

WELHAM BOYS SCHOOL

# The Oliphant

Vol. XXIII 15 August 2006 No. 4

## Think About It...

*Generations to come, it may be, will scarce believe that such a one as this (M.K. Gandhi) ever in flesh and blood walked upon this earth.*

*- Albert Einstein*

## Editorial

In 'India Unseen' a railway line serves as a road; 23 percent of Indians continue to stay below the poverty line; we are still fighting against the caste divide; communalism refuses to leave us alone. Did we become independent for this? Fifty-nine years after independence, invisible India's tryst with inequality makes the 'Secular, Socialist, Democratic, Republic' sound a hollow truth.

As long as the political legacy of independence does not devolve socially, freedom shall have little meaning. In most of India, for most citizens, real choices hardly exist. There hardly seems to be any difference in their lives since the British left. What independence do we boast of?

Moreover, the achievement of freedom as a nation-state was accompanied by partition - the loss of a civilization: a loss lived out in the post partition histories of great cities such as Bombay, Delhi, Karachi and Lahore - cities that had once epitomized a distinctive civilizational achievement. It created two weakened successor states to the departing Raj and it left all residents of the region more vulnerable and open to outside influences. Freedom came not only at the cost of India's unity, but also at the cost of the lives of thousands of innocents in the worst ever communal bloodbath on India's soil.

In any case, whatever be the ills of colonial rule, we have to get over the victim syndrome of blaming others for our problems. We cannot shirk responsibility for whatever happened to us. If others exploited us, it was largely because we were vulnerable. Ultimately, we alone are responsible for our mess.

Instead of blaming each other for partition, India and Pakistan should shift the focus of the debate from

the past to the future. We cannot change the past. We can only change the future by acting in the present.

As for us, the grand-children of 'midnight's children', independence just extends to 'I, me and myself'. What is the importance of 15<sup>th</sup> August for us youngsters? Is it only going for the flag-hoisting ceremony and yawning through what we consider 'boring speeches' and 'dull dances'? Oli feels that we Welhamites have forgotten those who sacrificed everything to get us the power of choice we take so much for granted.

If our elders couldn't achieve the mammoth task of bringing peace between the two countries it is our duty, as the torch bearers of the 'Tryst with destiny', to create a better future for the generations to come. A future that can be built only on the pillars of peace and all-round cooperation. Let us realize that in spite of being independent, the two countries are far more interdependent than they have so far cared to acknowledge. Let us not make the same mistakes the previous generation has made.

Oli calls out to the youth to shed their 'first-among-equals' attitude and to recognize their responsibilities before it's too late. It is the least we can do for the people who died with the regret of 'independence' accompanied with partition. Let us work towards the 'Akhand Bharat' they dreamed of.

*ajitesh kir*

(AJITESH KIR)

## Welham Now

- \* **Mr. Vishnu Painuli** took over as Dean of Activities from **Mr. Oswald Das**, who has sought greener pastures.
- \* **Lt. Col. Sandhu** has joined Welham Boys' as Bursar.
- \* **Mr. Arun Sharma** has taken over as the Head of the Department of Sports.

We wish them all happiness at their new offices.

- \* The following teachers have joined the faculty this term:

**Ms. Rashmi Rawat** will teach English to the Senior School.

**Mr. Prashant Arora** has joined the IT Department as a computer teacher.

**Ms. Madhuri Matthews** will teach Chemistry to the senior classes.

**Ms. Renu Manchanda** has also joined the Science Faculty and will teach Chemistry to the Middle School.

**Ms. Soumi Das** will strengthen the Art Department.

**Ms. Soneyaa Kumar** has joined the Junior School. She will teach English, Geography and Art.

**Ms. Monica Chandel** has also joined the English Faculty and will teach the Middle School.

We wish them all a long and happy stay in school.

- \* A 'Shrub Master' has been acquired by the school and is being used to mow the fields, attached to the new tractor that the school has also purchased.
- \* Some structural changes have taken place during the summer break. The Junior School is now 'decked' with new flooring.
- \* **Arjit Trehan, Dhairya Karwa, Sushant Singh and Sheriff Bajwa** attended the under 14 National Basketball Tournament held in Ludhiana.
- \* The shooting team participated in the IPSC Shooting Championship held at the RIMC from 3rd to 10th August.
- \* A team comprising **Raja Ranjeet Singh, Anshank Rai and Archit Agarwal** represented the school at The Eureka Science Quiz held at Welham Girls' School on 29th July and was placed second.
- \* **Vanshaj Agarwal** and **Awijit Paliwal** represented the school at the 21st Maharaja Yudh Shastri J. B. Rana Memorial Debate held at Cambrian Hall on 28th July.
- \* **Ajitesh Kir** stood second in the Outlook Debate held on 4th August at GRD Academy, Rajpur. He has qualified for the next round to be held in New Delhi in early September.
- \* Class XII had a gala time at their 'socials' in Hopetown Girls' School on 5th August.

## Obituary

We regret to inform all our readers about the sad passing away of **Mr. Jagat Ram** during the vacation. **Mr. Jagat Ram** retired from Welham Boys' in January 2000, as Head Cook, after serving for 48 years.

## W.O.B.N

*Mr. Amitabh Sinha, an ex-Welhamite has contributed a generous sum for a new ambulance. In his letter to Mr. Nikhil Kriplani, President of the Old Boys' Society, he wrote:*

Dear Nikhil,

Please find enclosed a demand draft in favour of "Welham Boys' School" for Rs. 3,00,000/-.

I passed out of school in 1990 and spent some of the most wonderful years at Welham. It will always be my pleasure to be able to give back and try and help the school in whatever manner possible. I see that the Old Boys' Society is doing a lot of constructive work which is really appreciated.

As you recall at the get-together I had committed to Mr. Dev Lahiri that I would try and contribute for the much needed ambulance, although there has been a slight unavoidable delay; I do apologize for the same.

I would request you to kindly forward the demand draft to Mr. Lahiri for the purchase of the ambulance.

I would look forward to actively participating in the society and please keep me informed of any further requirements that might arise in the society or the school and I will try to do my best.

Yours sincerely,

Amitabh Sinha

(Batch of 1990)

## Attention Ex-Welhamites!

*I had the pleasure of attending one of the Old Boys meeting held in late March. It was a delight to meet so many ex-Welhamites but rather disappointing to know of the grievances that many of them carried.*

*For some obscure reason most of them felt that the school had completely changed and nobody was there to welcome them. Moreover, they complained that they had not received an Oliphant for ages. They also talked about the huge gap that exists between the students and the old boys.*

*On the other hand, the students feel that the old boys don't care about what is happening in school once they leave.*

*To put an end to this confusion, we have now started a committee which will bridge the gap between the old boys*



and the students. This will lead to a better understanding between the two.

Also, due to popular demand, souvenirs such as mugs, T-shirts, caps, umbrellas, etc will be brought back into the store.

I request those old boys who do not get The Oliphant to send their addresses to [oliphant@welhamboys.org](mailto:oliphant@welhamboys.org).

Write to us at:

The Editor,  
The Oliphant;  
Welham Boys School,  
5, Circular Road,  
Dehra Dun - 248001.

OR

E-mail us at:  
[oliphant@welhamboys.org](mailto:oliphant@welhamboys.org)

## Excerpts: Interview with Lt. Col. Sandhu

*Lt. Colonel Sandhu (Retd.) has taken over as the Bursar of WBS. Oli had the privilege of speaking to the man who doesn't take sorry as an answer.*

Oli: Sir, where did you complete your schooling from?

**Lt. Col. Sandhu:** I was born in Ludhiana and completed my high school from Ludhiana Model School in 1963. During that time only government colleges were affordable to a common man and thus I graduated from the Government College, Ludhiana in 1967. I wanted to join the army and was sent to Madras for my training at the Officers Training Academy.

Oli: How did you find your experience in the army?

**Lt. Col. Sandhu:** I worked in the army for 34 years. I was also a part of the infantry in the 1971 Indo-Pak War and fought on both the eastern and western fronts. I was also appointed as Lieutenant. on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1968. After that I was a part of the Counter Insurgency Force in Nagaland and Mizoram.

Oli: Did you join any corporate sector or school before coming to Welham?

**Lt. Col. Sandhu:** Yes, I was the Head of Security of the ISPAT textile group in Himachal Pradesh for a year. After that I also worked in Bawa Palsani Institute in Punjab for two years.

Oli: Would you like to share your opinion about the school?

**Lt. Col. Sandhu:** I feel very good about the atmosphere. What I believe is that to achieve something, setting a goal is necessary and what is more important is dedication towards your goal.

## Movie Review: Schindler's List

"Whoever saves one life saves the world entire."

This is the theme on which Steven Spielberg has based this movie depicting the sufferings of the Jews in Germany during the Holocaust.

The Holocaust is the name applied to the State-led systematic persecution and genocide of mainly the Jews and some other minority groups of Europe and North Africa during World War II by Nazi Germany and its collaborators. Adolf Hitler, the main force behind this Holocaust, dreamed of a world ruled by white people he called Aryans. He thought the Jews to be the biggest threat to Aryan supremacy and was therefore determined to eliminate them. The Holocaust is probably one of the most horrific period mankind has ever seen. It was during this time that more than six million, a full forty percent of the world's Jewish population was wiped out by Hitler.

Schindler's List shows this period of the Holocaust with the most graphic scenes ever captured on celluloid. Spielberg has shot the movie beautifully in black and white to reflect the era and tone of the film. This movie shows the horrors of war unlike the other Hollywood productions that focus mainly on action and the heroes of war.

