared for National Talent Search Examination on 27<sup>th</sup> November.
- \* The examination fever struck the school as the End of Term exams began on 30<sup>th</sup> November.
- \* The school hosted the second Careers' Fair on the 8<sup>th</sup> and the 9<sup>th</sup> December. Over 42 organizations participated and schools from all over the city came.
- \* The new prefect body for the year 2006 was announced this term. They will be formally appointed next term at an investiture ceremony. The future Prefects:

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School Captain  
Sports Captain  
Prefects

**Rasik Goel**  
**Chirantan Singh**  
**Ajitesh Kir**  
**Kunga Namgyal**  
**Prateek Om Prakash Singh**  
**Adarsh Gupta**  
**Udayveer Singh**  
**Manishek Gupta**

\* The school re opens on 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2006. Classes X & XII are to report back on 3<sup>rd</sup> January, for the Winter Camp.

\* **Mr. Mukesh Lal** has joined the Welham faculty as an Economics teacher.

He was previously teaching in St. George's College, Mussoorie.

**Mrs. Reema Pant** has also joined our community as an E.V.S. teacher for the senior classes.

We welcome them and wish that they have a long and happy stay at Welham.

\* The Junior School presented a musical to celebrate the spirit of Christmas, on 10<sup>th</sup> December. The impressive display by the juniors left us spell bound.

\* A special Assembly, followed by a musical extravaganza was organised on 10<sup>th</sup> December. Everyone present was treated to some melodious music played by the different 'bands' in school.

## Response Column

Dear Editor-cum- School Captain,

It's always a good feeling to visit school as an old boy and attending this year's Founder's was a real pleasure. Was nice to see that Aero-Modelling has gained popularity over the years and Horse Riding has been introduced as a sport. Among such remarkable developments there was yet another outstanding effort that was applauded by all, also being the hallmark of our School's Founder's Day Celebration - "Speech by the School Captain." This year it was called "A vote of Thanks" that continued to elaborate upon the feeling that engulfs the life of every boy at Welham.

At a boarding school, students learn to face challenges and practice the art of decision making at a very young age, but in a school like ours we not only excel in the above but also learn to love, respect and care.

We acknowledge that you've spent over 18 years in school now; a record that would remain unbroken for a long time. So, probably the heartfelt emotions were best delivered by you.

I believe that your words must have embedded deep in the hearts of people who were listening and most certainly would have made your father proud, who's indeed watching over all of us.

It's been six years since our batch passed out of school and one tends to adapt to a new lifestyle. Habits change with circumstances but after spending an evening in School, I seem to have rediscovered that we still belong to one community that preached us to move on From Strength to Strength.

Thank you for bringing back the true spirit of WELHAM.

Yours,  
Rajiv Harnal  
Batch of 1999

Dear Rajiv,

*Oli would like to take this opportunity to thank you and in fact all the old boys who attended our school's 68<sup>th</sup> Founder's Day celebrations. Welham is certainly proud at having produced successful and responsible individuals, who not only know where they are going, but also remember where they are from.*

*Also, as you notice, Welham like always is striving to produce multi-dimensional individuals who not only learn 'bookish' knowledge, but also learn social and 'life' knowledge. Further, we also try to involve them in activities and sports (some of which they would rarely be exposed to anywhere else) to give them, the complete 'Welham experience'.*

*Finally, your path of rediscovering the spirit of Welham just leads us to believe, 'once a Welhamite, always a Welhamite'.*

Dear Editor,

I wish I could identify you with some confidence, but since The Oliphant reaches me only in fits and starts, I've lost track over the years of all the Eds since I left that chair empty for my successor. But it was nice to see the names of boys either we, or one batch senior to us introduced to the editorial board (like Karan Mehrotra). I hope it's all-smooth sailing and that your Oliphant computer is more reliable than ours was!

It was heartening to see the website up and running, but very disheartening to notice some teachers missing from the Staff list. Where is Mr. Nagalia? He was my first House master and indeed a very good friend. I know for a fact that Mr. Bakshi and Mrs. Tripathi have retired and that the school couldn't be the same without them. I know that Mrs. Anand is still in school; it would be nice to attend another of her

Shakespeare classes. It was incredibly saddening to hear of the passing away of two teachers whom I saw as bulwarks of school as I knew it -Mr. Pant and Mr. Joshi. My association with Mr Pant was long and he will be really missed. Mr Joshi was one of the nicest people on campus ever. It is impossible to imagine Welham without him.

I need to get in touch with whosoever is in-charge of the IAYP award scheme, as I would like to have a shot at the gold standard before I'm too old (I'm 23 already). Could you please get me in touch with the in-charge? I'll be very grateful. Since this is the first time I've written in the five years since I left school, I'm out of touch, so **please feel free to update me on the happenings in the school.**

Azar Zaidi,  
Ex-Jamuna/886  
1994-2001.

