



# THE ELEPHANT

No. 150

WELHAM BOYS' SCHOOL

9th March 1994

## THINK ABOUT IT

Just as the dust tarnishes even the brightness of the Gem, wealth too contaminates the virtues of the wise.

—Ramayana.

One is solitude, two is company and three is a crowd. What is it when there is a whole bunch of rascallions..... or to be more specific Welhamites ?

This is the case in the L.R.C. It has become the favourite rendezvous of the Welhamites, including the staff and all people connected with Welham.

You meet the extremes of the Welham Community there. We have the studious, scrupulous and hard working students who come solely for the purpose of learning and using it with a positive attitude (You'll spot them very easily..... they'll be prowling around, reserving and hunting for magazines and papers as if the examination papers were published) some will be busy engrossed in the Economic Times and with eyebrows intertwined with such a glare as if they are looking for a needle in a haystack. Most of them are armed with a pair of spectacles with lenses so thick that distort everything out of proportion to make the world look most like a Modern Art Gallery. (No wonder they seem flabbergasted at times at the scheme of things).

In the other extreme are the ridiculously, hilariously, naughty kids. Their way of life seems to be :

Squeeze as much out of Welhams and its staff as you do with an orange pip.....and a bit more.

You'll find some of them flipping through 'Times' not because they want to know what's going on but because it generally features the best female models in its numerous advertisements.

You may find them amidst the book shelves looking for a book not because they realise, as the saying goes, that books are man's best friends, but because they're bunking a class and that teachers are in search probably knowing that the truants will be in the L.R.C .... or the Principal asking boys what they are doing out of class. You may see some engrossed in wishing, oblivious to everything else, but perhaps they are preparing 'Cogging Chits' for their test. You may find some lost in thought over some problems, but they could very possibly be thinking :

Who am I going to get conjectivitus from ? There are only 5 days for exams !!

Or something like :

"If on 1st December, I fracture my right hand thumb.....approximately 2 days for the plaster to become firm and another two days of rest.. ..... now that's the 4th ..... Yes ! I won't have to give my exams, in any case my maths paper will have been over by then !"

The mattress' kept on the first floor are utilised to assist in making up for lost sleep, lost due to the dreaded morning P.T. The cushions are used more to give concussions on the heads of poor, unsuspecting victims.

Well, that's not the end of it. To see is to believe, so if any time you're getting bored, perch your self somewhere in the L.R.C. and wait and watch.

□ Kirtiman Singh

## Welham Now !

1. Mrs. and Mr. Sameer Thakur were bleeced with a son.
2. The Volleyball court is being relocated and is under extensive repairs.
3. A musical evening was organised by the music department on the 27th of last month. The show was a big success and the music kept our feet tapping till the very last item. The contribution by Staff Members was appreciated.
4. The film "The Three Musketeers" was screened in the school.
5. The following have been appointed the squad leaders.
 

CCA's	—	Jayant Gokhale
SUPW	—	Ashish Mathur
Tuck Shop	—	Rana Randip Sing Grewal
Tuck Inn	—	Vijay Nishant
Dinning Hall	—	Waseem Ahmed
L. R. C.	—	Imit Arora
Light	—	Pavan Agarwal
Sound	—	Sharad Poddar
Entertainment & stage activities	—	Sameer Gambhir
Power Squad	—	Himanshu Singh
Chair Squad	—	Harpreet Sawhney
Lost & Found	—	Jayendra Shah
Tree Plantation	—	Vikas Kumar
Music	—	Nitin Bhanot
Art	—	Gaurav Wahi
Welham Bank	—	Asif Burza
Activity Centre	—	Amit Oberoi
Computers	—	Jayant Gokhale
Stage Committee	—	Udai Vashist
D.E.A.S.	—	Nitin Agarwal
6. Results of the Hindi Handwriting Competition, held on 24th Feb. '94.
 

