

Founder's Day Issue

Editorial

If you notice that this issue of The Oliphant tries to entertain you with an added panache, then you know it is only because of the contagious 'festive' feeling which is doing its rounds in Welham.

Yes, it's Founder's Day. Probably the most important day in our school's calendar; it has finally arrived. Of course, there was a wave of disappointment after this year's Founder's was announced to be a 'disintegrated' one - with the fete being held on the last day of the term. Still, the spirit of Founders' lives on and reigns supreme, as indomitable as ever. Though the feeling of Founder's did take some time to be aroused, it could be easily visualized during the countdown to 'D' day, with boys working late into the night, to make this Founder's a wonderful success, and the Dean of Students' Welfare submitting to their enthusiasm and willingness, and allowing them to be up and working at inhumanly hours! Well Welhamites, appreciate and enjoy this Founder's as before you know it; it will be a year away!

The involvement with the 'twelfthies' in this Founder's Day is their last, as students. Still, even in such a maudlin situation they seem to be having a great time.


Well, isn't it preposterous, how some schools completely prohibit their students' participation in the 'non-academic' activities, as soon as they reach class XII? Our *twelfthies*, on the other hand, remain very active and involved in the school in their final year with a sense of pride.

But of course, post Founder's, after their year long enthusiastic involvement in the school, they are encouraged to go into 'hibernation' with their books. Thus, the Founders' Day issue is the perfect opportunity to 'focus' on these young, 'not-so-gentle' men, and as always, Oli did not disappoint.

The present batch of *twelfthies* will go down in Welham's history as the 'pivotal batch' for the school. They have seen Welham through its rough patch to where it is headed today. Of course, growing up in the 'Old Welham', these staunch supporters of the old principles (and in fact, old Principals!) did get into controversies with the authorities. They realized that for the greater welfare of their beloved Welham, reform was a necessity, and in fact they themselves induced and invigorated

certain changes in the environment and atmosphere of Welham. Instead of holding on to their loyalties to the 'Old Welham', which was a paradise for *twelfthies*, they selflessly strived to achieve a 'New Welham', which would prove to be a paradise for all Welhamites - from the junior - most to the senior - most. They have actually sowed the seeds, without most people even realizing it, and their endeavours would eventually start bearing fruits in years to come. At that time it would be the incumbent 'batch', that would be entitled to all the credit, but that does not matter at all to these young men because, hear it from the horse's mouth, these *twelfthies* did not work for credit, they worked and toiled because they love Welham too much.

Swooned and mesmerised,



(NISHANT JOSHI).

Response Column

Dear Editor,

Thank you for still sending The Oliphant. Besides keeping me in touch with the school, reading it also reassures me that the spirit of independent enquiry instilled in all of you by Miss Oliphant and my brother is still alive and thriving.

Yours,

Narinder Kandhari
(Ex 135 - batch of 1950)

PS- Anirudh Shrestha - Dalanwala, is Paradise Lost, like so many parts of the Indian Sub-continent.

Dear Sir,

To be replying to you is more of an honour rather than a pleasure. If The Oliphant has assured you that such a spirit is still alive and thriving in school, then we believe that the news letter has served its purpose. Also, we would like to assure you that though Dehra Dun has become a Paradise lost (Anirudh's article in the Independence Day issue), Welhamites are taking the initiative to once again find the paradise in Dehra Dun, as the article from our own Eco Club (September issue) brought to light.

Dear Editor,

As I do almost every week, this week too, I was surfing the Welham site and happened to see The Oliphant. I downloaded it and after reading, made me very sad.

It was indeed shocking to read of the untimely demise of our dear Mr. Joshi. I remember many an incident in his classes since I studied under him for 6 years. Also, like any well loved teacher, we would often end up pulling his leg for something or the other. He never lost his temper. We'd steal crates of Pepsi and Coke from his yard when we were in PH, in classes XI and XII. All those are happy memories now. May God rest his soul in eternal peace.

Now, for the interesting part. It has been close to 10 years since I left Welham, in 1996. I have seen The Oliphant rise to the height of its popularity coupled with controversies galore and I have seen it sink into an abyss of mindless, unworthy literature, if I can even call it that. The Oliphant has seen its fair share of ups and downs.

However, for the past years, I must admit. The Oliphant has been more down than up. However, of late there has been spate of Oliphants which have been of very high quality and the kind that deserve to find a place in a magazine that we would love to read. Keep up the good work.

Next, about the website. It seems to have been under construction for several years now and is still not fully functional. Couple of spelling mistakes and incomplete pages, it is indeed not a very impressive site. Please do something about this.

Finally, about myself. I graduated from Welham in 1996. I moved to Delhi to join Sri Ram College of Commerce and then joined Touché to do my chartered accountancy. Thereafter I moved to KPMG and I'm finally working with Ernst & Young in the Advisory Services division. My mobile number is 9810303833 (Delhi number) and if any Welhamite wants to get in touch advice, he is most welcome.

Take care,

Regards,

Ankur Nigam(ex-600/K)

Dear Ankur,

It was indeed after that 'sinking' of The Oliphant, as you put it, that Oli pledged to redefine the magazine, which he has done for the last one year, as a consequence of what you call the last few issues of 'high quality'. The school website now is on a 'good track' as some Welhamites,

with Mr. Sanjay Kuqsal have taken on the responsibility of managing it, as part of their CCA. It is actually quite pleasing to know that the 'exies' do have a critical view of anything that is not at par with our school's standards.

Thank You!

Dear Ed,

I haven't been fortunate enough to receive The Oliphant by post like I was promised. The new (maybe not so new now!) website looks good, but I wonder what user name and password are old boys supposed to use to login into the alumni section.

Anyway why I am writing this letter is to send you a short article I wrote on the recent hurricanes in US, which I experienced very closely. Hope you will be able to find some space for it in any forthcoming Oliphant issue.

Wishing you and the school the very best and hope you have a great Founder's Day.

Best regards,

Anant Goel

(Ex – J-837 - Batch of 2000)

Dear Anant,

It was only because of the inefficiency of the postal system that we decided to put The Oliphant on our school's website. Good to know that it is serving its purpose.

Well, for the benefit of you and all the old boys, when you enter the 'Member's Zone', you are supposed to click on 'Alumni', where you have to register and give the necessary details. Shortly after your registration, you will receive an e-mail from us, which will tell you your user name and password.

Also, we were more than pleased to include your article in the magazine(on pg. no. 8).

Old boys do have a special place in our hearts and we will be more than pleased to publish any contribution from them.

Thank you all for your valuable feedback. But you know what, Oli, on account of human tendency (or in fact non-human tendency!) wants more and more and more!

Criticism, suggestions, appreciation.....we want to hear your opinion. Here's how to get in touch with us: Write to us at:

*The Editor,
Response Column,
The Oliphant,
Welham Boys School,
5, Circular Road,
Dehra Dun – 248001*

**E-mail us at our new address:
oliphant@welhamboys.org**

Or simply meet any of our correspondents..