Dear Azar,

*Oli was delighted to hear from you, as you have been one of his close friends in the past. He does remember the time when no one could comprehend anything about your 'over the head' editorials.*

*There's some sad news for you. Mr. Nagalia left school in 2003 to seek greener pastures elsewhere. Mrs. Anand too is leaving the school come January. Mrs. Anand, thou shalt never inherit the Oblivion's Curse!*

*Mr. Das is the in-charge of the IAYP award scheme and we have already asked him to get in touch with you.*

*About the computer in The Oliphant room, it is pretty much the same, and then some!!!*

Dear Editor,

I have consistently received The Oliphant, and want to know why this name and what it means. Many girls have asked me too but I am unable to reply. Will be thankful if you could brief me out. Thanks,  
With all good wishes,

Neeta.  
Mayo College Girls' School,  
Ajmer

Dear Ma'am,

*The Oliphant, as you must have realized, does not have any literary meaning for most non - Welhamites, but for us Welhamites, it does have a lot of meaning and value. Actually, the magazine is named after our own 'Grand Old Lady', Miss. H. S. Oliphant, who single-*

*handedly founded and created our beautiful world of Welham way back in 1937.*

Dear Editor,

This column seems to have become a regular space for readers to express their views and I too wouldn't want to stay far behind. First of all I would like to congratulate you on completing your term as Editor successfully. Your effort can clearly be seen in this year's issues of The Oliphant. The standard of The Oliphant has truly risen.

The one thing that I did not like in The Oliphant was the format of the 'title' being changed. The older format that had been unchanged for many years looked simple, good and definitely much better than the new one. There are many of us who do not appreciate this change at all. I believe that if every year the new team keeps making changes, then The Oliphant would be a new magazine every year. This would surely not be appreciated. Even though changes are necessary for progress, some things are always best left untouched and I feel that the 'title' of The Oliphant was definitely one of them.

Another thing of grave concern in the school is the progress of the yearbook, which has been going on for the second year in a row now. Actually the real reason for this is that it is not organised properly. The yearbook does not have any official board members who look over the compilation of the magazine. A year has passed since the official student in charge passed out of school, but still Derek Ma is the student editor. There has been no official or unofficial board chosen after him. An outlay of the magazine needs to be prepared first. The content material required for the magazine should be listed. Then the students and the teachers related to the subject required for the magazine should be asked for their contributions. Also, the students need to be informed about the kind of articles required from them. These are small but very important things. These are the things that have to be taken care of before the work even starts.

- Chirantan Singh

Dear Chirantan,

*To begin with Oli does share and agree on most of your views. See we know a lot of things did go wrong in the past one year which neither the students nor the school management could help make right. Also, Oli understands that the students were constantly looked down upon for not contributing when they were actually willing to contribute but*

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*didn't know how to. Further, we understand that the students didn't really feel the yearbook was their yearbook because it seemed so inaccessible. Thus, Oli has purposed that the next year's Oliphant board be allowed to handle the yearbook completely. The Staff representatives of The Oliphant are already taking out this year's yearbook, and doing a darn good job mind you.*

*Finally, about the new look of The Oliphant, well, you say the newsletter has improved, so take Oli's word on this, it has improved both in quality and outlook. It just looks more professional now. Don't worry, the newsletter will not keep changing, the revival of The Oliphant began in April, with this board's first issue, and will cease with this issue, after which all the following Editors - in - Chief will follow this same trend. Yes, the newsletter will constantly keep improving, but it wouldn't have to be changed so drastically as it has already been lifted from the dumps.*

*Thank you all for your valuable feedback. But as always, Oli wants more and more and more. He creates the newsletter only for its readers and their opinion is very essential. However, kindly keep your response brief and to the point.*

*Write to us at:  
Response Column,  
The Oliphant,  
Welham Boys' School,  
5, Circular Road,  
Dehradun - 248001.*

*Do NOT e-mail us at [oliphant@vsnl.com](mailto:oliphant@vsnl.com) as it is the school's official e-mail address. Instead e-mail us at the newsletter's official address : [oliphant@welhamboys.org](mailto:oliphant@welhamboys.org)*

## Attention Welhamites!

Hey Welhamites! Do you boast about your patriotism for Welham? If you do, then you are the perfect readers for this write up by Oli – for which he has done some research work from the archives.

Miss. H.S. Oliphant named our school 'Welham' after her village in Nottinghamshire, England. Miss Oliphant started the school to train young Indians to be leaders of tomorrow, who could lead the country, as she probably predicted the end of the British rule in India.

To represent Welham, she chose the elephant because it seemed to her to be a symbol of the Indians as it was an Indian animal. It had this memory which enabled it to remember everything, something Miss Oliphant thought was very important. The elephant seemed to her to symbolise what she wanted Welham to

be, and above all what she wanted India to be – a country growing 'From Strength to Strength'.

