



The Elephant

No. 209

WELHAM BOYS' SCHOOL

March 16th 1998

Think About It

"Some things which seem to be virtuous would lead, if followed, to one's ruin and some others, which appear to be vices, would result in one's greater security and well-being.

- Niccolò Machiavelli

EDITORIAL

A critic just told me that my write-ups were highly unorganized, I mix up all my views, points, observations and the works!

This time around, I'll be more systematic, so..... here goes -

ACADEMICS - Guys have been promoted. New class, new books, neat books, lots of books. Thick mathematics books, incomprehensible Shakespeare books, deep meaning poetry books. Lets not talk about books.

SPORTS - Inter-House cricket is in progress. Lots of cricket in progress. Cricket in the main field, cricket in the back field, cricket at the nets..... lets go back to the back field. A new breed of pinch-hitting cricketers have been doing the rounds these days. Their objective - to try and smash a window-pane, to try and send the ball to the "basti" or to simply break the bat; the ringside view correspondent being the "gem of the lot". Whadya say - living up to his name, eh?

HOUSE-MASTERS - The seem to be on a new high. Performing their duties. Getting everything in order. Their "show 'em what we're made of" attitude is certainly working !??? Or should I say - is just about working. Special mention to a resident teacher who seems to be giving them un-asked help. No names please.

THE BURSAR - His "barricade" of

problems, still has a lot in store for him. He is facing them very boldly, I must say; taking them all at once, doing everything at the same time. Talk about efficient time management

AULI - The new twelfthies are hyperexcited about skiing. Even more hyped is the rumour about MIS being there and, of course, the winter festival. (Which incidentally has a happening "Mumbaiyas" there.)

THE WEATHER - The most unpredictable thing in the world is the Dehra Dun's weather ! A few days back it rained and then there was bright sun shine. Then there was rain once again and then everyone cursed the weather..... Lets see what happens next !

INDIAN POLITICS - I think I have become old enough to realise that our own country can

never achieve stability in the parliament and that it will keep hanging all the time. Any more views on the subject will be giving the political scenario undue attention ... heh! heh!....

DEHRA DUN - The town is just about fine. A lot of new things at a lot of new places. A lot of big-headed Tibetans. A lot of pseudo designer wear. A lot of politics. Lots and lots of politicians and lots of chances of the town "going to the dogs".

WGHS - No comments.
PREFECTS - No comments



ALL SET FOR THE BIG BATTLE.

STAFF REP. - No comments
THE HEAD - No comments

THE ED - Wishes to signoff,
Ciao!!

- Sidharth

WELHAM NOW

1.) Results of the Middle School Inter House English Elocution contest (Classes V and VI):-

Class VI

First: Saranbir Singh
Second: Nitin Rai
Third: Avinash Agarwal

Class V

First: Karan Mehrotra
Second: Samridha Rana
Third: Shaunak Verma

Joint winners - White House along with Tapti with 339 points each.

2.) **Vistiors** :- Amongst the first summer visitors two have arrived in the campus is the Black headed Golden Oriole whose cries of " Have no fear, have no fear" were heard on 28th february a week earlier than normal. The bird has been sighted daily since then in the Jacaranda trees abounding in the campus. It is eagerly finding its nesting site which will be a



hammock like structure up in the upper reaches of a tree - safely away from predators. Its cousin the Golden Oriole has not yet been seen.

The sighting of the Black Bulbul and the Gray headed Myna must be recorded. Two flocks of these birds have been sighted for the first time in the campus - sipping nectar from the flowers of the Chinese Toon.

Both these species of birds are garrulous and there is a constant chatter to be heard over-head when you pass under the toon trees.

3.) A section of the White- House has been demolished as per plan. Reconstruction of the new building has started and the new accommodation a hostel

which will supplement the existing accommodation.

4) A team of boys from Class XI has left for Auli for a skiing course.

LITERARY AFFAIRS

The man who regretted the past

There lived a man in a very exposed part of the town. Competition was more abundant than air itself. He lacked in confidence and thought himself to be a born loser. He had let himself and everyone down every time.

But there was a big moment in his life, 2 runs were needed off the last ball to win the state championship. He was the batsman. The bowler bowled a ball wide off the stumps, he attempted it and eventually got out. He was blamed for the loss. After this event he was shattered. He began to lead

a solitary and melancholic life. One day, while crossing a highway, he saw a crowd at a place. After inquiring he came to know that an old man had been battered by a ' Sunday ' driver. The man, unlike others, rushed the injured man to the hospital and took proper care of him. As the man recovered he, in sort of a riddling way warned the man, " What has to happen does not always happen" and went on his way.

