



# THE OLIPHANT

NO. 133

WELHAM BOYS' SCHOOL

1st October 1992

## THINK ABOUT IT

*There is false modesty, but there is no false pride.*

*Jules Renard*

Think of debates and elocutions at Welham and immediately a ghastly picture is painted in front of one's eyes - of Welhamite as a war battered, down trodden soldier returning from war after a crushing defeat.

This sorry state of affairs is not any one person's fault. It is everyone's fault. There is a lot of talent at Welham but no proper channelling. If the talent could only be nurtured, we would not stand where we presently are. I am not saying Welham has not produced good debaters. Piyush Modi, Vishal Mohan, Saurav Sinha, Ritesh Khanna and Nitin Jain were all products of the school. But they are long gone and no one has been able to take their place.

A random survey was conducted in school last term (its results were printed in 'The Oliphant'). The topic was 'Why boys do not participate in debates and elocutions'. Many boys felt that the teachers did not encourage them enough; many said they felt scared of being laughed at or of making fools of themselves on stage. Some in school even think that debating and elocutions are stupid things to be done only by the nerds. God help them! What they do not realize is that such activities build self-confidence and improve one's powers of public speaking.

Ridicule is one thing we all are petrified of. If instead of being cowed down by it we stood up and took it as a challenge, we could improve. As the idiom goes "Try, try, try till you succeed". A change in attitudes could lead to an improvement



in the standard of spoken English.

Yet another reason for the low level of debating could be our conversational language. Hindi is preferred by most, may be because they can express themselves easily in it. 95% of Welhamites converse in Hindi

amongst themselves. Some who do talk in English always make use of the 'Sixer language'. This does not seem to be the case in many public schools. There, the youngest of students confidently blabber in English. And on hearing them, a typical comment passed by one of us boys would be "Style maar raha hai!!" What we do not understand is that it is natural for them but stylish for us. It could be because they never talk in Hindi - may be sometimes, but very little. Perhaps by checking each other for doing so we could overcome this problem.

Another factor could be non-seriousness on the part of the boys. Recently, for the Inter-House English debate, apart from one or two competitors, the rest had not written their speeches or prepared till about three to four hours before the debate. This shows how much interest they had in it.

Maybe some time we all shall realize our fault and see where we had gone wrong. Maybe then we might right our mistakes and be out of the doldrums in which we are at present.

See you,

- Varun Sood

## Welham Now!!!

1. The English Literary Society (commonly known as Lit Soc) screened 'Hamlet', starring Mel Gibson and Glenn Close on 2nd September.
2. The All India Platinum Jubilee English Debate was held at the Scindia School, Gwalior on 12th September. Gaurav Wahi and Sameer Gambhir represented our school in this debate. The topic for the Debate was 'War is the only means to world peace'.
3. Saurabh Palival, Harjyot Singh and Sharib Khan represented the school in the first Round Table Quiz Contest held at the Doon Club on the 19th of this month.
4. The Hindi Society has started a wall magazine called 'Prayas' in the LRC.
5. Jamuna lifted the Inter House Debate Trophy. The topic for the Debate was "Hamara charitraheen hona hamare desh ki pragati mei badhak hai." Chirdeep Parasher and Pankaj Yadav stood first.
6. Jamuna again walked home with the shield in the Inter-house (Sr.) English Debate. Sudeep Choudhary, Harjyot Singh and Arjun Saluja stood 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively. The boys debated on the topic 'Nothing is good or bad, thinking makes it so'.
7. A group of 10 boys went to Delhi to take the N.D.A. entrance examination on 19th Sept.
8. Simran Nurpuri and Ranvijay Lamba participated in the Inter School Hindi Debate held on 19th Sept at the Doon School. The topic for the Debate was the same as the topic for our Inter-House Hindi Debate.
9. Asad Shamshi has been appointed the SCHOOL MONITOR in recognition of his efforts as Food Committee-incharge to improve conditions in the Dining Hall. We congratulate him and wish him all the best for the future.
10. The results of the Hindi essay competition were as follows:-

*Group A*

1st Gaurav Dubey  
2nd Abhinav Marwah  
3rd Ram Sharan

*Group B*

1st Shantanu Singh  
2nd Manish Kumar  
3rd Vivek Garg.