## And the Award goes to...

Damn! I'm already 5 minutes late for this damned show! Being a cameraman doesn't pay well! Had I listened to mother and studied till 12<sup>th</sup> I wouldn't be sweating it out everywhere in all types of conditions, trying to get a clear shot. My boss just called. Today's appointment is at some school in Dalanwalla. I think it's called 'Weliams'. They're celebrating some weird holiday. Let me guess – 'Children's day!?'.....'

Hey! I think I've come to the wrong place. This looks like Stockholm or some kind of Beverly Hills auditorium! Excuse me! Could you please tell me where the Activity Centre is? "Bhaisaab yeh Activity Centre hi hain". Wow! Just look at the decoration! The tables, the seating arrangement, the wine.... Or is it coke?! Never mind. Shoot! There's a banner on the stage. Oh! Now I get it. They're having an awards ceremony. 'Welham - The Not So Nobel Awards'

There he is on the stage. Mr. Khaira with his 'no joke without coke' jokes. Even with his outdated one-liners, he still manages to make people laugh as if they never laughed before. "And the award for the most stylish person in school clothes goes to....Geet Kashyap!" Hey! It's Govinda up there. I have to get an autograph for my son. "And now we have an old number by our very own band – Yaadon ki Baraat" The lead singer is fantastic. His voice is as soothing as a nightingale's. "Black magic wooomaaaaaaan!" The first thing I'll do tomorrow is to



*The 'Small' Ben being presented Geet for always being on time!*

fix an appointment with the lead singer and a friend of mine, who is a music director in Dollywood. "And the award for speaking absolutely *shudh* Hindi goes to.....Marriage Khan!" I think Marij wants to say a few words. Marij, why are you shouting? Somebody please tell him that the microphone is on! I think they are singing another song. "Get up, Stand up....Stand up



*"This is my Tom Cruise style!!"  
Joy Arora leads the Staff to a foot stomping dance.*

for your ...". This is one of my favourite numbers from Bob Marley. The person playing the violin seems to be an expert at it. Everybody seems to be tapping their feet to the music. Even the choir is shaking a leg to the beat. "And the award for destroying the peace goes to....Kunga Namgyal" I object! He is the most silent and well-behaved person I've ever come across!! There isn't a sign of anger on his innocent face. Ha! Ha! Ha! Mr. Khera will you please stop making people laugh their guts out. It's the tenth time that I've heard this joke but I still can't refrain from laughing.

The lead singer of the school band and a lady have just started with the Welham News. Oh my god! This school is absolutely amazing. They've even invited Lola Baby from MTV to be a correspondent. She's speaking to some weirdo with long silky hair who calls himself Shalabh Dhingra. Another one of them has come on stage! Why is he biting his nails so profusely? Will you please stop that biting, Mr. Sheriff Kandpal! "And the award for the most intellectual personality goes to....Kunwar Raunak!" Why isn't Kunwar coming on stage to take his award? Just look at him. He's fast asleep on his table. The violin maestro is at it again. "aeh aeh aeh aeh Stayin' alive....Stayin' alive..." "And the award for the best all rounder goes to....Karamveer Singh

Sohi!" I didn't know that they had also invited Harbhajan Singh for this show! The lead singer has made him wear a funny looking crown with disco lights attached to it. He's looking like a walking disco!

Now what? The lights have been switched off. Where is everybody? I can hear faint music. It's getting louder. "Aaja nach le ni aaja nach le...." Somebody pinch me. I think I'm sleeping. I can't believe my eyes. All the teachers including the lead singer are dancing vigorously. This is great fun. All the students are cheering and applauding their teachers. What a great bond of love they have.

"Bhaisaab! Time kya ho raha hain?" "9:00 pm" I think it's time to get back home. What a great evening it was. I wish I could come back again next year. I've decided not to quit my job until next year.

Lights-Cameras-Action!  
Ajitesh Kir

## Welham: Then & Now

*We received this mail from Akshaya Purohit an ex-welhamite who had some queries about the present Welham. This is what all he asked:*

Thanks for putting The Oliphant online. I would appreciate if you could answer a few questions.

1. Is the Rispana river still there?
2. Do you guys still go to Raphael and Cheshire home on cycles?
3. What does SUPW stand for? I still don't know and yes, CCA?
4. Is Balam Singh still there at Jamuna? I want to thank him for the nice clean white ducks for outings!
5. Extra PT? Damn! Who can forget that... do you guys still get tortured with change - in - breaks... and Sunday evening tuck raid...
6. Is that map of India, with all rivers designed by Mr. Khaira still there in the school blocks?
7. Do you have any interactions between Welhamites and ex-Welhamites?
8. Do you guys still fall off the windows of the History class right above the pool pointing to Welham Girls School?
9. Prefects and Captains are still Gods with different colour blazers and badges?
10. Mr. Goel is still taking House group pictures?

