



THE OLIPHANT

No. 197

WELHAM BOYS' SCHOOL

5th May 1997

Think About It

Success seems to be largely a matter of hanging on after others have let go.

—William Feather

EDITORIAL

Overheard

Person 1 : "What kind of Editorial is this year? The standard of the Oliphant has really declined. Look at this blunder..."

Person 2 : " This issue is the worst I've come across. This guy doesn't deserve to be Editor. Who appointed him? "

Thanks to forewarnings against comments like this from previous Editors, these remarks haven't been too discouraging, although I must admit they have done considerable damage to my self-confidence. Apparently, this sort of thing happens to every Editor. A haunting legacy left behind by the ex-Eds is the inevitability of mistakes. The important thing, I guess is to take no heed of these comments, gather courage and strive to do better every issue. After all, isn't it said that those who make mistakes are the ones who do something worthwhile and those who don't make mistakes are the ones who do nothing at all?!

This almost immediate publication of the Oliphant after the last issue might have come as a bit of a surprise to you. I assure you, it was for me too. It had simply slipped my mind that it is essential to have a minimum of eight publications every term. Unfortunately, we have reached a mere five. This cannot entirely be attributed to lethargy but also to the fact that most of the board members were away for lengthy mid-terms; we had a lot of catching up to do.

They say, one ability God has certainly given man is that of always being able to justify his actions. Now that I've done my part, let me apprise you of more interesting topics.

The suspense is thrilling. I hope it is worth it. The JP is only five days away. The JP guys have finished biting off all their nails. The practices are, however, very controversial and full of occurrences. On one occasion, Mr. Bhushan (who also seems to be cracking under pressure) was livid at the light and sound boys as well as the stage committee. Rumour

has it that these people are now on 'strike'. Not to mention, the 'brochure-squad' also on a similar occasion had come under severe criticism. Talking of Directors, their number, I hear, has exceeded the number of cast members. Well, to the probably confused cast, all I can say is 'All The Best'. Despite everything, I'm sure your performance will be par excellence as it has always been every year. I, for one, am keeping my fingers crossed.

Hockey season is in full bloom. Our school team put up a praise-worthy performance in the hockey councils and were runners-up in the same. Their unmistakable talent supplemented by their unsurpassed hard work easily carried them to the Finals. Well done to you Hockey guys! Concurrently, the number of domestic activities in school has suddenly becoming overwhelming. This is worrying quite a number of us, as the exams are round the bend. Well, I suppose one has got to 'do all things well'.

A second meeting of the forum of Prefects and teachers was recently held in the LRC. In contrast to the last meeting, the teachers and the boys alike got equal opportunities to voice their opinions, which was, of course, due to the presence of the Boss. The meeting was, however, a little too quiet for obvious reasons.

Despite various attempts, endless coaxing and constant reminders, the swimming pool (which has been reduced to the state of a dirty pond) remains to be cleaned. The water in the pool hasn't been changed for quite some time. I think it is imperative to clean the pool before we begin contracting diseases!

The summer this year is certainly turning out to be a wonderful one, what with the intermittent and refreshing showers of rain that we're experiencing. Gee! I just don't know who to thank!

Amongst the summer visitors, which are seeking nesting sites in the school campus have been the Cuckoo- first heard and spotted on 8th April and the Paradise Fly Catcher heard and spotted on 11th April. The latter birds will find the orchard a haven. The Cuckoo will of course, lay its eggs in the nest of a crow. Well, for the Nature freaks, its party time!

Not too long back, a special lunch was miraculously served to the whole school on 26th

April, Sunday (when most students were away on outing). As much as this might sound absurd, it was a sumptuous and delicious meal by any standards. We look forward to more of these special lunches on weekdays.

Watch out for the next issue. Its going to be a special one. I would greatly appreciate receiving articles on any subject from the readers.

