

Think About It...

For Fools rush in where Angels fear to tread

- Pope John Paul II

Editorial

For once, let us forget about all of India's ill doings and failures. Let us forget for some time that another unfortunate being is added to this poverty-stricken family every second. Let us forget about the corruption, gender and caste discrimination and hypocrisy prevalent in this country. I realize how tough a task this is, but at the same time I do feel that once a while we should acknowledge and cherish what little we have instead of blaming and criticising everything till the very last second of our lives.

What is so unique about Indian culture and tradition that it covers up for all our miseries? One still wonders how a country with such diversified cultures, religions and languages has survived for all these years. The fact is that our culture is so unique that it has always evolved over a period of time. From the great cuisine of the Mughals to the extraordinary knowledge of the Vedas, India is still evolving. Cynics may call it 'westernization', yet it is just another addition to our rich culture. Oli feels that India is but a river, which everyone drinks from and in turn give it something unique.

Indians today are going places. Who had imagined an Indian would be the world's biggest 'steel czar' or Infosys and Wipro would be big players in the global market?

We Indians are the wealthiest among all ethnic groups in USA, even faring better than the whites and the natives. It is a shock to many that 38% of doctors and 36% of NASA scientists in the USA are Indians. Sanskrit, a language which we failed to promote, is considered to be the most suitable language for computer software.

IITs and IIMs are at par with the best of institutions abroad. We are adding a millionaire every day and the literacy rate is rising significantly.

Yet, there are still some who fear to take a step towards progress. Nani Palkhiwala very aptly puts it, "To our countrymen - who suffer and endure impatience, without the perception of their potential" The creativity of every Indian must be allowed to be expressed freely. What will it take for us to realize our potential? We must have the self-confidence to take risks and open our minds.

India has come a long way since independence, but we could have done better. Nonetheless we have earned ourselves a seat in the international market. From being beggars we have become partners.

India's progress reminds Oli of a few very inspirational lines said by Sabdar Hashmi, a social worker who dreamt of India tasting success.

"Tu zinda hai tu zindagi ki jeet par yakeen kar. Agar kahin hai svarg to utaar la zameen par!" (You are full of life, believe in the success of life. If there is any heaven then bring it down to earth.)

Ajitesh Kir

(AJITESH KIR)

Welham Now

- * On the 2nd of April, a talk on Career Planning was hosted by the school.
- * **Mrs. Vasanta Raja** and **Mrs. Nilima Parmar** have joined the Mathematics faculty. They will teach the Middle school and the Junior school respectively. We wish them a happy and rewarding stay at Welham.
- * The Inter – House English Elocution Contest was held on 7th April. **Ajitesh Kir** and **Pradipta De** were adjudged the best speakers in their respective groups.
- * An Inter – School English Elocution Contest was held on 19th April. **Pradipta De** shared the first position

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with **Akshit Batra** of The Doon School. Welham Girls' School lifted the trophy for the best team.

- * **Bobby Cash**, the famous Country Music singer, performed at the Peacock Stage exclusively for the Welhamites, on 20th April.
- * Class XII visited the Sarsawa Airbase on the 12th April. They were escorted by Mr. Biradar.
- * The much awaited Annual Quizzotic was held on 6th April. **Monish Khera** was declared the winner.
- * The Squash Inter-House final was played between Jamuna and Cauvery and Jamuna House emerged as the winner.
- * The Welham Boys' Basketball team scored a hat-trick by winning the 'Win Mumby' Basketball Tournament for the first time ever at Woodstock School, Mussoorie, the District Championship and The Golden Jubilee Basketball Tournament held in our school itself.
- * **Mr. Sandeep Khanna** has been blessed with a daughter.
- * The Inter-House E.V.S. Quiz was held on 22nd April. Ganga House emerged as the winner.
- * The School Volleyball Team won the Doon Inter-School tournament on 23rd April..
- * The Tennis team won the Doon Inter-School tournament. **Jatan Soni** and **Praharsh Agarwal** were declared winners in their respective categories.
- * **Mr. Karna Puri** and **Mr. Joy Arora** will be leaving for a teacher exchange to The Gordonstoun School, Scotland and St. Philip's College, Australia respectively.
- * The 1st Round of The Frank Anthony Memorial English Debate was held on 28th April at The Riverdale High School. **Ajitesh Kir** was adjudged the Best Speaker.
- * **Mr. M.R Sivaraman**, Chairman, The Lawrence School, Lovedale, visited the school on 29th April.
- * The Oliphant Memorial Inter-School English Debate was held on 29th April. St. George's College, Mussoorie lifted the trophy and both their participants shared the award for the Best Speaker. **Ajitesh Kir** was awarded the Most Promising Speaker.
- * The End of Term Examinations begin from 10th May. Oli takes this opportunity to wish all the students the best of luck.

Letters to the Ed...

Dear Ed,

I recently read the February 2006 issue of 'The Oliphant'. Please accept my compliments on bringing out an excellent issue. Keep up the good job. Although I have never been to your great institution, I have heard a lot about it.

'A lie told a thousand times becomes a truth'

I write to you with reference to a sentence in your editorial. It is the last sentence in the third paragraph which says "...India is the nation of Gandhi – a country which won its independence through non-violence." Our nation has been living this lie since 1947 and now it has become a truth. It has been taught in our schools, hammered into our heads by the government and the media, told to us by our elders and conveyed to us by every possible means.

No nation ever got freedom without violence and India is no exception. Our freedom is the result of the blood of all martyrs from 1857 to 1947. More than that, it is the result of the blood of the British spilled by our revolutionaries. Freedom came not by the way of 'charkha' but by bullets and bombs. Putting it bluntly, Gandhi may have been a great social reformer and spiritualist, but his contribution as far the attainment of freedom is concerned, is zero. It is a rather sorry state of affairs that he has been glorified as 'the one who got us freedom *bina khaddg bina dhal.*'

When we say that "we got independence through non-violence", we are telling all our revolutionaries that they fought and died in vain. It is like saying to them – "You did nothing for us. We became free through non-violence." As a result of this attitude, we have forgotten all our revolutionaries. Ask your students the names and dates associated with our armed revolutionaries and you will be appalled at the extent of the ignorance. No other nation is so ungrateful.

Freedom is achieved only by weapons and can be protected only by the use of weapons. When we were militarily weak, we became slaves and when it became clear that we will no longer fight for the raj but will fight for own freedom, (Azad Hind Fauj), we got our independence.

Yours sincerely,

Capt. Nitin D. Joshi (Retd.)

Chief Administrative and Training Officer
Bhonsala Military School

Dear Sir,

I am extremely happy to know that you enjoy reading our magazine and hope that your visit to our school in the near future.

'Our freedom is the result of the blood of all martyrs from 1857 to 1947'. True. It is also the result of sweat and tears shed and sacrifices made and the undying spirit of all those citizens of the country who fought for freedom.

When you say that freedom was achieved 'not by the way of the 'charkha', but by 'bullets and bombs', it is once again a very extreme point of view. In the country's struggle for independence, every act, every voice is responsible for the final outcome.

