

THE WELHAM

No. 195

WELHAM BOYS' SCHOOL

8th April, 1997

Think About It

Nothing reveals a person's character better than the kind of joke at which they take offence.

--Anon

EDITORIAL

The midday sun was accompanied by threatening clouds hovering in the sky. It was 11:00 AM but that didn't matter - it was going to be a surprise attack. Besides, they were veterans at this... Guns in hand, they crept, the three of them, with the stealth and prudence of a cat, towards their target. Their quick, light footsteps didn't even cause the dry leaves to rustle as they went from bush to bush for cover. Their vigilant eyes darted about in every direction for signs of any boys. Despite their ages or the greying hair on their temples, they moved swiftly and unnoticeably. Years of experience lined their foreheads. Yes - they had learnt it all when they were young. Now, it was their turn.

Finally, they reached the Principal House. They paused and looked at each other, then at the house. It looked deserted... A command emanated from the lips of the group leader and they made a beeline for the house entrance, simultaneously loading their guns and firing. Shells dropped on the ground all along the way and finally, they were in.... There was no one in PH. Now, they went about doing what they had come for.

I presume you've all got the message by now. For those of you who are 'tubelights', PH was raided although not quite in the way I've put it. The people involved were none other than three senior teachers of the school. Not that it came by any surprise - a raid episode is not unprecedented in Welham History. But what pricked the PH'ites was the fact that they had not been told about it. The teachers 'conveniently' arranged for the service of the school carpenter on the planned day of the raid, and had him unscrew the latches of some bunks in PH whilst the PH'ites were away at class. Subsequently, they went through the cupboards and miscellaneous items looking for 'illegal things'. Needless to mention, the PH'ites were indignant and infuriated. As they put it, it was an 'invasion of privacy'. At the first break of the news the PH'ites almost stampeded as they rushed from the classes-block to

PH in an act of protest against their not being told of the raid. On their arriving there, the raid was promptly stopped and the teachers left, revealing nothing of their findings, if there were any. Whether the raid was a mere whim of the teachers involved or had been ordered by the BOSS is a question left unanswered. Well, I leave it to the readers to decide if the raid, in all its secrecy, was really required.

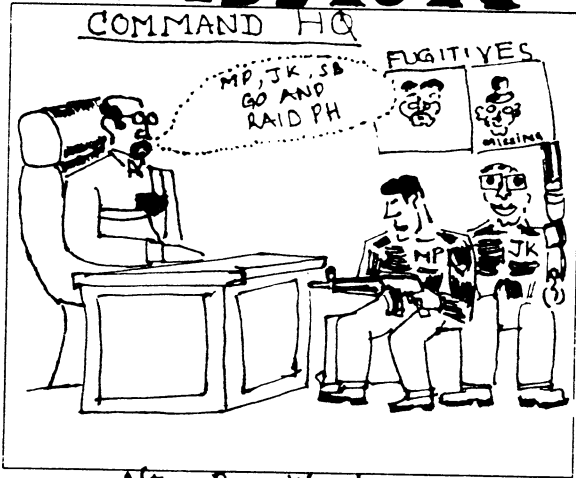
Boys are beginning to get a little dubious as to whether the JP will be a success. Their feelings are surely justified, I think, because JP practice had not commenced even on 8th April. The 'reason' given by the teacher-in-charge was that he was busy with the CCA list, which was of course, preferential and took top priority. Well, I guess everyone has different priorities. The auditioning has, however, since begun.

Swimming pool timings have been limited to a mere two hours during game-times by the teacher-in-charge. As a result, the boys representing the school at various sports have no time to enjoy a refreshing swim during the summer. It must also be mentioned, that the decision regarding change-of-timing was taken without consulting the Sports Committee, which has sadly, been reduced to the status of a name-sake appendix to the school.