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11. Rawat shop and egg and cheeseburgers from that lady living near Krishna House are still popular?
12. Any new places to keep cash away safely? Oh now you guys must be using credit cards, right?
13. Any new trips to Dodital? That's my all time favourite. I met a chick from Woodstock, Simran and she was my first crush because she said hi to me.
14. Do you guys still go in groups and take a few ice creams out of that case when the ice cream guy is not looking?
15. Do you still have those massive iron bathtubs?
16. Drinking mugs with water between its walls?
17. Plan on who gets what when the teacher sitting at the table leaves. Like butter/ jam and any other special stuff for staff?
18. Do you still have barter system like egg yoke for cutlet and so on....
19. Touch wood/ iron games right before Saturday night movie time?

Savour every minute of what you spend at Welham this time is not coming back again.....

- Akshaya Purohit

*Well, as Oli has always said, we are more than pleased to receive any contributions from the Exies. So here Oli asked Mohit to reply to some of these Welham questions that you have asked..*

I appreciate your concern for The Oliphant and your great response convinces us that you are a "True Welhamite"!!

As far as the Rispana River is concerned - I am sorry to say it is NO MORE. R.I.P.! (actually, being a 'mountain' river it only flows during the monsoons)

Though we don't go to Raphael and Cheshire Home on bicycles, we do visit them often. Yes, though you didn't ask, we still cross Welham Girls' to reach there!

"Socially-Useful-Productive-Work" or as we say SUPW or Co-Curricular-Activites (CCA) are still on.

I'm sorry but your thanks can't be conveyed to Balam Singh for he is not in Jamuna now.

P.T.-You guessed it, its still on our nerves!!

Mr. Khaira's map of India does not exist because a SUBWAY has taken its place.

The school evolved-and the Prefects and the Captains, so called Gods at that time are still Gods in their own way but now use their powers in a much decent way!

Mr. Goel, the school photographer has left. No more of that 'one, two CLICK!!'

Rawat Shop and that 'lady place' have now become obsolete and due to tight security, I can't let out the names of the new secret hangouts.

Teachers no longer have special food but the same as we do. Now though, the teachers plan on who gets what when the Prefects leave the Prefects table - just that they never leave it!!

Barter system, though prevails but is less pronounced.

New places to keep cash away safely are discovered daily - but again due to the same reasons I can't let it out [you know it!]

Trips to Dodital are arranged quiet often, and as far as Simrans' concerned - congratulations! We are still looking for ours!!

No iron bath - tubs and mugs.

Thanks again for your kind efforts - I hope you will keep in touch.

About savouring every moment in Welham, we, being at the threshold of passing out, feel exactly the same as you.

- Mohit Shrestha

## Perplexed About My Riches

Richness is not a state when one has acquired all the worldly riches but a state when one has acquired all the wealth of the world - the wealth of knowledge; the material wealth and the spiritual wealth and for this very simple reason a rich person is a great person...a complete person.

If you are a pioneer, you are rich. You are rich in ideas and daredevilry. You dare to set upon a path which no one else dared to follow.

If you are an opportunist, you are in patience. You have the courage to wait for the right moment, when everyone else may want to hurry and subsequently fall prey to delusion.

If you are a believer, then you are rich because when everyone has discarded the truth of spiritualism, you believed and picked it up from the lowest of grounds and revered it.

And if you are hungry for knowledge, then too you are rich because when everyone else thought

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they knew enough, you thought you knew nothing you are wiser because you know that knowledge has no limit.

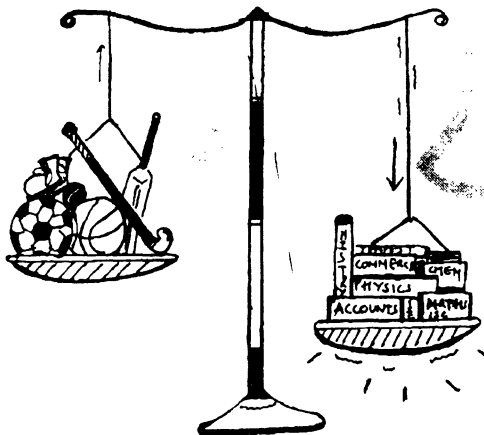
These are the four commandments that make a person rich. You may be the richest of persons in terms of money but you will be the poorest if you fail to fulfil the above criterion.

The pioneer in you will tell you to be brave when you fear the most and the opportunist will determine the right time to move ahead: the believer will tell you to have faith in yourself and finally the learner will learn from the mistakes, if you falter in the path ahead.

A person may have all the money in the world and be the poorest while another person may have no money and still be rich. This person will know what to do with the money he has and use it properly. If he lacks material wealth, he will know how acquire it. But the person without these quality will only lose all he has got and fade away in the mist of time. He will leave no impact upon this world because he has no substance. It is worth remembering that the men who make a difference to the world are the ones who make a difference to themselves first...they are men of substance.

I hope your perplexity has been solved.