Class VI		
1st Prize	—	Rahul Choraria
2nd Prize	—	Kumar Abhijeet
3rd Prize	—	Puneet Bansal
Class VII		
1st Prize	—	Prashant Khemka
2nd Prize	—	Mehul Mayank
Class VIII		
1st Prize	—	Ankit Agarwal
2nd Prize	—	Ankur Chakore
3rd Prize	—	Nikunj Gupta
Class IX		
1st Prize	—	Amiya Setu
2nd Prize	—	Sachin Dhir
Class XI		
1st Prize	—	Vikas Kumar

□

## Old Boys News

### ATTENTION EX-WELHAMITES

On behalf of the School, the Oliphant Board, wishes to express thanks for your continuing support and welcomes your contributions for the School Magazine which is as much yours as ours. Please do send us articles for publication.

Also, we in School, always look forward to hearing from you and to know of you and your family's welfare. Please do keep in touch.

Dr. Soumitra Banerjee Ex 432-1968 is the Senior Registrar at Hammusmith Hospital, London.

□

## Literary Affairs

### DEATH IN THE VALLEY

"Once known for its beauty, the mini heaven of the earth, the paradise of India has changed to a sad land. A land of death, a dark valley and after all the valley of shame. Kashmir which was known for its beauty and was amongst the foremost foreign exchange earner for India and which once attracted thousands has lost its wealth. Now the dark valley is in the grip of the all mighty "TERRORISM."

Terrorism is at its zenith affecting the heart of millions of citizens. The valley is terrorised by such cases which are worth mentioning : kidnapping, murder, rape, blazing the city is very common, affecting the innocent citizens of this state in despair.

Curfew during morning and evening is common. No one is there in the silent streets. The firings, curfews, bomb-blasts, murders, kidnapping are a common occurrence.

The Kashmiri smiles and warm receptions have turned into despair.

The militants are kidnapping the younger generation, ill-treating them, training them and then compelling them to fight against their own blood. How can one cope up with such assaults on humanity ?

Different organisations with different policies have shaken the valley into despair and have left a feeling of misery and betrayal.

More than half of the population has left the valley and the rest is living in sorrow facing critical problems and death at any hour.

Militancy grows on, Pakistanie train the militants and send the armed rebels to fight against their "MOTHERLAND."

We at Welhams have been taught to say as one—brothers. We all at Welhams are fortunate to be one and we share the same pain and joys. Our generation is capable of changing the upset face of the valley. There is need to join hands and work together enforcing the militants to run away. We can really change views and bring life back to normal. Let us all work towards it.

"VASUNDHARA"—Kashmir is our land. If we want we can make it a valley of shame or joy. The latter should be our objective. Enough of terrorism.

□ Saurabh Sinha  
IX-A

### OURSELVES TO KNOW

After an eventful month in school I am compelled to write about the happenings which occur on our bizarre campus. The formula is : School great fun. Even the monotonous routine cannot snatch away the innate mischief of the students in one of the prestigious educational institutions in the country.

Now that the new Prefect body has been appointed and is functioning successfully, the standard of excuses of the juniors is also improving. The other day I saw a prefect scolding a junior for missing P.T. The junior must have practised making that pitiful face (suffering from an acute cold) for hours and 'Sorry' was uttered by him with every breath. With that kind of effort even the prefects have to accept defeat. For the incoming twelfthies, P.T. is an aberration. After a survey I got two sure answers; one confident answer was party time but said that it must be pass time. The party house (P.H.) inhabitants are prohibited from studying. What stops them 'they themselves' and why, because they are "very busy making faces browner with shoe polish and hiding somebodies belongings." At fruit break a regular feature is gate crashing into the store room. Sometimes the effort is fruitful like a carton of grapes, oranges or bananas and sometimes, if luck favours, it is a squash bottle. Some boys in Party House have mastered this very useful art. In the dining hall survival is of the fittest, you have to be on the lookout for any grub and if you do spot anything its gone before the blink of an eyelid. Nothing can beat Sundays; the house masters are in great demand on this day and from yards away you can hear cries like "Sir, just one more outing," "Please Sir, I'll improve" and 'I'll never do it again' and if the answer is "no," "They leave us no alternative guys" (if you know what I mean.)