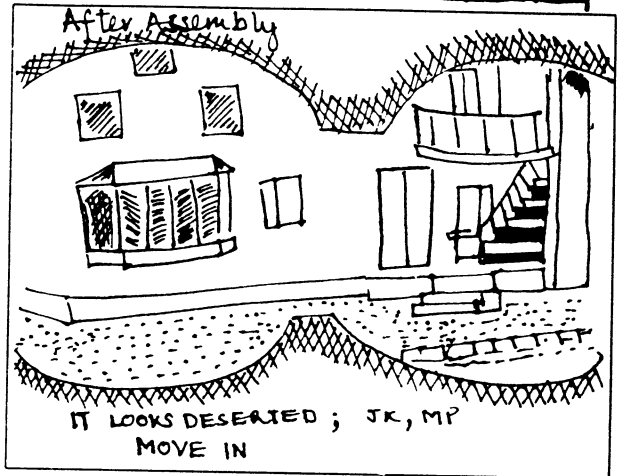
Twelfthies have become a dejected lot nowadays for obvious reasons - the invitation for the 'social evening' sent across the border was rejected. School authorities received a letter saying that the girls were too busy to have socials with us this term. On the other hand, I hear that the invitation sent to them by Doon School was accepted. That was quite a blow to many of our egos. I pity the twelfthies - all those wasted hours trying to get the steps, twists and turns right.

MISSION

POSSIBLE



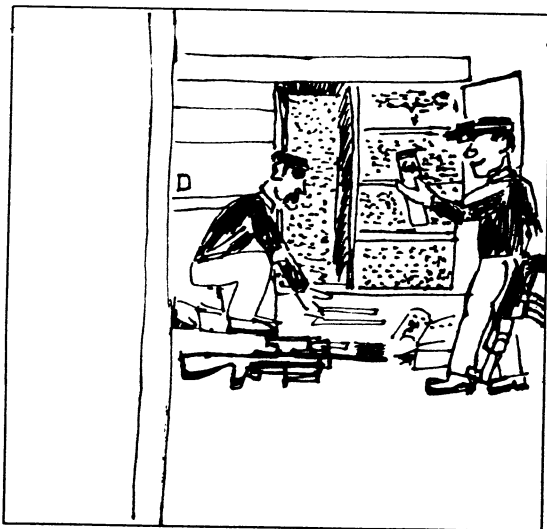
After Breakfast



..... DURING THE 3rd SCHOOL



DURING THE 3rd SCHOOL



THE EYE IN THE SKY. . .



STARR-ING

JK with his modified AK
 MP with his MP-5
 SB with his Smith and Wesson Rifle

LITERARY AFFAIRS

Muddled Thoughts

Are Indians racists? The accusation seems rather preposterous because when an Indian thinks about racism, he thinks he's the one being discriminated against. But a mere glance at the matrimonial advertisements in any newspaper will bring to the forefront this conspicuous issue at which, Indians seem to look from a rather blurred view point.

Lets leave behind the colour factor. What about our diverse culture? Why can't all Indians talk about their culture as a whole? Why does the state barrier have to come in the midst of any cultural talk?

Why do people only have to talk about 'their' state when they are going to celebrate the fiftieth year of their united independence.

'Celebrate' does not seem to be an appropriate word for the above cause because I

think our Diamond Jubilee Celebrations are better planned!

The reason behind the rapid degeneration of our beloved nation is nothing but laziness. I think it's in the blood now. No wonder, the nation with the second largest population in the world proudly emerged from the centennial Olympic Games with a glittering bronze medal. Which as a matter of fact, was won with great difficulty after a gap of sixteen years.

Forgive me for being sardonic but lets face it - we're a bunch of people who only prosper within the boundaries of our motherland and just the thought of competing with the outside world seems to imprint a sentence on our foreheads- 'We suffer from a massive inferiority complex.'

--*Sidharth Singh*
Class XI

Freedom

Five years have passed,
Five summers and the length,
Of five long winters,
I hear Thy voice again,
She was singing.
For me, only for me.
She stopped, stared at me blatantly,

Staring as hard as she could.
And again sang,
But this time a sorrowful song,
A song which brought tears to my eyes.
Sadly I went, kissed her head
and let the bird free.

--*Rohan Sachdeva*
Class VIII B

Caravan

Clamouring of metal and the squeaking of thousands of wheels brought my mind to the present from that dreamland, and curiosity pushed me out of the bed to the window.

It was the year 1967 and the winter in Northern England was unnatural. In the chill outside, I saw the gypsies pulling in opposite my house.

