

The **Elephant**

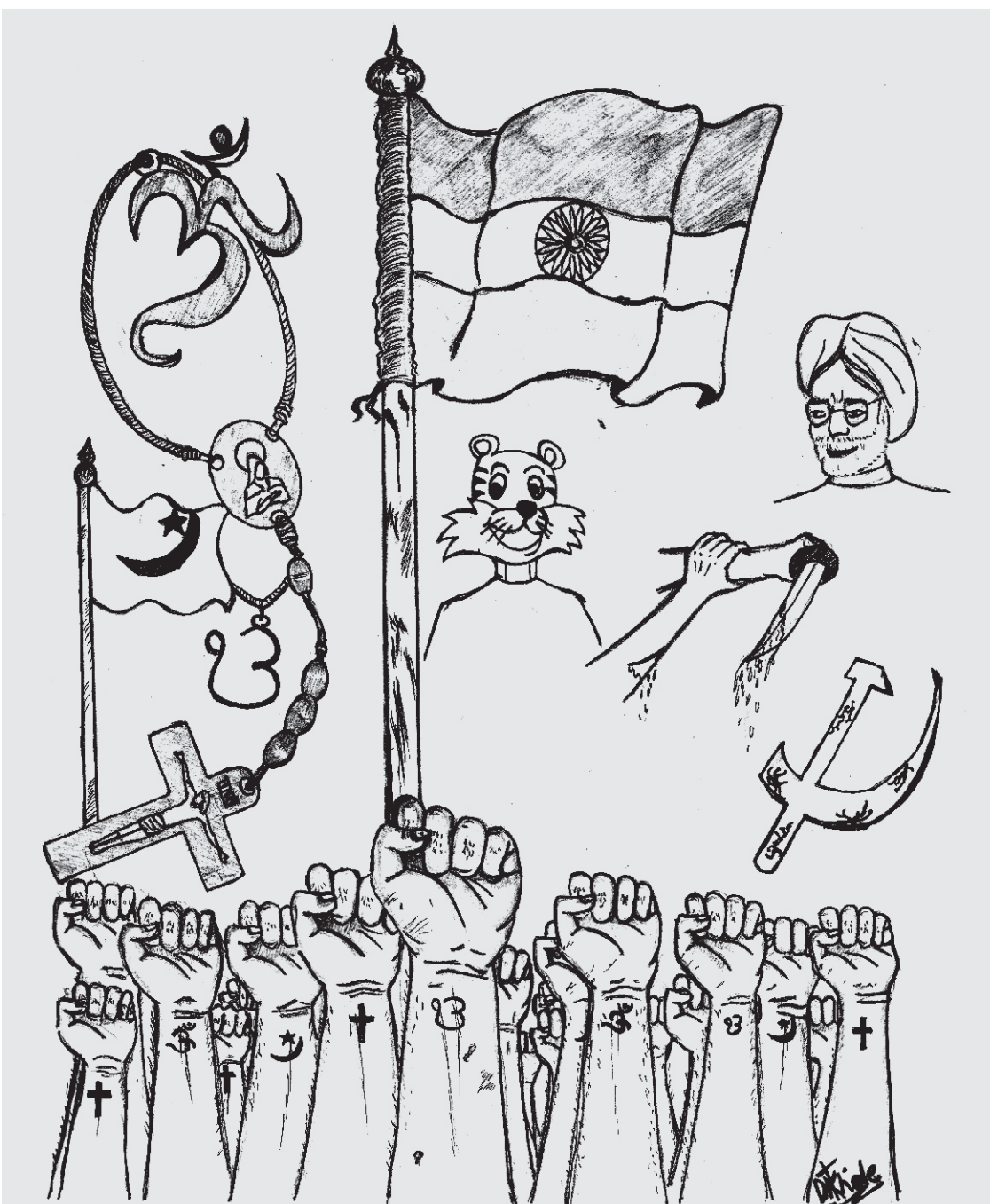
Vol. XXIX
August 2010
No. 4

WELHAM BOYS SCHOOL

THINK ABOUT IT...

Every generation has the obligation to free men's minds for a look to new worlds.

Ellison Onizuka



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Editorial

It seems, we have won. Sixty-three years ago, no one gave this 'land of snake charmers' a chance. Today, our growth rate has proved that we have survived. We have now become a 'stable' multicultural democracy with sky rocketing growth. But can we be the top dogs? Can we be a superpower?

The greatest threat to our internal security is the people who the government has marginalized. We took away their lands and their livelihood, under the excuse of economic globalisation. The Communist Party of India(Maoist), now stands in the way of us realizing our dream.

There is a reassertion of religious orthodoxy in all faiths in modern India- among Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Hindus and even among Jains. Non-liberal tendencies in all these religions are growing. As Ramchandra Guha puts it the mullas who abuse Sania Mirza or Tasleema Nasreen, and the Sikh hardliners who terrorise the Dera Saccha Sauda are wholly opposed to the spirit of the Indian Constitution. Christian and Muslim orthodoxy has a strong hold over society. But, most of all, Hindu fundamentalism is undisputedly the most dangerous of them all thanks to its superior political influence. If we aspire to see India as an inclusive, liberal and secular democracy, we need to speak up against this right wing religious extremism.

And who can forget our politicians?

Gone are the days of the 40's and 50's when India had a strong and committed government. Today people of limited intelligence and dubious integrity who know little about India and care even less for the ideal on which the Republic was founded, run the government. Unfortunately, a majority of our politicians come across as selfish, nepotistic, sycophantic and corrupt. The Commonwealth game scam is a case in point. Today's leaders need to stop pleasing the electorate and start doing things. The unstable coalition governments add to the worsening of such a situation, where the Center is not a united front, but a delicate china cup, stuck together by the 'fevicol' of ambition.

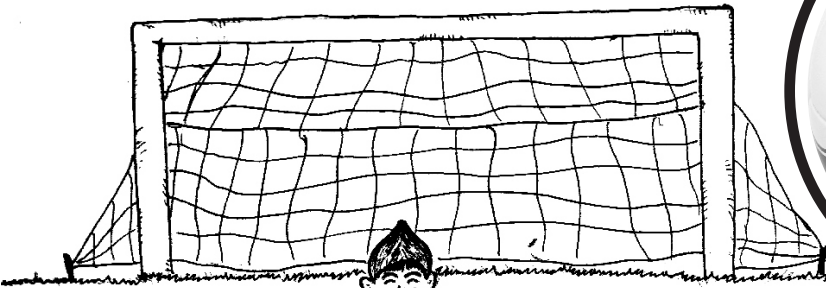
The increasing divide between the rich and the poor, and our unstable pattern of resource consumption do little help to our cause. As the rivers which are our lifeline get polluted, we can only wait for eventual doom.

I hope Welhamites take note of these musings and act in order to promote India to 'Superpower' status.

Before I finish, I would just like to put forward a thought on this Independence day. It may be a heavily over-used cliché, but we are the future of our country and it is we who have to set the tone for what we want to see our nation to be. And as one of my classmates once said, "We the people are India's problem, We the people are India's solution."

Jai Hind
-Jatan Singh Soni

RINGSIDE



It did not have a dramatic ending like the 2006 World Cup, where the greatest player of the modern era, Zinedine Zidane, bid adieu after receiving a red-card. Nevertheless, it had its share of controversies, the new 'hand of god' by Luis Suarez,

the Jabulani, the annoying Vuvuzela's and the petty and senseless French team boycotting practices after a fall out with their manager. Oh yes! The likes of Ronaldo and Messi did not exactly set the fields on fire with their "brilliant" skills but we got to see the smooth and elegant display of football by Xavi and Iniesta, bursts of speed and clinical finishing by David Villa and Thomas Mueller, inspirational leadership by Diego Forlan, not to forget the scenic and modern football stadiums of South Africa (unlike our Commonwealth Games which it seems are only a way of making money for the officials). Personally, I was

pretty happy to see Argentina crash out, the reason being Maradona, who had

claimed that he would run

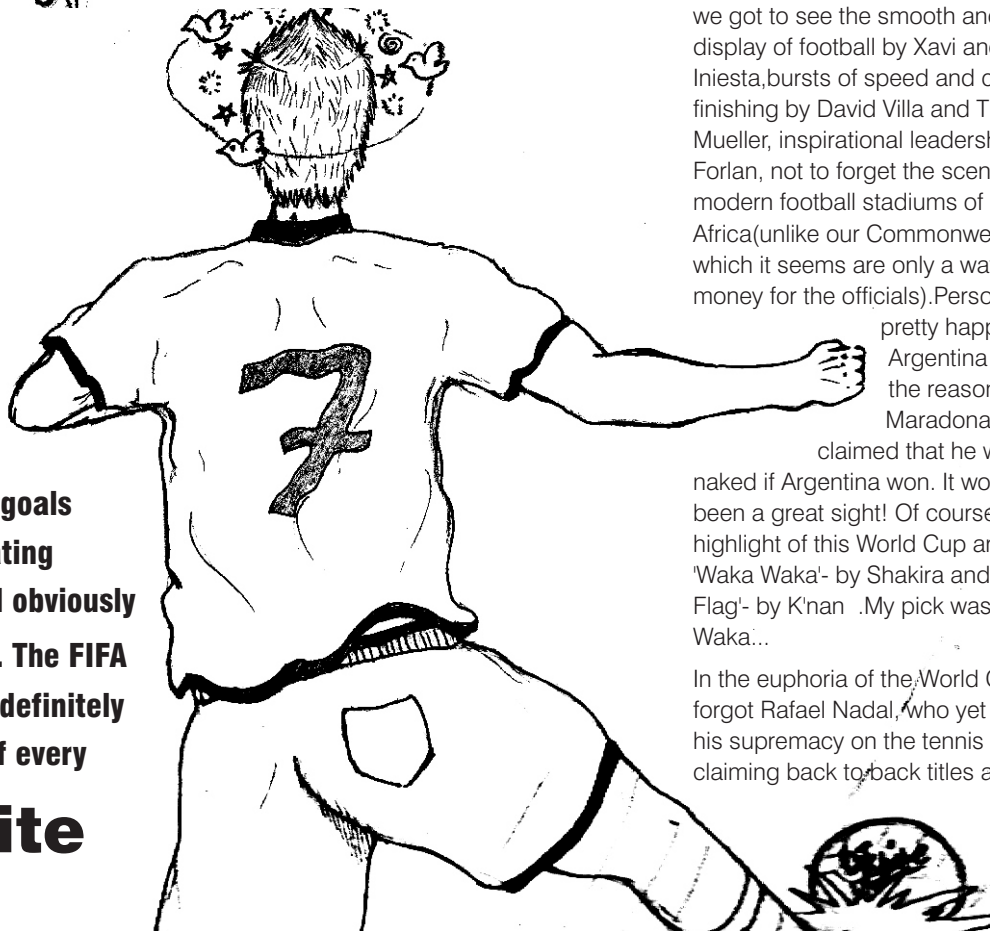
naked if Argentina won. It would not have been a great sight! Of course, the highlight of this World Cup are the songs 'Waka Waka' - by Shakira and 'Waving Flag' - by K'nan. My pick was Waka Waka...

