



The Elephant

No. 201

WELHAM BOYS' SCHOOL

8th September 1997

*Think About It
Many would be cowards if they had courage enough*

—Thomas Fuller

EDITORIAL

Have you heard of the Sun Temple of Konark and the history behind it? It is said that the main structure of the Sun Temple had a very strong magnet, that held the entire building together and was solely responsible for the then standing structure of the Temple. However, it seems to have been a hindrance to the ships that passed by the beach, (which was a hundred yards or so from the temple) as the magnet was so strong, that it attracted the ships towards it, and subsequently crashed many of them onto the rocky shores. Turned off by a number of such incidents, the 'naive' British decided to remove the magnet. And boom- the entire structure came crashing to the ground.

Incidentally, the entire prefect body has stepped down, for reasons (that are well justified, which I, as a member of the body can assure you about) that they have restricted to themselves, taking the whole school by surprise. Amazingly, every, well, almost every member of the school community is saddened by the incident, and apparently wishes for the re-appointment of the Prefect body. Hopefully the authorities will reconsider and reappoint them. Initially, with the absence of the prefects, the student body was in a relatively chaotic condition.

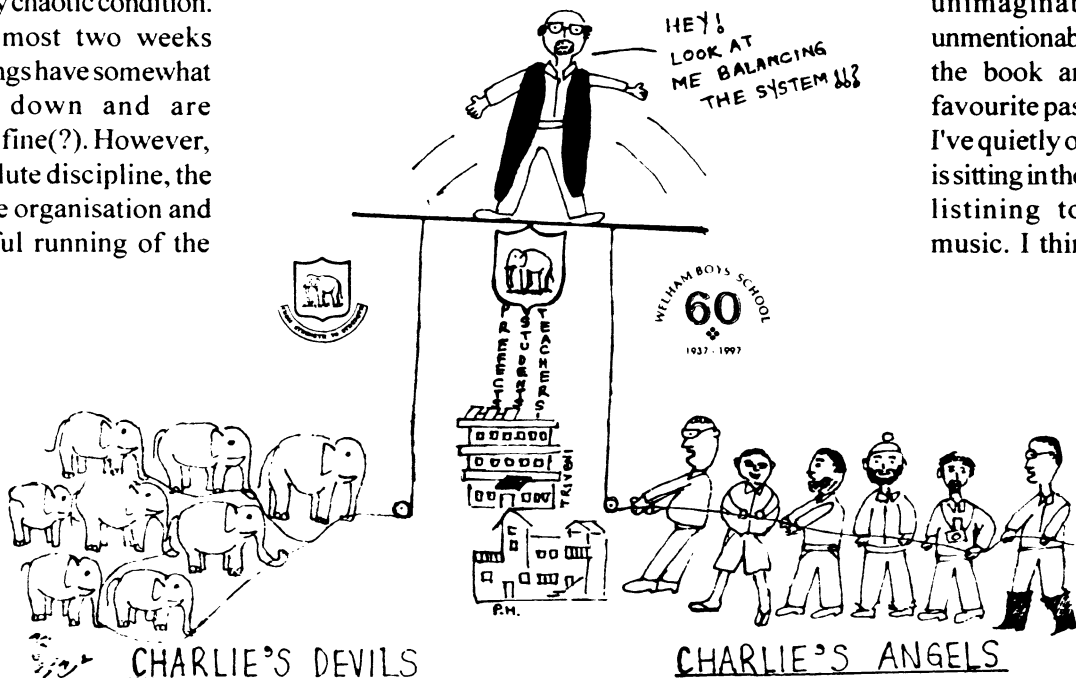
After almost two weeks now, things have somewhat settled down and are running fine(?). However, the absolute discipline, the infallible organisation and successful running of the

school that had been brought about by the worthy Prefects is discernably missing. In my personal opinion, I think the Prefect body is a vital part of any school community. Well let's see what fate has in store.

Like the school was taken aback at the abrupt resignation of the Prefects, the whole world has been shocked by the unfortunate, sad and untimely demise of Princess Diana, the apple of the world's eye. We, here in Welham too, mourn her death and sympathise with her family at their irreplaceable loss and convey to them our condolences.