Some of us are suffering from a very dangerous disease that is 'Mathsphobia.' Some of the tenthies were asked if they had prepared for their Boards and the answer was 'yes we have, but we have dropped Maths.'

This is not all that I can write. A thesis can easily be written. But without such happenings, we would not be what we are.

□ Sanidhya  
XI

## The Class of '95

Every class has its unique character. In our class we have a mixed breed. I find it irresistible not to give an analysis of their traits.

Academically we have some wonderful, magnificent artists, although they are in the science stream, their inspiration is from Michael Angelo. Anurag Agarwal sees no sunset and no sunrise when it comes to studies. Ask him the square root of 5246928392, he will rattle it off like a computer but will not know how many players there are in badminton doubles. Nitin Bhanot, as the saying goes is "genius 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration." This 1% is derived from his Guru, Chaurasia. We may see him having a cup of tea with us in the morning but after that he'll be the invisible man and at night when you are going to bed, you might see him walking like a teacher in deep introspection.

Genius is 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration, exceptions prove the rule, Mayank Tiwari and Biswajit Talukdar, however, do not need to be inspired. They serve as our academic demi-Gods. Next we come to Mathur who is a commerce student yet beats most of the science students in sheer hard work. This is that exclusive group of educational freaks who, instead of talking about girlfriend-boyfriend relationships, will talk about sin-cos relationship.

I now move on to those who maintain somewhat of a balance between partying and studying:

Sanidhya, who'd rather be 'Prince' than John Napeir the great mathematician that he looks like, with an unkempt stubble, haywire hair and his dusty but cool suede shoes which, thank God! he doesn't have to polish. He smiles and is ever cheerful.

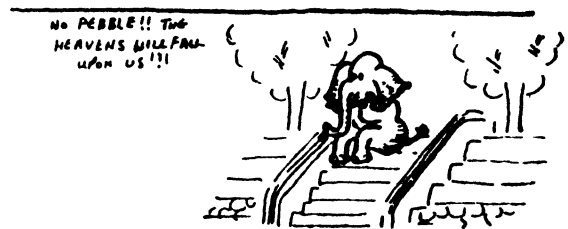
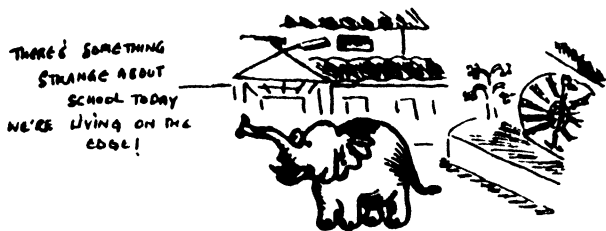
Nitin Agarwal: on the surface seems to be one who has given up studies because 'he landed up with science and was stuck with it, too long to leave to join another stream. On the contrary he is always game to trouble any academic enthusiast who aims for marks by perspiration, which Nitin secures by..... God knows what!

Jayant and Wahi are the ones who coordinate their girls with their marks. This was what seems to be the more rational group.

Now I come to the gallivanting, carefree, cool 'dudes.' The trouble-some Asif Burza who brings misery to any body once he is provoked. This boy (who has become from rags to riches after becoming the Bank Incharge) has a zest for trouble. You will see him chasing somebody (especially Jai Amar Deep) with a shoe in his hand than sitting with a text book. Kirtiman who doesn't even care for a bunk to study and lives in what he calls his 'orderly mess.' Kirtiman with his wild hair and witty answers is the first one out of the class or if bunking is caught within the first few minutes. If you think there is some animal running around in class making funny noises, don't panic! It's just him sitting in class and laughing at his own cracks. Alok, whose knack for imagination and knowledge of the language has led him the wrong way. He comes up with the weirdest of curses. Davinder: whose beard gives him the appearance of a not-to-be taken for granted man, but is still a party animal. This group is the happy go lucky clan which has a lot of members.

