

The Elephant

No. 217

WELHAM BOYS' SCHOOL

29th September, 1998

Think About It

To create a little flower is the labour of ages - Blake

EDITORIAL

Ode to Nourishment (or lack of it)

From the morning sun to lights out
He's slogging day in, and day out
Workhorse - that's what he's made to be
All he needs is some energy!

A day in the life of a
Welhamite.

**VINI. VIDI.
DORMI.**

I came. I saw. I slept.
Welcome to the land
of starvation.

Of torturous meals
And rainy ordeals
Fact - All I get to eat
Is potatoes and their
cratered peels.

Of great physical
expectations,
And no nutritional
remunerations

Give us our goddamn rations
Do you forget - **WE LIVE TO EAT**

Of armoured slices
And gastric turbulences
Can you blame us for our petty vices?
You know what I mean.

Modern-day Welham.
Of crumbling democracy,
And official bureaucracy.

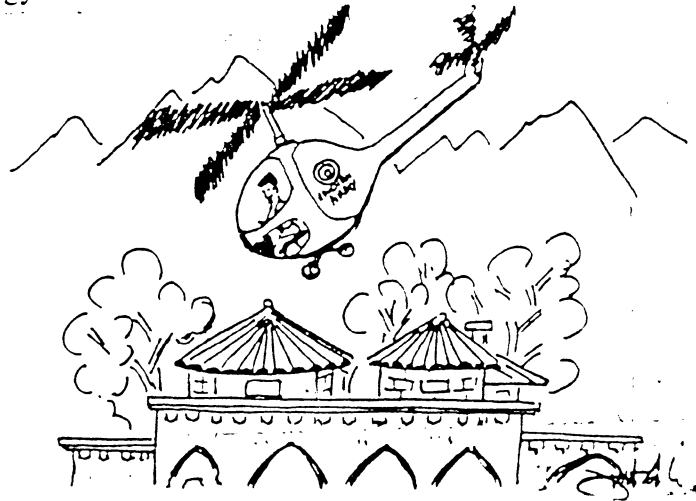
The only strength being our distinguished faculty.
(Thank God for their support, encouragement,
guidance, protection, timely intervention in matters
beyond mention...I guess I'm running out of
adjectives.)

WE, the inhabitants of Welham

Hereby, solemnly **HOPE**

With these grievances we won't have to cope.

I guess the verses say it all, or do they?
There's so much happening, it's impossible to keep
track of events. One exception to the rule of
course, is the rain.



The Phantom Pilot who haunts Welham Airspace

It just doesn't
leave you. It's been
raining continuously
for the past five days
and **THE
BAROMETER**
gives no clue of its
stopping. All we can
do is hope for
"Bright skies that
make our lives
delightful." The rain
gods for once are
not going to get
undeserved and undue publicity and importance.)

Let me tell you about something that hasn't
got publicity of any kind. The magazines in the
L.R.C. they come and they go, and believe me, no
one comes to know. The new breed of
BOOKSTORE COWBOYS seem to be at it all
the time. Their favourites being Popular mechanics,
Sportstar and Time (Lewinsky is happening these
days!) its been ages since I've seen these things.
One distinguished sports freak of Prayag House
had to miss a class in order to read the latest
sportstar. Give these guys a break for heaven's
sake. Sneaking out magazines, tearing pages,
misplacement of books or plain theft is not expected
from Welhamites.

- Sidharth.

Welham Now

1) The delegation to the Round Square Conference, to be held at The Athenian School, San Francisco, will depart on 28th September.

The delegates are:

Mr S. Kandhari
Mr O. Das
Kumar Abhijeet
Prashant Khemka
Arpan Gupta
Karan Gulaya

The theme of the conference is "Community and Diversity." A very thought provoking subject and the delegates have been hard at work to present their views at the conference.

2) The Sub-Junior Squash Tournament for classes V and VI was held between September 1st to 4th, 1998. The results were as follows:

Karan Mehrotra (Sutluj)- 1st
Samridha Rana - 2nd

3) The results of the English Handwriting Contest, held for Middle School in August 1998, were as follows:

<u>VIA</u>	<u>VIB</u>
1st Galden Wangchuk	1st Varun Saraf
1st Gagandeep	2nd Dhairya Goel
2nd Gaurav Rohatgi	3rd Ruchir Garg
3rd Daksh Tyagi	3rd Maroof Ahmed

<u>VA</u>	<u>VB</u>
1st Vaibhav Tripathi	1st Sameer Suri
2nd Raunak Tibrewal	2nd Nikhil Agarwal
3rd Vishal Ganguly	3rd Soumya Jyoti
3rd Abhishek Bharti	3rd Vibhor Gupta

4) The Middle School boys did very well at the Welham Girls' Inter School English Elocution Contest, held in August. Soumya Ganguly got the 2nd prize for the individual recitation, and Class V also got the 2nd prize, for the group recitation.