In the euphoria of the World Cup everyone forgot Rafael Nadal, who yet again proved his supremacy on the tennis circuit by claiming back to back titles at Roland

It gave us new stars, goals galore, some exhilarating displays of skills, and obviously 'Paul the Octopus'. The FIFA World Cup 2010 was definitely high on the agenda of every

Welhamite

in the summer break.



Garros and Wimbledon. Tiger Woods was back on the golf course but he looked like a shadow of his former self. Lately, Sachin Tendulkar became the most capped Test player in the history of Cricket, and about his performances, all I can say is that there are two things constant in life - change and Tendulkar.

Football is on its way to becoming the most popular sport in Welham, and why not? The team is roughing it out in the fields, whether the sun is beating down or it is raining cats and dogs. Their spirit are not dampened after a hard day of practice which includes extensive running and other physical drills. It seems to me that they are very motivated to pick up any silverware that comes their way. Most of them attended a football camp from the 8th-20th July conducted by Mr. Bartwal. They have come out stronger, both

physically and technically which shows in their game. The number of takers has increased dramatically and so has the competition for a spot on the team. Do not be surprised if you do not see the 'stars' even on the bench! Kunja Shrestha, Shantabya Rana and Bharat Manchanda will shoulder most of the responsibility and hopefully will be helped by the youngsters like Shivesh Kumar and Deepesh to clinch as many trophies as possible.

You must have seen a lot of attractive football boots in the World Cup. Visit the team when it is practicing and the gear they use will put any professional to shame. F 30, F 50, F 10, Mercurial Vapors, Superfly, T 90 (all the versions), Superfly 2, need I say more. I hope all this flash shows in their game as well.

I would encourage the Welhamites to get into reading sports literature, basically inspiring sports stories such as "Seabiscuit" (Horse Racing), "Open" by Andre Agassi, "El Diego" by Maradona,

"Every Second Counts" by Lance Armstrong, "My Side" by David Beckham, "Sunny Days" by Sunil Gavaskar. Biographies of sportsmen such as Michael Jordan and Mike Tyson are a good read. John Wright's "The Indian Summer" can tell you a lot about the dressing room of the Indian Cricket Team. There are a lot of sports movies as well such as "Remember the Titans", "Glory Road", "The Damned United", "Coach Carter", The Rocky Series of movies, "Basketball Diaries", "Goal", "Invictus". These books and movies will surely make you think because they showcase various struggles in the life of sportsmen, struggles such as racism, drugs, bad influence and more. They also tell us the glories of their life and how hard one has to work to engrave one's name in the books of history. Do watch them! Do read them!

How can I not mention the new terra-flex in this article. It is absolutely fantastic. So much so that when water got into our Basketball Court even the most cynical and sarcastic Welhamite wanted the terraflex to be safe. Seriously, it is a pleasure to the eye as well as the bodies of basketball players who will no longer have to damage their ankles and knees playing on concrete. It saddens me that I will not be there next year to play in the Golden Jubilee but what a show it will be on this new court! The Basketball team has started practising for the upcoming tournaments. Here, I would like to mention the new criteria for participating in sports and representing school outside. A student has to get a minimum of 33% and pass in all the subjects in order to represent the school in any activity. As it is often the boys who are involved in sports who have a bad academic record, I would recommend that all the aspiring sportsmen of this school start studying or all their efforts will go in vain.

Busy studying

Kishlay Jha

MOVIE REVIEW



I always type my reviews in Notepad, but no - Inception deserves better. After a run of the most amazing films ever - Memento, Insomnia, Batman Begins, The Prestige, and of course, The Dark Knight (my all time favourite!), Nolan is finally ready with his next experiment: Inception, a dream-come-true movie that makes us question the existence of the very world around us. One assumed that The Dark Knight was the ultimate peak that any film maker could ever reach - Nolan included - but this young director refuses to accept that there is a Cloud 9 - and simply questions, "What next?" And BANG he answers it himself: Inception. My new all-time favourite.

The English Dictionary defines "inception" as "origin" - basically, that is what the film is about. It's about planting an idea in someone's mind, hence, "originating" an idea in that person. It's the most amazing experiment anyone has ever performed: an impossible world where you

enter dreams, and dreams within dreams, and dreams within those, until you realize that such a movie is only ever found in dreams except that Nolan does not think so.

Nolan uses his incredible direction skills in this movie to make it the wonder it is. His direction is what makes this film tick. His timing is just amazing. Di Caprio does full justice to his character, Cobb. Zimmer's music keeps us with Nolan's pace, which is why it all turns out to be so incredible. The cinematography is superb, the special effects are superb, the editing is perfect and the script, brilliant. This movie has everything!

But then the only question that people are asking now is - which one is it - The Dark Knight, or Inception?

I'll be blunt but honest. The reason Memento did not work as well as TDK, despite being an amazing film, is that it was not a film for everyone. Only those people who are willing to take the weight, the tension, and those who have a high

presence of mind, and an understanding of the complexity of a highly complex film will be able to fully enjoy it. 'Inception' pushes 'TDK' aside with ease, but not for the entire world. You can see that Nolan is following an alternative pattern in all his films that have made it to the Top IMDB 250: Memento, highly complex, Batman Begins, not so, Prestige, complex again, The Dark Knight, not so, and now Inception, his most incredible project.

I called up people immediately after seeing the movie, telling them to go watch it, and I was shocked beyond words when one of the friends said, "I'm going for Eclipse. Can't." Learn your lesson, people, do NOT miss this wonder. Like Toy Story, this too comes once in a decade. Though in Nolan's case, that is not true. Trust Nolan. Now, I can't wait for Batman 3.

10/10. Is there anything more than that?

Entertainment Monitor

MUSIC REVIEW

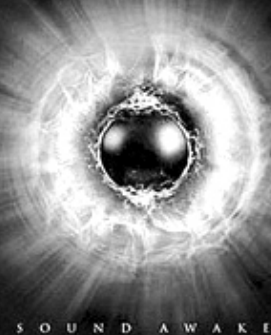
Artist: Karnivool

Album: Sound Awake

Genre: Alternative Rock

Release Date: Mid 2009

KARNIVOOL



Although it is Australian, and I do not even know what the name Karnivool means, I still find the music awesome. It is the band's second album after their debut in 2005, but is it an upgrade?

The first song in the album is called 'Simple Boy'. Well it is not very simple. The music starts with xylophone chimes, and then comes the sludge metal riffs. The listener knows he is in for something different.

Then we have some soft radio friendly songs such as 'New Day' and 'All I Know', where the vocalist and the bassist get a chance to show off.

Being a metal lover, they do have something for me. The only two songs on the album, which are totally my type, are 'Illumine' and 'The Caudal Lure'. Both songs seem to be in a sequence, so you do not realize when the songs change.

This album has all the elements of my favourite bands, Incubus or Disturbed, which makes it a favourite.

The album does not have any of the nice metal riffs like the previous album 'Themata' but this change has made the band a bit more mature. My final verdict is that the album is SUPERB!

Sound awake

Abhinav Suri, X-C

A DAY CALLED FRIENDSHIP

A half-broken desk,
Shikhar Basement,
Welham Boys School,
5, Circular Road,
Dehradun - 248001.

Date: 1st August, 2010
Time: 7:58 pm

Hi Friend!

It is the morning of August One. The year is 2010. It is Friendship Day. And miraculously, it is a Sunday! That pretty much means we can go out. So... we do!

The outside is beautiful, I tell you. Beautiful! There is no sun glaring at us with its piercing gaze. There is no rain ready to dampen the day and our spirits. There is no snowfall to make everything slow. Heck, it has it snowed here in decades! Basically... it is the perfect day.

All around me, I see happy faces. Faces I know, faces I see every day, some that I only see on Sundays, and some that I think I will only ever see on this Sunday. Their cheerful faces, their worryless laughter, their beautiful smiles, their soaring spirits... all of it puts an involuntary smile on my face. It someone asked me if I have seen a moment that I can never forget, I won't tell that person about the charms of Harki Dun, nor about the world seen from twenty miles above the ground, nor about a rainy day in the middle of a torturous summer... I would tell them about this moment.

Everything is perfect, it seems. But... there is this thing... this strange kind of heaviness inside me. I smile, but only because my muscles twist and turn that way. Come to think of it, I just looked at my reflection. It is a horrible smile. Yuck! No wonder. It is not from the heart, see? It is just an involuntary reflection of all that is around me. Cheer. Maybe even that is feigned cheer. Who knows? I look at the time.

It is the afternoon of August One. The year is still 2010. I suddenly remember why my heart is so heavy.

You are not here, Friend! You are not here with us on this amazing day! You are somewhere far away. At a place to where I cannot post this letter. You have been gone a long time. But today, on this day, I miss you so much. I want to come to you, shake you by the hand, perhaps give you a hug, and a black "Best Friends" band, and whisper a "Happy Friendship Day" in your ear, and hear you wish me the same. Perhaps you can hear me when I wish you. But I can't hear you. I am at this birthday party of some kind. They are all raising toasts... to the birthday boys, to Welham, to our batch, to this girl, to that girl, to this guy's looks or that guy's hair... but no one raises a toast to you. I will not dare raise a toast to your name. I do not know what will happen. How will people react? Would they become sad on this 'Friendship Day'? I do not know. Maybe not. Maybe yes.

