

### Think About It...

*Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested*

*- Bacon*

## Editorial

Observing a street beautification project in Delhi, a lady remarked, "When I came as a newly-wed bride to south Delhi 70 years ago, they were cutting down trees to make streets. Now they are tearing up streets to plant trees. I guess that's progress!"

The older generation keeps telling the youth what to do and always gives them a superficial understanding of the world. They advise them not to be corrupt, not to be dishonest and to use the diminishing natural resources carefully but they are the ones to bungle. A deluge of myths are fed into the young minds, reducing them to become 'stooges' of the politicians. Is this what the youth desires? What is going to happen once it finds out that all that they are told are blatant lies? Undoubtedly the youth of this country needs a reality check... and the effort begins at school!

Oli calls out to all the Welhamites to realize their responsibilities and to grasp the opportunities they let go so easily. One is bound to agree with Kurt Hahn when he says, "It is often observed that when teenagers are given responsibility, they rarely abuse it." *Rang de Basanti*, is not only a typical Hindi movie with a mixture of humour, love and violence but it gives a very bold message to youth. It asks them to stop being armchair politicians and enter the mainstream and make a difference. But the youngsters in the movie make a blunder when they forget that India is the nation of Gandhi - a country which won its independence through non-violence.

The crème de la crème of the country use the government's money and instead of serving the nation, go abroad and serve foreigners. We Welhamites should take a stand and enter the Civil Services, Politics or the Armed Forces. We, the leaders of tomorrow should make

India a country to be proud of. The school gives us a kick-start for leadership when it gives us a light yet heavy badge of a Prefect. It is for us to recognize our responsibilities and pave the way for a student driven institution.

Last year some youngsters made India swell with pride by going to places where no Indian has gone before. Narain Karthikeyan was the first, from the nation of bullock carts to break into Formula One. Arjun Atwal became the first Indian to play the USPGA tour while Sania Mirza was bestowed with the Padma Shree for her excellent performance in Tennis. In addition, Rahul Gandhi proved his mettle in Indian politics and was successful in attracting a plethora of youngsters to join too!

Elders have often used Harry Truman's Law on the youth - "If you can't convince them confuse them" So the next time you see something wrong happening around you, don't just stand there. Go and make a difference!

*Boy - Scout Editor*

**Ajitesh Kir**

(AJITESH KIR)

## Welham Now

- \* The Board classes attended mandatory extra classes camp from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> January.
- \* The school reopened on the 29<sup>th</sup> January.
- \* On the 1<sup>st</sup> February, the newly appointed prefects were sworn in by **General Shergill** at a formal ceremony.
- \* Earlier, the new Prefect body attended a leadership workshop from the 26<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> of January.
- \* The pre - Board Examinations that began on 2<sup>nd</sup> February ended on 14<sup>th</sup> February.

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- \* This term also saw some changes and addition to the faculty:

**Mr. Mahesh Kandpal** has been promoted to the post of Senior Master.

**Mr. Ramesh Bhandari** has taken over as the Dean of Studies, while **Mrs. Ayesha Bakshi** takes over as HOD - Mathematics.

**Mr. S.S. Khaira** has taken over as HOD - Environmental Science while **Mrs. Indrani Lahiri** has taken over as HOD - Humanities.

Consequent to the departure of **Mrs. J. Anand**, **Mrs. Meeru Pande** has taken over as HOD - English.

**Mrs. Evangeline Sukumar** has taken over as Teacher Incharge of the Junior School after **Mrs. Neera Singh** moved to the Middle School.

**Mrs. Poonam Tandon** will now look after Public Relations.

**Mr. Pradipto De** has taken over as HOD - Music.

**Mr. Albert Das** has joined us this term and will teach English to the senior classes.

**Mr. Sudeep Sanyal** has also joined us as visiting faculty and will teach Mathematics and Science to the Middle School.

**Ms. Indrani Talukdar** will be teaching French.

**Ms. Sonia Kumari** has joined us as the nurse in the hospital after **Sister Chawla** retired from Welham after having served for almost three decades.

We wish them all a rewarding tenure at Welham and hope that they enjoy their stay here.

- \* America's famous folk singer and activist **Charlie King** conducted a workshop on the 9<sup>th</sup> of February which was organised by the Karuna Vihar Foundation.
- \* The senior school attended a workshop on Drug Abuse on 14<sup>th</sup> February.
- \* On 18<sup>th</sup> February, the outgoing class XII was given a farewell by the new class XII.
- \* The Tuck Shop will now open from 3 pm to 4 pm everyday.
- \* The construction of the new hostels behind the Activity Centre (which was the Dhobhi Ghat) has begun in full swing.
- \* Students participated in the 'Clean Doon Green Doon' 5 km marathon. **Krishnanand** emerged as the winner.
- \* A group of boys under the guidance of **Mr. Puri** took part in the ICICI Bank Painting Competition and won laurels for the school.

### OBITUARY

**Mrs. Meeru Pande** lost her father on 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2006. **Mr. S.K. Soni** was 68. May his soul rest in peace.

## Letters to the Ed...

Dear Editor,

I am an old boy of Welham, probably the oldest. I was a classmate of the late Mr. S. Kandhari and attended both the Golden and the Diamond Jubilee celebrations. Due to Mr. Kandhari's help, we formed a very active Old Boys Association. I was given the task of finding old boys here in the U.S.A. Then I stopped getting The Oliphant.

Now I have got the Founder's Day issue, and want to commend you on the fine improvement you have initiated in the printing and layout. Keep up the good job.

One thing I could not find in this issue, or on your website is the name of the new Principal. Will you please let me know who is the new Principal, and is he, like Mr. Kandhari an old boy. His name should be given quite prominently, both on the website and the Oliphant.