Saying that Gandhi's contribution was nil, is perhaps too blunt. Have you ever wondered why a whole nation, full of people with independent thoughts and opinions, chose to call the man 'Mahatma'? Ever wondered why Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King Jr. worshipped the man like a God?

However, I completely agree with you when you say that we, as Indians have not given our revolutionaries, the respect and recognition which they truly deserve. Their role in the attainment of freedom for India is as important as any others.

Once again I would like to thank you for taking the pain to write to us and hope that you keep writing in the future.

Write to us at:

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Royal Rumble

Nepal, the land of the brave Gurkhas and the skilful Sherpas, home to the mighty Everest and the deep Karnali, was once a nation famous for its culture, beauty, history and many legends, has now become another example of Bosnia or Sudan or Indonesia. The decade long civil war has starved the country of its economy and the youth who are fleeing abroad looking for work. People say Nepal has never been conquered or invaded but still it is like any underdeveloped state.

Lately, the country has been in the international news owing to the mass anti-monarchy, pro-democracy protests arranged by the seven-party alliance throughout the country. The protests have been continuing for more than two weeks now and it seems it will be a deadlock as no one seems to be backing down, neither the king nor the people. The king who seized power 14 months ago after increasing political instability and the growing Maoist threat has been under a lot of international pressure and criticism but is showing no sign of stepping down. The combined attacks of the Maoists, the political parties, media or the masses seems not to effect the

king who is safe behind the police and the Royal Army that has the real power.

In this situation, the frustration of the people is only growing. They want democracy, which they nearly achieved in the 50's but then the political crisis showed that the Nepalese had still much to learn. In the field of politics, Nepal can learn from the largest democracy in the world, its neighbour, instead of sitting idle and making no move, a decision which has surprised and saddened many.

Now the People's war has entered a new phase as the Maoists have decided to concentrate more on peaceful methods. But the question is, can the people win? If one knows his history well then he would know that the masses finally win sooner or later. Will this revolution end like the French Revolution with violence or like the Indian Independence with *ahimsa*? The ruling aristocrat families can only delay the inevitable or to be precise, the 'Judgement Day' for Nepal. Will the king stay as a nominal head or be exiled? The questions are tough for students like us, but for all the Nepalese people, it is an issue which involves their future along with their nation's. I certainly would not like to be a refugee. But the issue cannot be sidelined by our Indian friends.

Jai Nepal!

- Anesh Gurung

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Movie Review: The Passion of Christ

The Passion of Christ, produced and directed by Mel Gibson, tells the story of the last twelve hours of Jesus Christ's life in graphic detail. The movie was released shortly before Easter 2005 and was greeted with a storm of controversy. It was hailed as overtly gruesome, anti-Semitic, and theologically unsound. However, no one who watches this movie can say he was unmoved by the suffering the man Jesus Christ endured for His faith.

The life of Christ is recorded in the four Gospels of the New Testament of the Bible, in Catholic tradition – such as the Stations of the Cross, and in the recently discovered Gnostic Gospels of *The DaVinci Code* fame. All these diverse sources agree that a man named Jesus had been preaching in and around Jerusalem in approximately 33AD, was then given over to the Jewish priests and Romans, tortured and executed. *The Passion* recounts all of these events, but with Mel Gibson's own theological twist.

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Many Christians, Gibson included, believe that Jesus suffered and died to wash away our sins. At mass Catholics celebrate this sacrifice by eating bread and drinking wine that has been transformed to the flesh and blood of Christ by a priest. It is believed that with His blood Christ washed away the sins of the world. In *The Passion of the Christ* Gibson chooses to show the staggering magnitude of our sins by the amount of blood Christ had to shed to wash them away. In a 120 minute movie approximately 100 minutes are devoted to showing Christ flailed, flogged, beaten, pierced, and otherwise tortured. In one scene, a courtyard is shown drenched in His blood. Apparently Gibson views humanity as overflowing with sin.

While *The Passion* makes no specific call to persecute Jews, the blame for Christ's death is very one-sided: Pilate is shown as a peaceful man doing his best to hold together a fragmenting empire while the Jewish high priests are shown as bloodthirsty instigators continually crying out for Christ's death. The movie did not spark any anti-Semitic acts, but prior to its release the leaders of the Jewish community feared it might.

Finally, though all Christians profess to believe in God and Jesus, how they believe differs greatly between Catholics and Protestants. Therefore when Gibson chose to show his ultra-conservative view of the last twelve suffering hours of Christ, he angered many leaders of other sects of Christianity. They said that the Church today is more interested in how to live and celebrate Christ's life and works rather than mourn and suffer over His death. The Church of the 21st century is much more optimistic than it has been in the past. These modern leaders claim that Gibson is trying to drag the Church back into the Dark Ages by producing a movie that is so focused on the suffering one must experience to know God rather than the joy that can come from living a holy life.

However, when one watches the movie, despite all the violence and cases for historical and theological dispute, one cannot help but be moved by Christ's suffering. Whether one believes He was the Son of God, a prophet, or an ordinary man of extraordinary faith, the fact remains that Jesus had a message of peace and non-violence that He believed in so strongly He was willing to turn the other cheek in the face of ultimate human suffering. As audience members we are reminded of the peace of His message, for even in the midst of the worst violence flashbacks are shown of Christ preaching and teaching. These scenes are shown

in the warm glow of memory and filled with soft light and music. Their juxtaposition against cold scenes of cruelty only make the message "Love thy neighbor as thyself" that much more powerful. This, ultimately, is what Mel Gibson wanted us to remember: that Jesus suffered and died so that we might live with hope. Therefore, despite all the controversy swirling around *The Passion of the Christ*, it is still a successful movie that should be viewed by all.

- Erica Fuss

The Best is Yet to be...Bobby Cash

Bobby Cash is the best Country Music singer in India and aspiring to be the best in the world. He is a celebrity in Australia and his popularity is increasing around the globe. Born and bred in Dehra Dun, Bobby Cash is also involved in a lot of social work. During his recent visit to India he was kind enough to give a special performance only for Welhamites. We took the opportunity of talking to a person who is living his dream...

Oli: So, Mr. Cash staying in a country like India what inspired you to play country music?

B.C: I think I was exposed very early to country music. My mother loved country music and I've always loved cowboy movies and western comics even when I was a kid. I just love the whole feeling of country music and so I thought of singing it.

Oli: Which country musician was your idol when you were young?



Bobby Cash with his fans!

B.C: I can't really say I had only one idol. What I've really liked was the music and a whole lot of artists to who I've been exposed, people like Willy Nelson, Bungsing Berg Hagger, Johnny Cash, George Jones and there is a whole list that follows. They all played good country music and I've exposed myself to all of it.

Oli: When you were in Delhi, what was it like playing in the Rodeo?

B.C: It was great. It was a perfect place for me and that was my first professional assignment and it was a place made for country music and people like me. And so from there on I started and in a short time it became the most popular place in Delhi. And from there I started gaining attention.

Oli: Do you play any Hindi song?

