

Think About It...

Success is counted sweetest by those who ne'er succeed.

- Emily Elizabeth Dickinson

Editorial

A New Year... a new term....a new batch and yet, nothing seems to change. Last year saw the school excel in almost every field, be it academics, sports or anything else for that matter.

Subsequent to an eventful year, it makes me wonder, whether we should really change. After the last few years of continuous change, it may seem weird for a whole year to pass without any major change. Now lets just wait and see what this year has in store for us.

This year has already started with a bang with the school hosting a one of its kind 'drug abuse' workshop in collaboration with 'Nijaat' and the Uttarakhand Government. Presided over by the Governor of the State, the high point of this workshop was that we as a school accepted that we had a problem in the past and that we fought hard to eliminate it.

While on the matter of drugs, a very important issue that comes to mind is that of collective responsibility. Even though, the mere mention of this term reminds a Welhamite only of self-outs, it is actually much more than that. The issue of individual and collective responsibility pops up in almost every day to day situation, especially in a world where each individual is becoming self-centred. Whether or not collective responsibility is a reality is a highly debatable issue. Keeping this in mind, we have focussed on collective responsibility this month.

The rain Gods finally had mercy on us and even though the rains came late, it poured for three consecutive days. Mussoorie saw snow after a 'snow-less' two years as the temperatures hit the bottom down here.

The Board classes can hardly be seen nowadays with most of them engrossed in their books. I am quite sure that they will do themselves and the school proud. I know I speak on behalf of the entire community when I wish them the very best in their examinations.

The new Prefect body has been appointed and can be seen working enthusiastically round the clock. Let us hope they continue to emulate the example set by the previous batches.

The New Year also has a lot in its basket for us Welhamites. We continue to keep service to the community as our main objective this year too. Plans are already being chalked out for helping a small village in the hills, Jaidwar which the school had adopted earlier. The good news is that a lot of boys have volunteered to go and help the village in providing medical and other facilities during the mid-term break. The spirit of service surely seems to be catching up with all Welhamites.

Along with the other positions, the new Oliphant Board has also been appointed. The last two years saw a spate of "Oliphants" raising the standard enormously. It will surely be a very difficult task to keep up the standard. We sincerely hope we can do so. I would also take this opportunity to thank the last year's Board and the Chief Editor who are responsible for making The Oliphant one of the best things to happen to Welham.

Ashish Chowdhary

(ASHISH CHOWDHARY)



Welham Now

- * The Board classes have been really stretched out from 3rd January attending their coaching camps for the upcoming Board exams in March.
- * The Junior and the Middle School teachers attended a workshop from 25th to 27th of January while the upcoming Prefects attended a leadership camp during those days
- * The school re-opened for the rest of the classes on 28th January.
- * The Preliminary examinations for classes X and XII were held from 29th January through 7th February.
- * The reopening of the school saw some new faces join the faculty:

Mr. Manish Pant has joined the Science Department and will teach the Middle and Senior school..

Mr. Sateynder Mishra will also be teaching Chemistry to the senior classes.

Ms. Ahluwalia has joined as a Psychology teacher and will also act as a counsellor.

Ms. Sangita Singh has joined the Junior School as an English teacher.

We wish them a long and pleasant stay at Welham.

- * The first 'Vox Populi' of the term was held on the 14th of February; the topic on the floor being 'Is public display of affection appropriate in the Indian society'.
- * The Prefect Investiture Ceremony was held on 4th February with **Lt. Gen. Zameer Shah** presiding over the ceremony. The following are the prefects for the year-

Head Boy- **Anesh Gurung**

Sports Captain- **Tushar Agarwal**

Prefects –

Sudipt Juneja

Ankit Saraf

Vanshaj Agarwal

Awijit Paliwal

Aftab Singh Sandhu

Trishang Choudhary

Varun Shamsher

Academics Captain- **Ashish Chowdhary**

Oli wishes them the best for the year and hopes that they will take the school From Strength to Strength.

- * The following have been declared captain for various sports:

Tennis- **Prateek Modi**

Soccer- **Shivesh Tyagi**

Cricket- **Trishang Choudhary**

Basketball - **Sushant Singh**

Hockey - **Aftab Singh Sandhu**

Table Tennis- **Jassimran Chawla**

Squash- **Faizan Hanief**

Shooting- **Navandeep Matta**

Athletics- **Anesh Gurung**

Gym- **Abhishek Singh**

Badminton- **Nikhil Bansal**

- * An Inter House Middle School English Debate was held on 13th February, giving the young Welhamites a chance to speak on serious issues. **Parambir Singh** was adjudged the best speaker while **Raghav Dahuja** was the most promising speaker.

Ganga House stood first.

- * A workshop on drug abuse was held in the school. It was presided over by the Governor of Uttarakhand.
- * Classes 9th to 12th will be attending life skills workshops from time to time throughout the term. They are being conducted by **Ms. Ritu Law Chauhan**.
- * The present class 12 gave a warm farewell to the outgoing class 12 on 17th February.

Film Review: Water

One of the nominations for this year's Best Foreign Film category in the Oscars, *Water* is not only a movie about Indian malpractices but also about human values and characters. The film is portrayed through the eyes of a twelve year old widow, who is a victim of child marriage.

Deepa Mehta finishes her trilogy on a powerful note. She gives us the story of two women, each trying to discover a sense of self-worth and purpose while trapped in a seemingly endless life of forced confinement. She also gives us the story of a woman who is not only trying to keep her faith but understand it, and a man who is looking for change in a world of stagnation and traditionalism.

The feminist ideal is a prominent one, as is survival against the harshest of odds. Inhumanity on one level contrasted against the theme of renewal, both physically and spiritually - the essence of water, the ever-moving, indispensable, and essential aspect of life itself. *Water* is subtle, preferring to let the human side of the story tell you what you need to know, and showing us



the necessity for change, for hope, for unbroken faith, without holding our hands through the process.

The film has been aesthetically shot in Sri Lanka, after facing a lot of trouble from political parties in Varanasi where it was being shot previously. Though it is an Indian movie, in Hindi, it was released as a Canadian movie as the Indian leaders thought the subject matter of the movie to be insulting.

The powerful performances only add up to the charm of the film. The most striking performance is by the child artist who not only entices pity in our hearts but also brings life to the movie. Other mentionable performances include that by Seema Biswas, a widow who understands the wicked society but is unable to do much about it, John Abraham, a follower of Gandhi who falls in love with a widow and Lisa Ray, the beautiful widow who is abused by the upper caste both physically and mentally.

The most striking feature of this film is the subject - that of widows being thought of as untouchables and used as an object of pleasure by the upper caste. These issues exist in our back yards - the ill treatment of foreigners, of neighbours, of our own peoples.

This film is very heavy, but there is a light side to it - the message of Gandhi, and the promise of renewal of spirit. We are constantly reminded of Gandhi's teachings - but we are never preached to.

Water teaches us that problems exist, and that many are rooted in our own traditions and beliefs - often misinterpreted or twisted by us to fit our agendas. The British can not be scapegoats for this set of issues (though they were responsible for plenty of others). Change is hard to come by, but the one thing that is eternal is Water. Our faith (and not necessarily religious faith) must be like water - for without either, we cannot hope to survive.

- The Welham Film Society

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I Promise to lead by Example ...

In this materialistic world, Indian hospitality is unique, the British traditions and royalty have earned their own importance and surely in 'Welham', those who stand apart are the Prefects.

The Prefect investiture ceremony was held on 4th February only after the entire school had gone through several rigorous practises. It would not be wrong to say that after the ceremony all the Welhamites had the oath on their fingertips.



Lt. Gen. Shah pinning the batch on the new Headboy
Anesh Gurung

On the big day, the Activity Centre was all decked up with 'jaw dropping' decoration, that included candles that only added to the beauty. Also, the horses added to the splendour of the occasion by standing elegantly on the path leading to the Activity Centre, like on either side of a boulevard.

Lt. Gen. Zameer Shah, the Chief Guest for the occasion, was escorted by the outgoing Prefectorial body to the stage. The School Captain administered the oath to the new school captain and other Prefects followed. After all the Prefects had been administered their respective oaths the Principal and the Chief Guest addressed the August gathering that included the Chairman of the Board of Governors, Mr. Darshan Singh. After the new body had marched out with the chief guest, Gen. Shah dined with the new Prefects at the High Table.

As all good things come to an end, the day came to an end with 'Welham' in new hands. The day might have concluded, but I am sure the spirit, the zeal for creating an even better Welham will never end.



Answers

The toughest part of your life-
The one that pierces your confidence with a knife
The one that earns you the name – ‘loser’, -
Is the one and only word – ‘answer’.

This is where one always falls –
This is where one tumbles into dark halls –
This is where one has to think –
This is the one strong human link ...

This is the weakness of the weak –
This is where they lose what they seek –
This is a weakness even for the weak.
As doing it (answering), - they are often wrong.

There is one danger on your long road –
And believes me – it is but just a life’s mode;
It is that one challenge of life –
To give you what it calls – ‘human strife’.

This is where you always take a risk –
This is where your dangers can be miscellaneous-
This is where you are unaware of the future;
This is where your wheels get punctured.

I not only talk about the older generations,
But then look at our own situation –
Where do we always get stuck?
Where do we always lose our luck?

Where - where? Oh, I know the answer to that;
Believe me or not, but in fact,
It’s all the DC’s and the tests ‘n’ all that stuff,
Where we in desperation have to bluff!

Remember when authorities ask you- “Why are you late?”