"Aree yar, the school is going to the dogs. I'm leaving the school next year, guys." Of late, these words seem to have become a fashion in school, as I have heard them being repeated at a dozen places. Coincidentally and irrelevant as it might seem, a little investigation and surveillance on my part has revealed that these guys are the same ones that don't turn up for P.T., appear late for classes (if at all they decide to attend them), are seldom in uniform and take no initiative or interest in school activities. They have atrociously broken every

unimaginable and unmentionable rule in the book and their favourite pastime, as I've quietly observed is sitting in the hostels, listening to Hindi music. I think these



guys are the ones responsible, if at all the school today, lacks in anything, which I have every reason to doubt. Sixty years after embarking on its journey of education for the young, Welham, I think, couldn't stand higher than where it is today. I see no reason whatsoever why my chest shouldn't swell with pride when I say I'm a *Welhamite*. Besides, I think the school can do better without these disillusioned fools.

The administrative and teaching staff have lately, come down pretty hard on the twelfthies. In keeping with the old maxim, '*an idle mind is the devil's workshop*', teachers have been instructed to load them with extra prep and keep them busy at all times. The boys involved in the extra-curricular activities and games, however, don't seem to have been taken into consideration. Consequently, the work load is building up on a lot of them and they are just about going to crack and explode any minute! For reasons not fully understood and rather unnecessarily, a separate and special attendance book is in circulation for the 'PH *ke gundae*', who are also being subjected to the watchful gaze of each teacher in school. I wonder what's cooking?!

As rumour has it and as the cat has almost been let out of the bag by the obvious expressions of enthusiasm on the faces of the twelfthies, they are probably going to have another one of those 'social'(as they call it) evenings in the near future. However, this time they are fishing elsewhere and yes siree(!), as half of you must have guessed by now, it is in MIS, Mussoorie. The twelfthies have, however, not asked

for the green signal from Mr.K., so far and so, the prospective socials are probably not quite in the near future. Well, lets let the party dudes of Party House just party on!

Contradictory to my earlier statement as it might seem, PH'ites have, nevertheless begun studying and certainly seem to intend to do well in their Board exams in March. One of them has even got so enthusiastic about the whole thing, that he has begun to carry a bag(which looks somewhat like the ones carried by the Lifebouy salesmen) with his 'vital' books all around school. Needless, to mention it has become the centre of attraction and has been stolen and returned on a number of occasions. Getting back to the point, it is a rare occasion now to find a teacher pulling up any twelfthie for being late for class or any disciplinary reasons. Well, I guess its time I woke up too!

The end to the monsoons seem to be in sight as showers of rain are getting rarer by the day. The mosquitoes, however, don't seem to have had their fill as yet. Concurrently, the soccer season is now in full bloom but unfortunately, it is being rumoured that the school team(which has been practicing very hard) is not going to be permitted to participate in the Councils for rather petty reasons. As I'm also in the soccer team, all I can do is cross my fingers and wait.

Lots more to write. Until the next issue, goodbye.

--*Sourab*

WELHAM NOW

1) Sourab Dhungel and Nikunj Gupta participated in the Inter School English Debate on the 22nd of August, which was held at M.I.S. The topic was 'After fifty years of Independence, it is hard to take pride in being an Indian'. The school stood third over all among 8 schools.

2) The annual Meera Sundaram English Essay Writing Contest for classes seven and eight was held on the 27th of August.

3) A talk was given by Mr. Kushwant Singh on the 28th of August in the Activity Centre. It was attended by the students from classes six to twelve and by all the teachers. He spoke about his latest book, 'Nature Watch', an autographed copy of which was given to the students.

4) The results of the final round of the Inter House Science Quiz, which was held on the 29th of August are as follows:-

First: Krishna 175pts

(2)

Second: Jamuna 146.5pts

Third: Cauvery 112.5pts

5) The results of the Inter House English Quiz which was held on the 30th of August, are as follows:-

First: Cauvery

Second: Krishna

Third: Jamuna

6) The results of the first round of the Inter House Computer quiz which was held on the 4th of September are as follows :

First : Krishna 120 pts.

