

# The Oliphant

No. 284

WELHAM BOYS' SCHOOL

26th March, 2003

## Think About It...

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

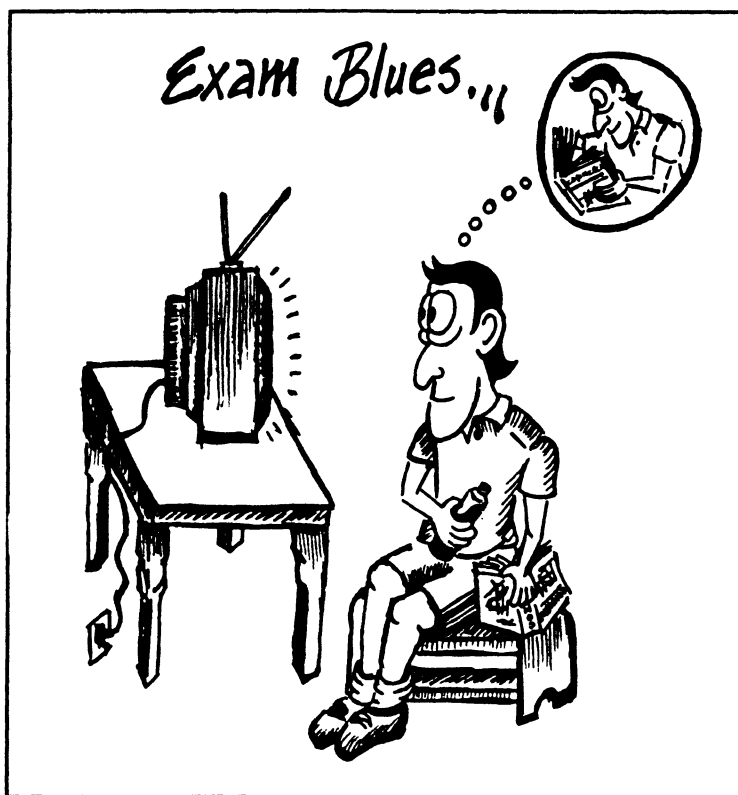
-Albert Einstein

## EDITORIAL

The wind blows up north. This nostalgic-laden wind blows annually and affects many. I am sitting in the Oliphant room and I can already feel the wind blowing all around the Welham campus. I have the "Graffiti" of the Twelfthies lying beside me and I can already visualize myself writing on it a year from now. The Twelfthies have a past to look back at and to cherish the sheer memories that made their life memorable here. As far as I know all of them are feeling the pains of leaving the Diamond Jubilee Gate. This draught of nostalgic air has surely affected me too. I can see my future resonating in the realms of the past. As for the Twelfthies they have avenues open for them to excel in and opportunities heading their way.

The world is theirs for the taking and it is for them to make the best out of it. They have a whole world to show what they are made of.

They have a whole new turf to perform on and to show what Welhamites are. I am sure that they must have been relating all the stories that traversed their student life across all the buildings of the campus. This is the time when you get to hear of char-



acters like Surender Bearerji, Mrs. Mukherjee, Mrs. Agarwal, Mrs. Das, Mrs. Mala and many more. Time passes by but these stories shall always surround their lives. I am sure these stories will always

make their lives worthwhile and remind them of the institution that has made them what they are. To all the Twelfthies, the school wishes them a life full of mirth and success. We shall meet you in the coming years.

The school was caught in a spell of 'viral.' Nearly, the whole school had been admitted into the hospital. Those who were left were seen loitering around the hospital. These students were sighted incessantly badgering the school doctor. The doctor, usually very energetic, also had a taste of his own medicine with all the patients he had to examine. At all times the hospital projected the look of a ration store with unending lines of patients. The doctor was only prescribing medicines at that time. Well that is what his job is. He also advised all the pseudo Hrthik and Salman to put on their garbs and not to shed them. Now that the 'dicey' season is over and summers are approaching they have something to look forward to. I just hope they do not flaunt their bodies to the extent of getting sun burnt.