You say “Sir, I tripped while coming out of the gate,
“Ma’am, I could not find my shoes and socks”,
“Sir, I went to the hospital ‘cause he gave me a box!”

Believe me or not, ladies and gentleman,
The toughest part of your life (amen!) –
In giving answers to anyone at all,
Is letting yourself lose ‘n’ fall.
And out of all those of you out there –

Who believe my words up here;
Please do tell me anytime at all –
But don’t question me – I don’t want to fall!

- Jaskunwar Kohli
IX - B

Being a Welham Boys Girl...

If I could advertise the pride of being a Welham Boys Girl... I’d love to. This is one experience each girl needs. Living amongst the opposite sex, I have not only become like them but have started missing out on my feminine traits (which I guess are more inherited... which is not much of a problem, as I have my entire life to revive them) but how it feels to be a boy is something Welham Boys has taught me. I feel grateful and extremely thankful to all those who have made me experience some of my most memorable childhood days in such a fantastic way.

At 7:30 am, Mr. Gosain, being a very busy man, kept me waiting for almost an hour so I could look around the place, of which I’d soon be a part. I remember I could see many eyes watching me curiously as though asking me questions like why was I here in ‘their territory’ and today it’s I who watches each stranger enter ‘my territory’ and I give similar looks.

Ask me who my first friends were – and I’ll reply two curious and confused eyes of the – “rain drop” in this “desert” – Aishwarya Tandon. Even though I was excited to see the face of a girl in this school, her attitude seemed to tell me that I would not easily be accepted here. I had to match up to ‘their’ standards.

Like sand that slips through my fingers - time seemed to move. Days, months flew by and then finally came the time of ‘test’ where my loyalty and genuineness was being questioned ...backed by no one. I paved my path, shed a few tears, but moved on with the determination of being true to myself and to the people that I love and I succeeded. Even though time healed all wounds and as they say “after the stormy night - came the sunny morning” enmity dissipated, friendship strengthened. I knew it for sure I was on the right track.

Also, some experiences that made me feel like a girl. When I receive all kinds of letters, letters of infatuation, letters of apology, letters of breaches of friendship, letters showing disgust, etc. Many looked at me with eyes of affection, many looked at me differently,



many simply hated me...but in front of me there was a mission – a mission to convert all the likes and dislikes into a strong bond of friendship. I don't know how successful I've been so far, but yes, definitely, in some cases my position has been very strong.

I have made fabulous 'brothers' and even better friends in this school. I have learnt how beautifully both the genders can blend with each other and now god's own confetti looks colourful, but looks auspicious only if it is together. I have shared a lot with these passing out twelfthies.. I don't know about them but I'll surely miss them!

Welham has been great to me. With every tide that hits my boat - it made me learn something new. Many people ask me, "Why Welham Boys' School" and my simple reply usually is "Because it had to be none other than Welham Boys". Even though my reply does not completely justify itself, I feel that this experience has been one of the most exciting, interesting and will always be a true treasure to my school memories.....

Welham has given me all I could have wished for...I have been through ups and downs, I have cried and laughed, I have succeeded and failed, but all this while-

I have felt proud to be a WELHAMITE!

- Manisha Grover

X - B

MISS - LEADERS

As the show was during a rather inconvenient time for the family, they had made arrangements for it, like the rest of the world. In some parts of the world a national holiday had been declared, but much to the initial chagrin of this particular family and their country, a holiday had not been declared in the part of the world from where they came. But they had devised a solution to the problem, which their whole country had decided to follow. The children came early home from school on the pretext that they were suffering from 'jumestix egglisius c554321', a disease that had seemed to strike that entire country for the period in which the show was going on and which coincidentally was a completely unknown disease to mankind before the show.

There were no apprehensions on part of the children whether the Principal would allow them to come home for the Principal too, like the rest of the

Staff at school, like the employees of the firm of the company for which the children's father worked, and like the rest of their country too, had been struck by 'jumestix egglisius c554321'.

Anyway, the show was on any moment the family in an effort to control the excitement, which would invariably descend upon those who were just 5 hours away from The Show, were surfing through the channels when they come across the channel about which I am going to write :

A smartly dressed lady, whom I later came to know as a news reporter, came into view. She seemed to be extremely excited and was very jumpy. "Good evening, folks! We are just 5 hours away from the greatest T.V production humanity ever see! I am reporting from The Place. Yes, you heard that right, I am actually reporting from The Place!"

"In the last few days, you must have heard about The MISs- LEADERS beauty contest". All of a sudden a cartoon appears on the screen and in its excited manner says, "The greatest beauty contest of 'em all!!" There were firecrackers in the background. There was a flourish of trumpets too. I later came to know that this exercise of the cartoon popping up on the screen and the firecrackers would occur the moment the lady said "MISs-Leaders" in any manner.

"Anyway, let me introduce you to the rules of the MISs LEADERS." You guessed it right what happens next. "There are three rounds in all. The first round is based on the ability to communicate, to be able to put across your ideas in the most panicky situations. The winner of this round is crowned MISs-INFORM."

"The next round is based on your ability to make quick decisions in panicky situations. The winner of this round will be crowned MISs-GOVERN."

"The last round is based on the ability to impress people, being a 'leader' you have to interact with the crème-de la crème of the world. The winner of this round is crowned MISS-CONDUCT."

"Well, that's about it folks. I hope you enjoy MISs -LEADERS!!!"

("The greatest beauty contest of 'em all!!!") {fire crackers in the background, flourish of trumpets}

- Adhiraj Sen

X - A



(The following article was published in *The Economic Times* on 30th October, 2006)

Career Track

Enjoy what you do, and do what you enjoy

A career means different things to different people. To some, it is an end point: for instance, I must become the CEO of this company. To others, it means the landmarks on the way: I must become Regional Manager in two years and GM in three years thereafter. To most, it is a combination. But, these are all 'destinations' and not the 'journey'.

To the wise it means the enjoyment and the experience of work. A career is not a destination, it is the journey. So what kind of journey must you have the answer is, 'a journey which you enjoy'. You can excel with consistency only at tasks which you enjoy. Conversely, you cannot excel with consistency at tasks that you do not enjoy. Enjoyment does not mean that the task is easy or that you know how to do it quite the reverse.

You enjoy doing things that challenge you sufficiently, yet are instructive to you, that engage you. For instance, selling to a difficult customer, debugging a production issue, configuring a least costly solution to a problem, etc. it is engaging to you for your own reason, some others may hate the same tasks.

Dev joined HLL as a young manager in sales and marketing. He had studied at an excellent school, had a fine degree from a great college, was intelligent and articulate, and had cleared the tough series of HLL interviews. He had all the characteristics to become a successful manager in the sales/marketing function. However, recruiting and developing managers through characteristics is fraught with risks.

One of the preparations before he could be assigned his first responsibility was field training. This meant that he had to work on a salesman's beat with an experienced salesman for 16 weeks, visiting grocery shops and booking orders all day long. The idea was for him to learn the routines, pain and tribulations of being a salesman. Dev was miserable. He found it boring, in fact, as he called it, it was 'demeaning.' After spending some time with him, his boss wondered if Dev would ever make a good sales manager. That did not per se make him a good or a bad manager; it just meant that Dev had to rethink what kind of work he should do to enjoy himself. The HLL job was quite a prized one: getting such

job was prestigious, conversely not being successful was considered by many to be a negative.

As Dev thought about it, something kept telling him that he had joined HLL to prove the world how smart he was; the salary was a huge attraction. It was not that he understood this career, and that he wanted to try it. What he truly enjoyed was spending time with students. He wanted to be a school teacher!

Implementing his idea meant sacrifices of salary, and image among his family and peers. He was courageous, and took the plunge. I met him twenty years later. By now, he was the headmaster of a prestigious, public school, probably earning a fraction of what he would if he had stayed on at HLL. He was enjoying himself. He told me he had found his calling, his journey had been exciting and he looked forward to each day. He understood what a career meant: doing what you enjoy and enjoying what you do. He had realized that what was important was the journey, not the destination.

- R. Gopalakrishnan
Executive Director,
TATA SONS

How Much Power Do We Need?

"If its 1500 W PMPO it will rattle your windows. If its 1500 W RMS, it will break your neighbour's" So goes the advertisement for a 'branded' music system!

With the introduction of the new sound system in the Activity Centre, one cannot help but marvel at technology - at the new 'field' microphones that have the ability to pick up the faintest of sounds from afar, at the fantastic mixers, in the 'new' sound room, and of course, at the raw power the system has. However, professional, who in this case, knew their job well, did the fitting.

The problem is that we, as amateurs do not really know what 'wattage' we should go in for, when considering a music system for our homes. On approaching an expert our problems become aggravated, since all Hi-fi experts, like psychiatrists, have the annoying habit of answering questions with other questions. When the psychiatrist hears this, he responds by saying something like, "How much wattage or power do you want?" The audio expert is worse. He replies with a whole series of questions: What kind of music do you listen to? How loud do you like to play it? What kind of speakers do you



have? How big is your listening room? How is it furnished and decorated?

The hi-fi expert needs all this information not just to fine-tune his reply but also to give any sort of meaningful answer at all. Variations in the desired loudness level, in the choice of speakers, or in the nature of the room and its furnishings can change the system's power requirement to a vast degree.

An audiophile who is also, coincidentally, a psychiatrist – reports that someone once said to him, “What do I need a bigger amplifier for? Mine already plays loud enough to hurt my ears!” His reply, of course, was that a powerful enough amplifier will play loudly *without* hurting your ears. But how do you find out how **much** power is enough?