Second : Cauvery 119 pts.

Third : Jamuna 22 pts, closely followed by Ganga coming fourth with 20 pts.

7) The new names of the hostels which were to be considered by the School committee, have been finally agreed upon. The following names have been put into immediate effect.

(i) Woodseats - Alaknanda

- (ii) N.G.- Narmada
- (iii) N.U.- Sutlej
- (iv) T.H.- Tapti
- (v) P.H.- Prayag
- (vi) W.H. - will be renamed next year when its reconstruction is complete.

8) The minutes of the Sports committee meeting which was held on Monday, 11th August, 97 are as follows:

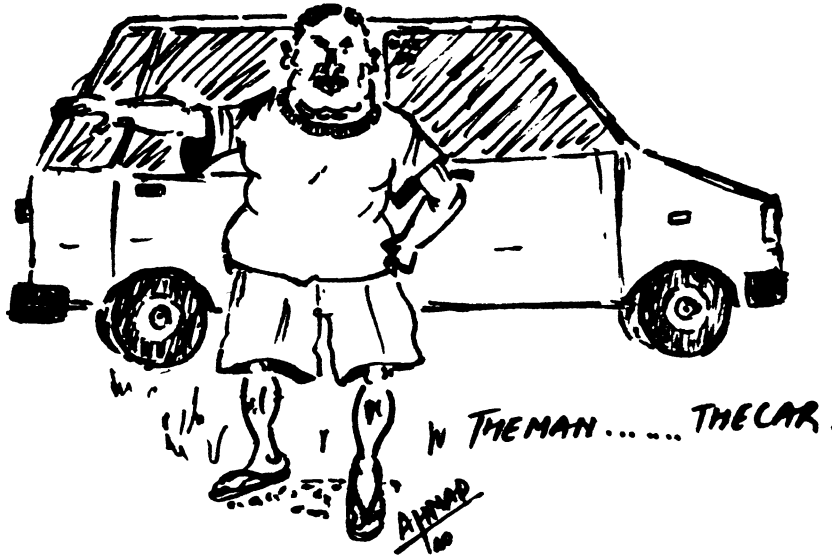
- (i) The Chairman agreed to the proposed programme for the sports day and discussed each aspect. He said that the occasion must be lively and colourful. The seating arrangement should ensure that guests have a clear view of the arena. He further said that a team of commentators should be selected who should hold regular practice sessions. The audio-visual squad should be informed in advance. He said that they were also required to buy two speakers. The Principal said that announcements must be of high standard.
- (ii) Mr. A. Singh informed members that there will be three rehearsals of the whole programme. Tea/Cold drinks and snacks will not be served to guests during the programme. The Chairman said, these would be available in refreshment counters after the programme is over.
- (iii) The then School Captain suggested that Taekwondo should be performed on Sports day. Owing to a tight schedule it was agreed that Taekwondo would take place on Saturday, 25th August at 11:00 am in the Activity Centre.
- (iv) The Athletic Captain asked for a starting gun

which should be purchased. Stop watches will be sent to the watch company for repairs. Time keepers will be trained under the supervision of Captain M. Ram.

- (v) The Chairman also stated that those boys interested

in becoming squad commanders, should give in their names to Capt. M. Ram, who has been chosen to be the prospective supervisor.

(vi) The Chairman said that John Ambulance Certificates for life saving will be available only from September '97



onwards.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

9) The results of the road races held recently are as follows:-

Section 'A'

First: Prayas Rana-C
Second: Sharad Kumar-J
Third: Manan Verma-G

Section 'B'

First: Mukti B. Shah-K
Second: Suman Saurabh-K
Third: Amit Prashar-C

Section 'C'

First: Nikunj Gupta-J
Second: Tenzin Motup-J
Third: Abhishek Verma-C

LITERARY AFFAIRS

When Love And Hate Collide

You stand before me,
All dressed in dazzling white,
You stand before me,
All radiant and bright.