- Ankit Sahay



**The three suggestions given to Welhamites in the Careers Fair -**

1. Be a multi dimensional person
2. Concentrate only on studies
3. Just take up one, and only one activity (not necessarily studies) which you love, and do just that.

**The result on an average Welhamite:**

1. CONFUSION!???

## Think About It...

He who who walks in another's tracks leaves no footprints.

- Joan Brannon

In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity.

- Albert Einstein

If you shed tears when you miss the sun at night, you also miss the stars.

- Rabindra Nath Tagore

Dreams come true. Without that possibility, Nature would not incite us to have them.

- Anonymous

Facing it – always facing it – that's the way to get through. Face it!

- Joseph Conrad

One man with courage is a majority.

- Andrew Jackson

Those who were dancing were thought to be fools by those who could not hear the music.

- Anonymous

A man usually has no idea what is being said about him. The entire town may be slandering him, but if he has no friends he will never hear of it.

-Scott Fitzgerald

Education is a progressive discovery of our own ignorance.

-Will Durant

Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted.

-Albert Einstien

I've missed more than 9000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. 26 times I've trusted to take the game winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed.

- Michael Jordan

## Oliphant Focus

*We are supposedly living in a liberal society...still smoking scenes are banned on television. Our society is a modern society, having dismissed all 'backward' beliefs and having embraced modern theories and life styles...still love-marriages are discouraged.*

*Welcome to the new confused India!*

*Here while Bollywood delivers one after the other raunchy hits, pre martial sex is not a crime, but a sin.*

*But today, having based The Oliphant focus on pre martial sex, let Oli assure you that he is by no means trying to take sides. Instead, the whole purpose is to discuss.*

*It's amazing how sex (per martial or post martial) is such a taboo in the Indian circle, and talking about it is rather 'weird'. For God's sake countrymen, our country has the second largest population in the world, and it's about time we realize that we have grown up enough to know (and talk) that babies are not born 'ready made' and gifted to parents.*

*The whole purpose of Oli's such an initiative is to make people tolerant, not of pre martial sex (that will be much later), but of discussions on such so called taboos.*

*Well, in this article Kartik describes the aftermath of a pre martial sexual act.*

"Oh my God! Sweetie what have you done? What were you thinking? Did he hurt you in any way? When did this happen?

Please, Lord help me through this!

Now what on earth are you planning to do? Are you seriously planning to have this baby?

Has he said anything about parental support? Is he going to share the responsibility?

Sweetie answer me. I'm your mother for heaven's sake! Talk to me..."

"I can't believe you finally nailed her. Pretty young things like her are virtually inaccessible to the likes of us.

But tell me how was it? C'mon you can tell me. We're best friends. So was it her first time? I know you've been at it before you nasty son of a gun! What did she say?

Hurry up, spill it..."

"What? That guy dared to lay his hands on her, my baby sister? I trusted him with my life, and he let me down.

But when did this happen? Why didn't she tell me about it? Didn't she think I could help her?

Where is she right now? I need to talk to her."

Okay, so there you have it, a brief past, present and possible future.

It's amazing how a private act between two consenting individuals can ignite such disparate emotions within the hearts of these completely different individuals.

We have the mother displaying her helplessness at having no solution to her pregnant daughters predicament.

According to recent stats, fear of parental disapproval rates high among the causes for youngsters refraining from premarital sex, along with fear of contracting STDs like AIDS.

Then, at the other end we have the best friend expressing his awe and admiration for his companion's 'exploits'.

Although this picture painted is quite insulting to the mindset of the average male youth, I don't want to sound hypocritical by saying stuff like this doesn't happen.

And finally we have the display of fury by the concerned elder. I know this one sounds a bit...or maybe a whole lot of Bollywood, but you can't argue that it is just a figment of my imagination.

I mean being protective of your loved ones is not something limited to the walls of the cinema industry. What would you do if you found out that your 17-year-old sister had just engaged in premarital sex with her boyfriend of whom you did not approve of at all?

I put it to you, and I gave it to you!

Of course you would have no right to say anything if you were yourself welcome to the club.

The youth today apparently has no qualms about the concept.

Perhaps they justify this act with the help of these two beliefs:

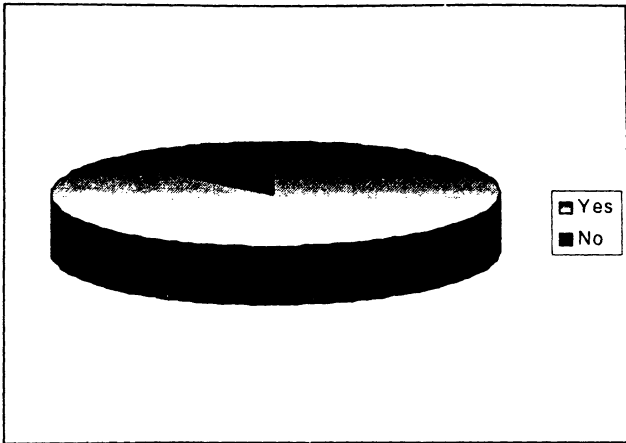
- The rite of Hieros Gamos, the Ancient's celebration of the sexual union of male and female, Yin and Yong.
- And perhaps also, better late than never!

