

The Elephant

No. 289

WELHAM BOYS' SCHOOL

17th May 2003

Think About It...

Insane people are always sure that they are fine. It is only the sane people who are willing to admit that they are crazy.

-Nora Ephron

EDITORIAL

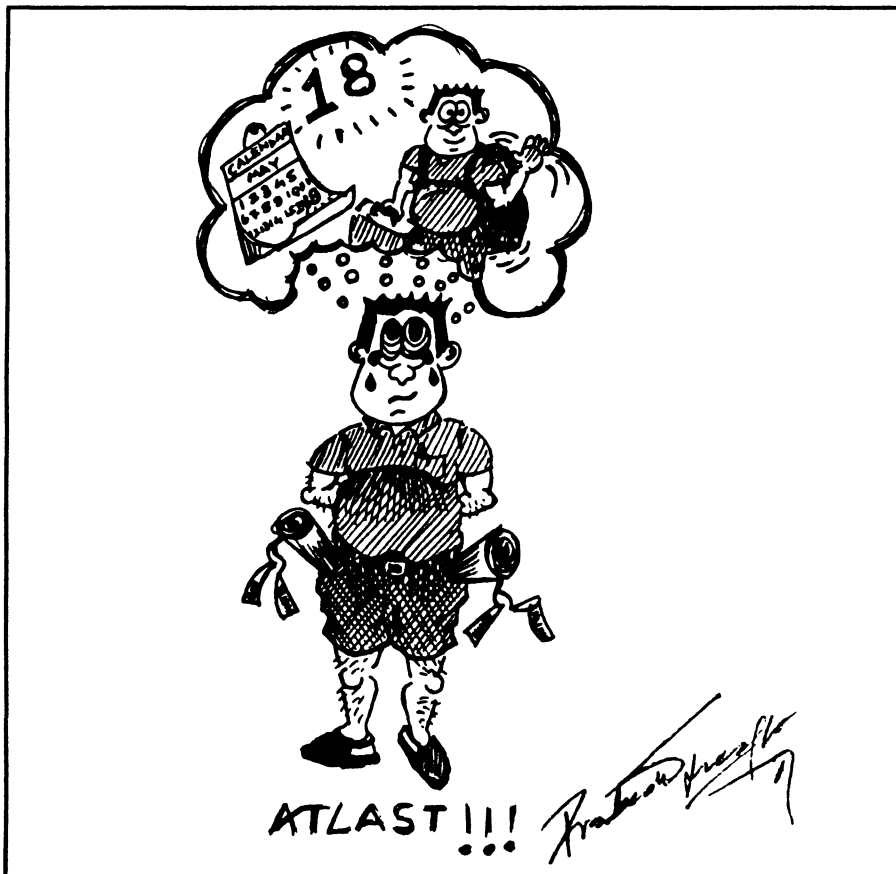
As I give these end of term examination my mind is caught up in a maze. When I sit down to prepare myself for the next paper, but my brain is not willing to do so. I sit down to type my editorial and my limbs do not allow me to. I m, puzzled, boggled, and confused, . What would be the cause behind this chaos?. After all there is just one phenomenon behind all this chaos.

Now in general-ity, every-one knows the cause, and if given a chance to enumerate the reason, my eardrums would explode. Everyone says that it is time to go home. Well, as for me, it is about time that I went home and pampered myself.

This term has been a long and a te-

dious one. Well, longer than any, as matter of fact, in the Welham history. It started off with long, cold, sleepless nights, and it ends with long, hot, sultry, sleepless nights. The term saw

a lot of ups and downs. Now, I am not going to give a statistical graph to refresh your memory about the term, but I generally like the whole idea of briefly discussing the incidents of the term. Hahaha., it is not the Principal's Report.



This term was totally flooded with triumphs and tribulations in the various fields for the Welhamites . A lot of problems were overcome by Welhamites and the not to forget the staff members happiness and sadness came and went away in quick successions, though the lat-

ter ones still resonates in the minds of many.