Their dresses were patched and their body and faces had a coat of soot and dust. It hardly mattered to them. Fire-wood was collected and pots and pans were put upon them. Ladies indulged

in cooking and gossiping, the men smoked their pipes and the children ran about. Gossimers of smoke went up in the dusk and I thought, 'What is this life on wheels all about?' I put myself in the shoes of a gypsy and the answer was, 'What do these people living in concrete know about life on wheels?' I couldn't think beyond.

The next day the same tune which visited upon my ears on their arrival woke me once again. The caravan was leaving only to stop somewhere else and push another into a doldrum of thoughts.

--*A Dreamer*

W.O.B.N

Capt. Manoj Arora is now a trainee pilot at the Udan Research & Flying Institute Pvt. Limited,

Indore. His training is on the verge of completion. Besides wishing our Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

a big success, Manoj has given us a few ideas. Quoting from his letter, 'I would suggest that an exhibition of all important photographs be displayed to memorise Welham's past glories. Also, once at a Titan showroom at D-Dun, I had seen watches

with the Doon School and Welham Girls' School logos on them. I failed, however, to notice any watch with the Welham Boys' logo printed on it. So I thought it might be great if some steps were taken in that direction.'

THOSE WACKY WOODSEATERS

Our Camping

For camping we went to Chilla. In Chilla we saw the river Ganga. On the first day we went for a walk to Pride Rock. When we looked down, we saw the river. In Chilla one day we got up at six o'clock in the morning to go to Rajaji National Park and one guard came with us. We went inside the jungle. We saw wild elephants, deer, peacocks and wolves. We went for an elephant ride. The name of the elephant was Chanchal Kali. We swam in the river. We got lots of tuck in Chilla. We enjoyed ourselves very much.

*--Tushar Kasera
Class II A*

A Wonderful Camping

We went for camping to Chilla. We went on a bus. On the way, we saw a lot of monkeys. I gave them a lot of biscuits. Then we went for an elephant ride. In the jungle we saw wild pigs, peacocks, deer and wild buffalo. In the night we danced.

*--Abdullah Yamin
Class II B*

Mid-Term Camp

We went camping to Chilla. There was a dam in Chilla. We went to Haridwar also. We swam in the river. We went to a wild life park. There we saw deer, wild boars, baboons, wolves and peacocks. We saw wild elephants. They had two calves with them. They were very cute. We had rides on an elephant. We rode on a female elephant. She had a baby elephant also. His name was Raja. Raja was very cute. I enjoyed the elephant ride. Then we went to our rest house. There we played and the next day we came back to school. I enjoyed our camping very much.

*--Chirantan Singh
Class III A*

A Wonderful Camping

We went for camping to Chilla. There we went for an elephant ride. From there we went to Rajaji National Park. We saw the river Ganga there. We swam in the river. In Rajaji National Park, we saw many peacocks, baboons and many wild animals and that was a wonderful trip to Chilla.

*--Ankit Sahay
Class II B*

RIVERSIDE THOUGHTS

My Visit to Cloud's End

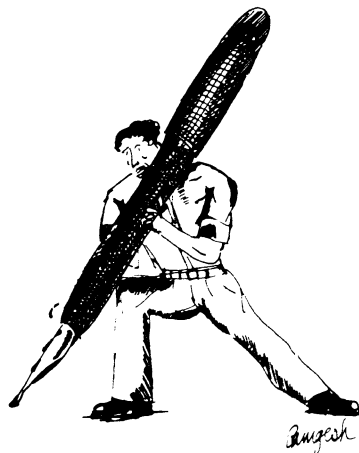
On the fifteenth of March, we were going on our mid-term trip to Cloud's End. I was very excited. On the way we saw step-farms and the Mussoorie lake. When we reached Mussoorie, we loaded our luggage on to a trolley, and the trolley was fixed to a Gypsy. We went to Kempty falls in the Gypsy. We ate our lunch and were going for a swim. Suddenly there was a hail storm. We were sad that we could not swim. So we went to Library, where our taxi was waiting. We sat in the taxi and went to Cloud's End. It was a beautiful place. There were many types of trees like the

Rhododendrons, Deodar, Pines and Oak. We could even see some snow covered mountains. The peaks we could see from there were Kedarnath, Badrinath, Gomti, Gangotri and Bandar pooh. The next day we asked Mr. Agarwal, the owner of the guest house, to show us around. He took us to a place called 'Echo Point.' There we shouted and our voice came back to us. We came back to school by bus. We really enjoyed ourselves a lot.