With a little help from Science, we know that human hearing logarithmic by nature. This is the very reason that the question of power requirement is so tricky. An increase in sound level of 10 decibel – or dB for short – that most listeners would rate subjectively as “twice as loud,” requires a *tenfold* increase in amplifier power. Conversely, if you are willing to play music at a level that is subjectively only half of what you would encounter in a, say concert hall (which still sounds loud to many people), your power requirements decrease by a factor of ten.

What does all this mumbo-jumbo mean? Well, first, music systems, or more correctly, their amplifiers, differ less than you might think. Going from a 50-watt-per-channel (W/ch) amplifier to a 100 W/ch one will increase the maximum available output by only 3 dB, which is noticeable, but just barely. Second, for someone who never listens to above moderate levels, 20 watts per channel is enough for any speakers, even those with the lowest sensitivity. (Flipping through the pages of a Physics textbook will tell you that “efficiency” is often used, incorrectly, as a synonym for speaker sensitivity!)

Third, the *average* power required by most speaker systems, (even those so-called hi-end ones costing thousands that can make one ‘salivate’, in the showrooms at Delhi, or at any metro for that matter) even playing loud classical music at concert or ‘live’ levels, is very low. It is reproducing the momentary peaks that require a powerful amplifier. The difference between average and peak levels on classical programme material ranges from 8 to 10 dB. Although a well designed-amplifier can occasionally ‘clip’ a peak with only a mild effect on the sound quality, one with generous (or as the advertisement goes – 1500 W RMS) ‘headroom’ – the

ability to put out more than its rated power for short periods – has a real advantage over another one with the same continuous power but less headroom.

Rock music presents a somewhat different case. The 116 dB sound-pressure level is appropriate what you will encounter at an actual concert. But in most rock music the peak and average levels are very close, so the corresponding average level would be around 110 dB. Most people cannot play their systems because neither their neighbours nor their speakers – well those at home anyway, can stand it for very long. Professional speaker systems – like the ones at the ‘Acti’ are different! If you must have such levels despite the inevitable hearing damage they will cause, you can achieve them with special speakers instead of a bigger amplifier! So if you must listen to music at live levels, it is pretty obvious that, depending on the amplifier power available, speaker sensitivity can spell the difference between success and failure.

Oh yes, the room! The larger the room, the more power it takes to fill it with sound and the furnishings can make even more difference than the size. A room that is acoustically ‘dead’ with rugs, heavy curtains, and several pieces of heavy upholstered furniture will require **much** more power than a room that is ‘live’! Increasing or decreasing the amount and type of furnishing will have a stronger effect, changing the power requirement over a range of about three to one. Our assumed listening room is fairly absorptive, which means that reflected sound is soaked up before it has a chance to contribute to the overall acoustic energy. A more ‘live’ room – one with more reflective surfaces and less padded furniture – makes the amplifier’s job easier.

So, just go out and buy yourself that 1500 W RMS system, because in the longer run, it will provide you with ‘cleaner’ music that does not cause music-fatigue and sit back and enjoy the music; ultimately that is all what it is about, isn’t it?

- Brahma Raina

The Quest

*That which is hidden is unknown;
That which is veiled is unpredictable;
For that which is visible;
May not be you...*

Walking alongside the riverbank, he notices the small fish that are moving with him. They seem to be



enjoying keeping company of this weird creature, outside their habitat, which seems to be so lost and slow, yet extremely observant.

The muscles under the man's brows twitch with hurt and the desire for slumber. He has been walking along the river for a few days now. The highlands of the mighty "Rizas" seem to be coming to a halt in the near horizon, only to lead to an endless plain!

"So, what is my life all about?" he wonders. No, he is not new to this question. It has been hovering in his head since he led his men to a comprehensive victory over their sworn enemies only a couple of days ago.

Wine had flowed endlessly after the victory. Songs were sung. Odes were composed. This great king of the 'Aikinias', basked healthily in glory... until, he saw his children die!

King Reshamat had seen suffering and was not new to it. The blood and gore of his enemies was what his successful army feasted on. It had taken only one second of negligence and his children had slipped over the edge of the cliff.

From then on he has embarked on this journey to find out truths about life and why things happen, why people are created, when they are supposed to die, why can't he see God even though he is sure about His existence...

In the days that he has journeyed, God has questioned his existence and thoughts by challenging him with blizzards, hailstorms, fatigue, suffering, hungry wild animals and a plethora of questions.

He keeps on moving, smiling at the gentle breeze blowing in his face, as if the almighty has accepted him and is caressing him with love and affection.

The plains are not far away now. He can see hope in the near future and suffering in the past. He selects the former, for he has made a choice and the Lord had asked him to decide. He would rather die helping and getting to know other people better, rather than smearing his sword with their blood in battle.

In all these days of only thinking and meditating he had found solace in his true self. Someone he had not known before, a very calm and peace loving man.

His goal and meaning in life is to 'learn'. Learn till the day he lies on his deathbed and spread the learning and understanding that he has gained for the prosperity of humanity! He is not going to ask people to follow him, for it is everyone's own free will to decide what is good for them and what is not.

If his work be worthy enough of the Lord's praise then the people will move forward alongside him.

Arriving at the junction, he prays for one last time in his life asks for forgiveness and wishes for God to lead him to the right destination, where he will pray again... for now he has found his 'reason' for being alive and knows that when death comes his life would not have been futile. Amen!

- Sudipt Juneja
XII-C

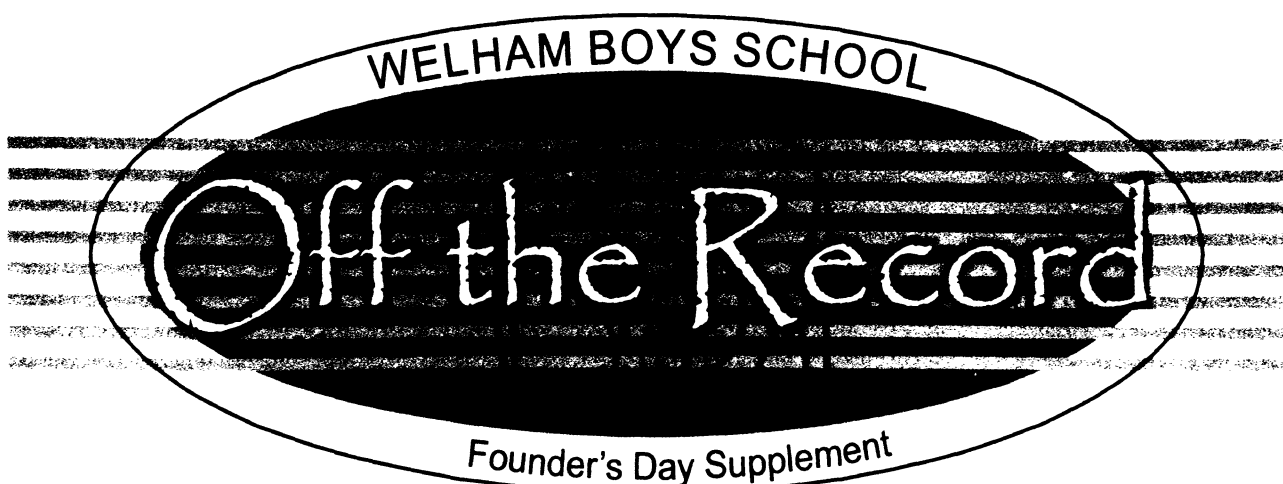
The Illusive Society

It's quite unbelievable, how people fake and lie in society in order to be polite. Sadly, many people do it. It has become a part of daily life. They fake and lie to show that they are polite and give an absolutely contrasting image of themselves. Isn't that being completely dishonest?

Why do people do it? Do they benefit from it? Does it give them any pleasure or does it help them veil their real character - which may not be good? Why are people afraid of how others judge them? Isn't it fair if people judge you for what you really are? Well if we're being judged honestly then why do we fear such judgement?

In the first place I feel it is very dishonest to put up a fancy show and pretend to be a good human being although you may not be one.

We're often told to behave nicely and wish people on social occasions because everybody likes politeness. It is what is expected from a gentleman in society. To teach children moral values is fair but to ask somebody who has had all his lessons on moral values, which he may or may not have completely understood, to do things pleasing to normal eye which is in fact a show of artificial respect, is tragic. It may seem to you that I am trying to tell you not to be polite. No, that is not my intention. What I'm trying to get at is that people fake and lie to be polite to the extent that is above the socially acceptable limit. Although no-one can make out whether you're faking or not, but isn't that being dishonest. This kind of politeness is fairly common among the higher levels of society as well. On the other hand if people respect each other because of their character, because they are convinced that such a person deserves respect, it



Principal's Address

Our esteemed Chief Guest on the 69th Founder's Day celebrations, Shri Wajahat Habibullah, Honb'le members of the Board of Governors, our revered guests this evening, parents, colleagues and Welhamites past and present. It is a proud privilege to have with us today Shri Wajahat Habibullah, Chief Information Commissioner, Govt. of India, to preside over the most sacred function in our Annual Calendar.

Shri Habibullah, as we all know, occupies what is perhaps the most sensitive and certainly the most talked about bureaucratic chair in the country today. As one entrusted with overseeing the implementation of the Right to Information Act, he is certainly a pioneer, and we are all very sure that under his stewardship this Right will become an integral part of the democratic fabric of Indian society.