Oh! I nearly missed mentioning a recent incident. The school abruptly was doused in hailstorms and later on by darkness in its entirety. A sudden shower and gales had the school and in fact the whole valley helpless. Electric poles were ripped off from their strong foundations. Tall trunked trees were shown the ground when the winds amputated their upper body. With the falling of trees an exhibit in the science park got damaged. Since, I do not know much about the exhibit or the incident, I would rather not speak, for my own good. Tin roofs, atop Krishna were blown away by the strong winds. Electric and telephone lines were totally messed up and tied into a knot. Even in the midst of all this panic and chaos, Welhamites did not miss out on getting a little bit of fun. Few ran into the main fields and played soccer, while the onlookers made paper aeroplanes and saw their creations take to the air. With the electricity out all of us here could not get down to the serious business of studying for our examinations.

The examinations have now got over and it is time for us to have a blast. But

have you ever thought about the disposition of our staff members. They now have the tasks of filling in grades and numbers in our termly mark sheets. To aggravate the matter, they have to give out the answer sheets to respective students and file in the necessary details. Aha! And not to forget the much dreaded report have to be filled in too. So in the meantime do we have the permission to legally fleet from the morning classes and the day classes too?

From the international scene I have nothing to say or write. Why so, the examinations have marred my eyes to relish the fonts of the newspaper. As it is the stale news on S.A.R.S. and the much prolonged war in Iraq keeps on surfacing now and then. As for the Bollywood scenario you know what is what.

Hey, ever thought about counting the seconds left to go home? The answer will be told in the next issue. So happy holidays.

Heading home,
Pranab

Welham Now

I.C.S.E. Workshop on Economic Application was held on the 8th and 9th May, 2003, in Delhi. Mr. Aseem Tripathi from our school attended the workshop.

End of Term Examinations were held from the 10th to the 15th, May.

The Summer Holidays start from the 18th of May, and the school reopens on the 3rd of August.

O B I T U A R Y

The Welham Community mourns the sad demise of Ex-Welhamite Gursajan Gambhir (350 / K, Batch of 1993). Our prayers and deepest condolences are with his family for peace to the departed soul.

LITERARY AFFAIRS

An Excerpt from an Iraqi's Diary

...Oh Allah! I've been awake all night listening to the bombshells and the F-16's whizzing over my head. The electricity has been cut off and my house is in darkness except for the oil lamp I'm using to fill my diary. My 3 year old son has been incessantly crying and my wife has been unable to control him. The noise caused by all the destruction being wreaked around us does not let him go off to sleep. My eyes are heavy and I also need to sleep. The noise is ear-deafening, yet I write in my diary and never forget to pray to you. Oh! Allah!

I cannot just explain how chaotic these days have been, Allah. They're worse than hell. The coalition forces are steadily advancing towards Baghdad. Our Fidayeens will fight till the very end but they are no match to the trained coalition troops. I know we are going to lose this war - it's only a matter of time. I shouldn't be saying this Allah and I hope you will forgive me but my mind is on the side of the coalition troops whilst my heart says I should not betray my Nation. But Allah tell me if I've done the right thing or not. I've suffered for two decades during the Saddam's rule. During his regime everything was at his whim. Just imagine all those women who could not continue their further education studies and be at par with men. How they must have suffered. They lost twenty years of their lives being isolated in the four walls of their homes. Their homes! they cannot even be called homes. They're worse than a pigsty. Saddam has made our life so difficult. All the bare necessities we ever get is a couple of hours of electricity and an hour of water! Is this justice? I don't think so. So why are all of us out there fighting for a pro-Saddam regime? They should be thankful to the coalition troops for at last heeding to our call, our revolt against Saddam a decade or so ago had only a minimal response from America. But when the Americans are now risking their lives to free us why are we not helping them? It's really ironic, you see, for once when the Saddam's regime is over all of us will be thanking

them, the Fidayeens shot down an Apache helicopter while people were receiving food and water distributed by the coalition forces. I don't know what to do. I am totally confused. Somehow I feel I can rid myself of this confusion by writing to you Allah. I've truly told you all my feelings as I feel the tremors of the bombs. I hope you forgive me for this but what the Americans are doing they're doing for us so it seems very logical to help them. For give me. I have given my justification.

My headache keeps on increasing, now even my wife has started crying along with my baby. Her patience and silence has been broken by the din all around us. I don't know when this will stop, but I know justice will be delivered. My oil lamp has started flickering. It just shows how fast and fleeting life can be.