A disease of a different kind struck the computer in the Oliphant room. A virus said to have originated from discs invaded the computer made it totally invalid. This virus completely washed out the memory clean, nothing could be recovered and the engineer said that the computer was better off obsolete. With all the memory whitewashed, Oliphant issues of the past years were also obliterated. Important documents were lost too. Pertaining to the matter of files and documents getting lost, the previous D.T.E. became very emotional and nearly broke into tears. This has also been the cause of the delay in the Oliphant issue. To have the computer repaired the D.T.E. and I had to give into a lot of appeasing and sweet talks. Finally after a weeklong wait the computer started to work like the old times. In the end we got to know that the hard disc of the computer was over laden with soft and hardware. Owing, to the problem certain integrations could not be made in the computer. They are

still pending. I apologize for all the problems that were borne by the staff representative, and I assured him of never committing such a mistake again.

Well, the festival of the season came and went away, unnoticed. Not exactly. For the Welhamites, Holi is a festival to get really wet and scare the living daylight out of the teachers. This is one day where we all get a chance to put on a mask of permanent and dry colours. This year like in the past, the Welhamites invaded the Girls' School, not on a mass scale. It is a tradition passed down from times immemorial. The Holi this year passed without any casualties. It was a relief that the Girls' School had mended its ways of playing Holi with stones and pebbles. For any information and to learn the skills of Girls' School, anyone interested, could contact the old D.T.E. The Welhamites bombarded the neighbours with balloons and colours depicting the rainbow. The girls were left shrieking and shouting at the sight of Welhamites in their campus. Now the only thing that I cannot decipher is were their shrieks and shouts, of joy or fright? They were pelted with eggs and the Welhamites were totally savouring the gormandizing treat. Even the locals were not spared. All in all the teachers were also drenched in Holi colours by the students. Many of them chose to stay indoors safe from the balloon scare. For them balloons are supposed to contain unknown and mysterious chemicals. The whole school and the surrounding areas were turned into battlefields of colours.

The world has seen it all now. No matter how hard everyone tried morally persuading Dubyaman not to go into war with Iraq, he unleashed the unthinkable. No matter how much we criticize him, he has implemented his decision and there is nothing that we can do. The only thing left is that we pray and not let the war to spill out off the Middle East region. The list of Bush haters seems to grow day in and day out. The latest entry to the elite list is our very own

famed, Bollywood director, Mahesh Bhatt. He has no qualms whatsoever about the matter and takes pride in being pronounced as a member of the list. Let us hope for a peaceful world, the sooner the better. A Welhamite, Zaid Khan, has made his debut into the Bollywood scene. This hero has paired with Esha Deol in Chura Liya Hain

Tumne. It is a thriller movie with a difference. After all Welhamites are the ones who make the difference. We wish him the very best in his endeavors.

With a balloon in my hand,  
Pranab.

## Welham Now

The Middle School Inter-house Hindi Elocution was held on March 15<sup>th</sup>. The results were as follows: -

Indus House 1<sup>st</sup>  
Sutlej House 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Tapti House 3<sup>rd</sup>

Individual positions:

1<sup>st</sup> Vikas Arya – Class 6  
2<sup>nd</sup> Ajitesh Kir – Class 8  
3<sup>rd</sup> Ankit Sahay – Class 7

Middle School Inter House Computer quiz was held on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. The results were as follows.

Tapti House 1<sup>st</sup>  
Sutlej House 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Indus House 3<sup>rd</sup>

The Wavelength Board is appointed as follows: -

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Arjun Manchanda

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Ms. Shweta Vij has left the school. The Welham community would like to thank her for her contributions to the school and would like to wish her well for her future endeavours.

Midterm Examinations were held from 20th of March to the 25th of March.

Midterms excursions are beginning from 28th of March to the 1st of April.

# ABRACADABRA

## A Peep Into the World of Magic and Magicians

"Magic happens in the mind of the beholder" – goes the adage. Magic is the most ancient and the most universal of arts.

Ancient, because since the prehistoric times, humans have been known to use "Magick" (with a k) in attempts to gain control over the powers of nature.

Universal, because the same feats that mystify a rustic villager in the remotest of the jungles of *Jharkhand*, also mystify the President of an American blue chip company in San Francisco, California. In this age of Information Technology, when the world cup matches can be seen live, thousands of kilometers away, on cell-phones, audiences are still bewitched and baffled by the feats of necromancy that bewitched and baffled their ancestors many generations ago.

Mention of Magic and description of the amazing feats of Magicians is found in the history, literature and folklore of every country of the world. Magicians were ministers and advisers to Kings through the ages. The oldest written record of court Magicians was painted circa 2500 BC on the wall of a burial chamber in *Beni Hassan* in Egypt. The Westcar Papyrus brought out from the pyramids by Egyptologists carry fabulous stories of the wizards of the Nile.

