

The Elephant

No. 215

WELHAMBOYS'SCHOOL

Sept 1 1998

Think About It

An expert is someone who knows more and more about less and less.

-Anon

EDITORIAL

The term started with water. Gallons and gallons of water. Water of all kinds. In the pool, in puddles. In the fields and of course the Rain gods kept blessing us with divine water straight from the heaven itself. To add to our misery, the authorities chose the monsoons to dig big drains all over the campus. The result- Welham Boys' school looks like one big construction site.

Welcome back to Dehra Dun.

The first week saw what it had been seeing for years. New hairdos. New kids. New shoes and so on and so forth. But it also saw something which had never been thought of. The first week of Autumn Term 1998 saw boys of classes ten and twelve give exams. Brainchild of the Dean, the examinations really helped us. We actually know where we stand now. We stand pretty low, it seems..... half the guys 'flunked'. Time for some hard work.

Now that a fortnight has passed since we arrived, things are getting back to normal. One busy figure these days is the soccer captain, who, it seems, is really working hard for the tournament at Sanawar which commences this weekend. He has quite an enthusiastic bunch of guys under him who have obviously watched every single match of the World Cup.

Triveni is on fire these days. The housemasters are really charged up and discipline is the order of the day. And if you happen to rub them up the wrong

way.... you're in soup brotha.... you're in deep soup. Hell hath no fury like a housemaster scorned! They do their daily, or should I say hourly rounds with such great enthusiasm, vigour, responsibility, fury that it is impossible to fool them. Infact, people don't even think of going against the law anymore. Good. Very good.

If you've been walking around the campus these days you must have definitely noticed a lot of new bicycles. The all terrain ones of course

They've become a kind of status symbol amongst the staff these days. Everyone's got himself a bike. They go cycling in the evenings and you bet, they're quite a sight. But on the other hand atleast they get some (more than necessary) exercise.

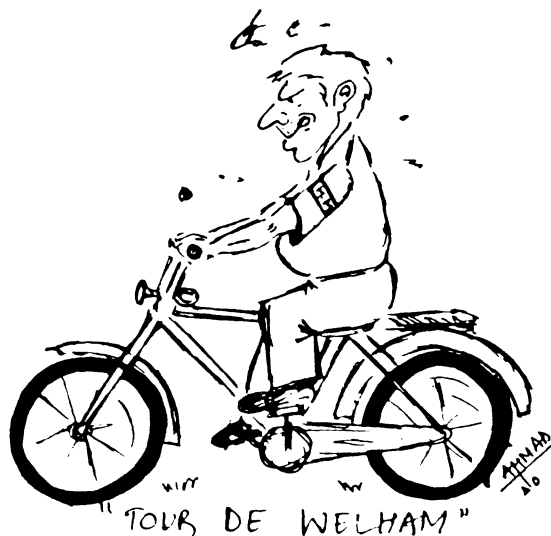
PH has been pretty dead the last week. There are reasons of course. Two of the five decks are not here any more and the television has gone for repairs. One thing of great importance, which I didn't mention is that all hostels now have 'legal'

cable connections so atleast we are in touch with the times. Modernisation and liberalisation. Way to go.

I, for one, have a long- long way to go and hours to go before I sleep.

signing off,

Sidharth.



W.O.B.N.

i) Shaad Ali (ex- 476/K) is one of the assistant directors of the film "Dil Se" and also appears in the movie in a short scene. He gave complimentary audio cassettes of the film to the school.

ii) Gaurav Kampani (ex- 345) is now Research Associate, Centre for Nonproliferation Studies, Monterey Institute of International Studies, California. His e-mail address is: gkampani@miis.edu.

iii) Dhiraj Kakati (ex- 399) is a tea planter in the Dooars, Niraj Kakati (ex- 458) is at JNU in his final year, studying International Relations.

iv) Rahul Munjal (ex- 477) visited the school. He is at VOY Rochester, doing B.A in Economics.

v) Syed Sultan (ex no. 10- batch of '82) is married to Raba Sun Yusuf and is working in Dubai World Trade Centre.

vi) Following is an excerpt from a letter written to Mr. Jagjit Singh by Nitin Kumar Agarwal (ex 326, Jamuna- batch of '94):

"It was nice to meet you and the whole lot of old boys at the Diamond Jubilee celebrations, but I am writing this letter to thank the Welham community which helped me achieve what I desired.