Allah! is this the way you'll give me justice. Why, Allah, Why? I know its you who made the coalition troops misfire their bombs. if you wanted to kill me why didn't you kill me painlessly. I have been lying in my blood for an hour. I can't hear my wife and child crying. so, you've punished them for my mistake too. Oh Allah! you're so unjust. You're punishing me for the mistakes I haven't even committed. Allah! what was wrong with what I have done? Or rather what have I done that was wrong? perhaps I'll know these answers only in heaven but then again I won't know the answers for you'll probably send me to hell. The oil lamp's lying on the ground next to me. It's flickering even more just as if its dying away is signifying how slowly you're taking away my life from me. This past hour I have suffered more than I've suffered in Saddam's twenty years rule. Is this what i deserved. Are you listening Allah!

- Iraqi Anonymous

Mid Term: The Natural Heritage and Students Programme

The Natural Heritage and students is an ongoing novel programme of Uttaranchal Forest Development Corporation (UFDC). The programme aims at sensitising students about the rich natural heritage and culture of the region and orienting them for the conservation of heritage. The entire plan was covered in various phases such as discussion, visual sessions, field study, role-play and research.

It is hoped that faced with general deterioration of the environment, water and soil, pollution, global warming, the hole in the ozone layer, extinction of the species and decline of biodiversity, this programme will make a significant contribution towards the protection of environment its culture and natural diversity.

Our school on becoming a member of UFDC'S with class 8th boys went to participate in the Natural Heritage Programme during mid-term. Therefore before mid-term an orientation session of 2 hours was organized in the school's A.V Room on 15th March.

During orientation the boys had an interactive session with UFDC Forest officials. They discussed on environment and a slide show presentation on Natural Heritage. The entire schedule of mid-term was explained to the boys. The place to visit for this programme was Khirsu, in the Pauri District of Garhwal.

THE FIELD VISIT:

Khirsu (1700 mts.) is 19km from Pauri. The purpose of the visit was to give the boys a hand on experience on day to day basis, so that they could enjoy and appreciate the diverse natural and cultural environment of the region. During different visits boys were able to interact with people from various research institutions, who are concerned with the preservation and conservation issues of the region. The five-day programme is described below:

• 28th March(Friday):

We left the school at 9 a.m. The route we took was DehraDun-Rishikesh-Devprayag- Pauri- Khirsu. From Devprayag a short cut route across newly built bridge was followed. By 4:30 p.m. we were at Khirsu. The accommodation was arranged for us at

the forest rest house. This FRH was built in 1819. We were warmly welcomed by the staff of the FRH. From the Forest Rest House we could get a splendid view of snow covered Himalayas from East to West. From here, we could identify the famous peaks such as Gangotri , Kedarnath, SumeruParbat, Chaukhamba and Nilkanth. All these peaks are above 6500 mts.

After getting fresh and having tea in a meeting the forest guides gave us briefing about the forest area. Boys were told to collect anything while trekking and make a collage on the display board. The group was taken on a guided tour by the staff to familiarize them with the forest campus.

We visited nearby places such as a nursery of medicinal plants and Van Chetana Kendra (park). The park was attached with the forest. As it was getting darker we could hear several calls from the birds and the wild animals.

At 7 p.m. in the rest house there was a slide show presented by one of the forest guide. He gave an excellent insight about the higher regions of Uttaranchal. The boys enjoyed the show and discussed the environmental problems with the presenter.

• 29th March (Saturday)

We left at 8:30 for Bharsar Garden in a bus. Enroute to Bharsar there was a small halt at Pabo for bird watching and plant identification. It was a long journey of 3 hours and the weather also became inclement. Due to rains the vehicle could not be taken to the garden. Therefore, we had to walk down to the site of the garden. This was once the largest government fruit orchard in Asia. Now it is proposed to be converted into a Horticulture University of Uttaranchal. We were back at the FRH by the evening.

After dinner a campfire was arranged. Boys talked of various environmental activities and also cracked jokes and recited stories. The forest guard shared his experiences in the forest areas. The project co-ordinator told stories about Jim-Corbett and Lord Baden Bowell.