Two years later he found himself working under the same man who got him out in the

championship. He led a shabby life and had a beautiful wife but could not afford to raise any children. One fateful day he was going in his car (a 1971 Austin), which stopped in the middle of nowhere. He got out to check what was wrong with the car and found out that the radiator needed water, while going around looking for water he discovered a peculiar hut behind the evergreen bushes. He saw a man meditating. He went up and requested the man to forgive him for disturbing him. As he went closer mixed emotions of amazement and happiness went through his mind. He was happy as this man was the one who he had saved from the jaws of death, and couldn't fancy his chances 1:1000 meeting him there. The man at once said "I was expecting you, what took you so long. Its time I repay your kindness to me". The man was standing there, all the time spell bound. "What is the most scarce thing in your life?" the priest asked. "Winning" the man replied with a sigh.

The priest then hypnotised the man and sent him back to the time when he was about to lose the match, but there was something different this time. He had a ball in his hand and when he bowled history repeated itself, but in the other way round. He won the match and forgot all about everything that had ever

happened to him.

As life went on he found himself to be hungry for money. The more he earned the more he wanted. He was always shouting for some reason or the other. He had become what we call a 'sorehead'. He had become a tyrant, his blood pressure always used to run high. Phone bells, business trips he could not get a minute's relaxation. Once he was going in his Mercury 'grand' Marquis (for once without a chauffeur and alone) that it puffed out. He found out that his radiator had used up all the water. Unfortunately he had left his cellular at home. He looked around and saw a peculiar looking hut. A man came out and greeted him. The man asked the stranger how was he enjoying life. The man gave a look of disgust and said "boy, do I envy the commoner".

As soon as the man finished these words he was transformed into his former self again. He had learnt a lesson. The priest then bade the man goodbye, who drove into the horizons of a new mind, with a new confidence.

- Owais Burza

RSIS at SHIVPURI

The six Round Square representatives (Ahmad, Siddharth, Arpan, Pathak, Kartikeya and I) bound for Shivpuri, left on 7th December for Delhi. On 9th we along with the other foreign and Indian delegates took the *Shatabadi* for Gwalior where we were received by the Scindia school representatives.

It was a cold and rainy day and we were all packed into a bus, ready for a two hour drive to Shivpuri. Seeing so many new faces for the first time and the thought of spending a fortnight together in unfamiliar territory, left quite a few of us feeling very uneasy. We were told of the sense of camaraderie that would develop amongst the students in the camp by Mr. Das and I guess this was the one thing that kept us going.

The sun was out when we reached Shivpuri. We all helped each other to get the bags down. We were told by the other guys later of the first impression they got of us Welhamites. Seeing the Welhamites come out of the bus, Siddharth and Ahmad with their goatees, Kartikeya with an unshaven beard, Pathak

with his 'Hongkong Don' looks sent the word around that these guys appeared to be '*distinctly odd*'.

Our first meal together - lunch - was quite an experience. Everybody was in his own school group, waiting for things to happen. We all were hungry, but hardly ate anything (the exception being Ahmad, with his usual '*care free*' attitude) with one thought in mind - '*log kya sochenge*'. In the afternoon we were free. We settled our luggage and got to know a few people. The world came crashing down on us when we were told that delegates were not allowed to leave the premises of the camp. Frustration crept into us and we all thought that this trip was a big mistake. What we did not know was that there was plenty of fun, amusement, hard work coming up for us over the next couple of weeks which would make us never want to leave this place.

In the evening we all introduced ourselves and were divided into groups with the ever

enthusiastic teachers as our group leaders. We were to build a community hall for the villagers and had to mix mortar, lay the bricks. In a nutshell we, in our morning hours, were reduced to playing the chores of a common labourer, but with a sense of purpose and pride. In the evening we went to the nearby villages for surveys on subjects ranging from literacy to population, health and hygiene to teaching kids in schools in villages.

It was a meeting which broke the ice and we started mixing with one another. In days to come, when we saw a Welhamite, we'd say, "What's up, yaar! I have not seen you since two days!"

We had daily debriefing sessions where we discussed our daily experiences and told the delegates more about ourselves. This was the most important time and interesting part of the day, where we learnt a lot and gained a lot of confidence.

Each day was special in its own way, whether it was the work, food, or the fun we had, but whatever it was, we knew that we were getting very close to each other and everybody knew it in the back of their mind that it was going to be very difficult parting.

