

The Elephant

No. 208

WELHAM BOYS' SCHOOL

March 2nd 1998

Think About It

" I mistrust all systematizers and avoid them. The will to a system is a lack of integrity."
-Nietzsche

EDITORIAL

Welcome back folks! Nice to see all the ol' faces again. Especially the new Bursar, who I must say, looks quite impressive in his new attire of Blazer, Tie and the works. Poor chap, facing quite a "barricade" of problems already; what with the Dining Hall scene and all. Lets hope things work out just fine and he has a better time in future.

The thick-headed bunch of the school was in the grip of re-examination fever couple days ago. Strange, but true, six Round Square representatives were also present in the examination hall; which accounts for all the turbulence!

A new bunch of motley (forgive the modesty!) Prefects have been appointed and rumour has it, that they're different.

Must mention that the two new Triveni housemasters are different also. They've been going about their work in their strict, orthodox, scientific way and are all set to make a big impact on the lives of their students. My best wishes are with them.

There's a new, a prominent figure of the faculty who appears like lightning at the smashing of a tubelight, the cracking of a window pane, or the squeaking of an extra-tight door at any given time of the day.....you guessed it, it's the new Disaster Control and Management Incharge. He's everywhere. So far he's kept himself busy by sending out circulars regarding damages etc., and the fencing of the White House construction site. Seems quite serious. Ahem!

The Dean sure is happening.

He's even more happening when he takes the herculean task of guiding vehicles around school. Apparently, he guided one straight into the ditch opposite the Staff Room!

The Valley, i.e., our very own Doon Valley, proved yet again that The Weather Forecast Department has still not been able to reach anywhere near their Rain-Agenda, by blessing us with it's holy water for twenty-four continuous grey hours. The atmosphere was bad enough to leave guys cursing the rain gods the entire day.

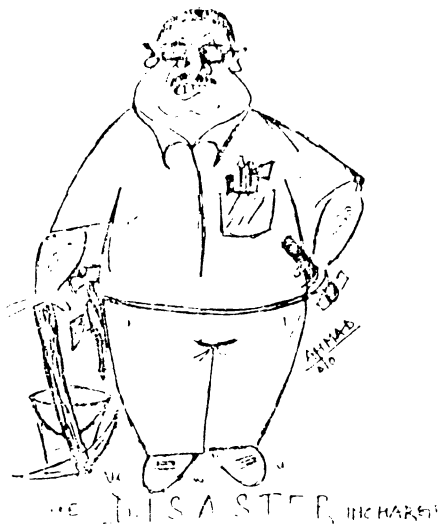
The Twelfthies and Eleventhies are studying real hard for their Boards. Let's hope they do well and bring name to the school in more ways than one!

To more serious matters....or should I say, to more hilarious matters... let's talk about Indian politics. Mr. Romesh Bhandari took a new Gandhian *avatar* and brought down the *cute* Kalyan government. God alone knows what played in his mischievous mind, and to top it all our evergreen Atalji went on a fast-unto-death. What these people don't realise is how their petty acts disturb the lives of us commoners.

I guess my naughty brain has reached it's saturation point and I cannot cook up any more scoops. Heh. Heh. (My warped sense of humour again!)

Oh boy, this is the worst part.....figure it out yourselves, Adios.

Sidharth.
(1)



Excerpt of a letter from Ankur Nigam

I have been receiving 'The Oliphant' regularly barring the odd loss-in-transit. I wouldn't say that the Oliphant has gone to the dogs (as a lot of my friends have opined) but the quality of the material has gone down. However, I think we have a couple of promising writers. The current Ed. Siddharth is quite good with the lampoon section. I hope he

continues to write the lampoon even after becoming the Ed. The revival of 'Brain teasers' (in our time, that's what it was called) as 'Mind Sport' and 'Through the keyhole' is a very good idea. I wish the entire team the very best.

- Ankur Nigam
Ex. 600/K

WELHAM NOW

1) The new prefect body was appointed on 15th February, 1998. The following were appointed:

School captain: Sidharth Singh
School Sports captain: Yashab Zia Ansari
School prefects: Kartikeya Singh
Prashant Khemkha
Arjun Trivedi
Adhir Bhat
Shariq Ansari
Abhinav Pathak

2) The following have been appointed captains of the various sports for the year 1998-99:

Cricket: Anirudh Chauhan
Hockey: Shariq Ansari
Soccer: Abhijit Sengupta
Basketball: Reshil Charles
Badminton: Abhinav Pathak
Tennis: Arjun Trivedi
Volleyball: Ashish Kumar
Athletics: Kartikeya Singh
Swimming: Rishab Bhadoo
Table Tennis: Akhil Bhanot
Weight training & Gym: Mohit Chaudhary

Taekwondo: Mukti Bikram Shah
Chess: Pankaj Agarwal

3) Mr. Tom Palmer from the U.K. is teaching English to the Middle School and coaching tennis. We also welcome Ms. Matthews and Ms. Kaur matrons in charge of Alaknanda and Narmada respectively.