I asked someone what a Friendship Day is all about. They start ranting about some historical event that caused one particular day in the year to be called a 'Friendship Day'. Funny. It took someone to do something decades back for us to value each other as a friend, to give each other a hug, to gift each other bands, to patch up fights. And yet it is interesting that if someone stops talking to you on this day, it hurts more than any other day. Why? Because this is just another day, but with some special 'Friendship' tag. I wonder... do miracles happen on such days? Do things that normally do not happen, happen? I do not think so. Then why is this day so special? Can you come back from where you are? Can you prove it to me why this day is "oh-so-special"?

I wait.

It is the evening of August One. The year, somehow, is still 2010. And oh yes! It is still that "Friendship" day. I have bought a few bands to give to people. Tangible stuff to express feelings. Weird. And even more weird is the fact that these bands actually make people smile! Heck, they even make me smile! Look at the time. It is almost time, so I head back to school.

It is the night of August One, and you already know what year it is. 2010, man, 2010! But Friend, you are still not here. "Don't lose hope", they say. There are still four hours left for this "Friendship Day" to end. I dunno... perhaps you will come after all. We will all just wait. Perhaps there is something special about this day. Perhaps there is something called a Friendship Day. Perhaps, miracles do happen on this day. Either way, I have four hours to find out. Or if not that, then there is always next year, they say!

I still have to say it. Happy Friendship Day, my immortal friend (I will not write "do reply" because I know it is meaningless!).

Love you forever,

Jaskunwar Kohli
PS: Do reply!



While the monsoon season may have caused troubles for the school administration, it has been a treat for nature lovers. The shrubs look beautiful with blossoming flowers and the bamboos look greener (with mushrooms growing on their roots!). This time we have some beautiful flowers catching the attention of many eyes.



Botanical name: *Magnolia Grandiflora*
Common name: Him Champa
Location: Opposite the staff room.

This evergreen tree is conical in shape and can reach up to a height of 4 meters. It has large, deep-green waxy leaves. The fruits appear as woody cone-like clusters and are generally pink or red in colour, with red seeds inside, hanging on fine threads. The saucer shaped white flower is one of the most beautiful flowers on the campus, with a fleshy texture and an exquisite fragrance.



Botanical name: *Hibiscus Rosa Sinesis*
Common name: Shoe flower
Location: Subway entrance

Also referred to as the 'Queen of Shrubs', because of its unique texture, this shrub got its name from the word 'esbikos', which means marsh mellow. This evergreen shrub can grow up to 2 meters. The oval leaves are bright green, pointed at the edges and coarsely toothed. The flower generally has five petals and its long stamen hangs like an open bell. The colour of this flower on campus is white, red or pink.



Botanical name: *Lagerstroemia Indica*
Common name: Jarul/ Crepe Myrthe
Location: Opposite the Khadim Ali Block

This deciduous shrub, which can grow into a tree if left unpruned, grows from 4 to 10 meters. It was named by Linacus after his friend, 'Mannus van Langstrom'. The leaves are arranged in whorls of three and are about 5 cm long. The fruit is brown and woody, containing winged seeds. The delicate crepe like flowers are rose pink or white in colour, with yellow stamens projecting out of them.

Satyendra Pal



25 YEARS AGO IN WELHAM

- The whole of the Senior School went on a tree planting excursion on Wednesday, the 21st of August (one of the many plans set by the Government for the International Year of the Youth). The enthusiasm of the boys let them to plant more than four thousand five hundred plants despite the rain. The boys felt proud of the result of hard work.
- The Solar Heaters, which had arrived last term, have been installed on the roofs of New Building (Triveni), White House, Woodseats, Riverside and Dining Hall. They will start working as soon as they are needed for heating bath water.

CAN I HAVE EXPECTATIONS OF A BETTER OUTCOME

Azkaban, Bascilus, Doomsday. All of these words may have different meanings, but for the Welhamite, all of it amounts to one thing, 'Prep'.

As usual, I was sitting with a maths book and register, practising the most dreaded topic of all, 'Trigonometry'. I was tired and my head was aching because solving trigonometry was like finding a needle in the haystack and memorising its formulas were a pain in the neck. I thought of taking a break, since sin, cos and tan had dominated my mind for a whole hour and 15 minutes now and given me such a severe headache that I seriously needed a *Crocin* to reduce the pain.

The pain subsided, and so did my prep. Now I was sitting idle with no work to do. Instead of pulling someone's leg, I tore a page from my register and with a pen in my hand, a thought of writing an article for *The Oliphant* struck me.

We recently visited NIM for our mid-terms, and I thought I would write an article

comparing the food of our institution and NIM.

I toiled day and night, used literary statements and tried making it readable. Finally, determination, hard work, and concentration helped me complete the article. I hoped that my consistency and labour would reward me fruitfully.

"Judgement Day" arrived. The board went through my article, but unfortunately, the supreme power ruling us had something else in the store for me. A classmate of mine had already scripted an article on NIM, which in the view of the board was far better than mine was, and blended properly too. He was the cause of my failure, but in a competition, only one triumphs, and so I took it as a fair decision. I felt so distressed, that the next moment, I threw that sheet of paper into a nearby dustbin. I had to work harder, for there were so many others who wrote articles regularly and who, just like me, want that gold-coated badge on their blazers. However, for now, it had ended

for me.

In dismay, I sat down in front of the Khadim Ali Block. A friend passing by saw me and asked me the reason for my hand-dog expression. I narrated the whole incident to him. He then said, "There was a boy who was a scholar in all subjects but was not good in maths. He always got a scolding from his teachers but they never seemed to understand that all these concepts, formulas and theorems were tough for him to understand. One day, he thought that he would prove his friends and teachers wrong by improving his grades in the subject. He concentrated and practised day and night. His hard work paid off, and he topped his class with 95% in mathematics in his mid-term assessment! Then, my friend came back to the present," This boy has set an example for me, which influenced me to start scribbling down my thoughts for *The Oliphant* yet again...

Today, I am writing for the *Oliphant* once again, and although I do not have the assurance of my article being selected for the latest issue, I hope to 'aim for the best'. Writing this article has brought a complete change in me. The creativity flows...and I start scribbling down my thoughts yet again...

Still Writing!

Rohan Sharma, X-B/J-A

LIGHTS... CAMERA... ACTION!..

Last term an 'All India Sports Quiz' was conducted in various centers all over the country of which Welham Boys School was one. This was a selection round for the T.V. Sports quiz, 'Synergy Sports Kaa Superstar'. A team from our school sat for this quiz of which those who were selected, were Bharat Manchanda, Jatan Singh Soni, Rachit Nandwani, Shourya Jaiswal, Anant Gupta, Sahil Jain and I. There was a wave of excitement amongst all of us when we were told that we would appear on the National Channel 'DD'.

The recording was a first experience for all seven of us; we were excited, nervous and curious. The contestants were asked to be in Noida a day before their shoot and they were accommodated in different guest-houses all over Noida.

On the day of the shoot the contestants were taken to the Eagle Studios five hours before the scheduled shoot time. It was during this time when we got to know the people with whom we would be competing. The co-ordinators of the show were kept on their toes for the preparation of the show - choosing dresses, reimbursing tickets, providing refreshments etc. These were the moments when we got a small taste of how stars in this industry are treated.

W A C K Y

WOODSEATERS

Anger Management

Anger is a power which only we can control. If someone hits or insults me, I get angry. I attended a workshop on Anger Management. Dr. Veena conducted the workshop for us.

Sometimes, when we get angry, we feel either bad or mad. We must never take things said to us personally. We must learn to control our anger. The best way to control our anger is to take a deep breath or share the problem with an adult. Anger is also a shortcut to danger because we can get hurt. The thinking brain gets affected when we are angry. Our thinking brain does not work and we end up hitting or insulting someone.

I feel anger is positive if we contain it. I learned that we must think before taking any action when we are angry. Anger management is important. It keeps us calm.

Yaksh Sheoran
5-B

And ... The Wall collapsed

It was the morning of August 31ST. As we woke up, our housemother informed us that the school boundary wall, which was for our protection, had collapsed. I wanted to run out and see it, but we were not allowed to go near the lower field.

It happened in the early hours of the day due to forty-eight hours of heavy downpour. It was 5:35 a.m. when we got to know about the main wall, the Shikhar wall and the horse riding field. Water had flowed into the Activity Centre and we were worried that the Terraflex court might get spoiled. There was no electricity, because the electric pole was down and the school's generator was full of water. We had to change our class for the first two schools. After school when we were returning to the hostel, some naughty boys ran to see the wall. I was one of them! We saw water flowing directly into the field.

We could see the traffic outside. The Shikhar road had caved in and bricks and pebbles had gushed in with the flood. Just then we saw our housemother, so we ran back to the hostel. In the papers we read about the loss and destruction Dehradun suffered. We saw pictures of cars floating (as we do not bother to read the papers!). We felt terrible about the walls and The Activity Center but the worst was no games on Sunday! Finally the boundary wall was closed with heavy steel sheets. Repair work started and we could go for games.

Rachit Goel
5-B

Finally, we were all set. Before the actual beginning of the shoot, the hosts of the show briefed us all the rules etc.

After a long wait the T.V host, Mini Mathur, came out of her make-up room and onto the stage. At the beginning of the show she asked all the contestants about their profession, likes, hobbies, etc. and then the quiz started.

The quiz was a complicated one and it was as follows:

The top scorer from the 1st round went up to a different podium and was called the 'Khaas Khiladi'. The 'Khaas Khiladi' was then asked four questions for which he got Rs 1000 for every correct answer. At the end of the second round, the top scorer among the participants (except the

'Khaas Khiladi') would go up and become a challenger to the Khaas Khiladi. The loser among the two would come back to the normal position and the quiz would continue in the same manner. At the end of the third round, four of the lowest scorers would get eliminated and six would remain, out of which four of the next low scorers would be out of the show at the end of the fourth round. Only two would remain at the end and would fight for first and second position for the semi finals.