I won't stop short here. Gentlemen are also found in our class (so what if they are rare). Vijay (Contd. on page.....6)

### THE ELE



## "THE LEATHERMORE"

It rankled. Over all these past 20 years. The anger and the disappointment as the teacher shouted at the three of us in front of all the 25 students: "You an oaf" pointing at one of the accused, "You a quitter" this to the other and to me with his fiery eyes and in an even more louder voice "You leathermore." He was Irish and the cause of his anger was our complete and utter failure in comprehending the basics of Trigonometry. In fairness he had warned us enough. I could not comprehend the basics of this subject immersed as I was in History—the alternate subject which one could opt in lieu of Additional Mathematics to pass our Senior Cambridge.

It was not often that I was shouted at. Indeed to be bracketted with the two tailenders caused untold embarrassment.

"You leathermore" I wondered what he had said at me in his Irish tongue. Leprechuan did not really mean leathermore and I was too ashamed to ask the other teachers who taught us lest my ignominy be known to more ears. Not knowing rankled.

In the tea Plantations which I joined in the early 60's I was in a motley crowd of Scotts, Irish and Englishmen. I did, on occasions put on a brave front and did ask if they knew that 'leathermore' meant. The Scotts, the Irish and the English swore there was no such word. I knew there was because I had been labelled one. Coming from an Irish priest teacher 'leathermore' was perhaps a name of an infidel. I even took the opportunity of seriously discussing this with the Church of England priest who used to wend his way through kutchra roads to bring solace to the planting community. "Leathermore? No, no there was no such infidel." I could hardly dispute his answer as he doubtless knew all the infamous personalities.

We had occasion to visit London where and the flowers blossomed with brightness. Roses, azaleas Carnations the size of your fist and Nemesias three

times the size I had ever seen. The weather was delightful with no rain no fog. Indeed, even the immigration people wished us a pleasant stay with a smile.

I was told the truth at last in a small English pub off Oxford Street where the pints of lager were as good as ever I tasted. The man behind the bar was an Irishman, a man with blue eyes and fair hair who poured a drink with a surprising gentleness and introduced me to his colleagues as "my Indian friend." I did not ask him what leathermore meant. I related the whole sequence of events to him. "Ah" he whispered "You had not really heard what he had said, it was, you learn more." This was the admonishment that had rankled over the years. It was a big relief. I had only been asked to learn more.

I asked my Irish friend behind the bar whether he was ever in India and whether it was he who had exhorted me to learn more as—who can tell—appearances change over the years: "No" he said — "always here — till I save enough to visit Jerusalem.

□ S.B.

## MEMORY

- As we stride down the road of age,  
Mind gets clouded by umpteen experiences  
Everytime on a different stage :
- What we remember, leaving aside what not,  
Stays in memory like a clot :
- What we forget are the freckles we never cherished,  
So we feel relieved to see'm all perished :
- But do the unpleasant always do :  
These may have been the dreams we adhered to :
- Some days have seen skies shatter,  
Others went in endeavour to make'em slightly better:
- Freckles on memory can never wan off.  
Even with effort if we try to obliterate'em off :
- Dreams thus embossed on our minds create a repertoire,  
Or we may just call it an indelible memoir.

□ R.A.

## FOR AND AGAINST

### Co-education is an Evil

I am against the motion. In my opinion, co-education is by no means an evil for reasons which I have highlighted below.

Co-education, is a necessity for the all round development of a youth male or female. A male should not have to gawk and have his eyes pop when he sees a member of the opposite sex; and vice-versa. This interaction is extremely healthy and plays a major part in education. Education does not all have to be about the Pythagoras' theorem or who built the great wall of china; it is also to do with social grace and all aspects of humanity.