Shri Habibullah has had an eminent track record. He certainly got off to a great start by spending at least two terms at Welham Boys. I daresay that had Welham been a full-fledged school at that time, he would have stayed on. Instead, he had to take the next best option, which was to go to The Doon School. Subsequently, he distinguished himself at St. Stephen's College, where he did a Bachelors and a Masters in History. He joined the I.A.S in 1968, and his career-record in the service has been, in the modern parlance, "just awesome." He has served, amongst other assignments, as Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Director of the Lal Bahadur Shastri Academy of Administration, Mussoorie, Minister Community Affairs, Embassy of India, Washington, Secretary P.M.O., Administrator, Union Territory of Lakshwadeep, and a handsome clutch of other posts. Shri Habibullah also has to his credit some impressive publications on Kashmir including "The Problem, Kashmir Today", "Kashmir 1947", "The Political Economy of the Kashmir Conflict" and others.

On a more personal note, I have had the privilege of being associated with the Habibullah family for 3 generations. Shri Wajahat's father, the late Gen. Habibullah was an eminent soldier and a great horseman, and it was when as an 8 or 10 year old that I was put on the back of his horse "Bismarck", that I decided to emulate him. Shri Habibullah himself had left St. Stephen's when I joined, but legends of his academic prowess still echoed in the corridors of that institution, and it was thanks largely to his notes, which were kept in circulation, that generations of Stephanians passed their examinations!

And many years later, I had the pleasure, if I may call it that, of teaching his son Amar at the Doon School. Amar is not here to defend himself, and I am sure that if he were here, he would have had a lot to say about my teaching as well!

It is also my privilege to introduce to you the school's Governors. Regretfully, we do not have amongst us Gen. Bakhshi, who at 95 was the youngest in spirit amongst us. He was associated with

the school right from its first Founder's Day, when, as a young captain, he escorted Lady Kingsley the first Chief Guest for the occasion. As a member of the Board and Trustee, his contribution till the very last meeting that he attended in July this year, was invaluable. We shall miss him. May his Soul rest in peace.

Shri Darshan Singh, our Chairman, is an alumnus and a pillar of the school. An engineer by training, he brings a quiet precision to the business of guiding Welham boys. Mr. Gulab Ramchandani Chairman Emeritus is no stranger to us, especially in the Doon Valley. Mrs. Jyotsna Brar, our special invitee, is my sounding Board, and occupies the post, which in every Welham Boy's fantasy is the "Dream-Job"-Principal of Welham Girls! Mr. Talukdar retired as one of the Senior-most Scientists of the ONGC and is a Trustee, Mrs. Alka Sharma is our parent representative, and Mr. Kamal Sehgal is an eminent local citizen. He also runs Hopetown Girls, an institution, which I am told, is giving Welham Girls a close run in the popularity stakes at Welham Boys, and which is rather appropriately separated from Welham Boys by an area called *Prem Nagar*!

Apologies have been received from Dr. Anil Wilson, Mr. P.N. Maliah, Mrs. Prema Sagar and Mr. Naseer Munjee, who are unable to attend owing to various commitments.

If this school has made any progress in recent years, which I would like to believe that it has, it is largely because of an enlightened and hugely supportive Board, who have stood by us through thick and thin, have indicated a dynamic vision for the school, and have guided our destinies with a "feather-touch." To them we are deeply grateful.

Earlier today, we have had the opportunity of offering you a detailed presentation on the working of the school over the past year. Therefore, I would like to merely touch upon some of the highlights.

Our results are showing an upward graph, though I would be the first to acknowledge that we still have miles to go. In the I.C.S.E. examination, we sent up 48 candidates, all of who were declared successful. We had 15 students in the 90-100 bracket, 18 in the 80-89 bracket, 10 in the 70-79 bracket, 4 in the 60-69 bracket, and 1 below 60. Apoorva Kumar and Sudhanshu Khemka topped with 94.2%, and Shailendra Khemka and Bhavnish Walia followed with 93.2%. Sadly, these boys have been swallowed by the tuition-market.

We sent up 31 Candidate for the I.S.C exam of who 2 finished in the 90-100 category, 10 in the 80-89 category, 8 in the 70-79 category, 10 in the 60-69 category, and 1 below 60. Parth Parashar of the Humanities stream topped with 94.2%, and Rahul Wadhwa with 91.5% and Harshit Aggarwal with 88.75% followed.

Sadly, our best boys leave us after Class X because of the myth that they will do better in life if they have access to tuitions-in my opinion, an extremely shortsighted and retrograde view. But, more of that later.



As I have already said earlier in the day, a virtual crusade is on to make further improvements, but it will take time and no one should expect miracles overnight.

It has been a good year for school sport, particularly Basketball, with the school winning most of the major tournaments held here including the Win Mumby, the Golden Jubilee, and the District Championship. Dhairya Karwa and Kishley Jha captained the State teams in their respective age groups. Dhairya Karwa, Sheriff Bajwa, Arijit Trehan and Sushant Singh represented Uttaranchal in the under 18 National Championships, whilst Kishley Jha, Ravi Ranjan, Randhir Kumar, Rahul Puri and Samarth Chowdhary represented Uttaranchal in the under 13 National Championships. We would very much like to re-do our indoor courts with a Terra-flex floor. Sponsors are welcome!

Rifle- Shooting is a comparative newcomer to the school, and considering that factor, it has been a good year for us. The team participated in the Uttaranchal State Inter-School Championships. Shahbaz Singh participated in the Pre-National Trap shooting and qualified for the Nationals, whilst Navandeep Matta won a Gold and a Silver in the State Championship in Punjab, and qualified for the Nationals.

The school hosted the Kandhari memorial Hockey Tournament for the second year, and judging by the number of entries, this is fast becoming a prestigious event in the Hockey calendar.

Golf has been a recent addition, and under the able and sprightly guidance of Gen. Shamsheer, to whom we are deeply grateful, the sport is rapidly growing in popularity. On another front, Ajitesh Kir qualified for the final round of the All India Outlook debate in Delhi, where he performed creditably well and even asked the President of India a pertinent question!

I am very pleased to report that the Alumni Association looks particularly rejuvenated, thanks largely to the efforts of Nikhil Kriplani and his team. Amitabh Sinha (batch of 90) has donated an ambulance to the school, and I would like to place on record the gratitude of the entire school for this gesture.

Where we have taken a quantum leap forward is in the "spirit" of Welham Boys School. I realize that I am dealing with a very abstract dimension here, and cannot offer you anything like the marks that I have spoken of earlier. However, some notable events and developments will give you an idea of what I am talking about.

Welham Boys has in conjunction with a local N.G.O. taken on a campaign against drug-abuse. Our boys write and perform street plays from time to time, and the feedback from the townspeople has been quite positive. Recently, the Uttaranchal Disaster Management and Mitigation Centre have decided to make the school a nodal centre for their training programme, and it is our fond hope, that in the near future, the school will have a team of superbly trained boys who will be able to respond to any call from any quarter affected by a natural disaster. Our concern for, and involvement with the environment is reflected in the fact that the World Wildlife Fund for Nature has opened its office in the School premises, and the school is benefiting enormously from this resource centre. The late Mr. Kandhari who bequeathed us this legacy of love for the environment, would have been proud indeed.

On the 9th of November, we are hosting, at the behest of the State Government, a "Know-Uttaranchal" Quiz for all schools in the region. Earlier in April we hosted a 3 day Baisakhi Festival to which the town was invited. It comprised an Art Workshop cum exhibition, a folk-dance festival a classical music evening, and a regional food festival. We organized a hugely successful Careers- Fair attended by about 3000 people. Our work with our adopted municipal school goes on with a great deal of fervour, and sometimes when I see the bonding between

our boys and those little children, I wonder who has adopted who! Our outreach programmes with Raphael, The Cheshire Home and Prem Dham, the home for the aged, carry on very actively.

Over the summer, a group of our boys with two teachers visited J& K and handed over a cheque of Rs 3 lakhs to the Chief Minister for earthquake relief. Thanks to one of our parents, Brig Jamwal, our boys also got to see parts of the strife-torn valley not accessible to most.

15th August is a day on our calendar dedicated to the support staff. The boys take it upon themselves to offer a morning full of fun and frolic for most who work for them throughout the year, and also serve them, as well as their teachers, a sumptuous lunch. Later, the seniors serve the juniors. Recently, the boys have raised 1 lakh for one of our support staff who lost his home in a flash flood.

Why do I mention all this? None of these things win us any medals or prizes. Every school, or at any rate every school that takes education seriously, must define its character. Some decide to draw their identity from the number of students they send up to I.I.T's. Others pride themselves on their sporting achievements. Yet others on their "International" flavour and their ability to successfully tap the overseas college admissions. It is a call that every school must take. At Welham Boys, we have decided to take a two-pronged route. We are clear about the fact that our main task here is to study and play hard and achieve good results in both areas. This is, after all, what parents are investing their time, money and effort for. At the same time, however, we are clear that we do NOT want to produce a generation of selfish, one-dimensional people. We cannot risk yet another generation that fails this great nation. My friend and colleague, Dr. Kanti Bajpai wrote an article in the Hindustan Times a few months ago, where he dwelt at length on the manner in which the educational sensex was soaring. Everybody is talking about 90 percent plus "or bust". He did an erudite and somewhat frightening analysis of this trend. I too ventured to write another article from where Dr. Bajpai left off. My thrust was on the dangers of a "bloodbath" once the sensex soars to such unrealistic heights. After all, what do these marks prove? Do they prove that our children are far, far brighter than we could have ever hoped to be? After all, we studied the same subjects and were lucky to get 60%!