This TV experience was a real eye-opener for me personally - to be behind the screen and also on it. None of the Welhamites qualified for the further rounds.

The positions were:

Rachit	-	7th
Jatan	-	7th
Anant	-	5th
Bharat	-	5th
Shourya	-	7th
Sahil	-	8th
Kuvam	-	7th

Kuvam Behl
XII-Sci

On the 23rd of May, at the beginning of the summer holidays, nine Welhamites and five teachers embarked on a journey to Rupkund (5029 m), also known as 'skeleton lake' because of the mystery surrounding the findings of numerous human skeletons and those of horses as well. The magnificent Rupkund lies in the shadow of Mt. Trishul and is surrounded by rock strewn glaciers and snow clad peaks. Krishnanand Singh, Rajat, Pranav Chadha, D.T. Ja Khole, Gaurav Gaggar, Aditya Bhandari, Siddharth Gupta and I went along with our teachers Mr. Karna Puri (trek leader), Mr. Sanjay Kuqsal, Mr. Laxman Bhandari, Mr. Joshi and Mr. Aseem Tripathi.



RUPKUND A MEMORABLE TRIP

The first day took us to the road head for our trek, Loharjung (2530m) village, deep in the Garhwal hills. Greeted by chilly Himalayan winds we got off the bus and were soon introduced to our guides, Mr. Gosain and Gabbar and the rest of the trekking team, who eventually became our good friends. The 'mystery lake' had got us very excited and the one question that kept popping up was "will we see any bones in Rupkund?" I, personally, must have asked this question a million times.

Next morning we trekked 15km to Wan(2600m). We reached in high spirits, briefly stopping on the way to see a typical Garhwali wedding. At the Wan campsite we stretched out our weary bodies and dozed off in the late afternoon sun. But the day was fast fading so we rushed to finish pitching our tents before nightfall. Alas, we were overtaken by the most violent hailstorm I have ever experienced, which pounded us for 3 hours soaking through all our tents. Fortunately, we found a cramped but dry shelter in the adjacent Forest Department log hut where the 14 of us huddled into the only available space for the night! We had to share the hut with an Australian

couple returning from Rupkund.

The next day dawned bright and sunny. We tucked into a delicious breakfast of omelette and bread washed down with hot chocolate, before crossing the Bedni Ganga and heading up a steep trail through a thick forest of oak, pine and rhododendron. What with the temperamental weather and the weight of our rucksacks, not to mention having to tackle 13km of tricky uphill stretches, we eventually made it to the grassy rolling meadows of the Bedni Bugyal (3350m), a sight for sore eyes. Mr Puri's fantastic sense of humour kept us in good spirit throughout the trek.

Bedni Bugyal was beautiful! Its exquisite beauty relieved the pain in our worn out limbs. From the camp we appreciated the towering Trishul (7120m) and Nanda Ghunti (6309m) to the north and towards



the east the impressive snow capped ridgeline including Chaukhamba I (7138 m), Chaukhamba II (7068 m), Chaukhamba III (6974 m) and Chaukhamba IV (6854 m) and somewhere in that mass of snow was Rupkund. The stay at Bedni was a treat for all of us but for Mr. Puri, it was paradise. Armed with a camera he captured the expansive views of the bugyal carpeted by exquisite wild flowers with Himalayan Griffons and Lammergeiers soaring above. The teachers made up a story to tease us - they said that they had eaten delicious hot momos in a Nepali household just beyond the ridge, and seriously, we all believed them!

The early next day we started out for Bhagwabasa, our base camp for Rupkund, in four stages. Stage one: The Bedni Camp site to a saddle on the mountain, where the trail crosses over. Stage two: A gradual descent to Patal Nachauni over the Ghora Lotani meadows. Stage three: An almost vertical, back-breaking ascent to the Kalu Vinayak (black Ganesh) shrine on the ridge. Stage four: A descending walk on the snow line to Bhagwabasa. This days trek was 10kms and one of the toughest. We were all totally drained by the effort. To top it all the effects of the lack of oxygen made it worse, most of us had splitting headaches. Worn out, some of us found it

more convenient to load our rucksacks on mules. During this arduous but enriching part of our journey, a funny incident occurred; Pranav meets some British trekkers on the way with whom he starts discussing soccer. Pranav had barely told them that his favourite club was Chelsea, when Mr. Joshi walks up and tells them that Pranav is a great supporter of AC Milan! This really amused us, and we had a hearty laugh!

We reached Bhagwabasa (4100m) at around noon, and now, we were in a region surrounded by stretches of snow with the Trishul towering over us. From here we could clearly see the location of Rupkund. That night terrible headaches seriously made us doubt whether we could make it to Rupkund, luckily Mr. Tripathi's and Mr. Bhandari's medicine bag helped us to cope with it. The next morning all of us were fit and fine. Nights turn extremely cold here with inside the tent temperatures dipping to 1°C and outside to -2°C to -3°C. We got into our sleeping bags in all our warm clothes to brave the night. The wind chill factor made the -2°C to -3°C seem more like -6°C or more.

Come morning it was destination Rupkund. We woke up at around 4:45. It was freezing. After a tasty hasty breakfast of egg fried rice and hot tea we began our final ascent to Rupkund. This stretch was

3 km one way, but it was the toughest.

Our guide, Mr. Gosain led the way with Rajat and me in tow. We crossed many small glaciers, where each step had to be taken with utmost care. On the way, many of us used our oxygen bottles. Finally in a wide bowl perched high on a snow laden rocky shelf, lay Rupkund (5029 m), our much-awaited destination. Reaching there was a moment of spiritual calm for all of us. The breath taking views were worth the entire trek; to see such a pristine paradise in a world so far removed from ours. The sacred lake was still covered with ice. I envied Mr. Kuqsal and Mr. Joshi posing for pictures taken by Mr. Puri as the battery of my camera was not working. Mr. Bhandari somehow managed to get it going; otherwise, I would not have been stuck with a frozen camera. As for the bones we only saw two femurs, but that was enough for our photo session on the snow. We also saw some tufts of hair of people who had frozen to death there, supposedly in a hailstorm.

On the way down we stopped at many places, each as pretty as a picture postcard. The best of them was Ali Bugyal. It was here that the venerable Khole, (maybe the vegetarian food was getting to him), decided to take matters into his own hands by chasing a hapless Himalayan Mouse Hare who was out to investigate the invasion of his domain. I am sure a painful lesson was learnt, that a seemingly helpless mouse hare has also got a set of very sharp teeth and unbrushed at that, which necessitated anti-tetanus and anti-rabies jabs to suitable parts of his anatomy, further contributing to the misery of this brave 'Mouse Catcher'. We camped a few kilometres below this place. The next day, we continued downhill, for almost 3000ft and camped in idyllic Raun Bagad, a grassy bank on the river Wan. For the final night we climbed back up to Loharjung, where Rajat organised a soccer match. The star players were Krishna and Mr. Tripathi. The next morning we left for Dehradun, and thus, our exciting adventure came to an end.

Varun Agarwal
X-B



WHO KILLED RISPANA?

An Awakening

The 13th of March, 2010 was a great day. Why, you may ask? Well, it was the day the "greatest ever" (as quoted by many) Welham Newz was screened. Here I was, basking in the success, realizing that finally, after one, whole, formidable year of torture and defeat, Welham Newz was back ("with a BANG", may I add!). I had already started planning the next edition, when something happened that forced me to, what am I SAYING!?, something made me realize that there would be no next edition. At least this term. Mr. Brahma Raina, or BR, the new Teacher-in-Charge came to the Newz Room, an excited expression on his face, and said, "Kohli, there's this International Young Filmmakers Festival Competition, Would you be interested?" Well yeah, I thought. However, life isn't so easy.

"What do we have to make a film on?" I asked. The first question that a director, or a director-to-be, has to ask.

"Here's a list of topics. Have a look. We have to choose any one," BR said.

Here's what I had in mind: a cool storyline, some nice actors from the batch, hardcore cinematography, super-duper editing, "whoa!" sound effects, and the best music from the loyal iTunes. Here's how the daydream was shattered: the list of topics. Yep, it seemed all the most boring topics in the world had been listed on that paper. 'Importance of family in my life', 'Environmental Awareness', 'HIV/AIDS' and so on...

"So basically," I said, "It's a documentary. We have to make a documentary on one of the topics."

"Yep," he said, "And the Principal's advice is that you make it on 'Environmental Awareness'."

"So basically, we have to make a documentary, a documentary, on Environment."

"Also," BR continued, "You mustn't forget that this movie is going to Delhi!"

"Oh!?" I exclaimed.

"...And so, you can't use music without official permission. Which basically means..." He gave that classic expression of his.

"...That we have to make the music," I

finished for him, "Great."

"Mr. Gael Metroz will be helping us," That was reassuring. Mr. Gael Metroz is a professional filmmaker from Switzerland who will be with us in Welham till November. The mere thought of that put a smile on my face. "So, Kohli, we're the in-thing today, eh?" With that, BR walked out, leaving me thinking already.

*

Exactly 61 days later, Meraj and I stood in the hall of the National Science Centre, expressions tense, jaws clenched. They were announcing the final result: they were announcing the first position.

Fifty two schools from not only India, but Argentina, Thailand, and Slovenia had come. The International Young Film Makers' Festival, 2010, was reaching its climax. We were glad to have missed one exam, and were desperate to go back to school with a

face that had every right to be smiling at the thought of having missed it. We could not afford to stand 6th, 5th, 4th, 3rd... or even 2nd. As and when they announced these awards in that order, we were praying, "Let us not be sixth...", "Let us not be fifth..." till the second prize. And when they announced the second prize, and it was not us, I only said one thing to Meraj, "Dude, we're either first, or we're nothing."

And then the announcer said, "And now... guess who's first?"

I guess that the spirit of our movie, and its power, and its effect, and its wonder, that it was not us, but three other schools that answered: "WELHAM BOYS! WHO KILLED RISPANA!"

