



The Oliphant

No. 212

WELHAMBOYS' SCHOOL

May 4th 1998

Think About It

Envy is a pain of mind that successful men cause their neighbours.

- Onasander

EDITORIAL

Date: Sometime in Mid April

Venue: How does it matter??!!

StaffRep: Sidharth, do you know how many issues have come out this term?

ME: I'm not very sure sir, but I think we've brought out four of them.

S.R: Well, I'm sorry to say this, but you'll have to bring out four more.... as we have (stress on "have") to bring out eight issues per term.

ME: I know that sir, but I was sick half the term and was away in Auli too.

S.R: I shall not compromise on this! You have to bring out four more issues. There's about a month and a half left. Will you do that please.

ME: Yes..... sir!

S.R: Good. I'll see your editorial tomorrow.

There goes the TORPEDO. Tomorrow. Gawd. I've got accounts work. I've got to write about Orsino and his effeminate character and about young Pip and his adolescent fantasies. What am I gonna do..... No. The Oliphant gets top priority. No compromises. I'll do it (so what if it is becoming an appendage day by day!)

Fortunately, folks... That issue arrived on time, and I've had to go through rather a difficult time to bring out this one.

Here's another one between me and the StaffRep.

Date: A few days back.

Venue: A.C

S.R: A good issue, Sidharth.

ME: Thank you, sir.

S.R: When is the next one coming?

ME: I'm working on it, sir.

S.R: Don't just work on it..... finish it. By the way,

what's your deadline.

ME: Second May.

S.R: Well, then do I get to see your editorial tomorrow.

ME: It's fine with me, sir.....

S.R: Good. (Slowly and coolly walks away).

ME: (To myself) Yeah! Great.

Some things never change. Like all previous editors, I too have caught the late bug. I now have to bring out three more issues this month. That's not a problem. Problem is..... I happen to be in twelfth. I have an examination coming up. I have so many things on my mind, the first being..... 'The Oliphant' is a fortnightly! It's been turned into a weekly! God save the Oliphant !!

What am I gonna do. Who's going to write for the mag (apart from me and the Ringside View correspondent). How can there be a "Dude of the Fortnight"... We've sadly, become a weekly. That THING is not gonna be there anymore.....

To the "positive" side.....

The sun's doing more than its job by providing us enough sunlight. So much, so that half the school is down with dehydration. (Yes folks, the epidemic continues). But the guys in Basketball fought the sun and played their best in the Golden Jubilee Tournament. So what if we lost by a point. We're the best, aren't we?? Keep it up guys, there's always a next time.

The pool is the 'IN' joint these days. It's too cool for all the guys who wanna 'CHILL OUT'!

A: Where you goin'?

B: The pool man.

A: 'CATCH YOU' there in half an hour!

I'm really cheesed with these neo-slang

phrases which 've invaded Welham folks. I can write so much on them, but as is evident, I'm..... out of space.

All you can do is, wait for my next write-up.
- Sidharth

WELHAM NOW

1) The council schools hockey tournament Commenced on 27 April'98. We wish our team best of luck.

2) The Golden Jubilee Commemorative Invitational Basket-Ball tournament also started on 27 April'98. We wish the team maintains its high standard in this game.

3) A team from MTV was here to make a short film on Welham for the Cyrus Brocha anchored programme, MTV-U.

4) Ruskin Bond was here for a chat with the English Literary Society on 24th April'98. He read out excerpts of stories from his books and also autographed his books for us. The juniors shot many probing questions which Mr. Bond answered enthusiastically.

He has sent the following letter to the school:-
**Ivy Cottage, Landaur,
Mussorie 248179**

Dear Mr. Kandhari,

Just a few lines to thank you for giving me the opportunity to meet and talk to the bright, intelligent boys of your school last week. I am also grateful to Mrs Mehra and her colleagues, and Mr. Arora of Natraj Publishers, for being so helpful.

My good wishes to you and to your staff and students,

Sincerely,

Ruskin Bond

5) The Inter-school Hindi Elocution was held on 23rd April'98 in the Activity centre. It was won by Welham Girls'. Prashant Khemka stood first in the senior section.

6) The Inter-school English elocution was held on the 25th April'98 in the Activity centre. The trophy was lifted by The Doon School.