B.C: Yes, of course. I loved Hindi music. As I was brought up here in India, my Hindi is perfect. A lot of people when they hear me talk *sochte hain ki mujhe Hindi bolni nahi aati. Lekin jaisa aap sun sakte hain ki meri Hindi bilkul bariya hai. Aikdam desi Hindi hai.* I have no problem singing in Hindi. In fact before recording country music, I recorded two Hindi pop albums. The first one I have done is 'Hey pyaar Hey' in 1996. then I recorded my second album in 1999 called 'Rukja Saby' which became popular.

Oli: Sir, what type of response do you get in Australia?

B.C: Oh! Tremendous! I'm amazed because in such little time I've come to be known across the length and breadth of the country.

Oli: So, do you think there is any future for country music in a country like India?

B.C: I'll tell you as long as people appreciate and love music in this country, I think there is a future because I've found a lot of appreciation regarding country music. I've received a lot of mail on the website from all over the country and even from small cities like Varanasi. The whole point is that people have not been exposed to country music. You know after my documentary was shown on Discovery Channel three or four times, lot of people now feel that they like the music and they say here is one of our own playing it.

It's the music that comes from the heart. It's about love, respect, pain, ups and downs in life. Country music is very close to the Indian values.

Survival Skills

Wing Commander Kanak Singh (Retd.) ex - 110-J (1952-58) wrote to us on our environment, its ill effect on the population and practical ways for our youngsters to cope effectively with the situation.

Besides aviation, Wing Commander Singh also served as an Instructor at the Air Force Survival School, where he taught air crews on how to survive in all conditions.

The disease pattern in India earlier was such that a large number of people used to die because of various conventional diseases like Cholera, TB, Malaria, etc. However, their causes were found and so also their specific cures. We were thus able to bring down the overall mortality rate in the country. However, since the economy was opened up during the 1980's, the disease pattern has changed and there has been an exponential growth in the incidences of chronic degenerative diseases like diabetes, heart diseases, hypertension, blindness and cataracts, arthritis, asthma, and a host of other such 'Life Style' diseases. As a result, we as a country have become unhealthy. The saddest fact is that even our children (our future hope) are adversely affected.

Effects of Life Style Diseases –

Damage at cellular level with its resultant bad effects can cause lowering in Academic and Games levels in school and also enhance the rates of sickness amongst the children.

The Solution –

Through my own experience in the Field, practical knowledge/courses and vast study, I have integrated a programme for teaching the Art of Survival to young adults, to enable them to thrive under man made wilds – our foul environment.

A. Proper nutrition – A well balanced diet based on the foods which are commonly available and in use, with minor changes in their pattern of cooking, quantities, additions/subtractions etc. and provision of High Quality nutritional supplements be insisted upon.

B. Regular exercise – This could be provided in the form of yoga asanas, bandhs and mudras and *pranayam*. In short – cellular health of the body.

C. Adequate Rest and Relaxation – These are made possible by the practice of the asanas, etc. mentioned above and also the practice of *Pranayam* (breath control), *Dharana* (concentration) and *Dhyan* (meditation).

D. A Positive Mental Attitude – *Dharna* and *Dhyan* make it possible for the practitioner to learn stress management, enhancement of mental focus and maintain a positive mental attitude.

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Results –

- A. Physical Fitness will be enhanced. This can be demonstrated in the form of improvement in the blood chemistry and vital life signs.
- B. Mental Fitness and efficiency will increase. Level of concentration and focus will intensify.
- C. The level of proficiency in games will go up.
- D. The Academics standard would increase.
- E. Since immunity level would go up, there will be a great reduction in Sickness Levels.

Wing Commander Kanak Singh is quite open to further discussions on this subject, at a mutually suitable time.

Email: singh.kanak@gmail.com

Health Column Staying Fit

Fasting would seem to be the quickest way to lose fat. But for every pound you lose, 60% is muscle and only 40% is fat.

It is hard to say how many calories you need to eat in order to lose weight – because of so many variables. Such as body type, body weight, level of exercise and natural metabolism, except that you need to put your body into calories deficit, to burn off more energy than you take in from your food. This is often mostly a matter of trial and error.

Example: If you write down what food you are eating and find they add up to amount of 3,000 calories a day, and you maintaining your body weight with this amount, you can try cutting back to 2,500 or 2,000 calories a day in order to create a calories deficit and lose body fat. You can also increase your level of physical activity to burn off additional energy. If you have a very slow metabolism, you might have to cut back further to 1,600 or 1,800 calories.

Rule is simple, to lose fat, you have to cut back on calories, increase exercise, or both. However, I can tell you the maximum amount you can diet if you are trying to lose absolutely as much fat as possible.

This is the formula –

- i) Drink at least 20 glasses of water throughout the day.
- ii) Eat low fat, about 20% of your total daily calories intake.
- iii) Reduce your carbohydrate as far as possible.
- iv) Try to do 45 minutes to an hour of aerobics training five times a week.

- v) Lower your intake of calories until you begin to notice weight loss. Stay at this level as long as you can continue to lose weight. If a diet is successful, don't make it more severe.
- vi) Learn to keep count of calories, otherwise it is easy to think you are eating less than you really are.

Following are some examples to give you a rough illustration of how this works –

Activity	Calories burned per hour
i) Sleeping	- 72
ii) Sitting	- 72-84
iii) Walking	- 336-420
iv) Callisthenics	- 300-360
v) Swimming(basic)	- 360
vi) Cycling(10 mph)	- 360-420
vii) Jogging(5 mph)	- 600
viii) Skiing	- 480-720
ix) Running(7.5 mph)	- 900

- Pushpendra Dabral

An Unusual complaint

...and you thought trains always had bathrooms! Think again! Here's a letter written by Okhil Ch. Sen in 1909 to the Sahibgunj Divisional Office, West Bengal after which train compartments came to have toilets.

Dear Sir,

I am arrive by passenger train Ahmedpur station and my belly is too much swelling with jackfruit. I am therefore went to privy. Just I doing the nuisance that guard making whistle blow for train to go off and I am running with 'lotah' in one hand and 'Dhoti' in the next when I am fall over and expose all my shocking to man and female women on platform. I am got leaved Ahmedpur station.

This is too much bad, if passenger go to make dung that dam guard not wait train minutes for him. I am therefore pray your honour to make big fine on that guard for public sake. Otherwise I am making big report to papers.

Your's faithfully servant,
Okhil Ch. Sen

Excerpts: Interview...

Rajeev is an ex-Welhamite who finished school in 1999. He is working for The Times of India since 2003. Born and brought up in Dehra Dun, Rajeev is currently working with 'Doon Plus'.

Oli: How is life in the media?

Rajeev: It is a very hectic job and requires hard work and your attention 24x7. It requires meeting politicians and high-ranking people, etc. You are respected by all.

Oli: How has your experience been as a journalist?

Rajeev: My job is basically of a 'solution provider' or an advisor. I handle marketing but journalism is still a part of my job. I am in Times Response. My job in that is of handling projects, media planning, material handling and scheduling.

Oli: Which has been your most exciting assignment?