*Group C*

1st Vijay Bisnoi  
2nd Sharib Khan  
3rd Nitin Bhanot & Simran Nurpur

Well done all of you!

11. The Middle School organised a house entertainment programme on the 20th.
12. Results of 'Hindi Writing Competition' (Middle school) held on 14th August:  
First - Shyam Prasad  
Second - Ashish Kumar  
Third - Shobhit Agarwal
13. Results of Hindi Elocution (Middle School) held on 29th August :  
First : Kumar Abhijit  
Second : Vaibhav Jain  
Third : Vijay Prashant.

Dear Editor,

As an avid reader of your fortnightly, please permit me to trespass on the hospitality of your columns. I plead "Not Guilty" to your allegation that I "am contemptuous of Indian films". Not only is the word too strong but implies a degree of knowledge which I lack.

Possibly you refer to my feelings for the aspect of Indian films that is reflected in that pap for undeveloped minds "Chitrahah". As a matter of fact when I see it my first reaction is one of squirming in my seat and then switching the T.V. off.

Alas the last time I saw this was on an Air India flight and I could not switch it off. As an Indian I felt demeaned by this reflection of our artistic sensibility.

Indian films, in which I presume you include films in Indian languages, like any other, vary in quality from the superb to the appalling.

Yours etc.,

(S. Kandhari)



## Tests !!!

Tests are cause of pain,  
Increasing the boys' mental strain,  
The 'Grubby Welhamite' stays away from hog,  
And with his books till late he slogs.

Then you've monthly assessment,  
Which causes perpetual harassment,  
And even after studying throughout,  
Of passing you've serious doubts.

The questions given are 'shady',  
Even after learning the guys aren't ready,  
Every one wants to sit with a 'studdy',  
Who gets a chance to act a little 'pricy'.

Cheating is done in enormous proportions,  
When the students have no other options,  
They have to get a good report card,  
To show their parents they are studying hard.

'Cogging' is mainly done by peeping,  
However there are other ways of cheating,  
Someone slyly opens the book,  
While on the teacher he keeps a close look.

Chits appear from everywhere,  
While the innocent teacher looks into the air,  
Occasionally he will catch someone,  
As he copies the matter of the other one,

He will be shouted at as also the rest of the class,  
Assured the teacher sits down at last,  
Only to see an increase in 'cogging'  
Obviously to which there is no stopping.

Even after trying their level best,  
The scripts are filled only with crosses.  
However they reassure themselves,  
'We'll see in exams, this was only a test'.

*- Hitesh Mahajan*

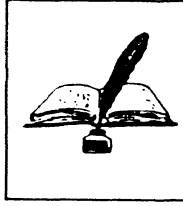
We regret that the story 'Short Temper' (The Oliphant No. 132) was not entirely original and that the last issue of the magazine contained several grammatical errors.

-Editor

# The Literary Affairs of Welham

## THE CHAIR OF DOOM

Over breakfast we were discussing the news in the daily paper when we came across a column which aroused my interest. It read - "The 'Chair of Doom' claims another victim, it's eleventh one. The victim Mr. Sood, died of asphyxiation as he sat on the chair." This was all the newspaper had to say. I was curious to know more.



My curiosity led me to the newspaper office, where I got the details. The Chair of Doom was in a local bar and anyone who sat on it died within one week of sitting on it. Having learnt this much about the chair, I wanted to investigate more. I went to the bar the newspaper office had told me about and had a few words with the bar-owner, Mr Chopra.

He said he had found the chair in the basement when he bought the place. He had also found newspaper cuttings on the chair which he had not bothered about. Later, when the chair claimed two victims, Mr. Chopra said he remembered the newspaper cuttings. They had mentioned that the chair was fatal for anyone who sat on it. He said that this was his key to success. He had placed advertisements of the chair in the newspapers. It had attracted hundreds of tourists to his bar and so increased his profit.

The chair was in a corner in the bar and was attached to the wall with a chain for security purposes. Above the chair was a golden plaque which read that anyone who sat on the chair and did not die within a week would get a cash prize of Rs. one lakh. I asked Mr. Chopra to describe one or two deaths. He told me that one Mr. Ram had driven into the sea after sitting on the chair and thereby drowned. Another Mr. Ambar had died of an epileptic fit.