In India, the hymns of *Atharva Veda*, are said to be the source of Magic and Magical powers. In the early seventeenth century, Emperor *Jahangir*, in his memoir, "*Jahangirnama*", described a visit by a troupe of *Bengali* Magicians to his courts who performed unbelievably amazing feats of Magic.

Harry Houdini (USA), PC Sorcar and Gogia Pasha (India) are among the pillars of modern Magic. Among the most famous Magicians of the present times are Paul Daniel (UK), Doug Henning (Canadian who settled

in US, passed away last year), David Copperfield (US).

Jean-Eugène Robert-Houdin, the French Magician of mid nineteenth century, is today recognized as the "Father of Modern Magic". He was an expert watchmaker. His entry in the show biz began when he created clockwork driven life size puppets or automations that enacted amusing scenes all by themselves. In 1845 he opened his famous "Soirées Fantastiques" in Paris. He created modern stage illusions and devised entertaining presentations. He was the first to write textbooks that treated Magic scientifically. His memoirs were described as the best among the ones written during those times. In 1856, Robert-Houdin was appointed the governor of Algeria, then a French colony. The tribals of Algeria were almost on the verge of rebelling. Robert-Houdin was able to convince that his French Magic was more powerful than that of the natives. Thus the incipient rebellion was quelled.

A German Jew, Ehrich Weiss, was inspired by the achievements of Robert-Houdin, he added an "i" to Houdin and took the pseudonym Harry Houdini. Harry Houdini later moved over to USA and became a legend in escapology, a branch of Magic where the performer can not be held under any physical restraint. Houdini could free himself from police handcuffs, shackles and leg-irons used in any country. He could unlock any lock without any key or tools. He challenged and successfully escaped from high security prisons all over America and Europe. The name of this legendary person became a common noun beginning with a capital H and can be found in the Concise Oxford Dictionary:

**Houdini** /hu: 'dini/ n. 1 an ingenious escape. 2 a person skilled at escaping. [H. Houdini, professional name of E. Weiss, American escapologist d. 1926]

From India, the names of Praful

Chandra Sorcar and Gogia Pasha, are known all over the world. Sorcar specialized in Indian Magic and Indianized presentation of Western Magic. His spectacular stage shows, are now being carried on by his son, Pradeep (PC Sorcar Jr.)

Pasha took the Magic of Indian street performers. Added colour, humour and his wit to it. He refined it to suit the taste of the Western audience and travelled around the world as a very successful night club performer. There are many legends and anecdotes about him. According to one, he was once performing at a café in Berlin of Hitler's Germany. It was illegal to carry British currency in Germany during those days. Pasha was in the middle of his famous act "The Miser's Dream". He was making coins and currency notes of different countries in all denominations appear out of thin air while moving around in the café. Suddenly Hitler himself walked in. Pasha reached near Hitler and pulled out British currency from the dictator's pockets. Hitler was amused and impressed. He awarded a medallion to Pasha for this interesting presentation. After retiring, Pasha settled down in his hometown, Dehradun, where he later passed away in 1976.

**Magic is the ultimate stage of any skill. When something is practiced adequately, enough, it starts appearing like Magic. We literally come across expressions like "Com-**

**puter Wizard", "The Magical Voice of Lata Mangeshkar". When India was the World Champion in Hockey, Major Dhyhan Chand was known as "Hockey ka Jadugar", When he played, the ball appeared to have stuck to his hockey stick. Such was his control that several times the opponent teams suspected that his hockey stick was gimmicked and got it changed, but this did not hamper his performance in any way. There are Magicians of sorts in every field, be it simple domestic chores or intricate artwork.**

We Magicians, use our talent to create a world of fantasy. We attempt to challenge minds, stimulate imagination and break the monotony of the routine life. Mystery is the essence of our Magic. We guard our secrets not because of jealousy, but to maintain this mystery. Thereby ensuring pleasure for our imminent audience as well as for the audiences in future.

If it is so secret, how could one learn it? Well the answer is through mentoring? It is not that we do not pass on the secrets to the new generation. If this were the case, this art would have become extinct long ago. We are always on the lookout for talented and hardworking members of the younger generation, who have the potential of taking up Magic as an art activity.