• 30th March(Sunday):

The weather continued to be inclement. Therefore 'drive to Pithudi Khal', scheduled in the itinerary had to be dropped. We went to Chaubatta Khal. From here a 5km. trek to Ulkaghari Temple through the Oak and Rhododendron forest was quiet exciting. The trek was interesting for the boys as they could watch a variety of birds and some were lucky to hear alarm calls of a Barking Deer. At the temple the boys did some sketching which was later put up in the UFDC office. We also found fresh skat of a leopard.

After lunch we went to the historic temples at Devalgarh. These templates are more than a hundred years old under the Archeological Survey of India.

Late in the evening a general knowledge quiz related with environment was arranged. It was a little cold and the fireplace of the FRH was used. Nishit Biyani, Kunga Namgyal and Manishek Gupta answered maximum questions correctly. In the final round Kunga Namgyal won a trophy.

After the quiz the boys were asked to speak for two minutes about how did they spend the day. They particularly spoke on how would this camp help them in future to be more environment friendly adults.

• **31st March(Monday):**

We left Khirsu with beautiful memories of the lodging in forests. Before departure a debriefing session was held and the boys gave their feedback. The observation charts was put up along with the best 5 entries of temple sketches. The displayed board too had some poems written by Kranti and Chirantan Singh.

On our way to Pauri there was a small trek of 2 km. to Nagdevta Temple in the midst of forest. This forest has mixed trees of Thuja compacta, Devdar and Cypress. Enroute Srinagar at 'Ganga Sthali Darshan' on a 'U' turn

we saw the spectacular view of Alaknanda and Srinagar. We reached Srinagar about 3 o' clock. Here the contract from the forest people was over. After arranging for night stay we went to a small beach of River Alaknanda. Boys enjoyed swimming and playing in the shallow under the supervision of the escort.

• **1st April(Tuesday):**

After having breakfast we left Srinagar on hired Sumos. The journey continued back to school except we had our lunch in a restaurant at Rani Pokhri.

Memorabilia:

Khirsu is located in the dense forest of mainly Rhododendron trees. Fortunately, the trees were in bloom with beautiful large rose like red flowers. Leopard was the talk of the place. We left Khirsu with a heavy heart, as we could not spot a leopard.

The feedback forms filled by all revealed that interpretation, guides, staff of the forest officials were helpful and cooperative. The food was delicious and mouths watering everyday.

On 10th April a general body meeting of our school and Riverdale High School was held. Their destination under the same programme was Corbett National Park. This gave boys a good opportunity to interact and share their experiences with each other. During the meeting Aman Verma, Nishit Biyani, Karan Vaidya, Arshjyot Singh Bedi and Manishek Gupta narrated their forest experiences. Kranti snatched a very high applause for imitating calls of Dog, Cat, Cow, Goat, Jackal and Chimpanzee. The entire programme was covered by the local media like the Himachal Times, Amar Ujala, Doon Plus (TOI) and Garhwal Post.

This concluded our mid-term incorporated with natural heritage programme was learning which with fun and being more close to nature.

-S.S.Khaira

Those Wacky Woodseaters

A Busy Day

I study in Welham Boys' School. One Friday morning I got late for school as I woke up late and in rush I had to get ready to go to school. When we were half way through, then we saw that traffic was building up.

When we went closer to the traffic it turned out to be that the cows were merrily chewing green and juicy grass in the middle of the road, while the

traffic police was blowing his whistle and the rest of us were blowing the horns of our vehicles.

Just then an old man came and started waving his newspaper at them. Cows then got scared and ran away. Slowly the traffic moved and the police was able to clear it up.

I reached late, but my teacher did not scold me. Guess what, she had a hearty laugh listening to the traffic jam created by the cows.

-Keshav Vishvanath (5-b)

Nature's Diary.

The tree Planting activity of SUPW has been resumed with the new academic year. The first task accomplished by the boys of this activity was fresh counting of the trees in the campus. This was very enthusiastically done in 4 tuesdays during SUPW. The total number of trees also includes young sablings which were planted 3 years ago. To further the scope of planting, every monsoon on an average 25 trees are being planted. Following is a checklist of trees of the Welham campus.

