



The Elephant

No. 300

WELHAM BOYS' SCHOOL

10th April, 2004

Think About It...

Education is a progressive discovery of our ignorance.

-Will Durant



EDITORIAL

The true measure of success is not what you have, but what you can do without. The

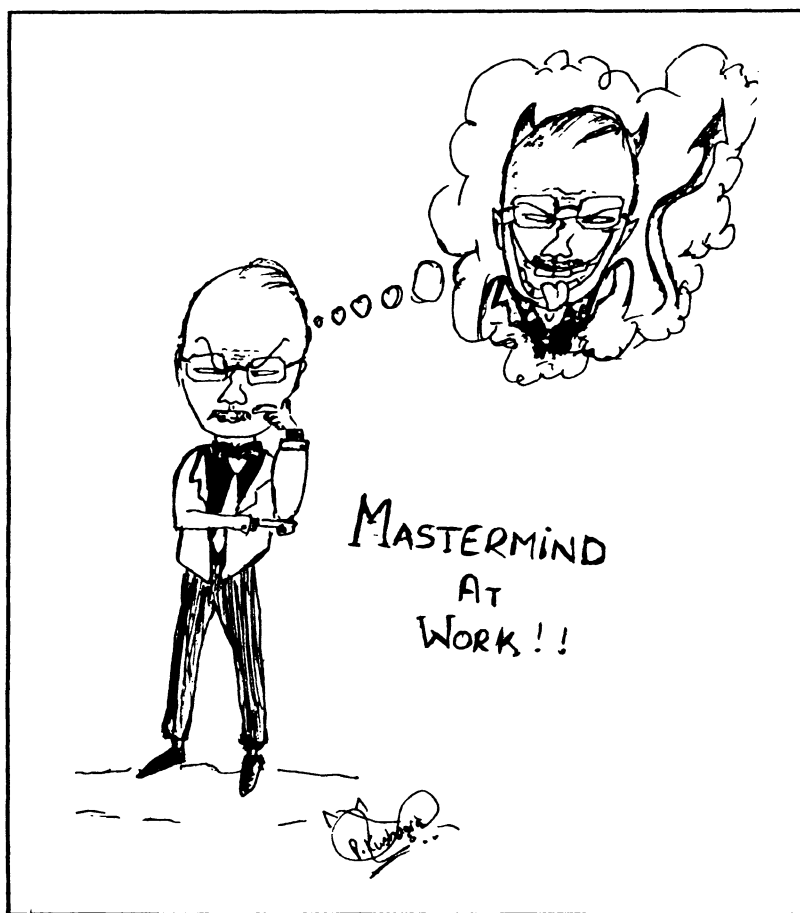
ation. However the beauty of the destination made it all worthwhile.

Just as the school left for the mid-terms,

lack of time for preparations for the mid-term examinations did in no way hinder the Welhamites from proving their skills once again on the examination answer scripts. It only went on to prove that despite doing other things, academics wasn't left as the last priority. There were a few exceptions to this.

Soon after the examinations, the boys left for their much-awaited

mid-term breaks. With a change being introduced into the mid-term system, the boys got an opportunity to move beyond the barriers of the Garhwal hills. Of course requests to go to Goa and Mumbai were not entertained, however places like Manali, Dalhousie and Dharamshala were accommodated in the plans. Personally speaking, a 26-hour drive to Dalhousie was definitely not my idea of relax-



the last lot of ISC candidates bid farewell to the Welham community. With tears and confidence, the boys walked past the gates of Welham forever and ever.

The second half of the term started on a very unexpected note. In the course of the first assembly the principal asked for volunteers to visit our friendly neighbours for a cricket quiz and that too during

class hours. Many Men of Honour took up this golden opportunity. However when the soldiers reached their battleground the real plot was discovered which left them in a rather embarrassed position. April Fools Day was definitely not the best day to start the 2nd half of the term.

The same day witnessed the arrival of new admissions in school. All I have to say to them is

that they are extremely lucky to have been chosen to be Welhamites and we are sure they will bring glory to the school one day. I wish them a good future at Welham.

It's very rare to be in the presence of people who create history and we are indeed very privileged to have them amongst us. The school recently hosted an art exhibition with well-known Indian artists being present to display their work. Their skill definitely left the onlookers awestruck and the national papers carried articles about their creations. Such a camp for artists in a school is something unique and we at Welham do such unique things!