7) The Inter-house English Extempore was held on 23rd April'98. Cauvery house won the trophy and the following secured individual positions:

1st- Amrut Kar, 2nd- Kartikeya Narain, 3rd- Kumar Abhijeet

8) Mr. Sandeep Khanna was married to Miss Manisha Mehra on the 19th of April. Our heartiest congratulations and best wishes to them for a happy (?)

and long a married life and we also congratulate Mr. Pravesh Kumar Sharma who will be married to Miss Shalini Sharma on the 4th of May. Our belated congratulations also to Mr. and Mrs Vinod Singh who were married recently and to Mr. & Mrs Gossain on the birth of their baby girl and also to Mr. and Mrs. Arun Sharma who were blessed with a daughter.

9) The first preliminary round of the Friends of the Doon quiz was held on 30th of April, 1998. The School was represented by:-

Amish Mulmi, Karan Gulaya, Amrut Kar. Our team stood first.

10) Results of the K.C. Joshi memorial inter-school English Essay writing contest hosted by Welham:-

First- Vasundhra Sanwal (WGHS)
Second- Faiz Tajuddin (The Doon School)
Third- Sourab Dhungel (WBS) & Shefu Singh (CJM)

11) The School Committee met on Thursday, 16th April, 1998 at the LRC. The minutes are given below:-

i.) Ankur Jindal suggested that more soft wares and modems should be installed in the Information Technology Lab so that the boys can have access to the net from all the nodes. The Chairman said that it would be done and he would look into this matter as he had previously made more computers accessible to the net.

ii.) Amish Mulmi suggested that on Outing days the school bus should leave the boys to a central location in town as the money they get from the bank is not enough for transport. The Chairman agreed that the school bus would leave at a particular time in the morning provided the list of the boys going was given to him before hand. The boys would have to come back on their own.

iii.) Anant Dwivedi suggested that a water cooler should be installed near the tennis courts. The Chairman said that he would look into this matter after some time.

iv.) Class X wanted more chairs to be given to them for their study cubicals. The Chairman agreed but he said that in case of damage, the bill would be charged to class X.

v.) Kanishk Kaushik suggested that the

reference books should be issue able. The Chairman said that these books were meant to be referred to in the LRC itself. But the books will be sorted out and some will get transferred to the - issue able section.

vi.) Shubham Khanna suggested that cycling should be introduced as a sport. The Chairman wanted to get more enlightened on the topic and said that if provided additional information on what was required, he would take the matter into consideration.

vii.) Akshat Agarwal suggested that mosquito nets should be provided in summers. The Chairman agreed but said that they will not last long. Yet, he would supply P.H with nets and the result would show for itself.

viii.) Parivesh Kumar suggested that water coolers should be repaired in Triveni. The Chairman said that he would look into the matter as he had sent a person

for repairs earlier.

ix.) Vaibhav Agarwal suggested that there should be better fencing and cow traps near Krishna House. The Chairman said that it is due to us that all the animals roam about the campus as we leave the gates open and undo the fencing. He decided to talk to the House master about this matter.

x.) Gurkirpal drew attention towards the white socks provided to us by the school. He said that they were of bad quality. The Chairman approved of this and said that he will look into this matter.

xi.) Arjun Trivedi suggested that the second clay tennis court should also be cemented as it is non playable. The Chairman said that this would be definitely done.

W.O.B.N.

"Memories of an old boy now living in Pakistan"

It has been more than 52 years since I was a student of this great institution "THE WELHAM BOYS' SCHOOL" from 1944 to 1946. The foundations of my professional life were laid at Welham, and I treasure my two years at this school.

Miss Oliphant who headed Welham Boys' School, during my stay, was a towering personality and what I learnt from her has been the base of my success in my practical life.

I distinctly remember two examples which she narrated to the students:-

1) An example of the blessings of unity among individuals, family and nations.

She said the British Colonialists went to a village in an under-developed country of Africa, they wore few clothes and were totally uneducated.

A fruit basket was placed 100 yards away and about 50 villagers were asked to run towards it, the first to reach would get the entire fruit basket. All the 50 looked at each other, they all caught each others hands and ran together, reached the basket together and shared the contents.

It was a lesson to the Colonialists that here was a tribe that always stayed together and shared their difficulties and pleasures together.

2) Another example she gave was that of belief in faith.

She mentioned that story of an Ambassador of a country accredited to another country.

The ambassador had his office on the second floor and he kept a plaque on his table that read "THIS TOO WILL PASS AWAY".

