

THE OLIPHANT

No. 200

WELHAM BOYS' SCHOOL

22nd August 1997

Think About It

Behind every successful business lies a courageous decision.

—Peter Drucker

EDITORIAL

Happy Birthday Oh dear Oliphant!

Yes! The Oliphant has scored its second century in the number of issues. Proud as I am to be its present Editor, I must rightly attribute its absolute success to its previous Editors and their respective board members. To them all, on behalf of the school, I salute you. And what better occasion could I find than now to seize the opportunity to make this issue a special one?!

After a hot, exciting and fun-filled summer for most of us, the school has started yet again on its obstinately monotonous routine. However, a lot of us have manifestly become a bit t o o accustomed

to lazy stretches and idle yawns. This is evident in the mornings when the Prefects have to kick up a cacophony just to get the boys out of bed, in the way boys eat their lunch, and in the alarming number of boys who pass out in the evening lines when they are required to stand for barely ten minutes.

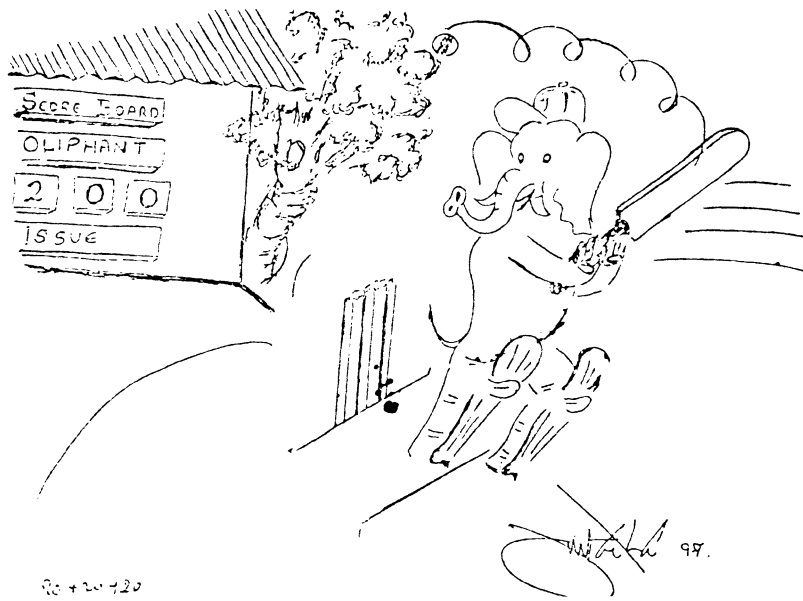
It didn't come as a surprise to me, however, to be greeted by ten twelfthies burning the midnight oil on my arrival here, (Oops! I guess I gotta admit that I arrived in school round about midnight. And no! I wasn't painting the town red) nor was I taken aback when I heard the unbearably thunderous silence in

P.H.,....yes,...in P.H. Sad but true. The unbelievable zeal with which the twelfthies embarked on their new academic term(which only a few wise guys understood), however, lasted no more than 48 hours. Attentive classrooms have gradually turned into what we call here 'panchayat rooms'. Decent remarks at the dining table like "Oye! Pass the pudding", have been replaced with incom-

prehensible sounds like 'grab', 'snatch', 'slurp' and 'gobble'. Tranquil evenings in the hostels are almost all-night-rock-concerts now (one should hear the windows rattling)

and Principal Hostel is no more. Party House has come alive once again. Needless to mention, everyone is feeling more comfortable and at home now.

The boys in the tenth and below, however were in for one hell of a surprise on their arrival here. The Triveni Hostel has been transformed into a mosaic of splish-splashing colours in contrast to its previous dull red and white demeanour. Red fans, yellow walls, blue doors, green windows and what have you?! Some boys almost rolled a red carpet in anticipation of the



Dalai Lama's arrival! The toilets also seemed to the boys to be par excellence as they have been exquisitely marbled and furnished. One could clearly discern the pleasantly surprised looks on the faces of the Trivenites. It is rumoured that one of them even put his luggage down in front of the Triveni building, smiled broadly and said, "Not bad, yaar! School has got a new rangeela building. Waisae-guys, where is our hostel?!?". However, Triveni had always been in desperate need for renovation and certainly looks more attractive and appealing today. Besides Triveni, all other hostels were renovated and refurnished more than satisfactorily including P.H. (leaving blank walls for new autographs and slogans). The credit goes to none other than our very own Mr. Kandhari. On behalf of the entire school, I thank him.

Work has begun with full amplitude in the newly acquired land and construction of a grand entrance is almost under way. This new entrance is being designed to join the newly metalled road to P.H. which by the way, is a convenience to us all.

Soccer season has had a rather disappointingly poor start this year with very few boys opting for the team. However, practice sessions are gradually gaining tempo and I am confident that under the excellent captainship of Bikash Gurung, the soccer season will gain full momentum. All in good time....