"Yes!" She said, "It is another school not from Delhi, but are our very close neighbors, from the foothills of Mussoorie, from Dehradun, Welham Boys School!"

An involuntary cry erupted from somewhere within me. Meraj and I walked those ten steps to get our trophy, and my mind was muddled with all the thoughts of the last two months, when so much had happened, so much had happened... but it was worth it. It was totally worth it.

And when we finally held the magnificent, gigantic little trophy in our hands, a smile broke across our faces, and we only said, "This one's for you, Welham!"

*Team of "Who Killed Rispana?"
-An Awakening"*



CROSS KHARDUNGLA

Sometimes in life you do unexpected things, meet unique people and go to amazing places.



01/07/2010 11:42

This is exactly what happened with me during my vacation. As I had cleared my Board Examination with decent grades, my father wanted to give me a nice surprise.

Well, he made all the arrangements for a trip to Leh and informed us only two days before the journey, so that we could pack our bags. [We later came to know that my father had planned this trip many a times but somehow, it had not materialized.]

At the last minute on an impulse, my kid sister and I packed our skates, though we were a little apprehensive whether it would be permitted or not. We had done so because we imagined this would be another boring trip to mountains where the weather is unpredictable. When things got boring, we could cheer ourselves by skating on the roads.

We left on the 26th of June and checked into a hotel in Manali. The next day we visited a small town called 'Surchu', which is at height of approximately 15000ft above sea level.

We never realised that it was the beginning of an unforgettable adventure.

The road to Surchu was like the path leading to heaven. Our very own country has so much beauty and grace to offer. Every mountain looked different from the other. Every single mountain looked as if God himself had carved it out.

Just before reaching Surchu, we had to cross a bridge. Reading the words 'Danger Ahead', our driver thought of bypassing the bridge and we landed up with a tilted car! Eventually it had to be pulled out by a truck. On reaching Surchu, we put up a tent and the next day at

dawn, we proceeded to the real 'Heaven', Leh. The very look of it made you feel as if the Gods are present there.

After a day in Leh, we carried on to Khardungla. A question occurred to both of us, "Why not skate up to the top?" We wanted to show off our skills to our uncle who had established the world record by skating down from Badrinath to Dehra Dun on skates.

The roads were very bad so we skated from South Pulaoa, which is some twenty-four kilometres away from Khardungla and is at a height of 18,382ft above sea level. It also happens to be the highest motorable road in the world.

We started to skate for fun but when we reached the top of Khardungla, we were in a very bad shape. Tourists there were amazed to see us on skates and clapped for us. We were happy to get this unexpected welcome and to express our joy we did figure skating, which was again cheered by the tourists. Only now did we realize that we had broken a world record by completing the Journey in five and a half-hours..

The next skating 'shift' was at the 'Nubra' Valley where the roads were better and smoother. But of course you do not get good things easily. To achieve something you have to work hard. This is the lesson I learnt the 'hard' way! Never in my wildest dreams had I expected this. Thanks Dad!

-Shrey Painuli
XI-Sci



01/07/2010 11:19

The Oli 24 X 7

WELHAM NOW

Welham Goes International

- Mr. Dev Lahiri was accorded the honour of being invited to the Wasatch Academy in Utah to deliver the Baccalaureate Address on their Graduation Ceremony. He spoke about the challenges of life in the 21st century.
- After the success of Welham's at its first International Competition last term, the school's MUN Team comprising Shriyam Gupta, Rajat Arora, Shivam Khanna, Sheikh Burhan, Yuvraj Goswami, Shashwat Agarwal, Himanshu, Ritanshu Dokania, Om Kesarwami, Bivab, Shreepath Jain and Shantanu Vachani accompanied by Mrs. Indrani Lahiri and Mr. Mohit Sinha represented Welham at the WEMUN 2010 at China from the 4th-12th of August. They won eight awards, including four Outstanding Delegates and four Honorary Mentions.

Quizzes

- The school recently participated in the 'All India Synergy Sports Quiz' held in Delhi during the summer break. The show was broadcast live on DD National. Quite a few Welhamites managed to catch a glimpse of it. We were represented by Jatan Singh Soni, Bharat Manchanda, Anant Gupta, Shourya Jaiswal, Sahil Jain, Rachit Nandwani and Kuvam Behl.

Debates

- The school participated in the Cambrian Hall Debate and stood 5th out of a total of 15 schools. We were represented by Shivam Khanna and Parambir Singh Bajaj.
- An English debate was hosted by St. Georges College on the 2nd of August. It was conducted in two parts, 'The Bro. Masterson Silver Medal Debate' and 'The Bro. Bergin Gold Medal Debate'. St. Georges emerged victorious in the former and Welham Girls School swept the latter. Welham
- Boys School bagged the third position in both the debates. Our school was represented by Abhineet Kanodia, Jatan

Singh Soni, Yuvraj Goswami and Raj Shekhar.

Careers Department

- Ms. Arti Chandra from 'SilverLine Career Counsellors' conducted a Careers Workshop for Class 12 on the 23rd and 24th of July.

Welham Newz (Productions!)

- The Welham Newz Department conducted the first-ever student-driven workshop on video-editing and camerawork from the 12th-14th August, 2010.

Miscellaneous

- Shrey Painuli was recently honoured by being given the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity of carrying the Queen's Baton for the Commonwealth Games 2010. He also set the record of being the youngest in-line skater to scale the highest motorable road at Khardungla Pass. Subsequently, after skating at the Nubra valley, he was presented an Achievement Award by the minister of Children and Women's Empowerment, Uttarakhand.

Self Development

- Mr. S.S. Khaira and Mr. Jai Ranjan Kagdee participated in the 3 day National level 'Data Users' seminar from 25th to the 27th of July, 2010.
- The seminar was organised by the editors of the magazine, 'Geography and You'. It was supported by Department of Science and Technology, New Delhi, ONGC, IIRS, FSI and hosted by the SOI. The subject of the workshop was relevant Geography curriculum such as Forests, Hydrology, GIS training and Renewable energy.
- Jatan Singh Soni was awarded the IPSC scholarship for the year 2010.
- A staff workshop for the school teachers was held on the 17th and 18th of July at Jaypee Manor, Mussorie.
- The annual Milestone competition by St. Georges College, Mussorie commenced on the 7th of August. Welham

Boys School stood second in the Western music category.

- St. Georges College, Mussorie commenced on the 7th of August. Welham Boys School stood second in the Western music category.

New Additions to our 'W' Community

- The following teachers have joined our faculty. Oli extends them a very warm welcome and hopes that they have a long and successful stay at Welham.
 1. Mr. Pushpak Bhandari (English)
 2. Mr. Rakesh Bhatia (Economics)
- Our school's Activity Centre has recently been renovated with a new state-of-the-art plastered terra-flex basketball facility. This is sure to improve our already high-achieving basketball team's status. It is probably the best basketball court in North India.



The-Rainfall-Wall-Fall-Catastrophe

- Owing to heavy torrential rainfall on the morning of 31st July, the school suffered some significant losses. Three walls of the school collapsed because of high water pressure. In addition to this, the Activity Centre was flooded with water. Fortunately, there were no injuries and miraculously the basketball court was safe. Senior school grabbed the opportunity to help clear the debris. The situation is under control. Oli takes great pleasure in thanking the administration for the incredibly prompt response, thus limiting the damage to the bare minimum.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. JAMES GORING

Mr. James Goring has joined us in Welham this term. Fresh from Australia, he is here to work with our Music Department. Apart from teaching keen guitarists new tabs and chords he is a truly fun loving person who has developed a bond with us Welhamites. Let us take a peek into the conversation Oli had with this hard-to-forget individual.



Oli: Good Morning, Sir! Welcome to India. Is India the same as you expected it to be or has it been a different experience?

James: I think it's always going to be a very different experience, what you read and what you get, but I feel more than welcome at Welham and it sort of feels like my home. In fact, it is a lot like my high school. I am settling in quite well and people have accepted me better than I had expected. In terms of cultural differences, Welham has been quite a comfortable experience for me. But outside the school, I do encounter a lot more of the 'Indian culture' which is very far away from the Australian culture.

Oli: Sir, you talked about how going outside the school, is a different experience, a different encounter altogether. Do you feel that the Indians are not comfortable with an Australian, or any other foreigner for that matter and do not engage with them? Do you think that that kind of mentality is still prevalent with us Indians?

James: I don't think it is a specific mentality for Indian people in general. However, it does vary in some parts of country you go to. I have been travelling for a couple of months before coming to Welham. The Tibetan communities did respond differently on seeing a western person. However, I don't think there are any negative thoughts or feelings towards a western person. Obviously there are issues in the media at the moment regarding Indian students in Australia, racism issues, which I am

constantly being asked about, and it does make me feel a little ashamed of my people in Australia. But, it makes me want to be here even more, and to show you people that Australians are not that bad, to tell you that it can be a safe place and that it is full of good people as well.

Oli: Sir, you talked about racism. What exactly is the situation in Australia with regard to the recent attacks on Indians and the issue of racism generally?

James: The problem has been going on since I left from Australia in January. I think it is a multi-faceted issue. I think it has a lot to do with Australians being quite an old-fashioned and a very proud community. Some people do not know how to handle students of other cultures who they feel threatened by (Oli: But they are a minority). It is still a minority, but they feel threatened by something different coming in and shaking up their world a little. Also, Indian students are so intelligent. I think some Australians have the mentality that they are going to take their placements from the universities. It should not matter where the students come from, it is the substance that matters.

Oli: Sir, do you feel that there is media hype or sensationalism over this issue?

James: I think there should be more hype in Australia because as far as I am concerned, the reporting of these events has not been made as clear as it has been made in India. I have heard a great deal on the news. The Indian media has responded to it a lot more.

In Australia, I think the media has to respond to it as the media's impact can affect people's attitudes.

Oli: Now on to something lighter; You have come to Welham Boys and have been engaged with the music department. What do you have to say about Indian Music?