"Schindler's List" is based on the true story of Oskar Schindler (Liam Neeson), a glorious vain and greedy German businessman who became an unlikely humanitarian amidst the barbaric Nazi reign when he felt compelled to turn his factory into a refuge for Jews. Schindler, who managed to save about 1100 Jews from being gassed at the Auschwitz concentration camp, is a testament for the good in all of us. Schindler used Jewish labour to start a factory in occupied Poland. As World War II progressed and the fate of the Jews became more and more clear, Schindler's motivation switched from profit to human sympathy and he was able to save a number of Jews from death in the gas chambers. Neeson and Ralph Fiennes have given stellar performances. A special mention has to be made about Fiennes for his frightening portrayal of Amon Goethe.

I feel the film's primary aim is not to show Schindler's kindness but the horrors of war. People being shot for no reason, hiding in the most awkward places, stripped naked and put together in rooms to be gassed, abused... so much that the viewers will be deeply affected. The film shows the efficiency with which the



Nazis organised the mass extermination. Detailed lists of potential victims were made and meticulous records of the killings were maintained. As the prisoners entered the death camps, they were made to surrender all their belongings to the Nazis, which were then precisely catalogued and tagged and for which receipts were issued. This actually helped to lull the victims into a false sense of security.

In addition, considerable effort was expended to find more efficient means of killing more people. Shooting people by making them stand in a line so that several people could be killed with one bullet and using more mechanical methods beginning with experiments and poisons were some of the ways. The Holocaust was carried out without any reprieve even for children or babies and the victims were often tortured before being killed.

Spielberg has shown this, in a way that perhaps no other director can possibly can. I would recommend that people who like this film should also watch *The Pianist*, a similar kind of film which has been shot beautifully.

- The Welham Boys Film Society

## Life in all its Splendour - Welham

One afternoon I had the pleasure of having lunch with the 'Knights of the High Table', and during the course of our conversation Ajitesh once again asked me to write for The Oliphant. I also felt that I owe a lot to this newsletter more so since it was going to be my last article for it.

So, here I am penning my thoughts for you all on 'Life in all its Splendour', which in one word is 'Welham'.

At the time when I joined this school in 1986 little did I realize that I would be spending over two decades here; time has just flown past. Now, when I reflect on those years I can clearly visualize a succession of happenings which have been such an integral part of my life. I grew along with Welham in my teaching career, the school and I have imbibed the best of each other. I have seen this institution adding on the most modern and progressive image under a dynamic visionary Late Mr. Surendra Kandhari, now being carried forward by Mr. Dev Lahiri.

The ideals and standards set by him were of a high degree of commitment and involvement by the entire Welham Community.

Each year was a challenge for me as it required working with innovative ideas, creating a system of teaching which was a co-lateral connection to the syllabi. Believe me, it was not easy but dynamic personalities such as Mrs. Devendra, Mrs. Deshpande, Mr. J.K. Sharma, Mr. & Mrs. T.D. Raina, Miss Chopra and Mr. J. Gosain, each one a pioneer in his or her own field, guided me with their experience and wisdom. They all had a 'no-compromise' yardstick for academics. They were the humane pillars of the school and shall always be remembered most fondly by me.

I have seen twenty generations of Welhamites walk out of the portals of this wondrous institution as gentlemen and whenever I meet them and talk to them, it gives me great pleasure and honour to know that somewhere down the line I have touched upon their lives and been a part of the formative years of their development.

The 'Old Boys' dinner is one event which I will always cherish as this is one occasion which makes me feel very special, with the Ex-Welhamites making an effort to come and meet us all. I take this opportunity to thank all my students for the honour that they all bestowed upon me last year as recognition of my unending service and involvement with this institution. An interesting part of the school routine which I looked forward to was the meals because it was at this time that my interaction with the boys was that of an elder and a tutor. Right from the PH (Principal House) days till now I have witnessed and listened to the thought process of the young minds – each one having his own dreams and aspirations, goals to keep and promises to fulfill. It is not always that life offers you your wishes on a silver platter. There are disappointments and failures too. I have seen these young men going through the ups and downs and overcoming them, all thanks to the training of this institution to lift their head up high with pride and accept life as it comes with full confidence. This is a merit which is imbibed not just by academic excellence but by encountering and enduring life in this school.

It is hard to believe that I am leaving Welham but then this is what life is all about – change. Being a compulsive optimist I never look back and always accept the fresh challenges, trials and tribulations that life offers. Believe me it does a lot of good to enlarge one's scope of understanding life and living.

With this I wish the entire Welham Family the very best of luck in all its endeavours and also a big God Bless.

- Mimi Bajpai



## God, the Just

It was that fleshless thing  
Which did not have a liver;  
It even made me, the king.  
For the first time in my life shiver...

What was it?  
I don't know yet;  
It gave me a fit,  
It made me fret!

I had seen it in my room  
Where it silently sat;  
I knew it was my doom'  
'cause I couldn't run as I was fat!  
It stood up and groped its way,  
Then I saw its hollow eyes;  
It was my last day  
I was full of my ultimate sighs...

I recall all the bad deeds  
That I carried out...

Now, of people I was in need  
And for help, I had to shout.

I prepared my heavy voice  
And called out for help;  
Outside there was a lot of noise,  
Thus, I didn't even hear my dog's yelp!

Then, I beckoned to the last place I could:  
To the house of God;  
He would help me if He should  
Which I doubt as I'm a big fraud...

With my watering, fearful eyes,  
I saw a dagger in its hands;  
To no one could I even say my byes,  
I could only fearfully stand...

I wish I could see my son  
Just one last time  
As my life was now done  
And his sight could ease my mind...

The I felt that sharp dagger  
Being thrust into my heart;  
I was forced to stagger,  
With the world, my ways I part.

To that thing I tried to ask  
Who the hell was he?  
Then the thing removed its mask  
And I had to gasp at those eyes staring at me...

It was the father of that lad  
Whom I had got banged;  
People had called me mad  
As I had got him hanged!

God is so just;  
Don't you think so?  
I'm leaving as I must  
To hell, I hereby go...

- Jaskunwar Kohli  
VII-C

## Round Square Section Experiences Down Under

Before I begin to share my wonderful experiences while I was in Alice Springs, Australia, I would like to thank Mr. Dev Lahiri who actually made this trip possible for me. This trip not only gave me the opportunity to learn so much but also gave me the chance to introspect; and I owe this to Sir. I would also like to thank my colleague and friend Mr. Painuli for the wholehearted support and help he rendered to me in arranging this trip.

St. Phillips College where I stayed is one of the most prestigious institutions in Alice Springs. It has approximately 600 students and only 50 boarders. The staff consists of about 70 members. The ambience of the school is breath taking. In fact, Alice Springs itself is awesome to behold. It's a perfect outback!

I was overwhelmed by the way the entire staff of St. Phillips helped me and made me feel absolutely comfortable. My room was beautifully done up and the fridge was very well stocked!!! I couldn't have wished for more!

This trip was undoubtedly a complete eye opener for me. It gave me a good insight into our own strengths and weaknesses. From the time I stepped into St. Phillips I think all I did was to "Observe and Absorb" as much as I could.



Smiles down under!



I was highly impressed with the level at which they pursue their co-curricular activities. The students actually excelled in the various hobbies or interests they opted for. The nice part was that I never got the feeling that they were pursuing their varied interests at the cost of their academic performance. This was really commendable!

I made it a point to consciously make a note of many techniques of teaching which would enrich my teaching as well. To cite one example.... The students are encouraged to learn as much as possible practically. The students of Financial Studies were encouraged to invest in stocks and shares and in the process they learnt more about how the stock market works than they would from a mere explanation, from a book.

I realized the importance of making a class really alive and interesting. There was always a conscious effort on the part of the teacher to make any lesson come alive from the book and be made as applicable and relevant to real life as possible.

One thing I would count as a major strength and a very positive point in our Indian classroom is the adherence to class discipline, which is lacking almost completely abroad. It took me some time to tune in to the idea of a class where the students can move in or out at their own whim and fancy and a teacher should never raise his voice!! As I said earlier, this experience brought home to me our strengths and potential as teachers. I realized that we teachers here in India get the most ideal kind of classroom attention and discipline to teach in. We have enough freedom to exercise our authority as teachers over our class and therefore we have to capitalize on this to achieve the same level of excellence which the teachers abroad manage to achieve in a very "relaxed" or I should say in "disciplined classroom environment".

I feel excited about incorporating a lot of good things that I learnt there into my teaching as well as to make this experience a more enriching one. I guess a change like this really reinforces that 'go' in one and breaks the age old stigmas.

While I was packing my bags and leaving Alice Springs I thanked God for bringing me here and I realized that I was going back a richer man in terms of the memories I had gathered of the wonderful moments spent there!

I know after reading this some of "my dear friends" are going to ask me as to why I have kept quiet

on my experiences "Post Alice springs"!!! (The Sydney and Thailand Sagas) Well keep guessing....

- Joy Arora

## Hey Mate!

This summer has been undoubtedly the best of my life. I got an opportunity to visit St. Philip's College, Alice Springs, Australia as an exchange student for a month and a half.

Writing about the trip, I am reminded of those amazing times that I spent with eight other *exchangeez*, as we were called, three of them being Indians. As it was a cultural exchange, the focus of the entire trip was to learn about the traditions and culture of new people who though looked alike, were different in many aspects. I am glad to say that the faculty and students of St. Philip's helped and taught us everything from their hearts. The Aussies welcomed us with open arms.