- *Man Singh Panwar*  
(Batch of 1946)

Dear Sir,

We are extremely glad to receive a letter from one of the the oldest boys of the school. Oli gives you a pat on the back for doing so much for the Old Boys Society. But we want more old boys to take keen interest in the school and involve themselves in various school activities. Mr. Basu, the Vice - Principal is currently the staff Representative of the Old Boys Society and we are also appointing a student representative who will keep in touch with all the old boys and make sure that The Oliphant is sent to the correct destinations.

Kudos to Nishant Joshi and the last year's board that Oli became a 'read and keep' magazine. We will try our best to make Oli more lovable and enthusing.

The new Principal Mr. Dev Lahiri who joined in 2003, is a Rhodes Scholar and has extensive experience in the field of Academics. Well, he's not an old boy but he runs the school just as well as Mr. Kandhari did!

As the Principal is very famous in India, we didn't see the point of putting his name on the website but for all the people abroad, we will certainly look into your request.

Dear Editor,

I regularly receive your magazine The Oliphant and was particularly happy to receive your Founder's Day issue. I note it was published in October, 2005 but I received it on 10<sup>th</sup> of January, 2006.

The get up, the colour prints and the articles have been impressive and readable.

I left your school in 1946 at the time of partition of the Sub – Continent; my memories almost sixty years old are still fresh and pleasant.

Your (late) Head Master Mr. Kandhari along with his wife were our guests in Lahore and I took them around Aitchison College, the premier Institution of Lahore, Pakistan, of which I have been on the Board of Governors for the last 27 years.

I wish your school many more Founders Day. Incidentally, when I was in Welham Boys' School Miss Oliphant was our Head Mistress and "The Oliphant" is a tribute to her dedication to your great school.

- Shahzada A. Monnoo  
(Batch of 1946)

Dear Sir,

Oli is feeling exceptionally proud as it has received letters from two of the oldest boys of the school. At my sarcastic best, I think I will have to speak to Dr. Manmohan Singh for the delay of the The Oliphant reaching you for I believe that there is an involvement of international politics in this case!

Welham still has the same fresh feeling of been born in paradise and we hope that this Founder's Day, you visit India and refresh your memories at Welham. It is due to Ms. Oliphant that we are taking this enriching journey in our school and therefore it is our duty to make her feel proud of her creation.

Dear Ed,

Congratulations to you and your board on your appointment, and best of luck for the year ahead.

We would primarily take this opportunity to thank the new batch of twelfthies for giving us a wonderful farewell, but deep down inside we know that we only 'deserved' the farewell because we had the privilege to be their seniors.

Also, hope that you continue to take out Oliphants of the same standard as the last year, all of which were 'collector's items' for us.

Thank you and farewell,

- Class 12  
(Batch 2005-06)

Dear Twelfthies,

We thank you for giving us the best time an eleventhie can ever have in Welham. We hope this bond never dies and we keep on meeting in the future. The farewell is a very tiny thing as compared to what all you people have done for us and we specifically like to thank the ex Editor-

**in-Chief cum School Captain who will always be remembered for the great contribution he has made to this institution. Don't worry we will keep up the standard of The Oliphant and make the sky its limit.**

**We'd also like to wish the Twelfthies the best of luck for the future and hope that they make a niche for themselves in the competitive world out there!**

**Oli wishes the new Editorial Board all success and assures it's readers that The Oliphant will be consistent in appearing every month. It also assures all its readers that the 'bar' will be raised higher this year. Along with the brickbats, Oli hopes to receive 'constructive criticism' which will enable it to be even better.**

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## Politically Correct!

**Apart from being a Justice League, the new Prefect Body thinks about the betterment of the School as a whole. It wants the school to cross every boundary and reach for the sky.**

**Oli interviewed the Prefects, who are ready to do anything for the institution.**

Oli: What is your vision for the school?

Rasik Goyal(School Captain): I see Welham as a student driven school where students have a very dynamic and innovative approach towards their goals.

Chirantan Singh(Sports Captain): I see Welhamites changing the world.

Udaiveer S. Dhillon: I am trying to envision a day when Welham will be a totally student driven school and will produce multidimensional results.

Ajitesh Kir: I envisage Welham, producing outstanding individuals, making a significant difference in the society.

Adarsh Gupta: My vision for Welham is to become a school of today - a co-educational school.

Manishek Gupta: I see students and teachers, moving hand in hand, kicking and screaming into the new era.

Prateek Singh: My vision for the school is to make it a memorable place for everyone.

Aman Verma: I see Welham having no competition.

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## Are we losing it!

"From being the biggest worry, India has transformed itself to the most productive." – Bill Clinton.

"India's GDP growth ranks second highest in the world, only 0.73% behind China." – Forbes Magazine.

The so called poverty – dominated India is finally on the road to growth. But have we ever thought about the negative aspect of this seemingly good development? Or is it that we have assumed that in this mathematics of development, there are only pluses and no minuses. Have we ever realised that when we Indians take a step forward, we actually take ten steps backward?

It may never seem to us a major concern but unknowingly we are slowly but steadily **allowing** our culture to vanish. Are we as a nation **heading** towards another America? With no culture, no **organisation** of its own, where urbanization is the only priority **and** nothing else?

If we **reflect** on our history, we will realise that we are one of **the** few nations to **have** a magnificent culture backing us. But it is in **this** era of urbanization that not **even** a **small** part of it is distinctly visible.

According to the surveys conducted by various prominent magazines around the globe, it **has** been revealed that the attitude of a normal Indian can be seen evolving to that of a European! Surprising?? Yes it is.

We have ignored all that we were doing to preserve our originality. Aping the west has now reached such an extent that we now need advertisements to remind us about *Atithi Devo Bhava* (Guests are God) which was once **taken** for granted.

There was **once** a time when a tourist **used** to talk about the pleasant hospitality he **received** in India, but now it's different. The warmth and homeliness of Indians has withered away.

Changing names from Bangalore to Bengaluru, Madras to Chennai and Calcutta to Kolkata. Is that all we can do to try to retain our originality?

