



The Elephant

No. 207

WELHAM BOYS' SCHOOL

December 18th 1997

Think About It

" Idleness is the beginning of all psychology. What could Psychology be- a vice?"

-Nietzsche

EDITORIAL

Diana Hayden was crowned Miss World, Michael Hutchence died a mysterious death, the Lok Sabha was dissolved, Tendulkar came back to form..... but nothing seemed to affect the average Welhamite. He went about his work in the same lethargic manner.

Exams were never a burden for him, (now that he's sure to pass) its easier for him to say that. He's got an unusually indifferent attitude towards holidays this time around..... and even the school food doesn't bother him.

Don't you think he's fed up? Had enough? Bugged to the core? Don't you think the system should remain as it is?

Then why is it that certain modernistic Pseudo-minds are out to change it? Why don't they realise that if they succeed in changing the system we cannot call ourselves a Public School.

Somebody told me to pen down my "serious" thoughts about the school (probably he didn't admire my warped sense of humour) so I'm letting it all out.

A Public School, as many put it, is **For The Students, By The Students and Of The Students**. That is it. That's the way it was meant to be and people should respect that.

Welham doesn't only give you basic education, it also teaches you a philosophy of life- SPEAK FOR YOURSELF. Those who follow it are successful and those who don't- are kicked around (in and out of school).

What would you think of a person who cannot stand on his own two feet? Who goes around back-biting because he cannot face the world with his head held high? Who has no personality, no self-respect, can't fight his own battles? Can't bear the so-called hardships of life?

Don't you think he doesn't deserve to exist? Well, that is exactly where the average Welhamite is heading, and it isn't his fault. Something should be done about this. It's never too late to begin.

Don't you think five years back everything was in order? Think about it. I won't say more on this 'coz I think I'm getting quite controversial, and very soon I'll land up getting infamous too.

To the lighter side.....

The "examinated" zombies have finally, got the time to lift up a razor. They are now sporting a clean, boy-next-door look.

The "socialised" servers are working hard at Shivpuri. The school sick twelfthies are staying back in their beloved PH during the hols. Class eleven seems extremely happy..... but still, SHAKTIMAAN reigns supreme.

He is the dude of the day. The ultimate Superhero. Guys are actually addicted to him.

The residents of Mussoorie were in for a shock when they witnessed sudden snowfall early this month. They were in for a bigger shock when the whole of Delhi and Chandigarh landed up the next day. But these city-slickers were in for the biggest shock when they saw that the snow had melted. I mean, people actually die to see snow.... send them to Roopkund man, and they'll know what snow is all about.

After rambling and blabbering and writing and standing on my "own two feet" too long, I guess its time to say- HAPPY HOLS and SEE YA NEXT TERM!!!

**- Yours controversially,
Siddharth**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Ed.,

Could you please let us know why the Middle School (the hardest working sector according to most teachers) has always received step-motherly treatment from everyone, including you? No senior student is ever present at any of our activities and neither are any encouraging comments made about these.

Just to inform you, our 'B' House entertainment went off with a bang on Saturday, 29th November.

I thought the musical items were exceptionally good, while the other skits revealed innovation and talent.

Hoping to see you soon,

Nilima Basu.

Ed: I agree you have a lot of talent in the Middle School, but our exams were coming up and the guys were busy. Of course we would love to see your innovative productions, but don't you think prior information is a better idea?

WELHAM NOW

1) The minutes of the last School Committee meeting are as follows:

i) Parivesh Kumar suggested that a generator should be installed in the Activity Centre on permanent basis. To this the Chairman said that it would be done by sanctioning a new generator for Bethany and the Bethany generator to be shifted to the Activity Centre.

ii) Gurkirpal suggested that all the boys should be issued school writing pads and envelopes. The Chairman said that he would look into the matter.

iii) Akshat Agarwal suggested that there should be a net or some sort of barrier to prevent the basketballs from rolling under the stage during practice. The Chairman said that he would look into the matter.

iv) Class xiith suggested that there should be a generator installed in P.H. The Chairman agreed and said that it would be done as soon as possible.

v) Salim Singh suggested that rather than having ten different quizzes, we should have one

science and one general quiz. The general quiz could include a round of computers, maths etc. The Chairman said that it would be done after speaking to those involved.

vi) Faisal Burza suggested that gravel should be levelled in various parts of the school. The Chairman said that it would be done as the monsoons will get over as it was done earlier.

vii) Vibhu Arya suggested that there should be a speed breaker on the metalled road leading from the dining hall (Bethany) to Prayag house as the PHites have had some very close shaves with staff member's vehicles which come at great speed. The Chairman said that it would be done soon.

viii) Rohit Sharma brought to the Chairman's notice that the Tuck Shop and The Bank were supposed to have meetings on Monthly basis, however, not one meeting has taken place. The Chairman said that he will see to it that they have meetings regularly.