I have cleared the CAT'98 in my first attempt and got interview calls from MDI (Gurgaon) and MICA & NIM (Ahmedabad). I secured a seat in NIM which is the reputed institute owned by the Nirma group of companies."

vii) Following old boys attended the WOBS meeting held at The Blue Room of the Delhi Gymkhana club on May 14, 1998.

1. Mr. Darshan Singh (President)
2. Mr. Tanuj Sethi (Vice President)
3. Mr. Haripal S. Gill
4. Mr. Rakesh Sethi
5. CDR. Lalit Mathur
6. Mr. Ajai Singh
7. Mr. Nikhil Kripalani
8. Mr. Parth Arora
9. Mr. Gurvir Singh

Following is the abridged version of the minutes:

1. Mr Darshan Singh, and Mr Tanuj Sethi had a meeting on 15th April, 1998 to ensure good coordination for the Welham Old Boys' Society, for which a list was drawn up.

2. All regional heads have been requested to organise at least one get together in their respective regions.

3. It was agreed that Mr Mohit Oswal would be the rep. at Jammu. Mr Vikas Verma would be the rep in Meerut. Mr Tanuj Sethi, was to seek their confirmation.

4. Cdr Lalit K. Mathur and Mr Ajai Singh were ~~unanimously co-opted~~ as full E.C. members.

5. All past presidents of the WOBS (currently only Mr. Kandhari) are also permanent invitees to the E.C. meetings.

6. Cdr L.K. Mathur queried whether the WOBS is a registered society. Mr S. Kandhari

confirmed that an application had been made to the Registrar of Societies and that this needs to be followed up.

7. A constitution of the Society already exists. A discussion on the constitution is not a simple matter as many points need to be considered. It was agreed that a separate meeting would be held especially to discuss the constitution.

8. Regarding Income Tax exemption, the views of Mr Ajai Singh were found to be most valuable.

9. Apart from "Constitution of the Society", there will also be a need for "Rules and Regulations of the Society". Perhaps this can come under the purview of the Articles and memorandum of Association. It was agreed that in the relevant meeting a chartered accountant/lawyer (preferably an old boy) should be invited as a special invitee to advise in these matters.

10. An important point which keeps coming up is, "What does the Society do for its members?". It was felt that the WOBS must also make the Society attractive to its membership. However, the WOBS is a young society, and therefore initially certain ground work is to be done such as:

- a) to organise get-togethers.

Following is the text of an advertisement placed in the "India Abroad" newspaper on June 12 by Mr. Mansingh (ex-Welhamite):

WELHAM BOYS SCHOOL DEHRADUN, U.P.
As the U.S. representative of the WELHAM OLD BOYS SOCIETY, I am trying to compile a list of alumni in the U.S.A. if you are an old boy please write me with your name, address and the year you graduated. Thanks.

Man Singh
288 Cherry Lane Teaneck, NJ 07666

- b) compile a register of members.
- c) collect funds for the WOBS
- d) give some of the collected funds to the school
- e) to request the school to consider favourable admission policies for sons of old boys.
- f) later on these aspects can again be reviewed.

13. Mr S. Kandhari pointed out that already many sons of old boys are studying in the school. Many sons of old boys have also studied earlier at Welham, for this Mr Kandhari was thanked by the other members of the E. C.

14. Mr Gurveer Singh mentioned that he had been to Aitchison College, Lahore in March 1998. At this get-together he met many people who had studied at Welham. In this regard m/s Rifaat Hayat Khan Dahi, S. Kandhari and Gurveer Singh, on receipt of these minutes are requested to forward any addresses that they may have of old boys currently residing in Pakistan.