I smile,
You smile,
But then I realise --

You are not one of my kind
The bias within me surfaces,
Since my learning had stirred me to
loathe you.

Is it Perversity
that I want to make friends with you?
Is it ignorance

that urges me to confront you?

In a flash I realise --
We have one spirit !
Physical boundaries become meaningless;
when WE long to unite.

It is some solace to learn
that when love and HATE collide,
it is love that survives.

So; you-who are not like me,
And I who seem an alien to you --
Will walk side by side.
Joining hands moving towards common

goals.

I shed my faulty learning.
I learn afresh,
When LOVE and HATE COLLIDE,
It is LOVE that SURVIVES.

Therefore, friends--
Lets build bridges
shed our differences,
and come together in
a spirit of camaraderie;
For, it is good fellowship
that the world needs today--
more than, anything else.

--Rohan Sachdeva

On The 50th Year Of Indian Independence

After 50 years of Indian Independence, I am reminded that fifty years ago our leaders were presenting a rosy picture, and the people of their nation were dreaming. Now after fifty years, when our 'Bharat' papa or mata whatever you prefer to call it, is celebrating 50 years of Independence, the dream has totally shattered.

Currently our nation is in a state of paralysis of all kinds. The political scenario has never been worse. Corruption is on the rise and has absolutely corroded the system. For example, why do people scramble to get into the administrative services? I'll tell you why, because the administrative system tops the charts on corruption. And once you are into the administrative services, you are actually minting money.

This is not all. India is lagging behind in the global race and at the current rate of the growth of per capita income, it will take India another 25 years to reach the level of the per capita income of South East Asia, and fifty years to reach half of that of the U.S.A.

The country is facing all sorts of problems and it looks as if India is on the verge of collapse. Absolute economic instability, illiteracy, population explosion and poverty being the major causes for the current situation. Our country is weak and

fatigued and to an extent insecure.

This is the only country, where its own citizens can become refugees and hordes of refugees are welcome with open arms. What have we achieved in this half century? We are wallowing in misery, poverty and squallor. Okay, I agree that maybe we have developed in some ways. Our satellite and missile launchers have proved to be very successful, but on the other hand, quite a large number of people don't even have clean water to drink. More than fifty percent of India lives below the poverty line and are forced to maintain below sub-standard hygienic conditions, which is clearly illustrated by the lack of respectable toilet facilities. And if you ever happen to visit one of these places, you will realise where the actual India lives, and not the picture we project to the outside world of posh cities and luxury hotels.

The moral of the story is that we are only fooling ourselves. Why don't we realise that we have degenerated in half a century of Independence? And all around me, I see people celebrating fifty years of India's degeneration with so much enthusiasm, that I'm totally baffled. But then I realise that these are those people who still have unshakable faith in India's destiny.

--Ahmad Ali Khan
Class XI

Friends And Foes

It was September in 1965. The sky was smothered by the black smoke rising from the battlefield. Heavy fighting was going on. The noise of shells falling on the ground and the bullets zipping from the guns was deafening.

India and Pakistan were at war. Brothers against brothers, fathers against sons, all separated from each other due to the partition in 1947.

He was a N.D.A. trainee and had joined the army as a 'second lieutenant'. He was well trained and had a sound mind, all set to serve the country against the enemies. Due to the war, he had been pushed to the border in Punjab. The area was generally scrub and he lay in the trench in his khaki combat gear, binoculars to his eyes and his rifle lying next to him. Shells were whizzing through the air

above him and the bullets were ripping up the ground in front of him. His patrol leader had assigned him and his colleagues the task to move ahead and destroy the Pakistani O.P. We were to drive away the enemies from our motherland. The armed forces had been brain washed to hate the enemy. Kill at first sight was the directive. Men of reason had been transformed into living robots controlled by the politicians.

"Why are we fighting our relatives and friends? Can't we sort out this problem through peaceful negotiations, without resolving to bloodshed?" These were some of the thoughts that came to his mind as he lay there in the trench. No one wanted to have bloodshed. They were just obeying the commands of their senior officers who in turn were being ordered by the bureaucrats.