—*Sourab*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Ed.,

Referring to the letter in the previous issue by 'a concerned and suffering student', I was both a little amused and annoyed after reading it. I would like very much to have an exhibition of the electrical fittings and the furniture that had to be removed as they had been practically destroyed. Some of the blades of the fans were also twisted. Obviously, these acts of vandalism were not carried out by the school authorities but by the inhabitants of P.H. The electrical wirings with all its illegal tappings have to be seen to be believed. It also poses as a great hazard to life. Therefore as part of the on-going plan to upgrade all hostels we have taken in hand all aspects of upgrading P.H. Unfortunately, until the boys relocate their bunk units precisely, we cannot draw plans for the location of fans, coolers and lights.

Most boys are aware of the fact that the Principal accompanied by me and the estate supervisor have made many trips and have drawn up detailed plans for P.H.

We wonder how long it will last, but we trust that with the present batch of class twelfth there will be no damage other than the normal wear and tear.

Yours etc.,

J.K. Sharma,
(Bursar)

Ed : I thank you Sir, on behalf of the 'concerned and suffering student' for your reassurance that some changes are going to come about in P.H., after all.

I must mention, however that the acts of 'vandalism' were performed by the last batch for which I see no reason why the present Class XII should suffer.

Dear Ed.,

I refer to the Principal's letter in the last issue regarding the renaming of junior hostels. Perhaps, consideration could be given to these being named to some of the many rivers that flow in the Doon valley- Asan, Tons etc.

The idea of re-naming P.H. to Prayag is certainly appreciated.

Yours etc.,

Vibhu Arya

Dear Ed.,

Everyone at Welham now has the opportunity to enjoy watching the night sky. It is wonderful to see the stars twinkling like diamonds in the night sky with a reflecting telescope.

The magnification powers of the telescope are 42x, 168x and 336x with a mirror diameter of 125mm. It is amazing to see the close-up of the moon and its gradual movement, cloudy Venus, Mars-the red planet, Jupiter with its giant moons and the beautiful rings of Saturn.

A schedule has been chalked out to give all boys the opportunity to view these celestial wonders. The class XIIth Geography boys will be available to brief all viewers and to assist in any way required.

Yours etc.,

Mr.S.S.Khaira

Dear Ed.,

In the previous issue, you had openly alleged that the members of the Oliphant Board were in-efficient and lethargic. Open your eyes and you'll see that we guys are doing our jobs perfectly and are up to date with all the latest facts. As for my ace in the hole-the age old saying goes, 'there are no bad employees, only bad managers'.

Yours Industriouslly,

Nikunj Gupta

WELHAM NOW

We regret the printing error vide serial no. 3 of *Welham Now* in our previous issue. This was due to a mismatch in fonts.

1) Results of the Inter House English Elocution which was held on the 26th of April, 1997.

Junior Section:

First: Owais Burza

Second: Pranay Patodia

Third: Yudhister Singh

Senior Section:

First: Abhinav Pathak

Second: Varun Puri

Third: Sidharth Singh

The house positions were as follows:

First: Jamuna

Second: Cauvery

Third: Krishna

2) The Diamond Jubilee Commemorative Inter School Junior English Quiz for classes VII and VIII was held on the 30th of April. Nine schools participated in the quiz. The results were as follows:

First: Welham Boys' with 190 points.

Second: Brightlands with 150 points.

Third: Woodstock with 145 points.

The trophy was awarded to Brightlands School, as we being the host school did not compete for it.

3) The school committee meeting was held on the 25th of April, 1997. The points discussed are continued in the next column and are as follows:

i) Ashish Kumar suggested that the roll call should

be held in the Activity Centre because the boys have to bear the heat. The Chairman agreed to this and changed the roll call time to 9:40 a.m.

ii) Sanjay Sarogi suggested that the hospital's black and white T.V. be replaced by the entertainment squad's colour T.V. The Chairman said that an appropriate decision will be taken after looking into the matter.

iii) Mr. Khaira suggested that the teachers should be provided with separate chairs in the class room and in the mess. The Chairman disagreed to this suggestion.

iv) Rishi Raj Singh suggested that night lights be put in the Triveni rooms. The Chairman said that it would be done during the holidays when the electrical wiring is going to be repaired.

v) The Chairman agreed to Siddharth Jatia's suggestion regarding 'chics' being put on the Triveni lockers.

vi) Navpreet Sahni suggested that the boys be allowed to come for roll call in their outing dress. The Chairman agreed and said that it could be implemented from next Sunday onwards.

vii) There was a suggestion about increasing the number of fans in the class rooms. The Chairman said that it would be done during the holidays.

viii) Suman Saurabh suggested that the L.R.C. should remain open till six-thirty in the evening so that the boys could have more time to work. The Chairman said that a solution would be worked out.

ix) Abhinav Pathak suggested that class XI should be allowed more than two outings a month, excluding the holidays. The Chairman disagreed to this saying that boys should not neglect other opportunities provided to them.