W.O.B.N.

1.) Mr. Prashant Gupta (Batch of 1990) and his wife Avantika Gupta were blessed with a daughter, "Akshita". Our hearty congratulations to them.

2.) **Minutes of the A.G.M**
(Held on 26th October 1997 at 10:30 a.m., at L.R.C).

(2)

The election of the general body took place. The members elected to various offices are as follows:

President : Mr. Darshan Singh
Vice-President : Mr. Tanuj Sethi
Secretary/Treasurer : Mr. Jagjit Singh

Members of the Executive:

Mr. Haripal S. Gill
Mr. Nirmal Gaur
Mr. Rakesh Seth
Mr. Nikhil Kriplani
Mr. Parth Arora
Mr. S. Kandhari (Ex-officio member)

* All members are elected for term of 2 (two) years as written in the W.O.B.S. constitution.

Election of the Zonal Representatives:

Punjab	Mr. Gurvir Singh
H.P.	Mr. Anup Singh
Chandigarh	Mr. Harbeer Batra
Delhi	Mr. Tanuj Sethi Mr. Nikhil Kriplani
Bombay	Mr. Vishal Mohan Mehta Mr. Narendra Kandhari
Manipal	Mr. Varun Sud
Moradabad	Mr. Parag Kothiwal
Calcutta	Mr. Prashant Goenka
Dehra Dun	Mr. Raju Verma Mr. Ashutosh Goel
U.S.A	Mr. Man Singh Mr. Jai Singh Jadhav
Pakistan	Mr. Rifaat Hayat Khan Daha

a.) Mr. S. Kandhari said that he would look into the opinion suggested by the Pakistan delegates of student interaction in the field of sports with leading schools in Pakistan e.g. H.S.N. College.

He further stated that a suitable format for coming Founders regarding the Old Boys programme should be worked upon.

b.) Mr. Arvind Agarwal said that the old boys programme in the Founders should be put up in every notice board including the Junior School hostels as some of them being parents tend to skip out an important old boys events taking place in School on those days.

c.) Mr. Gurvir Singh proposed that the Steering committee for the Diamond Jubilee to continue as members of the Executive Committee.

d.) A term of two years for the office bearers was unanimously passed by the entire house present.

e.) Mr. Man Singh said that ex-teachers who had served the institution for a certain number of years, should automatically become associate members of the society. The house agreed to the above suggestion.

f.) Mr. S. Kandhari told the house the school had loaned the society money for its various projects (the supplement of history, the movie on Welham and souvenirs) which should be returned to the school as the society makes money from the above sales and profits would further go into building its Corpus.

g.) Mr. Arvind Agarwal suggested that to build the Corpus of the society one should introduce a voluntary donation scheme. It could be Rs.200 annually or any other amount the house thought appropriate. This would lessen the burden of postal and printing cost of various supplements sent to a member.

He further stated that he would continue his good work relating to fund raising for the society/ school. The house acknowledged his endeavours for raising funds during the Jubilee.

h.) Mr. Parag Kothiwal said that something should be done regarding the despatching of various supplements sent to members as many of them are not receiving the above.

The Secretary said that now all the material is being posted from the G.P.O instead of the Dalanwala Post Office and hopefully the supplements should reach all members.

i.) It was decided by all members present in the A.G.M. that in future Old Boys Dinners, Drinks would be sold on payment and the Bar would close by 10:30 p.m., so that no untoward incident takes place.

j.) The budget for the year 1997-98 was passed by the house.

k.) The venue for the next Annual General Meeting and date, were fixed for, in the last week of October 1998, in the L.R.C, at 10:30a.m.

LITERARY AFFAIRS

War and Peace

Malevolence and Benevolence,
are Kith and Kin,
they separate due to insularity,
For one is obscurely dark,
The other is Vividness.

What the use of brutality,
When there is no peace on earth,
We know not hath,
When cruelty took birth,
War and War fares,
Will continue on this earth,
Until humanity is foreseen,
inasmuch as dirt,
Brothers with Brothers,
Sisters with Sisters,
Will mar their kinship,
Oh! Lord, Sir Aphrodite,
A strong affinity gift them with.