Welham Now

- * **Parth Prasher, Suyash Gupta, Apoorv Kumar and Ankit Sahay** participated in the Bro. C.J. Bergin Gold Medal Inter-School Debate and the Bro. J.G. Masterson Silver Medal Inter-School Debate at St. George's College, Mussoorie, on 24th September.
- * **Mr. Aseem Tripathi** was given a farewell party by the 'twelfthies' on the 27th September.
- * On Gandhi Jayanti, **Mr. Kanti Bajpayee**, delivered a talk on "Is Gandhi still relevant today?"
- * The school team comprising **Parth Prasher, Prateek Singh** and **Apoorv Kumar** stood runners up in the Wild Life Quiz.
- * An earthquake rocked the school, as also this part of the world, on the morning of 8th October at 9:23 am.
- * A group of students participated in an Inter-School Western Dance competition at The Carman School on the 8th October.
- * A troop of dancers from Gujrat performed the Garbha Dance on the 8th October, at the Activity Centre.
- * The school squash and hockey teams participated in their IPSC tournaments at The Daly College, Indore.
- * On 15th October, **Prof. Asaduddin** – professor of English at Jamia Millia Islamia, **Ms. Seeme Qasim** – a Poet and Journalist, **Dr. Rajneeta Dutta** – teaching history at Jamia Millia Islamia participated in a discussions on "Islam in India today"
- * Ganga House won the Inter-House Cross Country held on the 15th October.
- * An Inter-House Hindi Elocution competition was held on 17th October. The winners: **Varun S. Shukla, Vanshaj Agarwal, Rasik Goyal** who stood 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively. Krishna House emerged as the winner.
- * 'Casuals' were allowed on 17th October to raise money for the earthquake in J&K. The school has also set up the Welham Boys' Natural Calamity Relief Fund.
- * **Mrs. Ratna Pathak Shah** delivered a talk on film appreciation at the Activity Centre on 20th October.

A Memorable Visit

It was last month, in September, that Mr. Chris Tudor, Head master, St. Philip's College, Alice Springs, Australia and a former director of Round Square visited the school, with his wife Jill. The Chairman Emeritus, Mr. Gulab Ramchandani accompanied them.

The Tudors began their visit with breakfast at the 'High table' with the Prefects. Following this he was

'treated' to a moving classical recital by Zubin Nautiyal and an energetic rendering of 'Waltzing Matilda' by the school choir. Speaking to the audience Mr. Tudor praised the quality of the presentation and, in his poignant speech, emphasised the importance of personal relationships and the hand-grasp of a friend.



Mr. Chris Tudor (in Red tie) being escorted around the campus.

The visitors were then escorted around the school, meeting the Staff and the students. The Tudors were impressed with the high standard of discipline and were full of praise for the facilities offered to the boys.

His visit ended with lunch at the Cottage – the Principal's abode!

Vox Populi

Vox Populi is a Latin term that means 'voice of the people.' It is an open forum where people present their views.

A system of Vox Populi has also been introduced in our school. It gives an opportunity to the students and the teachers to discuss issues which otherwise would not have been talked about. The third meeting of the Vox Populi was held on 29th September, 2005 and the topic under discussion was "Is Physical punishment necessary to maintain discipline in school"? But before we discuss the topic, let us try to understand the importance of discipline in our lives.

'Discipline' means the training of people to obey rules. Discipline plays an important part in the proper functioning of the school. A lack of discipline could result in utter chaos and mayhem. If everyone started to act according to his wish, the school may not be able to function at all.

The 90-minute debate sparked off with the seniors telling the audience that physical punishments

should be re-introduced. They spoke of the futility and 'worthlessness', of the newly derived punishments, such as detentions, 'gating', etc. They also stated how in the past, physical punishments had proven to be successful in restoring discipline amongst the boys and stressed that the reintroduction of physical punishment would make the School a more 'disciplined' place. The juniors present retorted to this by saying that the Welham community is growing towards understanding things the easier way and that a time would soon come when physical punishments would not be required. It is very ironical that at present it is only the juniors who seem to be causing all the problems to not only the authorities, but even to the seniors! Thus, though the opinions were expressed, no concrete solutions could emerge.

There are many things that a student wants to discuss with the teachers and the juniors with the seniors but they do not get an adequate forum to voice their opinions. Vox Populi is an excellent initiative that has been taken as in the future it could become the perfect platform for negotiations. The students have begun to realize that they have the capability to change the world around them, be it the world of Welham or the world 'outside'.

-Vanshaj Agarwal
X - A

Behind the Scenes, or Inside Them!

This term, the school has been the epicentre of numerous talks by eminent personalities. From Narcotics to terrorism, environment to wildlife, you name it and we had it! With so many intellect stimulating discussions going on, how could we have left out movies.

On 20th October, renowned actress and wife of the legendary Naseeruddin Shah, Mrs. Ratna Pathak Shah delivered a talk on film appreciation at the Activity Centre.

In this interactive session, she made the boys aware of the various aspects and methods of making a film. She also told the boys about the changing technology and methods of film making. We were shown the opening scenes of the 70's classic 'The Godfather', which was critically analysed by her, to expose to us what exactly film appreciation is. It was a wonderful talk and has resulted in a more critical viewing of movies by all Welhamites.



Mrs. Ratna Pathak Shah being interviewed by Welham News.

The school has now decided to begin a film appreciation club.

Our friends at the Municipal School

Critics have pointed out that the 'funds' and 'aids' collected by the many famous personalities only help them to increase their popularity and remain in the limelight. However, in this school of ours, we start off by lending a helping hand to a 'government school', not for any so-called school grades but because privileged as we want to contribute to make the world a better place.

Children who aim paper balls at the dustbin, do not realize or think that outside this 'well' of theirs also exist a place where children of their same age not only pick-up the wrappers of toffees (which they may get once in a blue moon) but also sweep the floor themselves - everyday.

The children of the Municipal School eat their food in a decent manner, not like hooligans and don't waste a drop a speck of food or grain of rice, and realize the importance of every meal served to them. These children receive, at the most two meals a day and try not to waste it. These children realise the importance of each grain of rice while we on the other hand waste food at the drop of the a hat. These children are not any different from other children in the world, they like to play, sing, dance and other such activities which interest children.

I feel that it is not a fault of these children that they have been born into such an under privileged family and while other are cocooned up in luxury and other worldly pleasures. When we go to teach in government school, we notice that these children are bright and if given an opportunity, they can go far in life because they are determined, hardworking, obedient and pay full attention.

In this a rather short article, I feel that I have passed the message across. Not by showing sympathy towards them but supporting them. The spark in their eyes show that all their wish is for an opportunity.

