



THE WELHAMIAN

No. 183

WELHAM BOYS' SCHOOL

May 16th, 1996

Think About It

Success, is how high you bounce when you hit bottom.

—General George Patton

EDITORIAL

Summer has arrived, the hot and merciless sun beats on our bodies, driving everybody indoors in a frantic search for a cool spot. The warm air numbs one into a deep slumber and it is extremely difficult to keep one's eyes open, particularly during the fifth and sixth schools.

Frequent power cuts at night have made uninterrupted sleep impossible. The moment the power goes off, an army of mosquitoes dive bomb on parts of the anatomy left exposed. The new breed of mosquitoes seem invincible and refuse to be driven away even by the age old favourite 'kachua chaap'. Lack of sleep, and a constant battle with mosquitoes has resulted in the entire school looking as if they had got up from the wrong side of the bed.

The school dining hall has recently acquired new water jugs. The jugs are huge in size and look somewhat oversized. Filled to the top they are extremely heavy to lift as was found out by a bearer who had a bad fall as he strived to place two of the jugs at a table.

Recently, I witnessed a very exciting hockey match between our school team and another in the council semi-finals. The match was superb, and kept the spectators at the very edge of their seats. Both teams fought very hard and played extremely well, with our school team emerging victorious in the sudden death stage. During the course of the game, there seems to have been a small but heated verbal exchange between two opposing players. One cannot blame them as both teams were under intense pressure and the players had got a little carried away.

Incensed at having lost the match, the rival team walked out in a huff. Our jubilant school team, upon moving out of the gate, was 'greeted' by an ugly sight. Many rival players, joined by others, stood lined up demanding vengeance for the supposed insult to their teammate. What had started out as a minor incident had snowballed into a major controversy. The players of the opposing team proceeded to abuse and even started throwing stones and bricks at our team. Fortunately nobody got hurt.

The rival team's unsportsman-like and uncalled for behaviour is a disgrace to the sporting spirit.

The past two weeks have been rather uneventful. We are now looking forward to some excitement in the coming week with the Joint Production being staged and the first ever social between us and the Girls' School.

Turning to something more colourful. The bottle brush flowers have since faded, the flowers of the Silver Oak are also now fading but the red yellow Gulmohar is now in full blossom and is a pleasure to behold. The Cassia Pink is about to blossom. The Jacaranda is mauve in full blossom but the Laburnum is sans leaves sans buds. The tree is bare and craggy. On its branches are a few mango orchids and they should be in blossom by the first week of June. The golden grape-like clusters of the Laburnum should be falling in another week's time. The flowers of the Dudhi should also be in blossom by then. Feast your eyes.

*—Aditya
(1)*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*Indervir Shergill
Mayank Khandelwal
Vidura Jang Bahadur*

Dear Ed,

I do much enjoy reading this magazine and I congratulate the Principal for letting the students discuss their points of view without imposing censorship.

However, I have one complain that so far you have not spent my surname correctly. It is BAKHSHI and not BAKSHI.

As to A.N.Khan's cry of going hungry, if the meals in the school are not satisfying then what are the boys of the school who are members of the Mess Committee doing about it?

Both the Bursar and the Principal are approachable, use that line of action if the committee is not satisfying your hunger but I thoroughly agree with the editor that breaking bounds though could be satisfying and/or exciting is NOT THE ANSWER.

Yours faithfully,

*Maj.Gen. Ranbir Bakhshi
(Retd.)*

W.O.B.N.

Ved Krishna (Ex-308-C, Batch of 1993) is getting married to *Ms. Shailja Thirani* on 30th May in Calcutta. Everybody is invited. Our heartiest congratulations to them.

On *Mr. Kandhari's* recent visit to Bombay to meet parents and Old Boys, his wife and he met Old Boys of various vintage - amongst the most senior members were *Mr. Bhagwat Devidayal* who is involved in rare metals and *Mr. Ravi Vira* who is not only Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, but also a Governor of the Doon School board. *N. Kandhari*, his brother, was instrumental in organising the get togethers in the Bombay Gym. Lots of useful topics were discussed. The young Old Boys who came were :

*Aman Mehra
Siddarth Vaid
Shantanu Srivastava
Shaleen Sinha
Raviraj V. Shah*

(2)

We now have their latest address so please do write to the secretary, OBS if you want to locate any one of them. As the colleges were closed and the elections were on, many could not come.