- Kartik Vishwananth

*Oli wanted the most valuable opinion of the students on this issue. So he went ahead and took a poll. The positive thing was that most of them were quite comfortable while talking about the issue (in a very sensible way of course!). This is what the Welhamites had to say:*



## Should pre-marital sex be accepted in the Indian society?



Welham Pie

No : 10

Yes : 47

Class XI- Yes: 26 No: 4

Class XII- Yes: 21 No: 6

Ankit- There is much to do in life before marriage rather than diverting your mind towards this practice. Strongly inadvisable.

Udit- Yes, it is fine till the time the other person is understanding enough.

Geet- Marriage is a very sacred bond that a couple shares together. It is the amalgamation of the souls and being a virgin or not should not really matter in that case. It is the love that they share and not the past.

Rasik- Pre-marital sex has been there since ages. It is only that the people refuse to accept it. Our religious texts themselves have talked about various pre-marital affairs but people try turning a blind eye towards it. There shouldn't be any problem till the time both the people are understanding enough.

Ajitesh- Indians – stop being hypocrites and accept the reality.

## Delta Force

Location: Somewhere in Iraq

Date: January 25,1991

The silence of the dawn was broken by the distant thunder of a chopper. A Chinook flew into view,

flying through the darkness of the early morning carrying its load of the Special Forces unit-A521. The pilot and the co-pilot, wearing night-vision goggles, used their skills to navigate over the desert at a low altitude in order to avoid radar detection. Behind sat the 6-man unit of the United States Special Forces Group 5, 1<sup>st</sup> battalion, A-521 Company.

The chopper reached its destination and hovered only a foot above the sand. The team got off in perfect order and within ten seconds the chopper was on its way back. Captain Robert Gallagher, 32, was a veteran and the commander of the unit. He quickly ordered the unit to form the perimeter and ordered lieutenant David Perking, the second-in-command to report to him. It was not known at that time if a shepherd or a villager may have been in the area by chance and heard or seen the chopper and may have reported it to the Iraqi authorities. The Iraqi Air Force was a spent force but still it had some gun ships remaining in the area.

After securing the area, Robert and David quickly planned their next move. Their mission was to destroy a Scud missile convoy that would be passing through the area later. The road of the convoy in the desert was just like a dirt track. These missiles would need solid ground to be launched properly and such hard ground in the desert was in patches and scattered around. Capt. Robert consulted his maps and spotted a few spots with a hard surface. The convoy would quickly get to work as they got there. There would be a Launching-Vehicle (LV) with three people. Then an armoured vehicle would arrive with about four people including the convoy commander. Then there may be a truck with up to twenty soldiers for protection. In total there would be about thirty men against only six men on their side. After reaching its destination the troops would form a perimeter and may repulse an attack. But at the journey they may not be, as alert and the group would have the advantage of surprise. Capt. Robert chose to attack on the road.

The team departed for the road and reached it as dawn was breaking an hour later. He found a turning and some boulders near the turn. The turning was sharp and the convoy would have to slow down and for some seconds would be sitting ducks. It was all the team needed. The rocky surface with boulders would be to their advantage. He quickly posted his men. Sergeant Peter Roscoe, 1<sup>st</sup> class, with a LAW-80 was to take out any armoured vehicle present. Sergeant James Mattis,

1<sup>st</sup> class, with a M-203 was to take out the driving cab of the launch vehicle with his 40mm grenade launcher. Lt. David and Private Tim Collins, 1<sup>st</sup> class, with Capt. Robert were to take out the escorting infantry if any. With their C4A1 carbines and a FN MAG machine-gun, they had sufficient firepower to stop a company. Private Dan Lockwood, 1<sup>st</sup> class, was to guard the rear.

The long wait came and the burning sun was boiling the men. An hour later, they saw dust rising in the horizon and soon had a visual contact with the convoy. It was as they had predicted, an armoured jeep at the lead, a launching vehicle and a truck full of troops. The convoy came nearer and the noise became louder. The jeep slowed at the turn and the whole convoy was virtually at a standstill, when the order came. Sgt. Peter took out the jeep with the LAW-80. The explosion lifted up the jeep and over turned it. Sgt. James took out the driving cab of the launching vehicle with his M-203 killing the occupants. The troops in the truck were taken by surprise and were raked by murderous fire. The driver braked as he crashed into the LV. The soldiers caught off balance fell. The driver reversed suddenly and the soldiers were again caught off balance and it gave the team an advantage.