Once again, I stress that instead of pitying them, we should, as individuals come forward and support the 'unfortunate' ones.

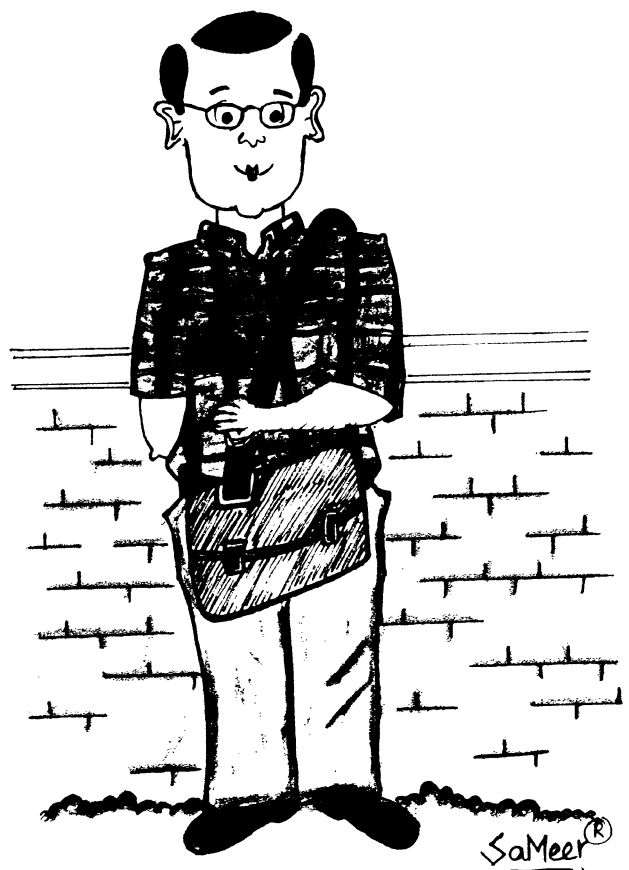
- Aftab Singh
X-B

A Friend, Counsellor or simply AT...

I had just arrived in class 7th and was striving to adjust to the new environment of the 'bulky' and scary seniors, when we had a new teacher coming to teach us. A clean shaven man of about thirty, with his hair combed neatly and huge spectacles hiding his innocent eyes entered our classroom. He was going to teach us History. From the very first day, Mr. Aseem Tripathi (AT) had a great influence on me. AT himself didn't know why he was asked to teach History, when he had applied for the post of a teacher of Economics. At that time my brother was in 12th and had also taken Economics, so I got to know AT better.

Two years later, when I was in 9th I joined The Oliphant as Desktop Editor, and it was headed by AT. I have very fond memories of that period. We used to sit in The Oliphant room till the late hours of the night, trying to make the next issue 'error-free', but regretfully, it never turned out to be like that. It was during those days AT got married and bought himself an 'Activa'.

There is a tradition of The Oliphant – never coming out on time(not followed this year)! It was the same during AT's tenure - He had to always take the Editor to EBD printers, on his 'Activa', to give The Oliphant to them. Thus I had the opportunity of going with AT, who treated me to coffee at Barista.



AT never went against any rules - not even traffic rules. He would never increase the speed beyond 20 km/hr, and I can never forget the time when it took us more than half an hour to reach Astley Hall!

AT had all the true qualities of a teacher. He taught not only his subject but life's true values also. We shared many jokes in The Oliphant room, and there I first discovered, a friend in a teacher.

AT really knew how to make a student study. No matter how lazy or disobedient the boy was, AT knew where to strike, and make him study. He was an unofficial – counsellor of all sorts of personal and family problems too!! He could be spotted with his umbrella in his hand, making his way for his second home – the LRC - at 3.00 pm every single day. I remember asking AT, what would he miss the most when he left Welham, and he said "The LRC, because that's the place where I spend most of my time".

AT was and is a very down to earth person with no false pride. He is the most dedicated person I had ever come across. He never went to any class without

preparing for what he was going to teach. AT, also had a miraculous power of making people go to sleep! It once happened when AT was giving one of his emotional lectures and the whole class fell asleep, except for him.

AT could've become a financial consultant but he chose to be a teacher, and yes, he did succeed in being one.

AT always helped me in my speeches and debates. He spoke less, but spoke sense. Whatever he said had a deep impact on everybody. He is one teacher, who can never be forgotten. A teacher par excellence and maybe the only one in Welham who mingled so much with the students.

All I have to say for the Assam Valley School is, "You have a very valuable person in your hold. Don't let him get away".

Before summing up, I'd like to share a conversation with you, which I had with AT, before he was about to leave. I told AT, "Sir I'm sure you are going to miss Welham", and AT replied, "Maybe I'll come back...!"

Waiting ..
Ajitesh Kir
XI - Hum

The Harsh Reality

The world in which we live is just a 'superficial' one. It has all the luxuries that we desire. It has been 'created' for us by the people who brought us into this world. We are fortunate to be a part of the minority that is able to enjoy life in nearly all aspects. The 'world' that we live in is not the real world. It is just a 'comfort zone' for us. Have you ever thought what it would have been like if you were not born into the family to which you belong? What if you were born into a family totally different from the present one? What if you hadn't been so fortunate?

The 'real' world is where people struggle to make their lives. They have nothing to fall back on. In fact, they are not even sure of surviving after they are born. These are the people who face the wrath of this hostile world. But we don't need to really think about these issues as they do not concern us. What matters is that we get what we want. Our means and ends are hardly separable. We only care for our parents, brothers, sisters or friends, but what about those people who live in abject poverty through no fault of theirs? They are

also our brothers. Is it not our responsibility to see that they are given a chance to live a better life?

When thousands of people die in Africa everyday as a result of starvation and other poverty connected ailments, we treat it very casually. Do we really care about them genuinely? Does it concern us? The answer is sadly 'No'. After all they are too far away from our world for us to be worried! If Africa is too far for us to be able to do anything then what about poverty at home in our own country? The conditions here are even worse than those in Africa. But what have we done about it?

The poverty in Africa can actually be seen the way it is. India's problems are much more subtle. They exist but cannot be seen by any outsider. This makes the problem even more difficult to solve. To most of us poverty means starvation and near famine conditions, but this is nowhere near the truth. Poverty is about income, calorie intake, land, health, education, literacy, infant mortality rates, life expectancy, drinking water facilities etc. it is when none of these things are in one's grasp that one is said to be living in poverty.

Many people in India live in abject poverty. The conditions they live in and the problems they face can't even be imagined by us. Some extreme situations would force us to wonder whether they have been blown out of proportion. In Bihar, the *koilawallahs* carry around 250kgs of coal for 40-50 kilometers from Lalmatiya to Godda earning a meager sum of 30 rupees. Out of this, 10 rupees goes to the police as 'hafta' and another 10 rupees go to local thugs as extortion money. This leaves them with just 10 rupees for their herculean effort. The 30 rupees they actually earn is barely a third of the minimum wage in Bihar. Around 3000 families are dependant on this type of occupation for their daily bread. This is just one shocking story. There are many more.