As I was about to take my leave Mrs. Chopra came in with some coffee. She said that she was sick of the chair because it led to a very hectic life for them. She said that the next day some revered pandit was going to come and sit on it and would do so for one week. According to her he was doing it because he wanted to prove that religion prevails over superstition. She asked me to be there the next day.

The next day Swami Nityanand arrived at seven O' clock and as he opened the door a mirror broke. He said that this would bring him seven years of bad luck. I was shocked. Here was the man who was going to prove that religion prevails over superstition! He sat on the chair for six days. Nothing happened to him. On the seventh day more than the usual number of people attended his sermon. In the evening he sat on the chair again. Still nothing happened.

When Mr. Chopra went to get the money, Swamiji confessed to us that with the help of Mrs. Chopra (because she was his follower) he had replaced the original chair with a cheap replica which he had brought from the Boggis antique shop. We were shocked hearing this but more was to follow. Mr. Chopra returned from the next room with the money. He announced that he would give Swamiji the reward of Rs. 1 lakh as promised but had a confession to make - the chair was not the original chair of doom. He said, "When the chair claimed many lives I thought it was not auspicious and exchanged it with a similar looking chair Mr Boggis had". On hearing this, Swamiji collapsed and died of a heart attack!

- Navbir Aurora  
XII





## Okay Guys, Its Tea Time!

'Bless us O Lord, for these your gifts...' the grace is missing. So is the decorum, discipline and the teachers. Its tea time and the next 15 minutes consist of nothing but fun, food and brouhaha.

Oh! You have access to munch on Bondas, Tarts, Sandwiches, Bread pakoras etc. etc. etc. Coupled with tea, the snacks give just the energy which the boys require before they display their talents on the games field. And obviously before going for an evening walk or a jog down the road,



seniors require nourishment, and need to revive their senses after a nap with delicious tea.

The scene is fascinating. Its like saying 'the bell rings and brings us back to our period of noisiness'. The noise reaches its peak, as the boys cool, slurp and gurgle the tea while the others duel it out with the bearers for their share. On the days when flavoured milk is served the conditions worsen. The boys charge, pushing one another to

grab the kettle. They use 'flowery' language during their dash and after managing to secure their share they finally sit back and sweeten their tongues with the flavoured milk.

In PH the principle goes 'first come, first serve'. Anybody starved because of skipping lunch obviously reaches first and out of the 37 divisions of snacks pulls out a tidy 15. The rest is left for the rest who obviously have to grab, causing enough pandemonium. It is strange however that no one complains nor says anything to the first 'invader'. They all satisfy themselves, probably saying, 'Every dog has his day and mine will soon come'. The XIIth, however, is not used to leaving the dining hall with empty stomachs. They quench their thirst with tea and satisfy their hunger with either shares from junior hostels which I would say is a rather modernised version of 'hafta' or they get extra from the head 'Bearer'.

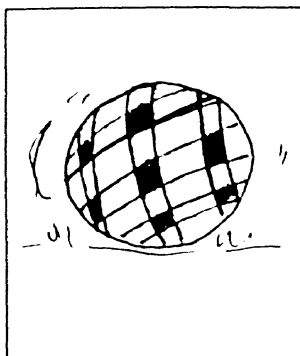
Since the shifting of the dining hall to the assembly hall the XIIth or rather the senior lot prefer to drink tea alfresco. It serves various purposes. Firstly the XIIth are able to breathe fresh air. After all, hours of dedicated work within the four walls of a classroom becomes rather monotonous. This serves as a perfect break. Next they are able to watch the over enthusiastic football team practice alongwith its burly captain and stocky coach. The matches ofcourse prolong the hours of tea break and the XIIth justify their act by saying, 'Yeh to school ka match hai, yeh to dekhna hi parega!' And its obvious, how can they miss it? After all they have strong school spirit. Though it is a different thing that it has been subdued in reaction to the changes brought in by the school administration.

Whatever it is, 'Tea-time' gives an insight into the manners, eating habits and etiquette of the Welhamites. Its when they are in their natural environment. While any outsider would be horrified after seeing this horrendous ambience on entering the dining hall, for a Welhamite its normal. Well, until next time!

Au revoir!

- Hitesh Mahajan.