All these thoughts were rushing through his

A Thought,.....In Simple Language

Absurdly simple as the answer might seem, let me ask you, "*What kind of a person would you call selfish?*" Allow me to share my views.

People can be categorised into two groups in this respect. One group comprise those people who chase popularity, fame, esteem (and other such normally desirable qualities) in the eyes of other people. These people would go to any extent to achieve these things, neglecting everything and everyone else. A person in this category will cheat, fraud, steal and even claim others' work in order to rise in others' esteem, all the time degrading himself to no one but himself. Deep down inside, he might think himself worthless, he may lose all self-respect and think himself capable of absolutely nothing except playing dirty, or on the other hand he might even fool himself into thinking that he actually is what he has made others think he is. However, he will consistently endeavour to put up a false image of himself as a great person before the rest of society. This, I am sure is a perfect description of a selfish and dispicable person. Paradoxically, this person is in fact, the selfless one, for the simple reason that he has put 'self' below all the rest. His life is directed not by his conscience, his ego, his self, but instead by his wish to put up a great image of himself before society to which he has given himself up. He will have completely damaged his ego and self respect. All for whom? - For society. His mental welfare, which is the most important aspect in anyone's life is the last thing he thinks of.

head when he caught sight of a Pakistani soldier running towards him. In a split second he positioned himself for combat. His heart was pounding. Should he wait for his enemy to fire or should he do so first? He decided on the latter.

He picked up the rifle and turned around to meet him face to face. It was an old school friend of his. They had shared many experiences together. For some time after the partition they had kept in touch through letters, but as time passed, they lost touch with each other.

They both looked at each other straight in the eye. For a moment, they both were paralysed. Neither of them saw the hand grenade silently flying through the air towards them.

At last they were together again. The fighting continued.

—*Ranjit Chhabra*

The other category of people, rare as they might naturally be, are those that are amazingly ignorant to the acquisition of qualities like fame and esteem in the eyes of other people. A person in this category will do only what he thinks and knows for sure is right, and will be nonchalant to the opinion society holds him in or of his actions. He will not be directed by what is required of him in order to gain esteem among the people. He will not give two hoots as to whether he is despised or not by all. He will never cheat, fraud or engage in anything he feels wrong, even if it is at the cost of becoming a celebrity overnight, and even if there is no chance whatsoever, of anyone getting to know. He will not lie to save his most loved one and people will call him a fool and hate him for it. He will not care. He will please no one but his own self and will never degrade himself, that is to say, he will maintain every bit of his ego and keep his conscience crystal clear. I'm sure you all think he is a great and admirable person I agree with you there. However, what I don't agree with is that he is a selfless person, as most of you must think. Contradictorily, this person is the selfish one for no reason other than that he has put 'self' above all the rest. For him, his conscience, his ego, his self and his mental welfare take top priority above social esteem, popularity, fame and society itself.

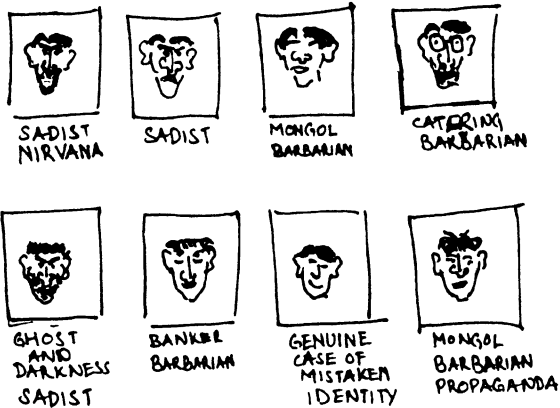
Look at it from my angle and you'll see that it is the 'selfish' people in society that we admire.