The rickshaw pullers of Kolkata do not suffer any less. After toiling for over twelve hours a day, a hand rickshaw puller earns 100-120 rupees daily, out of which he pays 20-30 rupees to the rickshaw owner and then sends 40-50 rupees to his family. Around sixty percent of them suffer from tuberculosis and other lung diseases. This practice has been recently abolished by the Chief Minister of West Bengal. You will be surprised, but the rickshaw pullers actually revolted against the abolishment! They do not want to switch to another job. The Government even offered them money but they refused. In South India, people work for sixteen hours a day earning 5-8 rupees climbing fifty date palms a day

extracting the juice of its fruit. A single slip could spell death for them. Risking their lives for such a meager sum itself speaks of their misery. These inhuman practices which seem to be preposterous for us are actually supported by the people who practice them. This shows the poor state of our country.

This is not all. In a remote district in Orissa, many people die of malaria. Leave alone the medical facilities available to prevent this disease, even the number of deaths are not recorded. Sounds absolutely normal to us: cocooned in our 'comfort zones'.

Most children belonging to poor families are deprived of their primary education as their schools are used to store grain or house cattle, while ironically most of us consider studying a waste of time! The state of our country is such that many children, who get stipends for attending school from the Welfare Department, have to lend this money to their parents in order for them to be able to feed for themselves. This is what poverty has done to them.

Many villages come within the Indian Army's test firing ranges i.e. in the zone of fire. The inhabitants of these villages have to leave their homes and sleep in the jungle. They risk losing their possessions and even their lives – all this through no fault of theirs. They try to make the best of a bad deal by selling the army's shells as metal scrap and earn some money.

When dams are built, people have to leave their towns and homes without any other option on hand. Villagers in Tamil Nadu hop on to the trains with pots, cans and buckets to take water because of the scarcity. They empty toilet tanks of its water to use it for themselves. In this village, no one gets more than ten litres of water, in a day. This amount does not even fill a bucket!

Unimaginable things happen in our country. In a village, a fourteen year old girl was sold by her own relative for just 40 rupees to a forty year old, blind man who kept her as a servant. The sale took place because the concerned relative's own children were starving. This is just one of such shocking incidents brought to notice by the media. This is a regular practice in most of the poor villages in India. A human being treated as an object is not anything new here.

So, many outrageous things are being practiced in our country while we believed that the slums of Bombay, rather Mumbai, and the commercial capital of India were the only thing of grave concern. Many of us

are probably aware of these problems faced by the people of our country. But what have we done about it? Knowing these things, thinking about them and feeling sorry for these people, will not be the problem. Until and unless some action is taken, things are not going to improve as everyone knows, actions speak louder than words. What these people need is empathy and not just sympathy. It is our duty to help them as our fellow human beings. If we do something for them, it would do them a world of good. It would not even effect us but it would change their world. The writing of this article too would be meaningless unless the writer himself could do something concrete to alleviate the pain and misery of our countrymen. It is hoped that many sparks will be ignited and will result in at least some of us changing our mind set. 'To care' is human and I guess we're all human beings.

Chirantan Singh
XI Sc.

Rendezvous with Rita

I don't know if any of you ever wondered the relation between women and destruction. I am not trying to be a male chauvinist here, but it is interesting to note how some of the most deadly hurricanes this year in the Atlantic and the US/Mexican Gulf happened to be named after women – Katrina, Ophelia and the latest Rita.

While they have immense forces of destruction, a closer look at the hurricanes can be as enlightening as anything.

To begin with, I work on a merchant ship and on this particular voyage we were headed from La Salina, which is a calm, serene port on the northern coast of Venezuela, to Texas City which is an industrial town and oil hub of the United States with a full cargo of crude oil. The voyage is just a short 5-day run and before we know we have departed, it's almost time to arrive. But it wasn't going to be so this time...

Soon after departure from La Salina we received weather faxes and satellite messages about a low-pressure area east of Bahamas moving westerly towards the Gulf of Mexico and expected to become a tropical storm. It is not uncommon in the summer months to hear about tropical storm, so it was just another one of many warnings that we were receiving all the time in this season. Rarely there is more than one storm in a year, which gets upgraded into a hurricane and causes any substantial damage. Even after almost a month, the

catastrophe by Katrina in the Mississippi area was the prime news in the local newspapers and television channels. The people in United States were still in the recovery process from the destruction caused by Katrina when Rita was predicted to develop into a hurricane. Nonetheless we continued tracking the movement of Rita as it was going to be close to our track.

By the forth day of our voyage this tropical storm was already called 'Hurricane Rita'. We were only 2 days ahead of it but we were gaining distance. If we go on at this speed, which was almost double the speed of the hurricane moving in, we can be safely in the port. But by the time we would finish discharging our cargo and move out of the port we would meet the hurricane head-on. Rita was already categorised as scale 4 with cyclonic (anti-clockwise) winds gusting up to over 100 knots (180 km/hr). And it was predicted to gain even more force as it still had a lot of distance to cover and large expanse of sea to gain energy from. With such strong winds, the seas can be choppy enough to throw around a 300m long ship like a matchbox.

The ship had a decision to make. While safety of the ship and its crew is the first priority, the commercial implications cannot be completely ignored. The ports of Texas City and Houston had already started taking safety precautions, but had not yet announced plans for evacuation. So we continued on our voyage always ensuring that we had sufficient time to turn around and be at a safe distance from the hurricane, if we had to.

On the fifth and the final day of the voyage and during our final approaches to the port, the port authority finally announced 'Condition Whiskey'. The port was officially going to close by noon and all the ships in the port and in vicinity were to evacuate immediately and proceed out to sea to safety. We still had about 4 hours to the pilot station (port limit). This was the 21st day of September...

Upon contacting the company office in Houston we were directed to proceed to the pilot station and officially tender our 'NOR' (Notice of readiness) to discharge cargo in all respects before we turned around. This was to save the owners from commercial loss. Navigating through the 'North-South Fairway' was a unique experience in itself that day. Rarely do we get to see such colossal flow of traffic in one direction. Scores and scores of ships were evacuating and going down south, but we were the only ship going up north towards

the port. On the radar screen our own ship seemed astray amongst a herd of others, like a car zigzagging on the wrong side of the road. After tendering our NOR and the only ship left in the area, we finally turned around and headed towards the coast of Mexico to seek refuge.

For a couple of days we kept drifting off the Mexican coast and continuously kept monitored weather faxes and meteorological warnings. Even though we kept a safe distance of over 200 miles from the storm, we could feel the gusting winds and rough seas: thunder storms, lightening and incessant heavy rain showers. All on board kept indoors and the old saying, 'one hand for the ship and one hand for self', needed a new amendment as we really needed 'both hands for self' to even stay steady in the lavatory... well that was the closest we got to Rita, bloodcurdling but exhilarating – our rendezvous with Rita.