It is now planned to have a meeting of all Old Boys' in the last weekend of September in Bombay.

Excerpts of a letter to Mr. Jagjit Singh From Rajesh Ramchand (Ex-83)

.....I work for Swift Freight International. As Swift Freight handles the cargo for various commodities, companies or 'principles' as we term them, Effemex is one such principle. My access to variety of chocolates and ice-creams is just an arm's length away. Its a major effort exercising control. All around our office there are fruit bowls filled with chocolates and people are eating the whole day!! We also stack Wrigley products and there are no rules against chewing gum. Am I not in just the right place? The cool room is separated by glass and when we want something, we just gesture for it!! My workstation is a 386 and routinely I have to link up to the AS/400 or the SAP system in U.K. for our routine jobs.....'

.....Starting life is an expensive affair! Makes you sweat from places you never thought there existed sweat glands!! When the going gets tough, the smart pack their bags and get going!My address is :

Swift Cool Stores,
P.O.Box 50177,
Dubai, U.A.E.
Tel :620584 (res.8 p.m.-7 a.m.)
815933 (off. 8 a.m.-5 p.m.)

We would convey to Mrs. A. Mehra our deepest condolences on the demise of her mother.

Our deepest condolences to Mrs. Tiwari on the unfortunate and sad demise of her husband following the accident.

LITERARY AFFAIRS

The Environmental Science Laboratory, Welham Boys' School

The word 'environment' is understood in many different ways.

Some think that pollution is a major part of our environmental problems. Some think that the cutting of forests is our only real worry and some of course think that all this discussion about environment is pure humbug.

Each person has a certain environment and he/she himself/herself is a part of someone else's environment.

So first things first, the most important part of the environment which humans have to deal with are other people. As far as nature is concerned, all humans are equal, they consume same amount of oxygen, they make the same amount of carbon dioxide, they eat the same amount of food and they make the same amount of excreta. The amount of garbage that each one generates is just another matter. The amount of energy that each one consumes is also another matter and the amount of pollutants that each one produces is also a totally different matter.

Every living being's relationship with the environment is defined by the measure of what he take from the envelope around him and what he gives back to it and how much of what he takes is regenerable and how much of what he gives is biodegradable. This would directly establish whether you are harming the environment or not. This equation could be made for a community, a neighbourhood, a town or a city. In other words how much does a town take from the environment and how much does it give back.

Our traditional societies had understood the environment very well and there is a vast treasure of wisdom to deal with the problems of environment. We have to not only recognise these skills of environment projection but also use their modern connotations to achieve the same goal. We have to identify between a good people and bad people on the basis of what they do to the environment.

Man and all other species are supposed to live off the dividends of the earth. Consume fruits from the land, water from the rivers,

breathe air purified by the trees and wear clothes which come from the earth and once worn out become a part of the soil again. The whole thing is one big cyclic process and man is supposed to be just one small part in the scheme of things.

Suppose some one made a plastic apple which was just as juicy and sweet as the real one but with one problem, when you excrete the next day, it doesn't mix with the soil to become manure, it remains a smelly squished mass of red and white colour. It does not degrade, it will remain there for all times to come. This smelly mass, once an apple, will be as many small heaps of apples, more than what had been eaten since the last century. The big question is; would you eat this apple and add to this burgeoning mass of undegradable apple shit? This story is very similar to the real problem of garbage pollution in our cities.