The land is left Solitary,
Thousands are massacred,
Dead have gone to meet the maker,
While the wounded are perishing,
Their martyrdom enlightened,
did fraternise the heart,

Now the ignorant realised,
what friendship was,

War ended so did ululation,
vociferation ceased and so did
lamentation,
They were imbued with patriotism,
So sacrificed their life,
They perished but were immortal,
memories sentimental and admirable.
Blessed of friendship,
And hearty satisfaction,
Approve of fellowship,
full of dedication.

I pray for thine children,
that they keep abide,
May love be on their lips,
So they prosper day and night,
Astarte and Venus,
May be their guardian,
Freya and Eros,
so be their children,
henceforth, me and you,
will end malicious nature,
and gift to the star of love,
its elucidated reformation.

- Tomorrow's Man

The Making of 'Will Shakespeare Save Us'

Quite some time since the play ' Will Shakespeare Save Us' was shown to the school and parents.

I felt very bad when I went through the Oliphants which have come after the Jubilee, and did not find anything written about it. It was shown to you with much difficulty and struggle. It is quite easy to watch and enjoy a play but to perform it is quite tough and difficult.

The play went for a smashing hit despite all our troubles. It ought to have been a success with all our effort. We started rehearsing for it from last term. But many boys moved out of it. So Dhruv, our

(4)

director or *Droor* as Nick, the man from England, used to call him. He'd come here to direct the play. He had to select the cast again and so the boys were called for another audition. All the boys were chosen except the one who moved out himself for he had a *girl's* role. Then we had to look for another boy and finally found him. At least, now we had a cast.

We used to rehearse the lines every night in the Ganga Common Room. You cannot call this exactly a rehearsal as half of the lot didn't turn up every day. Sourab used to be a regular bunker. It was just a meet where Nick and Ahmad used to

make us laugh till our stomachs ached. It was just an excuse to miss prep.

We started rehearsing on stage, that was a small scene everyday, just before the mid-term break, but again no one was 'serious'.

After the mid-term we started serious rehearsals. But still a few boys forgot their lines. But all this went on only for a week and then no more of it. Now only two weeks were left for the Jubilee and we had not had a run through yet.

Farhan Zaidi was the one who irritated everyone and specially Nick. And if anything went wrong he had to suffer the blame. Yudishter, Anshuman and ofcourse me always laughed and everyone shouted at us. By now we were having practice in the afternoon and also till late night.

Only ten days were left for the Jubilee and we realized that no-one was helping us. We used to practice till late nights without micro-phones and proper lights. We had to get up early in the morning for P.T. without enough sleep. We had to paint the back drop. All this was not our work. All we had to do was just to act. We were not getting enough props. Wasn't this the Stage Committee's job?? They had to give us props and even the back drop.

Only a week was left and we'd had just two run-throughs. Now we were getting mikes and

proper lights. Well I must say that the Light and Sound Squad was running around as they had to give lights for four plays. Well they were caring.

In one week we had to paint the backdrop and rehearse. One day Charles, the bored king, really seemed bored or actually was. We were going for P.T. but were painting the back drop during class hours.

Soon the day arrived when we had to perform the play in front of other schools. We were quite nervous but the play was a smashing hit. Ahmad, Charles and Nick acted real well. On the final day, the 27th October, we performed well but the one performed earlier was better.

I would like to conclude by saying that without Dhruv and Nick the play would have never been a success. Nick was one director who used to cheer us when we all were lost and disheartened. He was the one who pushed us all the time. When he went back to England we really missed him. He had become one of us.

This play has left sweet memories and sentiments in our mind which we all cannot forget.

-Rohan 'Kokee' Sachdeva

Mind Sport

Rules: Give yourself one point for every correct answer. Try to be honest guys!

Q.1 If the saying is, "The glory that was Greece", what is it of Rome ?

Q.2 Based on an Alistair Maclean novel, which 1968 film became infamous as Howard Hughes' favourite movie?

Q.3 "They formed him in Ponta Pora, a pleasant little town in Brazil.... in a land still known as frontier." Name John Grisham's latest best seller which begins with the above lines?

Q.4 The word "Bible" comes from a Greek word "Biblos". What does it mean?

Q.5 Name the country which has won the most Miss Universe titles?

Q.6 Name the first Indian to win the Miss World title?

Q.7 What was developed in the Netherlands after 10 years of secret research?