15. It was notified and clarified, that the admission fee to the WOBS is Rs. 2000.

16. Mr Kandhari, was requested to suggest the name of an old boy, who could be the regional rep at Kathmandu.

17. A lengthy discussion took place on the budget of the WOBS as prepared by the Dehra Dun Secretariat.

a) Mr S. Kandhari clarified that the school is not charging the WOBS for the copies of the Oliphant and Sankalp which are distributed in the School or by the School. In other words, only those copies which are given to the WOBS and its members, are charged for.

b) The budget is to be prepared once again. Also the quantity and value of stocks of gift items, books etc is to be mentioned.

c) The loan of Rs. 4.4 lacs was clarified, as being against the stocks mentioned above, and for copies of "History of Welham" and other souvenirs.

d) Funds generated from sale of souvenirs are to be shown in the budget.

e) Thereafter it was agreed that the school may debit to WOBS, the cost of the film subject to a maximum payment of Rs. 3.28 lacs which is the declared original budget by the producer.

WELHAM NOW

i) The preliminary exams for classes x and xii were held from 14th August till 18th August.

ii) Mr. and Mrs. Kapoor, Mrs. Menon, Mrs. Mala Singh and Mrs. Mukherjee have left school after serving a long and memorable term, at Welham.

ii) Mr. Jagjit Singh has taken over as house-master of Krishna house from Mr. Khaira and Mr. Shridhar as house-master Ganga house from Mr. Das, who is now looking after the school's Round Square activities.

iii) The Whitehouse has been renovated and the middle school has now been divided into two hostels namely Tapti and Sutlej, the latter being formed by merging N.U and Toad-Hall. The renovated building is a splendid addition to the school.

iv) The construction of the new tennis court has been completed.

v) The results of the S. Kandhari English essay writing contest were declared at the special assembly last term. Following were the results-

1st- Karan Gulaya

2nd- Debashish Banerjee & Arjun Trivedi

3rd- Rohit Bagaria and Abhinav Pathak

vi) The following boys have been selected to represent the school at the Round Square Conference at The Athenian School, California-

Prashant Khemka, Arpan Gupta, Karan Gulaya and Kumar Abhijeet. They will be escorted by Mr. Das and Mr. Kandhari.

vii) Mr. Hannah has been appointed as a Warden of Tapti.

viii) The foot-ball season got off to a rather wet start with the rain playing havoc. Due to the heavy rains, games like volleyball and tennis are off for the time being.

ix) A group of boys attended the Round Square Social camp at the Nubra valley, Ladakh.

x) Karan Gulaya has replaced Ijlal Shamsi (who left the board due to personal reasons) as the second Desktop Editor.

LITERARY AFFAIRS

Lonliness of the Aged

When I was five years old, my parents, both doctors, got jobs in Saudi Arabia. A land of endless deserts, pregated with boundless supplies of oil, Saudi Arabia does not, however, have a good educational system. It was inevitable, therefore, that the question of my education came up. After much debate, it was decided that I would be sent to Bangalore, to live with my grandparents and study in a good school. And that was what happened.

My earliest memories of coming to Bangalore for the first time are blurred. I remember being told by my mother that I would be staying with 'dadi' and 'dada'. I remember arriving in a new world amidst great excitement and enthusiasm. I remember being taken by my grandfather for my first day at school. I remember my parents leaving me, and going back to Arabia. I must have cried - I can't recollect.

I stayed in Bangalore for the next eight years, growing up with my grandparents. Dada was always the strict one, wanting to rear me with discipline and values. He remained the one to avoid. Dadi, however, was always full of kindness and compassion, always ready to run around for her only grandson. The amount of trouble I must have been for her over the years, I can hardly imagine. But she was always there for me, no matter what the circumstances, wherever the place.

Those eight years with my grandparents are what really made me what I am. It was the prayers that Dada taught me that I recite every night to this day. It was the constant encouragement from Dadi, that taught me to work hard in school. It was the strict rules by which Dada led his life, that taught me the importance of setting standards in my life. It was the books that Dada bought for me, that taught me that reading can be fun. And it was the love that they always showered upon me that taught me the meaning of family. My parents came into my life for three months a year, once during my holidays when I would go to Saudi Arabia and live like a king, and once when they would come to India for their holidays, always with lots of presents for me. But they were not the major influence in my life, that role was reserved for Dadi and Dada.