The day before we were to leave, that was the Christmas eve, we had our final debriefing session, in which villagers and labourers were also invited. We heard a couple of very moving speeches by the villagers, who were very sad due to the fact that we were leaving. Every morning they would get up at 6 and looked forward to working with us, and the very thought that we were leaving, brought tears to their eyes.

We also gave each other gifts on Christmas eve and went to a local church at midnight.

The next day, the villagers decorated our bus with flowers and were all present to see us off. They got garlands for the teachers and thanked us for everything we had done for them.

The worst was still to come. The day the foreign delegates left, we were all very nostalgic, thinking of all the good times we had had together. Most of us cried hysterically in each other's arms. The very thought that we may not see each other again brought tears to our eyes. (Readers may find it difficult to believe me but I guess, that till they do not attend a RSIS camp, they will not understand what it is like.

The Indian delegates left together the very next day. We were all in the same compartment. We thought of the day when we were first travelling together - the uneasiness which we had felt, apprehensions and the prejudiced opinions of one another. And now it was all gone, we were friends for life.

On getting down at the Railway station at New Delhi we rent the air with cries of 'RSIS'. Ahmad would yell in his strongest voice 'RS...' and the rest of us would follow in unison "...IS". We had literally rocked the New Delhi platform that day and people passing by looked confusedly at us, probably thinking we were off our minds.

It was the experience of a life time. In fourteen days we had come so close to each other. We had learnt a lot and surely improved as human beings. This is one trip which I am sure the six of us will never forget.

- Arjun Trivedi

Mind Sport

Q.1) Born on September 13, 1969 which bowlers '*uninsured*' fingers are valued at one million sterling pounds?

Q.2) Which state has the lowest literacy rate among the women in India?

Q.3) Rajiv Gandhi spent the penultimate day of his life in the same city as his mother, Indira Gandhi, spent hers. Name the city?

Q.4) How did the word '*Boycott*' come into origin?

Q.5) Which ball has 336 dimples?

Q.6) Which famous organisation has the motto : Fidelity, Bravery and Integrity?

Q.7) In which city was Italian fashion designer Gianini Versace murdered?

Q.8) Which animal has killed more human beings than any other?

Q.9) Which clock has the most moving parts?

Q.10) Venetian blinds originated in which country?

- Debashish Banerjee

Those Wacky Woodseaters

Diary

Hello! Do you want to know about me? I am Ashish Chowdhary. I am eight years old. I was born in 1989 on 15th June. I am studying in Welham Boys' School. Before this I was studying in Hillgrange Prep School. I live in Calcutta. My father's name is Mr. Manmohan Chowdhary. My Mother's name is Mrs. Kumkum Chowdhary. They love me very much, but to let me be a good and kind man they have sent me to a good school. My father is a business man. My mother is a

house-wife. I also want to become a business man like my father. I have a sister. She is very naughty. My favourite colours are red and pink. I like to play cricket and video games. I like to eat ice-creams and watch movies and listen to songs. I like to read books. I like to wear jeans. I like to dream at night.

I am in class II-A. My class teacher is Mrs. Nonie Bagga.

- Ashish Chaudhary

Diary

My name is Ankit Sahay. I am from Patna and eight years old. I am eight years old. I am studying in Welham Boys' School. My father always forces me to study more and if I will be rich ever in my life the credit will go to my father. I have got everybody who loves me, like my teachers, matron and my best friends. My aim is to be a cricketer. My best cricketer is Sachin Tendulkar. My birthday is on 15th October. I hope you all enjoyed reading about me.

- Ankit Sahay

My favourite Toy

My favourite toy is a remote controlled car. I got it on my birthday. It is black in colour. It is a sports car. It has an antenna and a remote. It has a button underneath, if we switch on the button the car starts moving. We put four batteries in the car and a battery in the remote. It is my favourite because I can control it the way I want.

- Kush Choudhary

Nature's Diary

Save the Tiger

Tiger! Tiger! Burning Bright in the forest of the night.

- William Blake

The primitive beauty of the tiger has many a poet and writer in awe of its majestic splendour. Quite rightly so, since the tiger is indeed one of God's own masterpieces.

The Indian Tiger, *Panthera Tigris*, *Tigris* is one of the eight sub-species of tigers. Three of these eight are already extinct. The Indian Tiger is the only one which survives in large numbers. Today there are only 7200 tigers in the world over, suggests a WWF International Species Report. Out of these 7200 about 4600 roam the jungles of the Indian subcontinent. According to an official estimate by the project tiger authorities 3750 tigers

live in India alone.