The Joint Expedition was much more than simply a success. The entire team is proud to say that each and every one of them reached the final destination - Ruinsaratal. It has come to my knowledge that the expeditioners of our joint-party had a wonderful time (what with raving at 13,000 feet). It was a pity only a limited number of boys and girls were called. But, for those who went, well, 'good for you' is all that I can say.

It has been reported that yet another put-up

of our popular Hindi Joint Production got more than expected results in Delhi. Congratulations to the cast and more importantly, to all those who worked behind the scenes. Well done and well deserved!

Preparations for the Diamond Jubilee celebrations are continuing with growing enthusiasm. I can almost foretell that it is going to be the greatest success that Welham will have had upto date.

The school's 60th birthday is certainly coming up but India's 50th birthday has come and gone. It was celebrated here in school with the usual unfurling of the flag which was followed by a number of inspiring speeches. Subsequently, the Junior and Middle sections of the school put up short plays that aroused a feeling of patriotism in all. To our surprise, the teachers also organised a choir and sang melodiously to the glory of India. The celebrations were followed by

various social service programmes under the leadership of Faisal Burza that were certainly commendable. A community breakfast was organised by the Class XII's for the entire school. The food, as agreed to by all, was YUM. All in all, it was one of India's birthdays that won't be forgotten easily and it has reminded us that we all ought to be proud of our nation.

Switching back, I must mention that requests for articles from Ex-Eds, board members and contributors to the Oliphant have however, not been met with much response. Once again, I request all the above not to hesitate in making any contributions to the Diamond Jubilee Special issue of the Oliphant, be it articles on any subjects, reminiscences or cartoons. With this, I rest my pen for now. More in my next.

—Sourab



WELHAM NOW

1) The Hindi Joint Production Play by Welham Girls' and Boys' was held in the Sri Ram Centre of Art and Culture in Delhi on the 26th of July, 1997. The play was greatly appreciated by the large audience. The play was also attended
(2)

by many ex-Welhamites.

2) The Joint Trek to Ruinsara Tal with Welham Girls' began on the 30th of May and ended on the 7th of June, 1997. The team comprised of

Arcaparva Datta, Dhruv Dhindsa, Nikunj Gupta, Adhir Bhatt and Reshil Charles.

3) Results of the Middle School English Handwriting competition held on the 7th of August, 1997 :

Class 5A

- i) Zoheb Khan
 - ii) Nishant Kumar
 - iii) Tanme Agarwal
- Consolation : Maroof Ahmed

Class 5B

- i) Rajeev Ranjan
- ii) Galdan Wangchuck
- iii) Gaurav Rohatgi

Class 6A

- i) Abhishek Shrestha
- ii) Rajkrishna Maheshwari

Class 6B

- i) Kumar Rakesh
 - ii) Tamish Raheja
 - iii) Ayush Agarwal
- Consolation prize : Aseem Sethi

4) The members of the Steering Committee met at the cottage on the 8th and 9th of August, 1997. The committee consists of Mr. Darshan Singh, Convenor and the members are:- Mr. Haripal S. Gill, Mr. Nirmal Gaur, Mr. Pavan Sher Singh Kalsia and Mr. Tanuj Sethi. The members visited the school and had an informal meeting with the Board of Governors. All matters pertaining to the Diamond Jubilee were discussed in the meeting.

5) Our team which comprised Arcaparva Datta, Pratyush Prateek and Karan Gulaya stood 3rd in the Friends of the Doon Quiz which was held in WGHS on the 9th of August. On the 16th, an inter-school-Science-Quiz was held at WGHS. Our school was represented by Sarthak Pany, Ankur Chakore and Gaurav Dubey.

6) A new Science Quiz Society has been formed with Abhinav Pathak as its President, Sharik Ansari as Secretary, Karan Gulaya as Vice President and Parimal Piyush as Joint President.

7) A Round Square Meet was held in the L.R.C. on the 10th of August, 1997. Mr. Tony Hyde, who

is teaching Maths and Physics at Eglon School in Switzerland gave a talk on the working of the Round Square Society. The talk was attended by the delegates to the various programmes.

A delegation of 4 boys was sent to Shimla to attend the Round Square Conference, which was held from the 1st June to 5th June, 1997. It was held at Bishop Cotton School. The members of the delegation were-Mr. Bhushan, Shradhey Rawat, Inayat Singh, Alok Kapur and Shivang Sud. All the delegates were divided into groups for discussions, the theme being "Educating the Heart".

Another group of boys went for the Nubra Valley Project which was held from the 9th to 27th July, 1997. The Government High School needed a library for the students and teachers and therefore a prefabricated geodesic dome was constructed by the delegates in Sumur Village. The delegation comprised Manav Goel, Varun Dawar, Rana Karan, Noorboo Wangchuk, Arif Kakpori, Sohail Kakpori and Mr. O. Das as their escort.

8) On the 13th of August, a Spic-Macay show was organised in the Activity Centre. The artist, Kiran Sehgal performed various Odissi dances and made the show an interactive one by including the students in the dances from time to time.