Rajeev: My first and biggest assignment was also the most exciting one. It was about Uttaranchal Tourism and for that I went to meet the Secretary of Tourism (Uttaranchal). He asked me my age and I replied I was 23. He then asked me about my school and I told him about Welham and hearing the name he was impressed and then he talked about it for about half an hour. Then a deal worth Rs. 10 lakhs was signed.

Oli: What does it take to be like Barkha Dutt or Rajdeep Sardesai?

Rajeev: Constant endeavour, be eager to gain knowledge, always keep on learning, zeal and enthusiasm and of course hard work.

Oli: What do you prefer: life of a journalist or that of a Welhamite?

Rajeev: Of course as of a Welhamite. My sister and cousin were also in Welham Boys'. My sister was a day boarder and my cousin finished in 1994.

Oli: What was your most exciting moment in Welham?

Rajeev: It was during a skiing trip to Auli. There were twenty of us and we had gone for fourteen days. Our escort was Mr. Arun Sharma. There were some kind of Winter Games going on with international teams participating. Every day the Head Chef made a specific number of *gulab jamuns* (one for each person). We really loved those *gulab jamuns*. We had this Never Say Die eating spirit of Welham (and I hope it is still there). So, we would go to the counter wearing monkey caps and our skiing gear to get our shares. Then, we would go again without the caps and gear. The Head Chef noticed that most of the participants weren't getting their shares and so he looked out for the culprits and

finally caught us. But he forgave us and started making extras only for us.

Oli: During your term in Welham, were you involved in Sports?

Rajeev: I was in the school Tennis Team and in nearly every team of my house. I was in Cauvery House and and that time the field of sports was dominated by Cauvery and Krishna.

We hope that more Welhamites are inspired to join the exciting life of the media.

Education...

"Hi!" she said, as she pushed past me, even before I could properly open the door. I had been asleep when the doorbell had jolted me awake. Half asleep, muttering to myself, I had padded to the front door, and somehow had just about managed to unlock it when it was pushed open, even before my mind could comprehend what was happening.

Hey! What was she doing here at this time of the afternoon? "Sorry," she said, "The train was late – as usual. Didn't you get my cable?"

Hold your horses! This was happening too fast for my liking! I mumbled something or the other as I accompanied her to the drawing room and plonked myself in an overstuffed chair, before she had sat down.

She sat down, put her bag beside her and groped inside. "Here," as she handed me a plastic wrapped packet. "It's the '1812' that you wanted." Aha! That's more like it! I quickly unwrapped the packet to find a CD of Tchaikovsky's famous '1812 Overture'. "Do you know anything about Tchaikovsky?" she asked. Now I admitted I knew almost next to nothing about the great composer – though I did like his compositions.

As she got up to wash her hands, I hurriedly heated the morning leftover coffee in the microwave, and handed her a cup of hot, piping hot, coffee.

"Tchaikovsky, or Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky," she began after taking a sip, "was born in 1840, in Russia, when it had virtually no musical tradition."

"Russia?" I asked shocked. "You mean he is a Russian?" "No, not is – was," she corrected. "He was one of the first students to join the newly – opened St. Petersburg Conservatoire of Music..." she trailed off marking my expression. "Come on!" she exclaimed. "A

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Conservatoire is a public school of music – specially in Europe”. I nodded, as I did understand now. “Anyway like I was saying, he joined this music school at the age of 22. After his graduation he accepted the post of professor of Harmony at a new Conservatoire, in Moscow, where he stayed for 12 years, during which time he developed into a brilliant original composer but not without a price.” She paused for effect, took a sip, and carried on, “Tchaikovsky was an obsessive neurotic and guilt-ridden at being a homosexual; he found some solace in hard work. His neuroses were compounded when, to the horror of his family and friends, he announced the imminent marriage to Antonia Milimkov, whom he barely knew,” she stopped when she saw me smirking.

“Wait, the best is yet to come. Shortly after the marriage, he attempted suicide, and was rescued by his brother who took him abroad to recuperate. He never saw his wife again; she was eventually confined to an asylum for the rest of her life. Don’t you feel sorry for her?” she asked. I mumbled what I thought was an affirmation.

“Anyway” she continued, “A year before his marriage, another woman had entered his life – a wealthy widow, Madame Nadezhda von Meck, who admired his music almost to the point of obsession,” she paused seeing me grin. “This woman, you know, corresponded with Tchaikovsky extensively for 14 years, making him a generous annual allowance which permitted him to pursue his career as a composer free from financial worry. He composed a total of 7 Symphonies, and during the last 10 years of his life, composed two further ballets – now you would want to know what a Ballet is!” I nodded an emphatic yes.

“A ballet is a performance, without dialogue or singing, illustrating a story, by a group of dancers in a theatre! Now, like I was saying, his two further ballets ‘The Sleeping Beauty’ and ‘The Nutcracker’ were in addition to his earlier masterpiece ‘Swan Lake’. His equally famous ‘1812 Overture’ – the CD you hold in your hand – was composed for an all Russian Exhibition in Moscow, but actually premiered at the Kremlin in 1882. In it, real cannons are used for sound effects – so when you play the disc, don’t raise the volume too high, or your speakers will go for a six!!”

“Tchaikovsky died in St. Petersburg when he was 53, a few days after he had conducted the premier of his Symphony No.6,” she concluded.

Even as I loaded the disc onto the ‘drawer’, I imagined the famous composer laughing at me, at my lack of understanding of classical music, and at the lack of my – Education!!!

-Mr. Brahma Raina

Lampoon Welham Underworld

Everyone has heard about the Mumbai Dons and the Mafias, but no one has yet heard of the most deadly of the species! The likes of Dawood Ibrahim and Abu Salem shudder at the sight of these not-so-gentle Dadas and Dadis of Welham. The CBI needs to set up a special inquiry in these gangs of the kingdom at 5, Circular Road.

‘Bangaal’ Tigers: The Welham Underworld is dominated by the ‘*machhi and rosogulla*’ eating *Bongolis*. Their network spreads from the Principal himself to the school gardener. You will be baffled to know that the Principal, Vice Principal, Dean of Activities, HOD Art Department and even the ‘Canadian dude’ is a *bangaali*.

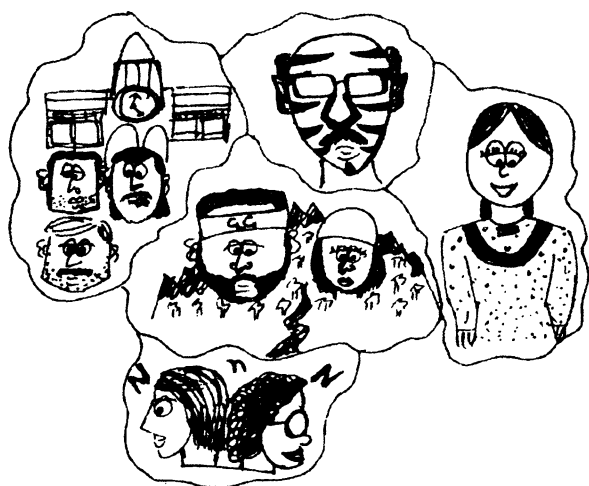
Their view of a smart Welhamite is a person clad in *dhoti kurta*, with a ‘*sarso ka tel chipkoo* hairstyle’ and huge spectacles that cover half his face. And they should seem to be as sweet as their *mithais*.