4) A debating workshop on the British Parliamentary style was held on Saturday 21st February at W.G.H.S. by a team from St. Stephen's College, New Delhi. The following attended:

Owais Burza
Yudishter Singh
Siddhant Aney
Azar Zaidi
Karan Gulaya
Mrs. Mehra
Mr. Bakshi

5) The School Cricket team played a match on the 15th of February against the old boys. We beat them comfortably.

W.O.B.N.

Report on the Diamond Jubilee presented on

February 14, 1998

Venue : Principal's Cottage, WBS

Let me start with a cliché. Under the able leadership of Mr. Kandhari, the ex-President of our Society, we ended the 60'th year of our school's life in a glorious manner. I'm sure that those of you who were here during the Diamond Jubilee celebrations

will agree with me on this count. To those who were unable to attend the gathering I can only empathise and say that, perhaps, you do not know what you missed.

Our current President, Mr. Darshan Singh,

along with his team was instrumental in gathering an enormous amount of participation from the old boys, not just in terms of financial contribution, but also planning and leg work. Most interestingly, old boys from all over the globe, particularly from Pakistan and the US, were present in the campus to strengthen the bonds that tie us.

I would like to add that this kind of participation should be extended to more frequent interaction between us and the school. Perhaps, this is not the right occasion to mention what I'm going to in a while, nonetheless, I'm going ahead and saying it since the matter is of immediate concern to us. We old boys have the responsibility to visit our school campus oftener to counsel the future members of our society.

Having occasional fun is fine. We need to add to that by more serious interaction with the students as well as the teachers. This will help to inculcate a more responsible attitude in our students and help them to avoid the pitfalls that we, in our infancy, fell into. I'm sure, with such positive efforts in shaping the destiny of our students as well as the entire school fraternity Mr. Kandhari's dream of the old boys representation in the Board of Governors will some day come to fruition. This small gathering of ours should today deliberate on this very vital topic. And I hope, to keep our network thriving by organising such local gatherings more frequently.

I. Total Participation of Old Boys during the Diamond Jubilee.

Registered	125
Unregistered	above 80
Members present during the society's A.G.M	40
Members present during the society's Dinner	50 (excluding spouses)
Participation in the Old Boys' Picnic	above 150 (including spouses)

II. Old Boys' Sport and Games Events

October 24	: 5 x 100 metres versus School Relay Team -	Won by the Old Boys
October 26	: Cricket match versus the School Team -	Won by the Old Boys
	: Volleyball Match versus the School Team -	Won by the School Team
	: Basketball Match versus the School Team -	Won by the Old Boys

III. The following exies attended the Old Boys' Society AGM:

Name	Batch		
Mr. Jagjit Singh	1983	Mr. Anurag Chadha	1988
Dr. Vishwajeet Walia	1985	Mr. Durgesh Bhatia	1991
Mr. Shashikant Jain	1982	Mr. Gurpreet Ghambhir	1997
Mr. Rajiv Kothiwai	1965	Col. Surender Sain	1959
Mr. Amit Ranjan	1990	Mr. Abhimanyu Singh	1984
Mr. Ramanpreet Hora	1994	Mr. Luv Singh	1983
Mr. Prashant Kochhar	1992	Mr. Akash Mathur	1992
Mr. Narinder Kohli	1968	Mr. Jagmit Kohli	1994
Mr. Sandeep Aggarwal	1991	Mr. Raju Verma	
Mr. Maneet Arora	1996	Mr. Ashutosh Goyal	1980
Mr. Romesh Modayil	1965	Mr. Vidura Jang Bahadur	1994
		Mr. S Kandhari	

Vivek Mittal (batch of 1991, ex. 356) was married to Vandana. Our heartiest congratulations to them and best wishes for a happy and a long married life.

Our congratulations also to Parth Arora and his fiance, Shubhana whose marriage is due to be solemnised on 28th February 1998.

LITERARY AFFAIRS

The Future

Entire cities are burning brightly. The sky is dark red, rivers are boiling and charred bodies are lying all around the place. The nauseating smell of death is in the air.