## Sports Trivia



The school football team was on a winning streak, this time in the Council Football Tournament. Our first match was against St. Joseph's, comparatively a weaker side. Both teams fought vigorously for possession of the ball and at one time it seemed that Welham had met its match. But not for long. A long pass from Munish Suri and an accurate header from Manish Kumar put Welham ahead. Minutes later, Harjyot gave an excellent pass to Rajesh who made no mistake in placing the ball in the net. From then on Welham dominated the game. The third goal came through a penalty kick which was converted by Munish Suri. Minutes later Prashant Singh's shot put Welham up by four goals. In the second half the opponents saved a couple of good goals while the hosts missed some really good ones. The match ended, 4-0 in Welham's favour.

In the second match we met Marshall's School. It was a lack-lustre affair with both teams indulging in foul play. Ignorant refereeing made thing worse. We won the match 2-0, both goals coming in through Rajesh Sehgal in the first half.

In the Quarter-finals we played St. Thomas' College. The team, badly out of form, could not live up to expectations. We won the match by a solitary goal - our forward line failed miserably. Finishing, once again let us down. Let's hope that Munish's 'ragra' is successful in bringing back the team's lost touch in time before the semi-finals of the tournament.

The Inter-House soccer (section - A) (Classes 6-7) saw Cauvery once again walking away with the cup. The results were as follows:-

Fixtures	Score		Scorers
Cauvery v/s Jamuna	3-2	C	(i) Ashok Roy Sumant (ii) Suman Rai (iii) Abhishek Verma
		J	(i) Abdullah (ii) Ajay Kumar
Ganga v/s Krishna	1-1	G	(i) Vasudev Gupta
		K	(i) Surya Jai
Cauvery v/s Krishna	3-0	C	(i) Bikash Gurung (ii) Ashok Roy (iii) Ankur Chakore
Ganga v/s Jamuna	1-0	G	(i) Yashab Zia Ansari
Jamuna v/s Krishna	1-0	J	(i) Abhinav Pathak
Cauvery v/s Ganga	0-0		

The competition saw the emergence of some very good players. One can rest, assured that there is no dearth of talent if one actually tries to discover it. Ashok Roy and Abhishek Malla were quite a delight to watch especially once they had the opponent's defence dancing to their tune. Bikash Gurung and Yashab Zia Ansari were the back bones of their respective teams. Both could be spotted every where the ball went. Although the list of players who played well is endless, a few names like Anirudh Chauhan, Amit Kumar and Varun Puri do need special mention for their sterling performances.

- Harjyot Singh

**The Volley Ball Team registered its first win of the season when it defeated Kendriya Vidyalaya in straight sets. Score - 15-13, 15-3 and 15-7.**

# हिन्दी अनुभाग

## जरा ध्यान दे।

भारत वर्ष! यह देश संसार का वह कोना जो एक समय अपने शांत वातावरण व नेक संस्कार के लिए सारे जगत में विख्यात और प्रसिद्ध था, आज अपराध व आतंकवाद का एक बहुत भ्रष्ट और दूषित गढ़ बन गया है। भारत में अपराध अग्नि के समान फैल रहा है। इस अग्नि में आज समस्त भारत जल रहा है। कई वर्ष पूर्व भारत एक सोने की चिड़िया के समान दिखाई देता था और वर्तमान में भी इस अपराध की अग्नि की लपटों में सोने जैसा दिखाई दे रहा है, परन्तु इस सोने का अन्त एक बेहतरीन अमूल्य गहना नहीं बल्कि मात्र राख का एक ढेर है।

भारत में अपराधों और अपराधियों की तो कमी है ही नहीं परन्तु अपराध सहने वाले भी इस देश में असंख्य व अनगिनत हैं, इन अपराधों के कारण असमित हैं। वर्तमान दृश्य को देखते हुए मैं कुछ कारणों पर ज्यादा नहीं परन्तु अपनी मानसिक शक्ति के हिसाब से थोड़ा सा प्रकाश डालना चाहता हूँ।