I don't see the initiative coming from the leaders of the country but if we don't want our culture to sink in the quicksand of urbanization, the initiative has to come from us. And it has to come fast.

*Jai Hind!*

- Praharsh Agarwal  
IX - B

## Just Three Minutes

While at a park one day, a woman sat down next to a man on a bench near a playground. "That's my daughter over there", she said, pointing to a little girl in a yellow dress who was gliding down the slide. "She's a fine looking girl!", the man said, "That's my son on the swing in the red shirt."

Then, looking at his watch, he called out to his son. "What do you say, do we go Rohit?" Rohit said, "Just three minutes more dad, please, just three minutes more." The man nodded and Rohit continued to swing to his heart's content. Minutes passed and the father stood and called to his son again.

"Time to go now," Rohit pleaded once more, "Three minutes **more** dad, just three minutes more." The man smiled and said, "Ok, son."

"Hey, you certainly **are** a patient father," the woman remarked. The man smiled and then said, "My elder son was killed by a drunk driver last year while he was riding his bike. I never spent much time with him and now I'd give anything for just three minutes with him. I've vowed not to make the **same** mistake with Rohit. He thinks he has three more minutes to swing. The truth is, I get three minutes more to watch him play."

Life is passing you by; work will still be there **when** we are not. Life is all about getting your priorities right. What **are** your priorities? Give some one you love three minutes more of your time today.

- Aishwarya Tandon  
IX - B

## Beginning of a new era...

Look into the blue, you will spot a tinge of white. Look into the sky, you'll find the North star. Look into Welham, you'll (definitely) spot a new chain of Prefects each wiping off the specks of dust off their lustrous, lately attained badges. Yet, at the beginning, none was spared as they had to be baptized, with due respect and honour.

The Prefect Investiture Ceremony was finally held on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February, after the rehearsals that the school had to undergo since the 30<sup>th</sup> of the previous month.

Hard work is always rewarded. On the day of the ceremony, the venue, the Activity Centre looked awesome with the candles that sparkled in the dark. The

former Prefects along with the Chief Guest, General S. Shergill entered the auditorium and were soon seated on the stage.

The new Prefects were sworn in by their former counterparts. The ceremony came to an end with the speech of the Chief Guest as well as that of our Principal.



*Gen. Shergill congratulating the new School Captain.*

'Uneasy lies the head that bears the crown'.  
The new chain of Prefects have a different mindset, all aiming towards one goal, a 'true', 'better' Welham.....

- Ayan Mukherjee

X - B

## If - [In Fun]

If you can sleep till 7:30 every morning,  
And still reach the classes block by 7:39.

If you succeed to take a snooze in the class,  
And not be caught by the teacher.

If you can eat ten *paranthalas* for breakfast,  
And still gobble up 5 *chapatis* at lunch.

If you can eat a giant's meal in the dining hall,  
And still not be satisfied until you finish the last bite.

If you can learn to keep your eyes and ears wide open,  
And still snore away to glory.

If you can pretend to be studying when reading an Archie,  
And make the most innocent face when you're dead guilty.

If you can dream about girls and only girls,  
And not about making them your mistress.

If you can think and continue thinking in class,  
And never ever remember what you're taught.

If you are met with report cards and those wonderful postcards,

And treat these two as just the same.

If you can long for a movie to be shown,

And during the show, give your approval with a yawn.

If you can risk your monthly outing,

For a bunk during the Saturday night movie.

If you can fight when you're bound to lose,

And always fight to win and not to lose.

If you can overfill the flying minute,

With 9.78 seconds of Michael Johnson.

You are eaten by Welham germs, and what is more,

You have just passed the test, and you're a true Welhamite  
- have fun.

[ Sincere apologies to Rudyard Kipling]

Manishek Gupta

XII - Comm

## The Attack of Bad Luck

I got up in the morning and fell out off my bed. I reached for my spectacles and felt them crunch beneath my hand. I stood up and banged my head under the table.  
RESULT: My mood was spoilt.

I went out of my room and a huge bucket of water fell on my head and I knew it was my brother.

RESULT: I was drenched and decided to kill my brother.

I could not find my brother in the house so I decided to get on with my daily routine. I dressed up smartly and decided to go for a walk.

RESULT: My mood was improving.

I was walking down the street when I noticed a cute looking girl on the other side of the road. She had dark hair, blue eyes, her lips were red and when she smiled, a dimple was visible on her left cheek.....

RESULT: I crashed into a tree. My cheeks turned a deep shade of red.

I bought a Sundae and was licking it and thinking how bad a day could become. Suddenly I saw a rat being chased by a dog. They went under my legs, knocking me off balance.

RESULT: My Sundae fell onto the ground.

I decided to go home. When I opened the door of my house, another bucket of water landed on my head [surely planted by my brother].

RESULT: I was highly infuriated.

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I shouted at the top of my voice, "Oh God! Will this day ever come to an end?"

RESULT: I slipped and landed head first on the wet floor, and was knocked out.

Next day on my hospital bed, I thought, "The day did come to an end, didn't it?"

MORAL: Who says God does not give us what we want?

- Siddharth Agrawal

IX - B

### Excerpts: Interview...

*Mr. Charlie King, a professional singer and a peace activist from America, visited our school and conducted a Workshop about the Civil Rights Movement and the Peace Movement, organised by the Karuna Vihar Foundation (an NGO looking after the physically and the mentally challenged).*

*We decided to talk to the person, who has made music his medium to convey the message of peace to the masses.*

Oli: Mr. King, what motivated you to struggle for civil rights and participate in peace protests?

CK: Oh! For me it was the music, because when I was in high school I started listening to American folk music, which is a little different to what I've been listening to on the radio and I was fascinated by the topic and the contents of the music. I mean I like the music but the content has always interested me.