—*The Heretic*

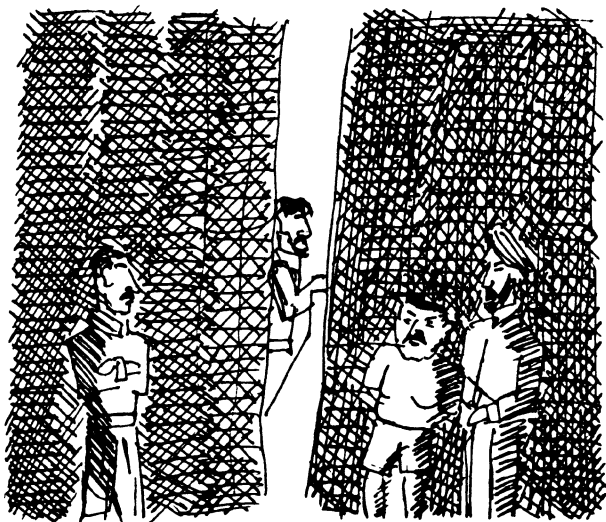
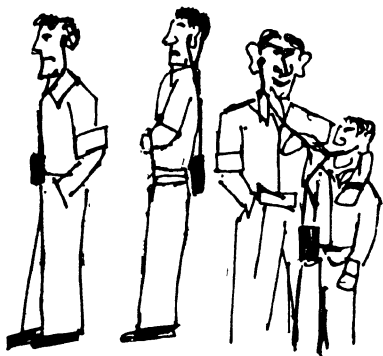
I WANT TO CRACK DOWN ON ALL THE BARBARIANS (PH-ites)



THE BARBARIANS JUST A FEW

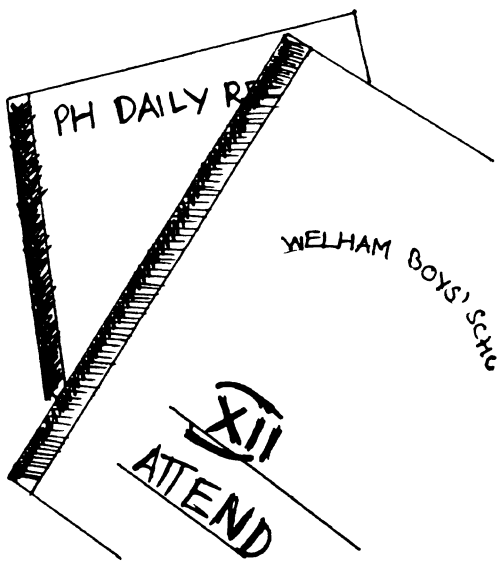


NO LOUD MUSIC NO GAMES



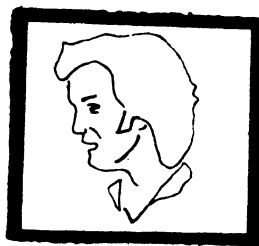
COURAGE IS NOT THE ABSENCE OF FEAR... IT IS THE MAKING OF ACTION IN THE PRESENCE OF FEAR

HONOUR ROLL



What's In

- 1) T.O.D (Teachers On Duty)
- 2) Duggar's Side Burns
- 3) Baskin Robbins
- 4) Sarthak Pany's Bag
- 5) P.H.'s Postman (Datta's Hand-delivered Letters)
- 6) Mr. Nagalia
- 7) North Block



What's Out

- P.O.D (Prefects On Duty)
Bobby Deol's Side Burns
Dollops
Mr. Basu's 'Jhola'
P.H.'s Postwoman (**K** in **Blue Darts**)

Mr. Bhushan
Bhushan Palace

Separated At Birth

- 1) Triplet: Mr. Jagjit Singh, Mr. R. Bhandari and actor Nana Patekar.
- 2) Abhishek Gaurav and Kader Khan
- 3) Sanjay Sarogi and Abhvinav Nathani
- 4) Abhishek Sama and Shakti Kapoor

Through the Key Hole

Overheard in the Chem. Lab.:-

Mr. Gosain to class 12 Sc.:- You boys think the class is a fun and the school is a joking !

In the economics class:-
(Mr. Ghosh has formed groups of 4 boys each who are supposed to sit together)

Mr. Ghosh:- Why aren't the boys sitting together in groups and discussing?

Abhishek Goyal:- Sir, we want to sit alone because we won't be giving the I.S.C. in groups.