9) Mr. Nick Bowater from England is here after Mr. Michael Dey's departure. He will be assisting our boys in directing the Diamond Jubilee Play "Will Shakespeare Save us". We also welcome Mr. R. Bhandari who is teaching Maths to the senior school. We also have Mrs. Kumar who has replaced Mrs. Rawat as the new W.H. matron. We wish all of them a very pleasant stay in Welham.

10) The I.T. (Information Technology) Room has been made in the L.R.C. which aims to provide 24 hours access to the Internet and E-Mail. The installation of U.P.S. (Un-interrupted Power Supply) in the I.T. Room and the Computer Room in Hughes Block has also been completed.

11) The School Committee Meeting was held on the 7th of August, 1997. The points discussed were as follows :

- i) Ashish Agarwal suggested that Bethany Hall

should be equipped with more pedestal fans. The Chairman said that a group would be formed to study the requirements of Bethany Hall and then suitable arrangements would be made.

ii) Mr. Manuel suggested that the small bell in the academic block should be replaced by a bigger and louder bell, so that it could be heard in all the hostels. The Chairman said that he would look into the matter.

iii) Bikash Gurung suggested that the names of the Captains of various sports on the boards in the Activity Centre should be enlarged so that one could easily read them. The Chairman agreed to this.

iv) The Chairman agreed to the Prefects' suggestion that along with the school captains board, there should be one with the names of school prefects and monitors.

v) Class IX suggested that the telephone booth should be under the supervision of some boy so that its efficient working could be ensured. The

Chairman left the decision to the Prefects.

vi) Varun Dawar drew the Chairman's attention towards the formation of the Triveni House Committee which was to consider matters pertaining to Triveni. But this committee had not yet been formed. The Chairman said that the House Captains should consult the House Masters in this matter.

vii) Mrs. Mehra suggested that a mike should be fixed for assembly speeches and announcements since some of the speakers were not audible. The Chairman said that the matter would be looked into.

viii) The new names of the hostels put up in the school committee last term were :

i) N.G.-New Ground -- Narmada

ii) N.U.-New Upper -- Sutlej

iii) T.H.-Toad Hall -- Tapti

iv) W.H.-White House -- Bhagirathi

v) P.H.-Principal House -- Prayag House.

These names are to be considered.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Ed.,

I have been longing to write to the Oliphant as a ex-Welhamite with life membership to this fantastic publication. I get the Oliphant regularly, often a month late (but that is understandable given the corner of the world that I am located) and thoroughly enjoy reading the articles.

I was at Welham Boys' from 1976-1986, a time which I remember well as I recall lots of the interesting memories of the good old school days. I did my I.C.S.E there and moved to Australia where I did my H.S.C at Sydney Grammar School followed by B.E in Electrical and Electronics Engineering (specialising in mobile telecommunications) from University of N.S.W. After that I worked at N.A.S.A and have been working at Optus Communications HQ (a Bellsouth and Cable and Wireless subsidiary) based in Sydney for the last 4.5 years. Optus is the second carrier on the continent providing a full suite of communications services. I look after GSM cellular mobile digital future technology planning and development.

GSM which stands for 'Global System for Mobiles' (and its derivatives DCS1800, PCS1900) is the worldwide second generation

digital cellular and PCS standard which is also thriving in India at present. During my last visit there I used my StarTAC in 4 major cities and was amazed at the uptake of the handsets and subscriptions. I thought I might write about some very interesting events and phenomenon that we are and will be experiencing with the advent and mass applications of technology such as this.

We are witnessing a tremendous change with new features and services that are coming about in the mobile communications arena. In the not too distant future we will be using full multimedia capabilities from our hand portable Smartphone with applications such as video-conferencing (something we successfully tested over GSM). The future of the Telecom world is most definitely wireless. There will be dual mode GSM/GMPCS (Global Mobile Personal Comm via Satellite) which will seamlessly operate from terrestrial cellular to LEOS (Low Earth Orbiting) satellite systems that will provide truly global coverage. Smartphones that I am currently trailing are already capable of full downloadable applications (e.g. using Java), customisable menus and MIS (Mobile Information Services) capable. The vision of the future is unified

messaging with convergent and integrated platforms and personal intelligent devices/communicators. I already receive stock prices, news, sports info., weather forecast, exchange rates on my GSM mobile. Services like voicemail, fax servers, data and fax, multiparty conference calling, etc. are now heavily used. We are presently seeing the transition to more VAS (Value Added Services) which will provide to the customers exactly what they want, not what we think they want. Electronic Commerce - banking applications, airline ticketing and other interactive database query applications are just around the corner.

Wireless data has a great future, Nokia predict that by the year 2000, 50% of the call traffic over GSM will be data. We have and are seeing how the Internet is changing our lives (it is the largest and the most updated encyclopaedia in the world). Packet Data (really what the Internet uses) will take the data applications a step further. I am currently testing a very small phone with a built in web browser. You won't believe it but I typed some of this mail from a Nokia 9000 communicator sitting at a bench in the Royal National Park.