So I was listening to the songs by Pete Seegar, Paul Lowbersin, Peter Paul and Mary and people that had written out of the heart for struggles like 'The Civil Rights movement' and 'The Peace movement'. Actually it was really because all my life I've been a singer and a lover of music, that I evolved into politics and then a sort of change in my life was the Vietnam war.

They drafted me to go fight in Vietnam and I didn't want to go, so I had to take a stand against that.

Oli: What is the purpose of your visit to India?

CK: I'm just here for two weeks and I've planned to do what I've been told. I'm here at the invitation of Karuna Vihar and they have me scheduled all week playing primarily at schools, and then on Saturdays and Sundays doing public concerts.

Oli: Since when are you involved in the peace movement?

CK: I come from a family which is particularly conservative. So my family was very suspicious and



Charlie King in conversation with Ajitesh.

were afraid that there were communists surrounding every corner. So I missed the civil rights movement except for the music. I heard the music. I heard Pete Seegar. I was inspired by the music but I didn't really get into political activism. However, I was asked by the United States government to become a soldier and fight the Vietnam War but I asked myself, "Am I doing the right thing?" I became subjective and worked in the States instead of going to Vietnam. That was the beginning of my life long series of work in the peace movement.

Oli: What is your message for the youth?

CK: Well, probably nothing that the youth would like to hear (laughs). I guess, my message would be that there is a vast conspiracy out to capture your souls and it goes something like this. If you work hard, we'll pay you. And if we pay you then you can buy things. And if you can buy things you'll be happy. So you better work very hard. And that is why a very tiny amount of people get extremely rich because we believe that lie and every year people work harder, every year people are more productive and every year people make less money and spend more over it and become less happy.

And I would say from my own life experience that finding something that you passionately believe in and working hard for that goal and not for a bigger

T.V set and a better car but working for things that really inspire your heart, your mind and your soul, is the way to find happiness in the world. And the rest of it will leave us very unhappy and much poorer. So that would be my message to the young and if you could do it musically you'll enjoy even more.

## Like the Nature of Water

I wish neither to possess  
 Nor to be possessed  
 I am now myself  
 Just like the nature of water  
 No one can ever grasp me **in his hands**.  
 I feel that I'm one with nature  
 No one can now direct or command me  
 Because I have the total freedom  
 The choice to be myself  
 And to go with,  
 And not against my nature.  
 And just like the nature of water  
 I want to go **freely, smoothly**  
 Undisturbed by any phenomenon  
 I don't want to put limits to what I do  
 Instead I want to go beyond the limits  
 And discover things for myself;  
 I want to explore myself.  
 Ultimately I don't want a daily  
 Increase in myself  
 But a daily decrease  
 I want to **get rid** of my inessentials  
 And try and be like **water**  
 Pure and uncontaminated.

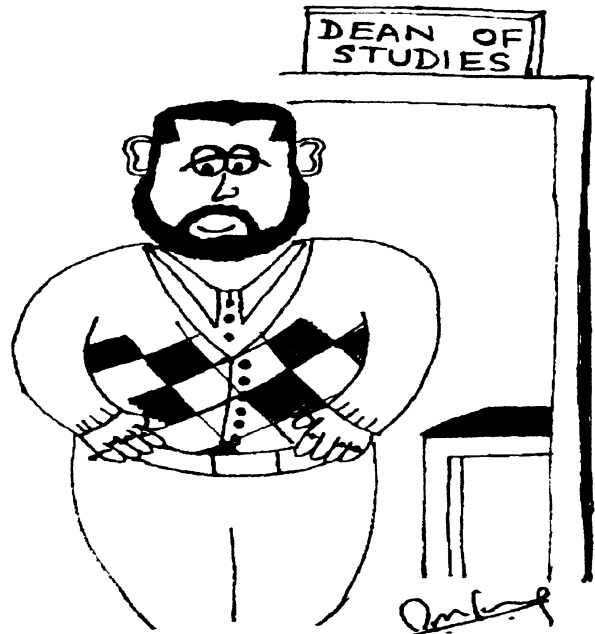
- Imtiaz Hussain  
 IX - A

## Dude of the Month!!!

*"No if, No but, I said keep your mouth shut"*

- Mr. Bhandari.

It was a unanimous decision to make the 'cute bearded genius' the dude of the month. From completing his Ph.D in just two years and finishing the syllabus in two months, Mr. Bhandari has a lot to his credit. No matter if a volcano erupts or an earthquake takes place or a war breaks out, Mr. Bhandari has never 'bunked' a



single day of the school. Just recently he has taken over as Dean of Studies, a position which he certainly deserves and you can see him either standing at the subway or going from one place to another carrying 'important documents'. He might look angry or gloomy most of the time but just pass a smile across and you're sure to get an equal response.  
 Oli wishes him the Best of luck!

## Psychic...

Captivity prevents motivation, dominating over emotions of human attitude. Trauma is the ultimatum. A small breach in this situation is a medicine to this confinement, arousing anxiety and curiosity. As a fine beam penetrates the breach in the bonds, the victim is enlightened by the grasp of the different environment. This is a moment that a victim fears, a moment that a bondsman avoids, this is a moment that I experience.

Birth may be a blessing to man, as people describe it, unaware of the difficulty that a child faces to adapt to his surroundings. The more that is fed into a young mind, the more repulsive it gets to perception. Youth struggles to control situations, learning from experience. But what if one is suppressed to experience these situations, what if one cannot go through the normal youth? In this case, the world for such a victim is only compressed into what he sees everyday. When there is a change in his environment, all that he can see are ghosts.....