‘*Omiyo Bhalo – Tumiyo Bhalo – Shobaye Bhalo re...!*’

Ya!!Manorites: The second most popular gang at Welham is the ‘Manorites’. It includes the whole of the Financial Studies Department and our computer genius. They have left St. George’s College, but the St. George’s spirit has not yet died out. They have been caught several times going for a *geddi* in one of the cars at midnight.

Even during debates and matches, they don’t hesitate to cheer for their beloved school. The rumours say that they have challenged the *Bangaal* Tigers for a soccer match. and the winner gets to rule!

G.G.: G.G. stands for the Garhwali gang. They were born in the lap of nature, the lower Himalayas. They make it a point to visit their homes on the mid-term break, and their dance on Children’s Day is a hot favourite amongst the students. Leading the gang is the Round Square In-Charge, followed by the Senior Master, HOD Physics and the Dean of Studies. Not many know that even the Psychology teacher hails from the beautiful heaven just



a few kilometres away from Doon. All of them were seen attacking the Uttarakhand food stall at the Baisakhi Festival.

'Neal n Nikki': 'Two's a company, three's a crowd'. These two are the busiest people on campus, making sure that every function is carried out with a touch of class. I guarantee you loads of laughter if you sit with them some day. They are inseparable and people often say 'fevicol ka jod hai!'

Ex-Welhamites: When I talk about ex-Welhamites, I mean the junior school teachers, for they always come as Welham Girls' for the Children's Day. Even at this age they bluff the students who take them as Welham Girls' students.

I consider their job to be the toughest, as they have to face the *jungliest* of Welhamites. Shouting becomes the order of the day and they are the most feared gang of Welham.

And as far as the poor students...they just wait and open their hands to invite any rule or punishment. They obediently accept any new ruler, and are mercilessly treated by the mafias.

The Dons on the other hand keep the police in their pockets and there is no law and order in the kingdom.

So often has the CBI tried to punish the culprits, but they always get away with no sufficient proof. As for me, I've been coming to this institution for 3 decades now, serving both the students and the staff. You see I'm the school cobbler.

- Ajitesh Kir
XII - Hum

My Best Friend

Over the years I have seen my bed transform into various shapes and sizes and have also seen it taking over various roles in my life... it is my indoor playground where I have played and enjoyed innumerable games of chess, it is my study where I have imbibed knowledge from a large number of books, it is my dining table where I have sat down and enjoyed delicious meals and it is a caring friend who has always embraced me with great zeal when I have fallen ill.

My bed has been my friend, a guide, a place to cherish..... wonder what life would be without a bed.

I always used to wonder why I couldn't go off to sleep early even though I was lying in bed, a place that I loved, the epicentre of my life? There were many people suggesting remedies for my 'insomnia' problem. Someone suggested that I should wear a pair of socks on my hands (this led to dangerous consequences). Another came up with the idea that I should keep my pillow underneath my legs and not my head, as (according to his beliefs) the real power of man rested in his legs, the transporters and not his head, the inhibitor. And from a saintly man I got a suggestion that I should sleep with my head facing East and my feet facing my head.... How can one get into that posture exceeded my wildest imaginations and with the kind of help that I was getting I decided that I could do with a bit of soul searching.

After pondering the matter for some time I finally came to the conclusion that all the tips that I had got were suited for the trash can and most importantly I was using my bed for everything, except sleeping!

In carrying out many functions of my life on that single bed, I had somehow got accustomed to lying awake in bed, because for my brain the message was somewhat like this, "Play, eat, read, enjoy," I had been using it as everything except for the sole purpose that it had been built for, to sleep! Therefore I was bound to have a thousand things going in in my head the minute I was engulfed in the warmth of my blanket.

Consequently I shifted my attention to doing things where they should actually be done and pat! , within a weeks time I was falling asleep within minutes of getting into bed!

But still, my bed is the dearest thing to me..... For finally, I have learnt to sleep on it.

- Sudipt Juneja
XI - Hum

10 The Oliphant

Baisakhi Festival

For the first time ever, we hosted a 3-day long Baisakhi Festival. No school in the region has hosted such an event which attracted a lot of people from the town. The audience was treated to some soothing cultural music and dance and the mouth-watering dishes from different states didn't fail in adding flavour to the festival.

Despite all the shortcomings of this country known to the world as 'India', it can still be defined as "Wow"!

Come April and the country moves into celebration mode. This very time gives out the answer to the alien saying, "My dear friend, you already have the answer in your question, my unity lies in diversity!" Easter, Baisakhi, The Bengali New Year, Bohag Bihu (in Assam) and Vishu (in Kerala) – All of them may be somewhat distinct, but there is one thing that binds all the communities together during this time and that is "celebration". This celebration signifies unity in diversity.

Baisakhi is celebrated on 13th April every year. It was on this day that hundreds of years ago Guru Gobind Singh, the 10th and the last Guru of the Sikhs converted them into the Khalsa or the pure ones. Thus the 'Kanga', 'Kada', 'Kripan', 'Kesh' and the 'Kachha' integral parts of the Sikh religion, came into being on this day. The 13th of April is considered as the first day of the new year in Punjab and the harvest festival is also celebrated on this day. The event is marked by massive feasts, dancing and music. Fairs are held in every city in Punjab and the Bhangra and Gidda are also performed with energetic enthusiasm. 'Suji ka Halwa' is specially prepared in the homes to mark the occasion.

In Bengal this date is significant as it is the start of the Bengali New Year and it is also the time when new accounts are opened. The festival is celebrated as Bohag Bihu in Assam and Vishu in Kerala. Good Friday and Easter also occur during this time.

There is so much happening around oneself that it is hard to absorb everything. The colours – awesome, the dances – wonderful, the joy – inspiring and India – thus defined!

The hope grows...the hope for greater tolerance and acceptance and for making an India huddled together so tightly that the mere name sends quivers down the body of an enemy and respect flows in the blood of the admirer.

- Sudipt Juneja
XI - Hum

Creativity at its Best

Welham hosted an Artists' Camp on the occasion of the Baisakhi Festival 2006, celebrated from the 12th to the 14th of April. The participants, all accomplished artists based in Dehra Dun, included our Head of Art Mr Karna Puri, who were welcomed with tilak and garlands. Mrs. Jyotsna Brar, Principal, Welham Girls' School presided over the Opening Ceremony which was attended by a number of guests and members of the Press.

Students interacted with the Artists and gathered some useful tips on the various techniques and styles of painting. Some of the students also painted alongside the professionals during the Camp. Manishek Gupta's "Blue Composition" done in oils on a large canvas was highly appreciated.