Rita finally hit the Sabine/Lake Charles in the state of Texas during the wee hours of 24th September. Though by the time it made landfall it had weakened considerably, nevertheless it caused major damage to the oil industry of United States. Though the damage on land was not as substantial as that of Katrina but at sea it has left a mark never to be forgotten by me or by anyone working offshore in this part of the world.

Anant Goel

Ex- J-837

(Batch of 2000)

Round Square Conference at Australia

The moment anyone hears about a "Round Square Conference" the first thing that clicks in his or her mind is a 'nice holiday'. But, we want to remind them that Round Square is serious business.

After going through a laborious schedule, we finally got the liberty of being appointed as delegates to the Round Square Conference 2005 which was to be held at Ivanhoe Grammar School, Australia. Rasik Goyal, Ajitesh Kir, Mohit Bansal, Arjit Trehan, Ayan Mukherjee, Udit Goenka, Akhilesh Jung, Ishan Basnet were to represent our school. We were to be escorted by our Principal and the Teacher-in-Charge Round Square, Mr. Painuli.

After beginning our journey on the 22nd of September we reached Melbourne Airport on the 24th to

a warm welcome by the Round Square representatives. We had survived the traumatic flights!

Ivanhoe Grammar School is a beautiful institution, which is absolutely clean and with a co-operative student body. In the evening we were received by our 'home stay' families, with whom we spent all the nights at Melbourne. The Australians were very friendly and hospitable and treated us very well. The Headmaster of Ivanhoe Grammar School graced the opening ceremony of the MP05 and one member from each school marched with his school flag to the stage. At 10:45 am the first keynote speaker, Mr. Julian Burnside, delivered his speech. Mr. Burnside is a barrister practicing in Melbourne. He spoke about the early periods of Australia when Aborigines were its inhabitants. They would be locked up in three by three feet cells and young children would be detained



The Delegates with Mr. Lahiri and Mr. Painuli at the Conference

for long hours. In the 'later' hours of the day the same points were discussed in detail in our 'Baraza' groups. Also in the afternoon, we had our first 'Riika' discussion that was led by a college student Hugh Evans who before he turned 20 had spent most of his life lending a hand. He is the founder of the Oak Tree Foundation and was motivation for a lot of us.

The next day was the 'adventure' day and everyone enjoyed various adventure as well as cultural trips. Surfing and mountain-biking were some of the adventure sports.

On the third day, at 9:00 am Mr. Chris Sarra delivered his speech. Mr. Sarra, Headmaster of the Cherbourg State School, spoke about how he had led an Aboriginal Community School to become modernized.

In the evening we left for the city of Ballarat where it was extremely freezing. We enjoyed our overnight stay at Sovereign Hill.

Early next morning we left for the Service day. On this day we had the privilege of serving the country



The Delegation 'chilling' out in Sydney

and the countrymen. In the evening we left for the Ivanhoe Plenty Campus, where we attended a country fair, which concluded with a country-dance that is popularly known as the "Bush Dance."

The following day Mr. Tony Wilson along with his panel of four members made us aware of terrorism and racism during the wars, in various countries. We had our last 'Riika' on this day and discussed what qualities a person studying in a Round Square School should possess. In the evening we had a multi-cultural dinner, and as a *Grand Finale* we had a students' social.

With tears in their eyes, the ladies bade us goodbye. Shortly after the closing ceremony all the schools left for their 'homes', with those precious moments still reflecting the lovely conference...

- Representatives

Bestsellers: Shantaram

"It took me time and patience to learn what I know about love and fate and the choices we make, but the heart of it came to me in an instant, while I was chained to a wall and being tortured. I realized, somehow, through the screaming in my mind, that even in that shocked, bloody helplessness, I was still free; free to hate the men who were torturing me, or to forgive them. It doesn't sound like much I know. But in the flinch and the bite of the chain, when it's all you've got, that freedom is a universe of possibility."

Don't worry! These thoughts aren't originally mine, although I may relate it to what once took place between my teacher and me.

Actually, these thoughts sum up a period of thirteen years of the life of a man torn between identities, occupations, obsessions and interests.

This man is Gregory David Roberts a.k.a. Linbaba as he was affectionately called by the Mumbaikars.

This is a story of how the most wanted man of Australia jumped the walls of a maximum security prison and fled his native country to start a new life in Mumbai.

The uniqueness of this book is portrayed in the tale of Linbaba as he takes us through the lives of one of the most charismatic branches of the Mumbai's mafia. The image instilled in the mind of every Indian is that the mafia is a corporation of ruthless, manipulating criminal minds.

This is unfortunately true. But when one actually reads what the Linbaba has to say about them, a more humane perspective can be taken towards this judgment. He tells us of one such mafia don, a man who became a father figure to our own Linbaba, who led his people with such principles and conviction, that it would seem as if he is heading a freedom struggle. This man, a result perhaps of the Don Quixote effect, felt with that with the power he possessed, it was his duty to make a difference in the world.

The respect and love that he commanded was to such an extent that even a rickshaw puller on Marine Drive would speak of him with great affection and tearful eyes.

The *Munna Bhai* syndrome, I like to think of it as a more realistic and possibly considerate way of looking at the lives of the other people who have chosen simply a different means to earn a livelihood. The beliefs and convictions of these men are their faith; their religion and they follow it with intense devotion. It is their way of making their lives seem more meaningful to themselves.

This expression of thought is to be viewed neither as a 'BOOK REVIEW' nor as an attempt to recruit Welhamites for the mafia (although they might be welcome!). It is just my reaction to an amazingly captivating and inspiring life that is of Linbaba, the man who came to be known as Shantaram, the *phirang* who made Mumbai is home, his life.

- Kushal Shreshtha
XI Hum

Hypocrisy

The nationalistic ideas and notions that we hold and cherish are vehemently flaunted by my compatriots and me. It is starkly evident that bureaucracy exists even in the tinsel town that we live in, our school.

We are very chauvinistic about our school and identity, and seldom have we lost a chance to attack the system of governance in our country, which is par excellence!

Bureaucracy is practiced even at the grass root levels and I am ashamed to admit that it exists in our school too.

Well, if you are in the favourite boys list then no matter how late you are your excuses will always be accepted by the teacher. Prep not given on time, then instead of vituperative words, paeans flow out of teacher's mouth for your truthfulness and audacity. Ask me if you want to know.

Tuck shop and Welham Bank: where contacts are of utmost importance. If you have contacts with me (the Head Banker) then I'll make sure that you are the first one to have your transaction done. Whereas, in the tuck shop you need 'healthy relationship' with the officials.

In every nook of the world there is corruption, even if it is 'innocent corruption'.