(contd. on pg. 10)

THESE ARE DEFINING MOMENTS...  
INSPIRATIONAL MOMENTS...  
EMOTIONAL MOMENTS...  
MOMENTS THAT MAKE POETS...  
...OUT OF ORDINARY MEN...  
LET THE MOMENTS BE...  
*David*  
(04-08)

104-06)



# 10 The Oliphant

I am such a 'peril-struck' victim. Just till a few moments ago, I was under the impression of being born as "Adam". The world to me was this fourteen by twenty feet white – washed room with an eight feet long bed lying on one corner. The white door has a small slit through which I receive edible items. Everything around me has been colourless. That was the impression of a world to me, small and colourless. Time has never been a factor, sound never existed, odour was not recognised as none was found. There was no apple for this captive Adam, no punishment to suffer, nothing to do, no one to obey, all that was provided was a self – reliant environment. This is how I had been living all these moments.

The moment I witnessed a ray of yellow light penetrating the wall on my left, I sensed **danger**. For a few days I kept gazing at it. Gradually, **curiosity** dominated over fear of what lay beyond. I broke **through** this wall, gathering all my might. As I step out, I **turn** and look overhead. A placard reads, "Manipur State Mental Asylum". I realise that I had been a pseudo, my ear impervious to sounds, my eye squinting to **avoid** colour, my nose incapable of odour. Now I realise that I was born in an **asylum**, **confined** in the same room until the present moment. The world is large, huge as compared to what I estimated it to be. I am not Adam. As I look around, my senses cannot perceive anything around me, hopeless of this long – attained handicap. All I see are masculine and feminine forms, all I see are ghosts.....

- Ayan Mukherjee  
X - B

## Excerpts: Interview...

*The construction work at all odd hours behind the Activity Centre is making the curious Welhamites wonder what exactly is happening. Oli interviewed Mr. Kishan Singh, the new Estate Officer.*

Oli: What is the construction behind the Activity Centre for?

KS: The construction is for a new hostel.

Oli: In how much time would the project be completed?

KS: The project would be completed by the end of December of this year.

Oli: Can you give us an idea or perhaps a description of the new hostel.

KS: Oh yes, sure! The new hostel will be a three storey building, with a basement as well. It would have an

approximate surface area of 150 feet by 60 feet. It would be actually bigger than Triveni. The hostel would have no dormitory but only rooms and yes, a corridor in the middle.

Oli: Keeping the space, comfort and luxury in mind, what kind of a life would Welhamites experience in this hostel?

KS: I can't say much about that, but their life here would be more luxurious and comfortable than in Triveni or Krishna. Children, I'm sure would enjoy themselves –



Mr. Kishan Singh at the construction site.

as I've already told you there are rooms and no dormitories. Apart from this we will also provided them with desert coolers. The rooms as also the entire hostel is perfectly **designed** and **planned**, and further, it is more spacious than the senior hostels.

And yes as far as I know, there would be an assistant House Master and also a House Mother on each floor.

Oli: Do you have any other projects in mind?

KS: We have a lot of plans for the future.

Firstly we have planned to extend the Orchard Field by demolishing the staff quarters which are near the field.

The carpentry will be demolished and a Central store would be constructed there. By 2007 we have plans to demolish the Junior hostels near the main field and extend both main field and the back field likewise.

The junior hostels would be shifted to the Orchards. We have some construction near the 'new hostel' also – a new swimming pool and a basketball court.

**Finally! After all the requests and School Committee meetings, we are going to have a new swimming pool and a replacement for the rickety Triveni!!!**

## Oliphant Focus

*It's the time of the year again, when you come back to the hostel after prep and feel that you have arrived at a mental asylum. Madmen, with weird hairstyles and unkempt facial hair, clad in monkey caps and chowkidaar shawls, are literally banging their heads on the wall, on not being able to understand a mathematical equation or Prospero's speech to Miranda.*

*No, I'm not describing a scene straight out from a Ramgopal Verma movie. I'm talking about the Boards season.*

*It is the most crucial time in a student's life in India, which can make or break his career. Lakhs of rupees are spent on tuitions and yet hundreds of students take their own lives, just because they are scared to show their marks to their demanding parents.*

*How backward is the Indian Education system? Is swallowing the whole syllabus and vomiting it out in the exam, what we call good education? Or a gruelling exam at an earlier stage in life is what we need?*

*Many people remark, "Why do you give it so much importance? It's just an exam." While others feel that it prepares you for the outside world. A world which only wants the best...*

*Here, Kartik gives a picture of what's happening in today's India*

*We are all a blooming bunch of hypocrites and think its time we come to terms with it!*

*Frankly, I have had enough of all the nonsense newspapers put me through each time the board exams approach.*

*I can't believe our first issue this term, is once again, focusing on the same. I mean, for God's sake, isn't it just an exam? Is it perhaps written somewhere or has God sent us a message saying that the boards are an incarnation of the apocalypse. Why on earth give it so much unnecessary importance?*

*Didn't Bill Gates drop out of school? I'm sure you must have heard his story, maybe almost as many times as you've risen to see the light of day!*

*But let me enlighten you once again. Of course failure to complete high school must be real hard on the poor guy, but I'm fairly certain that one look at the size of his bank account is probably enough to overwhelm that ridiculous thought. So I guess life isn't harsh on him. I am sure his 70 billion dollar assets are comfort enough, don't you?*

*Who are we fooling? All this talk of increased competition as compared to the old days is nonsense. Didn't people back then want jobs as much as we do now? What is the basic logic behind this? Do people feel*

*it's because we eat more, or consume more than they did?*

*Our generation is being unnecessarily cautioned and pressurised. And we, like fools are swallowing it all in, till one day when it reaches the brim, we fall over like ninepins.*

*Isn't the objective of this final test of our schooling life, to prepare us for the world waiting outside?*

*But what world do you expect to step into and face if you end your life, even before you lift your foot?*

*What on earth happened to people coming to terms with their own difficulties and problems? What's the story behind all the phoney pay per call help lines and amazingly stupid as well as expensive, so called confidence-redeeming psychologists? Loads of cash and precious time are spent pursuing futile ways to pass their boards. All the while, ignoring the most simple and obvious solution - just study for heavens sake!*