There were so many amazing new things I did that it's difficult to jot down the experience on paper. From hot air ballooning with a crash landing to sleeping in non-electrified tents with blood thirsty dingoes all around; from being woken up in the middle of the night to play 'Surprise Saturday night games' to being the only non-supporter of Australia during World Cup matches being surrounded by packs of emotionally charged violent Aussies; from being the "brainy Asian kid" during physics classes to being the most hopeless case when it came to playing *Footie* and *Gaylack*, everything is just memorable. Interestingly, through all this, we never felt homesick, especially the Indian exchange students. Thanks to Mrs. Khanna and Mr. and Mrs. Veeda, faculty members, Shalini and Ben, students, who got us sumptuous authentic Indian food, yes even 'Butter



Vanshaj with the other Exchange students.



Chicken'. In a country where the staple diet constitutes hot beef with cold beer, this was one major relief.

The amount of freedom and responsibilities that the students had is what every Welhamite dreams of. Though there were no barbed wires or armed guards to 'police' the students or to keep them from breaking bounds, this liberty was well respected by the students. The atmosphere in the classrooms was very light with teachers and students having a very casual sort of relationship. Though education in Australia may be a bit 'chilled out', it is much more practical and devised in a way that enables the students to explore themselves and their talents and abilities.

I am sure most of us remember Mr. Tudor, who visited us not long ago. "He, as the Principal of St. Philip's has done a wonderful job", as told to me by one of the students and after my stay I must say there are no two thoughts about it. He has seen St. Philip's evolve from being a boarding house to the best school of the Northern Territory. A very religious man who made it a point to attend and sing at every Chapel service during the weekends, he has an expertise in playing guitar as well. The way he remembers the minute details of his various Round Square trips to various parts of the world is truly outstanding. He was very warm and even went to the extent of announcing the Board results of the Indian exchange students at the Assembly to inspire his students. Now that was truly remarkable.

Alice Springs may be a very small town situated in the middle of the Australian Outback, but there seemed to be an abundance of everything. With not much nightlife and only one cinema, the way the people feel proud of their city is truly inspiring. Alice Springs has 'her' own unique customs and festivals which are not celebrated anywhere outside the Territory like The Bungtail Muster that celebrates the cattle rearers and farmers and The Finke which is a unique dirt race.

All in all, it was an experience of a lifetime. It was a pity though that I could not stay on for what is told to me was the crème de la crème of the exchange programme, The Year 11 Leadership Course. But now the trip just remains a cherished memory and will stay on to be so.

Vanshaj Agarwal  
XI-H

## Taste of the South

"Just as the wave cannot exist for itself, but must always participate in the swell of the ocean so we can never experience life by ourselves but must always share

the experience of life that takes place around us."

A year ago, the world shook as the 'killer waves' devastated the lives of many. Families were broken and houses snatched away in front of their own eyes. The world got together to help those who had lost a reason to continue living.

The Round Square regional service project this year was held at Muzzukhurai, Tamil Nadu. The task was to build a fish-market with ten counters at the backwater shores. It was the month of June and we had not quite realised that we would be working under the scorching heat of the South. Life, as it was there, was unknown to us. It looked a different country altogether.

We had all the odds against us - the heat, the language, the food just to name a few. But as the youth of this country we realised that we had some responsibilities to fulfil. Working as labourers for a fortnight did not matter much as we were working for a



Construction work in progress

good cause. We were amazed to see the undying spirit of the people who had lost everything due to the Tsunami. But yet they smiled and never gave up HOPING.

"We expect to pass through life but once. If therefore there can be kindness we can show, as any good thing we can do to a fellow being, let us do it now, and do not defer or neglect it, as we shall not pass this way again."

- Kshitij Goyal  
XI - Sc.

## Kashmir Visit

This year, a number of devastating calamities took place including the major earthquake, which shook three countries namely India, Pakistan and Afghanistan. As



Jammu & Kashmir had been the worst hit area, Welham Boys School sent a delegation to the "Paradise on Earth" to donate the money which the students had collected during the Diwali break.

A group of eight boys escorted by Mr. Painuli and Mr. Shridhar reached Srinagar on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, where we were received by Brig. N.S. Jamwal who arranged for our stay there.

We went straight to the residence of Mr. Goswami (Secretary to the Chief Minister of J&K) to present a cheque of three lakh rupees. At the Secretary's house, we were confronted by a couple of press reporters who interviewed us. After the ceremony, the secretary asked us all to have lunch at his house. It was typical Kashmiri food laid out for us in the lawn. After all this, we headed for the 'base camp' where we were staying.



Mr. Shridhar handing over the cheque to Mr. Goswami

During our visit to Kashmir, we experienced the beautiful valleys and meadows of Gulmarg. We also went to places such as Pehalgam and Chandanwani. We came across some snow in Chandanwani where we did some sledging as well. It is at this place that the famed Amarnath Yatra begins.

We were fortunate to be able to attend a couple of parties held in the Officer's Mess where we got a chance to interact with the young officers. Brig. N.S. Jamwal also arranged some 'shooting' for us. We got an opportunity to fire a Light Machine Gun (LMG) and an AK-47 which are the most common weapons used by the Indian Army.

There was a farewell party organised for all of us the night before we left where we really enjoyed ourselves. We returned to Welham with fond memories

of Kashmir, its people and of course the food!

- Varun

Shamsher

## Know Thyself

"They will think I am a villager if I talk in Hindi with them!"

"What will people think if I start picking up the litter lying on the path?"

If thoughts like these often bother you, then congratulations... you are part of the herd, the herd of normal and dignified human beings.

Normal... but not independent in thought! Unknowingly we tend to do things the way others expect us to. People often wonder, if what they are doing is correct according to people around them.

Standing in a public place we feel more concerned about our clothes, hairstyle and the expression on our face that would suit our surroundings rather than being concerned with what we really are!

Imagine that you are standing at a bus stop and have been waiting for a bus for two hours. The next thing that could come into your mind would be, "Wouldn't it feel awkward standing there for such a long time. People would think that I am mad!" Thus it can be said that many human beings often spend most of their life living for others, just for the sake of not being considered awkward.

People may point out that consciousness in public is just about being a gentleman and following etiquette. But by doing so, we create an artificial barrier for ourselves that limits our power to explore and look beyond the horizon of another person's mind. It does not let us be happy as we are restrained inhibitions. Restraint and consciousness can also sometimes hinder progress and learning. Students in many religious schools just learn the verses of their holy book and nothing else, because they fear that their community would abandon them if they did otherwise!

Therefore, learning to be independent of public opinion and the ability not to feel ashamed of what we are doing is very important towards achieving happiness.

Learn to love yourself, your dreams, your emotions, your character, your decisions and only then will you be all yours.

- Sudipt Juneja

XI - C





## Founder's Day Supplement

### The Chairman's Speech

Distinguished Chief Guest Sir Mark Tully, fellow Members of the Board, Honoured Guests, Parents, the Principal and the Faculty, all non-teaching members of the staff and subordinate staff, finally and most importantly the students of the School and all Old Students.

I am indeed grateful to Sir Mark Tully for having so kindly accepted my invitation to be the Chief Guest on this very important day in the life of our School. Our Chief Guest is a many-faceted person and the Principal has already spoken about him. Once again, on behalf of the School, I welcome you, Sir, as our Chief Guest at this Founder's Day, which is both an honour and a privilege for us. All our students can certainly aspire to emulate your example by striving to the limits of their capability so that they too can excel in whatever profession they choose. This is, in fact, what any good school tries to imbibe in its students.

When Miss Oliphant founded this School, she must have had visions of generations of young Indians who would pass out of its portals eventually to become honest and capable citizens in a vast country where people with good leadership qualities will always be in high demand. This is what the School is trying to do and, to that extent, our endeavours will never diminish. When it comes to responsibility and fulfilling one's commitments, let me remind you we can either make ourselves miserable or we can make ourselves strong; either way, the amount of work done is the same.

Two years ago, I referred to a movement that I still want to call, "The Great Welham Initiative". At that time, our priorities were more basic and we did strengthen the staff and improve discipline. In addition, we worked on improving the campus and its facilities. Three years ago the Vice Principal, Mr Prabir Basu, bemoaned the lack of attractive photographic possibilities on our Campus. With the improvements that we have made, cleaning up, painting, repairing and with planned horticulture, now photographic imagination can certainly find expression. During the past year we have also worked on our infrastructure, toilets, a Staff Room, improved pathways, water supply, and a host of other improvements that have made for a better life. Next year we will introduce a smarter uniform for both the Summer and the Winter without losing the colour theme that is our legacy from the Founder.

This all round initiative continues as a force and in some ways has become more so. Now, as a part of our ongoing initiatives, the thrust of our efforts will be on relentlessly pushing for higher academic standards. We have certain plans, some of which are already implemented and others in the part of the strategy to ensure that when our students leave the

they will do so with better marks. Great amount of perseverance and perspiration will go into this effort, for if we are to maintain ourselves as a leading educational institution, then in this effort we cannot fail. In a lighter vein "Hard work spotlights the character of people; some take the challenge and roll up their sleeves, some shirk and turn up their noses, and some don't turn up at all." So, here we teach Welhamites to prepare for an honest day's work.

In an effort to improve teaching standards, during the last year, we have added many new and talented members to our already solid corpus of the School's Faculty. An additional measure will focus on admissions. As against only the 3rd Standard, admissions of students will in future be streamlined over 3 years so that the School can adjust the new intake allowing a wider spectrum on educational talents.