भारत में हो रहे अपराधों में से जो कुछ गिने चुने और आम अपराध हैं, वह हैं रिश्वत खोरी, दहेज, बलात्कार, हत्या, अपहरण, नशीली दवाइयों का व्यापार, जिस्म का व्यापार, दंगे - फसाद, सरकारी मामुलात में दखल अन्दाजी, डकैती, आतंकवाद इत्यादि। इ विषय की तो कोई सीमा है ही नहीं, परन्तु इन सबको बढ़ावा देने वाले कारण और उन्हें रोकने के जो उपाय हैं, हम उनका विचार, विस्तार में अवश्य कर सकते हैं। मैं जानता हूँ कि मेरे जितने भी दिये गए कारण हैं, वे शायद आपको प्रभावित न करें मगर हर व्यक्ति को अपनी बात कहने का मौका मिलना चाहिए।

हर व्यक्ति के जुर्म करने और अपराधी बनने में किसी - न - किसी शक्ति व वस्तु का हाथ अवश्य होता है, कोई भी व्यक्ति अपनी मौ की कोख से अपराधी बनकर पैदा नहीं होता। मेरे अनुसार भारत में बढ़ते हुए अपराध का सर्वप्रथम कारण है भारत की अधिकतर जनसंख्या की मानसिक अवस्था। मैं इस कारण पर इसलिए अधिक जोर डाल रहा हूँ क्योंकि ज्यादातर अन्य कारण भी इसी कारण में छिपे हैं और इस कारण का एक सुझाव निकालना भी बहुत कठिन है। भारत में ही

नहीं हर देश में किसी भी चीज का कारण उस देश के वासियों की मानसिक अवस्था ही है।

भारत के अधिकतम युवक जो आज आतंकवादी हैं, सामप्रदायिक दंगों के भागी हैं, चोर हैं, गूंडे हैं या और किसी प्रकार के कुकर्मी हैं, या तो वह डिग्री प्राप्त कर के बेराजगार घूम रहे हैं या वह परीक्षाओं में असफल हुए हैं। इस कारण का उपाय ढूँडना एक अत्यधिक कठिन कार्य है। मेरे अनुसार इसके दो उपाय हैं पहला उपाय तो यह है भारत के सभी युवकों की वार्षिक या मासिक बैठके और उन्हें सही मार्ग पर चलाने के लिए अन्य प्रभावशील कार्यक्रम होने चाहिए तथा दूसरा उपाय यह है कि जो भी युवा संस्थाएं उन निराश असफल युवकों को सही सलाह देकर बुरे मार्ग पर चलने से बचाना चाहिए।

भारत में फैल रहे अपराध का एक और महत्वपूर्ण कारण है गरीबी और भुखमारी, यह दोनों चीजे मनुष्य जाति को पीस देती और किसी भी बुरी चीज को करने के लिए लाचार और मजबूर कर देती है। यदि कोई व्यक्ति भूख से मर रहा हो तो उसके हितैशी अर्थात् उसके घर वाले उसे बचाने के लिए कोई भी कदम उठाने को तैयार हो जाएँगे। आप यह उदाहरण सुनने और पढ़ने में कोई महत्व न दे, क्योंकि यह एक आम डायलाग बन चुका है परन्तु यह बात एक कड़वा सत्य जो (७० प्रतिशत) भारत वर्ष की हकीकत है। गरीबी और भूख चक्की के वह दो पाठ हैं जिसमें एक आम भारतवासी पिसता है। इसके उपाय भी ढूँडना एक सरल कार्य नहीं है, एक उपाय मेरे अनुसार यह है कि राजनैतिक दलों को जो पैसा पूंजीपतियों के द्वारा चुनाव आदि के लिए मिलता है उसमें से केवल कुछ हिस्सा ही अगर वे सब, भारत के गरीबों के लिए लगा दे तो बहुत धन जमा हो जाएगा जिससे उन गरीबों की थोड़ी सहायता हो सकती है।

अंत में, मैं कहना चाहूँगा कि देश में स्थिति के सुधार के लिए हमें सामाजिक ढाँचे में क्रांति लानी होगी। और यह तभी संभव है जब हर भारतीय इस कार्य में सहयोग दे।

शाद अली

XI

### EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor : Varun Sood, Welham Now : Sarib Khan Literary Affairs : Kirtiman Singh, Lampoon : Hitesh Mahajan, Sports Affairs : Harjot Singh Hindi Section : Paresh Harshvardhan, Vijay Bishnoi, Cartoonists : Rishi Chopra, Saurabh Narang, Staff Rep. : N. Puri Published & Printed by WELHAM BOYS SCHOOL. Registration No. 20208/86

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