LITERARY AFFAIRS

The Word Man Talks

The moon's whiteness illuminated the waters,
which glittered like stars fallen into the river,
The owls hoots, the crickets and nightjars;
A cacophony of life in the night.

And the orchestra of cynics played the
death drums,

They sounded like the beats of a thousand
hearts on the verge of explosion.

More like aneurysm, or a frightened widow

being stalked in the night.

The men sat in a circle, the orange flames of
the fire gave a warm glow to their faces,

They heard laughter, with screams of agony
and ecstasy, cries of joy and pain, of suffering
and longing.

The winds rustled the leaves and a thousand
peace birds left the world.

The eagle swooped and buried its talon into
the peace bird,
Blood dripped and the men knew it.
They knew that what was to come was the
worst bit.
Dark summer men and cool winter women,
The killers bred between them,
Scared, they cling to each other,
Not a word, not a step, yet they moved on.

You, me we all see it everyday. And gather
in dark insane rooms and talk,
The talk ends like an innocent breathing his
last
The words fade and we lock them,
Justice was hanged, truth, love and the

peace bird deserted us,
The sons came and opened the locks,
The just words were tossed and thrown like
lives, and were locked again, fading.
Do you know anything about it,
Will you take a step or not?
Or are you like them, talking and squirming
like evil minds, creating fear.
Close your eyes, look at tomorrow,
Bright sunshine, the cacophony, the cynical
orchestra, young babies to their mothers
breast and the peace birds flying and dying.
Yet you sit there with words,
Like a King with a thousand curses and
blessings in his mouth.
Do something, tomorrow is near.

—*The Last Child*

A Mysterious Telephone Call

It started on my 5th birthday. It was late in
the evening. The party thrown by my parents had
been a great success; all my cousins and friends
had been invited, and we had a ball. Exhausted by
all the running around, I lay sprawled on the living
room sofa, pondering over the day's party.

I was shaken back into the world of reality
by the shrill noise of the phone ringing. With a sigh,
I walked to the phone.

Picking up the phone, I heard a raspy voice
call out "May I talk to little Saasha?" I didn't like the
'little one' bit. Even at five, I considered myself to
be big. "Right" I said, trying to sound grown up.

A pleasant voice spoke up, "So how was
your birthday party? I hope you enjoyed yourself.
Your mother tells me that you are five this year.
Becoming a big boy now." "Who is this?" I
quipped. For a few seconds, there was silence and
then the caller went on talking without paying much
attention to my question. By this time, my mother
came up to me with a questioning look on her face.
I did not know who was calling, so I held out the
phone to her. No sooner had she asked for the
caller's identity, than he hung up.

"What was he saying?" she asked. I told her
about our one-sided conversation "Oh!" she
exclaimed, "It must be your jovial uncle Mukul,
playing a joke as usual. I'll give him a call right
away." But we found out that uncle Mukul was in
bed resting away with a cold.

We kept pondering over the caller's identity.
But we could not think of any one we knew who
would play such a joke.

Later, while referring the matter to my father,
we thought about the people likely to make such a
call; it must have been a relative or a friend living a
great distance away, my father concluded.

Surely it couldn't have been my mother's
parents, because I had spoken to them in the
afternoon. None of my other relatives seemed the
type to call up in this manner and then hang up on my
mother.

In my excitement of a real life mystery, I cried
out "it must be grandpa," and immediately realised
my mistake.

My father and mother exchanged glances
and said "that is not possible." After all my grand
father was in hospital suffering from throat cancer.
He could hardly talk and when he did, it was with
great difficulty.