In the fire fight that ensued, the team was careful not to shoot at the missile on the LV. No one knew if it was a nuclear warhead or just a conventional warhead. But even at that range, the conventional blast would be strong enough to vaporise them. Capt. Robert ordered Collins to send the signal now to the waiting chopper. The fight went on till the distant noise of a chopper was heard. The captain ordered to fall back. In coordination they retreated covering each other. A Chinook was landing at a distance as its escort of two Apache gun ships went ahead to hammer the remaining Iraqis. The team ran for the chopper and were soon on their way. Now the task was to get as far as they could from the LV, before the overhead flying F-18 bombed it. No one still knew if it was a conventional or a nuclear warhead. Then came the blast, at a distant was a bright flash and it then disappeared. The pilot spoke in his mike: "Albatross to HQ, mission accomplished, I repeat mission accomplished."

- Anesh Gurung

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*When not in use, remember to turn off the juice*

## For Us...

Open your eyes for that one last time,  
Close them forever not;  
Look at me and don't hide your tears,  
It's no secret you have been crying;  
Flash your brave smile no longer friend,  
I love you too much to be fooled by it;  
Just embrace my feelings and me once again before we part,  
Didn't you always say that we were always more than just Brothers in Arms?  
You did,  
I did,  
We did.

Let me not recall all those childish pledges where we swore to be together,  
Because I am supposed to be mature enough to dismiss all those whimsical promises,  
Yet, always remember friend,  
I'd rather not grow up than be old enough to forget all those time  
When you smiled amidst immense pain,  
Just to make me smile;  
Don't call this the 'last time'  
Because I assure you that you'll always find me,  
Whenever and wherever you are,  
You'll just need to walk down the memory lane,  
And find me in a remote dark corner,  
Where I'll don a smile  
Because I'll be glad to meet you friend,  
Like I have always been.

- Class XII

*At the request of the twelfthies, Oli has included an extract from the School Captain's Founder's Day Speech. Of course the schoolie was against the inclusion and the twelfthies couldn't do much about it other than salute his decision. Still, they somehow convinced the Editor in Chief to get the School Captain's consent. Well, the Ed in chief aka Oli did not disappoint. So here is an extract.*

"After the vote of thanks, I would like to take a minute of your time to express some of my feelings on this day, which incidentally is the last of my 12 Founder's Day in Welham.

A lot of people told me that in my Founder's Day speech I should talk about what Welham has taught me, which is a Herculean task, considering that I was born in Welham, and have spent all my 18 years here. So, if I talk about what Welham has taught me, then I would be actually telling you everything, and I mean everything that I have learnt in my life. To resort to a much easier option, I would like to talk about the single most important thing that Welham has taught me. This could be a tough task, but somehow it isn't. I am pretty much convinced that the most important thing that Welham has taught me is to love and care.

Welham is one of the top schools of the country. It could easily have taught me how to be boastful, proud and how to crush all competition and march towards glory and glamour with an aura of satisfaction. Instead, it taught me to be humble, to 'reach out' to people, to love and care.

It sent me to a poverty-stricken village for a Round Square Project, disguised as a 'trip with friends', trusting my character to realise after reaching my destination, the real purpose of my being there – to selflessly labour for the villagers and have healthy interactions with them.

It sent me to a school for the under privileged and 'special' children, encouraging me to teach them how to smile and forget all the material and superficial reasons for them not to smile.

It made me acknowledge and appreciate all those people who work to make my life more comfortable, from the person who cooks for me to the person who sweeps the floor for me, and those whose work and contribution are usually taken for granted.

Welham taught me, and I learnt.

So tomorrow, even if I don't manage to become the President of India, I would still be content, as I would have achieved my goal of learning the most important lesson in life, a lesson which Welham has taught me: to love and care.

Thank you."

## The Woods Decay

Everything comes to an end, but not even death waits at the end to cease life, because life... life continues. From 'Woodseats' to a seat on the High table, I cherish every moment of my life in this school.

In this last House treat, I sit by the fire, in a state of oblivion and with puzzled eyes I think of the future. This time it's completely different. I'm scared to think of the future. This time I'm not thinking of the rivulets during mid-terms but the tears that would flow when all of us part ways, this time it's not about the cricket season but about the matches that I would watch all alone, this time it's not about the late night coffees and chow-chow but the pizzas I would eat in solitude.

The fire is dying out and the smoke rises towards Venus, and all of us think of evaporating into the darkness. I will have no more cribbing from my compatriots about life in Welham, which now I realize existed in the first place only because we loved this place more than a fat kid loves coke.

Autumn creeps in, and this time even we wither away with the leaves. Persophine goes to Pluto, and we go and meet the outside world. Have we always got what we want rather than what we need? I don't know.

This Careers Fair confuses me even more and reminds me with every passing moment that you might be immortal in your heart but wrinkles become even 'stretchier'.

The world beckons to us but we are scared to leave this nutshell. The moment is just too emotional.