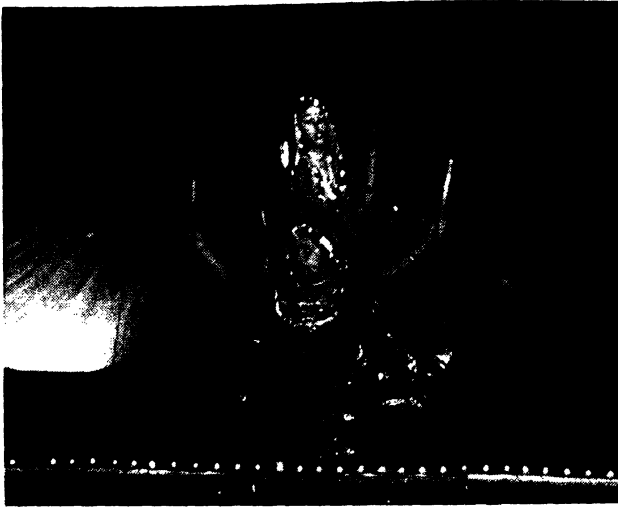
Senior most among the participating artists were Mr. Phalguni Das Gupta, an Artist of International repute who has held numerous Exhibitions in India and abroad, whose paintings are a part of the best art collections in the world, and Mrs. Monica Talukdar who is closely connected to Welham Boys School and is the wife of our Board Member Mr. S N Talukdar. The other participants were Mr. Ranjan Chakraborty, who is considered to be one of the best Restorers of Art in India, at present working for the Archeological Survey of India in Dehra Dun, Mr. Alope Tirtha Bhowmick, the Head of the Art Department of The Doon School, Mr. Ranjit Shee, who teaches at the Oak Grove School, Mussoorie, Mr. Kaushik Kundu of (neighbouring) Col. Brown School, Mr. Ruchin Soni of Welham Girls' School and of course our very own Mr. Karna Puri.

The Camp was a thumping success and we look forward to the next one in early 2007.



Chakshu Sharma performing the Rajasthani dance.

The Oliphant 11



Boys performing the Dandia.

Classical Music Concert

The school hosted a Classical music concert on 13th April, where many renowned artists came to perform before an august gathering.

The musical extravaganza began with a tabla recital by Yaman Sarkar - kayada Relaand and Teentaal, with Mr. Vijay Misra accompanying him on Sarangi.

Mr. Abhik Mukherjee, who just can't seem to get over his love for 'Bollywood', performed Rag Yamini with our Mr. Pradipto De on the tabla. The music had everyone enthralled by the sheer magic woven by Mr. Mukherjee and Mr. De - in their 'jugal bandi'.

Rock the Dance Floor!

On the evening of 14th April, Welham literally rocked the whole town with the various folk dances performed by us.

The inaugural dance was a Rajasthani number performed by the senior students.

Next was a Bengali dance which depicted a poet's description of the various emotions of the people of his region who recall the glory and beauty of their motherland.

The Primary school students performed the dandia which is a very famous form of dance performed mainly in Gujarat. It used to be practiced by Lord Krishna with his *gopikas* according to Hindu mythology.

The Punjabi dance. Bhangra needs no introduction as it is famous all over the world. The middle school students gave an absolutely rocking performance.

Kalari Payad, a martial art form of Kerala is being performed since pre-historic time. Our young middle school students also performed it to perfection.

It was a different dance altogether and was appreciated by all.

The main attraction, which I think everybody who was present that night would agree, was the Rajasthani dance performed by the senior school students. The dance is generally performed by the snake charmer community. The dancers showed their prowess by dancing on swords, pointed nails and broken pieces of glass.

It was not only the dances which enthralled all but also the melodious songs sung by Mr. Mukesh Lal and his family. They kept us humming their tunes throughout the evening with all kinds of songs ranging from classical to 'filmi' ones. All-in-all the evening was one to remember and a treat to the eye (and ears).

- Ishan Basnet

X-B

Khana Khazaana

Though the songs and dances were good, the mocktail of fragrances of the cuisines that gushed into the nostrils stole away everybody's attention.

Though the food stalls had opened tension engulfed the mind as to where to start from – from the *naan aur mutton* or *machhi aur bhaat* or Uttaranchali *tori aur chawal* or *dhokla aur thepla* or *namkeen aur jalebi* or perhaps *vada aur sambhar*...Phew!!!

Some followed the 'DL Policy' of having a bit of everything while others stuck to their old choice and satiated themselves with the never boring North Indian food. Once again the goat outpaced the chicken and finally made it to the stall (and apology on behalf of the chicken community for they are still down with flu).

Though disappointed with the chicken's absence we satisfied ourselves with mutton. Most people tried every food stall but the North and South Indian stalls proved to be the main centres of attraction. The Gujrati, Bengali, Uttaranchali, Rajasthani stalls were relatively less densely crowded.

After the main course people were seen either foraging for their favourite ice-cream at the Chocolate Corner stall or for the jalebi at the Rajasthani stall.

Though the meal was finally over, with every breath came along the fragrance of the cuisine and with every burp came along its flavour!!(Sorry to be disgusting)

Burp! Sorry again.

Kushagra Prasher

X-B

12 The Oliphant

Oliphant Focus

"Aaj kal ki generation ko dekho! poore desh ki sanskriti barbaad kar di hai." This is the most common drawing room topic these days, where the elders are always talking about the drastic change that has taken place in the Indian culture.

How do you define culture? Does it have to remain constant or does it evolve with the times?

I don't know what the world means when they talk about culture, about traditions, about us.

I don't know what they mean when they say that we have no respect. No respect for our culture, for our people, and no respect for ourselves...

Whatever it is that they mean, I'm not entirely sure I agree.

They say the West has changed the way we think, the way we are. How so...

English is the language we speak. We are all so fluent in the white man's tongue that we haven't taken the trouble to learn our own. I admit to being one such person. However this does not stop me from having pride in my native state, God's Own Country-Kerala. Although I admit to being a bit hazy about certain important dates, rituals, festivals and what not, I love where I'm from and I love who I am.

What goes in doesn't come out. Now here's a pointless point, so to speak. A hungry man's stomach can take in whatever you feed it, be it Asian, Mexican, Chinese or American. We love our food and we don't care what you give us as long as it tastes good. After a long hard day of work and play, who wouldn't want to sit down to a plate of steaming hot dal and fresh rotis, or perhaps a spicy preparation of delicately fried fish, boiled rice and loads of poppadoms.

'What you wear is what you are'. Now this is something that has got nothing to do with either culture or westernization. A person's choice of attire is entirely his own. One should be entitled to wear whatever one feels comfortable in. Culture is not something that is determined by appearances. A person's culture is his own and no one else. Just because he wishes to observe it in his own way, doesn't imply that he has no respect for culture or traditions.

Now that the wheels are in place, let me show you where the engine failed.

One's culture is a harmonic blend of beliefs, interests, faith, joys and sorrows. The problem with the world is that it gives undue importance to things which don't really

matter. They have given significance to pointless rituals and ceremonies, which are supposed to be representative of one's culture. They are so hung up on the superficiality of it all, that they have forgotten the true essence of culture.

In such a world, where rules and restrictions are imposed constantly to bind us down, even such a thing as one's culture and belief has been boxed into a dark, enclosed space, leaving us nowhere to go.