Finally, tired by the discussion, my father said
it was best for us to wait for another call. And so we
waited and waited for another year, and it came
again. We were again baffled but found no one
responsible for the mysterious calls.

Every year the phone would ring on my birth
day, and the same kind and raspy voice would wish
me.

Even after I joined Welham in class three, I
continued receiving these calls in my masters' houses.

Who the caller was, no one knew. An admirer?
Some uncle playing a prank and determined to
keep it secret?

Last year my grandpa finally succumbed to his

illness. This year however, there were no mysterious
calls.

—*Saasha Singh*
Class X

Mind Sport

Rules: Give your self one point for every
correct answer (be honest guys), no taking a quick
peek at the answers.

And now, put on your thinking caps, get set
and go.....

Questions

1) Which Greek city would you visit to see the
Acropolis?

2) Which popular singer owns more than two
hundred pairs of glasses?

3) Which mountain country is bordered by France,
Germany, Austria and Italy?

4) Who is a toastmaster- someone with limited
responsibility in the kitchen, an announcer of
speakers at dinner or a heavy drinker?

5) What is the circumference of a soccer ball
eighteen, twenty one or twenty eight inches?

6) How many bits are there in one byte?

7) Give a common name for a very popular card
game. Hint - a river crossing as well as a part of the
nose?

8) Who is the famous comic character you would
associate with a jalopy?

9) Which duck was 60 years old in 1994?

10) Who was the last member of the British royal
family to compete in the Olympics?

The answers are on page eight. The score
card is as follows:

8-10: The shining star of our future quiz
team.

4-7 : Buck up pal, you've still got a long way
to go.

Below 4: Take my advice and keep it to
yourself or put a bag over your head and announce
it all over town.

—*Debashish Bannerjee*

Yanni Live at the Taj

Incidentally, I happened to be in Agra when
Yanni was scheduled to perform at the Taj, because
my holidays after the I. C. S. E. examinations
coincided with the dates.

Getting the tickets was no problem because
there was not much of a rush for tickets. I inferred
from what I heard from various people, that there
was a misconception that only erudite musicians
would enjoy the show; that this was going to be
classical music and would not be of much interest
to the general public. But I'm sure that people will
agree that his compositions were not as abstruse as
thought to be because he had the jazz and pop
element in his music which made it very interesting
and he had the audience in raptures.

I went for his concert on the 21st of March
along with some friends. We were not allowed to
take our vehicles beyond the Red Fort, from where
we were taken in buses to a point from where in
turn, we had to walk around a kilometre to reach
the location.

I was impressed to see the way things were
organised and the only draw back was the
occasional whiff from the Yamuna. Iron bridges
were constructed over the rivulets and iron plates
were laid out on the sand to facilitate walking.
Security was very tight with armed guards pacing
up and down. One could also spot some celebrities
amongst the crowd.

Once everyone was seated, Yanni came

running onto the stage, as agile as ever, with his long hair swinging from side to side. The audience rose to their feet and gave him a hearty welcome. The stage was stupendous and the lights were resplendent. The lights were synchronised with the music (If I'm not wrong) and it added more glamour, excitement and fun to the show. I had never seen such excellent lighting in my life. With the majestic Taj behind the stage, the view was absolutely breath taking.

He began with one of his compositions which was I guess, Latin for the audiences, but was most soothing music for me.

His various numbers included the 'Nightingale' which was composed as a result of an inspiration from a nightingale. As he began with his composition, he said aloud 'I wish the nightingale would join me tonight.'

He said that he was honoured to be performing in India on the occasion of its fifteenth year of independence and would dedicate one of his songs to this occasion, which was received by loud

applause by the audience. He also played a number in memory of Shah Jahan and Mumtaz Mahal. Yanni said many pleasant things about our culture and tradition, which should remind us of the greatness of our ancient culture and the fact that we need not be suppressed by the western culture, as is evident from many people who suffer from an inferiority complex and I hate to say, feel embarrassed talking about our culture and music.

The last number of Yanni's had the audience swinging and dancing to his tune. After finishing his last number, he exited the stage, but the excited roars of the audience shouting 'once more, once more' brought him rushing back and he started playing another number. After ending the number, the audience gave him a thunderous applause and congratulated him for putting up a magnificent show.