James: I am certainly falling in love with the Sitar, and Mr. De is opening up for me different types of Indian Music. I don't quite understand some aspects of it. I suppose vocal melodies are a bit difficult to follow at times, but the tablas and the rhythms... that is just some of the most beautiful music I have ever heard, to be honest.

Oli: Sir, all of us have seen you with your Australian football. Do you think we have the stamina and calibre to play such a rough game? Do you think Indians can also pick up a sport like Australian football despite our tendency to play more disciplined sports like cricket (where we of course have Australia as one of the greatest teams)? Talking about Australian football, do you think students at Welham have the ability to play a sport like Australian football?

James: Of course, of course, I think the Australian rule driven football game is responsible for a very wild stereotype about the Australian people, and I think it fits really well in this instance. The game is very rough, very fast, and very physical. But, that's not to say that people who are generally known to play more tactical and slow sports can't adapt to this sport, and I think you can get something out of every sport. And the next time I go around with my ball, I expect many boys to come and give me a shout and join me!

-Yuvraj Goswami and Punit Agrawal

WOBS

- The Old Boys had a get together at Mumbai and Kolkata these during the holidays. We look forward to more information about such events.
- The Old Boys AGM is due to be held on 4th September in Delhi.
- Saurabh Narang (Batch of 1994) along with Anant Grewal had an art exhibition 'Tangible Mysticism' from 11th August to 16th August at Delhi.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. LAHIRI

Oli: Sir, you travelled a lot during the vacations and visited a number of schools while most of us were home. Could you tell us more about it?

Mr. Lahiri: Well, my first trip was to the United States in the summer because the President of Wasatch Academy, who had visited school earlier in the year, had invited me to address their Graduation Ceremony, a very prestigious ceremony for American schools. I took that opportunity to spend four days at Wasatch interacting with students and staff. On the final day, I addressed the school. It was a huge ceremony where parents, staff, local individuals were present? it is the most sacred ceremony of their calendar, equivalent of our Founders. The subsequent trip was a holiday to Europe where I took the opportunity to visit schools, particularly of the children with whom I was staying, as I know their parents.

Oli: Sir, what did you talk about in your address at Wasatch?

Mr. Lahiri: I talked about the responsibilities of young people who come to school such as ours, in the context of today's world, what exactly we expect of them, what the world expects of them really, in order to make this world a better place.

Oli: Sir, with reference to your article 'Relearning the alphabet' in Hindustan Times in which you talk about the Indian education system, what do you think can we do to improve it?

Mr. Lahiri: To talk about the Indian education system in one interview is not possible as it is a huge subject. However, there is one area of particular interest to me, which is what I feel has happened in this country, with the growing emphasis on performance and growing emphasis on securing marks to get into universities and high powered entrance exams to IITs and so on and so forth. What is

happening at schools is that there is very little time or inclination to talk about values. Unfortunately, because of the demands being made on schools, they are becoming curriculum delivery machines and the whole business of producing good citizens with right sound values is being overlooked. It is something we are already paying a price for and will continue to pay a bigger price for, in the future.

Oli: So do you think we should emphasize on fundamental values?

Mr. Lahiri: Absolutely, I think it is important to give schools the time and space to be able to talk about values and to drill home these values. We can do that in a boarding school but what about a day school? A kid finishes at 2:30, goes for tuition, and is on the tuition circuit until nine at night, trying to balance IIT and class 12th together.

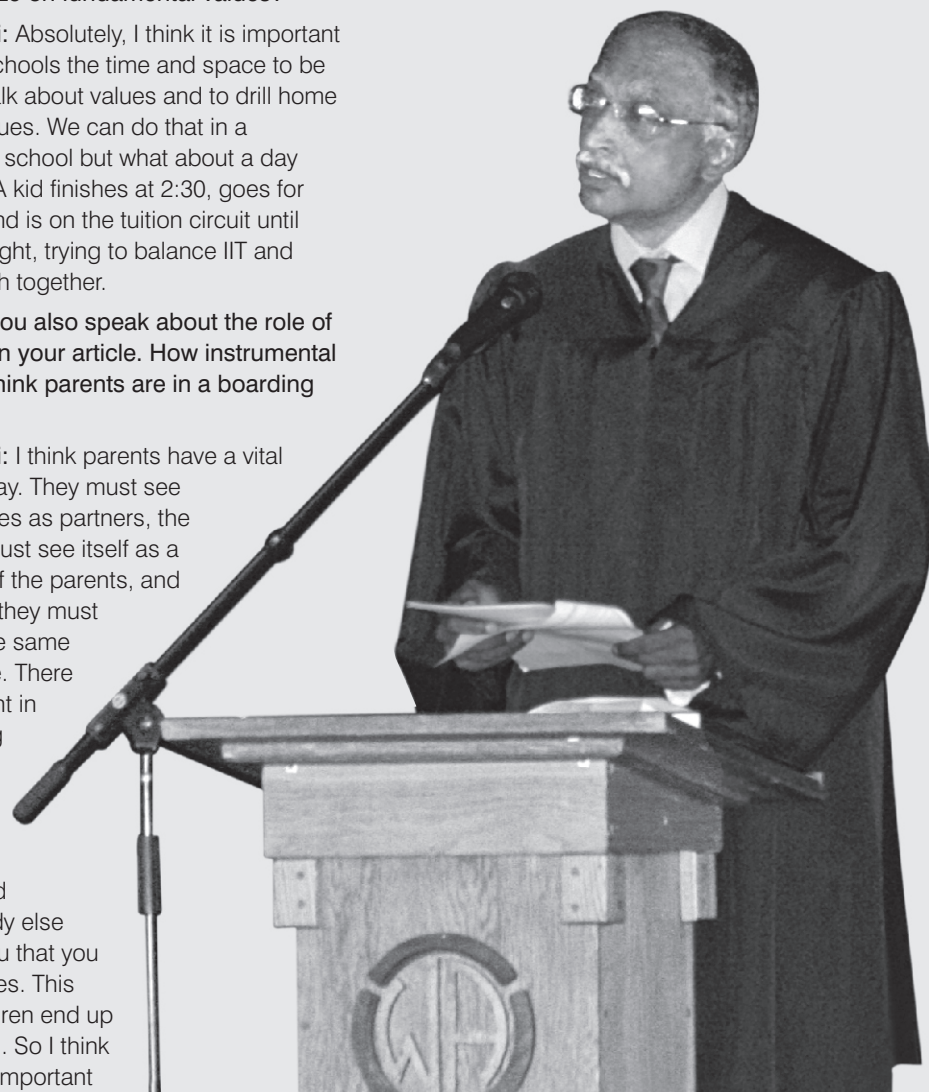
Oli: Sir, you also speak about the role of parents in your article. How instrumental do you think parents are in a boarding school?

Mr. Lahiri: I think parents have a vital role to play. They must see themselves as partners, the school must see itself as a partner of the parents, and together they must speak the same language. There is no point in my telling you that honesty is a good virtue and somebody else telling you that you can tell lies. This way children end up confused. So I think it is very important

for both parents and the school to be on the same page.

Oli: Sir, how would you compare the American Education system to India's?

Mr. Lahiri: See it is a totally different context and a totally different ball game. To begin with, I think the clientele is very different. The average American child is far more mature than the average Indian child is. They have to grow up on their own, they have to look after themselves. From day one they do not sleep with their parents, and they do not hear any baby talk. When they are in high school, they have their own pocket money and everything, so they grow up very differently and therefore that education system suits them. Here we have to have greater emphasis on discipline and rules and so on and so forth which is rather



unfortunate but it is a cultural context.

Oli: Sir, since they are independent and do not need to be tracked all the time, is a similar scenario not possible in India?

Mr. Lahiri: It is not possible presently because even the experiment to let people have more freedom in this very school have failed. When we are independent, it also means that there is a huge amount of responsibility and accountability that goes with it and I am afraid that our children because of the cultural milieu in which they grow up are not prepared to be that accountable and responsible.

Oli: How can we improve on that front?

Mr. Lahiri: I think you have to work as a community and work very consciously. In boarding schools, you must learn to take responsibility for little things like being on time, respecting other peoples time, not wasting food, not wasting electricity. These are small things but they go a long way in nurturing our sense of responsibility. Unfortunately, in school I find that the emphasis is always on what can the school give to us and not on what we can give to the school.

Oli: Finally, what would you like to convey to the school through the Oliphant?

Mr. Lahiri: Well, I think it is very important for Welham Boys, and it is my dream, which keeps me going that Welham Boys must have a USP. Some schools have a USP that they provide great infrastructural facilities such as air conditioned classrooms etc but I think Welham Boys must have a USP that it is a school that exists with a soul. A school that thinks about the country and which is determined, in its own small way, to try and make this country a better place. It is driven by that one passion. And I do not mean all this like a politician, I mean this as a teacher, as a classroom teacher, that we are dedicated to the effort to make this country a better place to live in.

Rajat Arora

WASATCH ACADEMY, a School with a Difference

We reproduce below a letter written by Mr. Joseph Loftin, President, Wasatch Academy to our board. Our Principal, Mr. Dev Lahiri, was invited to deliver the keynote address at Wasatch Academy's Graduation Ceremony.

Wasatch Academy

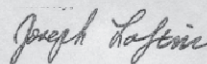
Dear Sirs:

Last weekend Wasatch Academy, Utah's oldest prep school; founded 1875 had the honour of receiving one of the most profound graduation addresses given in the school's long illustrious history. The Baccalaureate Address delivered by the Principal of Welham Boys School, Dev Lahiri, spoke of the challenges in the 21st century and provided our graduates and all attending the ceremony with words of wisdom with words of wisdom cultivated by a man excelled in the face of extraordinary life circumstances. This year's graduation was my 22nd as President of Wasatch Academy. In the course of that time our school had senators, astronauts, highly awarded authors, world-renowned scientists, international dignitaries and leading educators address the graduating classes of Wasatch Academy students. Never, though, I have seen a speaker impact an audience at this event as powerfully as Mr. Lahiri.

Thank you for granting the Wasatch Academy the privilege of hearing your principal address the Wasatch Academy graduating class of 2010. It is our hope that two outstanding institutions can continue to partner in exchanging ideas and sharing resources for the purpose of advancing the students of Welham Boys School and Wasatch Academy in their preparation for life in today's globally-connected fast moving world.