A boy should be able to approach a girl and strike a conversation with her without having his or her friends nudging each other and giggling. How is all this possible unless we are exposed to members of the opposite sex right from the early stages.

People seem to think it is highly unhealthy for a girl to date a boy because they are afraid of what their neighbours and friends might think. It is absurd because if there people had been in co-educational schools, they would realize that it is not the end of the world if two young people go out and have fun. Thus, co-education helps in the betterment of society.

Once society has opened up it's closed minds, co-education will be seen in a new light and people will be all for co-education.

There is so much talk about how healthy co-education is, so why not really give it a try to see how healthy it is. Unless we give it a try, it will never really be done. As the old saying goes, 'Nothing ventured, nothing gained'.

If some people are still unconvinced, why not try it on a temporary basis to see how it works? With so

many members of the faculty for the motion, I think we should further our endeavors and go ahead with co-education.

We do not live by bread alone nor in isolation. A happier home is that comprising of a father and a mother, a brother and a sister and hopefully a girl friend for me.

□ Rumaan Kidwai  
IX 'A'

(Contd. from page.....4)

Bishnoi is a perfect example on whom education has had a positive affect. He and Wasim Trumboo are the prim and proper pair in our class (Kirti who just passed by pleaded, requested and when I didn't agree threatened me to include his name in this category). Probably these two boys are the only ones who know the difference between a classmate and elderly teacher.

The general dudes are of the same pattern but with less intensity. Some of them are Harpreet 'Barkley' Sawhney, Rohit 'Whisky' Jaiswal, Himanshu 'body-builder' Singh, Pawan 'Shah Rukh' Agarwal, Amit 'Buppi' Oberoi and the rest of the gang. Boys like me fall into every category according to the circumstances. We are now about to enter the final year in our school. Beloved have been all these years and my colleagues. May they thrive in their diversity. All good wishes to the class of 1995.

□ Sameer Gambhir  
XI



## THE ENVIRONMENT

### Crisis in the Valley

The Doon Valley ecosystem is very fragile. Being situated at the foot of the Himalayas, its natural life is varied. The valley gives shelter to a number of species of birds and animals. It includes the Rajaji National Park (combined of Motichur, Chilla and Rajaji Sancturaries). It has many rivers, of which the main are Ganga and Jamuna and hence is very fertile.

In the past the valley had been covered with thick forests but due to deforestation now the forest cover is depleted.

The ecology of the Doon Valley, at present, is facing a severe environmental threat due to four major problems. Which are — the lime kilns, the Rajaji National Park — Gujjar controversy, deforestation and rise in traffic pollution. All these problems have one common root cause and that is population growth.

There are many lime kilns operating in the valley, polluting the atmosphere with sulphur dioxide. Sulphur dioxide ( $SO_2$ ) is one cause of acid rain. It combines with water to form sulphuric acid. That is why the first monsoon showers are the most acidic ones. Sulphur dioxide also affects the patients of asthma and bronchitis. The limekilns have also caused deforestation on the Mussoorie hills. Therefore the greed for limestone is turning this beautiful nature land into a desert.

Today the lime kilns in the valley are polluting the air much above the levels recommended by the U.P. Pollution Control Board. Non-Government Organisations like "The Friends of the Doon" express our concern and are asking the government to take quick action against these kilns,

The Rajaji National Park is rich in biodiversity but its future also does not seem to be good. The Gujjars had been migrants to this reserve for many years but now most of them have begun to settle in the Park's province. This has put a lot of pressure on the ecology of the park. (the regenerative capacity of an environment is always very slow) and has also increased the number of man-animal conflicts.

Earlier these Gujjars used to come down to Rajaji Park from the higher Himalayas in winter and returned back in summers. They keep goats, buffaloes and cows and require fodder for these animals which is causing the depletion of bhabhar grass in the Rajaji Park.