Recently we also had a classical musical evening with our very own Indian music teachers Mr. Mukherjee, Mr. Dey and Mrs. Srivastava taking us on a mystical tour of Indian classical music. The level of music played was something that I am sure would have left professionals burning with envy. It was witnessed by eminent people of the valley and their praises only added more colours

to this occasion. Our musicians were simply fantastic. Such evenings only bring out the best of our culture and it would be shameful not to display the best people we have to bring it out.

Art and music are the two elements of the finer things in life and Welham gave it to us in the finest way it could. The Inter-house General Knowledge Quiz was an eye opener and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Apart from all the bad that the commerce students are accused of doing, the financial studies presentation made many people change their opinion about them. After all they are not all that bad!!!

Well, I do not know how I managed to put so much together in spite of being so preoccupied. The socials with Hopetown School is the only thing that most of the Twelfthies are looking forward to. Colognes and sprays are being tested well before the final day. It's after a really long gap that the social scene is back. Well it's just the beginning. I shall let you know all the gossip once it's over.

Till I'm brimmed with it again,
Yours truly,
Karan

LETTERS TO THE ED....

Dear Ed,

First let me pay my condolences to Mrs. Kandhari. Mr. Kandhari was the Principal when I was in school for a little over nine years. It was during this time that the school went from Strength to Strength. He was a great visionary who dedicated his life for Welham and it was because of his foresight that Welham has become such a favoured destination for students from all over. I as an exie would like Mr. Lahiri to carry on the legacy left behind by Mr. Kandhari.

It's amazing to know that the school has undergone so many changes like the bifurcation of the senior and the junior section. What is sad is that the exies don't know anything about it. It's nice to see a better website of the school, hopefully it will be more informative very soon.

I will be graduating from the National Law School, Bangalore this June. I will be based in Delhi from there on. If anyone from the school is interested in pursuing his career in Law then I will be more than willing to help him

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-Atish Kumar Vatts
(763-G, 1999)

Dear Atish,

It's been great to hear from you. I'm sure Mr. Lahiri will carry on the legacy that Mr. Kandhari left behind. The school definitely has gone through a series of changes. Well, change is inevitable. It's great to know that you shall be graduating from NLS, Bangalore. Thank you so much for willing to help out the boys pursuing law as a career.

With regards,
Ed

Dear Ed,

We were very sorry to hear of the demise of Shri. Kandhari affectionately known as Charlie. Shri. Kandhari taught me Geography in Doon School from 1970-1975 and I was in touch with him while he was Principal at Welham boys' School. Shri.

Kandhari was a man of values and always very helpful and has been a guide to many students of both schools which would certainly miss his presence. I am a past student since 1966-1970 at Welham and thereafter at Doon from 1970-1975.

May his soul rest In peace.

In sorrow,
Vivek John Matthai
AGM (Zone 4)
Mumbai

Welham Now

- Regular school activities resumed after the mid- term break, which stretched from 25th to 31st of April. Defying convention the junior classes went to places like Jaipur, Manali, Agra and Mount Abu, for their mid- term break.
- The school basketball team stayed back in school during mid- term as they had a camp which comprised rigorous practice sessions three times a day. They are gearing up for the four tournaments in April- May. Namely, Afzal Khan (Doon School), Win Mumby Tournament (Woodstock School), Districts (Welham Girls') and the prestigious Golden Jubilee in our school.
- After their short break post ICSE Board Examinations tenth graders rejoined school as class XI on 2nd April. Unlike their predecessors they have an option to opt for the Humanities.
- A 'Musical evening' took place on 2nd April where Mrs. Srivastava, Mr. Pradipto De and Mr. Mukherjee gave some scintillating performance. The long list of honoured guests included our school's board of Trustees and the Chairman Mr. Darshan Singh along with other eminent personalities. The evening was a great success as the audience could 'breathe' the divine music which took them to another level.
- The Lalit Kala Akademi Artists Studio's Regional Artists Camp was held in the LRC from 28th march to 4th April. Mr. Karna Puri was amongst the artists who attended the camp. The creations exhibited were a delight for all eyes.
- On 2nd April there was a talk by Mr. Achal Joshi, MBA (Human Resources Development)—the founder of Academy of Accelerated Learning & Self Development. As a part of the Accelerated Learning For You (AL4U) he will conduct a workshop in school.
- Tenth graders attended a beginner's course of NIM (Nehru Institute of Mountaineering) and returned to school on 7th April.
- The Inter House General Knowledge Quiz was held on 6th April. Jamuna won the competition with Krishna second followed by Ganga, who came third. The Jamuna team was represented by Asad Sultan, Parth Prasher and Sudhanshu Khemka.
- The School participated in the Saroj Srivastava English debate on the 9th of April. The team comprised of Kara Mehrotra, Samridh Rana and Ajitesh kir.