Even at the level of our Board, we now have the benefit of additional inputs through capable members whom we have recruited. Mr S N Talukdar is a former Member of the Board and is well known for his extensive technical knowledge and leadership qualities. Ms Prema Sagar has excellent experience in her chosen profession and she heads India's leading Public Relations Organisation. Unfortunately Prema had to cancel her trip at the last moment due to compelling family commitments. Mr Anil Ghosal is the Founder of the Hopetown Girls' School and has many areas in which he can guide us in our common objectives. Mr Anil Ghosal is the Founder of the Hopetown Girls' School and has many areas in which he can guide us in our common objectives. Mr Anil Ghosal is the Founder of the Hopetown Girls' School and has many areas in which he can guide us in our common objectives.

Ms Alka Sharma is the new Parent Representative on the Board and her fearless and indomitable spirit was very valuable to the School when it passed through times of difficulty. These new people on the Board strengthen and complement those others who already contribute the benefit of their knowledge and advice. I am, therefore, confident that we will continue to expand and harness our resources more effectively for the benefit of the School and its students, who are the ultimate beneficiaries. We also take this opportunity to request parents and staff to co-operate with the School in the difficult task of bringing up good citizens. There are many distractions and peer pressures that tend to mislead our wards. The School cannot compromise in this regard and, therefore, it is best that we resist temptation and only concentrate on the betterment of our students. The School will not take the path of compromise between the enforcement of discipline and the need to be child friendly. In all this we cannot succeed without the unflinching support of parents.

There is one other important area where it is pertinent to clarify and declare our path and direction. This School will remain a secular institution, which allows every child the freedom of his own belief but, at the same time, the School will itself have a curriculum that is non-denominational. The School timetable and facilities will



not encourage any deviations from this non-denominational timetable. We do realize that some parents may wish the observance of certain ceremonies and rituals, but these cannot be a part of the programme on the Campus. Parents who enroll students in this School should do so with the prior knowledge and agreement that the School will observe a non-denominational ambience. Here also, the understanding of all is sought for as a Boarding School in any case we cannot allow the so many freedoms that are possible when students are merely day-scholars as in some other institutions.

During the last year, we lost Colonel D P Puri, the oldest serving Trustee on our Board. He was a resolute personality with the courage of his convictions. He lived in good health and mental faculty till the end. We will miss him at our Board meetings. We pray that his soul rests in peace.

I also take this opportunity to acknowledge the loyalty of the majority of our non-teaching senior and subordinate staff who continue to put in sincere and loyal work for the benefit of the students and this campus. This is supplemented by the good leadership from the Principal, Mr Dev Lahiri, and the excellent teamwork he gets from the Faculty of Teachers. Finally, of course, I must thank all my fellow Members on the Board. It is with this all-round co-operation that we are enabled to serve the School and, therefore, in maintaining the ideals of the Founder, Miss Oliphant.

## The Chief Guest speaks...

My record at school was not impressive so I always have sympathy for children who are not high-flyers. I believe there should be a place in schools and indeed in society for everyone whatever their talents, and we do all have talents if they are allowed to develop. The modern exam culture where children are judged by their marks in exams, and schools by their successes in getting high marks for their pupils, is the culprit. If there are to be winners there have to be losers in the exam-rat-race, but those losers undoubtedly have a great deal to contribute to society. I was recently told by the Master of a Cambridge College that it wasn't the 'swots' who usually did best in life after leaving University but the more rounded young men and women who were not "toppers" in exams.

Of course academically gifted children should be encouraged to develop their talent and all children should be helped to get as much as possible out of their class rooms. But I think many schools today put such a premium on academic achievement that children come to believe it is the only achievement to be prized. That leaves them with an exaggerated view of the role of reason - the mistaken belief that reason is able to provide certain and final answers to all the questions which life throws up. This is contrary to the great Indian tradition of discussion and argument, which is based on the philosophy that there are no final answers, no absolute certainties. It's a tradition described in the Nobel Laureate economist and philosopher Amartya Sen's recent book, *The Argumentative Indian*. Reason in that Indian tradition has to be balanced by other capabilities we have. For instance instinct can often prove a surer guide than reason, and the spread of Yoga internationally shows that people of many different races and creeds find it a way to experience the ultimate being. That experience does not depend on reason, nor can it be assessed by reason alone, although some neurologists try to do so.

Again I am not saying that reason is unimportant. It is hugely important, but our attitude to reason has to be balanced, we have to realise its limitations as well as its potential. This brings me to another Indian tradition I have come to admire and have found helpful in my

own life - the tradition of the middle way. It involves ensuring that we do not over-value, or indeed under-value, anything in our personal lives and in the lives of our nations. But this middle way isn't like a highway laid out for us so that all we have to do is drive along it and make sure we don't swerve off the edge. It's a road we have to be continuously looking for, a road on which there is always a yellow traffic light, not saying stop nor saying charge ahead, but saying 'proceed with caution', ensuring all the time that you are not losing your balance. So the middle way is really more like a tight-rope act in a circus than a highway. The artist has to be concentrating all the time on balance otherwise he or she will fall off.

I have already given you the example of reason to show the need for balance. Balance has to be maintained between reason, emotion, instinct, and the ability to experience the transcendental. Balance is also particularly relevant in two areas of India's public life today. The first is India's economic development. In my life time the world has swung from putting all its eggs in socialism's basket to a blind belief in the Market. Socialism produced the disastrous Licence Permit Raj in India which tied the country up in Red Tape. Market Economics are in danger of producing two Indias - a prosperous middle class India and a poor underprivileged India with no opportunities for taking part in the development process or benefiting from it. There has to be a balance between market forces and government activities to ensure that wealth doesn't just drip down but grows from the bottom upwards too.

The second area of India's public life where balance is crucial is its religious life. At present we are witnessing a shouting match between secularists, who have no place for religion, and advocates of an extreme form of Hinduism. Both, contrary to India's traditional suspicion of certainty, believe they are absolutely right. And here I would stress that in my view the secularists can be just as fundamentalist as the religious people. But it would be unbalanced to say that this means we shouldn't have anything to do with secularism or with religion. It is very important that India maintains its secular tradition of not favouring any religion in public life but it is equally important that all religious people should feel their faith is respected. It is, as I said, a question of balance. This religious balance is part of India's own tradition, a tradition which has allowed all the great religions of the world to find a home here and to live for the most part peacefully side by side.

I once wrote a book called 'No Full Stops in India' in which I talked of a colonial hangover which has left Indians all too often unbalanced in their attitude to their own culture and to other cultures, fascinated by 'foreign' and dismissive of Indian. I was accused by many journalists of being unbalanced myself and advocating a return to some Golden Age which perhaps never existed and could certainly not exist in today's conditions. One of those journalists was the renowned television inquisitor, Karan Thapar. I denied having a vision of India returning to a golden age and I asked Karan 'Do you want a Nakli (imitation) America or an asli Bharat (genuine India)?' And that I think is still a question which needs to be asked today. Does India want to forget its ancient tradition of balance and be swept off its feet by modern materialism and its companion consumerism which are the ideologies of the market? Do Indians want to desert all their ancient faiths and worship celebrities instead? The twentieth century British poet, Kathleen Raine, believed it was not just Indians who needed to learn from asli Bharat. She once said 'Western Civilization, notwithstanding its impressive attainments in material science, has not significantly impaired the great edifice of India's spiritual civilization. Neither has India greatly changed the Western mind-set



which seems consistently incapable of imagining any ground of reality other than so called matter. Perhaps a civilization so triumphantly successful in its material achievements saw no reason to look beyond them. Have we now advanced to a point where we are ready to learn? That's the question many years in India have taught me needs to be answered in the affirmative not just by the West, but by India too.

## The Principal's Address

Our distinguished Chief guest, Sir Mark Tully, honorable members of the Board of Governors, our dear guests, members of the Welham Boys community.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 69th Founder's Day celebration of this school.

It is a great privilege to have with us today, Sir Mark Tully, who as we all know, is a journalist, scholar, and author of international repute. It is only in the fitness of things that at a time when the Welham Boys School is striving to establish itself as a center of excellence, that someone of Sir Mark's eminence should grace our Founder's Day celebrations.

Sir Mark has his roots in India, having spent a part of his early days at New School, Darjeeling. He then went on to study at some of the most distinguished institutions in the UK, and indeed in the world. Amongst them are Marlborough College and Trinity Hall Cambridge from where he finished with a Masters in History and Theology. Having done a stint in the National Service in the Royal Dragoons, Sir Mark moved on to what was to prove to be the love of his lifetime - the BBC. He has distinguished himself in various capacities in that organization - as Personnel Officer, Head of Hindi Service, Chief Commentator South Asia, and South Asia Correspondent. I recall a time when I was at university, and BBC and Sir Mark became synonymous. At St Stephen's we had a little chai shop run by old Sukhiya (a legend in his own right). Sukhiya was an inveterate fan of the then ubiquitous transistor radio. I remember asking Sukhiya one day, "BBC sunte ho?" And Sukhiya replied, 'BBC/ VBC na janat ho, Tully sahib ko zaroor sunat hain!'

Sir Mark has been a free lance writer and broadcaster since 1994. He is also a distinguished author with many books such as 'Amritsar-Mrs Gandhi's last battle!', 'Raj to Rajiv', 'No full stops in India', 'India In Slow Motion', and many others to his credit. He is Hon Fellow of Trinity Hall, Cambridge and holds honorary Doctorates from the Universities of Strathclyde, London, and Bradford. He was awarded the Bafta Dimbleby Award in 1985, and the OBE in the same year.

But what really sets Sir Mark apart is his genuine love for India, his empathy for the country and his wonderful understanding of its nuances and idiosyncrasies. It was truly in the fitness of things therefore that the government of India thought it appropriate to award him the Padamshree in 1992 and the Padambhusan in 2004. It is indeed a privilege, Sir, to have you with us today and we are really and truly grateful.