This is not a scene from a science fiction novel. This is what could well be happening in the near future in the **Indian subcontinent**.

What with all the distrust and enmity brewing up, the race to acquire and produce more and more sophisticated state of the art weaponry, the rapidly expanding nuclear weapons programme, the constant border skirmishes and the ongoing war in the Siachen, **the worlds highest battlefield**. A nuclear war between India and Pakistan may not be far away. The defeat of the aggressor is guaranteed.

Today we need to maintain peace and

stability in the country. The bilateral talks that were going on between India and Pakistan are a miserable failure. This is certainly not a good sign. While talks were going on between the two countries there was fire being exchanged across the border. What sort of peace talks are these? The Kashmir issue should not be given a back seat in the agenda. It needs to be given priority only then can an issue as serious as this be resolved. Both India and Pakistan need to give it a lot of priority and think it out.

The threat of war looms over us like 'damocles sword'. Another war will annihilate our economy and will do India no good. We cannot afford and will not afford another war. We need peace to persist and reign in India. **Think about it.**

- Aditya Jassi

Through the looking glass!

The knob turns, the door swings open. She creeps in silently but to no avail. I've spotted her, as always. She takes a look around and walks up to me. Fixing me with a sizzling stare, she drops her dressing gown. I can see the mischief and passion in her eyes and once again, I size her up.

A flawless creation. I am already seething

with desire. I share her secrets.

She hides nothing. I must control myself, as I always have and will.

But there is nothing else I can do. I am bound. After all, I am just a goddamned *mirror*.

- Abhishek Mitra

In pursuit of the hijackers

As the President sat in his office late in the evening and was getting ready to leave for 'The White House' his hotmail rang. The message he received was one of the most disastrous one he had ever received in his life. He was stunned and aghast and for a moment or two did not even know what was happening around him. After regaining his composure he ordered the S.A.S. to leave for the place where the disaster had occurred.

The President had a lot of faith in the Commander of the S.A.S. who had a very good

record and had helped the country out in many a difficult situation. The Commander was a preeminent person and with no reluctance he debriefed his troop about a rescue at sea. They were ready in minutes and left in two heavily modified special choppers.

At about 200 meters from the "Celtic", the SAS officers disembarked from their choppers. The Celtic was the vessel which had been hijacked by a bunch of amateurs. It was a vessel which carried over 20 lakh litres of oil. If anything did

happen to the Celtic it would be too big a loss for the country. The SAS officers disembarked at about 200 meters from the Celtic and then stealthily swam towards it. They knew their work and were confident of achieving success.

Inside the vessel a group of hijackers had held the ship leaving the captain and crew members helpless. The hijackers had already sent a message to the U.S president which had asked for the release of their chief "Billar Khan" or they threatened to destroy 'The Celtic'. The ship was hijacked while it was on its way to New York. The SAS officers artfully crept into the Celtic and with no ignoble sloth spread all over the vessel. The Commander with two other officers moved towards

the control room where the hijackers were deliberating. The Captain of the ship was tied up to a chair in the same room. He was in a very bad shape and was just hoping for some miracle to take place. The Captain was the first person to notice the Commander and with a sense of relief he drew the attention of the hijackers towards himself. By this time the commander barged into the room with his men and the hijackers were forced to surrender. The hijackers could not believe themselves. The petrified hijackers were handcuffed and vanquished. On reaching America they were sent to jail for life.

- Anshuman Singh

Those Wacky Woodseaters

My Favourite Toy

Pistol is my favourite toy. I love playing with guns and pistols. I have many guns and pistols. The pistol I like most is black and grey in colour. It sounds like a real pistol. It works on battery. My father presented it to me on my birthday.

- Aftab Singh Sandhu
Class II

My Naughty brother

My brother's name is Garry. He always hits me. He does not let me play on the computer. He kicks me on the dining table. When I am in School he takes care of my things.

- Gurkirath Arora
Class II

Mind Sport

(Power of words)

In this edition of Mind Sport test your knowledge of English vocabulary with the following quiz.

Questions

- 1.) You are likely to hate a man who offers you a "flummery". What does the word mean?
- 2.) Portmaneu is not at a man at the port. It is concerned with travelling. What is it?
- 3.) You can hardly ignore a tentorian person as he always makes himself heard. Can you guess who he is?
- 4.) It is difficult for you to recognize a man when he is a geezer. What does the word mean?
- 5.) An anhedonic man feels more comfortable in the company of melancholic people than the jubilant ones. What is anhedonia?
- 6.) What is a housewife doing when she is incassating a preparation?