In conclusion of my brief on technology and its visions of the future I would like to say mankind must remain in control of it rather than technology taking control over us. It's important to appreciate this world, devote time with nature and God's creation and to not forget our immensely rich culture. Today knowledge and Information are considered power. It is true to an extent but beyond it lies wisdom. I feel one of the Einstein's saying was so true: 'The more we get

to know the more we realise how little we really know, i.e. how much more there is yet to know.'

It was great having Mr. & Mrs. Kandhari over in Oz couple of years ago while they were on tour to an International Conference. I have been in touch with some other ex-Welhamites in Sydney and we play tennis regularly.

I would like to take this opportunity in thanking and wishing all the staff and Mr. Kandhari all the very best. I would like to convey my congratulations all on this very special year of the 50th anniversary of Independence. We have had several functions to celebrate this great occasion - Dancing to the Flute Exhibition at the Art Gallery of NSW, Pt. Hari Prasad Chaurasia concert, etc. all of which have been splendid events bringing us NRI's closer to our true home - telling us more on how deep and meaningful our culture and philosophy is. Although I am living in Australia (& soon the U.S) my heart will always be in my India which really taught me 'That thou Art' - Tat Twam Asi.

May we all go from 'Strength to Strength' I am really proud and feel privileged to have studied at such a great school where boys are moulded into fine young men. My vivid memories of the school days will always remain as sources of inspiration. I do look forward to visiting Welham during my next visit to India.

Best wishes,

Anuraj S. Gambhir, (ex-37/Cauvery)

E-Mail Address:

anuraj_gambhir@yes.optus.com.au

Ed: Delighted to receive your informative and interesting letter. We look forward to your being with us when you are next in India.

W.O.B.N

Dear Sir,

I am writing to inform you that my son Aditya Singh Jhala (ex-645/K) passed his 12th boards from Symbiosis College of Commerce with a first division and got 61%. He was studying commerce in Poona. He has joined Welcomegroup Graduate School of Hotel Administration in Manipal, Karnataka for a 4 year degree course. Please publish the following address in the Oliphant so that Aditya's friends and batch mates can get in touch with him.

Aditya Singh Jhala,

Ist year,

Welcomegroup Graduate School of Hotel Administration,

Valley View, Manipal - 576119,

Karnataka.

Phone No.- 08252- 71101

Ask for C.I

Please give my regards to the staff at Welhams. Please see that the Oliphant is posted regularly to him too. We also enjoy reading it.

I thank you for everything you all, at Welhams, did to shape my son.

Jaya Kumari Jhala.

(5)

LITERARY AFFAIRS

Illusions Of The Sixth Dimension

The eyes of the subconscious opened,
The creature could now influence his actions.
Then he heard the vixen speak...
Of wizardry, sorcery, armageddon
And the era of Anti-Christ.
The voice subdued.....
The creature began his journey to the Astral
world,
He saw things float, he floated
A moon, a constellation, a whole new universe.
The grey matter swelled..... bloated.
Gaseous intoxication clogged his brain
and then he felt caged.
The vixen spoke again...
This time- a command.
Irritation.....
The brain waited for the outbreak
And then it came- slowly.
Exploding, breaking open, freaking out.
The creature held his head in his hands, struggled
and gasped...

He was free.
He lay wide awake
And then he saw the fairy,
She said something nice to him and took him on
a trip.
Away from the incubus..... he liked it.
He saw things- an Indian chief, The Crucifix, God
He saw magic, someone spoke of rationalism-
He liked it, although it had a dark side.
This was the world... the real world.
The fairy held his arm-
He longed for her..... lust.
He knew it was not right
She was God's child.
She went far away
And stood on the stairway to heaven... golden
delight.
What she said, he couldn't hear
The next instant he was blinded by light
Divinity and the new dawn;
Tomorrow was here.

—*Anaconda*

What Else Could I Write....

We have the right to be born, the right to
live..... to die happily when it is no longer
possible to live happily..... Dying by one's own
free choice, not accidentally, not suddenly
overtaken, but consciously, freely and happily.

--*Friedrick Pietzsche*

Its not easy to appreciate life when one is
too sensitive and tender.... When one has
emotional needs, when you need love and
affection. It happened to me, I needed
support..... It never came. I found myself
drowning into a whirlpool of conflicting
emotions. I began to distance myself, suffering
from the pain of depression and withdrawal.

..... Oh me!

I became hateful towards most people and
my passion died away. My achievements don't
matter to me anymore. The bonds of relationships
had started breaking. And soon enough the
loved ones kept falling out. I was losing support,
and the questions of conscience began to torture
me.

I had lost the why's of life. My attempt to

strive for happiness had failed and I had
withdrawn into myself. I felt my mind creating
detrimental behaviour patterns. All people close
to me were withdrawing their help and support
and I knew I was losing everything that was
important to me. It was frustrating to pretend I
was having fun when inside me pangs of
loneliness were killing me. I hated myself and I
wanted to.....

You can't imagine how stifling it is to be
forcefully directed. Its like my life being lived by
someone else. I was buckling under the pressures
of emotional frustration, tensions of the mind
resulting in a numbness towards all optimism. I
lost all sense of judgement, the ability to
differentiate between those who loved me and
those who hated me. This inability of mine
crushed me with a sense of guilt and created in
me a hate towards myself.