The dining hall 'Bethany', heavenly abode for many for us, is where bureaucracy is at its best. Extra shares? Then get to 'know' the head server and coffee from the Prefects' table – have a brother up there or a very good friend.

To survive in this vitiated world, you have to be a yes-man or a sycophant. To have any work done, you've got to have 'contacts'.

We expeditiously discard the system of governance introduced in the country without even considering the pros and cons, whereas we are still practising the systems, which we should have forgone.

Are we the future of the country? To bring a change, change yourself. I am trying at my personal level not to be biased towards anyone and discard hypocrisy. Will I succeed? I do not know.

Jai Hind,
Vishal Chaudhury
XII Sc.

Oliphant Focus

You either love them or hate them, there isn't a choice of being indifferent and how can you, for they are what Welham has made them - outstanding. Enter the Twelfthies!

The Founder's Day issue of the Oliphant demanded an Oliphant Focus, which by no means could be overlooked. Of course, Oli did not have much trouble in finding this one. The Twelfthies, being the senior most students of our school, go a long way in defining and portraying Welham. Every one can figure that out!. What most people do not realize is that for the present batch of Twelfthies, in fact it is Welham that goes a long way in defining and portraying them. And why not, considering that there are some who have spent as much as twelve years at Welham, with a special one spending eighteen! While Welham has seen them grow, they too have seen Welham through its thick and thin, from the 'Barbaric Welham' to the 'Instable Welham' to what it is today.

Now when they stand at the threshold, they are equipped with innumerable memories, which would emerge as great inducers of nostalgia. Welham too has a lot of memories to cherish, either with a tear or with a smile. Here are some of the memories which would be remembered with more than a mere smile!

Ankit Vinaik – This guy has been dieting since he was in class 7 and but has gained over 40 kg. Lately he is known as KT even by members of the Staff (well, I am not supposed to tell you what it stands for). A 'gentle' Prefect who sometimes gets *jungle*. One of our first representatives for Welham Girls'. *Bhai* for most of the girls as they fail to understand his intentions! A child in a giant's body, this man can surprise you with his funny jokes and his 'classy' shoes.



ANKIT (KT)

Kunwar Raunak – A man just out of the Royal age, who considers all sport 'cheap' except for Polo. Popularly known as 'Sahi' for his sleeping habits and walking style, he can give you the political and physical map of the Basti anytime, anywhere. He has the knowledge of the weirdest Hindi movies such as of *Mithun ki Roti* and never fails to make you laugh. During his ICSE exams people were 'honoured' to see his face and thought that they had been blessed by his



KUNWAR

presence, for they hardly ever saw him. The proud founder of the 'sarpanch gang' and the guru for all the Cauveri dudes.

Udit 'Baba' Agarwal – Car magazines freak him out and he has a collection of 'interesting' books as well [a collection from I to XVII]. The *buntikki* king who never spends a penny. He is tensed all the while and even more when the 'princi' sits on Krishna 12th's table for lunch. This is the most suitable explanation for his tremendous amount of hair loss! This dude knows everything about everyone in the Welham underground (even the sick stories).



BABA

Karamveer Singh Sohi – one could go on about this perfect 'Surdy', but the magazine has its limitations. His primary belief is to give late entries; in a game, for socials, classes and everything else. He claims to have never eaten a single meal in school but notice that he is always the last person to get out of the dining hall. Famous for his tragic love story and the grub that is in his cupboard, that never opens, throughout the years. It would be a lie if I told you that he washes his hair every week. Oops! Lives by the motto 'Never lose hopes!'



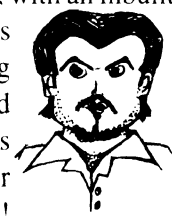
KARAMVEER

Parth Prasher – A dangerous looking 'man' (often mistaken for Mangal Pandey) who is troubled by his ever-increasing hair growth; thus his name Bushy! He has to shave so much that Gillette offered to sponsor him (I think). A true non-vegetarian who makes sure that he gets all the food available at the 'high table', except when there are guests present. A confident liar, who lies for pleasure! Ironically, this 'dangerous' looking man didn't turn up for the socials because he was scared!!! Hates Maggi, but has three *dongas* of it whenever possible!

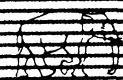


PARTH

Marij Khan – Don't wake him up otherwise *panga ho jayega*. The king of Cauveri and Triveni, with an inbuilt Bose amplifier. He has strong connections throughout the school but is slowly getting out of business these days because of old age. A 'twelfthie' from grade 1, he is finally passing out of school, a relief for all the juniors especially the cute ones!



MARIJ



Famous for his extra fast news reports with his own twist to the tales. A self acclaimed Don, no one knows why???

Geet Kashyap – A young boy with an abnormally hairy face. One month before every term ends, he gets a call from home saying *Beta, Ghar pe nahi aana*. The favourite victim of injustice who has been 'gated' for the past two years. This man can eat anything in the dining hall and his explanation is "I am a Punjabi yaar." He could do anything for food and tries to be a confident liar, the most common one being "my girlfriend is of my age".



GEET

Deepak Agarwal – a terror for all the juniors, who now believes in non-violence. He could kill you with his philosophical one liner and inspires juniors with his hardcore speeches. Lately he has been spotted escorting girls around the campus and acting weird during Socials (Deepak's tour de Welham). Man on a mission, he wants to prove to everyone that he did not become the fastest runner by fluke. So watch out for the new 'speed'. Before marching, the juniors are treated to a one hour moral lecture and 2 minute marching practice! God give peace to their souls.



DEEPAK

Udit Kumar – A controversial personality, was appointed Prefect for all his 'services' to the community. After much hard work the weighing machine doesn't cry for help any longer, when he stands on it, at least that is what he says! A role model for all future batches as he can fix your 'Taka' for the high table. The morning 'chai' vice captain, who is punctual even on Sundays. Claims to be the smartest dude in school, and is rumoured to have a kid known as 'Dhamaka'. Way to go G.B.Road.



UDIT (TAKA)

Aamir Ansari – The computer wiz kid who is directly or indirectly a part of any 'technical' event in school. From The Oliphant to Concept Assemblies, he is everywhere. The school captain calls him the 'real scoolie', as he does all the work, and even more! Is obviously in love with himself because the only girl he ever liked was someone who looked exactly like him! His smiles shall never stop, even if he is accused of being an ISI agent. "Jai Jugad!"



AAMIR

Wabun Subba – The silent killer from Nepal who has attracted the evil eyes of the authorities since he joined us in class 11. A fantastic guitarist who used to spend most of the time in the Oli room, doing God knows what. His capacity of food intake is very high but again, where does it all go? Just 'physically' present in the first three schools and yet he surprises everyone with his good grades. Claims to have the perfect physique and the perfect girl (some confidence).