By the end of the show, I for one was spell bound as to how a human being could be such a genius at music. I'm still amazed.

—Arjun Trivedi
Class XI

Those Wacky Woodseaters

My Favourite Book

My favourite book is Aladdin. I have read it many times. My favourite character is the Genie. This is a ladybird book.

The master of Genie is Aladdin. Jafar is a wicked and cruel man in this book. Jafar wants to kill Aladdin because he wants to marry princess Jasmine. Aladdin also wants to marry princess Jasmine. Aladdin has a pet monkey. The name of his monkey is Abu. The magic carpet is also one of Aladdin's friends.

—Tushar Kasera

My Teacher

My teacher's name is Mrs. Sara Sundaraj. When I was in class one, my teacher Sara ma'am was our class teacher. Now I am in class II A. When I was in class one she taught us maths and E.V.S. She is my favourite teacher. She likes me. I like her. Now Nonie ma'am is my class teacher.

(6)

Robin Hood

My favourite book is Robin Hood. I have read this story. This story is very interesting and exciting. The hero is very smart and brave. He is kind and good to all the poor people. In his story, he steals from the rich gives to the poor. The sheriff of Nottingham is his enemy. Robin Hood is very good at using a bow and arrow. I like this story very much.

—Prateek Modi
Class II A

My Grandma's Necklace

One day my Grandmother went to the market. She was walking, some thieves were running after her. I was coming on my bicycle. I saw them they took my Grandmother's gold necklace. They went into a house and closed the door. I ran and called the police. They were caught. My grandmother got her necklace back.

— Omit Gurung
Class III

NATURE'S DIARY

Another View

'The elephant moved slowly through the tall grass. Summer was still some weeks away and the ground was already parched and the grass dry. The sun showed it self for the last time in the partly cloudy sky and disappeared over the horizon.

It was time to return to the rest house. Yet another successive day had come to an end without a glimpse of the king.

As the elephant covered some more ground, I, sitting on its back saw something moving through the grass. Suspicion arose inside me and I felt that in no time we would get to see it.

Seconds passed and soon it came out of the grass. The excitement turned into frustration for it was another one of those brown mud coloured pigs. Just a lump of fat, looking very similar to the domestic pig.'

The writer of the above extract was unlucky, but we were not. He was searching for the Royal Bengal Tiger, when instead he saw wild boars.

Wild boars are interesting, powerful and beastly creatures! Now if that seems ridiculous to you then I have no doubt in declaring you to be just another member of the writer's clan.

All I intend to say is that the tiger may be the most powerful, elusive and majestic animal in the

world, but the unhealthy habit of beating it out of the bush is just adding to its problems. There is so much more to watch in the forests.

Why should the mid-term trip to any N.P. be limited to trying to catch a glimpse of the tiger? And if you do not get to see one, it results in disappointment.

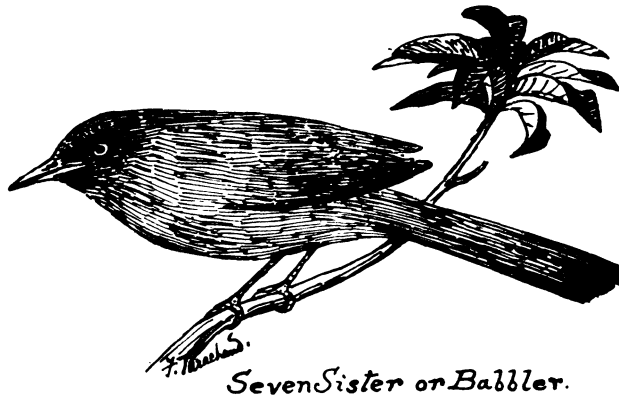
Today the tiger is getting so much publicity, that it also eats into the share of other wild animals, which in the fight to save the tiger are being neglected. How many know that the white winged wood duck of Assam is knocking at

the door of extinction, or that the silver fox in South India is living its last days. Its important that we change our attitude towards wild animals. You surely would want to see a tiger chase a deer, instead of watching a flock of migratory birds. But at the rate things are going, you might not see the migratory birds at all in a few decades.