Sameer Upadhyay

## Whatz In

J.B.'s papers  
I wanna do  
Nokia -Snake  
Mountain Dew  
Holi  
Mid-Terms  
  
Oliphant Room

## Whats Out

J.O.'s papers  
Do the dew  
I.T. Lab -Mario  
Icy Blue Cola  
Diwali  
Mid-term Examinations  
(Promotinal)  
Common Room

"NO REASON TO SAY BYE, WELHAMITE TILL I DIE"

1991-2003

"AND GOD SAID, LET THERE BE HEAVEN ON EARTH"  
- HANSHI (1991-2003)

TWO MOST EXCITING YEARS OF MY LIFE  
SPENDING TO AN  
ALVIDA WELHAM  
Siddharth Joshi  
2001-03

LIFE IN WELHAM IS LIKE  
LIVING ON THE EDGE  
ALWAYS EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

EVERY BIT AS ECSTATIC AS THE LAST ONE,  
BUT I'M TOTALLY "TOTE UD GAYE"  
1991-2003  
AATB

IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE  
LIFE AFTER LEAVING  
THIS PLACE.....  
Luv Welham  
1991-2003

1993-2003  
"A decade of ecstasy equals to a LIFETIME supply of memories."  
PRATHI

If I could stop time, I would hold on to you,  
but all good things must come to an end...  
Just luv. Anurag (1991-2003)

Saturday night affairs & Monday morning blues  
I'm surely gonna MISS IT!!  
I made the BEST use of Welham

1993-2003  
TEN KILLER YEARS  
CHATTING FOR 250 HRS  
SURELY WORTH IT.  
MISS YOU WELHAM  
SHAMMAM (1992-2003)

12 YEARS OF TRAINING  
'FINALLY GRADUATED'  
MISS U ALWAYS WELHAM  
1991-2003  
12 years → Last warnings-10  
→ EXPELLED-TWICE  
→ SUSPENDED-5 TIMES

For all it shows, the lowest lows  
The highest heights, the Army nights  
Once a Welhamite, always a Welhamite  
NO PROBLEMS. NO REGRETS

WELHAM MADE THE BEST OUT OF ME...  
(K-Hours Adventures)  
Rajesh (197-03)

Every minute in Welham was like a day in Heaven  
ON INTEGRATING 2-YEARS OF MY 'WELHAM LIFE', YOU WILL COME TO KNOW, WHAT I AM ALL ABOUT...  
WITH LUV AMAN (1992-2003)

ELEVEN YEARS, NOTHING WAS LOST  
ALL WAS GAINED, A WELHAMITE WHEN WALKED OUT WAS HAILED, THEY WORSHIPED US AND WE WORSHIPED WELHAM...  
Karan (1992-2003)

1992 - forever  
I asked God to give me "happiness", he gave me "WELHAM!"  
(Russian) TUSHAR (1992-2003)

When I sit down and think how my life has passed / hardly think...

1991-2003 (ULTIMATE MASTI)

1991-2003  
12 YEARS OF POWER  
TOO MUCH TO HANDLE!  
AMISHKAR (1991-2003)

The Welham Trip Legend  
The Welham Trip Legend  
The Welham Trip Legend  
WELHAM ON THE ROCKS!!!  
(SHAKEN NOT STIRRED)  
HAYAN ANA DRAVANA (197-03)

If someone tells me to write a book on WELHAM  
Believe me, it will be of an infinite pages of praises.

See you Welham

Some have left me,  
And some are taken away from me  
all are departed -  
All, all are gone, the old familiar WELHAM

Duyesh (1995-2003)

LIFE BECOMES MY FINE  
WITH MANY QUESTIONS  
I GUESS WELHAM WAS  
MY ANSWER.....

A villain to fantasize  
WELHAM got me civilized  
for all my homies & adversaries.

I'll be in Goffey's  
think in my times in WELHAM,  
damn! I'll miss my heaven

LONG LIVE WELHAM  
LONG LIVE HAI



WELHAM के प्रति हमारे दिलों में  
हमेशा प्रेम है।  
WELHAM के प्रति हमारे दिलों में हमेशा प्रेम है।

luv you WELHAM  
Rajesh Joshi (1992-03)

WELHAM NO GYAN  
ALL MISTI  
Siddharth Joshi (1991-03)

Fishi (1997-03)



SUMAN (1992-03)

FROM THE ABYSSIMAL DEPTHS OF DARKNESS, WELHAM HAS RISEN ME TO ENLIGHTENMENT.  
WELHAM HAS TAUGHT ME TO HOLD MY WORDS GOOD BYE TO THE OUTER WORLD NOW IT SAYS.  
HERD SINCE 1993  
AFTER 11 YRS...  
A MEMBER OF THE TEAM: 'WELHAM'  
Anubhav Salunke (1992-03)

KEEP THE FAITH.  
Rajesh (1993-03)  
MY END DRAWS NEAR,  
ITS TIME I WERE GONE,  
DONT SAY G'BYE, PLEASE  
JUST DONT SAY G'BYE..