- Kartik Vishwanath

XII - Hum

Johney (English)

Name: John

Born and brought up in India.

Age: 18

Middle class Christian family....

Wants to do higher studies abroad.

Hi! This is John or Johney whatever you like. I just passed 12th standard and I am planning to go to London for higher studies. I have just applied to a couple of universities there. Actually it's not all about studies but also about other things. Things I can only dream here. I like India but it's just that I cannot live with the people. People here are so different and their way of thinking is so old fashioned. Like, whenever I wear my pants below my waist level, people come up to scold me. They do not understand the latest style. They only believe in their old culture and tradition and are extremely superstitious. I just cannot adjust. People there in London are so cool! Their lifestyle, is completely different. They have a 'broader way' of thinking. Plus I can go and earn more money there than what I will earn here. My wavelength does not match with the one here. They do not understand me. There is a lot of scope for me there....

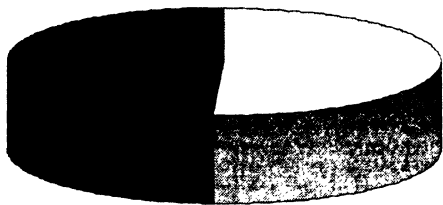
Johney is one of those young Indians who has left his country to settle abroad. I don't know if he will ever come back. He has forgotten the place where he was born. This place has fed him, given him shelter and looked after him. How can he forget the culture and tradition with which he has grown up? Who will look after the motherland that has looked after him? Who will take the initiative? I think it is he who has not understood himself, the real old John (not Johney). There are so many people today who have the same flame inside them like Johney. I just want to remind them about their duty, a duty which they possess by birth, a duty to serve their motherland....

A message for all of them:-

Ye jo desh hai tera,
Swadesh hai tera,
Tujhai hai pukara....

*A true Indian
- Aniket Nag
XI - Sc.*

**In the course of rapid westernization, have we
lost touch with our tradition and culture?**



☐ Yes
☒ No

WELHAM PIE

Class XII- Yes: 15 No: 23

Class XI - Yes: 29 No: 19

Class X- Yes:17 No: 27

Class IX- Yes: 20 No: 18

Staff Yes:15 No: 6

Siddharth Singh X-A- When asked for my opinion I promptly said no but then...someone addressed me as Sid. This has made me aware of the policy embedded deep in our hearts. We are proud of our culture but if given the choice of watching a cultural programme we simply back out and choose rather to visit a disco, etc.

Akshay Agarwal XII-C – The problem with us Indians is that we often mistake westernization with modernization.

Trishang Choudhary XI-H – In the name of rapid westernization people are directly gulping down what the western culture is thrusting at them without thinking whether it is right or wrong. The increasing number of live-in relationships are more than enough to tell us what westernization is doing to us.

Rasik Goyal XII-C – I agree that we have lost touch with the Indian culture yet I do not blame westernization for it. We have only to blame ourselves!!

Archit Agarwal XII-Sc – We have only redefined culture according to our own comforts. We cannot blame the West for it.

Dayara Bugiyal

We, all students of class ten escorted by Mr. Painuli, Mr. Raina, Mr. Albert Das and Mr. Dhingra, left late for Chamba, a five hour journey, keeping with tradition. It was a five hour trip to Chamba. The pungent fragrance of diesel soon drifted everybody to sleep. After having lunch at 'Hill Top' restaurant in Chamba we headed for Uttarkashi. We reached late at night at about 9 o' clock, where we were accommodated in 'Mahima Resort', on the outskirts of the town.

The next day was perhaps the most exhausting day of all. After a three hour journey to a small village situated in the lap of nature, we left for a trek which was 8 km uphill to Barsu. It seemed to go on forever. The ruck sacks further added to our burden!! We were welcomed at Barsu by the evening snow fall. This was more of a curse as the porters carrying our tents could not reach. Shrivelled in the cold, we had to sleep in huts *Chavanees* that night.



Trek to Barsu.

The following day after a 4 km trek up the snowy Himalayas we reached Dayara Bugyal, our chief destination. A 'Bugyal' is basically a high altitude meadow. This bugyal is supposed to be enriched by a billion species of flowers in spring but the only colour visible was white. The temperature was sub zero. The evening was spent at Barsu in tents.

The third day was spent retracing our footsteps back to 'Mahima Resort'. We also visited the Uttarkashi market place.

The following day we came back to school. Rather being joyful, it was more of a fruitful experience.

- Yousuf Hussain

14 The Oliphant

Dude(s) of the Month!!!

Old times are back, atleast on the basketball court. It's the first time in the history of Welham Basketball that Welham managed to lift the 'Win Mumby' Basketball Tournament trophy at Woodstock School, Mussoorie. The Golden Jubilee, our home tournament was also won by the team. As if it wasn't enough, the team won the District Tournament as well. The team's phenomenal performances have 'blown' everyone away.

The 5 a.m. practices, day after day finally paid off, as the Basketball Captain, Dhairya Karwa, got the award for the Most Valuable Player at Woodstock while Sushant Singh was awarded the Most Promising Player at Golden Jubilee. Sheriff Bajwa, Sushant and Dhairya have also been selected for the State Championship. Rumours are doing their rounds that the captain's Fan Club has grown since the tournament, which consists of mainly the girls.

This shy dude, growing taller day by day, promises to bring every Basketball trophy back to where it belongs and he is well and truly on his way to achieving it. Well done, guys! And the best of luck for the future.



Monthly Quiz

- Q1. Which youth icon has joined the Narmada Bachao Andolan lately?
- Q2. Which famous actor's death in the South a month ago caused such a hullabaloo?
- Q3. Why was the 'Wardrobe Malfunction' in the news recently?
- Q4. Apart from being India's most popular athlete's son, what is Jeev Milkha Singh known for?
- Q4. Where were the 20th Winter Olympics, 2006 held?
- Q5. What does DMK (the political party) stand for? Who is its leader?
- Q6. Amartya Sen is known for his literary works such as The Argumentative Indian. Name his latest book.
- Q7. Who is Ela Bhatt? Which organisation does she work for?
- Q8. Why is the HRD minister, Arjun Singh being criticised by all educational institutions?
- Q9. Which famous French soccer player is going to retire after the FIFA World Cup 2006?
- Q10. Who was the Principal when Triveni was built?

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

- Ans1. Tyeb Mehta.
Ans 2. Rita Faria.
Ans 3. Hustle and Flow.
Ans4. Hyderabad.
Ans 5. Nicole Kidman.
Ans 6. There was a debate over opening of international branches of IIMs.
Ans 7. Mahesh Bhupathi and Martina Henghis
Ans 8. Being Cyrus.
Ans 9. U2 for 'How to dismantle an atom bomb'.
Ans 10. Tarun Tejpal.

The Domino's pizza for the last month's quiz was won by Monish Khera of class 12.