Once the relations between his country and his host country became tense, a large crowd came shouting slogans against the Ambassador's country, throwing rotten eggs and stones on his Embassy. The Ambassador looked at all this from the window of his office and went back to his table and read the quote on the plaque.

The incident passed, days and months went by.

Many days later, relations between the two countries became very pleasant. A similar crowd again came to his office. This time shouting pleasant slogans, with garlands of flowers and placards of friendship. The Ambassador looked at this pleasant scene through the window, went back to his table and read the quote "THIS TOO WILL PASS AWAY".

The moral of the story is that - Do not get too discouraged when conditions are not in your favour and also do not get too encouraged when all is too good. Both the stories have been a guide-line for me throughout my life.

I hope these stories are of some benefit to you.

- Shazada Alam Monnoo

LITERARY AFFAIRS

Mind your own business

There was a group of girls who were very interested in teasing boys and then making up to them by making their acquaintance. They were a pretty bunch. But there was also something uncanny about them. My friend knew them very well, to be more precise, they were good friends. Their friendship was an enterprise in which they would mock each other so badly to affect their self respect. One day came when all the three girls went out, leaving one of them alone, my friend, as usual, dropped in and then a loud scream was heard in the corridors of the shady mansion. Then I saw a man running out, his face was illuminated by the eerie moonlight. I could see nothing but a leather jacket and a pair of **Dr. Martin** boots. After sometime the girl's uncle's loud cries of agony could be heard. My friend, I noticed, had his laces untied which denoted that he had either taken off his shoes or had changed them, but why?!!!! He was also panting as if he had sprinted a 100 meters with a mad dog chasing him.

My attention was drawn to a corpse whose expression was of immense surprise as if something very unexpected had happened. The brother entered the room and just as he saw the corpse his expression changed to one of horror and amazement. He tried to talk with the words stuck in his throat. What brotherly love, it is a rare thing in this world.

I left the place in disgust. Why the hell does all this happen. I thought I should go and talk to my friend. I went to his house and was glad to find his bedroom light on. But, the gate keeper prevented me from entering the house and told me that his master was sleeping. As I walked back I saw a face peer down from that window, a very

familiar face with an expression of relief. I could not sleep the whole night. I got up in the morning all cramped up. I did not feel like getting up but the circumstances compelled me to go. By now I was sure that my friend was in a state of mental disorder. I thought I would help him out but last night's incidents were still fresh in my mind. What was my friend up to? I thought I should keep guard on the sister who was in mourning. I spied through out the evening and at night till two and decided to hang my boots when I saw the same leather jacket whizzing past me. I ran after him and tried to catch a glimpse of him. He was so fast that he was a few inches above the ground. But my stamina was longer lasting than his, so I ran after him, but then I was bugged to the limit. I took out a pocket knife and slashed at his leg.

He fell down with a cry of pain. I went to identify him and to my amazement it was the brother who was supposed to be grief stricken. I took him back to the house. After regaining consciousness he explained he had killed his sister because he was jealous of my friend, because it was due to him that his sisters could not spend more time with him. The police barged in, late as usual and took the accused away. I was relaxed in the morning until I sighted the police coming in. They came in and handcuffed me. I asked them the reason why. Their answer was short and precise. "Firstly you interfered in a police case and secondly you are charged with an attempt to murder". My record was clean so I was given only two years in jail.

Thus I end my article proving the saying "**Mind your own business**" or you may suffer. I am sure you all agree with me on this point.

- **Owais Burza**

Living on the edge

My limbs were weak, my throat was dry, and my eyes ached as I struggled to get out of the car. But all the doors were jammed because of the impact. With the view the front wind-screen gave me, I was able to discern the surging waves below, rushing to meet the rocky outcrops on the shore. The car was stuck between two huge rocks. But the corridor between them was not narrow enough to hold the car for a long time. Every movement in

the car would further push me to what looked like impending doom. But I was no quitter. 'Quitters never win; Winners never quit' has always been my motto in life.

I tried to keep my movements to the minimum so as to prevent any further movement of the car. I thought of several ideas of escape, but they all seemed impractical. Suddenly, I had an idea. Escape was impossible from the front as it meant a dive

straight into the bubbling waves of the sea. The sides were impregnable as the car was jammed between two rocks. So the only way out was from the rear. I prayed to God before my dangerous task of climbing over the front seats, and then removing the back seats.