Now projects are being planned to settle these Gujjars outside the park and work is being done to improve their financial conditions (e.g. milk co-operatives are being set up to buy the milk they get from their animals).

Deforestation is a major environmental problem which has been going on for years. Trees here are cut for timber, clearing area for roads, settlements and for limestone mining. Loss of trees is not only the loss of flora but also of fauna and affects the environment greatly. It results in soil erosion, loss of wild life habitat (affecting the balance of nature), decrease in rainfall and drop in the water table causing desertification (one of the biggest environment problems in the world today). Projects of afforestation have been taken up by the forest officials and Green Brigades (group of ex-army men who have been doing tree plantation). Some schools have also been asked to help in tree plantation (we are proud to be one of them).

Traffic pollution is the direct result of population. The number of vehicles in the Doon Valley is too high. Carbon monoxide is one of the gases produced by vehicles. It is very harmful for our health. It stops the oxidation of blood. To control pollution the Control Board should make strict rules and enforce them.

Our valley is a wonderful paradise; let us all keep it like that.

□ Digvijay Lamba  
VIII A  
Nature Club

## Ringside View

"KAPIL DEV is REALLY GREAT." These were the words which were on the lips of a lot of our cricketers. Making Kapil Dev their idol, they started to give their best performance in bowling. In the main field, every evening we could see more bowlers than fielders.

As a matter of fact we are getting to see better matches day by day. The school cricket team played a match against 'EVERGREEN CLUB.' They had two players less so we gave them two of our school team players; our cricket coach Mr. Manish Gurung played for us. The visitors set a target of 135 runs in 20 overs. Our openers did a good job but could not stick on. Our coach entered the ground and his fans cheered him. We managed to score 100 runs in 18 overs. 2 overs were remaining and we needed 36 runs. Mr. Gurung had the strike. His batting was splendid. The cracking shots he hit were too fast to be stopped by the visitors. He got the score to 120 runs and at the end of the over he managed to take the strike again.

The next over was breath taking. Everyone had his hopes and eyes fixed on the coach. With one six and two fours he got the score to 134. He led us to victory with a four. The juniors' charged in for the coach. He played a spectacular inning of 63 runs and remained not out.

The next match we played was against the "C.A.-11." The captain of the visiting team was a X-Welhamite, Prashant Coacher. We won the toss and chose to bat. The openers were not very successful. Our captain, Gautam Khattar, entered the field quite nervously but was successful in making runs. He played like a captain and scored 68 runs. In 25 overs we were able to make 160 runs.

They could only score 142 runs. We won by runs and 3 wickets.

We played another match with the 'Shine S Club.' They won the toss and chose to field.

Our opening was quite good. The first wicket fell on 13 runs. Then the other batsman showed his talent. Anshul Anurag scored 54 runs not out. He went as the first down and played till the last ball of the 20th over. We set a target of 128 runs.

The visitors had a few left hand batsmen. However, they could not stick to the wickets when our bowlers bowled. Gaurav Wahi took 2 wickets. Wasim took 2. Anshul Anurag showed excellent bowling performance and took 5 wickets. The match finished and Welham was victorious again.

We had a match with the staff also. Mr. Sanjay Thakur played an excellent inning of 49 runs. However, the school team won.

The school team is also making a trip to 'Sanawar.' We wish the team all the best and hope that they return victorious.

The school badminton team played at the D.A.V. open tournament. In the doubles, Vivek Garg and Abhishek Khattri reached the semi-finals but lost. Anshul Anurag and Nitin Agarwal also played doubles but the results were not in our favour.

The basketball team played a match against "Comando 11" at the College. It was the deciding match for the D.A.V. open tournament. Unfortunately, we lost. The score was 57-68. Better luck next time.

"Practice makes a man perfect" is a well known saying. Therefore Welhamite practice and we will further improve our performance.

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