5) The Sub-Junior Inter House Soccer Tournament, was held from the 1st to the 5th of September. The following were the winners:

Group 'A' - Tapti

Best Player: Vishal Chaudhary

Group 'B' - Sutlej

Best Player: Maroof Ahmed

6) Fifteen boys from Class X participated in the Geo-Map Quiz conducted by the Indian National Cartographic Association on 10th September, at St. Joseph's Academy.

7) The new L.R.C. Council for the year 1998-1999 has been appointed. The following are the members of the council:

President: Mr S.Kandhari

Convenor: Debashish Bannerjee

Members: Karan Gulaya
Arjun Trivedi
Abhishek Mitra
Rohan Sachdeva
Anshuman Singh
Pawan Rana
Prayas Rana
Inder Anney
Mrs A. Mehra
Mr V. Ghosh
Mr. S. Bhushan

The Council met on 17th September, in the L.R.C. The following is an abridged version of the minutes:

a) It was suggested that a librarian be posted in the reference section of the L.R.C. since this section is prone to the tearing of pictures and defacing of books. The chairman said that it was not worthwhile to hire another person for this purpose. The boys must themselves realise, that tearing books is not ethical.

b) A list of "New Arrivals" in the L.R.C. will be published in the Oliphant to generate interest in reading. More book reviews will also be put up on the notice board of the L.R.C. and in the Oliphant for the same purpose.

c) The chairman also agreed to the suggestion that a proper trophy case, with a glass front be put in the L.R.C. to display the school trophies.

d) Books will now be issued strictly for two weeks to ensure better circulation. New books, will be issued only for a week, and a fine of Re 1 per day

will be imposed after the due date. This fine is to be cut from the pocket money of the boy concerned.

e) The chairman said that he was trying to increase the number of functioning hours of the L.R.C. even further. As of now, the L.R.C. remains open till 7:00 pm from Wednesday to Friday.

f) The chairman also informed the council that a budget of Rs. Two lakhs had been sanctioned for the current year for the L.R.C.

g) Another topic discussed, was more use of computers in the L.R.C. The council invites suggestions on this issue from all the readers of the Oliphant. Suggestions could be handed over to any member of the council. Other readers can send in their suggestions to oliphant@giasdl01.vsnl.net.in

h) It was decided that the L.R.C. Council will meet on the second Thursday of every month.

8) The School Committee met on 10th September, 1998 in the reference section of the L.R.C. The following were the points discussed:

i) Anuj Golaknath, suggested that a generator should be installed in Krishna House, to which the Chairman had no objections, and said it would be proposed in the school budget, next year.

ii) Deependra Singh, pointed out that there were no streetlights on the path to Krishna from the academic block, and suggested that lamps be installed along the path. The chairman agreed to have this done as soon as possible, after the monsoons conclude.

iii) Anshuman Singh, was of the view that a tubewell should be installed for the school, as the water supply is irregular most of the time. The chairman

objected to this, and said that buying tankers of water was a cheaper alternative, which is done regularly.

iv) Paritosh Kumar, complained about the leaks in the roof of the activity centre, and asked for them to be fixed. The chairman, said that this would definitely be done, but could only be possible after the rains.

v) Kunal Virmani, suggested that boys be allowed to use the photostat machine after lunch, to which the chairman replied, that the matter would be looked into, and a new timetable for the use of the machine could be devised which would also allow boys to use it on Sundays.

vi) Azar Zaidi, felt that all computers in the I.T. Lab should have access to the internet, to which the chairman said, that this was already being done, and new software had already been purchased, which would make this possible. As of now, all but one of the computers in the lab have internet access. The chairman ruled out the possibility of getting a leased line from VSNL, due to the high costs involved.

vii) Class XI, Ganga complained of the class XI bathrooms not being renovated during the holidays. The chairman said that this would definitely be done.

viii) Class XII, suggested that there be a wired enclosure around the tennis court, to which the chairman said, that this had been his original plan, but the cementing of the courts had cost too much. However, this will be done eventually.