As I flung myself across the driver's seat, the car lurched in front a meter or so, suspending the left front wheel in the air. My heart almost skipped a beat. I tried not to panic. I again prayed to God and started the Herculean task of removing the huge pig skin - upholstered bucket, rear seats. It took quite a long time to do so. When I reached inside the voluminous boot of the Mercedes, I had a new toe in the shape of a boot lock and to open it, meant going all the way back to the dashboard. So I had to break open the lock, which I did, with ease. I made a mental note to confront the dealer who claimed nothing could open it except the keys.

It felt really great to breathe fresh air. Even the black rain clouds in the rain swept sky looked inviting. As I sat there thinking, I, by mistake, kicked one of the rear seats which toppled causing the car to swing down to the sea. All of a sudden, the rocks gave way, and the car plunged with me hanging from the boot into the sea. I threw my hands around in panic, and by chance caught a small outcrop jutting out of the cliff. I held on tightly. I was jerked out of the car, all of a sudden. It pulled off the skin off my right leg. I hung there in shock as the waves rushed to engulf my car.

It was a long and hard climb to the top but it was worth the while. This episode always reminds me of the saying '**Quitters never win; Winners never quit**'.

- Azar Zaidi
Class X

Nature's Diary

What...are we doing to our environment?

Picture this scenario. All the streets are choked with cars and heavy vehicles. The whole city is veiled in a thick shroud of smoke and smog. A new race of human beings has evolved with an epidermis which is impenetrable. People have to visit museums and read books to see pictures of lakes, trees, forests and stars. Some children listen in awe, to their elders who tell them stories about jungles, while some refuse to believe that they ever existed in such large numbers. A few trees are present in top class laboratories under special conditions, most people are under the impression that these are man made objects. Oxygen masks are an integral part of man's life. This is what could well be happening in the near future.

Why have we allowed ourselves to come to this tragic pass? Environmental concern no longer remains an esoteric concept. Man's thoughtless actions over the decades have left a badly mauled and scarred planet, Earth. Ruthless exploitation has left a bleeding carcass.

We are confronted with environmental problems ranging from global warming to deforestation. Lakes, rivers and seas have been converted into dumping grounds for industrial effluents. Millions of plants and animal species have become extinct. Air pollution, ozone depletion,

accumulation of green house gases represent only a fraction of the problem that confronts us. Defiling the environment is a way of life for us. Industrial pollution is contaminating our air and water, emissions from auto mobiles and industries are raising the global temperature.

Developed countries have become used to opulent life styles which requires the consumption of natural resources, and as if this is not enough, they also generate a bulk of global pollution. Developing countries on the other hand are exhausting their non-renewable resources to meet the needs of their ever growing population.

Dehradun itself was very bare about ten years ago but the schools decided to take the initiative and tree plantation was undertaken on a large scale. Now all these efforts have reaped rich dividends as the area around Sahastradhara is lush green.

Our school also carried out tree plantation at the parade ground, just opposite the Doon club, with the help of local authorities and 'Friends of the Doon' (an NGO) under the able guidance of Mr Khaira. The boys in charge showered their affection on these saplings for as long as three years. One fine day after the vacations they were shocked to find the area completely denuded. People preferred to

use the area as a short cut and cows were sent there to graze. These sorts of events tend to be very disheartening but we must not lose hope.

The Montreal protocol dealt with the phasing out of CFC's, but India was reluctant to sign this as the switch over costs would have been phenomenal. It is now the duty of the citizens of the country to see that they don't encourage CFC based products.

The disconcerting rise in population dilutes progress. The more people, the more the strain on the environment, and more the production of waste. Can the Earth assure a reasonable living standard? Can it be ecologically stable?

The developing countries with 77% of the world's population consume only 12% of the world's resources and 18% of the energy. The developed world on the other hand produces 80% of the world's pollutants. In spite of these statistics the developed countries blame the developing countries for all sorts of environmental problems.

In India environmental consciousness is confined to the urban upper income westernised classes. However the government should make

sure that the common man buys eco-compatible products the prices of which should be lowered.

A strong regulatory system, potential NGO action, general peoples awareness will help the cause.