*Another thing I've had the misfortune of noticing is that a lot of people say they get into smoking and drugs during these days. They say it helps relieve them all the tension and pressure.*

*I completely understand. I mean, do you have any idea how stressful and unnerving a whole night of partying, pranks and booze can be, and that too on the day before the final exam? It is amazing and inspiring, how kids manage these hard days of tiring relaxation and cumbersome enjoyment, and walk out with a ridiculous grin on their faces.*

*It was the 29<sup>th</sup> of April, the day the results were to be announced. In a village slightly south of Thiruvananthapuram, 18 year old Mala was trembling with fear and apprehension. She was afraid, afraid that she had not performed well, afraid that her failure would ruin her life forever. She saw no other way out. She had to do it.*

*When Ravi and Mala's mother returned home, they found her sprawled on the floor. She lay in a puddle of what looked like a mixture of blood and urine. Her wrists were slit and a bottle of phenyl rested within her palm.*

*Ravi, her husband and his mother – in – law had just returned from Mala's doctor. They had just found that Mala was one month pregnant.*

*Life is God's gift. Don't insult Him by refusing it.*

*- Kartik Viswanath  
XII - Hum.*

# 12 The Oliphant

## Boards *Bukhaar*

A deluge of memories hit me,  
When I see the tenthies passing by,  
I pull out my treasure – my photographs,  
And I try hard not to cry!

It's hard to forget the malicious gossip,  
The black coffee is even harder to be forgotten,  
While playing in the corridor, someone would get hurt,  
And someone would go get the cotton!

The 'Jungli look', was in fashion, again,  
Nobody studied like the Khemka brothers,  
You could spot a tenthie, a mile away,  
Wearing the ubiquitous shawls stolen from their mothers!

The best part of 'Boards' was the ration,  
The extra – classes were extremely boring,  
Half the people would be cooking Maggi,  
And half of them would be snoring!

Some were always groping for the 'papers',  
They wasted both time and money,  
Some would be glued to the telephone,  
Romancing, with their sweetheart or honey!

Just one day before the exam,  
When it struck the midnight hour,  
All of us, kindred souls,  
Prayed to the divine power!

The Supervisor resembled the very devil,  
His fiery eyes haunted me for ages,  
He would twitch his moustache, and raise an eyebrow,  
Whenever I would ask for extra pages!

I know it's too late for any advice  
Nor can I give you any clue,  
But even in the time of great pressure,  
Just do what a Welhamite should do!!

*Anticipating the next,  
Ajitesh Kir  
XII - Hum.*

**Is the Board Examination worth all the pressure  
and chewing the same books again and again?  
After all, isn't it just an exam?**



☐ Yes  
☒ No

**Class XII(outgoing)- Yes: 19 No: 12**

**Class XII- Yes: 26 No: 12**

**Class X(outgoing)- Yes: 29 No: 19**

**Class X- Yes: 36 No: 14**

Adarsh Gupta - Party Time!

Tushar Saini - Sleepless nights.

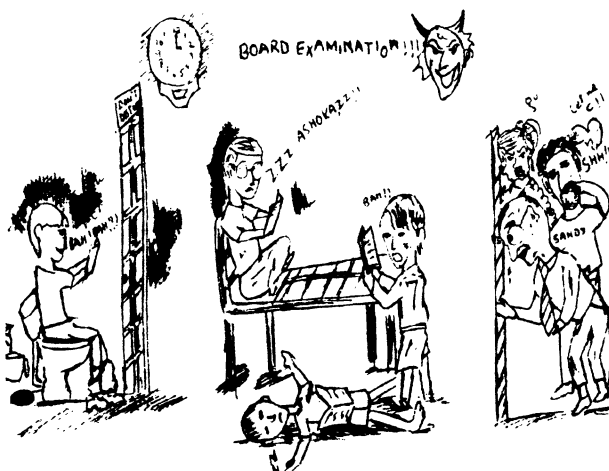
Kushal Shrestha - Best time in a student's life.

Monish Khera - A time for students to realise their potential and their goals.

Rasik Goyal - An excellent test for discovering your capabilities.

Omit Gurung - A battle with books.

Shalabh Agarwal - When you work your b\*\*\* off and later remark, "I could have done better".



*W. Amodeu*

**That's Boards time in Welham for you!!!**

***Oli asked Miss Fuss to give an account of life in the United States. She, in turn has portrayed an Indian student, Param Singh, and his college life in Wisconsin.***

Param Singh  
Thompson Hall #45  
University of Wisconsin – Madison  
209 Crowley Dr.  
Madison, WI 54004  
USA

15 September 2006

Dear Mom and Dad,

Hi there. How are you? I'm doing great. I just finished my first week of college here at UW-Madison and while I'm so exhausted I'm also having a great time. Today was the first time that I went a whole day without needing to ask directions. The campus is so huge! Between all the hostels (they call them dorms here) and the academic buildings and the student life buildings and the libraries the campus covers a couple of miles. They do have a good inter-campus bus system, but it can take almost half an hour to get from one class to another.

Don't worry. I am able to make it to all my classes on time. Would you believe that some of the teachers cut marks if you don't attend classes? Prateena was telling me that in her college in Delhi she often only has to read the book and take the exam at the end. I actually have one class a week in computer graphics where there are no exams at all. We have eight projects to complete and they are what we are marked on. In my Introduction to Humanities class my professor said that a third of our grade will be from our meaningful participation in class, another third from our research paper and only the last third will be from our exam. Outside of class, things are going well too. I'm going to be getting a part time job in the cafeteria starting next week. I will mostly be doing a cashier's work with a little bit of cleaning on the side. Now I know what you're thinking, but I'm only working twelve hours a week and sometimes I can study at work.