It is also my privilege, ladies and gentlemen, to introduce to you to our Board of Governors. Our Chairman, Mr Darshan Singh, is a passionate Ex Welhamite and heads a gigantic (though he claims it is modest), corporate enterprise called Pan India. General Ranbir Bakshi of course needs no introduction. A distinguished soldier and a pillar of Dehra Dun, he is at 94 the youngest at heart and spirit amongst all of us here. Moreover, he enjoys at the singular privilege of having escorted, to the first Founder's Day celebrations of Welham Boys School on 2nd December 1938, the then Chief Guest, Lady Kingsley, wife of the Comdt of the IMA, Brig Kingsley. Mr Pushpinder Malia an ex Welham

boy is no stranger to most of us. Mrs Jyotsna Brar, Principal of Welham Girls School and a great friend and well wisher of Welham Boys is unfortunately not able to be with us today. I would like to welcome on Board Mrs Alka Sharma, the representative of the parents who always makes herself available when the school requires her, Mr S N Talukdar who retired as one of the senior most scientists at the ONGC and one of the country's leading geologists, is a fellow of the Geological Society of London, and has won a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association of Petroleum Geologists, Mr Kamal Sehgal, again a prominent Dehra Dun citizen who runs one of the most successful girls schools in the valley - Hopetown. I would like to convey apologies on behalf of our Chairman Emeritus Mr Gulab Ramchandani, who has had other pressing commitments that have kept him away this evening. Three other members of our Board, Dr Anil Wilson, Principal of St. Stephens College, Mr Nasir Munjee Chairman of the Development Credit Bank, Mrs Prema Sagar, Principal and founder of Genesis Public Relations, are also unable to attend and have asked me to convey their apologies.

It is a great personal privilege for me to have in our midst the man who inspired me to be a school teacher, Mr S.R. Das, former Headmaster of The Doon School, and one of the country's leading educationists. Thank you, Sir.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Board for the unstinting support, encouragement and help that I have received from them during the course of the year.

Ladies and gentlemen, you have with you a detailed copy of my Annual Report. I would like to take this opportunity just to bring out some of the highlights, and that too with the view to share with you the direction in which the school has been moving, a point on which I shall elaborate later.

In the ISC examination 37 candidates were sent up of whom 8 finished in the 80-89 % category, 11 in the 70 to 79 % category, 13 in the 60-69 % and 5 in 50-59 % and there were no casualties.

In the ISCE examination we had a total of 48 candidates.. 4 finished in the 90 + category, 13 in 80-89 %, 15 in 70-79%, 15 in 60-69%, and there was one casualty.

Our results have shown some improvement, but nowhere near the kind of targets we have set for ourselves. Improving the academic performance, and more importantly, enhancing the study culture has become a huge thrust area. All the academic Departments have been revamped and restructured, curriculum development in order to ensure continuity between Junior, Middle, and Senior school has become a primary concern, more study time has been incorporated into the timetable, a thoroughly structured remedial programme for the weaker students has been implemented, there is a full time resource person to help students with learning disabilities and disseminate study skills. There is a great emphasis on encouraging research and reference skills through an ongoing programme of presentations prepared by the boys on a regular basis. There are regular workshops/ seminars, for teachers to upgrade their knowledge and skills, field trips and guest speakers have become an integral part of the curriculum.

Discipline, as you know has been tightened up considerably. I do not want to go into the details, but I think I can say with great pride that the boys of the school today have taken it upon themselves to create an environment in which there is no fear and no violation of the code of conduct that we as a school have decided to observe. We also have an extremely vibrant adolescent education programme in the middle school to help our young men to deal with the pressures of growing up. Of course, the addition of some girls on our rolls has had a greatly civilizing influence, not to mention a spate of broken hearts!



We have had our share of successes and failures on the playing field as well. We were winners in the District Athletic Championship in the under 14 category, winners of the Avtar Memorial Road Race, and Manishek Gupta, Nikhil Aggarwal and Vishal Kumar were selected to represent Uttaranchal in the North Zone Athletic Championship. We hosted several prestigious sporting events including the Jubilee Basketball tournament and the Indo-Australian Hockey tie. We were winners of the mixed five basketball championships and Gaganjyot Juneja and Dhairya Karwa represented Uttaranchal in the Nationals, as did Shushant Singh, Akash Godara and Sudipt Juneja. Shushant Singh, in fact, captained the Uttaranchal State team.

We were placed third in the IPSC Shooting championship and Uttaranchal State championships. Navandeep Matta did us proud by winning two golds and one bronze in the Invitational shooting championships and several gold and bronzes in various state and National championships during the year.

Once again it is a matter of great pride to say that today with the addition of three new sports - the three R's - Rifle shooting, Riding and Roller skating, our school is second to none in terms of sporting facilities offered. We also have a state-of-the-art gymnasium, which, I am glad to say, is being well used by the staff as well. This may or may not have something to do with the fact that we have a truly Co-ed faculty! As you can see, Sir Mark, Welham is not in slow motion, and nor are we letting any full stops or commas get in the way!

It is very easy for a school, particularly on its Founder's Day, to become very inward-looking and forget the larger picture of which we are a part. Ladies and gentlemen, I will seek your permission, therefore, to reflect for a moment on the role of WBS in the larger context of education of this country, and thereby, to take a long hard look at the direction in which we are heading.

I can think of no better starting point for this introspective exercise than a recent article in the Hindu by Mr Krishna Kumar the Chief of NCERT. I quote. "Nagesh Kunoor's film Iqbal poses a formidable challenge to school reformers. It tells the story of an Andhra farmer's son who wants to become a cricketer. He is bright but disabled; he can neither hear nor speak. Iqbal's mother appreciates his aspiration and encourages him, but the father is deeply cynical. As the story unfolds, Iqbal's younger sister provides the key support he needs as he struggles to reach his goal, the only professional help being an alcoholic teacher who could not survive the corruption entrenched in cricket. Iqbal's aspiration to be a cricketer, could not be possibly fulfilled had he remained at school. Not just our schools, even the best of our colleges are committed to the nineteenth century ideal of an all rounder. Eccentric devotion to a single pursuit, so necessary to achieve excellence is just not accepted. Had Iqbal remained at school he would have been forced to get through class 12 with PCM, PCB or Commerce and it is not hard to imagine what his fate would have been". (unquote)

Herein lies the fundamental challenge before us as parents and educators. Are we willing to let our children discover for themselves what their talents are and let them pursue their search for excellence in these areas? Are we willing to 'Let go'? Because it is only if we do that can we expect our children to assume meaningful roles in our society. That is why, here at Welham, we have tried to introduce a multiplicity of subject choices - from Maths to Music, from Psychology to Art to Physical Education. That is why we are offering such a huge range of activities - from batik to horse riding, from chess to astronomy, from computer assembly to cooking and gardening. Somewhere along the line we hope that every child will find his niche and in performing that

task to excellence will be able to contribute to the society in which he lives - either as a leader or as a team player.

And this is not an easy battle because "our system hates eccentricity, ignores pre-disposition, and punishes single minded devotion to a particular subject at the expense of others. Education and exams seem a burden to so many precisely because everyone is assumed to be alike. The fact that many of our children excel despite the rigidity of our system encourages the popular argument that our system has rigour".

But the battle must go on - and for two very good reasons. One is that life-skills such as problem solving, decision making, good manners, communication and inter-personal skills are being highly valued in the job market place of India's rapidly globalizing economy. It is a tribute to the founders of schools such as Welham and Doon that they had the sagacity to perceive this need long before the term globalization had seen the light of day. And in providing for our students to be effective and important members of bodies such as the Disciplinary and School Committee, by letting them use the Assembly as a platform on a daily basis to disseminate a useful message, by encouraging debate and dissent on various issues, we are constantly encouraging and fostering the growth of these life skills. It is after all, the excellence of an average person that gives the industrial economy its edge.

And the second reason why this battle must go on is an equally important one. The schools such as ours do not see themselves as agents of change and reform, as pro-active components of the society in which we live. Then we are, I am sorry to say, hard put to justify our existence. This is why, we, as a school, have taken on a crusade against the evil of substance abuse, with seminars, workshops and street theater. Vishal Chaudhary of class 12 and his associates have indeed produced an extremely enlightening feature film on this subject. We have successfully adopted a Municipal school, and are doing sterling work with the mentally and physically challenged at Karuna Vihar, Raphael and Cheshire Home.

One of the most heartwarming sights in the world is to see our boys forge such wonderful relationships with their less fortunate counterparts. Last night you had occasion to see the fruits of their endeavour on the stage. On the 15th of August the whole school dedicates itself to service to the support staff, providing them with a morning full of entertainment and fun and serving them lunch. It is no co-incidence that the Governor thought it fit to assign us the role of being the coordinating agency for fund raising for Tsunami relief. Even as I speak to you our children are engaged in a massive fund raising drive for the victims of the J&K earthquake. Our boys have participated in Round Square Projects in Nagapattinam and in Chakrata where indeed we spearheaded the effort. It is in this spirit that we have dedicated our entire exhibition to the theme 'Dehra Dun'.

I would like to think that we are proud of being Welhamites not because we enjoy some peculiar nostalgia when we walk through its portals, not because we suffer from some narcissistic obsession about that identity, but because we are able to reach out and make a difference.