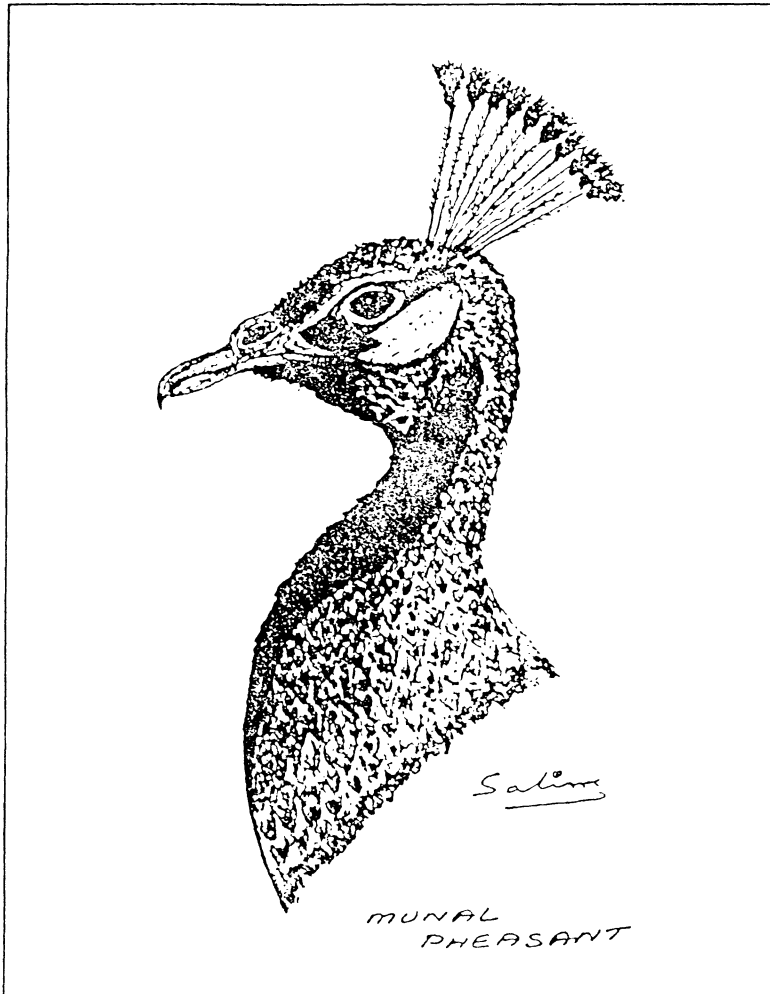
With the globalisation of the world economy and India's integration with it she will be forced to fall in line with global compulsions. For example, the industrialised countries refuse to admit that they are the main culprits where the greenhouse effect is concerned. Infact they are asking developing countries to plant trees so that these can sponge up the emissions of the industrialised world.

Time is running out. We need to formulate strategies that can be implemented immediately.

Mass-Media must play a crucial role

in spreading environmental awareness to every little town and villages. As a community it is our fundamental duty to nurture and save the environment that has reared us. We need to adopt the use of solar based energy as opposed to fossil fuels such as coal and petroleum. We do not need any more environmental campaigns. Enough has already been said about saving the environment. It is high time that we start acting on all those plans which have been churning out for years. This is your duty as well as mine. We as individuals can make a difference and the time to act is NOW.

-Debashish Banerjee



Nature's Diary (2)

There are a lot of keen bird watchers in our school and certain boys like Digvijay Lamba have

distinguished themselves in this field. But at the same time there also happen to be a different breed

of bird watchers, who after an extensive study have handed over this report on some birds which largely attract the attention of all Welhamites and are considered to be **lethal**.

These uncanny birds are often spotted in the vicinity of the school campus, because they are like ants going to and fro from an anthill. According to the researchers, boys who go for jogs at P. T time have reported to have seen a lot of such birds walking down the road besides Krishna house and some have even been said to have resembling some prehistoric birds- Pterodactyl??? You can never trust this group of guys who have done this study, because they have kept their identity a secret, but rumour has it that they are the most zonked guys in Welham!

Anyway, till noon these creatures disappear and reappear when the music in Krishna house is blaring and guys are enjoying their after-noon siesta. According to the intellectuals in the group it is the music in Krishna house which attracts the birds, (by common consent it was agreed that Krishna house had the worst taste in music!) because as soon as the music is switched off the birds disappears. Strange!

Boys who often visit Rawat's see lot of these birds but till now no attempt has been made to catch these birds as a specimen for our nature club because they have this aura around them which according to the researchers is hazardous for all Welhamites.