Thus the Indian tiger represents more than half of the total population of world tigers. This is the only species which has a chance of long term survival. This will entail the enforcement of drastic steps to curb the threats it faces today. There is increasing pressure on its habitat due to an exploding human population. They are killed even today and the various parts are sold at alarming prices. A lot of this poaching is due to the demand for its parts by the traditional Chinese medicine market. All this poses a serious threat to the survival of this majestic animal.

Global conservation efforts need to focus sharply on the population of the Indian tigers. India has made concerted efforts in the past to save the tiger. It also has the basic infrastructure for the advancement of new conservation strategies. This is of great importance as quick and drastic action is required to combat the renewed threats faced by the tiger today.

A report published by WWF Canada concludes that there is a demand for tiger based medicines in Canada. Bones, medicines and other decorative items produced from tiger parts are imported to Canada despite prohibitions on the import-export of such items. This report also suggests that these products are re-exported to other countries. In the last two years 27 pieces of

tiger bone, 10 bottles of tiger bone oil, 165 packets of tiger plaster, 23926 packets of tiger bone powder. **The list is never ending and has alarming connotations.** Strict measures need to be enforced with immediate effect.

The need of the hour is to take immediate action rather than wait for something to be done by the authorities. Awareness amongst the youth of the country is essential. Local people in the neighbouring areas adjoining the jungles in which tigers reside should also be educated to preserve the natural habitat and not to upset the delicate balance of nature. Such immediate measures and a well planned strategy will go a long way towards saving the beautiful animal.

- **Debashish Banerjee**

The Kingdom of Birds

Birds are a marvel of nature, they are the only warm blooded animals which possess feathers and have the capability to fly. Over 9,000 different species of birds live in the world in all kinds of conditions and habitats and feed on all kinds of food. Birds are vertebrates and have a skeleton with hollow and light bones. The organs in their bodies include a heart, liver, intestines, kidneys and lungs. They have strong chest muscles which help them in flying, while their tails provide them with necessary balance and help in changing direction. Their bodies are covered with feathers which are made of the same material as our nails and hair.

Most birds build their nests on trees but many live in all kinds of places, eagles, for example, live on the rocky ledges in the mountains while the Cuckoo lays its eggs in the nests of other birds. Birds usually lay eggs in their nests and develop their young ones by sitting on these eggs and keeping them warm. Bird eggs have a hard outer

shell with a yoke inside. The offspring feeds upon the yoke and develops in a few weeks, it then breaks open the outer shell and comes out. The parent birds feed the offspring in the nest till it develops its feathers and is old enough to fly.

Birds use their beaks for pecking at food and for eating it. Different Birds have different beak. A parrot, for example, has a hooked beak which helps in holding and tearing up soft vegetables and fruit. Worm eating birds have beaks which are long and thin so that they can dig into the mud to find worms. Pelicans on the other hand have pouches under their beaks to help them in catching fish. Most birds have good eyesight and power of hearing but a poor sense of smell.

Birds are recognised as the *Masters Of The Air.*

- **Aatir Ansari**

Answers to Mind Sport

Ans 1 : Shane Warne.

Ans 2 : Rajasthan (You thought it was **Bihar**, didn't you?)

Ans 3 : Bhubaneshwar

Ans 4 : It was named after the original victim Captain Boycott.

(6)

Ans 5 : A golf ball

Ans 6 : The FBI

Ans 7 : Miami

Ans 8 : Man himself

Ans 9 : A sand clock

Ans 10 : Not Venice but Japan.

THROUGH THE KEYHOLE !!!

Mr. Khaira : Arre, the *end* of the period is over.

Kunal : Sir, why is your mood off today?

Mr. Kahira : Because there is no *electricity*!

Owais (to Mr. Das): Sir, why haven't you given me marks for this question?

Mr. Das : First you *rewrite* the answer again.

Azar Zaidi serves two apples to Mr. Bhushan : Here are two apples, sir.

Mr. Bhushan : Ummmmm..... alla..... an apple a day keeps a doctor away..... and two apples a day keeps the *nurse also away*.

Mr. Gosain : Arre, what is the formula for Potassium Cyanide.

An eager boy : oh!..... sir it is just on the tip of my tounge... it is...umm.... it is.....

Mr. Gosain : Aye, you just spit it out!

Mr. Bhatia's motto on girls : Whenever you see a group of girls- *like three,*

love two,

marry one.