Has there been a genetic revolution? Or are we looking at a generation of tuition-fed, syllabus bound, myopic individuals, almost totally bereft of "life-skills" and obsessed with "Oh- my God I must make -it- to I.I.T or America" attitude? This is not the place for such an analysis, but a look at the curriculum and marking -schemes of the Boards, does convey a rather frightening picture.

"Gandhigiri". Seems to be the latest buzzword amongst our youth. No bad thing, as "Gandhigiri" is the antithesis of "Dadagiri"-a menace that affects our society and gives birth to the killers of Jessica Lal and Priyadarshini Mattoo. But there is yet another challenge ahead of all of us- young and old- to combat "Babugiri". By "Babugiri" I refer to a blinkered view of life-of a life governed by marks and tuitions- of an inability to think out-of-the box, an inability to place duty to one's country before self, and a complete inability, in the words of the ad to live life, "king-size". If schools such as ours do not take these challenges seriously, I am afraid that as a nation, we are on the fast track to disaster.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to think that at Welham Boys, we are on the right track. I am further strengthened in this conviction by a letter written by a student who graduated from school last year, to his teacher. Allow me the liberty of quoting from this epistle: "I hope the present batch is doing well", he writes. "Have they learnt that it is important to have an opinion on issues? And that it should be backed with concrete reasons? Are they reading enough? Not



just the textbooks, but what lies outside them? Do they understand the importance of knowledge as a weapon? Are they aware of the curse of ignorance? Do they acknowledge that half-truths are worse than lies? For I have gained all this through your precious classes, and will be extremely proud even if one of them can achieve this insight in that classroom of ours." Unquote.

Moreover, if indeed we are on the right track, I have many people to thank. The Board of Governors for their sagacious vision and support, my colleagues who work uncomplainingly for hellish hours, and give of themselves all the time, the support- staff, who, from behind-the-scenes hold this edifice together and last but not the least, the boys, and girls of this school who make it all worthwhile.

Chairman Speaks

Distinguished Chief Guest Shri. Wajahat Habibullah, fellow Members of the Board, Honoured Guests, Parents, the Principal and the Faculty, all non-teaching Members of the Staff and Subordinate Staff and, of course, the present and past students of this great Institution. It is my proud privilege to welcome Shri. Wajahat Habibullah, not only as the Chief Guest to our Founder's Day, but also as an Old Boy of this Institution. We are proud that one of our own Old Students is today the Chief Information Commissioner of India. He is the first person to hold this job and he has met this challenge in his own indefatigable way. His honesty of purpose serves the country well. I have myself attended one of the sessions of his numerous educational *bhashans* all over the country, where he painstakingly explains the purpose of the RTI Act and how any citizen can go about it. Mr. Wajahat Habibullah has had a distinguished career and held many important posts on behalf of the J & K Government and the Union Government. At one time, he was not far away, as the Director of the Lal Bahadur Shastri Academy in Mussoorie. In the course of his duties, he was once grievously injured but he has continued his work with a vision and drive that we at Welham believe must surely come to any student of Welham Boys School. This is what I ask of all our students. During these good and difficult times, the vicissitudes of a remarkable career, he has benefited from the great strength that his wife, Shahila, has given him, always by his side, and a great anchor for her family. Once again, Sir, thank you for accepting to be our Chief Guest and to spare your valuable time in making this journey to Dehra Dun from your busy schedule. I am now asking all students of this fine Institution to emulate the example of our Chief Guest and have the courage of their convictions so that they too can excel in their chosen paths in life.

When our Old Students succeed, we must of course, give credit to the Founder of this Institution, Miss Hersilia Susie Oliphant. The Founder lays the foundation of the Institution and that is the most difficult job. At each Founder's Day, we must rededicate ourselves to continue with the same dedication and zeal and, in that way, we will have truly honoured the memory of our Founder. Each year, we have many successes but we also have some problems. It has been, and will be, the endeavour of your Board of Governors and the Principal, assisted by his staff, to overcome these hurdles, keeping in mind the ideals of our Founder. Sometimes, to ensure that we do not compromise, we must take the difficult path. For they say, with every gain there is often some pain. In this, I thank the Students, the Staff and the Parents for their unflinching support.

During the past one year, the Board has taken initiatives in upgrading many facilities in the School. Academic facilities, Computers

and equipments and also the facilities in the Art School, in Sports, and in infrastructure. The Board approved and initiated the construction of two new Hostels being constructed to new and modern standards, which will help de-congest the existing accommodation. We are also creating additional accommodation for staff members so that more of our staff is on campus. It is easy to understand that, in a Residential School, the involvement of the staff is essential on an almost round-the-clock basis and, therefore, presence in the campus is a great asset. The improvements in the appearance of the campus also continue and in this, I must comment that we have the continuing interest of the Kandhari family through Roshani, who has inherited a green finger from her parents.

In the years to come, as I have continuously stressed, the School will continue with its thrust on academic standards. Many changes and improvements have been introduced into the teaching methods and we have engaged new staff to strengthen the faculty. Change always necessitates a break from some rigid attitudes, but the long-term benefits cannot be ignored and therefore, we must change if we are to compete and stay ahead of many other schools, which are trying to catch up.

During the last one year, we lost one of our greatest stalwarts when Major General Ranbir Bakhshi passed away. The School benefited from his advice, full of experience. Maj. Gen. Bakhshi made it a point to attend all meetings, regardless of distance and in spite of his age. He remained in good health and with all his mental faculties until the very end. He was always constructive at Board Meetings and never allowed his opinions to be clouded by any consideration other than that which was upright and good for the School. We pray that his family has the strength to bear this irreparable loss.

In the School itself, there was an important change in that our Vice Principal, Mr. Prabir Basu, concluded his tenure. He was an Old Boy and a valuable member of the team at a crucial time in the history of the School. Mr. Mahesh Kandpal has taken over as the Senior Master and we wish him success in this challenging role. He is already a valuable pillar of strength to the School and the Principal.

At Welham, we stay ahead of the competition by stressing on imparting an understanding of basic values. This is our legacy and it is sure to enable us in holding our position among the comity of good Indian Boarding Schools. We have a substantial campus, which we are putting to optimum use, and to give all these benefits to our students there is of course a cost. The cost is borne by the parents and here I would request you to pause in your thoughts for a moment and think of what you get for what it costs you. It is perhaps certain that for the amount that we charge, there is no School that gives as much as we do in terms of curriculum, extra-curricular and sports. Most other institutions have higher fees and though we must charge more from time to time to meet rising costs and expectations; we are conscious that we must balance our budget and expenses as prudently as is feasible.

Before concluding, I must touch on two important ingredients that make for success; along with a living example. Excellence and Teamwork have come together to bring about a wonderful Old Boy Spirit. Excellence endures and sustains. It goes beyond motivation into the realms of Inspiration. Excellence can be as strong a uniting force as solid vision. This is what we have seen in the Old Boys Society where coupled with Team Work the Society is already well on the way to becoming a pillar for this institution in the future.

Finally on this Founder's Day, I wish to place on record the appreciation of your Board of Governors, to the Excellence and Team work of the Principal, the Senior Master, all Academic and Non Teach-



ing staff and the Subordinate Staff. I also thank my fellow Board Members for serving this institution.

The Chief Guest's Speech

Chairman Board of Governors, Mr. Darshan Singh, Honourable members of the Board, Principal Mr. Lahiri, assembled guests, teachers and students of Welham Boys School.

You are right when you said that the period I have spent in this school has been more enjoyable than the period that I have spent in The Doon School subsequently. This, in case, my friend Mr. Ramchandani should misconstrue me. In this school which I cannot compare with any institution that I have served. And this came largely due to the leadership of the school at that time. I talk of the period when of course Ms. Oliphant was the Headmistress and her motherly figure, stern at times, but always very loving. But even more than that, my own favourite and the person who taught me and took me in hand, so to speak, was Ms. Meisenheimer. And I tell you, when I went into the Junior School, my first few weeks there, I was a timid sort of a child. I was very very lonely and therefore very unhappy. I didn't speak of this to anybody. But obviously the people in this school kept tabs of those of us going into The Doon School and suddenly I found myself one day invited to the Headmaster's residence. And when I went there, it was to find Ms. Meisenheimer had come to visit. My thought in the beginning was that this was a courtesy call, that she was calling on the Head Master and she felt that she had a student whom she would like to visit. But it wasn't that. She took me aside and we sat down and Mr. Martin left. And she said, "I don't know if you are very happy here. Is there something troubling you?" So she obviously knew that I was unhappy. She knew that there was something troubling me and she spoke to me extensively about my feelings, about being in a much bigger institution with much older children with very high expectations. And the lesson she left me with, finally, was that you need not look to others for determining the course you should take. And for achieving what I was capable of achieving, I only needed to look within myself. And therefore the hymn that you sang this morning "*Moko Kahan Tu Dhoonde Re Bandeh, Main To Tere Pas Hoon.*" it struck an immediate chord for my memories of what this school gave to me. As you can imagine for a small child, this kind of message is something that became a theme throughout my life and whenever I have faced situations which have seemed hopeless, which have seemed desperate, and mind you, many such have come, I have to look back on this and feel that "No", I have to find the answer also. Also my simple way of paying tribute to a dearly loved teacher, Ms. Meisenheimer, who of course after retirement went back to England and I lost touch with her thereafter.