I'll miss you WELHAM.  
Rajesh Joshi (1992-03)

(P.S. Thanks for all the NST)

WELHAM IS WHAT MADE L'S  
WELHAM WAS GOD'S PLAN.  
WHEN HE MADE MAN.  
Madhurya Ghoshal (1991-03)

# AN ACCOUNT OF A SOLDIER

It was a new day for Salim Khan as he was returning home victorious after the Kargil war. The Indian Soldiers had been fighting with the intruders for a month. At last victory came to us. The war had come and gone but it had completely changed Salim Khan's life. He was a soldier in the Punjab Regiment during the war. He had sustained many injuries. He had to leave the war in between and was taken to hospital. A bomb blast had nearly killed him but somehow he was saved. After spending a few days in the hospital, Salim Khan recovered from his injuries. By that time the war was over. But what was more important was that his face had been disfigured by the blast. It was unrecognizable after the injuries had healed. If Salim had stood in front of a mirror to see his reflection he would not have been able to recognize himself. It was a big individual loss, but his happiness knew no bounds when he came to know that India had won the war.

Though his face was unrecognizable he did expect his family members to recognize him. He was returning home to his parents who would welcome him and give him the comfort, which he needed. He was hoping at least his mother would recognize him and shed tears of joy and relief on his arrival. Salim recalled the day when he was leaving for the war, how his mother had cried and did not let Salim go. But somehow he managed to calm her and slip out of the house when she was sleeping. He kept thinking what her reactions would have been when she realized that her only son was missing from the house. Now any such complication of losing life was over and he was returning home alive. It was a special day for him as he was returning home on 26<sup>th</sup> March, this day also being his Birthday.

I think none of us can understand the emotions of a soldier who has won the war for his country but lost his identity. How could his loss be compensated? Thinking about a plastic surgery for a soldier seems like a joke as it costs

a lot. So will Salim Khan live his entire life with an ugly and disfigured face? He was still a bachelor and there was no doubt that his family would have problems while selecting a bride for him. Salim could have helped his cause if he found a bride for himself. It is not the first time when such an incident happened with a soldier. A soldier only gets a meager compensation and then he is on his own. You can look into the lives of soldiers who had suffered during the war. They lived in poverty and ignorance. Will Salim Khan's fate be the same?

He was sitting alone in the bus, thus inviting anyone to accompany him. When the bus stopped after sometime, a lady got into the bus and sat along side Salim. Her face was not visible as she was wearing a 'Burkha'. She did not unveil herself even when the conductor came to ask for money. For a long time Salim did not speak to this lady but soon broke the silence. Salim asked her where she was going. Incidentally she was going to the same village where Salim lived. Though she lived in the same village he never bothered to ask her her name nor the area where she was living. Soon the lady started talking about the annual fair on the occasion of Eid in the village. The conversation was short and they only exchanged few words about the festival. There was again an air of silence, as the two did not speak to each other. Salim thought that this lady was being polite to him only because his face was disfigured. Since he was injured, this idea never left his mind. However Salim's village arrived and he was getting ready to get down. After the passengers got down the bus left for its final destination. When Salim was leaving the lady came up to him and said that she was looking forward to meeting him in the Eid fair. Salim smiled at the lady and said that he would not be able to recognize her, as he had not seen her face. At this the lady realized her fault and unveiled herself. Salim looked into his mother's face.

**Croccifixio**

# NATURE'S DIARY

The existence of trees on this dynamic planet is the most important aspect of the living world. One might start by reminding man of his evolutionary link with the trees, which has helped us make what we are. It is obvious that we cannot afford to break that link so soon without great risk. Despite our great advance and freedom from nature, ever since we parted company with trees, we still need them for shelter against sun and glare, extremes of heat and cold, storms and floods, and so on. This brings us to a consideration of man's civilizations, which has and is making more and more independent of nature.