Sunny Sarta (at a Basketball match) : Oye, play on the *leg* side!

Laloo Prasad (addressing a public meeting): I thank you '*aall*' from the bottom '*auf*' my heart and from the bottom of my wife '*aalso*'!

Mr. Sandeep Khanna : Arre. Anshuman go sit in the *front of the second row* !

WHAT'S IN !!??

Captain Vyom

Vibhu's Black Jersey

Teachers

Reshil's Sixes

Boards

Mr. Nagalia

Venkatpathi '*Raazu*'

Sachin Tendulkar

'*Chocolate Corner*' at Tuckshop

WHAT'S OUT !!??

Shaktimaan

Vibhu's Brown Jersey

Bearers

Reshil's Dunks

Mr. Bhatia's Re-exams

Hameed

Shane Warne

Sanath Jayasurya

Boys at Tuckshop

Separated At Birth !! *

Mr. Ghosh

Deep Singhal

Alok Kapoor

Neeraj Parik

Sourab Dhungel

Karan Thapar

Ranatunga

Akshay Kumar

Sunil (the Krishna Bearer)

Adam Hollioke

RINGSIDE VIEW

The senior section Inter house cricket is in progress. Talk about 'pep', its everywhere. Cricket is about everywhere. The main field, the Back field, the Nets, Krishna garden and of course the Triveni corridors. The 'paps' are coming out of their hibernation and giving it all they have got. The cricket scene, which was virtually dead a week ago is back with a bang. And going by the looks of it, I guess it is going to stay a long long time.

The first match of the Interhouse was played between Ganga and Cauvery. The Cauvery 'ites' batted first and set up a moderate target of a 120 runs in 25 overs. They got off to a good start but their middle order stumbled and Ganga didn't give them a chance to recover. Manoj with the display of the bat made sure that Ganga didn't have much difficulty in reaching the target and in the end they won with 3 wickets in hand. The highlight of this match was the display of some great '*lapeta shots*' by Reshil Charles who seared a quickfire 16 which included a six.

The second match was between Jamuna and Krishna. Krishna house due to a batting collapse could manage a meagre total of 102 runs. Anirudh Chauhan batted very well at one end but didn't seem to get support from the other side where wickets tumbled at regular intervals. Anirudh scored 53 runs. However if Krishna's batsman had clicked things could have been a lot more different. But they fell prey to the baffling '*surra*' bowling of Daman Chikara. Jamuna got off to a fairly good start and at one point it seemed that nothing could stop them from winning the match. But then with the fall of three wickets in quick succession the tables turned. Shubham Saurabh bowled exceptionally well and picked up three crucial wickets. Krishna managed to pull it off by a thin margin of 6 runs.

Cauvery played Krishna in the next match. This match was brilliant with both teams putting in

very good performances. It had nearly the whole school crowded around the main field. Krishna batted first and set up a stupendous target of 179 runs. **Anirudh Chauhan** Krishna's star batsman displayed some great batting and scored an unbeaten 87 runs. His game was once again very impressive. He played shots all round the wicket. Cauvery, however, fought back with some real good batting. The Cauvery 'ites' gave it their best shot. Amit Prashar scored a spirited 66 runs. Rohit '*the wall*' Bagaria scored 35 runs. But due to some good bowling they finally succumbed to the pressure and Krishna again emerged victorious by a margin of 6 runs. Anirudh Chauhan bowled a very good line and length and took three wickets. Some good catches were taken in the field too. In the end Cauvery could manage only 172 runs for the loss of 9 wickets.

Another match was played between Class XI and XII. The twelfthies were a little out of touch with the game recently but I guess the 'pep' made up for it. The eleventhies batted first and scored 168 runs in 20 overs. Yashab missed his century by a whisker and scored 90 which included 3 massive sixes. The twelfthies were not the ones to get demoralised and put up a great show of some of the best '*lapeta*' batting I have seen in years. To be more precise Pratyush Pratik was actually hitting balls outside the off stump to fine leg, mid on, deep point, etc. But all this strange kind of batting paid off and the twelfthies emerged victorious. Pratyush Pratik scored 68 runs and was the top scorer of his side. I must also mention here that the greatest of pseudo- pinch hitters Manas Patodia ended the match by a six of none other than '*Super Pacer*' Sanjay Sarogi.

As the eleventhies are leaving for Auli for a fifteen day ski-course will resume after the mid-terms. Till then keep the Cricket fever running.

Ahmad

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