W.O.B.N.

From the WOBS Secretary's Desk

Text of a letter dated 24th September, 1998 addressed to the Old Boys

The Old Boys' Society has been quite active. Its activities have been reported from time to time in our school magazine, Oliphant, as have been other Old Boys' news.

I, therefore, request all the members of the WOBS to send in their opinions, requests, news and views to the Oliphant on a regular basis. This will further cement the relationship with their school. In addition,

the members will be able to keep in touch with the school's activities through the school's website which is under construction (<http://www.welham-boys.org>).

I take this opportunity to request all the members to send in all matters which need to be included in the agenda for the coming Annual General Meeting of the Society to be held during the Founder's Day celebrations, on Sunday the 1st of November 1998. The AGM will begin at 11:00 A.M. at the LRC.

The tentative programme for the Founder's Day
(3)

celebrations is given below to help you to plan your schedule in advance :

Friday (30th October)-

Sports Day (Athletics Finals at 2:30 P.M.)
Senior School Musical Presentation (6:30 P.M.)

Saturday (31st October)-

Exhibition (11:00 A.M.)
Community Lunch (on payment basis)
Speeches (6:00 P.M.)
Plays by Junior and Middle Schools (6:45 P.M.)

Old Boys' Dinner (Venue: LRC Terrace, 9:00 P.M.)

Sunday (1st November)-

Old Boys vs School Teams (various games from 8:00 A.M.)
W.O.B.S Annual General Meeting (L.R.C., 11:00 A.M.)
Group Photograph (White House Steps)
Fete (11:00 A.M.)

Monday (2nd November)-

Old Boys' Picnic (Venue: yet to be decided, suggestions are welcome)

Literary Affairs

Monsoon Shower

Grimy and dry,
Dust flies up,
Into my mouth.
Making my eyes cry
Out.

The mist of memories,
Beating and rushing,
Blows back to me,
On the wind,
Breathing and gushing.

The rain begins,
It's incessant hammering.
Leaving me clamouring,
For shelter.

I blink,
Shake the water out of my hair.
Watch it trickle down my skin,
Bare.

Muddy ground,
Dry rain.
Listen to the sound,
Of the rain striking.

The bleak house stands gaunt,
Naked and unfeeling.
I look to the door,

Paint peeling,
And flaking to the floor.

Beckoning me,
Towards it's dreamy veneer,
Arms outstretched.
A sinister sneer,
On its face.

I watch, Fascinated, Entranced.
Like steps,
In a celestial dance.
I give in,
To the temptation.

Creaking door opening,
As if,
From a trance awakening.
I intrude,
On the illusory lull.

The rain renews,
It's incessant hammering,
Leaving me clamouring,
For relief.

The shadows swamp me.
An embracing illusion,
Overwhelming.
A fiery delusion,

Trembling.

Heart beating,
Out the rhythm of life.
Thoughts fleeting,
In conflicting emotions,
And strife.

I step back in the gloom.
Heart urging me,
To step out the melancholy room.

In the darkness vacillating,
A sudden mad scramble,
To flee the fear,
The despair pulsating
In my ears.

Creaking door opening,
As if,

From a trance awakening,
Light illuminates,
The darkened gloom.

The rain continues,
It's incessant hammering,
Leaving me clamouring,
For respite.

I step out into the rain,
And look back at the house,
My venture,
All in vain.

I blink, the rain I
Let it flow into my hair.
Watch it trickle down my skin,
Bare.

- Karan Gulaya
Class XI

Rainbows - Are they created by God's hand ?

I watch in fascination as the sweeping arc lit up by soft, shimmering colours curves high above the earth and disappears into some mysterious hideout. The muted colours of the rainbow that light up the sky after the rain are filled with a divine kind of beauty. Even though a rainbow is so short-lived, it offers you a pleasure that remains with you for hours after it has faded.

As a child, my mother would pick me up in her arms to point out the rainbow to me when the pale sunshine emerged after the rains. I was quite happy to be watching this phenomenon alone - not questioning how and why rainbows came about. My mother patiently listened to my fanciful theories of how these fragile beauties came about. Later the science classes shattered my illusions as they explained the exact reasons behind the creation of rainbows. Personally, I didn't care much about the fact that the little raindrops suspended mid-way acted as prisms and split the light from the sunrays to make rainbows. I still prefer the little fable of rainbows being the almighty's colourful bow. It is a

dream fashioned out of the seven components of light by God himself for his little angels to play on and slide down. I believed in the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow but at the young age of six, the world is too huge to search for the end of a rainbow.