Modern time scenario has changed. Man is the chief enemy of trees. Millions of trees are being cut down every year to satisfy his need for wood. Deforestation is a global phenomena. Once a disciple asked Gandhi Ji, "Sir, what is going to be form of agriculture in future?", Gandhi Ji replied – "It is going to be the cultivation of trees." The message was clear. Plant or perish. No civilization has survived the extinction of trees. We cannot afford to lose trees. No works of man whether it be a town or factory, field or orchard, road or canal, mine or dam, can survive without the benevolent protection of trees. Trees are therefore the greatest benefactor of mankind.

De-forestation is being done for want of land to cultivate, to setup industries or to settle new township. Everywhere it is the narrow vested interest of greedy people. Trees would be cut for laying high tension transmission lines, irrigational project, laying Roads, Railways, etc. trees destruction due to mining or quarry is yet another example of man's greediness. Large tracts of forest have been removed in Orissa, Bihar, Jharkhanda, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Goa. This is because the required mineral deposits were found under the cover of the forest.

Felling of green trees must stop immediately 25 billion trees are required to be planted just to stabilize our precious environment. Nothing can be achieved unless the masses become aware of the impending disaster. If De-forestation is not controlled then face the grim consequences of global warming, ozone depletion and acid rains, Famine Draughts, Floods, Pollution and Erosion of Bio – Diversity.

By the way two 'Leechi' trees have dried up in the orchard. Two cover the loss four saplings of 'Leechi' have been planted in the first week of March 2003.

-Yours Environmentally,  
S. S. Khaira

## Ring Side View

All things good come to an end. So did the ICC Cricket World Cup and the Cricket Inter House.

The Inter House kicked off with Cauvery playing against Jamuna. The Jamuna team put up a reasonable score of 135 in 30 overs. But, the school cricket captain being in Cauvery proved to be a key factor. With Vansh's batting and a few knocks from the middle order batsmen saw them smoothly sailing to victory. The next match was between Ganga and Krishna where Krishna scored 144 runs with a very weak batting line up. Ganga was sure to win, but due to bad lights and the match had to be continued the next day, and a miracle happened. Ganga's batsmen were soon

faultering and got out in quick successions. The match had a nail biting finish with Krishna victorious by a thin margin of 2 runs. Krishna and Cauvery match did have quite a turn out. Krishna's batting line up was totally thrashed by the Cauvery bowlers. All thanks to the tail enders Ayush and Prabesh who put up a 60 run partnership and saw the scoreboard to 149. Cauvery could not stop Krishna from winning the match. Krishna won the match by 34 runs.

Angels were spotted on the outfielders when Jamuna House beat Ganga by three wickets Abhishek took four for 22. But the match of the season was surely the Ganga Cauvery match. Batting first, Ganga scored a massive total of 194



runs. These runs came off the bat of Kaustubh and Arjun who respectively scored 58 and 44 runs. Cauvery defied all conventions and laws when they chased this mammoth score. Varun (60 runs) and Vansh (41 runs) solidified the base, but three amazing wickets from Aijaz stunned the crowd. The match seemed to go Ganga's way with Cauvery having to score 30 runs of six overs with just two wickets in hand. The illusion turned into reality with stunning performances from Marij and Faizan who took Cauvery closer to victory. The match came to a vein-thumping draw.

The final match was played between Krishna and Jamuna. Against the low scoring total put up by Krishna, Jamuna was left to bite the dust by three runs. They had four runs to make of ten overs with three wickets in hand. The Krishna team lived up to the motto of the house 'Never say die' and the disappointed the crowds who were cheering on top of their lungs for the Jamuna tail enders.

With over a month of chaotic cricket at the back of the Welhamites' mind the ICC Cricket World Cup the common rooms were turned into stadiums. India's every match was scrutinized by

the cricket buffs. Every victory was a potion of ecstasy and every loss a disappointment. India made it into the Super sixes with great ease. But a lot many favorites could not make it to the Super sixes. South Africa was again denied a berth due to statistical errors. West Indies was also shown the way out by some good cricketing.

Kenya was having the time of their life by entering the Super sixes. Their fairly tale came to an end in the semi-finals against India. The most viewed match of the World Cup was the India-Pakistan match. India kept up their winning streak against Pakistan and did their country proud. The students here went berserk after the Indian victory and like the

multitudes, celebrated it by bursting firecrackers.

The final match saw Australia victorious after India's false hope of re-living the 1983 victory. The Indians put up a good show, but it was not good enough to beat the massive total of 359 by Australia.

At the boundary,  
Nishant Joshi



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