It is an honour that I can consider Dev Lahiri a colleague in this most noble profession. Congratulations to you as the Trustees of Welham Boys School for selecting an extraordinary leader to serve as your principal.

Sincerely,



Joseph Loftin
President
Wasatch Academy
120 South 100 West
Mount Pleasant, Utha

Pranav Arora of class XI went to Germany for the students exchange trip for 6 weeks. This is a letter sent to school by his foster parents.

Sir,

We hosted Pranav Arora from 27th of June, 2010 to 5th of August, 2010 in Syke, Germany. The Summer-Program was organized by YFU (Youth for Understanding).

We have got to know him as a very polite and helpful young man. He was always friendly and obliging. He helped us with the daily work of housekeeping and it was a great pleasure to cook together. Pranav was very interested in the European and German History and it was a lot of fun to discuss with him about our history. We were surprised about his knowledge. He attended to the Culture Trip to Dresden. It was a several day trip guided by YFU. Further trips were organized by us and he was always very interested in the history and our culture.

Pranav played football with a great joy. He started from a low level and he had practice very hard to improve his level. He practiced every day several hours – often up to 6 hours per day. We played matches and the ability of Pranav rose to a respectful level. An extraordinary achievement. He played matches in the last 1,5 weeks despite of his leg injury – very courageous.

Pranav was interested in learning German. He could improve a lot his listening comprehension. The speaking of simple phrases and sentences was without any problems. He visited German movies in the cinema several times. He mixed very well. We communicated in English language and also often in German language.

It was a very valuable experience for Pranav and for our family as well. He learned a lot about the everyday life in Germany and the different regions and big cities of Germany. We feel certain that Pranav profit enormously from this experience. We enjoyed a lot the time with Pranav and we learned many things about the Indian culture.

We wish him all the best for his future.

Your Sincerely,



Syke, 8th of August, 2010

Reiner Brünings
38-A, Gessler Str.
28857 Syke,
Germany

THE EYE OF THE DRAGON WEMUN EXPO 2010, BEIJING

Initially, there were twelve distinct versions of this article. What we had to produce was a detailed report on our MUN experience in Beijing, but the outcome was more of an emotion driven account of our Chinese extravaganza.

Some reports showcased the Chinese as masters in piracy; another was confined to comparing the duty free shops in Beijing and New Delhi! However, after a lot of thought, we have tried to bring some unanimity in this report on Welham Boys School in Beijing, for the WEMUN Expo-2010.

We reached the climax of our excitement even before crossing the gates of school! Our visas were rejected and this 'breaking news' hit us ten hours prior to departure. However, we were given hope when we were asked not to unpack, as some last moment chance might just come our way. But, we 'were' there for the conference, right? So, what exactly had happened...? Organisers from China flew over to Delhi for a very special meeting in the Chinese embassy's office for reconsidering our visa proposals. So, with the visas on our passports by the next day, the twelve plus two of us hit the highway for takeoff!

With a twenty four hour shift in the programme, our tickets had to be rebooked. It so happened that we were now departing at three AM! In a bit of a vacuum in terms of time in the Commonwealth city, we went for a movie. 'Inception' was what we watched (which I personally found to be some sort of psychic torture!).

It felt great to eventually land in China. After all that fuss over our visas, we were finally there for what we had been preparing for, for the last two months. We drove to the 'Grand Epoch City', which was indeed 'Grand! Shriyam Gupta had already started lobbying in the bus; Shreepath Jain was collecting email IDs and phone numbers; Shivam Khanna wore a tense look thinking about his



'status' in school next year. The vegetarians were dealing with the rats in their stomach; some were worried about what they must have missed in the maths class that day.

We suited up in thirty three minutes only to find ourselves in a maze. I headed to the help desk to find out where my conference room was located, and there I came across this (damn!) language problem. Everyone seemed to be misguiding me around the Epoch City. Finally, feeling lost and demented, I broke down on a sofa in the lobby. An Indian organiser approached me; I found that I only had to take the elevator to the second floor of the same hotel to be in my conference room!



Welhamites were a part of nine committees, namely - The Somali Cabinet, The Disarmament Committee, The Press, WHO, The UN Security Council, The Arab-Israeli Negotiation Committee (AINC), ECOFIN, UNCIO and UNICEF. All councils comprised of roughly 50-80 delegates. To our astonishment, there were 1700 delegates from thirty two countries who were part of the WEMUN Expo. During meals, no one recognized each other by their schools or nationalities, everyone was a delegate. It often happened that in the midst of the global atmosphere we were in, it took time recognizing the 'Welhamite' in the suit he was in. Strange isn't it!

As for our performance in the conference rooms, most of us seemed to have 'impressed' their chairs to the next order. Himanshu should be credited for the boldness he displayed in delivering a rose to his director; now, maybe that was also a diplomatic move! Burhan was enchanted with the 'Swiss' charm a delegate from Switzerland carried in her committee. Shivam Khanna and Rajat Arora took advantage of being the only ones needing a shave, and hence added

two more years to their real age whenever in conversation with blondes! Jokes aside, Welhamites did distinguish themselves in the roles they played as an international diplomat and a fun loving bloke, during the event.

Our conference was over in four days and within that time, we made some friends forever. Some even sacrificed a piece of their heart in that time. Some cursed Chinese food for the non-availability of vegetable manchurians. We were part of a sophisticated global youth festival called 'global village' where we were supposed to promote our country's culture and heritage. We found out that we had left our traditional percussion instruments perhaps at the airport. However, Welham Boys still performed, with our very own magician, Burhan, stealing the show with his street magic, as someone danced on stage.

The next four days, post conference, were for exploring Beijing. We shifted to another hotel in downtown Beijing, the Jintao Apartment Hotel. It was a splendid drive through the 'Peking' city. I remember someone noticing Volkswagen as taxis, whilst in India; it was still the holy Ambassador. We were delighted to find that there was a departmental store in that place where we could find some food of our taste, (other than the everyday Chinese cuisine) like the Chinese adaptations of our all time favourite picnic food, Maggi! Also, there was a sports bar where many, like me, tried their hand at pool.



But, that was not the end. Next morning we left for Tianmen Square. It was huge, 700m in length, 500m in breadth. Walking in that much space was an experience in itself. From there we moved to the Forbidden City. It is named so because it was forbidden for the commoner. The mistresses of the emperor were also forbidden from exiting the palace once they had entered it. Interestingly, the king had 3000 mistresses! The palace had nine thousand nine hundred and ninety nine rooms. We were told that the number, nine was of great significance to the emperor as it was considered lucky. So there was this great obsession with the number nine everywhere. Even a flight of stairs would have nine steps in a set. The architectural beauty of the wood structures was marvellous. In the evening, we came back to present time architecture when we visited the infrastructural marvel, 'Birds Nest'. It was just the previous day that Barcelona FC had played a game with the Honk Kong football team in that stadium. With its aesthetic lighting, the Golden Nest looked majestic.

The next day's itinerary was eagerly looked forward to. We were visiting the Great Wall of China! It was a three hour drive from the city. The great wall's entry was similar to Delhi's Qutub Minar. But as we climbed on higher and higher, we recognized the greatness of the great wall. We trekked up to the highest edge of the wall we could reach from our part of the 3000 kilometres boundary. The gradient was very steep. We had actually walked just eight hundred metres, but from the top, it seemed as if we had climbed up quite a high hill.

The last day left us with mixed feelings of sadness and excitement. Sad, because it was indeed the 'last' day, and excited because there was shopping to do! We visited the 'silk market', the hub of Chinese piracy. After packing into our bags the additional weight of our extensive shopping, we boarded our bus, to finally set off back home.

This was the school's first international MUN endeavour, and we came back with four 'honorary mentions' and four 'Outstanding Delegate' awards. Of course, the prizes are the jewels of our experience, but the people we met, the skills we imbibed (not just learning to use chop sticks!), and the moments and 'phone numbers' we came back with, was like truly meeting the eye of the dragon...

I even picked up some Mandarin (Chinese)!

"CHE CHE"

Yuvraj Goswami & Sheikh Burhan; Xth

Super Sardar!!!

On behalf of the school, the Oliphant congratulates Mr. Khaira on making the school proud. This year on 5th June (World Environmental Day) Mr. S.S. Khaira was conferred the "National Environmental Geography Award" at India International Centre, New Delhi. The award comprised a citation and a shawl.

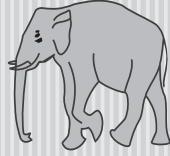
The function was jointly organised and co-sponsored by the Association of Organizations on Nature and Environment, New Delhi, Indian Institute of Ecology and Environment, The Global Open University, Nagaland, Confederation of Indian Universities, the Educational Standards and Testing Council Of India and The School of Oriental Medicine.

According to the citation, the award is conferred on accomplished individuals who, through their work, help in guiding the human race living in a historic transitional period of burgeoning

awareness, of the conflict between human activities and environmental constraints, preparing to venture into a new millennium and finally to help save the fragile and endangered planet with the natural resources already overtaxed.

On being asked about how he felt about the award, Mr. Khaira said, "I am now compelled to go full throttle in my humble capacity in making the world a better place to live in".

This is yet another feather in his cap (turban)... Keep it going Mr. Khaira!



THE RISING INTELLIGENTSIA

For a day called Independence

Unfurled for the sixty-third time. The rhythm of a tabla synchronises with the tune of a harmonium. A mass of five hundred boys clad in white Kurta Pyjamas join in the anthem. A young mind from the congregation is overcome with nationalistic feelings as the tune fades with the final 'Jaya He'. That boy might otherwise be seen as an ordinary teenager, but today he is conscious of the fact that he belongs to this 'great democracy', India. The boy mulls over it. His eyes are set on the unfurled tricolour which a billion of people are saluting today.