A note from Heaven

As I walked into the Krishna field a particularly beautiful sight struck me. Bright lamps casting their glow symmetrically on the stage, the effect accentuated by the moonlight filtering through the sparsely covered trees and a cool breeze soothing the still warm earth. A truly heart warming scene which would want any sensitive soul to celebrate the occasion of life.

The well-organized musical evening was attended by many guests including General Bakshi and his wife, Mr. Darshan Singh and our much missed 'ruddy ol' man' Mr. Bakshi. After the excellent intro-

duction the evening began on a divine note from Mrs. Vandana Srivastava. Her voice could have well been the envy of a nightingale and the disturbance caused by the erratic electricity couldn't have done less to disturb the attentive audiences.

After the wonderful beginning Mr. Pradipto De and Mr. Mukherjee of the school faculty took the responsibility of making the evening a huge success. Their combined skills at the tabla and sitar were incredible and the blending of their music was truly sublime. It was a pleasure to witness such a fine display of musical skills by our teachers. Just

when the evening was drawing to a close an unexpected short performance by two of our guests who came here for the art exhibition and whose skills in the words of Mrs. Basu ‘Go beyond the strokes of their brushes.’

This valiant effort paid off well with the audiences appreciating the performance.

Dinner followed at the L.R.C. terrace amidst much socializing and the guests were finally bid goodbye at 11:00 p.m.!!!

To compensate for the late night the authorities settled for cancelling the first school, hence giving a reason even to the non-music lovers to appreciate the occasion.

For the keen followers of classical music,

the concert started with a ‘bhajan’ sung by Mrs. Srivastava dedicated to Lord Krishna in ‘Rag Yaman’.

It was followed by Mr. De and Mr. Mukherjee who played a ‘dhun’ in ‘taal dadra’ (6 beats) with the tabla and sitar respectively.

What followed was ‘Rag Jhinghoti’ in ‘teen taal’ by both of them and a ‘chaiti dhun’, which is mainly a harvesting song. They concluded with a ‘Sawal Jawab’ session in which one of them would challenge the other to play similar music on his instrument while playing a tough piece on his own. The musical debate, which enraptured everyone, ended in a subdued ‘ragmala’ amidst deafening applause.

- Manu Sanan

Excerpts of an Interview with Seema Verma.

Experiment with Truth.

Seema Verma is an artist making steady progress in her expression. The manner in which she is able to create an interface between the abstract and the figurative is her strong point.

To achieve this she uses techniques like masking areas of her canvas with colour of different transparencies, covers areas with writing in different languages and by creating frames within frames to give one an illusion of a three dimensional space on a two dimensional surface.

At the same time, she fills her canvases with abstract forms, conventional symbols, gestures, figures and architectural and natural elements, allowing one thinking to wander from symbols, one reacts to in a knee-jerk fashion, to signs that the artist evolves from her experience of life.

Her art is a dialogue between the general and the particular; between colour and form; transparency and opacity; and between inner and external expression. She weaves all of these to-

gether as a weaver does, giving us a complex surface to interact with. In this process she evolves icons, visual narratives and even inscriptions that root the timelessness of contemplation to the temporal character of events that give rise to it.

In her present work, the abstract and figurative, the contemplative and concrete, the symbol and the sign, are all locked in mortal combat. One would like to know what will win in the end. But she leaves that question unanswered. And it is this ambiguity that is not at all contrived that gives this series its life. We are informed that her expression is still in flux, still moving and still alive. It is like a growing plant, or animal. The shape, colour and even the pace of growth changes constantly, reminding us that neither art nor life offer easy solutions. Her art carries that message in it. And that is its truth.

Suneet Chopra
(Art Critic)

Q. Did you always want to be an artist?

A. All I knew was that I loved to paint. Like all children I was given paper & all that but I would sit down and paint for hours, maybe 100 sheets at a time and my father would go crazy. He didn't know how to keep on the supply.