I had always related success to a person
who was happy and loved. I had failed. Don't say
something like 'I know how you feel' because
you don't, nobody does. There came a time when

the pain became unbearable, I then decided to leave my burdens of frustration and move into..... nothingness, into freedom, into perfect bliss into the supreme spirit..... into Nirvana.

I hold none, but myself responsible, my

sensitiveness, my emotions..... I love you so much it makes me sick. And when I die the world might cry but I shall rejoice. Rejoice for the day I will rest and suffer no more. 'Oneness' with the 'absolute'.....Touch me.....I love you.

—The Last Child

THROUGH THE KEY HOLE

Manavjeet : Sir, what is your programme for Rakhi?

Mr. Khaira : Wait, I'll ask Gulzar and tell you.

Mr. Gosain : Is milk a mixture or not ?

Akhilesh : Yes, sir.

Mr. Gosain : Of what ?

Akhilesh : Milk and water!!!

Arca : You guys want to sleep together in a big tent or a three man tent.

Demo lady : I'll prefer sleeping in the big tent cause I don't want three men!

Gaurav : Who gave up Honkong to China ?

Amit : England.

Gaurav : Are you sure?

Amit : No, Great Britain.

Gaurav : What is the difference?

Amit : Same difference!

Overheard :

Mr. Kandhari : Welcome back to school.

Ayush : Same to you, sir.

I LUV MY INDIAAAAAAAAAA...



Life makes you lifeless,
But without life you are still lifeless!

Adhir to a tourist : Hope you reach your journey.

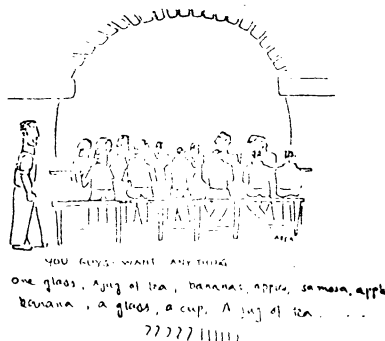
WHAT'S IN

- 1) Rohit Lohia
- 2) Manavjeet's haircut
- 3) Mr. Das
- 4) Non appointed Prefects
- 5) Ajitabh Inn
- 6) Mr. Thakur's Sylvia
- 7) Watching Cricket
- 8) Floaters

WHAT'S OUT

- Abhishek Sama
- Anubhav Gera's haircut
- Mr. Nagalia, Mr. Basu, Mr. Pant
- Prefects
- Tea stall
- Mr. Pant's Tosky
- Playing soccer
- Shoes

SEPARATED AT BIRTH



- 1) Rudrapratap Singh
- 2) Vaibhav Tankha
- 3) Vipul Munjal

Ahmad Ali Khan.

Shradhey Rawat.

Rahul Dravid
(Hair style).

LAMPOON

The Wonder Years

When I joined Welham, way back in 1987, the only comprehensive 'slang' boys in Woodseats used was 'don't act cheap' or at times 'shut up!' And if anyone dared to include these phrases in his vocabulary, he would be quite accustomed to boys saying 'I'll tell to ma'am' or 'Please ma'am, look at to him'.

After spending our first two years in Woodseats under the terrifying presence of Mrs. Torress, we moved on to New Ground (check out the building and mark the contradiction in the name) which was supposedly the 'happening place' in the junior school 'freak circuit'.

But soon we found out about 'Mr. Ruler', the tuck bank incharges and the 'three - claps - attention - please' phenomena.

After a year in N.G we moved to a more independent hostel called 'White House'. The two years we spent there were definitely my best. What with the influential and controversial presence of Varun Shiag and his pre-senior-school-Heera-Gang. He was our guru, our sports coach, our teacher of taboo topics and our role model.

We learnt a lot from him.

Things, however, changed when we moved into the fiercely independent 'Senior School'. The language changed, the look changed, the thinking changed and we were scared...Not even five feet tall we came into contact with burly six-footers of the likes of Munish Suri, Dhruv Sehgal and Manav Khullar.

The seniors in our hostels mixed around pretty fast and didn't hesitate one bit in educating us about the female anatomy etc.etc. and more etc.

In class seven we saw the rebirth of bell-bottoms in Welham. We saw Jairaj and we saw Mr. Kwatra. In class seven we also saw

Punj, Pilania and their various escapades. In class seven Mr. Das got strict. In class seven...we had a ball.

Class eight was Vijay Bishnoi. He was our god, our role model, our ultimate School Captain. Life under him was hilariously scary. His movements, his talk and everything about him were original. He was unique.

Class nine saw us trying to comprehend Sudeep's enigmatic remarks which went like-'you bunch of robotic chimpanzees!' Class nine

brought us into 'The Doors' and class nine allowed us school outings. In class nine the standard of the O l i p h a n t went 'From Strength to Strength'. In class nine guys got health conscious. In class nine- we grew up.