Q.8 In Japan, the song "He is a star" featured among the top 10 hits of 1985. Name the singer?

Q.9 Where in the body can you find the bone called Atlas?

Q.10 In 1995, the Indian Government's target date for education for all has come and gone. It is now for us to see whether the government will achieve its target of health for all masses. What is the government's target for health for all?

Score Card

8-10: That was fabulous work

4-7: Still a long way to go.

Below 4: I don't need to tell you this but keep your score to yourself.

-Debashish Banerjee

Nature's Diary

The 'Gujjar issue'

Rajaji National park covers an area of approximately 831 sq. km which includes the Motichur, Chilla and the existing Rajaji Wildlife Sanctuaries. The park is of vital importance to the ecology of the region. It is rich in flora and fauna. The park has more than a thousand species of flowering plants and more than 300 species of birds. In recent years another specie of mammals has started living in the park, the Homo sapiens. Yes, human have been living in this park. They are called the '*Gujjars*'. There are about 20,000 Gujjars and about 30,000 buffaloes(cattle) living in this park. Gujjars are Mohammedan tribes of nomadic grazers who originated in Jammu. Most of them are illiterate and speak either Hindi or Arabic. Their main source of income is milk.

In a scenario of rapid forest degeneration created by excessive and increasing human and cattle population, the park is in serious threat. Mainly beacuse of the mani fold increase in human population. The large human towns are posing serious threat to the richly bio-diverse park from

inside as well as from the outside. The cattle in the forest is also degrading forest cover.

The government of India has made a scheme to move the Gujjars into the 3.25 crore Pathri colony built for them near Haridwar.

The main reason why there is resentment against the continued presence of humans and cattle is the cutting of wood, and the destruction of the habitat of the wildlife.

The government is now trying to persuade the Gujjars to voluntarily move out from the park but this will take some time. They are getting free land, free lodging and free education in the Pathri colony.

The presence of humans and cattleresults in the continuing depletion of forest cover and habitat of the wildlife. This is against the rules of a National Park. The Supreme Court should intervene in the matter of national importance and ensure that the population of animals, birds, and flora is not allowed to suffer as is now happening.

-Aatir Ansari

The Second Junior Regional Round Square Conference

The above conference is scheduled to be held in our school from the 18th to the 21st December, 1997.

The participating schools are:

- 1) The Mayo College
- 2) Mayo College Girls School
- 3) The Lawrence School, Lovedale.
- 4) The Lawrence School, Sanawar.
- 5) The Doon School
- 6) Scindia School
- 7) Assam Valley School
- 8) Indian School, Al. Ghubra
- 9) Chittagong Grammar School.
- 10) Bishop Cotton School, Shimla
- 11) Welham Boys' School

The theme is :- The Environment

The delegates, ranging from 3 to 7 students from each school are from classes 5 to 7.

The programme includes visits to Shastadhara, Chilla, Mussoorie, Dhanoulti and the F.R.I. museum. Our best wishes for a stimulating conference.

Answers to Mind Sport

Ans 1 : The grandeur that was Rome.

Ans 2 : Ice Station Zebra

Ans 3 : The Partner

Ans 4 : It means 'book'

Ans 5 : Venezuela

Ans 6 : Rita Faria

Ans 7 : Compact disks by the Philips company.

Ans 8 : Carl Lewis

Ans 9 : The Neck. The Atlas is the top most vertebera of the spine.

Ans 10: The year 2000.

THROUGH THE KEYHOLE

Mr. Bhandari (shouting at **Abhijit Agrawal**, who is sitting at the back of the class and irritating him): You fool, I'll take a **triple jump** from here and land on top of you...and then I'll bang you!!

Venue : Room no. 7

Time : Second School

RS to class eleven commerce : Boys, sit down quietly and do your work.

Manav Goel (feeling cold) : Ma'am, may I go and sit in the **sunfall** !!!

Rohit Lohia (Overheard at a Cinema hall):
Oye Vibhu just get me a 7'PUP!!

Sashwat Sharda solving a sum in the hostel,

suddenly gets up and exclaims: Oh! What a **blunder mistake**!!

Venue : Prayag House

Time : After lunch

Mr. Pant : Boys, move for **heights** and **distances**!

Arpan: Arjun, whose cassette are you listening to?

Arjun: Adhir's...why??

Arpan: *Arre yaar*, I have to **copy** some songs from it!!

Motive outside the elevethies room - **DOGS NOT ALLOWED TO ENTER**. Prashant Khemka knocks at the door to enter.