*--Raghav Puri
Class IV*

Some even sacrificed precious hours of sleep trying to master the Macarena dance. All hopes of 'wiggling' about have been shattered. I'm pretty disappointed too. Well, to the girls, all I can say is that we're a very patient lot. Till then, I guess we'll have to cast our nets elsewhere.

The eleventh Golden Jubilee Commemorative Basketball Tournament was held recently. Although everything ran smoothly, it wasn't quite a success for the Welhamites as they lost in the 'semis' for the first time in eight years. Nevertheless, the skill and spirit



shown by our team, is praiseworthy. Well done! We're all proud of you.

The heavens must have burst asunder, what with the consistent shower of rain that we received for a whole week at this time of the year. Uncalled for as it was, it has acted as an invitation to the tiny little bloodhounds that can drive one crazy when they irritably buzz in one's ears at night.

Flowers which were in full bloom have lost their shine with the rain experienced.

I think I've said too much for this issue. I'll sign off for now.

—Sourab

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I would like to draw your attention to meal times in Welham. Standing at the distributing counter, I can describe the going-ons as nothing short of a cacaphony. Some teachers invariably arrive late for meals making it inconvenient not only for the servers but also for me. At these times, I don't know how many shares I should keep until some 'very important teacher(s)' arrives 2 minutes before the end of the meal.

To add fuel to the well-burning fire, some teachers don't sit at their allotted hostel tables. In fact, some even take the liberty of forming small 'panchayats' in some desolate corner of the dining

hall and they expect servers to know where they are sitting.

Boys too are no angels. Besides their parading around the dining hall, some are banging tables, spoons, forks, knives and what-have-you, while some are yelling across tables. Delays are inevitable and I apologise for this, but at meal times I request the boys to show a little patience.

In the end, I would like to say that I take great pleasure in being the dining hall in-charge and would like to make every endeavour to better the quality and serving of food.

Yours hopefully,

—Yurendra Basnett

Dear Editor,

This letter is regarding the much talked about school discipline. It is addressed to you because I think the Oliphant is the best mode of conveying my message to the Welham community.

The staff administration needs to be further strengthened. Perhaps they require to re-think and re-strengthen their relationships with students and colleagues - a change in their dealings with students of the twenty-first century. They must keep in mind that they must always change, renew and rejuvenate themselves - otherwise they will stagnate.

The students should be prepared for responsibility at all times; office bearers, such as

the Prefects should be given independent control of the school to a certain extent. The Prefects are the ones upon whom we can rely for improvement in school discipline.

There are certain trends that have set in, in Welham which need to be nipped in the bud. That error of one moment in the past is making the community suffer now.

It is the moral responsibility of all staff and students to work towards the betterment of the institution till we reach excellence. We need to acknowledge our weaknesses, evaluate our strengths and exhort ourselves to achieve excellence.

Yours etc.,

A Well Wisher

WELHAM NOW

1) In spite of the frequent rains and the cold wave, the summer schedule came into effect from the 26th of March.

2) With the commencement of the swimming season, the swimming pool has been opened.

3) Siddharth Singh has been appointed as the incharge of 'Literary Affairs' for the Oliphant.

4) Sumant Pai has been unanimously appointed the boy to represent the school in the Round Square Conferences.

5) All the initial preparations for the Hindi Joint Production play with Welham Girls' have been finally completed. The audition for the cast of the play was held on the 4th of April and practice is expected to begin by the 7th of April. Sumant Pai once again will be holding the reigns of direction in his skillful hands.

6) The Inter-House English Quiz Contest was held on the 26th of March '97. The first position was secured by Krishna House with 145 points followed by Jamuna with 110 points.

7) The School's Debating Society is now meeting quite frequently and the boys have started preparing themselves for the various forthcoming debates.