This environment is in a bad shape today because we humans are not looking or should we say have not been looking deep enough at this cyclic process of environment. Each element of the environment big or small has a part to play in the cycle, is it then justified that someone with a big moustache should go to the jungle and kill all the tigers because he can then boast to his friends? What effect can the tigers have on the environment? If the tigers did not kill enough herbivorous, they would eat up the entire grass of the jungle and trample the soil so much that the soil would become powder and would fly away in the wind or get washed away to lower areas in the rain. The jungle will have a very poor growth of grass because the fertile top soil has moved to another area namely the bottom of the river. The rivers become shallow over the period of time because of the top soil flowing in it. The water coming into the river is the same so it overflows from the sides and creates floods. This whole big story may be exaggerated but it is true. It is true that once upon a time one required a boat with oars to cross the Jamuna at Delhi but now all you require is a big bamboo with which you can touch the bottom of the river and push the boat.

Each small organism like bacteria and algae have a role to play. Some we know some we don't but the roles are/ must be as diverse as the diversity in plant and animal life. It is our duty to preserve them so that they can play the roles we know about and the roles that we don't know about. Maybe the future generations can find out. But we can't kill them all because we do not understand and we certainly have no right to kill them because they are tasty or ugly or troublesome or they have a beautiful skin or fur.

We have to study recycling, reproduction, diversity in plant and animal life, regenera-

tion, biodegradability, aspects of pollution related with air, water, land, noise, the changing weather and life as it exist in different parts of the world. Last but not the least we have to unravel and discover the breathtaking beauty in nature's form which is there for us to see but not touch, eat or possess.

What do you think the environmental sciences' laboratory should look like and what aspects of environment would you like to study and how?

—Pawan Jain
(Architect)

NATURE'S DIARY

Walk Through Jansar Bhabar

I just love to walk in the Devbhumi or the 'Abode of the Gods or Devatas'. Garhwal has mountains and valleys, forests and alps, birds and animals, butterflies and flowers, all combine to make a sum of delight.

The territory in the central himalayas stretching from the river Tons in the west to Ramganga in the east is popularly known as Garhwal. This name is derived from the hindustani word 'garh' which means 'fortress'. A fortress of what

- of course mountains. This region today spreads over some 550,000 sq. kms. in area which is quite large in size and quite impossible to walk

through in a short time. So the best way to do it is bit by bit during school mid-term breaks or in a year long paid vacation.

Once again coming to the Devatas, it was thanks to them that we had a long weekend for Id in our term calendar which allowed me to explore the 'Jansar Bhabar' of Garhwal with handpicked Ganga House boys.

We set off on a Saturday afternoon in my CH01PO-463 (maruti) to Kalsi. After getting the 5 o'clock gate, we drove into a belt which

had dense shisham, toon, sal and bamboo cover. Once in a while we did get to see the odd mauve jacaranda and the red flowers of the blooming



flame of the forest.

On reaching Chakrata, we did not stop but rolled onto Aloo-Ki -Mandi, where the regional forest office is situated. While the boys' stretched their legs and refreshed themselves for the onward journey with a cup of tea, I went and met the forest ranger. After dropping a few names and chatting him up, he gave us permission to stay in Deoban and Koti Kanasar forest rest houses.

From Aloo-Ki-Mandi far in the distance, we could see snow clad peaks rising up and touching the blue skies. One day's ration was bought and we made our way up to Deoban through the Spider commando training camp which is situated enroute to Deoban.

Deoban is situated at a height of 9232 feet above sea level, surrounded by dark gothic spires of silver fir (Abies) and spruce (Picea). The grand christmas tree like a blue pine, the deodar fills the deep forest of this region. As we had reached late in the evening, the old chawkidar N.S.Chauhan made us a bonfire outside the rest house overlooking the meadows below us. He then went to prepare our supper.

While sitting around the bonfire we discussed many topics ranging from philosophy to religion and finally came down to discuss the region through which we were moving; this region had been praised in the Rig Veda for its snow clad peaks and the earliest ambiguous references to this territory are found in the Mahabharata, which describes this region as the dwelling place of the Kirata, Pulinda and Tangara tribes.

Bairata, where the Pandav Princes of Hastinapur - cheated of their inheritance in a game of dice by their cousins - The Kauravs, are said to have spent their exile somewhere in the Jansar Bhabar. The local inhabitants claim that they are the descendants of the Pandavs and practise polyandry to this day. In some of the villages there are temples dedicated to the Kaurva King Duryodhana. Prostitution has always been a major source of income for the villages of this region.