TREES OF THE WELHAM CAMPUS

S.No.	Vernacular Name	Botanical Name	No. of Trees
1	Amaltas	Cassia fistula	30
2	Araucaria	Araucaria cookii	2
3	Ashok/Mast tree	Polyalthia longifolia	12
4	Bamboo(clumps)	Dendrocalamus strictus	55
5	Banya Pine	Araucaria bidwilli	1
6	Bottle brush	Callastemon lanceolatus	9
7	Camphor	Cinnamomum camphora	29
8	Cassia	Cassia Glauca	5
9	Cassia	Cassia nodosa	1
10	Chakotra	Citrus decumana	2
11	Chalta	Dillinea indica	4
12	China Palm	Phoenix acaulis	1
13	Chir	Chirpine roxoburghii	6
14	Devils Tree	Alstonia scholaris	1
15	Fishtail Palm	Caryota urens	2
16	Golmohar	Delonix regia	21
17	Guava	Psidium guyava	3
18	Harsingaar	Nyctanthes arbor-tritis	2
19	Hollock	Terminalia mariocarpa	3
20	Horsetail/Whistling pine	Casurina equisetifolia	1
21	Jack fruit	Artocarpus heterophyllus	2
22	Jamoa	Eugenia cspidata	3
23	Jamun	Syzygium cumini	2
24	Jarul	Lagerstroemia flos-reginae	23
25	Java ki Rani	Cassia javanica	4
26	Kachnar	Bauhinia purpurea	10
27	Kachnar	Bauhinia variegata	8
28	Kadam	Anthocephalus cadamba	2
29	Kanak Champa	Pterospermum acerifolium	24
30	Koelreuteria	Koelreuteria apiculata	2

31	Lichi	Litchi nephium	38
32	Magnolia	Magnolia grandiflora	4
33	Mango	Mangifera indica	38
34	Maxican Silk cotton	Choisia speciosa	10
35	Morpankhi	Thuja compacta	8
36	Mulberry	Morus alba	4
37	Nagkesar/Ironwood	Mesua ferra	1
38	Neem	Azadirachta indica	4
39	Nili Gulmohar	Jacaranda mimosifolia	21
40	Pagoda/Frangipani	Plumeria rubra	1
41	Pagoda/Frangipani	Plumeria acutifolia	2
42	Palash	Butea monosperma	2
43	Palmyra Palm	Borassus flabellifer	4
44	Paper Mulberry	Broussonetia papyrifera	1
45	Peepal	Ficus religiosa	1
46	Pili Kaner /Oleander	Thevetia peruviana	3
47	Pilkhan	Ficus infectoria	1
48	Queens Land Kauri	Agathis robusta	2
49	Rubber Tree	Heavea Brasiliensis	1
50	Safeda	Eucalyptus citriodora	26
51	Semal	Bombax ceiba	1
52	Shisham	Dalbergia sissoo	14
53	Silver Oak	Grevillea robusta	59
54	Siris	Albezzia lebbeck	1
55	Sita Ashoka	Saraca indica	4
56	Son Champapa	Michelia champaca	2
57	Tecoma	Tecoma argentia	1
58	Tiger Bamboo(clumps)	Bambusa vulgaris	2
59	Toon	Cedrela toona	13
60	Unidentified		5
	TOTAL		544

RINGSIDE VIEW

Its been a long time since the fields of Welham have been suffering form isolation. With the examinations coming and going the arenas for sports have changed. Once again the corridors of triveni are being seen in action. The seasonal games have long gone, but they continue to be played in the corridors of Triveni and Krishna. The sight of the missing tube lights also indicates the presence of corridor volleyball.

With every field sport losing its essence during the examination, soccer seems to have boomed. The kitchen block field is seen everyday in action, with the upcoming stars of Welham trying to vent their frustration on the football.

Its seriously tough to kill the sporting instinct in the welhamite.

While the school had its heads buried in books, the trio of Asad, Maroof and Surya had their hands on the balls. The three were a part of the Dehra Dun team, which beat the Roorkee team in the state Basketball Championship final held from the 8th to the 11th of May, at Roorkee. Apart from glorifying this prestigious institution's name they have also been selected for the India Camp. I guess this is the just the beginning.