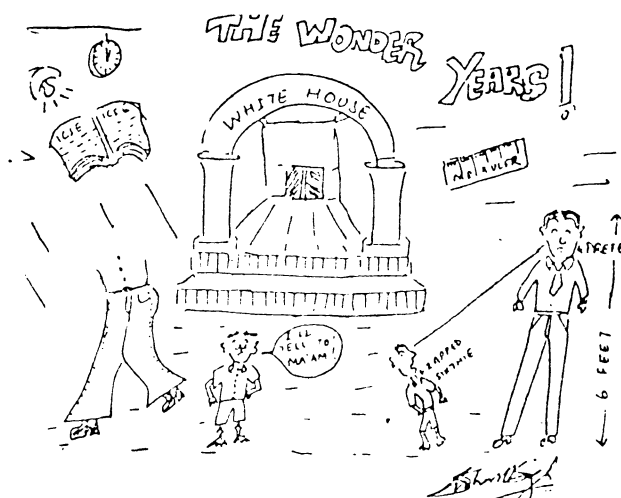
Class ten was heaven. Class ten- we were the lords of the hostel. In class ten we were ruled by a dominating personality ever to have lived in Welham. In class ten- we were under Rumaan. But class ten was also I.C.S.E, and I.C.S.E was the best time we had in our lives. The I.C.S.E preparation time gave birth to a lot of pseudo - intellectuals and also to a whole bunch of exceptionally good 'Corridor' cricketers.

Class eleven... still in Triveni - still the lords of the hostel. Same guys- same faces- same ... everything. But... with a difference.

Triveni is so clean
There is no difficulty
In maintaining
Personal hygiene.

This is due to the new luxury bathrooms we've got. The bright colours on the cupboards and fans are so jazzy that you have to come here and check them out. So... I guess this is it. My brief history of life in Welham upto the 18th of August, 1997 is finally complete.

—Sidharth Singh



The Summer Trek

A joint venture trek between us and Welham Girls' School was held in the first week of June. The trek wasn't exactly a 'honey moon' as some people called it in the past. It was a fun filled trek cum pilgrimage to Ruin Sara Tal, a lake which lies in a valley bordering Har-Ki-Doon.

We set off for Sankri which is the last road head along the route to Ruin Sara Tal, by bus. The bus was boarded at WGHS, at six in the morning. The journey to Sankri was rather boring, but we got a lot of welcome breaks along the way, one of them being in Mussoorie.

It was around six in the evening when we reached Sankri. We had the option of staying over in Sankri for the night, but we decided to push on towards Taluka, from where the actual trek would commence. We hired two jeeps to cart our luggage along with us all the way to Taluka, which is about 15 km from Sankri. While in the jeep, we all were a sight to be seen, with half of us dangling outside the jeeps. After all, there were a total of twenty of us, including the cooks.

We reached Taluka at sundown, and immediately took a room at the F.R.H.. Since it was our first night of the trip, all the guys decided to sleep out in tents, and so just before dinner, we pitched our tents. It was a good experience for some of the girls as they had never pitched a tent before. After a hearty dinner, at the end of the first day, some of us crashed out for the night, while Arcaparva, organised a game of 'antakhari' between all the others.

Day 2 dawned and it brought every one back to their round of duties. Some went to fetch water for the kitchen, a few helped the cooks, and the rest packed up the tents. We set off from Taluka for

Seema at about nine in the morning, since it was only fourteen kilometers away, and the going was easy. The route to Seema went through some really dense jungle, and when ever there was a break in the trees, the view we got of the distant peaks, was really phenomenol. Along the way, we had to cross a number of bridges, two of which were really scary. The drop over the side was into the swift flowing 'Ruin Sara Gad'

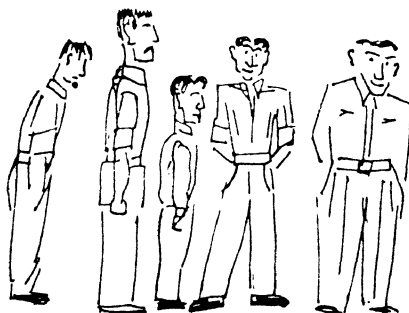
which originated at the base of the 'Swarg Rohini' peaks. Leeches were not a problem even though we expected them, because there was no dense vegetation directly on the track. It was about two in the afternoon, when we reached Seema. Seema is a small bazaar located at the base of the valley, opposite Osla. In Seema, we spent the night at the G.M.V.N. rest house, as it had started raining on our arrival, and we were not able to pitch our tents. The first thing we all did on reaching Seema was have loads of hot tea and 'parathas' at a tea stall in front of the rest house. The tea and 'parathas' felt like heaven after the tiring trek. During dinner, all of us got together and it was decided that we would stop over at Gujjar Hat the next day, rather than push on to the Tal.