Dinner was served and after dinner we slept soundly to awake next morning. The sky was clear but one could not see the snow covered view of the various peak on that day

due to slight mistiness in the distance. Otherwise there is a view point in Deoban engraved on a brass plate from where one can identify some of the following breath-taking peaks- Swargarohini, Bandarpunch, Gangotri, Kedarnath, Badrinath and Nandadevi.

After our breakfast, the chowkidar brought the log book and it was interesting going through it. One name was known to me too. It was in the year 1950, Mr. Gurdial Singh from The Doon School who had brought a group of boys' here for their camps. He was one of the few people I have known who had explored the Garhwal Region extensively.

Trekking from Deoban down to Kanasar through the deep green undergrowth of chir forests which lined the hills side and the deep cut gorges of these hills was just awesome. As we walked down, we heard a lot of bird call. Paradise Flycatcher was spotted and the Jungle Fowl could be heard clucking. At times one took a break from walking and in one such break overlooking a wheat field I saw this beautiful solitary reaper :

*Single in the field,
Reaping and singing by herself,
Alone she cuts and binds the grains,
And sings a melancholy strain,
O'clock listen! For the vale profound,
Is overflowing with the sound.*

*No nightingale did ever chant,
More welcome notes to vary brand,
Of Welham travellers in some shady haunt,
Whatever the theme and maiden sang,
As if her song could have no ending,
No ending I listened - motionless and still,
And as I mounted up the hill,
The music in my heart I bore,
Long after it was heard no more.*

And then came a small meadow with a temple in the corner. We had reached Kanasar. On reaching ,the boys slept in the resthouse after a tiring trek. My trek was still not over as I went shopping with the chowkidar, down to the valley to the village. In the evening as usual a camp-fire was lit and all of us sat down. At about 8:30 we heard a leopard roar far in the distance. As the night passed the roar came closer and closer to the rest house. It seemed as

if it wanted to join our party or make us its dinner. The evening discussion was about how the stars and the moon play with the peoples relationship and how things go wrong when all is sailing smoothly.

Siddharth agreed with me while Vaibhav disagreed. Ashik and Ahmed were silent listeners. I told them that I was to do this trek with a friend of mine during mid-terms but circumstances prevented us from doing so.

Dinner was served, a simple *Pahari* meal - red rice with rajma and dried potato vegetable which were accompanied by egg curry. After the meal came the most exciting moment of this weekend trip, who was going to accompany me to sleep outside in the verandah. As a leopard roar now could be heard at our doorstep, Vaibhav volunteered. So we rolled out our sleeping bags and dozed off. We slept well and I wondered if the leopard sniffed us at night and left the smelly trekkers to live for the trek for another day.

During our early morning walk we thought we had spotted a jungle fowl but on a closer look it turned out to be a flying squirrel. It was really fascinating; this beautiful animal springs out of the chir tree, spreads its arms forming a wing and glides through. After the walk we returned to the resthouse, packed our baggage and headed towards Chakrata. The drive from Kanasar onwards is fascinating because the view is breathtaking on both the sides of the road. The Deoban hills are tall and magnificent covered with forests and on the other side one sees a clear hillside carved with terrace fields. On the terrace field side as you look on one remembers a Roaric's water colour painting portraying several ranges vanishing into the blue. Once in a while one comes across few flowering Rhododendrons.

Chakrata is a hill station built during the British Raj and still has the past untouched glory in it. Could be because of the military presence in the area. The mall is still the social centre of the station. On the opposite side of the hill one can see a beautiful church building, towering out of the green chir forest, now under the protection of the Indian Army. After wandering through The Mall we found a cute Tibetan hotel where we had our brunch-fried and boiled momos. After that we walked down to the park

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to catch the next gate down to the Doon Valley.

As we came down I missed the sound of the birds and the presence of the trees. Soon we could see the Doon Valley and as we drove into it, not only did the green cover grow less but it seemed that summer had set in the plains and the coming months would be full of heat and dust.

So how does one avoid that -by getting back to the hills of Garhwal, exploring her further frontiers.