The West Indians went into the fourth test against the Aussies as underdogs but gave the one day champs a run for their money.

Jermaine Lawson picked up a 7 wicket haul as the Aussies made their lowest score of 240 in this series. The home team managed to level; the score at the end of their 1st innings. The second Innings saw Mathew Hayden making 177 and larger 111 as the Aussies were all out for 417. But the Windies retaliated by scoring 371 at the end of the 4th day and with 4 wickets in hand they look like preventing the Aussies from a clean sweep.

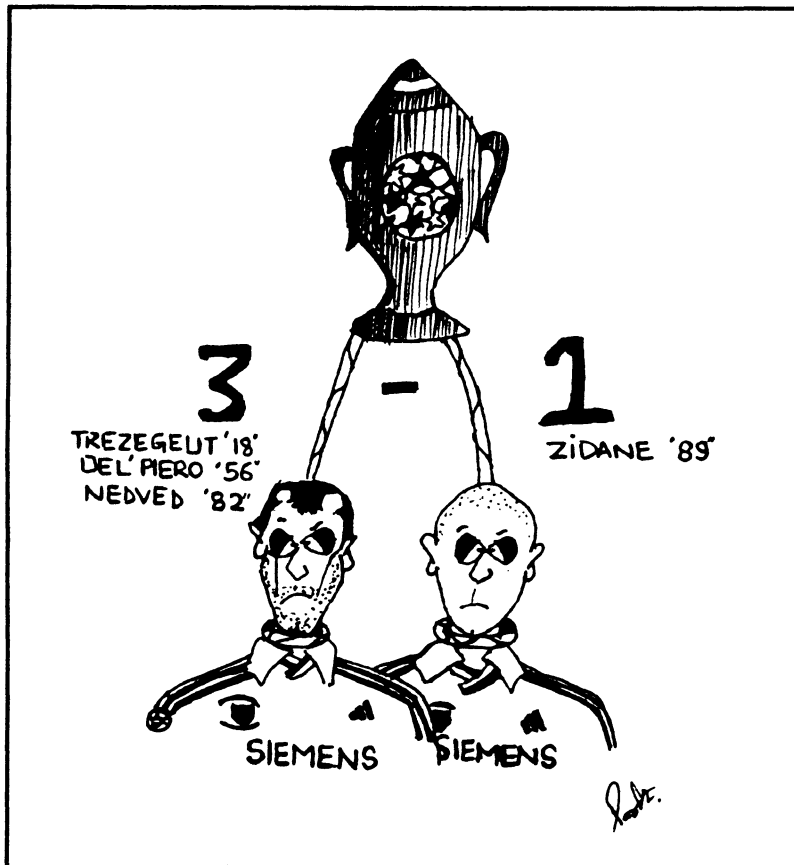
Manchester United have finally turned the tables on their arch rivals Arsenal by winning the FA Barclaycard Premiership with two matches to spare. Manchester United have won their 8th title in a span of 11 years. Juventus geared for their home leg Champions league match against 9 time champions Real Madrid by winning the serie A Madrid on the other

hand lost their top spot in the La Liga to Deportivo after ending a match with a 0 – 0 draw. They may slip into third place if Sociedad win their match. It seems as if Madrid will go into the match at Turin as underdogs. After the Milan derby ended with a 0 – 0 draw at

San Siro, Inter look to have an advantage as they play their last semi-final leg against AC Milan at home. With Maldini retiring from football at the end of this season, he'll be even more pumped up to lead AC Milan to a champions league victory this year. So, on May 28 be glued to your T.V. sets at midnight to watch a possible All Italian Champion League final at the stadium of Dreams in Manchester.

As the soccer seasons come to an end the NBA and FI is just heating up. The NBA

is into its final stages as top teams fight it out in the playoffs to reach the final. The LA lakers will be looking to win their 4th title in as many years. With Michael Schumacher winning his 3rd consecutive Spanish GP he is now just 4 points behind leader Kimi Raikkonen as the newly released F2003 helped Ferrari to dominate the



Spanish GP.

So all good things must come to an end, so must this term. Hope you people have a fun summer. Sayonara !

-Karan Mehrotra

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