A final comment:

A cat with black stripes like the zebra, with a tail from a racoon, has jaw muscles weaker than a hyena's. It spends most of its day in slumber, and the worst part is that it has a close resemblance to my pet cat; mine being cuter. That is the Tiger.

—Digvijay Lamba



Seven Sister or Babbler.

THROUGH THE KEYHOLE

Chemistry Class

Mr. Gosain: Some body tell me what is the attraction between an electron and a proton called?
Dhruv Dhindsa from the back benches (slowly and deliberately): The name's 'Bond' - 'Ionic Bond'.

Parimal: Sir could you please check my prep.

Mr. Gosain: Arrey! Give me a red pen of any colour.

Geography Class

Bikash: Sir, where is the Gangetic plain?

Mr. Khaira: At the airport.

Some Definitions

Body Building: Macho ado about nothing.

A Bus: Its faster when you run behind it than when you are on it.

Q.) How do you scare a snail?

A.) Show him a mussel - man.

RINGSIDE VIEW

The sports' fortnight kicked off with the I.P.S.C. badminton tournament. The school was represented by Arcaprava Datta, Manas Patodia, Abhinav Pathak and Kunal Virmani. A lot of toning up and hard work went into the preparations for these championships. They made a meek exit in the first round, bowing down to T.N.A. However, The one attractive thing in the whole affair was their colourful shirts!

Tennis has been quite dormant lately since the captain is busy organising the J.P. practices and as a result makes a rare appearance on the court. But there was one fixture in the other wise silent tennis fortnight. The school team played a one-off match against the Doon School on their courts. The Doscocs having the advantage of being the home team, breezed through the singles match. The school with the exception of a few good winners could not really get the momentum going and bowed to their rivals in straight sets.

The doubles match, however, was a different story. The team of Arjun Trivedi and Abhishek Gaurav played a superb game. The two crusaders had their Doon counterparts scurrying all over the courts. Their approach shots and net play was quite impressive. It seemed as if they had picked up a few tips from the Australian wonder team.

However, the performance of the tennis team at the Doon School made evident the fact that they have more to learn if they are to do well at the I.P.S.C. meet. The lack of a coach is quite a set back for them and thus they miss the priceless advice of a superior on the court.

Once again as a normal routine, the road races were held amidst a lot of din and excitement. The sleepy juniors were pushed out of bed to take part in the event. The outcome of these races was pretty much similar to those of the last races. Since a majority of runners dropped out mid-way, it were the same old guys who were running seriously. The results of the road race are as follows:

Section A

First: Prayas Rana-J/48
Second: Ashutosh Pandey-C/49
Third: Sharad Kumar-J/870

Section B

First: Saswat Prasad- J/847
Second: Mukti Bikram Shah- K/872
Third: Suman Saurabh- K/821

Section C

First: Nikunj Gupta- PH/715
Second: Shariq Ansari- G/784
Third: Tenzin Motup- PH/706

The Hockey team cruised through the early stages of the councils being held at Doon School this year. Despite their hard work and excellent team play, they lost 2-0 in the Finals held at Doon School on 3rd May.

The basket ball team had a rather dark fortnight; the only fixture being a home game against the Rimcos last weekend. The match failed to arouse enough excitement amongst the boys. It was a lack luster game and a rather one sided affair. Vipul had a very good game. His shooting was almost perfect. Amit Kumar too seems to be getting better with every outing. His power-play on the board has now become a great asset for the team. That's all for this issue. More in the next issue.

—Pratyush

Answers to Mind Sport

- 1) Athens
- 2) Elton John
- 3) Switzerland
- 4) An announcer of speakers at dinner
- 5) Twenty-eight inches
- 6) Eight
- 7) 'Bridge'
- 8) Archie Andrews
- 9) Donald Duck
- 10) Princess Anne

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Published By : **WELHAM BOYS' SCHOOL** E-Mail: **Oliphant@giasdl01.vsnl.net.in**

Registration No. :- **20208/86**

Computer Designer : **Vaibhav Bhargava & Dhruv Dhindsa**

Welham Now Correspondent : **Nikunj Gupta**

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Printed at : **EBD Printers, Dehra Dun.**