When people of my generation graduated from school and college, the choice before us was, if we go abroad we would do well and would make money but would we be serving our country? Would it not be better to stay in India and serve India? That dilemma is no longer before you as you are now going into a world of Globalization. So all societies are becoming interdependent. Sitting in the US, you could be serving India, sitting in India, you could be serving humanity which I think is of course the essence of the kind of education that one acquires in an institution of this nature. This provides immense opportunities, a whole host of opportuni-

ties not only here but across the world. India is a part of this process, is growing in this process and as you know, in this process we are already now set to become, by the year 2050 among the three largest economies of the world, the three most prosperous countries in the world. By the year 2025, among the world's 10 richest people, at least three or four will be Indians. So there is much to be done, there is much that can be done and the opportunities are there. But with every step forward, with every new invention there is bound to be a darker side. And as conscious citizens of this nation, we are aware of the side which is not shining. When I mentioned that by the year 2025 we are going to have along with the richest people in the world among us, unfortunately we are also going to have among the poorest. Our poverty levels are expected to go down but they are not expected to be eliminated even by the year 2025.

There has been this huge growth in development which is so apparent to us living in the cities. All kinds of changes can be seen all around us, even in the city of Dehra Dun. My son who is an old Dosco has come back to Dehra Dun after thirty years, after having left The Doon School, he hasn't been back here since then. We of course have been in and out of Dehra Dun. As Mr. Lahiri mentioned I have been in Mussoorie, so for us the changes have not seemed so dramatic. But they have been dramatic. They are great. They carry the country forward. But do you see the same dramatic change across rural India? There have been changes there also. There are changes across the country but what do you see? What are those changes? There are encouraging changes but at the same time, there is a spectre that is hovering somewhere in the horizon which I don't know if many of you are even aware of let alone know about in detail, because I do know that many of my friends in Delhi are not even aware of it. You may have heard of what is known as the Danda-Karamer Project. All way down through Nepal to Andhra Pradesh, India has among six hundred districts and a little over a hundred and sixty of those districts are affected by Naxalism. Why has that happened? With India glittering? With India shining? Why have these people taken recourse to violence? Why are whole trains hijacked in Chattisgarh? What grievance can such people have? Is it only foreign agencies which are instigating our citizens against us? And even if were so, are there grounds? What is the fertility of the ground on which such instigation can take place? This is something that has to be addressed and it cannot be addressed unless we ensure that while India grows economically, while India moves from one triumph to another, there are Indians that are not left out.

Yes, you will think of yourself, you will think of comforts for yourself, for the family, the family you will have and the children that you will raise. The children who will face a completely new world, one that even you have not anticipated. Yet, you will find satisfaction. And this is the advice that I can give to you after a long career in the services; after having faced uncertain situations, periods of hopelessness and even desperation. Let us pledge ourselves on this day to serve India because it is only by serving India, it is only by strengthening our country that we serve ourselves, we strengthen ourselves, our families, our communities, our interests, our near ones. If there is another way in which you feel you can do so I would be happy to hear it. But this is my conclusion after all these years that I have served and have now been given this task of the Right To Information, the essence of which is the information being made available or accessible to every citizen so that every citizen can become a participant in the democratic process, in the governance of this country and become responsible thereby for self and community.



would be only then that they would be showing their true self and respect. Such respect shown is highly esteemed by the eye of truth. It means something. It is not artificial respect.

There's so much that can be written and if I were to write on all the ways in which people fake and lie in society, this article would become unduly long. I wish to leave you here and hope that our society will change and learn to distinguish such an artificial show of emotions from a genuine show of love and respect.

- Imtiaz Hussain
X-B

The Power of Love

Many a time when I am in a pensive mood,
A question often flashes across my mind:
What is love, I ask myself,
And bend my thought towards the answer to find.

Love is a bond, is the immediate answer,
Love is an emotion,
Love is the backbone of
Any healthy relation.

Love is that unbreakable cord,
Which binds together all the souls,
Love is the most important feeling,
For people in every role.

Love is that heaven of tranquillity,
Where eternal bliss is found
Love is that temple of peace
Where the spirits of life and death are bound.

Love is the soul of life,
Love is the blessing of God,
Love is the heart of success,
Love is the loveliest weapon ever forged.

Love is a parents' blessing,
Sacrificing for someone is love,
Love is a passionate trance,
That's what is the true meaning of love...

- Param Shah
IX C

Close All Schools

Individuals today require less knowledge in order to survive in today's complex world than they did in the far simpler past. More than 65% of modern India comprises rural village areas and village life requires knowing how to grow your food, look after your cattle and build your own house. In a modern city, a person who is highly skilled at something, say playing a guitar or writing, can get by easily. A musician in the urban 'division of labour' can then happily rely on the specialised knowledge of others. An architect to build his home, an engineer for his car, a mechanic to maintain it, a chauffeur to drive it. Farmers already grow their food and this is cooked by a trained chef. In all these (and all other) areas, our musician is blissfully ignorant. This shows that as an economy diversifies, less real knowledge is required on the part of each participant and this fact has enormous implications on the sort of education system required by an economy such as ours.

The existing Indian School system provides generalised knowledge, mostly theoretical with hardly any practical applications, of dubious quantity. All this is in the end, learned mechanically in most cases, and even after 12 years of schooling, a student does not really possess any knowledge that could be useful in the market. Moreover, higher education is required after that. This generalised, even broad education is difficult for people to assimilate, some of whom commit suicide. Thus, the only career open for such is the bureaucracy who are the proverbial 'jack of all trades'.

This horrible school system should be closed down. We have been following it ever since the British Raj, with only a few changes. It was designed by them to train clerks and even today, lots of clerks are produced who have moved on to MNCs and TNCs from small jobs. All Indian children should be informed that survival in the modern world requires fragments, bits of knowledge and the search for such knowledge is simplicity itself. Apart from a few basic skills, preferably in English, one requires to be highly trained in one field. He must therefore find a calling and nurture that passion into his profession.

Then the search for knowledge will not be such a boring, uphill task, rather it will be an adventure. So close every school down and let the knowledge economy explode.

- Prateek Modi
XII - Sc

Elephant Focus

What is collective responsibility? A very few of us actually understand the true meaning of this term. Collective responsibility is holding a particular group or society, as the case may be, responsible for the deeds of some. The debate still continues whether collective responsibility is a reality in today's world. Keeping this in mind, we have put across our views on this.

1st April 2004: I walked through the gates of Welham, innocent and calm, completely oblivious that I was going to realise the harsh reality of boarding school life over the next few years.

All along these almost three years, there were numerous occasions when prefects belonging to three different batches spoke those three dreadful words, "School, get down!" Every time they roared those words, in my mind, they were transformed into blood thirsty devils avenging some age old sin that I had committed. More frustrating were the times when we were punished for no fault of ours. My frustration grew to such an extent that I started bunking school functions in fear of the punishments that may follow later. This was my first taste of what 'collective responsibility' was.

The concept of collective responsibility or collective punishment is not new. Rather, the concept is found in the Old Testament, some examples including the account of 'the flood', 'tower of Babel' and Sodom and Gomorrah.

Collective responsibility is often exercised in institutions such as our boarding schools, where this concept is used by the authorities to enforce peer pressure upon the wrong doers to dissuade them from what they were doing. Though this is a very effective method, it also leads to a lot of clashes and creates unpleasant situations. I say this from personal experience. I have seen my friends as my foes just because I was punished due to no fault of mine under this 'doctrine'. The concept of collective responsibility leads to authoritarian tendencies in institutions.

On a much larger scale, the concept of collective punishment being exercised in matters pertaining to wars and armed aggression is a violation of the laws of war and of the Geneva Convention.

There have been many instances during World War II and afterwards where countries have exercised this.

In an incident in 1942, the Germans destroyed the village of Lidice, Czechoslovakia, killing 340 as punishment for the assassination of Reinhard Heydrick.

In 1951, the British Army destroyed many villages which they thought concealed communist rebels in Maya.

In 1952, British officially exercised this against Mau Mau uprising in Kenya.

In a more recent incident, US soldiers in Iraq, mowed down palm groves, cut the power supply, destroyed the fuel station and blocked the road access in Qurd al-Dora because five months previously there had been a small act of rebellion there.

What Hitler did against the Jews and what the Americans did in Hiroshima and Nagasaki can also arguably be termed as incidents of collective punishment.

In 1980, Saddam Hussein killed 15,000 innocent people in Haldeja by dropping gas canisters to crush the Khurdish aggression.

All these incidents prove beyond doubt that collective punishments have always been incorrect.

But what we also should try to understand is that when one is in a position of responsibility, this is by far the easiest method of punishing the guilty. Cancelling school outings because of the misdeeds of a few and punishing groups of students when no one owns up for certain "goods" are usual incidents we come across in our day to day living in school.

I leave it to the reader to conclude whether collective responsibility and hence collective punishments can be done away with or not. If yes, then suggestions for a practical substitute would be more welcome.

Better days,
Vanshaj Agarwal
XII - Hum

Are we collectively responsible for each other's deeds?



☐ Yes
☒ No

WELHAM PIE

Class XII: Yes: 8 No: 18

Class X: Yes: 13 No: 19

Class IX: Yes: 15 No: 30

Staff: Yes: 15 No: 10



Word War

Is it fair for the society to be held collectively responsible for the acts of some?

For

Should a community or group take responsibilities for the actions of an individual? At the best of times, a very difficult question to answer. But having had to deal with this problem repeatedly in school, I have over the years, come to some answers. These are my own responses, and I make no claims to providing the "ultimate" answer.