8) The inaugural ceremony for the Annual Golden Jubilee Basketball Tournament was held on the 3rd of April.

9) Prayas Rana, Suman Saurabh and Nikunj came first in their respective sections in the March Road Races which were held from the 26th of March.

10) The School Sports Committee meeting was held on the 26th of March.

11) The results of the Hindi Story Writing Competition are as follows:

Group 'A'

First : Trinayan Bhattacharya & Snehanshu

Second : Ashutosh Pandey

Third : Manish Garg

Group 'B'

First : Rahul Choraria

Second : Parikshit Bhide

Third : Kumar Abhijeet & Vikrant Tomar

12) Awards for the English Projects (1996-97) were awarded to the following boys:

Class VI A

i) Anuj Golaknath

ii) Pratik Shrestha

iii) Pawan Rana

iv) Suhail Kakpuri

v) Ashutosh Pandey

vi) Prayas J.B. Rana

vii) Snehanshu Verma

viii) Saurab Ranjan

Class VI B

i) Saumyajit Das

ii) Gautam Mahajan

iii) Nikhil Vohra

iv) Prashant Kumar

13) The Inter-House Western Music Competition was held on the 2nd of April. Jamuna and Krishna jointly came first in the choir while Saurabh Gupta of Krishna came first in the solo section. Krishna came first overall.

14) The School Committee meeting was held on the 2nd of April. Minutes of the meeting are as follows.

i) Rishi Bagaria drew attention to the badly maintained toilets in the middle school which he had been quite frequently visiting. It has been decided that the toilets will be renovated during the summer vacations.

ii) Abhijit Sengupta suggested that the class eleven students should be provided with the blazer which class 12th wears. His suggestion was not approved because the blazer given to class 12th is a "leaver's blazer" and no other class can get it.

iii) Vaibhav Agarwal suggested that there should be brown trousers instead of shorts. This was not approved by the committee.

iv) The cable T.V. maniacs asked for cable connections in the common-rooms. The chair person said that there would be only one connection and that would be available in the Activity Centre.

v) In future house photographs will be taken in November and Sports photographs will be taken at the end of each season.

NATURE'S DIARY

A trip to Corbett National Park

Prior to the years 1815-20 of British rule, the forests of the Corbett National Park were the property of the local rulers. Even after the property was taken over by the British, the local people did not stop cutting trees until Major Ramsay drew up the first comprehensive plan to protect the forests. After about thirty six years of careful vigilance, the conditions of the forests began to improve. The animal population increased, and the forests became richer and thicker.

Three groups, each consisting of twelve boys and an escort from Ganga House visited the Corbett National Park on the fifteenth of March. The park lies in the northern region of Uttar Pradesh, known as the 'Himalayan Terai'. It covers an area of 521 square k.m. The park's elevation ranges from two hundred and fifty to a thousand meters above sea-level.

Lying between the Kumaon and the Garhwal region, the Corbett National Park is one of the most famous national parks in India. People from all over the world come to visit this park to catch a glimpse of the majestic Royal Bengal Tiger.

The main reason which led to the establishment of this park was to save the Bengal Tiger. The park has been named after Col. Edward James Corbett, who was a big game hunter.

On the fifteenth of March, we started our journey and reached Ramnagar at five o'clock in the evening. We spent the night in Ramnagar and the next morning we left for Corbett. We stopped at Dhangarhi Gate, the gateway to Corbett. We passed Sultan, a rest house, and finally reached

Gairal at eleven o'clock. While going to Gairal, we stopped at the 'crocodile pool'. There we spotted four 'gharials'. They looked magnificent beside the crystal clear waters of the Eastern Ram Ganga, which flows through the park.

Chital, sambhar, wild-boars and elephants are some of the animals which can easily be spotted in Corbett.

On the third day, the seventeenth of March, we were lucky to spot a jackal early in the morning. In the evening we went to Dhikala, which is twenty two kilometers away from Gairal.

River Chat, Bush Chat, Pied King Fisher, Peacocks and Lap Wings are some of the birds which can be commonly seen. There were rare birds like the Hobby and the Egyptian Vulture. We caught a glimpse of these birds hovering in the sky on our way to Dhikala.