Before I end I can only say that our achievements, if any have been made possible because of the unstinting effort of the entire Welham Boys Community- The BOG, the staff (faculty, administrative and support) and of course the students who with their enthusiasm and joi-d'verve, make our lives worthwhile. I consider myself fortunate to have such a wonderful support system around me. And it is my considered belief that it is the dedication, loyalty and enterprise of this support group that will make, and is making, Welham a name to reckon with.

Thank you.



## The Ambiguity of Music

In the course of my holidays, I had the good fortune to possess a Led Zeppelin double CD. Besides the inimitable guitar solos of the legendary Jimmy Page, I was struck by the lyrical genius as reflected in 'Stairway to Heaven'.

I discovered that, like Led Zeppelin, many other great musicians in the history of music had very misleading lyrics veiled in a manner which gave the impression of a simple love song. Lucy in the Sky of Diamonds by The Beatles is a song about an LSD trip. One song that inspired me in such a manner that no other song could was 'Stairway to Heaven'. It evoked my admiration to such a great extent that I couldn't help talking about it for days. I carried out my own little 'research' on the 'hidden meaning' of the song and I discovered it was one that was expanding on the principles of the aesthesis, wrapped in a veil which leads the listener to believe it is a song to the glory of God. It is rumoured that the song when played backwards has satanic messages in it, so an anti-God association was stamped on the song. Robert Plant believes that there is no such thing as a 'stairway to heaven', that all the theories regarding salvation and nirvana are just the false blabbering of so called saintly men. He talks a number of times about a lady 'buying' a stairway to heaven, indicating how this certain 'stairway to heaven' is popular all over and how the rich buy the best 'stairway to heaven'. His theories may not be true, but one can't help but admire the creativity as expressed in his lyrics. A certain verse mesmerized me and I would like to share it with the readers.

'And it's whispered that soon,  
If we all fall the tune,  
He piper will lead us to reason.'

Robert Plant focuses on a mass of humans as a confused group who are contemplating the direction of an enchanted 'stairway to heaven' as immortalized in folklore, poetry etc. A 'piper' entraps them in his saint-like philosophical voice (tune) and leads them like rats to their deaths, but the humans are not aware of this.

'And a new day will dawn  
For those who start long  
And the forest will echo with laughter.'

He goes into the minds of the humans who are led by the time of the piper. In their minds, they are ecstatic over the 'triumph' and they believe they are on the path. The forest as mentioned, echoes with laughter at their celebration, because they believe they have found

the 'Stairway to Heaven', according to Robert Plant they have essentially been even more misled by the 'piper'.

Of course, I may be wrong!

- Adhiraj Sen  
IX - B

## Cardiovascular Training

Aerobic activities help to strengthen the heart, increase lung capacity and burn "FAT" calories. Vary your aerobics activity. Cross training gives your mind and body something to continue to work at. Less chance of boredom when you have more choices of activities to do.

How often and how long? If you are just trying to maintain your fitness level and keep condition, do aerobic activity at least 3 times a week. If you want a change in your fitness level, your aerobic activity needs to be no less than 4 times a week and as much as 6 times a week. Aerobic activity can be broken up into periods throughout the day, but you need to have at least 20 minutes of continuous cardiovascular work.

Vary your intensity level. Using a "rate of perceived exertion" scale of 1-10 learn to listen to your body and then believe it and challenge it from time to time. The "1" is the rate at which you are at complete rest. The "10" is the rate at which you are breathless. In an aerobic activity you will typically be between 5-8 on the scale. It is all right and actually recommended to do interval training to where you reach between the 8-10 on the same scale for short bursts. We call this getting uncomfortable. Many changes can occur when challenging yourself aerobically on 1-2 times a week during your aerobic activities.

### Dietary Plan

1. 20 glasses of water throughout the day.
2. 1 cup of black tea with 3 teaspoons of black pepper powder and half lemon (no sugar or milk) before aerobics.
3. Breakfast- one cup of tea without sugar, 2 slices of brown bread, fresh fruits (no banana or grapes), one large bowl of sprouts.
4. Lunch- 2 rotis, one small bowl of vegetable (no potato), one small bowl of dal, salads.
5. Evening snacks- one cup of tea (no sugar) with lemon and black pepper, fresh fruits (no bananas).
6. Dinner- 1 plain roti, 1 boiled egg, 1 small dal bowl, salads.

- Pushpendra Dabral





## Oliphant Focus

**"Sare Jahaan se achha yeh Hindustan hamaara....."**

*It's the time of the year again when all Indians forget their mutual differences and together sing songs of national integration. It's the only time apart from the India vs. Pakistan cricket match that the whole of India unites on a common stand.*

*It is also the day when one wonders...what if? What if the British had not come? Would India have been a world player? Or for that matter...would there have been any India???*

*It is also the day when bitter diatribes of the British rule are fed into young minds. Pseudo-secularists take this opportunity to declare their heroes and villains of the freedom struggle. How many of us are aware of the benefits of the British rule? How many of us care about the sacrifices made by the people of Mahatma Gandhi and Jinnah's generation?*

*The first task for all of us is to find out what independence really means and how to use it correctly.*

### Return of Animal Farm (desi style)

Lately, there had been much silent activity on Animal Farm. Different groups which had formed over the past few days were seen huddled around here and there, hushing each other the moment another approached. The horses, Rani and Chetak, along with Prithvi the donkey could be seen hanging around near the barn. The goats and the sheep, led by Salim, were seen regularly, immersed in heavy discussion out on the grazing pastures. Being an ageing and wise goat, Salim had naturally earned his comrades' respect. And such was the scene all over Animal Farm.

The animals were upset; they were angry; they had suffered too much. The pigs had done enough. None of the animals could live under the selfish and inconsiderate pigs anymore. Led by Warren Pastings, the prize hog; these pigs had gone against everything promised in the Beginning.

It all began when Pastings had proclaimed himself Pig of all Animal Farm. At first, this didn't really bother the rest of the animals, as long as they got their food and their pile of hay to sleep on. But soon matters began to get worse.

Sayeera's three puppies, who Pastings had stolen when she had just whelped, were now strong and sturdy, being used by Pastings to subject a reign of terror upon the other animals. They were the three pillars upon which Pastings based his unjust activities.

Chetak, who was undisputedly the most hardworking animal on the farm was respected by all his comrades. However, Pastings had now begun to take advantage of Chetak's willingness to help and had reduced him to a mere labourer, often even cutting his ration of oats, saying that his work had not been satisfactory.

Moreover the animals had found out from the sparrows, that Pastings had been seen secretly selling off their food for milk and apples for the pigs. It angered the animals greatly to know that what they toiled day and night to grow was being sold to fill the stomachs of the already fat pigs.

While the pigs enjoyed all day eating their mash, drinking man's alcohol, and growing fatter, rounder and pink-er, the other animals on the farm were getting nothing to eat. Such desperate conditions were often causing the animals to quarrel amongst themselves. Matters were beginning to get worse and gradually everyone, even the 'stupid' animals like the sheep had started to realize that the only way to end this was to get rid of the pigs, and to become free of their tyrannical rule.

Pastings had promised the animals in the beginning that plans to build a windmill were underway. This, he had claimed, would help reduce the workload of the animals as all tasks would be mechanically taken care of. At first, the animals were intrigued and excited and gladly offered their support. However, things began to get sneaky when Pastings started carrying off the young able workers on the farm, and locking them up in the old tin shed. He claimed they were helping with the windmill, but not everyone believed him.

Word had got out that inside the old shed, work was going on to build a food processing machine. This would enable Pastings to sell all the food on the farm directly into the market. The animals were now seething with fury. They could take no more of the pigs' injustice, the lies, the deceit; and were almost at a point where their emotions were about to boil over.

Something had to be done. The pigs had to be taken care of.

One fine morning, Boltu, the little porker who claimed to be Pastings's public announcement service, came up to the workers in the shed and informed them of his Highness' decision to sell all the workers for meat; and trade them for newer, more able and efficient humans from the neighbouring farms. The entire Animal Farm was shocked by the decision and were sure that this was it, the last straw. They could bear it no longer.





The time had come, and the animals were ready to seize it by the horns. Literally. Mangal, one of the younger, more rebellious worker goats, was the first to start. Lowering his dagger like horns, he rammed into the dogs guarding the gate of the shed, and ran out, the rest following him.

The news spread like wildfire. Soon all over Animal Farm, it had begun. The different herds which had quarreled earlier had now come under the old horse, Chetak.

The uprising had begun, a struggle for freedom; the first of its kind, ever on Animal Farm... the year 1857.

- Kartik Vishwanath

## Shanti

Nine years of civil war in Nepal have cost over 11,000 lives and established a pattern of calculated and deliberate war crimes by both the state and Maoist rebels. By most estimates, civilians account for the majority of the deaths as the two sides, both lacking widespread public support, treat the rural population brutally. Civilians are frequently dealt with as if they were combatants, violently coerced into supporting sides or murdered as alleged informers. The army's response has frequently been to fire on groups of children, arrest and mistreat juvenile prisoners and bomb suspicious gatherings at school buildings.

Since the breakdown of the last round of peace talks in August 2003, an average of over eight people have died every day due to the conflict, which may now be the most lethal war in Asia. The rebels have made steady progress against the poorly motivated army and now exercise control over around 80% of Nepal's territory, with the government's authority largely confined to urban areas. Despite the gravity of the crisis, Nepal's war has been slow to attract international attention. The crude tactics employed by King Gyanendra since he seized power, have led to greater scrutiny and external pressure.