To me it seems that the decision as to whether a group should be held collectively responsible for the actions of one or a few, largely depends on the situation in question. For instance take the case of vandalism particularly in the classrooms. As teachers we have found that it is invariably only a handful who indulge in this boorish behaviour. But they get away with it because the majority choose to turn a blind eye to the antics of their friends. If this 'silent majority' were to ostracize or in any other way chastise the troublesome minority, then we would not, in all probability, have a situation on our hands.

So, should the majority not be held responsible in this case?

On the other hand, there are situations when an individual or individuals indulge in unpredictable or aberrant behaviour that takes everyone by surprise. For instance, what does anyone do when a boy suddenly decides to 'bunk' without telling anyone else about it? Or, disregards the advice of his friends and goes ahead anyway? Surely then, the friends cannot be held responsible?

Having said that, a lot depends eventually on the 'Climate' and 'Culture' that is prevalent in the institution. If there is an overall feeling in the community that acts such as vandalism, substance abuse, bullying is wrong (and not merely because they attract punishment), then the chances are that those who wish to indulge in these acts will have a good rethink if they are contemplating such actions. As Edmund Burke, the famous philosopher said, "The greatest evil is perpetuated by those who choose to remain silent".

- Dev Lahiri

Against

Societies are supposed to function like a well oiled machine; no quarrels, no crimes – frictionless in one word. That is what everyone expects or wants. But does it really happen?

To function in such an impractical manner, one needs to trust each other, love each other, care for each other and more. He has to follow the laws of the land, be of sound mind and what not. So I believe that it cannot be possible for the society to be held collectively responsible for the act of a few when this is the condition of the society.

Society is divided in a lot of ways some of which we cannot even imagine. This division gives rise to mistrust and hate. This in turn gives way to the desire to hurt the other and this in turn will only make the other retaliate and so on and on we go. There are some who want to live in harmony with the others and socialise with them. But there are those whose minds are too muddled or backward to think and so they simply do not understand. And so, people like these whom society cannot control or keep in check, are the sources of trouble and cannot be responsible for their behaviour.

If one wants society to be wholly responsible then it can only be under a totalitarian system or something of its kind where one wrong word can wipe out an entire community. If you tried commenting about the Fuehrer at a dinner party in Hamburg, some would tell you to hold your tongue and most probably all those at the party would have been in a Gestapo prison the next day. Surely this is not a system which we would want in a school.

So we can either force society to be equally and collectively responsible or leave it to the person himself to be his own guide as to how to behave. It is not possible for anyone to keep an eye on everybody. The person may be up to something you don't even know about. Then how do you expect to stop him? There are people everywhere who are ready to take advantage of the situation at the expense of others. These are the people who are to be looked after. In a school, not everyone knows each other and so everyone will not care for others before doing something wrong.

For the prank of a senior, the juniors cannot be held collectively responsible. Nor even his own classmates, who might not even know what he has done or were not present at that time with him. Making an ex-



ample of the offender might be a good method to keep others from breaking the law.

There will always be a law breaker somewhere. So we need to have a good surveillance or security system in society for this. As for schools, we need to have a body of dedicated and logically-minded people to handle the fragile adolescents. Their future will all be moulded by these little actions of their lives spent here. So we just cannot catch someone and make him collectively responsible along with someone else who has committed the offence. We just cannot hold all responsible for the acts which we know for sure a few have committed. But if the situation demands it then we can resort to holding all responsible. For the act of a few, blaming all will only hurt the relations between people.

A common tactic is to hold all responsible and administer a punishment which will affect all. But even if the students know who has committed the offence, no one will divulge the name due to peer pressure or as an act of friendship. At such moments, even the weak hearted or the enemy becomes a lionhearted or a friend. That is human nature for you or basically how the student community works. People should know that the students have a different world of their own. They have their own rules and culture. The bond between them makes them sort of invulnerable. The bond helps them survive anywhere. Collective responsibility only helps in making it stronger though it may succeed in breaking a few. It gives them a sense of unity or freedom from fear of being alone.

Collective responsibility helps in keeping the weak in check but only fools the strong. It is successful sometimes but not always. Also the fact remains that societies are held responsible for the negative deeds of few but not the success or good deeds of few. So in the end I say, "We cannot hold the society collectively responsible for the acts of a few."

- Anesh Gurung
XII - H

Lampoon The Winning Eleven

They can be spotted with serious expressions on their faces. They are role models and every Welhamite looks up to them. But even our prefects have a "naughtier" side.

Anesh Gurung: The "Leaning Tower of Cauvery", he has been recently giving anger management lessons. Tea

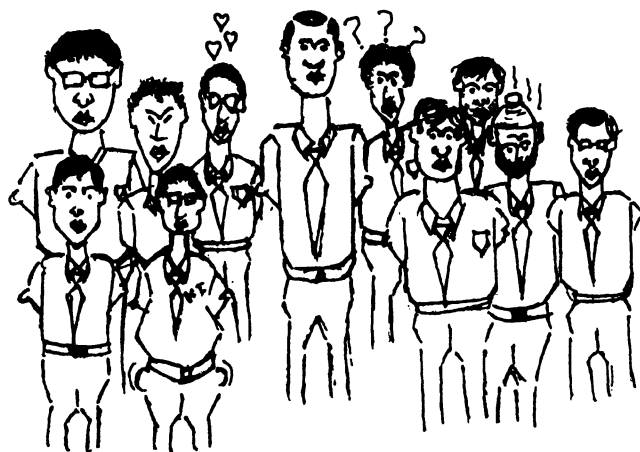
is the secret of his energy and he loves sporting an Elvis puff..

Tushar Agarwal: The 'Krishna Kanhaiya' of our batch, has been absent from all height and weight session till date. He is spotted more often in the despatch office than on the field due to his popularity among the "blues".

Awijit Paliwal: The 'Nawab of Lucknow' is known for a great appetite for 'bun-oms'. An enthusiastic monitor of the PR Squad, he has never missed an Inter-School Debate. Has been struggling with the new time- 'tabIL'.

Ankit Saraf: The CPU of Welham, has been a 'compaholic' by birth. We are still trying to figure out why he has watched Shrek more than a hundred times.

Sudipt Juneja: 'Mr. Shakespeare's' accent curtains his otherwise 'wild side'. He is immensely popular with the fairer sex and has many 'sisters' amongst the red and whites.



Vanshaj Agarwal: Caution: choose what you say to him very carefully as his witty (VT) point-blank replies can silence anyone. Successfully proved Einstein wrong in class 8 and can debate anyone, anytime, anywhere.

Aftab Singh Sandhu: 'Mr. Punctual' needs only six hours of sleep every night (read morning!!). He is extremely popular with the juniors and wants to step in his brother's shoes in every possible way.

Trishang Choudhary: This patriotic 'Meerutite' has evolved from being Mangal Pandey to Don. He is very popular with the girl-folk of OUR school and his 'contemporary' Hindi can put even the *bastiwallas* to shame.

Varun Shamsher: This (un)disciplined, (un)well-mannered and highly spiritual 'new boy' has the (un)cleanest record amongst the Prefects and knows the streets like the back of his hand.



Ashish Chowdhary: The 'king of piracy', has never missed an episode of coffee with "Karan" and is an avid follower of Ma(r)xism. The back bone of Oli.

Nevertheless, we are sure that our Prefects will take the school to greater heights and 'From Strength to Strength'.

- Shivesh Tyagi & Aniket Nag
XII - Sc.

From the Egyptian Sands...

It was a dream come true for any teacher of History; we couldn't believe we were actually visiting the places we had been teaching about for years!

We landed in Cairo on the 25th of December and were almost immediately whisked away to a fancy restaurant for dinner. Our travel-weary boys were ready to collapse but they dragged themselves along. The place was beautifully lit. A pretty young lady was singing in Arabic. We couldn't understand the words and the music, though lilting was very different from what we are accustomed to hearing. All of a sudden the tempo of the music changed and there she was - much to the delight of many of us - the belly dancer! The prude in me put up with her graceful movements for a few minutes, af-



The entire group in front of the Library of Alexandria

ter which I decided, it was time to take my boys, innocent as they were, back to the hotel! What I had not realized was that the 'restaurant' had moved down the Nile and I had a choice between drowning amidst crocodiles or watching the belly dancer and allowing my innocent boys to do the same. No marks for guessing what I did next!

The next morning we visited the Narmein Ismail Language School as part of the Global Classroom. This school has instructions in 5 languages and they have five different Boards. The children are either Arab or expatriates. We met the Egyptian (Arab) children who were doing the American Board and made quite a few friends there. We interacted with the pupils on more than one occasion that week and towards the end the interaction was truly informal. 'What is that dot women wear on their forehead in India?' 'Where are the Bedouins?' were the kind of questions asked. Finally the Indian pupils (and we were from three different schools from all parts of India) sang 'Sare Jahan Se Achcha' and the National anthem and believe me, we have never sung these with as much gusto before!

That afternoon we visited the pyramids of Giza. They were just awesome. Three large pyramids (and some smaller ones) in the vastness of the desert! Their grandeur was stupendous. One felt like a tiny ant standing before the huge structures made of stone, two tons in weight each, systematically placed together, by men, even before the wheel was invented! The sphinx stood silently in the east guarding the burial chambers of the ancient kings.

Later in the evening we were treated to a 'Sound and Light Show' at the same place. It was almost magical how the Sphinx, which during the day had looked somewhat damaged with its broken nose, now regained its grandeur with the lights on, and told us its story. A spectacular Sound and Light show indeed!

Alexandria was next on our itinerary. We set off the next morning on a three-hour drive to the city that had housed one of the first libraries in the world and that was famed for its lighthouse in the ancient past.