My parents returned to India for good in 1992. They came back to Bangalore along with my little

Perhaps it was a portent of sorts, for a few months later, Dadi passed away. I remember crying a lot when my father gave me the news. I remember seeing him take it like a man. I remember seeing my mother go into a shell of silence for many days, but the person who was hit the hardest, was Dada. It seemed that all of a sudden that the flame of life within him had been extinguished. He became more withdrawn, more subdued, as though he had lost his boundless enthusiasm for making the best of every moment, the energy, the vitality that I had always admired in him. But then, I don't blame him. He had lost his wife. I guess he felt lonely.

Life has changed the way things are, though. Soon after, I joined boarding school, and for the second time, I entered a whole new world. Now I meet my grandfather for four months a year, spending the rest of the time in furthering my education. But what I have noticed is that his love for me hasn't changed. He leads a lonely life. He has few friends, and few distractions to absorb himself. His whole world is more or less confined to his room, where he spends most of his time listening to the radio-his most valuable possession, the garden, which he still insists on watering every day, despite being eighty three years old, and the sitting room, where he watches the evening news. He seems to be fighting a lonely battle against a feeling of hopelessness of being alone. I can see it in the way he walks, the way he lives his existence. I can see that the loneliness in his heart is growing day by day.

But despite all this, he still has time for me. No matter how flippant the excuse, if I ask him for something, he always gives it to me. No matter how ungodly the hour, if I need some advice, he is ready to provide it. It almost seems as though I am his last hope. Because I see a spark of joy in his eyes when I talk to him about my childhood achievements, I see a smile on his lips when I tell him about my mistakes. I see that being with me gives him joy. Loneliness is a common phenomenon amongst the aged. It is a consequence of losing someone whom you

are too old to do without - be it your wife, or your son, or your dog. The difference between being young and being old lies in the fact that when you are young, you can find someone else, but when you are old, its just too late. You end up with a lonely heart.

The best that I can do for my grandfather is to give him a place in my heart, and show him that despite his being old and inactive, he is still an important person in my life. And for all the things that he and my grandmother did for me, that is just the least that I can do. The legacy, the hopes, the

aspirations, the dreams of our elders fall on our shoulders. Some are ready to shoulder them, some are not. But mainly small sacrifices here and there for a person as noble in heart as my grandfather is a small price to pay. After all, I guess thats what love is all about - not letting my grandfather feel lonely.

This was an entry in the K.C. Joshi memorial Essay Writing Contest, by Faiz Tajuddin of The Doon School, which won the second prize.

Speak Easy

An Interview with Mr. J. K. Sharma

Sir, it is a privilege to be interviewing you for the Oliphant since you are one of the few people who have actually served the school for so many years. You were one of those who have actually seen the school grow from its prep school days to the stature it has risen to today. Your familiar figure striding the halls as you went around ensuring order and efficiency in school was a reassuring sight for all of us. Therefore it is a pleasure to have this tete-a-tete with you.

Sir, in which year did you join the school and in what capacity?

I joined the school on August 22, 1962 as a teacher of Mathematics. I had been working as a cricket coach since 1959-60 and hence had known the school well.

Who were the people you worked under?

I have worked under all the principals. Miss Oliphant was very much there when I was taking Cricket. Mr Marshall took over from her but did not continue very long. Mr Hughes and Mr Joshi were both in command for three or four years each. Mr N.K.S. Rao was the next head of the institution. It was he who decided to upgrade the school and he introduced I.C.S.E. in the school. His reign lasted about ten years and then Mr Kandhari took over in 1983. The rest of course is history and school in its present form is going from 'strength to strength'.

Out of these people whom do you admire the most and why?

It is very difficult to pinpoint any particular person out of them. They were all devoted to the

school and did an excellent job in their own way.

What was the school like then and what changes do you see between how it was and what it is today?

The greatest change over the years has been the change over from a preparatory school to a full fledged high school. We were the first and perhaps the best prep. school in the country while it took us some time to gain our present stature as a senior school. Many people were not in favour of the change. Mr Martyn, ex-headmaster of the Doon School and erstwhile President of the Welham governing body said in my presence, "Miss Oliphant must be turning in her grave".

What difference do you observe in the new generation of students and teachers as well as the student teacher relationship now as compared to those early days?