In the dining hall:-

(Mr. Gosain sees the cartoon on the front page of the *Sankalp* and inquires from Sumant)

"Aey you thee! Whose diagrams are these?"

Hotel Ajanta:- (Some boys are having lunch and the waiter arrives)

Waiter:- Sir would you like some dessert?

Michael (promptly):-
Treating?!

Venue- P.H.
(Manas and Dhruv are playing chess)

Yurendra:- Oye Manas! I'm in your team; you play offence and I'll take care of the defence.

Digvijay Lamba : Happy Teachers' Day, Sir.

Mr. Dhingra : Same to you, my boy.



Chem. Lab.:-

Sumant:- Sir, I came to your house yesterday after lunch, but you were not there.

Mr. Gosain:- Aey you thee, my house is open for 24 hours after lunch.

RINGSIDE VIEW

Our soccer team finally played its first fixture on our ground against The Star XI. The visitors started off very strongly, finding the net in only the second minute of the game. They further increased their lead at the end of the first half-an-hour of play and put in a third goal just a minute before the breather. The second half, however saw much better football from our players who got the better of their opponents in the last forty- five minutes of the game. We managed to pull two back and conceded one more in the more interesting and fun-packed second half. Nerves played a very important role in this defeat and I personally feel that the team will play much better and produce good results provided they are given more practice against quality opponents.

Constant rains have disrupted tennis practice and kept Teddy's jazzy headgear and Gauravjeet's attractive bare-chest out of action for a major part of the first four weeks in school. The tennis court, however is not completely out of use. The curtains on both sides of the court are still the favourite hideout for the younger kids, playing hide and seek. Also it is being used as a service station of sorts by some to wash their two wheelers.

Suddenly, there are lots of basket balls bouncing all over Welham, especially in the junior hostels. The enthusiasm has doubled over night among the sixties, owing to the regular matches they have been playing against their opposites from the other side of the street, I think. There are so

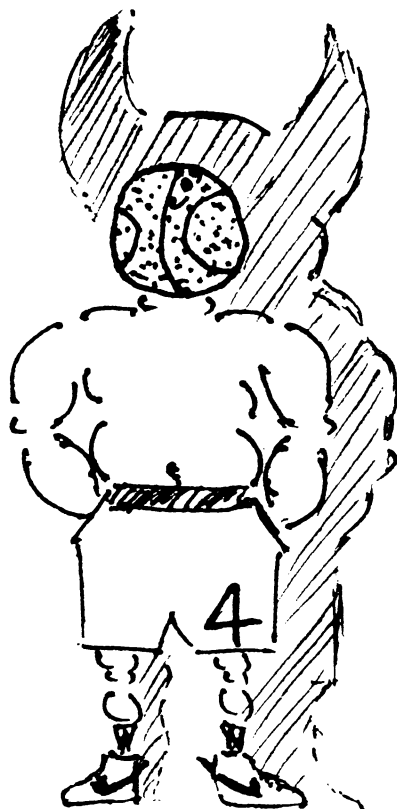
many guys in middle school who want to play, that it is virtually impossible to choose a team of twelve. One has to just check out the amount of noise they make in the hall, even when the senior team is just having a normal practice session to assess their passion for this sport. The future is definitely bright provided that all the raw talent is tapped properly. Meanwhile, the senior team is hard at work, however, they have also so far been deprived of the much needed match practice.

Preparations and practices are in full swing for the forthcoming Diamond Jubilee Squash Tournament. Rohit Lohia's 'towering' personality ensures that the team practises seriously under the watchful eyes of the coach Mr. Bhagel. The tournament is definitely going to be a great success. Lets hope that our school takes this opportunity to make its mark in the sport. All the best to those involved. Volleyball practice has finally started, and with the I.P.S.C just around

the corner, the boys are practicing with zest.

It is being planned that the sports day as a part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations be organized in a grand manner this year. Any suggestions in this context are most welcome. They can be handed over to me or any other member of the Diamond Jubilee sub-committee.

—Pratyush



— M.J.

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