The Maoists argue that a substantial improvement in rural life can only be achieved by communism and republicanism. During the 1990s there were a series of unstable coalition governments rarely lasting more than one year, and the premiership passed to and fro between a small number of politicians. These men were drawn from the social elite and widely seen as corrupt, incompetent and indifferent to life outside the capital. The escalation came at the end of 2001. In June that year King Gyanendra came to the throne following the shooting of his brother, King Birendra, and other members

of the royal family by Prince Dipendra. The massacre had an enormous impact on the course of the war. Gyanendra proved a more aggressive king than his brother. As the war escalated, Nepal's infant democracy began to crumble. Nepal was trapped in a three-way power struggle between discredited democrats, the Maoists and the palace.

As the war has progressed the Maoists have forfeited most of the support they once enjoyed by their brutality and destructiveness. A widely shared assessment among villagers in Maoist areas is that "by force, 95% of people support them, but only 5% support them through choice." Most Maoist fighters and militia are young men and women in their teens and early 20s. In some districts people are recruited on the basis of one child per family. Where no boy is available a girl is demanded.

Abuses committed by the state largely involve reckless and indiscriminate firing on alleged Maoists and the illegal detention and killing of suspects. In both cases the victims often prove to have been innocent civilians, villagers who have been coerced into assisting the rebels (for example by providing food and shelter). There have been frequent instances of helicopters dropping bombs onto schools and villages where the Maoists are present leading to civilian casualties, and villagers often take cover when helicopters pass overhead. Though the Maoists and the Nepalese government have now declared a cease fire and are moving towards peace talks, this peace may be only temporary as the Maoists have walked out of three such peace talks.

To a country like Nepal independence means something completely different. Peace is what the people want, and they don't care who gives it to them. As long as they don't have to live in fear of every waking day, they are satisfied with whoever is in power.

- Kushal Shrestha

XII - Hum

## Word War

*Was Gandhi really what we make him out to be? A Mahatma or a flawed genius?*

No matter what anyone might say about the significance of Gandhi in the independence struggle, it is well known that it was Gandhi who had contributed enough for him to be called 'Mahatma'. It must take tremendous strength of conviction and intelligence to influence the mind of many. John Ruskin's book influenced Gandhi's concept of soul-force as a substitute for physical force and changed him as a person. It



brought 'an instantaneous and practical transformation' in his life. From Ruskin, Gandhi learnt that the good of the individual is contained in the good of all. That the lawyer's work has the same value as the barber's, all have the same right of earning their livelihood. Leo Tolstoy manifested independent thinking, profound morality and truthfulness. The ideals of 'resist not evil' and nonviolence struck deep chords with Gandhi. He began to mould his life according to the ideas of Tolstoy. He learnt civil disobedience from Thoreau. But, while Thoreau believed in individual action and protests, Gandhi considered civil disobedience the last resort, and conveyed his respect for law. Like Thoreau, he believed people had the right to disobey unjust laws. But that they should gladly go to jail when they break such laws. Studying various philosophies, religions as well as contemporary history, Gandhi was exposed to numerous influences. From here developed Gandhi's concepts that gave a nation the power to fight for its freedom.

His political actions were directed towards attaining power which, according to him, should not be concentrated in the hands of a few but disseminated among the masses. This concept was deeply imprinted in the mass psyche and played a significant role in the isolated uprisings that were a vital part of the Indian freedom struggle. Interestingly, though Gandhi accepted the traditional injunction to revolt against a corrupt political authority, he also developed the tradition further by introducing *Satyagraha* a unique means of contradicting authority by avoiding violent manifestation of armed warfare.

The Civil Disobedience Movement started by Gandhi in 1930 is another political landmark in Indian history. The massive exploitation of India's economic and human resources had compelled Gandhi to demand *Purna Swaraj* (absolute independence) to which the British government had paid no heed. The movement was not merely a violation of the laws imposed by a foreign rule but a mass uprising. The dramatic repercussions of a single act undertaken with the bold recognition of the intolerable grief of the oppressed masses are a fundamental proof of Gandhi's potential as a mass leader.

The nationalist movement in India, prior to Gandhi's advent, flowed in two streams the 'constitutional agitation' or 'the politics of mendicancy' on one hand and the underground revolutionary movement, popularly known as terrorism, on the other. While these movements played different roles in national regeneration and political freedom, these could not

encompass the bulk of the population in the country. There was no 'serious politics'. "Politics begins where the masses are". Thus Gandhi can be rightly attributed the credit for introducing 'serious politics' in this country.

There was a feeling that Gandhi was too idealistic. That non-violence would not work.

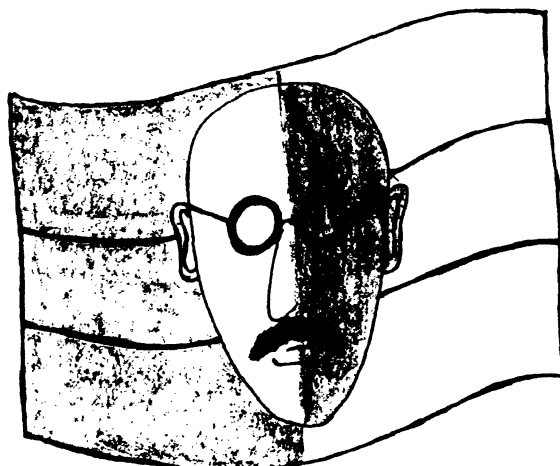
But he succeeded in launching some of history's major non-violent movements. Gandhi emphasized subsistence over abundance, and felt that the stage of overabundance for all would not be reached for a long time.

Take, for example, his hunger strikes. Fast struck the British as a thinly disguised method of coercion. Gandhi was aware that his fasts exercised a moral pressure but the pressure was directed not against those who disagreed with him but against those who loved him and believed in him. He sought to prick the conscience of the latter and convey to them something of his anguish at a monstrous social tyranny. If his self-crucifixion could demonstrate his sincerity to the teeming millions of India, it was worth it. To Gandhi, his fasting was, in his own words, "the same kind of coercion which Jesus exercised upon you from the cross".

He had to educate people, conduct the campaign in such a way so as to change the psyche of the masses. So, anybody who desires to follow his path has to understand his methods, his strategies and acquire something of his courage and faith. Gandhi's simple lifestyle was reflective of his higher state of mind and the unsurpassed spirit of self-sacrifice.

Fifty-eight years after Gandhi's death, here I am, concluding a piece on Gandhi, though it is difficult to confine Gandhi to alphabetical expressions.

Jai Hind  
Pratik Singh  
XII - H





Although, it would not seem right to supposedly split hair over Gandhi's strategies and campaigns, and appear to belittle a man of such epic dimensions, great men of action who perform great deeds, do commit great mistakes.

And there is no wrong in pointing these out. It is a Gandhian duty in a sense, as he equated truth with God. To say that it was Gandhi who liberated India from colonial rule would be saying too much.

Around the time that India achieved her independence in 1947, scores of other imperial colonies celebrated their freedom. It was the historical events and their consequences that gave India freedom on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August, 1947. After World War II, which the British and its allies won against the fascist power of Germany, Italy and Japan, they were still totally drained of their wealth and resources and thus incapable of ruling other countries.

Also, the turbulent condition – the communal riots – which forced the British to depart in haste, was not of Gandhi's making, but had in fact occurred despite his best efforts.

I'm not saying that Gandhi had no contribution, but I am saying that we should not ignore the efforts of the great leaders of the pre-Gandhian era, like Gokhale, Lala Lajpat Rai, Tilak etc. What's to say, that India would not have gained independence through the actions of the moderate leaders of the Congress who believed in constitutional reforms.

Since I have already determined the historical conditions prior to and also after Gandhi's entry into the scene, the only major constitutional development was the Act of 1935, over a period of 20 years. I think I can venture to say Gandhi's two mass movements, the NCM and the Civil Disobedience Movement, had in fact delayed the constitutional developments already being made. Perhaps such a peaceful process might have averted the partition of the country, even ended British rule, special safeguards, and most importantly saved many lives.

One of the greatest mistakes for which he was severely criticized, was the sudden ending of the Non Cooperation Movement in 1922. Many of Gandhi's closest associates and the Indian masses as well, felt discouraged and demoralized. Profound dismay filled one and all.

Gandhi's reaction to this?

"The drastic reversal of practically the whole aggressive programme," he said, "may be politically

unsound and unwise, but there is no doubt that it was religiously sound." But the millions who took part in the movement had responded to a political agenda, not a religious one. The careers of the thousands who had left their studies and government jobs were ruined. All these sacrifices were offered for a political cause. The religious aspect was confined to Gandhi alone. So was it fair for Gandhi to treat an entire country as a laboratory to test his religious beliefs? Further, the incident at Chauri Chaura was not simply a case of mob violence. It was the policemen who had been unjust and cruel in hurting peaceful protesters and only a saint could have kept cool in such a situation. And only Gandhi could suspend a nationwide movement as a reaction to it.

On the arrest of Abdul Ghaffar Khan, a dedicated freedom fighter and a great follower of Gandhi, there were severe clashes in Peshawar between demonstrators and the police. A platoon of Garhwal Rifles refused to open fire on these demonstrators. Gandhi's approach to this was one not expected from a man like him. In the Gandhi-Irwin Pact, where an agreement with the Viceroy was reached, Gandhi specifically excluded the case of the Garhwal Rifles soldiers who were court martialled and awarded heavy punishments. Gandhi's argument was: "A soldier who disobeys an order to fire breaks the oath he has taken, and renders himself guilty of criminal disobedience."

Since the whole point of the Civil Disobedience Movement was a deliberate 'disobedience' of the law, Gandhi's reaction is one I fail to understand. Further, this was an act where Hindu soldiers had refused to shoot Muslim demonstrators. And yet, the apostle of *ahimsa* condemned this unique act of non-violence. I am sure he had his reasons, and I'm sure they were justified but it is difficult to explain something like this to his 'beloved masses'.