There have been a lot of changes in this regard. The prep school boys needed proper looking after. Our staff was fully geared to tackle any problem. Things changed quite a lot with the advent of the senior boys. All the problems of adolescence confronted us. It took many staff members some time to tackle them. This is where I found a lot of lacunae in the attitude of the staff. It takes a concerted effort on the part of the teachers to understand the students and this enables them to be more frank and open with the teachers. They develop confidence in each other and can communicate freely.

We've heard that cricket is your favorite game? What difference have you perceived in the cricket scene from the days that you were coach and what it is today? Any suggestions to improve the winning stroke of the school team?

Cricket has been my favorite game but I have been pained to see the deterioration in the standard in our school. We were a prep school but did produce cricketers who distinguished themselves in The Doon School as well as in other public schools. It needs dedication and a disciplined approach. I believe very strongly that regular and vigorous practise is essential for one to do well. A coach, who has played a fair amount of cricket himself is essential for the strength of any school team. I am afraid that this has not been happening in our school and therefore our team has been mediocre.

Don't you think it is rare for the birthday of the princi and the bursar to be on the same date. Would you please comment?

The coinciding of Mr Kandhari and my

birthday is one of those rare events which no one can explain. Destiny too wanted us to work together it seems.

Sir, where are you working at present?

I have turned a full circle in coming back to join an ex-colleague from Welham (Mrs. C. Gulati, former head-mistress of junior school) to work in a leading prep school-Hillgrange.

It gives me immense pleasure to have Jagjit Singh -one of my ex-students take over my house at Welham. I wish all the best to all the Welhamites-past or present. I worked at Welham for **36 years** and enjoyed every bit of it. If the cycle turns back I would like to follow the same course again and again.

On behalf of the Welham community. The Oliphant Board would like to thank you for giving us your time. Thank you very much. -Ed

Nature's Diary

A number of birds visit our school campus, but the cuckoos, the parakeets and the crows are some of the common birds in our campus and are known to everyone.

When we see a black bird flying past us we take it to be a crow, but actually it is too small to be called a crow. That bird is actually a cuckoo. It is black and so good to look at. It is so called from its two-fold note 'coo-coo'.

The cuckoo comes in the spring and stays till winter sets in. Then it flies to some warmer climate. The female cuckoo does not hatch its own eggs. The most remarkable thing about this bird is its voice. Its two fold note has made it a favourite amongst poets. It is also the only bird which has a clock named after it.

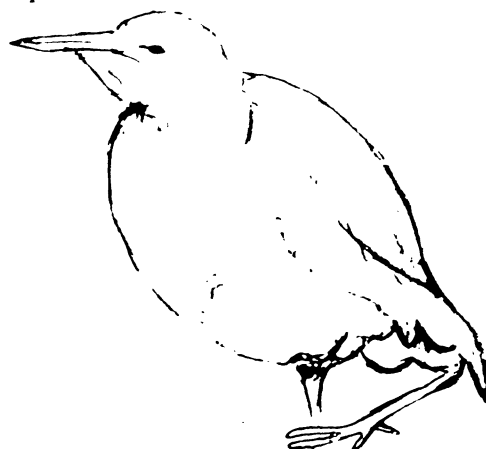
The Parakeet is the other bird which is very common. You can see them in groups of five to ten flying too fast to have a good look at them. Three

types of parakeet our found in our school. The Alexandrian Parakeet, The Blossomheaded Parakeet and The Rose-Ringed Parakeet. The Alexandrian Parakeet is the most beautiful amongst them.

The crow is so common that in spite of our

dislike for it, we see it more often than any other bird. It feeds on leftovers. They are nature's scavengers notorious for their stealing habits.

-Aatir Ansari



Handwritten signature: Aatir Ansari

Dude of the Fortnight

The dude of the fortnight is no other than the Dean, sporting his thick, dark, black and evergreen moustache, which sure does make him look young again. He says he feels young too! No wonder Bryan Adam said 'Its not how you look, its what you feel inside!' Did he have our Dean in mind???

He also made classes x and xii get down to

serious studies from the very first day of the term by organising an exam for them, which of course drew mixed reactions from the students. It was a great help as the students could spot their difficulties and with the help of the teachers, can now work towards resolving them during the course of the term.

WHAT'S IN !!??