- 7.) A behemoth is not a variety of moths. What is it?
- 8.) Defalcation is not the illegal decimation of falcons. What does it mean?
- 9.) "Coda" is concerned with music and literature. What does the word mean and from which language has it been borrowed?
- 10.) A cusp has nothing to do with a cup or being cussed. What does it mean?
- 11.) Now a word from architecture. What kind of a window is called a dormer?
- 12.) Merlons and crenels are concerned with battlements. What are they?
- 13.) A detrius is neither a deterrent nor a detergent. What is it?
- 14.) Who are called the seabees in the USA?
- 15.) In the end a term that has come from biology. What do you do when you enucleate?

Debashish Banerjee

(5)

Nature's Diary

Towards Extinction... Sounds clichéd..... doesn't it ?

As the hounds pursued the hunt in the forest, a band of little boys were employed to beat the drums to drive the animals into the open. In this pandemonium of barking dogs and beating drums the jungle reverberated with agitated birds and monkeys as they informed the entire jungle of the impending gloom. The brown man had arrived with his barrel that spat fire. This meant danger for everyone. Suddenly there was a *bang* followed by the angry snarling of an injured tiger. Another shot rang out, then another, till, with a loud cry of agony the majestic tiger sank to the ground. There was much cheering and shouting with joy that evening when the hunter went away with his loot. On the other hand there was a deathly silence in the jungle. It seemed as if the entire forest was in mourning.

What is the need of killing hundreds of innocent beings in a day? This question arises before us whenever we hear of such a deed. Perhaps it is the momentary feeling that makes the hunter feel like a god as he shoots and kills everything that is in sight. Even though the days of the Maharajas and the British are over, hunting continues.

Hunting originally began in the pre-historic time, when man killed small animals for food and the large ones for fur to keep himself warm. Soon he discovered that he could use all parts of the animal. He killed to obtain hides to wear and bones for his implements.

It's been five decades now since India won her Independence and the titles of "Nawaabs" and "Maharajas" were abolished, yet the trophies of their ancestors still adorn the walls of their mansions and bungalows. Animals were killed just to show the skill of the Maharajas. These poor dumb creatures that God created with his own loving hands became a status symbol, a mark of prestige. Today if one visits the Maharaja of Patiala's residence in Shimla and happens to see the massive living room, one would be aghast and stunned to see such a blatant display of over 500 falcons, 15 tigers, countless deer and antelopes and many more staring at you with glassy and

unseeing eyes.

Another example of this blatant cruelty is the "**Hudson Bay Company**" established in 1775 on a grant of the King of England. Ever since 1775, the HBC has been in the business of manufacturing and exporting fur. Every year more than 27 million animals are killed to satisfy the lust of wealthy women and celebrities. **Will we ever learn ?** It is a question which has been debated for a long time now. Nothing has developed from the endless meetings and conferences that are held every now and then. Despite the increasing popularity of artificial fur the annual turnover of the HBC is a whopping 40 billion dollars.

A survey held in Vietnam a couple of years back showed that more than 25 species on the endangered list are killed and sold openly in the market at alarming prices. Tourists buy these parts of animals as relics. **The "Newsweek" in a report showed that a single bear's claw is sold at 95 US dollars. Is it ethical?** No, but does anyone pause to think before buying them and thus indirectly supporting this corrupt movement. Despite warnings from other countries and the WWF Vietnam has done nothing about it. This corrupt practice must be abolished.

The Kaziranga sanctuary today boasts of only a few rhinoceros because the rare one horned rhino is killed for its tough hide and its horn which is believed to have magical powers. Even in today's educated society people believe in such baseless superstition and kill this rare animal.

The Royal Bengal Tiger once found openly in the Sunderban forests is on the verge of extinction because of the merciless hunters of the past and even the Britishers, who valued its beautiful hide and hung it in their drawing rooms as certificates of their achievement. It is high time we act now. We need to bring this to the knowledge of more people, get together and try to help out in our own small way. People like **Rahul Dravid** and **Saurav Ganguly** have started appearing in advertisements of "**Protect the Royal Bengal Tiger**". This will certainly create mass awakening.

Today most of the animals that are on the

endangered list are so because the government did not take strong measures against poaching. Sanctuaries should be established in all states of the country and severe action should be

taken against those who violate laws.

I would like to end by asking everybody to pitch in and rid the world of this evil which is very much prevalent even today.