Also, while my tuition, housing, and meal plan are already paid for the year I just want some extra money if I want to go out to eat or go to a movie. And everything here is so expensive! If I want to go out to dinner it can cost almost Rs.800/-. Anyway, everyone has a part time job. It should be just fine. You would really like my roommate. He is really funny and he

brought a TV, a DVD player, and a computer. He said that I can use these things whenever I want. He also said that he wasn't going to be in the room a lot. He is a second year student and has a boyfriend who lives off campus and so I guess that he is going to be spending a lot of time with him. But that's okay.

There are some guys down the hall who also seem really nice and they invited me to join their Frisbee golf team. I'm also going to be on the building committee and work with the RA (resident assistant) to make policies about life on campus. I don't really know what there would be to change; we come and go when we please and the only things we can't do is smoke indoors or drink alcohol before we're twenty-one. That seems fine to me.

I think that is about it for now. I haven't really met any American girls yet Mom, but tonight there is a sort of welcome back party on the girls' floor that we are all invited to. Everyone is supposed to bring some sort of yellow food or drink to share. I'm bringing a bottle of Mountain Dew. I'll let you know how it goes. Give Dadi a big hug from me.

Love,  
Param

## Dog with a Bone

There was a dog with a bone  
Who was playing with a stone  
His name was Keash  
Which was written on his leash.

His coat was brown  
And he was also wearing a crown  
His nose was like a button  
He enjoyed eating mutton.

He never liked cats  
But loved to sleep on mats  
He lived in a kennel  
Which was near a tunnel.

His master was Ram  
Who held his leash in his palm  
There was a dog with a bone  
Who was playing with a stone.

- Kartik Sharma  
IV - B

# 14 The Oliphant

## Nature's Diary

The horizon broke into thousand shades of red and orange. It was dawn and he watched the sun rise. He had not slept the previous night.....something was troubling him.....what? He knew not.

He wore his gown and opened the backdoor of his house. As he stepped out he took a small trail into the forest. He kept on wondering what was troubling him. His head was heavy and unclear. He could only hear the words echoing in his head.

What will happen if there were no trees? Won't we perish? These words of a twelve year old kept on repeating themselves in the dark tunnels of his conscience. No, it was too hard on him. He couldn't help but feel guilty.

He had cut trees, first as a profession then as a business. He was a well-to-do businessman with no worries whatsoever. He was happy and content with all he had. He thought about everybody but never once about the trees which provided him happiness and prosperity.

It was strange that such a thought had never occurred to him. All these years he had never felt ashamed. But why was he now troubled? He kept on walking on the trail that seemed to never end. In the end, he gave up and retreated.

On the way back he saw the same twelve year old planting seeds into the soil. He took a decision. By the next day he had closed down his paper factory, and joined an organisation and was soon planting trees.

What made him do this? Was it a realisation of his duty towards Mother Nature or something else?

I believe all of us shouldn't just read through this story and then forget all about it. The bigger message is whether we need other people to come and approach us with the environmental issues and make us aware of our surroundings and the present danger to our environment for which we are solely responsible?

There is only one thing that we should all remember. The ball is in our court and we have to act now, and do it fast, since our survival, along that of other species, depends upon our reactions to the situation.

*Spreading the message*  
Prateek Singh  
XII - Hum.

## Monthly Quiz

To make the Oliphant more interesting, we have decided to start a Monthly Quiz from this issue onwards.

Attention Welhamites! Oli has promised to give a Domino's Pizza to the first person who gives all the right answers. So pick up a pen and start jotting down the answers right away. The answers are to be given straight to the editor

Q. 1. Why was the Italian businessman, Mr. Ottavio Quattrocchi, in the news recently?

Q. 2. Which is the latest bestseller by Upamanyu Chatterjee?

Q. 3. What is CDMA technology?

Q. 4. Who won the award for the best Actor, in the 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Golden Globe Awards?

Q. 5. After facing lots of difficulties, Deepa Mehta managed to release her movie. Name the film.

Q. 6. Who is the only bowler to take more than 600 wickets in test cricket?

Q. 7. Which is the world's largest airport?

Q. 8. Which Indian Industrialist set the world record for the highest altitude travelled in a hot - air balloon?

Q. 9. Why was there a dispute between the Lok Sabha Speaker and the Judiciary a few months ago?

Q. 10. Which is the most expensive fashion brand in the world?

## What's In What's Out

Mrs. Bajwa's 'Pink Panther' Activa  
Manishek, the 'Subway Man'  
Mr. Sukumar Ration  
Mr. Bhandari Wannabe Dhonis

Mr. Das's 'Silver Surfer' Activa  
Mr. Lahiri, the 'Subway Man'  
James Bond  
Meals at Bethany  
Mr. Kandpal  
Wannabe Sachins

## Ever Wonder Why?

- \* Himesh Reshamiya never takes off his cap?
- \* You hear a hissing sound during English class?
- \* Mr. Das is so fond of his Blue jacket?
- \* There is a microphone problem only during debates?
- \* Mrs. Bajwa is singing "Dhoom... Dhoom"
- \* Mr. Sandeep Khanna loves the 'Happy Price Menu' at McDonald's.
- \* Mr. Sukumar was heard practising in front of the mirror, "The name is Bond. James Sukumar Bond!"

## Through the Keyhole

Jirklmjar (to his classmates): "Jab mein *bachpan mein chota* thaa....."

Mr. Vashisht(to class 8-b): "Imagine some boys come to my house for a party. I'll order '*pijja*' and if some more boys come then I'll order McDonalds '*pijja*'."

Sheriff Bajwa (while reading The Times of India): "Arre, that Leander Pyaz is a very good player."

Tushar Saini (to Omit Gurung): Kya yaar! They forgot to install jets in the Indian pots!

Tushar Saini(in McDonalds): Bhaiya, One *aloo paratha* please!