Like that boy, there are many more young minds who see themselves as the true future of their country. Some take pride in themselves by looking at how much India has prospered, particularly in view of staging the Commonwealth Games. Some scratch their heads over the loopholes of our democracy when the headlines read, 'Train derailed in West Bengal', allegedly due to the Maoists. In the meantime, a Kashmiri boy curses the government over why he has become a victim of inconvenience and pain for no fault of his own? He has seen his people bleed. He is infuriated and grieves when he recalls what had happened to his own

brother, who was killed in a 'misfiring' by the Indian army. He wants to heal those wounds. Another boy is flying a kite with the Indian tricolour imprinted on it. Yet another is excited about the movie that is to be screened on Independence Day. For most, the essence of this day limits itself to a day where there are no classes!

Year After Year, we Indians have found this an annual event to feel happy and be proud of. Political rallies are held in the capital, where patriotism is sold by glorifying the heroism of our freedom fighters, who fought for 'our' freedom. Radios are tuned into the PM's speech. All this while, the boy from the crowd of those 500 white Kurta Pajama clad people, settles on the steps of the hall and feels mesmerised as the thoughts ring through his head. He is still staring at the Indian flag. Tomorrow, it would no longer remain hoisted on the soccer field in school. His friends have all dispersed after collecting their shares of ladoos. Tomorrow, those sweets will not taste the same. They are all very special only for this one day, the 15th of August.

This boy is just a teenager, moved by the importance we have given to this one day in our calendar. What changes when we change our perceptions towards 'our'

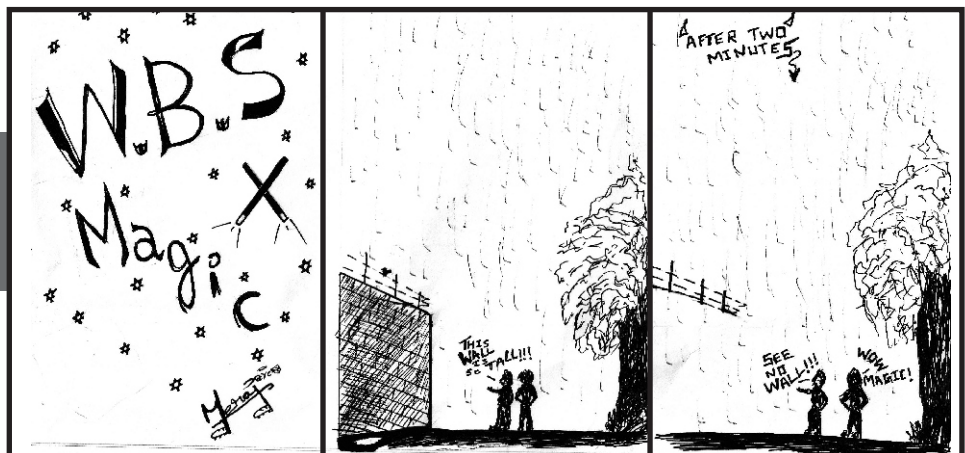
country just for a day? Tomorrow is bound to come. We keep reminding ourselves that we are born in an independent and liberal society where we children hold a vital stake in determining a positive and bright future for this nation. For that one day, we want to glorify over our achievements as a democratic country. We want to ignore our hung judiciary, which has repeatedly proven how 'justice delayed, is denied' in India. This is not just a rhyme, but a serious and a relevant cry for justice. Our politicians, for once, speak in one voice when they exalt our road to independence. It is just one day when our newspapers maybe do not seem 'Indian', as they take a short break from criticism!

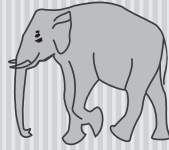
As the day's magnificent 24 hours comes to an end, the country becomes a year older. The headlines repeat themselves; the corrupt minister has not changed, the freedom fighters who were gods until last night, return to the status of textbook characters.

The boy feels lost. He cannot find sense in the hope that arose in the heart. Someone reminds him; "This is India".

Yuvraj Goswami
X-B

WELL...HMM...





LASAGNE

Dudette of the Month...

The Learning Resource's Centre would not be as half as exciting and well maintained if it were not for Ms. Amita Kandhari and her crew. The LRC is the archive of the school and has books from the 80's and at the same time glitters with the gloss of the latest Penguin paper backs. Amita ma'am, you need the credit, and we extend our gratitude to you for your dedication, hard work and contribution in making the LRC a place where students are conditioned to be more aware and responsible for looking after the resources.

Thanks to Ma'am, we have a system in the LRC that runs smoothly. From supervising the LRC council, to looking after the books, to running the Readers Club, to helping maintain the sanctity of the LRC, the list seems never ending. The Herculean task she does includes chasing Welhamites with books not returned even after the due date. Her quest to make the LRC even better never comes to rest. She is always there chasing sleepy Welhamites out of the LRC. The stalwart



joined our society in 1991 as Assistant Librarian and left in 2003 to rejoin the school in 2007 as the LRC teacher in-charge. She is understanding and forgiving most of the time, but if she catches you mistreating any of her 'dear dear' books then...you had better watch out. If it was not for her sterner side, I doubt the LRC would be so well maintained, as Welhamites both fear and respect her at the same time. She has been working in the library so dedicatedly that she's knows the book arrangement like the back of her hands, maybe even better than that. Don't believe it? Just visit her and ask her for any book from the

library. Unless the book is unavailable, she will point it out to you in no more than 15 minutes. She has also helped make the books more accessible by making it possible to search for books or suggest new books with the help of the school's intranet.

library. Unless the book is unavailable, she will point it out to you in no more than 15 minutes. She has also helped make the books more accessible by making it possible to search for books or suggest new books with the help of the school's intranet.

The Learning Resources Centre is what it is and it gets better only because we have Amita Ma'am as its heart and soul .You can always find her either working at her desk in the LRC or encouraging Welhamites to visit the library and to take up reading as a life-long habit. We are proud to have people as dedicated and hardworking as Amita Ma'am and her staff. We wish you all the best for the future, Ma'am!

EVER WONDER WHY...

- Harshit Beria is excited and anxiously looking forward to 'Polio Ravivar' on the 1st of August?
- Prateek Bordoloi has nightmares of x and y axis?
- There's a Dominos deliveryman at the Oliphant gate every second day, asking the guard, "Yeh North Block kahan hai?"
- There is a high demand for Chinese goods?
- Narayan has started speaking English in an Aussie-Anglo-Saxon accent?

Separated at birth

Mr. Laxman Bhandari
Kunwar Lawren

Mr Jimmy and Harman Bagga
Ashutosh Agrawal
Nani Kungkong

Sanchit Gupta and
Shivesh Kumar

Mr. Dabral
Akshay Nair

Sallu(Dabang)

Suppandi (Tinkle)

Bombay Rockers

Rishabh Dixit

Jirklimjar Pancho

Surya Bhai(Mass) and
Jaadav(Don No. 1)

Vin Diesel

Rudranath Ghorai

OLI'S BELIEVE IT OR ELSE

- Mr. Karna Puri has started driving slowly.
- Welham is being infested by the Bhandari clan Rakesh, Alka, Lakshman and now Pushpak! (Julius Caesar conspiracy... et tu Bhandu's!)
- Shriyam Gupta learnt how to speak in English, just in time for his China MUN.

RAZZMATAZZ

- Finally, Welham has formed a new "Akali Dal"...What say Narayan, Lauren, R.K??? Or should that read "Akela Dal"...
- Anant Gupta has finally received a matrimonial offer. It's a girl! From the "meena" community.
- Mr. Mishra has decided to apply for "India's Magic Star", as is evident from his "electroplating magic!" in Class-12 science.
- Dr. Bhandari has finally had a wardrobe upgrade, his flashy new Tees have gathered a fan following.



THROUGH THE KEYHOLE...

- Samarth- Oye, there are photos of beautiful women in The Economic Times
- Gursimran- Oye, yaar, must be because AAJ-KAL everything is on sale. (Mr. Tripathi you flipping through it?)
- Mr. Bhatt to Gursimran - Start studying, you have got 8%.
- Gursimran- Sir, give me half mark more I will pass. (Percent means OUT OF 100, not 25, Gursimran!)
- Narayan- Children's Day is on 14th of September.
- Mr. Kandpal- Sir, I was calling you and it was... call waiting.
- Aman Bansal- I can't speak as I have tonsils in my neck.
- Deepanshu Sharma while talking to a girl, "OK... Bye... I'll KETCHUP with you later."
- Dr. Bhandari, drawing a circle on the board, writing 'Sun' underneath it, and saying: "Why isn't it called Daughter, yaar?"
- Devanshu Goyal to Mr. Khaira- Sir, I am support staff children (trying to say my SUPW is support staff children).
- Shriyam Gupta (Referring to the Gupta Period): Ma'am... they had the reniance!
- IL: What?
- Shriyam: Ma'am... that... reniance!
- IL: Reliance?
- Shriyam: No! N-E-R - something... Reniance!
- Jaskunwar: Renaissance?
- Shriyam: Yeah! *Raneysow!*
- Was announced in Mr. Lahiri's office (referring to Gael Metroz): Sir, Metrogyl *milne aaya hai...*
- DL: *Hospital se doctor ne dawaiyi bheji hai?*
- Reply: *Nahin sir... Metrogyl sahib, Metrogyl sahib...*

WHATS IN

Letters
Bowling (Astley Hall)
Samdish Khurana and Varun Sharma
Forlans and Villas
Fall of the Shikhar Wall

WHATS OUT

Facebook
Bird watching
Haji Mastan and Dawood Ibrahim.
Ronaldos and Messis
Fall of the Berlin Wall

Heads up, World...

Welham is now on

facebook

Yes, that's right. With 1461 fans **and counting**, Welham is surely reaching greater heights, whether on the **field**, in **festivals**, in **international events... or the internet!**

Join the official Welham Fan Page on Facebook now, and remain updated with all the latest news and updates related to Welham, THE DAY THEY HAPPEN!

INTERHOUSE WBSMUN 2010

- 3 Days
- 5 Chairpersons
- 5 Committees
- 100 delegates

The world is here. Are you coming?



A **Lifetime** Experience

27th, 28th, & 29th August, 2010

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Designed and Printed by

Xpressions, 9219552563