Q. What is it that gave you this fascination for art as
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a child?

A. I was an introvert. I hated to talk, I hated to communicate. This was the only respite I had. I loved the colours. It was a place where I could do anything and probably get any kind of results and I could be myself.

Q. Art is not everybody's cup of tea. What is it that

makes an artist?

A. I feel everybody is an artist. Everybody is creating something or the other because being an artist is not just expressing it on a piece of paper. I have dealt with children. They are fascinated by colours, they are fascinated by paints and they are intrigued by nature and things around them, which is what art all about. It is only when we make choices, when we are growing up that we can choose. I think art is there in everybody, it is a gift, which is given to us all equally, but the choices we make, that is what separates us from other people.

Q. There are different forms of art like shading, watercolours, oil painting etc. Which one do you specialize in and which is your favourite?

A. My favourite is mixed medium on paper. That's what I enjoy the most but I enjoy painting more be-

cause of the direct contact I have with my work.

Q. Now finally your message to the young artists at Welham.

A. Just feel free and be yourself. That's what art is all about. Art is nothing else than being yourself. You cannot confine yourself to a certain discipline or a mode and be an artist

The only discipline is to be yourself, feel free, soar high, that's what art is all about.

(And as I saw the painter retreating back into the art gallery, something made her stop. She turned around and said, "Karan, can you get an admission form for the school...I want to put my son here.")

- Karan Mehrotra

AL4U (Accelerate in learning for you).

AL4U (Accelerated Learning for You)

AL4U was a brief workshop that was conducted in the school on the 2nd April. It gave a small view of the contents of the workshop and the benefits that we would get from them.

Their representative Mr. Achal Joshi introduced the workshop and explained various skills by which one could work in a smarter and easier way. He even showed us a few shortcuts for basic mathematical calculations. He explained a shortcut for multiplying 2 digit numbers and how to find the root of a 2-digit number with great ease. His basic aim that day was to convey a very important message to all of us, that in these days of highly mechanized gadgets, one doesn't just have to work harder but in a smarter manner.

Some of the shortcut methods shown by

him were: -

To multiply two near base (such as 100):

1) Let the numbers be 95 and 96.

Procedure: -

$$95- 100 - 95 = 5 \quad (95 - 4 = 91)$$

$$96- 100 - 96 = 4 \quad (96 - 5 = 91)$$

$$91 \qquad 20(\text{ans. } 9120)$$

2) Now subtract 95 and 96 from 100, the base number.

3) Then multiply 5 with 4. We are supposed to write the product as a 2-digit number.

4) Then we cross subtract 95 and 96 with 5 and 4 respectively and write the resulting number before the 2-digit number 20 and hence we get the answer 9120.

A Report on the Welham Boys' and LKA Camp /Workshop

Welham Boys' School hosted a seven-day Regional Painters Camp/ workshop with the Lalit Kala Akademi (National Academy of Art), which brought to Dehradun ten artists from New Delhi, J&K, Haryana, Chandigarh, and Uttaranchal. Mr. Prabir Basu, Vice Principal, Welham Boys' School

and Mrs. Aditi Basu opened the workshop on 29th of March after the lighting of the lamp.

The workshop held at the Welham Art Gallery, proved to be a great success with students, staff and visitors spending a lot of time interacting and watching the artists as their works progressed. This

is the first time that Dehradun has been a venue for such a camp.

30th and 31st saw the artists in Dhanaulti, Mussoorie and Kempty Falls with an overnight stay at Cypress Heights Resort, Hatipao. Twenty canvases in various media were painted, two by each artist, apart from several portraits and sketches made in Dhanaulti, Mussoorie and Kempty. Mr. Karna Puri, Head of Art, Welham Boys' School, was one of the artists participating in the camp.

Mr. M. Ramachandran, Secretary of Lalit Kala was of the opinion that of the several camps that he had conducted this year, the output of the Welham Boys' Camp was of the highest standard. Mr. Phalguni Dasgupta, a well-known artist of international repute, concurred with Mr. M.

Ramachandran on this. Mr. Dasgupta was also the Chief Guest at the Valedictory Ceremony marking the end of the camp, on 4th April, 6 p.m., and opened the Exhibition of Paintings that were on display till 5th April. Mr. Dev Lahiri, Principal, Welham Boys' School, in his speech at the Valedictory Ceremony, expressed his desire to make this a regular Welham feature for inculcating an awareness and sensitivity to art among students and the people of Dehradun. The artists returned home with warm memories of Welham Boys' and this camp.