It was Gandhi's firm belief that only when Hindus and Muslims unite, could the question of independence be put forward.

He constantly talked of *Ram Rajya*, made repeated references to the Gita and narrated episodes from the great Indian epics to make his point. His prayer meetings accompanied by the chanting of *Ramdhun* and other *bhajans* had a distinctly 'Hindu flavour'. Although the Koran and the Bible were also read at these meetings, his rituals did not neutralize their dominant Hindu appearance.

Gandhi has been gone for more than half a century. What do we have today that reflects even remotely, his



values and aspirations? Of course, even though we have Harijan Sevak Sanghs, Khadi and village industries and others, they are merely crumbling memorials as symbols of our lip service to his memory.

Much more than his heroic struggle, it was Gandhi's holy living, his character, his constant striving to attain knowledge of God that made him a Mahatma.

- Kartik Vishwanath  
XII - Hum

Was the British Rule beneficial for India?



☐ Yes  
☒ No

## WELHAM PIE

Class XII: Yes: 25 No: 13  
Class XI: Yes: 29 No: 19  
Class X: Yes: 17 No: 27  
Class IX: Yes: 16 No: 18  
Staff: Yes: 9 No: 20

*This is what some Welhamites feel about the 200 years of British rule in India:*

**Nikhil Bansal** - They were the years of darkness.

**Pratik Agarwal** - Impoverishment, humiliation and being down-trodden.

**Vanshaj Agarwal** - Painful development.

**Abhineet Kanodia** - Evolution of India.

**Ms. Indrani Talukdar** - Acquiring a new identity for India.

**Rasik Goyal** - 200 years of British rule have us what we call a united India.

**Monish Khera** - They came to India and left India a third world country.

**Kushagra Prasher** - They gave us the English language, the postal service, the railway system...what more can we ask for?

## Monthly Quiz

- Q1. What is the name of the space rocket recently launched by India which failed its tests?
- Q2. Who has directed the new Happydent advertisement, which is the most watched ad in India?
- Q3. Who was the US President who authorized the dropping of the atom bombs on Hiroshima & Nagasaki?
- Q4. Who won the German F1 Grand Prix 2006?
- Q5. What is common between the movies - E.T., Munna and the Indiana Jones series?
- Q6. A famous music and art fair took place on 15<sup>th</sup> August. Famous people like Jimi Hendrix and Ravi Shanker took part in it. What was the fair?
- Q7. Whom did the British defeat to become the youngest heavy weight champion?
- Q8. Who said this to his son, "My kingdom is too small for you. You will have to make a bigger one for yourself"?
- Q9. What is the name of the statue made by Michelangelo and currently is in Florence, Italy? It signifies the ideal human.
- Q10. Who was the first Caliph to succeed Prophet Mohammed?

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

- Ans1. Aamir Khan.
- Ans2. Raj Kumar.
- Ans3. The 'Wardrobe Malfunction' was in the news because some of the clothes worn by models came off during the Mumbai Fashion Week.
- Ans4. For his achievements in the game of golf.
- Ans5. DMK stands for Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and its is headed by Karunanidhi.
- Ans6. Amartya Sen's latest book is titled 'Identity and Violence'.
- Ans7. Ela Bhatt is an activist for women rights. She started the organization called SEWA (self employed women's association).
- Ans8. Arjun Singh has introduced a bill for reservations for OBCs in higher educational institutions.
- Ans9. Zinedine Zidane.
- Ans10. Mr. Rao.

*The Domino's pizza for the last issue's quiz was won by Abhijit Choudhary of class 12.*



## What's In

Head-butts  
Mr. Kandpal  
Hostels  
Golf  
Ombara haircuts  
Love notes  
Firewall security

## What's Out

Kicks and boxes  
Mr. Basu  
I.T lab  
Horse-riding  
John Abraham's locks  
Phone booth  
Guardwell security

## Dude of the Month!!!



Daya in his office.

## Through the Keyhole

Aman Verma during the outing (heights of stinginess):  
*Auto bhariya, Astley Hall tak lift de do.*

Mr. Yadav: Sheriff, you eat so much, yet you don't gain weight.

Manishek: Sir, actually *there are insects in his stomach.*

Mrs. Tara Sharma to class X - *The river is contaminated with water.*

After Mr. Lahiri's talk about the importance of the English language, Tushar Saini to his classmates - *1947 se pehle angrez maarte the, 1947 ke baad angrezi maarti hai.*

## Ever Wonder Why

1. It rains heavily all night long and stops exactly 10 minutes before P.T.?
2. The Bursar wears sport shoes with formal trousers?
3. Everybody starts going to the gym, a week before the socials?

Well hmm...



Ant Gurung

He is the one that connects Welham to all girls' schools. He is a new age pigeon. He is the only person in school who can bring a smile across a gloomy Welham office. Cupid for some and 'Narad' for the others, when all forms of communication fail, he is the last resort for all *Devdases*.

You guessed it right. The dude of this month undoubtedly is Daya, the man behind the 'Welham Postal Services'.

Every morning, without fail, he sits in the Despatch Office, and carefully separates the letters from across the LOC and the 'Town' of Hope from those that come from our loving mothers.

If you want your report card to reach late or your love note to be handed out personally, then Daya is the man you are looking for.

As August has been the trickiest month of the year, with socials and Rakhi very near to each other, Daya has been the man in demand.

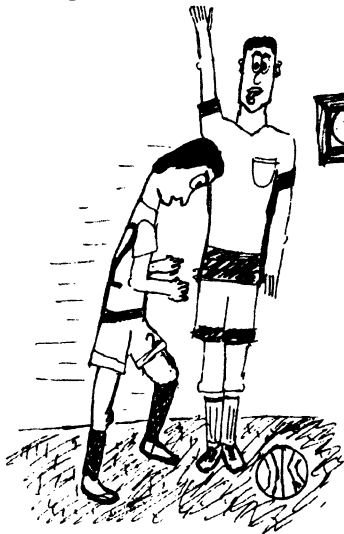
So before opening your letter say your prayers. Don't be so sure as to what lies inside!!!!

## Ringside View

In the festive atmosphere in Germany, millions of fans watched as the largest sports event on earth, the FIFA World Cup ended in a surprising manner. All speculation and predictions that had been going on for months proved to be of no consequence as Italy emerged surprising but surely deserving champions the World Football. The hype that surrounded England proved to be worthless. The flair which Brazil had always shown



in the past was missing. Then there was the much talked about Ronaldhino who turned out to be the biggest disappointment. Zidane once again inspired the French team to the finals but the head-butting incident wasn't a great way of ending such a great career. The head-butting incident involving Zidane and Materazzi has raised many questions for all of us. There is no doubt that Zidane was wrong but what Materazzi did was not right either. This



has brought to light the hidden, yet ugliest part of sport, 'provocation'. Has provocation become a part of the game? Can a player make remarks about your family in a game? Do you simply take the insult as a part of the game? This in no way is sportsmanship. Provocation should not be treated as a

normal thing in a game and offenders should be punished. I hope that Welhamites realise that playing a game in the true spirit and respecting the opposition is more important than winning or losing.

After having spent the entire month glued to television, the Welhamites returned, raring to go on the field to try out their newly acquired skills with a vengeance. For the tenth and the twelfth, however, these dreams faded as they had to hit the books straight away in preparation for their exams. Since then, football has been going strong even though the team has been causing 'disturbances' from time to time. The team hasn't been able to get a full-strength side in the matches they have played so far due to the flu and the

viral fever that has plagued the school for some time now. The first friendly match was against a local club in which we lost 2-1. A stronger side played the second match against the Carman School thrashing them by 5-1. With fewer tournaments to play this time, I hope that the team practices hard and does the best it can.

An innovation took place in the sporting arena of the school this time. A league system has been started for the Inter-House football competition. This has been done in order to increase participation and create more interest in the sport. With almost all students getting a chance to represent their Houses, house spirits will surely soar high. Another major decision that was taken by the school was not to allow the board class to go for any outstation tournaments. It would be better not to comment on this decision as the results of the recently held practice matches will tell us more about those who do not play. The message here would be to work harder in academics and let performances speak for themselves.

In the international sporting scenario, there is a lot of news for the Indian cricket fans as Sachin is expected to make his return to international cricket. Federer continues his dominance on grass courts while Nadal continues to chase him. Schumacher is back to his winning ways which has certainly forced Alonso to be concerned even though he is still in the lead for the F1 driver's championship by ten points. The doping charges on Floyd Landis, the winner of the Tour de France and Justin Gatlin, one of the fastest sprinters in the world, have shocked the entire world. It just goes to show how all your efforts go in vain when you are disgraced because of doping. One moment you are a hero for all to admire and the very next you turn into a villain condemned by everyone.

- Chirantan Singh

### Editorial Board

**Editor-in-Chief:** Ajitesh Kir

**Editor:** Viswanath and Chirantan Singh

**Top Editor:** Ashish Chowdhary

**Cartoonist:** Omit Gurung

**Nature's Diary:** Pratik Singh

**Correspondents:** Arwal, Anesh Gurung, Sudipt Juneja and Kushagra Parasher

**Creative Designer:** Mr. Karna Puri

**Artists:** Mr. Brahma Raina and Ms. Indira Mahajan

**Registration No.:** 20208/86

**E-Mail:** oliphant@welhamboys.org

**Website:** www.welhamboys.org

**Printed at:** The English Book Depot, Dehra Dun