The researchers have developed a special vaccine which was incidentally injected into everyone along with the mumps vaccine, to make all the Welhamites immune to this aura and as a special precaution all Welhamites are to shut their eyes when they see these birds, turn around and run because large doses of the aura can cause mental trauma.

We are highly indebted to this group of researchers for their invaluable advice and am sure the Welham community will be very grateful to the service they are providing to us. If they would disclose their identity they would have been nominated as the ' Dude(s) of the fortnight' but unfortunately they continue to exist in shadows and work in secret and are they are there to save our school from these UFO's (Unidentified Flying Objects).

- The High Flyer

THROUGH THE KEYHOLE !!!

Sanjay (admiring himself in the mirror): Oye Jassi, who is smarter , me or Mehul?

Jassi: Obviously you Sanjay.

Sanjay(to Mehul): See Mehul, I didn't want

to give you an **inferior complexity!**

Anirudh Chauhan: Oye guys, who was the **umpire** for the debate? (realising his mistake) Ohh, sorry the **referee?**

WHAT'S IN !!??

PH as Barber Shop
Crew Cuts and Bald Heads
Dugar's outing specs
Mohit's body fit school shirts

WHAT'S OUT !!??

The School Barber Shop
Long hair
Sanjay Saraogi's outing specs
Salman's body fit T-shirts

Separated At Birth !!

Ahmad Ali Khan
Anirudh Chauhan
Abhishek Mitra
Ram Prasad (B io Lab assistant *without
moustache*)
Mr. Dhingra

' Stone cold ' Steve Austin
Altaf Raja
Curtly Ambrose
Arjuna Ranatunga

Vikram Bhatt (Sushmita Sen's boyfriend)

RINGSIDE VIEW

The sports scene which after the culmination of the cricket season was quite dull, has finally picked up momentum with the Golden Jubilee Basketball tournament and the hockey councils.

The Golden Jubilee tournament which concluded on the 30th April, proved to be a thriller as expected. Although our teams put in commendable performance the trophy was lifted by Woodstock School which emerged the champion after beating Doon School convincingly in the finals.

The tournament commenced on the 27th April, the first match being played between RRMA and Wynberg Allen School. RRMA won the match comfortably. The second match was played between Woodstock and Welham (whites). The juniors played amazingly, small guys driving in, shooting three pointers. They fought till the very end, like true Welhamites. Woodstock eventually won the game with a big margin, but the spirit with which the small guys played was amazing. Their deft skill and true sporting spirit had the spectators captivated. The first match that the Welham (blues) played was versus RIMC. The blues had no trouble beating RIMC and they vanquished them. The next match of the blues was against RRMA. Once again the blues emerged victorious. The last league match that the blues played was against Wynberg Allen. It was totally a one sided affair, with our opponents being no match for us. The final score read 65-15 in our favour. The Welham whites played GRD Academy in their next match. The whites once again put up a splendid performance and beat their opponents convincingly with Atir Ansari and Anshuman Singh playing some brilliant basket ball. They played well. However, it was their fighting

spirit and spectacular skill which enthralled the spectators. These juniors certainly have a bright future ahead and sure do signify the domination of basket ball by Welham for years to come.

The Welham blues now met the Doon School in the semi-finals. This was definitely the match of the tournament with emotions and tempers running high - the clash of two arch rivals equally good at the sport. This match had all the spectators at the edge of their seats till the very end. Both the teams got off to a very good start with the score remaining tied till the dying minutes of the game. However towards the end the Doscas managed to pull it off with a one point lead. the final score read 39-38 in favour of the Doscas. Kartikeya and Karan put in some terrific baskets. The team, however is still in high spirits and I bet the guys are raring to play some amazing basketball



Class X in the Afzal Khan tournament.

The Council Schools Hockey tournament is also half way through. With so much basket ball going on, hockey seems to have taken a back seat. However our team played its first match of the season against the Doon School on their grounds. Playing their first match of the season, the team was unable to put in its best and lost 0-4. All four of the goals were scored in the first half after which we fought back and made some good attempts. After their loss, the team seems to have got back into the swing of things. They beat SJA 5-1 and the Moravians, 5-2. They will now play GRD in the semi-finals.

Well, I guess, This much is enough for this issue and I'll be back with more news from the sports arena, till the guys, just *chilax*.

- Ahmad

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