Bagaria : *Oye, vaar* let him enter he is only a pup

WHAT'S IN

Snow in Mussoorie
Vacations
Assembly speeches
Frenchies
Ramprasad (of Films Fair fame)
Tommy Hilfiger
Hayden
Bhadoo cartoonist
Boiled Eggs
Bullet-proof slices
Mr. K's bicycle

WHAT'S OUT

Rain in Mussoorie
Examinations
Debates
Vibhu's 'Goatee'
Michael Jackson
Calvin Klien
Raj
Ahmad cartoonist
Scrambled eggs
Papri Chappatis
UAE-50

Separated At Birth*

Sanjay Saraogi
Abhijeet Sengupta
Amish Mulmi
Arcaprava Dutta
Mr. Joshi
Dev Agarwal
Saumitra Sinha
Deep Singhal
Mr. Khaira

Gangadhar of Shaktimaan fame
Michael Chang
Baichung Bhutia
I.M Vijayan
Diego Maradona
Mr. Dhingra
Keanu Reeves
Bappi Lahiri
Jaspal Bhatti (Ulta Pulta)

RINGSIDE VIEW

I always wanted to write about the current basketball team's dedication, determination and above all commitment they have in them. The right occasion came immediately after winning the Afzal Khan Memorial, but I was booked with ONGC for the State Championship held at Lucknow (we won the men's championship). When I came back I found out that the Council's were in progress and to my surprise the boys had played a draw (26-26) against Doon Cambridge. It took me a day to do the arithmetic of the fixtures and then I motivated the guys and smoothly sailed to the finals to meet the host GRD.

The boys exhibited top class basketball to beat the hosts 72-29. It was one of the poorest finals I have played with- no fight from the opponents.

When I joined the school as a coach I was just an ordinary player but was lucky to get some very extraordinary and talented boys to coach. I will be failing in my duty if I do not mention the names of the all time greats of the school basketball team...

Viresh Sharda, who is as on date playing for Chandigarh men's in the Senior nationals since the past five years. Lokesh Rana, Bhadoo, Abhay Singh, Sanjeev Sehgal, Mohit Agarwal (my first captain), Mohinder Bedi, Durgesh Bhatia, Sameer Goyal, Mohit Saigal, Anurag, Harry, Jalaj Saroj, Puneet Trehan, Goswami (pedler), Ashish Sharma, Rajesh Sehgal, Sudhanshu, Neil Grant, Jagmeet Kohli, Danish Ansari, Khattar, D.P., Jaiswal, Wahi, Lovish, Akshi, Samarth and others whose names I'm forgetting as age is now catching on.

Losing in the semi finals after seven years in the Golden Jubilee Tournament was a shot in the arm for the boys. We all regrouped and worked hard for the IPSC. Reaching Delhi with no big names in our team everyone neglected us. In our first match against B.P.S., Pilani we were trailing

0-9 in the first seven minutes of the game, but WBS has a diesel engine which takes time to start. Finally we beat them 45-15. The "TEAM" entered the finals out of no where to surprise all the 21 participating teams. We met DPS, Mathura Road in the Finals. The rain played spoil sport and we lost. We came back and got busy with the Diamond Jubilee.

Then came the invitation for the Afzal Khan, the team was looking forward to it. The Doscas thought that one Samarth has passed out but the team proved to have many more better Samarths in the ranks. Winning the Afzal Khan was a dream come true for the "TEAM". The emotions were immense. The match against Modern was really intense, very hard. A real match which could have gone either way. I always kept telling the boys that we had a chance and we must play as a "TEAM".

Above everything the Afzal Khan was a victory for the school. I am dedicating the victory to my worthy captain Prateek, who has really worked very hard to build this team. Thanks.

The feeling is fabulous, incredible. We'd all been looking forward to this title. Munjal, Manavjeet and Amit proved to be assets for this team. From the core of my heart I am thankful to them. I shall never forget what they went through after losing the Golden Jubilee but yes, I am proud to be called their COACH.

I end with what my coach wrote for me, " I wish and pray to the almighty to grant you everything that you desire in your life. Bless you with tremendous success in your endeavours and help you to rise where even the sky is not the limit."

Guys, keep working hard and never stop dreaming. I would also like to thank Mr. Kandhari and Mr. J.K. Sharma for their support.

- Mr. Vinod Vachani

EDITORIAL BOARD

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Registration No. :- 20208/86