The drive was a pleasant change as the barren sand that we were now getting used to, gave way to a green belt on both sides of the highway. Unfortunately the weather packed up and as we got closer to the Mediterranean Sea it became bitterly cold. Most of the photographs taken outside the Alexandrian Bibliotheque (Library) show chattering teeth! Lunch was at a restaurant, which was separated from the Mediterranean Sea by 40 or 50 feet of road. The sea seemed to be in a foul temper by now and was splashing all over the road in front of the windows of the restaurant.

Our last stop in Alexandria was the Montezuma Palace, laid out in the most beautiful gardens. This is the Egyptian President's summer hideout. It has been the summer retreat of all Egyptian heads of state since 1915.



Performing in the Narmain Ismail Language School

We posed before it as if it belonged to us, just because the head of Egypt was in Cairo. Other highlights of the trip included a visit to an Art School where young artists learn to make papyrus and paint on it; a perfumery where we were given a fascinating presentation about Egyptian perfumes. (I can now understand what Shakespeare meant when he wrote that even the perfumes of Arabia could not sweeten the hands of a murderer!); visits to tombs deep under the ground and of course, a visit to the Cairo Museum.

The museum was quite an eye-opener. It was amazing to see how much gold had been found in King Tutankhamen's tomb apart from all the other things that he would need in after-life. It was also quite a surprise to see how untidily all these had been stacked in the pyramid. Both men and women had a penchant for exquisite jewellery as was evident from the pieces found in the tomb. Some of us who went in to see a mummy actually found it quite disturbing.

Our last stop on this trip was Dubai. We visited The Indian School, which was actually on holiday, but it managed to get some pupils together. One would have thought 'shopping' in Dubai would have been an ethereal experience the way people go on about it but within a few hours most of us were bored of it.

It was only the 'desert safari' that made the visit worthwhile. This was a real treat. We spent the whole evening doing all sorts of things in the desert. For instance, we went 'dune bashing', which must be the Arab equivalent of roller coasters! The boys went sand surfing (and some of them were rather good at it!) The henna stall was a great favourite. Some of our boys tried to get belly dancers henna-ed on their biceps! The crowning

glory of this evening, which was our last evening abroad, of course was the belly dancer. This time our boys dropped their shyness and jumped up to dance with her when invited. Don't believe them if they tell you they don't know how to dance. They received personal coaching! Ask Mr. Michael Hannah.

This account of course doesn't include our 'lost' cases. Our boys lost boarding passes, cameras, handy-cams and even themselves! It's a wonder we all came back to India. But that explains why I lost my sanity. I am still looking for it. Somebody help!

- Indrani Lahiri

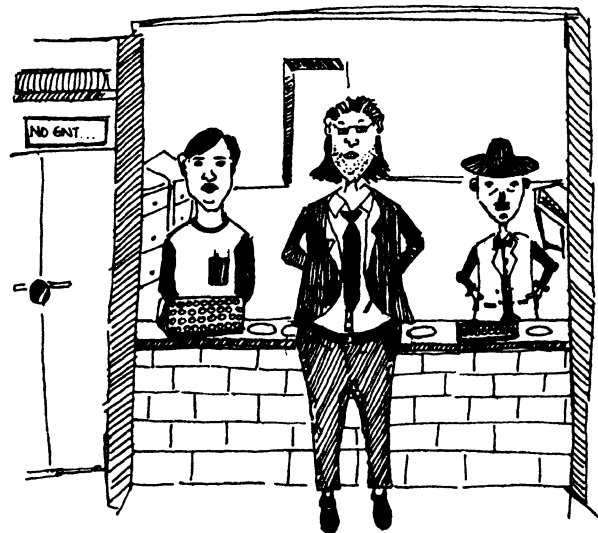
Dude(s) of the Month

For the record, the budget is never enough for the dining hall and cribbing has become a tradition. Even though, we may crib our hearts out about the food in the dining hall, these matadors have successfully and bravely ridden on the Welhamites' bullish hunger. This month the crown goes to the long time contenders - Mr. Rohit Bakshi and his team.

These 'dudes' are responsible for the paunch the Sports Captain has recently started developing and the fact that very few of us miss a meal even on Sundays!

They work day and night in providing us a sumptuous and healthy diet. Gone are the days, when the only thing that we missed about home was food.

And the kind of hygiene they maintain while catering to our needs may put even the best hotels to shame. Hats off to the Bethany Team! Keep the curry flowing!





Monthly Quiz

1. Name the famous Indian industrialist who took over a foreign company 'Novelis'?
2. Name the renowned author who died recently whose famous works include 'Rage of Angels'?
3. Who was the famous 'Bollywood' music director who died recently at the age of 81?
4. Which place in West Bengal was in news recently due to the controversy over the Tata Motors plant?
5. Name the well known Indian businessman who was caught with a gun at Dubai airport?
6. What does PSLV stand for?
7. Who is the director of the controversial movie 'Black Friday'?
8. Who is the co-inventor of the TV remote who recently died at the age of 93?
9. Which British celebrities have split recently, one of them being Imran Khan's ex-wife?
10. Which band won the Grammy for the life time achievement award for this year, whose singer is dead?

The answers to the last issue's quiz are...

Ans 1. In the Line of Fire by Pervez Musharraf

Ans 2. Sting Ray. He was bitten by the creature while shooting for a TV show.

Ans 3. Darren Hair

Ans 4. Hrishikesh Mukherjee

Ans 5. Juventus

Ans 6. He said that the national anthem should be made compulsory in every school.

Ans 7. He was hanged.

Ans 8. Indian Summers

Ans 9. Jhagru Mali

Ans 10. Sharmila Tagore.

The Pizza is sponsored by CHOCOLATE CORNER, Dehra Dun.

The Domino's pizza for the last issue's quiz was won by Navandeep Matta of class 12.

Through the Keyhole

- Rasik Goyal (getting emotional after the farewell) –
Guys, *this was the best farewell we ever had.*
- Trishang Choudhary (shouting during the dinner lines)
– School, stop *shaking in the lines!*
- Trishang Choudhary (putting Akon to shame) –
Whack that, whack that, Smack that!
- Sushant Singh boasting to his classmates: I am the
defending champion of the Physical Education
award.

Separated at Birth

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Nirav Tah | Aditya Agarwal |
| Mr. Brahma Raina | Prof. Higgins
(from Pygmalion) |
| Mr. Sateynder Mishra | Aniket Nag |
| Aftab Singh | Boman Irani |
| Prateek Modi | Sawan Kukreja |

Ever Wonder Why

1. All the Prefects turned vegetarian during dinner following the Investiture ceremony?
2. There's never a shortage of drinking water in the Physics lab?
3. Both the Deans are 'chilling out' these days?
4. The name of the dining hall has been changed from Bethany to Chotiwalla?
5. There is a shortage of meter-scales in the Physics Lab?

What's In

- Mr. Kandpal's Scorpio
Ponies
'Healthy' look
Evening 'Jogs'

What's Out

- School Bus
'Fauji' cut
Slim look
Morning PT



Ringside View

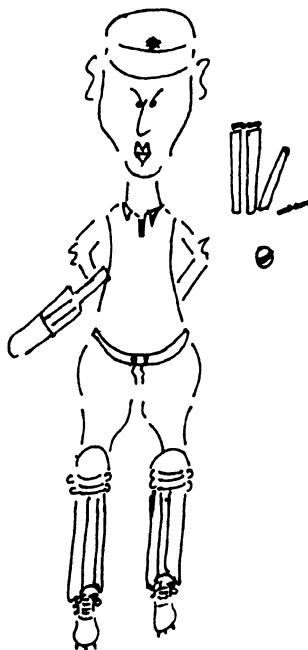
The cycle of sports in Welham continues as it does in the world outside. It is fuelling the spirits of millions across the world with the will to win and be above the rest. In the end after all hard work, time sacrificed, effort and sweat, even the most humble will want to win.

The cricket team can be seen sweating it out during the afternoons. Even though they haven't played any matches yet, they seem ready to take on our arch rivals, You-know-Who. The Inter-House is all set to begin and the Houses are running around gathering their team and practising hard. Everyone wants to take the lead in the race for the Best Sporting House. The Hockey team has also started its training session with the Kandhari tournament in their mind. But to see them run, you have to wake up early. The Basketball team has been pushing itself to the limit since the term began. They hope to repeat their past glories of three major trophies and an unbeaten record of winning matches.

Sports for this term has begun with the badminton Inter-House tournament. It has certainly attracted a large audience and is being enjoyed by all. The latest craze in school seems to be the jogging sessions for some unknown reasons. Everyone has suddenly become a health freak.

Even the teachers have started to get up early for the 'jogs'.

India really looks strong and confident of winning the world cup while defending champions Australia are having problems with major players being injured and out of action. Even though the world cup fever has yet to catch on, I am sure it will be a great treat to watch.



On the football pitch, as the game is resting in our school, everyone is glued to the T.V. to support their favourites in their leagues with passion unknown. Manchester United and Chelsea are battling it out everywhere possible, with one trying to maintain the lead and the other to cover it up. Spanish giants Barcelona are still on the top with many at its heels. The Italian Serie A looks boring with Inter having the monopoly and the once famed AC Milan are finally recovering. The Champions League enters the Final 16 stage

and some matches are eagerly waited. All the while the Bundesliga seems forgotten.

Being a new term and a new year, there is not much else for sports, so see you in the next edition with tons of stories for all the sports freaks.

- Anesh Gurung
XII - Hum

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