—Jagjit Singh

W A C K Y WOODSEATERS

I am a puppy. My name is Bruno. I am one month old. One day I went for a walk with my mummy. I was excited to see the shops. Suddenly a man came and took me along with him. I was very scared. He took me and put me in a kennel and locked it. He was a very bad man. He didn't give me food for two days. On the second night I was very hungry and thirsty. I pushed the door. It suddenly opened. I was very happy. I ran home as fast as I could. When my mother saw me she was very happy and I was pleased with myself.

---Aijaz Rasool
III A

I am a puppy. My name is Pappu. One day my mummy and I went for a walk. I was walking behind my mummy when suddenly a bicycle ran over my tail. I was very angry. I started running after the cycle. My mother didn't see me. When I looked around I saw no one. I was lost. I started whimpering. A boy saw me. He took me to his house. Many days passed. One day the boy took me for walk. My mother had also been caught by a man. He was also taking my mother for a walk. I saw my mother. I bit the boy's leg. Then I raced towards my mummy. My mummy also ran towards me. I hugged my mummy. I was happy to have found her.

—Ujwal Kumar
III B

WELHAM NOW

1. An Inter-House English Elocution held on the 26th of April saw a medley of deliveries by inspired elocutioners. The results of the elocution were as follows :

Section A

First Abhinav Pathak
Second Amrut Kar
Third Ayush Negi

Section B

First Karan Gulaya
Second Ujjwal Kumar
Third Owais Burza

Jamuna lifted the cup.

2. An Inter-School Hindi Extemporary Debate was held on the 27th of April in W.G.H.S. The topic for the debate was 'WESTERN CULTURE IS A HINDRANCE TO OUR PROGRESS'. The school was represented by Nikunj Gupta (For), Adhir Bhatt (Against) and Pratyush Prateek (Rebutal). A good effort won Adhir a consolation prize.

3. An Inter-School One Act Play Festival was held on the 28th of April in W.G.H.S. Dhruv Dhindsa took to direction of the play 'Day of Atonement'. The cast consisted of Adhir Bhatt, Abhishek Malla, Kartikeya Narayan and Dhruv Dhindsa.

4. Due to the nonavailability of the precise results of the Third Inter-School Oliphant Memorial English Debate the exact details were not printed in the last issue. The debate saw a total participation of 8 schools. The results were as follows :

For the Motion

First Position - Nikunj Gupta (W.B.S.)
Second Position - Aman Kasawa (Doon School)

Against the Motion

First Position - Rumaan Kidwai (W.B.S.)
Second Position - Anooja Murthy (S.J.A.)

Additional Prizes

Most Promising Speaker - Kudrat Virk
(Welham Girls' High School)
Best Rebuttal - Rumaan Kidwai (W.B.S.) and
Anooja Murthy (S.J.A.)

School Positions

First *Welham Boys'* (242 pts.)
Second *Scindia, Gwalior* (226 pts.)
As we were the host the shield was lifted by
Scindia School, Gwalior.

5. A Miss Russel Inter-School Nature and G.K. Quiz was held in W.G.H.S. on the 6th of this month. The school was represented by Ashish Gupta, Digvijay Lamba and Amrut Kar.

6. The Preliminary Round of the Bournvita Quiz Contest held in Doon School on the 6th of may saw Karan Gulaya and Rishi Bagaria perform extremely well, albeit they lost to Scholar's Home by two points.

7. The Inter-School English Elocution Competition was held in our Activity Centre on the 4th of May. Our school was represented by Saurabh Dhungel and Karan Gulaya. Saurabh was applauded by an appreciative audience on his debut performance. Saurabh proved himself delivering a marvellous powerful recital of the poem 'If'. Karan Gulaya, too, unnerved was very articulate and emulated Saurabh to keep the audience spell-bound. The elocution saw a participation of 9 schools. The final results were as follows :

Section A

First Geetanjali Bajaj (W.G.H.S.)
Second Saurabh Dhungel (W.B.S.) and
Jyotika Mehta (C.J.M.)
Third Dipti Lath (M.I.S.)