- Dcbashish Banerjee

THROUGH THE KEYHOLE

During the Junior Round Square Conference: Mr. Bhushan (to Sharan Narain): Umm.... which school are you from?

Sharan: Sir, Welham Boys' School.

Mr. Bhushan: Ohhhhh..... aalla..... Welham Boys' School. **Dhaka!!!!**

Mr. Sandeep Khanna in the AV Room (looking at the image on the projector): Arre, the **brightness** is too **dark!!!**

Anshuman Singh: O boy, that woman is wearing sleek sunglasses.

Ijlal (jokingly): ay, they are actually **body-fit** sunglasses, aren't they!!!

Venue: Bethany.

Anirudh: I am feeling very hungry.

Dugar: Anirudh are you Chicken or Non-Veg.

Found written on the black-board in Mr. Bhatia's class prior to the commencement of the re-examinations:

Exams	-	Fail
Re-exams	-	Re-fail

Venue: Av Room

Mr. Gosain (to Class IX-A): *Arre....* just the Zaidi, the **bell is over.**

WHAT'S IN

Activity Centre
Kartikeya Narain Singh
Chumbawamba
Sneakers
Woollen Caps
The Stubble
Information Technology Lab.
M.K.P
Teddy's tracktop

WHAT'S OUT

White House
Career Counselling
Prodigy
Boots
Baseball Caps
The Clean Look
Reference Section
W.G.H.S.
Teddy's bandanna

Separated At Birth*

Anjenya Lal
Rohan Sood

Rowan Atkinson (*Mr. Bean*)
Rohit Bal

RINGSIDE VIEW

After the conclusion of the re-examinations cricket fever has just begun to set in. As nearly half of the school had to give re-examinations the school sport scene has been quite dull lately but now with the dreaded examinations over and school life back to normal guys are getting into the swing of things. And I must also add that the newly appointed sports captains with their so called 'naya naya josh' have begun to straighten things out.

Basketball practice is in full swing under the newly appointed captain Reshil Charles. They have two major tournaments coming up sometime in April. One is the Golden Jubilee Memorial tournament and the other the Afzal Khan Memorial tournament which will be held in the Doon School. After the major success of the team last year the team has an image to live up to. Basketball has always been the most prominent sport at Welham and a lot is expected from the team and I hope they live up to our expectations.

The new Cricket team played the match against the Old Boys on the 15th of Feb. The new team led by Anirudh Chauhan emerged victorious without much difficulty. Our side won comfortably with the help of some great batting by the technically perfect Rohit Bagaria and some splendid bowling by Manoj Negi. However, the highlight of the match was the quick fire fifty by Anurag Chadha (batch of 1987). The team played another match with the Y.M.C.A club. Despite some great display of fielding by our 'Desi' **Jonty Rhodes** (Siddharth Dugar) we lost the match by 38 runs. Our team put up a really good bowling attack but the batting order failed completely. The team will be visiting Sanawar for a week long cricket tournament and it is determined to return victorious. I wish them best of luck.

I guess that's it from the Sports arena. And I wish to conclude thus I shall conclude.

Yours Sportingly,

Ahmad

Answers to Mind Sport

Ans 1 : A *flummer* is an empty compliment.

Ans 2 : It is a case or a bag carry clothes while travelling.

Ans 3 : He is a person with a very *strong voice*.

Ans 4 : He is a person *in disguise* or an old character. The word is a corruption of a Scottish *guiser* and is generally used as a slang.

Ans 5 : It is the lack of pleasure or of the capacity to feel pleasure.

Ans 6 : She is thickening it by the addition of some other substance.

Ans 7 : A behemoth is a huge or big animal. In other words any monstrous or grotesque creature or thing is called a Behemoth.

Ans 8 : *Defalcation* is the misappropriation of money held by an official, trustee etc.

Ans 9 : A passage at the end of a musical

composition and in literature it is the concluding part of a writing which serves as a summation. It is borrowed from Latin.

Ans 10 : It is a point or a pointed end, as of a canine tooth.

Ans 11 : A *dormer* is a vertical window in a projection built from a sloping roof.

Ans 12 : A *Merlon* is the solid raised part of the battlement and *crenels* are open space between the merlons.

Ans 13 : It stand for debris.

Ans 14 : A *seabee* is a member of the construction battalions of the US navy.

Ans 15 : Literally, *to remove the nucleus*. The word means the removal of a kernel, tumour etc from its enveloping cover. It also means to bring out or disclose.

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