The press coverage of the whole event was in the national and local newspapers regularly. Sahara Samay televised the event. Some of the canvases painted during the camp are on permanent display at the Welham Gallery.

- Karna Puri

Dude of the Fortnight

This undisputable honour surprisingly goes to our Principal Mr. Lahiri whose powers of deception are as good as his administrative skills. Quoting Mrs. Lahiri, "In the matter of cricket and girls he is numero uno."

Well, this is what this dude pulled off.

The evening the boys returned from midterms he walked up to the cricket captain and excitedly told him that there was to be a cricket quiz organized by TEN sports. The winners of the quiz would be rewarded with an all expenses paid trip to Pakistan to witness the 3rd Test.

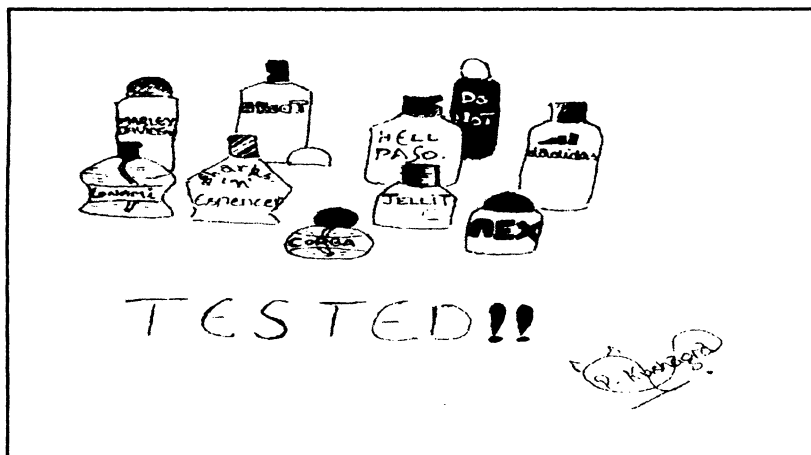
So, the cricket captain gathered a team of... (lets not mention how many people) to prepare

for the quiz which was 'supposed to be held' at 10.30 a.m. in our neighbouring school belonging to the opposite sex.

The cricket captain gave last minute tips to

his squad just before they reached the battlefield. On arrival they realized that Mr. Lahiri had managed to pull a 'really fast one' on the auspicious occasion of APRIL FOOLS DAY.

Well done Dude!



Natures Diary. The Colours of Nature.

Colour is the visible quality that objects have, produced by rays of light of different wavelength being reflected by them.

March is the most colourful month of the year. First of all the festival of colour- Holi falls in

this month. Secondly, nature has been very kind to please the eyes of mankind through the beautiful ornamental trees. The colours are around you. Admire or ignore them. The choice is yours. Colour is a sensation that is aroused when light falls in the retina

of the eye.

March is named after the Roman God of war. Therefore, come March and colours of flowering trees enhance the beauty of our surrounding. They are different from each other in hue, saturation and brightness. This is the time when Neem, Peepal, Banyan and Jamun trees shed their foliage and several trees start blooming magnificently. Many of these are to be appreciated in the campus.

Firstly around Holi one may recognize the utmost beauty of Palash (*Butea Monosperma*). It is also known as "the flame of the forest". On the campus Palash saplings are two years old and are planted around the volleyball court. They will bloom in the near future. The flowers are large velvety and silky within. The petals, which are orange or yellow, are also used to make Holi colours.

The loveliness of the flowers of Bottlebrush (*Callistemon*) lies in the stamens. Originally from Australia, the flowers appear on cylindrical spikes at the tip of twigs among leaves resembling a cylindrical brush (Bottlebrush). They can be seen next to the Geography lab, Indus hostel, and near the volleyball court.

Semal or Red cotton silk (*Bombay Caiba*) is a native of Malaysia. One has been planted in the corner of lawn tennis court two years ago. We must wait patiently to view it in full bloom in a couple of years.

One must note that on the campus we have trees with fragrant flowers and whose seeds are known as winged seed, such as

Kanak Champa (*Pterospermum Acerifolicum*). Do not miss those marvelous trees behind Sutlej House. The dense foliage with nearly maple like leaves and its hermaphrodite flowers are in pairs in pure white and dull yellow.