Section B

First Yamni Pangti (Brightlands)
Second Karan Gulaya (W.B.S.)
Third Gurpreet (G.R.D.)
Welham Girls' lifted the cup.

8. The results of the Inter-House Hindi One Act Play held on the 8th of May are as follows :

Best Actor - Aditya Jassi
Best Supporting Actors - Sandeep Singh &
Kanishk Kaushik
Best Director - Sumant Pai
Best Play - 'Enquiry Office' by Cauvery
House

9. Mr. Jagdish Madnani has joined the staff community as a Mathematics Teacher with effect from 7th of May. We wish him a long, successful tenure in school.

RINGSIDE VIEW

The school badminton team which recently went to Delhi, was amongst the five teams present there to participate in the All India I.P.S.C. Badminton tournament. In the quarters they defeated D.P.S. in two straight matches. They played against Modern School (Barakhamba Road) in the semi-finals. Abhinav Pathak lost the singles match 10-15, 9-15 and the doubles pair of Arcaprava Datta and Abhinav also conceded defeat 8-15, 6-15. Both Abhinav and Arcaprava will participate again next year and are expected to do better.

The Hockey Councils this year proved to be fruitful for our teams. Teams from both sections managed to reach the finals. The Juniors ended up being runners-up whereas the Seniors went on to be the winners. The juniors played St. Joseph Academy in their first match and won 1-0. The goal was scored Suman Saurabh. Next the team played G.N.A. and beat them 1-0 with Yoginder scoring the goal. A walkover from S.T.C. made us play Marshal in the semi-finals. It wasn't too difficult winning against them as we scored three easy goals. Besides excellent performance from the juniors the final ended with much disappointment as we lost to Col. Brown 2-0.

In the Senior section, the school team got walkovers from S.T.C. as well as Doon Cambridge Academy. The only match played before the semi-finals was against G.N.A. Akbar, Nawaz, Bikash and Basudev scored a goal each and so the game ended 4-0. In the semi-final we played against S.J.A. The opponents were awarded a penalty stroke in the early minutes of the match but failed due to an excellent save by Rumaan. Unable to score the penalty S.J.A. later scored a field goal. It wasn't till the end that Varun Puri scored an equaliser. As time for the game finished, the referees decided to give penalty strokes without extra time. It was only in the seventh or better known as the second sudden death stroke that we won the match. The

final was somewhat alike to the one against S.J.A. as Doon School too was awarded with a penalty stroke. The stroke proved unsuccessful for the Doscas. A goal by us in the first half and another by the Doscas took the match to the strokes as decider. After much tension the game ended 4-3 with us winning the tournament. Both the semi-final and the final were goal-keeper oriented matches and so Rumaan deserves credit more than any other member of the team. He will now participate in the selections of the Maharashtra Junior Hockey team as a goalkeeper.

Recently played was the Section 'A' Hockey Inter-House. The first match being against Jamuna and Cauvery. Cauvery won the match 2-0 with Ashutosh Pandey and Abhinav Kir scoring the goals. Krishna won against Ganga 3-1. Sunny Klaire struck twice where as Gangesh Kumar scored one. Krishna went on to meet Jamuna, demoralising them 4-0. Ganga too crushed Jamuna 4-0. Virbhadra scored twice for Ganga. Krishna's next match was against Cauvery. As luck did not favour Krishna they lost 3-1. Ganga did not succumb to Cauvery's attacks and won 2-0. The Finals were played against Krishna and Ganga. Krishna did not waste any opportunity in scoring and so they won 2-0.

Results of the Road Race are as follows:

<u>Section A</u>	<u>Section B</u>
First : Aditya Malhotra	Saswat Prasad
Second : Ashutosh Pandey	Suman Saurabh
Third : Prayas Rana	Manish Shreshtha

Section C

First Rohan Sood
Second Ashiq Rana
Third Sushwat Sarda

Akhil Bhanot and Sulabh Arora attended a coaching camp held in the Doon School from May 1st to May 5th held by Indu Puri. The team is now looking forward to the District Table Tennis Championships.

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