WABUN

Gagan Juneja: Another of the 'GJ, TJ, MJ' clan, he vehemently threatened to bash us all up on the first day of his school life. Popularly known as *Makkhi*, and the only one to have got five girlfriends across the LoC when many of us strive to get one. Claims to truly love the next girl he sees and snobbishly call the Small 'B' his clone (the not so better one). A proper 'localite' to the soul who cherishes listening to 'Tum to Thehre Pardesi'. The starter of the trend of getting a 'sister' in Girls' School to get all her friends. However, now his operations have shifted over to Hopetown after the socials. Learn from him, the art of being a 'cupid'. Can you talk fourteen hours on the phone? Plans to name his children as Bunty, Bubli and Chotu.



G.J.

Rahul Wadhwa: An army man, whose hair doesn't grow longer than 2 1/2 cm. Son of a Chartered Accountant and an IITian, so you can imagine. Fell in love with the same girl as GJ did but still has his lamps shining bright. Needs nothing more than 'butter and toast', one of the *paharis* at the Prefect's table. Joined only in class 11 but now known as 'Wadhwaji' and 'Ghanoute'. Fair complexioned fellow who is the shining star of the Welham News team. A hard-working fellow whose 'jaanwar' comes out when a junior commits a misdemeanour, forget about juniors busting bound.

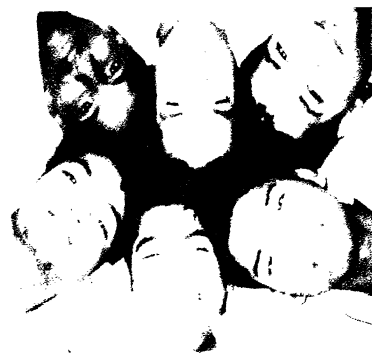


RAHUL

Suyash Gupta: Known as 'Jay pazeeeee' for his striking resemblance to Mr. Gusain's son (Jay). He is the perfect example of natural cloning. The shortest guy in our class who is the most ardent buyer of the 'YOKO' products to increase his height. Has a girlfriend in town and in Agra. Rumoured to be the *Bhateja* of 'you know who'



SUYASH





the most feared couple in school. Has got hair like 'Maggi' noodles!

Nishant Bansal: Looks astonishingly similar to Mr. Aseem Tripathi and lovingly called AT. Known to operate under the 'tea captain' (zombie) as he always has 'tea-shares *ka stock*'. Hungry *kya*??!! Proposed to his girlfriend at the Taj Mahal and still going strong. Another of the Hopetown *Bhakt* who takes special coaching classes to be a lady-killer. Nowadays seen crying for being 'gated' for Diwali and cribbing more than ever.



NISHANT.B

Mayank Agarwal: Zombie of the class, who tried to get into Woodstock but unfortunately failed. Had even changed his name to 'MIO-JEAN'. The hardest working guy in class, well not in the 'girls' field'. Known for his Shahid Kapoor 'silky' hairdo which he has courted since he existed. The tea captain of the school, knows the dining hall better than the caterer. Believes in the policies of 'Never say no' to other's grub and 'Never offer' your own grub. Very much loved for his Woodstock connectivity and rumoured to have lived on a train all his life until now. Can't stand still and walk straight, keeps shaking????!!



MAYANK

Avinash Athwani: His trademark dialogues would leave Laloo astounded. "Hamey bhi karna ho" or "Ghanti bol diye hai?" Claimed to be a gold medallist and a centurion in cricket, but unfortunately did not even get into the 'extras' of the school team! A hunk in Hopetown, who is one of the successful entrepreneur in the 'lady-love' business. Known for the solid ability of his Dumbo ears. Talks to you only when he has work with you. An exact *babuji*, whose accent tends to be that of a *firangi* when talking to his girl. Pure artistry!!!



AVINASH

Vibhor Gupta: He has spent 12 years in Welham, but the only place he is emotionally attached to is the physics lab. He is a very 'special' student who has done a PhD in LLB!! Mr. Confusion, he is the teachers' nightmare, who when starts questioning, can even force a teacher to commit 'self' suicide. Actually, a gem of a person, who



VIBHOR

is not only a child in his behaviour, but also at heart. Stood first in the 100 metres race of the special Olympics held at Welham Girls' School. Achievement!!! Well don't forget the three *mutters*. Sameera and the tiger mark on his stomach. Suffering from Polio!!

Ankit Bansal: Wonderful actor, dancer, singer, musician and mimic – he had so many talents that he had to crush his dreams of joining The Doon School and joined Welham! The unofficial badminton captain, who was initially a Romeo in a 'town of hope', but could not compete with his 'baap' (aka.. 'D' Daddy). True to his character, he is the most caring and helpful guy, and always tries to 'be there', consequently known as Momi (read: Mommy!!) Also has founded the Momi's Institute of Laughter (MIL), where one learns to crack jokes like that of Sidhu. Ha! Ha! Ha!



ANKIT (MOMI)

Abhishek Bharti: 'Apna Dutt bhai'. Be it the Sanjay Dutt look or the Bobby Deol look, you name it, he's got it. The guy who loves his food and his dialogue, 'dabedle dabedle!!' Underneath, this 'black ghost' is actually a very sweet and innocent 'child', who will always be remembered by his Teachers Day performance. 'Kya karoo, budget mein nahin hai!! Yeah!! This dude is the biggest local in Welham community. Talk to him once. "Teri jakran tor doonga".



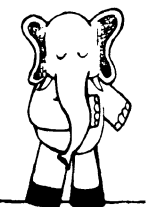
ABHISHEK

Deepak Kumar: The 'king' of Ganga, who not only lost his crown to Krishna, but also his queen (ask the sports captain why?). A very hard working guy who was always there working with Aamir in whatever he did, but never got any credit simply because of his uncanny talent of becoming invisible! The real hip-hop guy, with a cool attitude. Started the new fashion of exposing chest hair. Hoooootttttt!!



DEEPAK.K

Nishant Joshi: Our own school captain and the Editor-in-Chief of The Oliphant. This man here strictly lives by his principles and undoubtedly the busiest person on campus. One of the pioneers in fighting against peer pressure and is a highly acclaimed person who can cast his spell on any 'girl' or 'woman' at any given point of time. So all the ladies watch out for the 'miracle man'. Has no women problem when we have many. Never has turned



up on time for anything, even on the day he got appointed. His one command makes us all get down. *Murga Ban Jaye Sirrrr!*

Ali Hameed: A truly multidimensional person. If you see the upper half of his body it might remind you of Arnold and the lower half may make you think otherwise (multidimensional indeed). He wonders if India is in Asia or is a continent itself. Proud to have a girlfriend across the road but unfortunately for him there are no Socials. Also has one in Hopetown who looks more like his twin brother. *Ali-G in da house.*



ALI

Sameer Suri: The crazy cartoonist who has helped revive the image of The Oliphant. One of these handsome dudes who doesn't have a girlfriend, not to say that there are no girls waiting in line but just that they are not his type. Plans to 'bang' a dude known as 'Aby Baby' who seems to have stolen his love. *Cheeti* of the class, has had the privilege of getting KT's unwanted doses. Yuck!!!!