On the eighteenth, we went to Dhikala in the evening. Enroute, we saw a lot of Cheetal and Barking deer. We even went for a ride on an elephant, but we were not lucky enough to spot a tiger. We came back to the rest house after some time. In the evening when we were sitting on the banks of the river, we saw a tiger coming to drink water on the opposite bank. This elegant animal was looking magnificent in the dim twilight of the sun.

We came back to school on the nineteenth of March. I must say, we enjoyed our mid-term trip to Corbett National Park thoroughly.

--Anshuman Singh --Aatir Ansari
Class VIII A Class VII A

THROUGH THE KEYHOLE

Chem Period

Pratyush : 'Sir, who will win the elections?'

Mr. Gosain : 'You see and watch.'

Hindi Period

Sumant : 'Sir when is Mr. Kandhari leaving?'

Mr. Bhusan : 'He is leaving on the 29th of April and returning on the 22nd of March.'

Mr. Gairola : Boys, I don't want too many of you entering the shop.

Amit Sharma (controlling the situation) : Each boy from one group go in.

Separated at Birth

Amit Sharma (Class XII) & actor Govinda.

RINGSIDE VIEW

Mr. Vachani recently became the first Asian whose sideline play was accepted by a panel of three reputed American Basketball coaches. It appeared in the blackboard section of the prestigious Basketball magazine, 'Winning Hoops'. For those of us who've played under him, it came as no surprise as we've played the same moves on several occasions and have been very successful. Congratulations to Mr. Vachani and may he take the Welham team from strength to strength to greater heights!

The eleventh Golden Jubilee Commemorative Basketball tournament was held recently. The inaugural match was played between the Welham (blues) and Moravian School, Rajpur. It was a one-sided affair and the Welhamites inevitably won. The second match had the Welham (whites) take on a physically superior GRD Academy. They started off slowly and gradually picked up momentum. After trailing by 10 points in the first half, they came back to win the match with a comfortable margin of 10 points. This was just the second match of the tournament and already an upset had been caused. GRD went back shocked, not being able to digest the fact that they had lost to a team whose average height was merely 5ft, 3in.

One of the best match in the league stage of the tournament was played between Y.P.S, Patiala and Woodstock School, Mussoorie. It was basically a battle between two individual talents. The six-foot, six inches tall Chima from Y.P.S was almost invincible on the board partly because there was no one else in the remaining teams who was even six ft.-two in. On the other hand, Woodstock's number '10', Sonam's ball handling abilities left everyone spellbound. The match was played at a very fast pace and went on neck-to-neck right till the end. Woodstock finally emerged victorious by a mere 2 points which were scored with two seconds remaining on the clock. Welham (whites) beat

Winberg Allen in the quarter finals and Y.P.S beat GRD to face the two direct semi-finalists, Woodstock and Welham (Blues) respectively.

The first semi-finals was between Welham (blues) and Y.P.S, Patiala. The game started in a rather 'unlucky' manner for Welham and Y.P.S took off giving Welham a big lead. The half-time score read 15 - 30 with the Welhamites losing. The second half gave a surge of hope to the Welhamites as they began making some excellent moves and scored numerous three-pointers. This gave a tremendous boost to their score narrowing the lead to a meagre two points. The air was inflamed with passion as the Welhamites were screaming their lungs out for their team, who in turn were playing with their heart, mind and soul in the game. The skill and talent of our team was evident but unfortunately, the average height in our team was 5ft, 7in. while the average height of the Y.P.S team was 6ft, 2in and this, I think made all the difference in the end. There was many-a-misty eye when we lost 54-56.

In the second semis, Welham (whites) took on Woodstock, the eventual champions. The Woodstock coach, like GRD was fooled by the small size of the players and put in his second stringers at the start of the game. The Welhamites made them run all over the court and put up an unexpected performance. Very soon, Woodstock's best five were off from the benches and on the court but even they were made to struggle against the spirited junior team of our school. They played much above anyone's expectations and went down fighting. The final score was 49-35 with Welham losing yet again. It was a sad day in the history of Welham Basketball which will leave behind scars in the hearts of many especially of the players.

The finals were won with comfortable ease by the deserving Woodstock School. Congrats!

--Pratyush

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