Soccer
Suker
Leander Paes
MK,JG,RS,JS
Windows'98
Newly weds

WHAT'S OUT !!??

Hockey
Ronaldo
Pete Sampras
OD,RN,KH,BU
Windows'95
Bachelors

THROUGH THE KEYHOLE !!!

Sidharth Dugar seriously calculating the following problem:

$$0 \times 90876 \times 999.786 / .0025 !$$

Manav Goel (wanting to say '**minutes**' of the meeting): Yaar Arjun, have you typed the **times** of the meeting?!!!

Parivesh: Prashant, we need some guys who are willing to act in the **one act play**.

Prashant: You fool, only **one** guy acts in a one act play!

Sidharth Dugar (wanting to ask who the '**late**' husband of Maneka Gandhi was and at the same

time thinking about Monica Lewinsky): Oye guys, who is the **latest** husband of Monica Gandhi?

Kothiwal spots Sidharth eating pickle and *paratha* and yells at him greedily. "Oye you are eating such a big **pickle achaar**."

During the cash raid in Jamuna:

Prefect to Gagandeep: Do you have any cash?

Gagandeep: I swear I don't have **nothing**!

Mehul: Yaar Anirudh, when is your birthday?

Anirudh: 24th May.

Mehul: Which year?

Anirudh: You fool, **every year**!

RINGSIDE VIEW

Well here I am again after the long summer break to fill you all on the latest happenings at the Welham sports scene. To begin with the school seems to be in the grip of soccer mania. I guess 'France'98' is to blame for the mind boggling soccer fever that has gripped Welham. There also happens to be a particularly funny group of soccer freaks doing the rounds in PH these days. Incidentally I happen to know one of these chaps personally and he inspite of his long hair and goatee calls himself 'Carlos' and also expects everybody else to do the same. Pretty crazy if you ask me, but then I guess that's what soccer is all about- twenty two crazy babboons after one ball.

To more serious matters, the soccer team has begun practices for their tournament at Lawrence School, Sanawar. Although the team won't be able to get much practice, but I guess, their spirit will make up for it. With just two days of practice our team played a match against 'Doon boys'. In spite of some brilliant display of skill by our team we lost the match 5-3. We lacked co-ordination, but I confirm it was a highly commendable performance. Another match was played versus Cambrian Hall school on our ground.

Cambrian Hall was a co-ordinated team with all their moves well rehearsed, but inspite of this our team fought till the very end. The final score was 4-3 in favour of our opponents. The highlight of this match was the spectacular goal scored by our very own 'Nepali Ronaldo' Saswat Prasad from the head of the 'D'. The team has now got down to some serious practice under the able guidance of the captain Abhijit Sengupta. They need to be at their best if they are to perform well at the tournament at Sanawar. The team will leave for Sanawar on the 29th August. I wish the captain and his squad best of luck. The performance at this tournament is of critical importance and might just be the first step ahead in rejuvenating the dying sports scene at Welham.

The basketball team has also begun practicing for the IPSC basketball tournament to be held at Mayo College, Ajmer sometimes in September. Basketball - the pride of Welham is facing an all time low after the disastrous performance last term. The harsh truth is that nothing much is expected out of them, but like they say "Expect the unexpected", something might just happen.

Signing off,

Ahmad.

Mind Sport

i) Their pseudonyms were MARK TWAIN and O'HENRY. What were their real names?

ii) What is common between rock stars JIMI HENDRIX, JANIS JOPLIN, JIM MORRISON and CURT COBAIN?

iii) Which author first used the phrase 'THE GREAT GAME' to describe secret service in central Asia in the 19th century and in which novel?

iv) What is the actual name of The Beatles' drummer RINGO STARR?

v) Who wrote LORD JIM?

vi) Who is the only Indian filmmaker to have

won the OSCAR?

vii) Which Indian recently won the NISHAN-E-IMTIAZ, the Pakistani equivalent of Bharat Ratna?

viii) Which year was 'IT'S MAD MAD MAD MAD WORLD' released?

ix) Who was Al Capone?

x) Name the Russian novelist who wrote the controversial book LOLITA.

The first three correct entries will be rewarded by the Oliphant Board. Entries are to be handed over to Arjun Trivedi latest by Sunday roll-call.

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