But, to remind you all I haven't got enough of this place and not given it enough. I'll come back but then I'll be on the other side and know the secrets of the 'Instant Coffee' room. Wait on teachers!.....

For the girls who hate me,  
Vishal.

## Chittt!!!!!!

Twelve years have passed now and the only things to cherish about are the memories. A nerd, who establishes himself as an asset with the help of those who no more, yes no more will be his daily drink.

People who taught him that 'a good plan today is better than a perfect plan tomorrow', 'Think before you act' and stuff like 'strive to look tremendously important' will finally fade away from his life but not from our memories for sure. There are the people who specialise in the area of their greatest weaknesses. Yes, I am talking about the finest faculty in the world, 'Our teachers'. Ooh, isn't that enough to fire your spirits.

## 12 The Oliphant

Well, “then you have another thought coming” from “Moradabad”.

Nevertheless let's kick off with our daily bread that is Mr. Das and Mr. Birader, who are spotted standing outside the Twelfthies' room urging them to come out and do P.T. I am sure that their moral speeches early in the morning will one day make a difference in the life of these budding tulips.

Excitement is revealed as the humanity students are seen running for their first history lesson of the day. The ‘true incarnation of Hitler’, who answers questions by saying ‘Yes, No, Not Sure’. The thing about her that grabs attention is her speciality as a teacher. Each one in the present twelfth owes her a thankful gesture because without her we all would have failed in the 10<sup>th</sup> History board paper!

Sober and kind as a dove, stubborn as a mule, light as a feather and as cunning as a fox, Mr. Lahiri and his team nourishes the so called ‘beasts’ (Mr. Bhandari) with all their kindness. None are outcast or despised but all are treated equally for thee and thy country. Sorry no other line was coming to my mind!

Lastly I'd like to mention the companionship of our Basti brothers (!!) without whom life would be unimaginable. The lampoon in the previous Oliphant clearly proves it.

Before concluding I'd like to lighten those hearts that work day and night to get our “Khacha's clean.” (Mr. Lahiri). On behalf of the present twelfth I'd like to convey this message full of love and respect to them.

I'd love to carry on and define things and incidents but it is better to have a horrible ending than to have horrors without an end.

- Vibhor Gupta

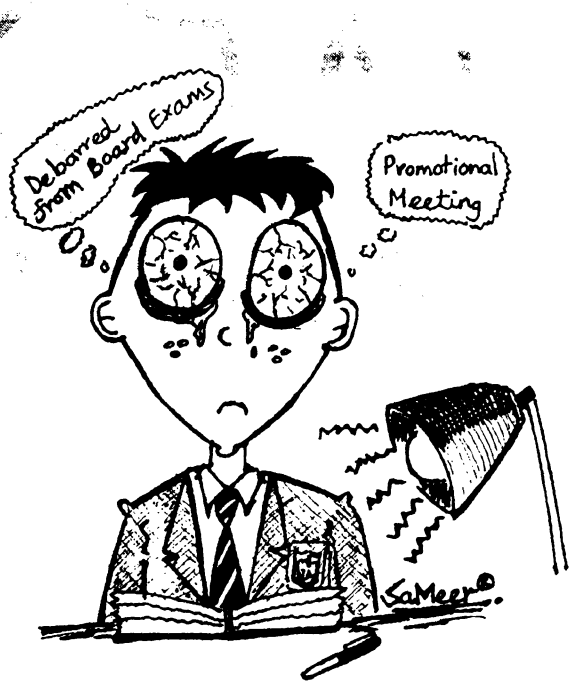
## Welham ka Aspataal

My association with this institution goes back when I was in class 2. It was on a sports day that I discovered that I was affected by Asthma and spent the rest of my Founders lying in bed, weeping and dreaming of what my counterparts might be doing. The Welham ‘hospi’ has been the last resort for every Welhamite. If you were playing corridor football late till night or you had not given full rest to your weary eyes then good ‘ol’ hospi was always there to provide you with a warm enough bed. “uh Doctor, I am having a headache...and my stomach isn't feeling any

better. I'm feeling very weak as if I'm going to fall over any moment. Even my back pain has given up on me.” “Oh! God I think it's serious to have so many illnesses at the same time. We should call up your parents I believe.” “Oh! Doctor don't pester them. A days rest will be enough to cure everything”. Not only has it been used to complete sleeps but also to bunk tests and exams. The problem is so much so that the ‘Mrs. Know-all’ sister has stopped believing a word, which comes out from a Welhamite's mouth. Even if you are actually suffering from a headache, you are sent away. There is another season in the school apart from the athletic or the cricket season. It is known as the hospital season because at least once a year the hospital is out of space due to over population of students suffering from ‘eye-flu’ or viral fever.

Life in a hospital is totally different. It's poles apart from the ‘outer world’. When you are outside you wish to get in and when you finally get to go in, you die to come out!

- Ajitesh Kir



*The holidays are not the only thing in the Welhamites' mind!!!*