SAMEER

Vipul Garg: Popular for turning down the hottest girl in WGHS for a dance, this Brad Pitt of the class does not give a damn. Known as 'Bicky'. If you have any trouble in Meerut then call this *Bhai*. However we have successfully raided his branded clothes. The best actor in school and the only words (in English) that he knows are 'No, I am Bezzee'. Unfortunately he has been missing this term and the Founder's Day play is in English!



VIPUL

Harshit Agarwal: Har-"shit" as he is popularly known, can be spotted a mile away because of his silky and always shampooed hair. The guy who woos girls by his gymnastic skills- did a handstand during socials and since then has tried to avoid a girl, who looks like the 'Tapti maa'. Can kill anything with his breath, this man is the fittest in the class. Claims to have driven a Corolla at 260 km/m from Nanital to Dehra Dun. Way to go, Schumi!



HARSHIT

Pranav Gupta: 'Lal chap' or the millionaire from the Liberty clan, has been in school since class V. The secretary of the *baniya* gang, this man only knows how

to build his 'hairless' body. Growth seems to have stopped for him. Got a girlfriend who has worked in 'Aahat' (without make-up) and loves her more than his iPod! Has got 'counted' two briefs and one vest and only 1 pencil (no pen). This guy seems to be more shy than the 'okapi'.



PRANAV

Amandeep Singh Anand: Went to the bathroom last time 4 years ago. Phew!! This guy only believes in Kunwar Raunaq, who seems to be his Guru (*Fevicol ka jod hai na*). His body, as many speculate, is the ground of the Indian Nuclear Missile programme. Rumours are that around his body grows all the varieties of drugs and mind-altering substances and most sought after by the Afghanis. The President of the *baniya* gang, has got all the excuses not to give you anything and take everything. The first member of the *sarpanch* gang that was founded by Kunwar this autumn. Knows all the C_2H_5OH outlets, as he proudly follows in his brother's footsteps.



AMANDEEP

Faizan Ullah: 'Chhota Birader' of the class, knows only how to run. Has been missing for most of the term now. Falls in and out of love and believed to be another of the 'Bin Laden clan'. Known as camel across the L.O.C [twenty kilos under weight and stands at six feet, two inches]. Pure at heart and soul, he always bears a smile. Whether it be Fiona or the 'P-factor', this guy knows about every girl even if they know nothing about him. Used to be a terror for the juniors and the teachers, has mellowed down ever since.



FAIZAN

Paramraj Singh Khara: Known as 'Frankie', he knows nothing beyond destruction. The 'cribbing' captain of the school, he threatens to hit anyone with the *Shota* if he doesn't agree with him. Believed to be jinxed as everytime his best friend would get away with his girl. Oooohhh! That hurts and sucks. Only has faith in 'Baba' and sticks up for him even if he is wrong. Uh!huh!, the best goalie in school and the last of the psychos of the 'Khara clan'. No if, no but, only *jatt*. Very popular in getting the maximum out of facilities provided by the school, he



PARAMRAJ

doesn't even spare the Sunday morning tea. Well, the next time he starts talking to you, stand six metres away and tell him *Kal Baat Kareng*.

Gaurav Chopra: Hey dudes stay far, because you might get mutated. This guy has the facilities [in built] of that of a nuclear reactor. Deodorants and perfumes seem to have no effect on him. (S.O.S) Never seen socializing with girls for he loves cars and bikes far more than 'ladeez'. Teachers require a microscope to comprehend his writing. Has tried to get into the hockey team but has been unsuccessful everytime. Bought a pair of 'aviators' and proudly wears them even when sleeping!



GAURAV

Amit Saini: 'Bada Bittu' is one of the *jadugars* of the class who has successfully vanished numerous times. The *cheera* of the clan who has a tattoo below his right eye since he 'birthed' on Earth. The guy who has already fixed his marriage and believe you me, has got a photograph clicked of himself and his wife-to-be in a studio. A zealot, isn't he? Many speculate whether his fiancé is a boy or a girl, but he loves her "morer, greater, heighterer" than anyone else. Romeo would be proud of him. Uh! Huh!



AMIT

(now the duo, who have lampooned everyone else)

Mohit Shrestha: Mohito, Rooney or Piggy, you can call him anything. Holds the record of finishing all the poultry products in Nepal and since then has tried to do the same in India. The 'Hot Property' amongst junior batches in W.G.H.S, this guy has already got a fiancé and is also the proud founder of the 'Wife Loving Society' [Mero Adhuro Prem]. A weirdo who would rather die a 'DDP dude' than a Nepali. Cries more than ever about everyone and everything. Got a twenty one gun salute for his ability to eat from 12 to 4 p.m in Prez, that to, constantly. His next mission is to lift a few inches off the ground, for as of now he needs to get admitted in the hospital after he walks. Gets a breathing problem whenever he sits down to EAT. Grunt, grunt!!!!



MOHIT

Vishal Choudhury – The School Sports Captain who actually gets better graders than anyone else in school,

this Assamese 'hunk' prefers to 'study' in the phone booth these days because of the privacy that is available there. Wonder what subject he studies there.....probably a subject which starts with 'P'. Wore his famous "I love Welham" shirt (or wait a minute, was it something else..) during the hockey season. Mr Lahiri is convinced that he is only becoming an engineer to fly his plane and land it across the LOC! Recently, he has stopped his trade mark jogs till the famous 'Crossing' where he is supposed to have spent most of his class XII, and when he didn't visit the 'crossing', the 'crossing' visited him!! If the mountain does not come to Mohammed, Mohammed must go to the mountain...just that Mohammed came at the wrong time!!!



VISHAL

The following was published in the official report of the Round Square International Service Project in Hanol. Faizan wrote it on the eve of the final day of the project, before all the volunteers, from all across the globe, headed home. The following piece could never have made more sense to all these twelfthies, as their life at Welham impetuously seems to be approaching the end.

Life has to end people, life has to end...
 Someone's smile can make me feel happy again
 Its time for us to part
 A tear comes to my eye
 But its time that's going to heal
 'Coz I don't have the courage to say goodbye.
 Holding hands in an altruistic manner,
 Will vituperate my heart.
 There is immense joy in listening to
 The sound of the river flowing
 And the wind which is blowing,
 I love the power given to me
 By the trees, the moon, the sun and the stars
 And the power given to me by the flowers.
 The tossing of bricks and
 The digging of holes
 The things I have saved in memory I'll never let go
 I would love to finish by saying
 "Hey Lord, save my country, my people and my friends"
 As life has to end people, life has to end...
 Let peace prevail

Faizan Ullah (Fez)