## Ringside View

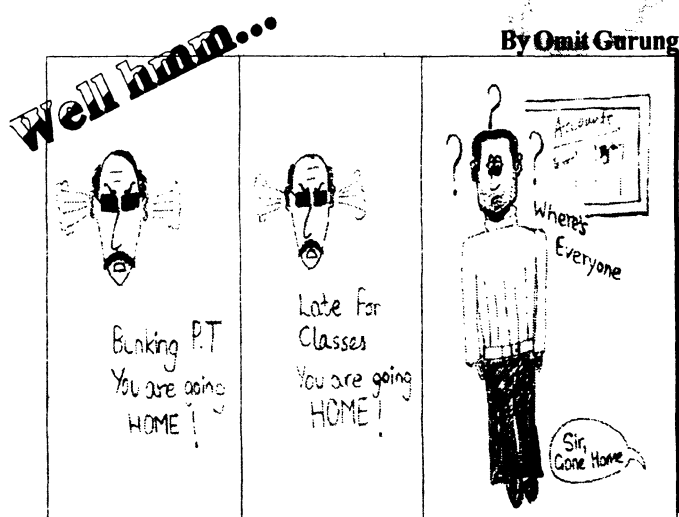
A new year has just begun, and the new sports captains are all ready to take the field and assume their responsibilities, in their endeavour to take the level of sports in school to greater heights. In case you are wondering who these new captains really are, then I would like to clear some things out for you.

We have had a Sports Committee meeting and most of the sports captains have already been decided. I hope that you understand that they cannot be named until they are officially appointed. So just wait for the next issue and by then I will surely be able to provide you with all their names.

This year we are going to have the maximum number of captains for individual sports, which clearly indicates that Welham is moving forward and has decided to promote the new sports that have been recently introduced. Let's hope that we excel in each of these sports and do the school proud.

Moving on to the sports arena, the most awaited time of the year for the young and budding cricketers is back. The cricket teams, both the senior and the junior, can be seen sweating it out on the field during practice. The players are really working hard and seem dedicated and determined to carry on the good record left behind by their predecessors (they didn't lose a single match last season). The junior cricket team is doing really well and have been playing some wonderful cricket. An astounding victory over K.V.S in the semi-finals by 10 wickets has put them in the District Cricket Finals. Shashem was the star of the show with an unbeaten 42. Earlier the same team had skittled out St. Thomas College for 34 runs and then managed to reach the target in no time. This time Randhir was the star with a haul of four wickets. With this kind of performance, the future of cricket in Welham surely looks bright. Some of these players have already made it to the senior team. Way to go, guys!

The senior cricket team on the other hand played its first practice match against the sports staff of Welham. The team batted well and managed a respectable score of 119 runs in 20 overs. They could have easily managed much more but the middle order was unable to capitalize on the solid start provided by the top order. Harsh made a superb 52 while Chirantan gave him good support with a solid 37. But the lack of experience did the team in as they were hammered all over the ground by the staff.



# 16 The Oliphant

Mr. Mandeep Singh went berserk during his knock of 48. They won easily with quite a few overs to spare. Chirantan suffered the most as he was hit for 51 runs of his 4 overs. The senior team's first competitive match was against the Doon International School which they won quite comfortably by 16 runs. This time it was a good team effort where the whole team had something to contribute. Welham made a massive score of 181 in their 25 overs. Rahul top scored with 33 while Karamveer came towards the end to blast 24 quick fire runs. Let's hope that the cricket team continues their successful run.

The other sporting events have seen Krishnanand of class VIII, winning the Clean Doon Green Doon 5 km. marathon. This lad is surely going to break some records by the time he leaves school. The rest of the athletics team also performed very well. The basketball team is practising very hard as they have a number of tournaments coming up this term. The volleyball and tennis teams too are sweating it out for their forthcoming tournaments. We wish them success and hope they end the term with flying colours. Football continues to be the rage in the orchard field. A new sport that has recently

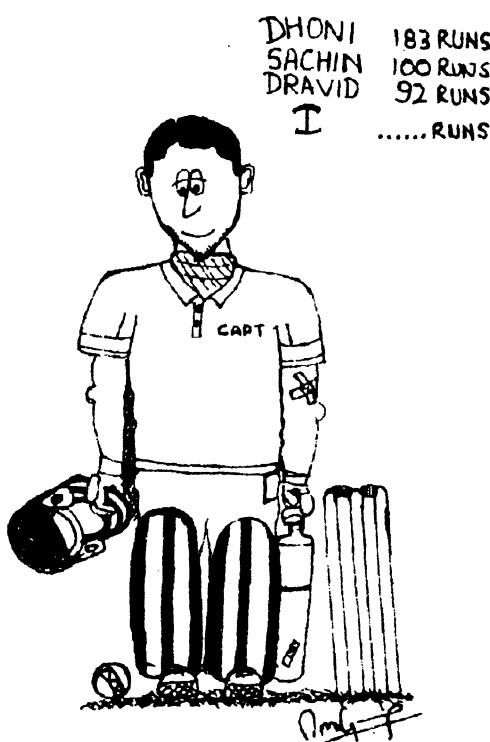
been introduced, skating, is finally being taken seriously by the Welhamites. The rink (in front of Bethany) is ready with the outlines and the posts. The team might win some trophies and turn many a head. Watch out for them.

The international headlines include some very famous teams and people. Ronaldinho has once again,

for the second consecutive year, been awarded the World Footballer of the year. This is surely just the beginning for him. Roger Federer has won yet another grand slam, the Australian Open. I have never seen more gifted sportsmen. Chelsea and Barcelona have finally started losing matches. There is plenty of good news for Indian cricket fans. Sachin is back to his best. Irfan Pathan's hat trick made every Indian proud but the loss in the same test match against Pakistan was shameful. The Australian cricket team continues to break records and so does Murali (but this time for the wrong reason as he

conceded the most runs in an ODI). I'll be back with more news next time. Till then, adios.

- Chirantan Singh



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