By the end of March, you cannot miss the orange on deep yellowish flowers of tall Silver Oak (*Grevillea Robusta*) making a gracious avenue from the gate to the LRC. Silver Oak can also be seen behind the dining hall, along the road to North Block, and the concrete path to Junior School and near the car park. The flowers are borne in a one-sided raceme and looks like a one - sided hair brush).

We have Kachnar or Bahunias in the corner of LRC steps, school nursery and also the one opposite the dining hall. There are mainly two varieties- *Bahunia purpurea* blooming with purple, white mauve colours and the second one *Bahunia Variegata* gives flowers in various shades of purple pink.

The Ashoka (*Saraca Indica*) or Sita Ashoka is near the ramp of the Activity Center and has just started blooming with great beauty. Its flowers are dense orange and red (*Corymbose Clusters*) turning to scarlet afterwards. The tree looks marvelous when flowers bloom profusely. Some Ashokas are planted near the tailor shop and one in the corner of Junior School.

One can also admire the colours of nature while roaming in the town in places such as the Survey of India, Garhi Cantt, Saharstradhara Road, Gandhi Park, Rajpur Road etc...

Dehradun is a very blessed town indeed.
- Surjeet Singh Khaira



RINGSIDE VIEW

The blazing sun, the dry weather, the sultry atmosphere and the hard ground. It was under these extreme conditions that the Cricket Inter House progressed. Throughout the afternoon the players gave in their best for their house, not relenting even one bit. As I had mentioned last time, you can never pick out the winning team unless the match has ended. Yes, sports are as unpredictable as earthquakes.

It so happened in the case of the Senior Inter House. The first match was between Ganga and Cauvery. Despite their moderate bowling attack, Ganga piled up 145 runs. Cauvery was off to a blazing start and were at one stage 117 for 3 in 12

overs till their last 7 wickets fell for just 12 runs. Amazing spin bowling and some great fielding did the trick for Ganga who won by 16 runs.

Then the team with the best batting line up Krishna faced the team with the best bowling attack Jamuna. Jamuna made a total of 110 runs. Asad and Umamah took five wickets each and bundled out Krishna for a meagre 30 runs.

Krishna and Ganga's match followed and Ganga could only manage to put up a total of 74 runs. Krishna won the match by 6 wickets although they were 0 for 2 after the first over.

Jamuna were in high spirits after their victory over Krishna but their over confidence led to

their fall. Posting a total of 150 on the board for Cauvery, their bowling succumbed to the pressure of the Cauvery batsman as Cauvery won by 5 wickets supported by Chirantan who made his way to a sensible 53 not out.

Now the Inter House reached a knock out phase as each team had one loss and one win to its credit. Jamuna played Ganga and despite some sloppy fielding Ganga bowled Jamuna out for 74 and eased its way to a six-wicket victory. Not that it was that easy a victory. It took Ganga quite an effort to get to their target as the Jamuna pacers refused to let them through.

The second finalist is yet to be decided between Krishna and Cauvery when they clash next week.

The Junior Inter House was a bit more high scoring. In the first match Tapti piled up 186 runs and bowled out Sutlej for 99. In the next match Indus made 181 and bowled out Sutlej for 91. As Sutlej lost both its matches it wasn't necessary for Indus and Tapti to play a league

match. The final was a really close affair. Tapti made 136 runs and Indus managed to reach 137 with one ball to spare and one wicket in hand.

With this month full of Basketball Tournaments our team played a practice match with Wood Stock. Being their first match the team-

work and coordination was a bit sloppy and this lost us the game. However to improve, the team stayed back in school during the mid-term. Under Mr. Rana coaching the team went through vigorous workout sessions after which they didn't have enough energy to even walk up to their hostels! The captain assures me that their training outdoors under



the sun has improved their game drastically and their result will show in the forthcoming tournaments.

I finally pen down saluting Virender Sehwag and the rest of the Men in Blue who were instrumental in making India win their first ever Test victory on Pakistan soil.

Till the blues come back home,
Shaunak Valame

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Published By : **Welham Boys' School**

Registration No. :- **20208/86**

Desktop Editors: **Ajitesh Kir**

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Printed at : **EBD Webseva, Dehra Dun.**