We all woke up in the morning to find that the weather was not in our favour. It was a dull and gloomy day, and it was raining all along. Donning our rain gear, and making last minute checks to make sure that we had not left anything behind, we set off for Gujjar Hat. The going was a bit tough and slow, all thanks to the number of land slides we had to cross. The rain just added to our misery. After about two hours of stiff

climbing, the track followed a grassy meadow for quite some time, and this is where every one took it easy. But

our joy was short lived. It was not another steep

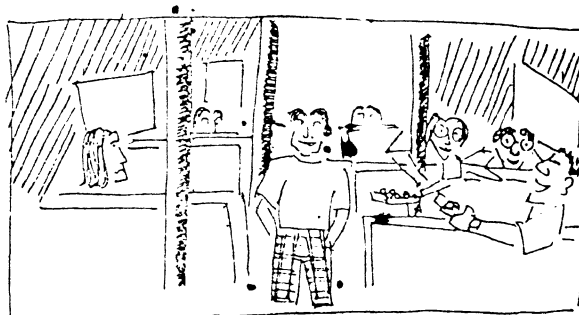
Before the trek



THOSE GUYS ARE SO RUDE



IN THE BUS



THOSE GUYS ARE GRASS - - -

climb we came across, but a descent. The track started going downhill. At first it was a very gentle descent, but as we got going, it gradually turned into a nightmare! Saying that the descent was a steep one is putting it rather mildly. It was a bit beyond steep, and every one's knees were aching after we reached the base.

We reached Gujjar Hat late in the afternoon, with the rain pouring down all around us. Everything was cold and wet, but to our relief, when we reached the camp, the porters, who had reached before us had already pitched the tents. Camp was a sight for sore eyes that day.

Next day, we all set off on the final lap to Ruin Sara Tal. The going was irritating, because of the consistent rain and slippery conditions. Most of us were slipping on the rocks time and again. Towards the afternoon, the rain abated slightly, but this was not before a major part of the journey had been completed. We had crossed the tree line, and had entered a meadow, which was strewn with boulders, and the different shapes and sizes of these rocks gave the region the appearance of a lunar landscape, despite the grass and the patches of snow. There was no sight of camp yet, but we knew that we were nearby, because we could smell the aroma of dinner being prepared in the 'kitchen'.

Coming around a huge rock with a crack through its center, we got our first sight of the lake, and of the tents which had been pitched some distance away. We had expected a much larger lake, but to our disappointment, there was not much water. But we did not let that dampen our spirits, because we knew that when we went higher up the next day, we would see heaven!

That night, we lit a camp fire, partly to have some fun and partly to drive the cold away. The cold, thin air was driving everybody nuts.

(10)

ON THE TREK



THESE GUYS ARE HELPFUL

After a rather uncomfortable night due to the thin air, we got up the next morning to find that there was a break in the clouds, and the weather might clear up. Our hopes soared.

A few of us, who were feeling up to it, decided to go up to the high altitude base camp of 'Swarg Rohini'. There were seven of us who went up. We were accompanied half way up

by Mrs. Chinchani, the escort from WGHS and a guide. The going was tough, as there was no track up the nearly vertical mountain side. Initially it started off as a very gradual slope, but after crossing a small glacier, the terrain changed drastically. Two hours later we made it to the top, and the view we got from up there was fabulous. After spending about an hour up at the base camp, which is at an altitude of 16,000 ft., we started down. Coming down this slope was also not easy. We could hardly see ten yards in front of us because of the dense cloud that had rolled

in.

We started back for Seema the next day, and we got soaked since it was pouring heavily the whole way. The tea stall in Seema again was the favourite hangout, but still some of us were bored coming back there a

second time.

The last night was spent at the GMVN rest house at Sankri, and although everyone was exhausted by the end of it, the longing to go back amidst nature still persisted. The bus ride down to Dehra Dun was more exciting, and we must say that the trek was a memorable one.

—Dhruv Dhindsa, Arcaprava Datta,
Nikunj Gupta

MAY GOD BLESS YOU



ARCA...

RESULTS OF I.S.C EXAMINATION

	%		%
1. Abhishek Bakshi	60.75	18. Gurkirat Singh Aurora	69.25
2. Varun Lohia	83.25	19. Samarth P. Singh	53.50
3. Ashish Patodia	83.75	20. Aditya Sud	73.50
4. S. Hussain Zaidi	83.25	21. Saurabh Sinha	72.75
5. Surya Sud	58.75	22. Akbar Ali Khan	75.25
6. Akash Sharma	72.75	23. Gurpreet S. Gambhir	55.00
7. Dhruv Raj Singh	62.75	24. Amit Sekhri	65.50
8. Vivek Bansal	47.50	25. Ankush Salaria	64.25
9. Gaurav Panjwani	59.50	26. Siddharth K. Choraria	87.00
10. Vinayak Prasad	65.75	27. Nikunj Rajpuria	63.50
11. Muzaffar Ali Khan	68.75	28. Aryadip Guha Niyogi	70.50
12. Rohan Baweja	71.50	29. Sohrab Homi Mulla	54.75
13. Rumaan Nazir Kidwai	52.00	30. Ahmed Nawaz Khan	63.75
14. Ashish Gupta	91.25	31. Bhaskar Bhakta Joshi	66.25
15. Puneet Gambhir	71.50	32. Gaurav Katwal	79.00
16. Jatin Oberoi	76.75	33. Kunal Malhotra	66.75
17. Chaitanya Wahi	62.50	34. Umar Khurshid Trumboo	76.25