What's In

Mrs. Kandhari and
Mrs. Nina Singh
Mr. Kandpal's never say die
attitude at the gym
Bobby Cash
Basketball mania
Doodhwalas

What's Out

Mr. Chopra and
Mr. Vedant Kapoor
Mr. Dabral's daily work
out at the gym
Mr. Lahiri
Exam bukhaar
Dabbawalas

Through the Keyhole

Hriday Bishnoi (acting bossy during dinner): Guys, shut *your mouth trap!!*

Mr. Lahiri (to the Twelfthies on seeing their E.V.S marks): You should be ashamed! *They look like Sehwaag's scores in the latest matches.*

Mr. Bhandari (to Twelfth Comm): If your answer doesn't come then don't get frustrated. *Bang your head on the wall and it will get charged!*

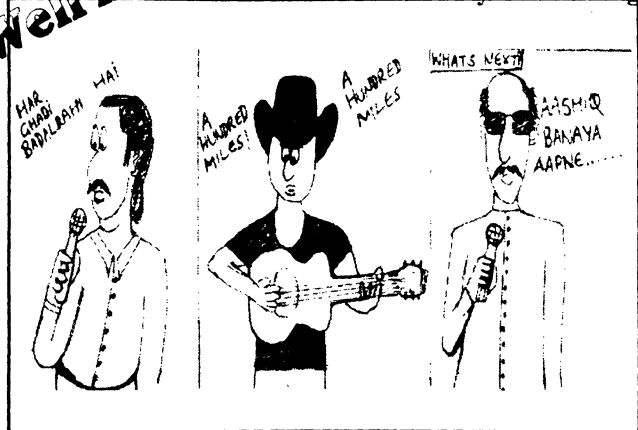
Tushar Saini: (Showing off in front of the girls during outing): Hey chics! Don't sit in the auto. *My merse is standing in front of Macdonalds!*

Ever Wonder Why

- Tutors never call students for treats?
- Mr. Kandpal is suddenly coming to the gym everyday?
- The whole school (mainly teachers) fears Welham News and its motto, 'Anywhere, Everywhere'?
- Mrs. Lahiri's stock of accesories is increasing at a rapid rate?
- There are more than 500 Kwality Walls ice-cream vendors in school?

Well hmmm...

By Omit Gurung



Ringside View

For some time, it looked as though 'sports' had been wiped out from Welham. With so many things happening every other day, students were simply too busy to take out time for games. But Welham without sports, simply unimaginable. And so, here I am once again with loads to write.

The cricket season, cut short due to rain finally got over with the cricket Inter-House. It was conducted very professionally with umpires being called from outside for all the matches. The teams contested fiercely and some very good matches were played. Unlike the previous years, this time we had some very high scoring matches. Now, was this because the quality of bowling was poor or whether the standard of batting was high? I would like to think that it was the combination of both. Finally, Cauvery emerged victorious winning all their league matches comfortably. They beat Ganga in the finals. Ganga and Krishna were the winners in Junior and sub-Junior sections respectively. Sometimes the scores do not exactly suggest the ferocity with which the matches were contested. Some matches were much closer than the scores suggested.

The Basketball Team's winning spree continues.

Win Mumby

League

vs. St. George's 49-24

vs. YPS Patiala 76-15

vs. Woodstock 59-55

Semi-Finals

vs. Modern School 71-43

Finals

vs. Sri Ram School 49-40

Districts

League

vs. Riverdale 50-25

vs. RRMA 57-13

Semi-Finals

vs. Doon School 46-21

Finals

vs. Moravian Inst. 42-16

The Golden Jubilee

League

vs. KSA 51-52 (lost)

vs. YPS 35-32

Quarter Finals

vs. BKSP 37-34

Semi-Finals

vs. Sri Ram School - 57-46

Finals

vs. Modern School - 69-65

Post mid-terms, hockey season began and the team comprising mainly of youngsters has been practicing hard for their tournaments. The team lacks experience and this clearly showed in the practice matches they have played so far. But with time, a lot of improvement can be seen and they hope to do well in all their tournaments. The Kandhari Memorial Hockey

16 The Oliphant

Tournament is their priority and this year they hope to win it for the first time. Due to unfortunate events, we have been unable to win our home tournament for the past two years since it has started despite fielding probably one of the best teams the school has seen. We hope that this year the team emerges victorious and wish them luck. The Squash Inter-House also took place. Jamuna walked away with the trophy in the senior section while Cauvery were the winners in the Junior section.

The Volleyball Team won the First Doon Inter School Tournament beating Jaswant Modern School in the finals. They had been practicing hard and it paid off. Sarbajit once again led from the front and was the star. Volleyball has certainly come a long way in school. Welham also won the First Doon Inter-School Tennis Tournament. Praharsh and Jatan Soni were the outstanding players in the senior and junior sections respectively.

The horse riding team had gone to Delhi for the National Horse Show and gave an excellent performance winning quite a few medals. Considering it to be their first major competition, horse riding has certainly come a long way in school and I only hope it generates more interest. Our instructor Mr. Mehboob Khan and two of our horses were also chosen for the International Dressage event where they won a

gold medal. I hope that they get better and achieve more success.

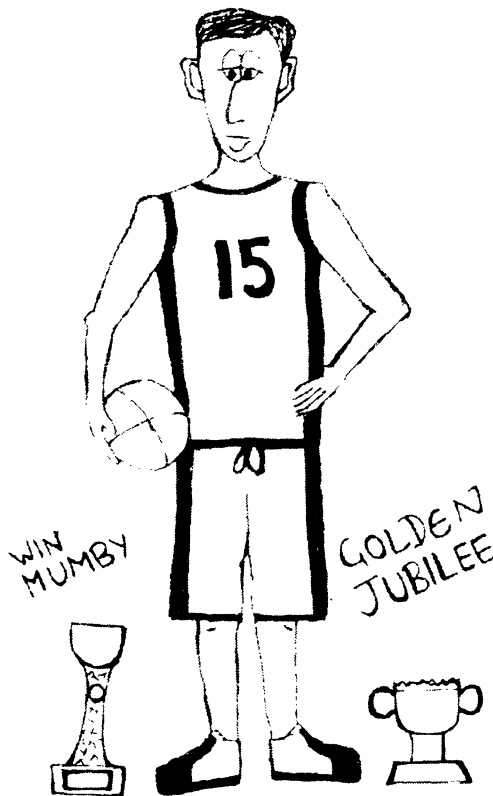
With these kind of achievements, I can proudly say that Welham has started moving towards its goal of excellence in every sport. Way to go, guys!

Swimming has once again started in school after a long time and the students are more excited than ever. It certainly is a great pleasure to relax in the pool in this heat. Though swimming has begun, it will take some time for the school to develop it as a sport. For now its fun time.

As for the international news, India thrashed England in the ODI Series with the youngsters playing a huge role, a good sign for next year's world cup. Dhoni has now become the top-ranked player in ODIs in the world and has once again surprised everyone. Ricky Ponting continues moving to

greater heights as Bangladesh surprised everyone by nearly upsetting the world champions Australia. A little more than a month is left for probably the greatest single sports event on Earth, the FIFA World Cup. The fever has already started affecting everyone.

- Chirantan Singh
XII - Sc.



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