RESULTS OF I.C.S.E EXAMINATION

1. Abdullah Anwar	65.4	24. Manav Goel	88.0
2. Abhijit Agarwal	84.1	25. Manav Goel	71.0
3. Abhijit Sengupta	67.2	26. Mehul Mayank	85.4
4. Abhinav Kothiwai	65.1	27. Mohit Chaudhary	80.2
5. Abhinav Pathak	84.2	28. Nakul Bhuwalka	93.0
6. Abhishek Malla	71.0	29. Nimish Kumar	75.8
7. Adhir Bhatt	80.0	30. Nishant Raj Chandna	74.4
8. Aditya Jassi Abbot	68.0	31. Prashant Khemka	84.0
9. Ahmed Ali Khan	80.4	32. Raihan Ahmed	55.8
10. Akhil Bhanot	70.8	33. Raja Dutta	72.4
11. Amrut Kar	80.2	34. Raja Talwar	73.8
12. Anirudh Chauhan	82.2	35. Rajiv Harnal	62.0
13. Ankur Aneja	70.0	36. Rishub Bhadoo	47.4
14. Arjun Trivedi	86.8	37. Rohit Bagaria	81.4
15. Arpan Gupta	65.0	38. Sanjay Saraogi	87.2
16. Ashok Roy	64.8	39. Saswat Sarda	84.2
17. Atish Kumar Vatts	78.0	40. Shariq Ansari	90.4
18. Aayush p. Singh Negi	66.4	41. Shiv Kumar Agarwal	87.6
19. Basudev Gupta	56.8	42. Siddharth Dugar	79.8
20. Debashish Banerjee	78.4	43. Sidharth Singh	72.2
21. Kartikeya Narayan Singh	87.2	44. Varun Dawer	63.8
22. Kumar Vaibhav	62.5	45. Vivaan K. Menezes	67.2
23. Lalit Kumar Auluck	64.6	46. Yashab Zia Ansari	77.8

RINGSIDE VIEW

As I am sitting down to write my fortnightly ringside report the Indians are on their way to yet another humiliating defeat against the world champions Sri Lanka. It is a bit strange but even the most hardcore cricket fans in my class, those who, just a few months back were willing to sacrifice everything just to watch cricket are now shying away from the T.V. when a cricket match featuring India is being telecast live. However, at Welham these days the sporting scene is totally different. It is just about two weeks since school re-opened and most boys are still trying to get back into shape after a long summer break. Quite a few guys have put on loads of extra fat and they are all busy sweating it out to shed the extra weight. It is quite amazing to see what two and a half months of 'Desi Ghee' can do to most teenagers. The school has not yet played a single competitive match in any sport. So there are no 'Golden-goals' or morale boosting victories to write about. All I can say is that let's hope that all the guys get fighting fit as quickly as possible.

While the soccer season started as per schedule on the 4th, the response by the boys to play for the school team has been even less than lukewarm. Nevertheless, the soccer captain is not one of those who can easily get discouraged, and he and his team are seen quite focussed during their practice sessions. So what, if he does not even have fifteen senior boys turning up for school team practice regularly. At least he is trying to get the best out of those who are there. So what, if only a fraction of the real soccer talent in school is willing to represent the school on the field. At least those who are there are ready to give it all that they have. And that's what matters. In sports it is not just your talent or skill that is important, what also counts is the adrenalin, the spirit and the passion. If your heart does not beat for the team you play, I don't think you can really perform up to your potential. I wish the soccer captain and his team all the best in the world.

Volleyball practice is yet to start though the

I.P.S.C's are just about a month and a half away. One really can't blame the coach or the players for this delay. The (clay) court is filled with dense green grass and practice can't really start till all unless it is shaved off and the surface properly leveled. It is taking its time to get back into shape. During the sports committee meeting the volleyball captain suggested that the court be covered with sand, which according to him is quite convenient and easy to maintain. But the response from the Chair was neither negative nor positive. So we await the final decision in this matter.

The Basketball team which had a rather dry and unlucky season last term is hoping for some sort of a reversal of infortune this time. They have a couple of tournaments coming up and it will be interesting to see how they perform in these. There was a lot of basketball at the State and National levels and a few Welhamites did very well in them. First, the Dehra Dun boys under 16 team which had seven boys from our school won the U.P state championship in their section. The two key players in the final match against Lucknow were both from our school. Had it not been for Kartikeya's hard work on the board and Parivesh's superb all round display, the team would have had to be content with being declared second best in the tournament. They have both been selected to represent U.P. in the forthcoming Youth Nationals. Also Samarth, who has just passed out from school was one of the stars of the recently conducted National Championships at D.P.S (R.K Puram). He almost single handedly won the match for U.P. against Kerela. His brilliant performance was written about in almost all the national newspapers. All of us at Welham are proud of him and hope that he keeps on going higher and higher.

When I come back next time, I hope I have more facts to write about so that I don't have to bore everyone with my criticisms and self derived sports policies.

--Pratyush

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