Rainbows represent hope to me and they renew my faith that life is truly beautiful. Throughout my growing years the rain has entranced me and filled me with renewed vigour and happiness. Rain symbolises rebirth and the emergence of a new life to me. Even as the driving torrents of rain lash my window pane washing away the dust of a hot summer, my heart is filled with vibrant energy. Nothing can beat the contentment of reading a good book curled up by a window and being splashed by an occasional raindrop and then the sheer joy of finding a rainbow streaking high above. Simple pleasures, that make one's life beautiful and one's mind soar with the heights of the arching rainbow.

- Debashish Bannerjee
Class XII

Revenge

Boris paced down the hall, his face filled with anger and frustration. His face was red, except for the self-inflicted milk white scar which ran down

from his eye to his lower lip. He had earned a lot of money since the time he had inflicted the scar on himself during World War II to escape from the

English. He had been a German by birth and was fascinated by Hitler. When he was eighteen he became a Nazi killing fourteen people in just the first twenty days. He remembered his leaders always telling him that revenge is sweet and that he should avenge all the wrong done to him alone. They had even told him that even if the enemy killed his dog, he should retaliate with a vengeance that they would remember all their life.

That is what he wanted to do now. The hunger in him had not been satisfied for the past 64 years. He was past 75 now but was still full of anger. He planned and executed a murder every fortnight so that his talent would not rust due to disuse.

He was looking for Vladimir for a long time now, in fact Vladimir had eluded him before he came to America. Boris leaned back into his chair and smiled ruefully, he was well known in America, and was considered as one of the most generous and kind hearted citizen of America despite his scar. His scar had helped him escape to America—the land of dreams—even after Vladimir had betrayed him, telling the English about his whereabouts. He had nearly been caught.

"Foolish, trusting Vladimir", thought Boris, "How could I even think that he was a loyal friend." Well, he was smarter than Vladimir. He had escaped by shaving off his distinctive blonde hair and inflicting a scar from his eye to his lip, to give the scruffy look of a student, and when he got to America, he changed his name to Van Damme, the philanthropic oil tycoon. "Very nicely executed, even if I say so myself", he thought.

"When I get my hands on Vladimir", he pondered when the telephone rang. He picked up the phone and after a few minutes put the phone

down.

"So, Vladimir has been traced, well this will be the last day of his and my life", he thought to himself, a rueful grin on his face.

Vladimir was not very far away. In fact he was on the other side of the town, watching an elaborate plan. He'd got a lucky tip off about Boris in Germany, after the war. For years he had worked on his computer, breaking into official computer records. He had a good idea that Boris would inevitably escape to America. The hunch paid off and a further reconstruction of Boris' face after all those days on the computer helped. Soon he was on the right track, and it worked. When Boris escaped, Vladimir had to forego his handsome reward. He was the one to face the torture, now he would take revenge.

That night, Boris was to chair a discussion at the University of Iowa, somewhere lurking in the back of the hall was Vladimir dressed as an old janitor with a mop. Boris had seen Vladimir but was ignoring him and smiling. He looked at his watch, it showed five to ten. After five minutes, the whole building would blow up without any survivors. At that same moment, Vladimir was moving towards the curtains, and took Boris completely by surprise, holding his gun, to Boris's temple.

"So, we meet again after so many long years", hissed Boris. Vladimir smiled, thinking that Boris had understood that his last moment was near, and wanted to talk. However, Boris was only buying time, and Vladimir pumped two bullets into Boris and began walking towards the exit, when the whole building blew and shook, leaving Boris and Vladimir together again.

-Rohan Sachdeva
Class IX

Book Review - "The Catcher in the Rye", J.D. Salinger

J.D. Salinger's short novel, *The Catcher in the Rye*, is an impressive book. It is a novel of about 200 pages, but can be read in two sittings. So interesting is the plot, the characters and readable the style.

The novel describes the life of Holden Caulfield who is in his late teens. Holden is sixteen, with a crew cut, who is thin and clever but does not take any interest in studies. That's why he fails school. He has already chaged schools thrice!

The best part of this novel comes when Phoebe, Holden's sister gets angry with him and the way she gets Holden to dance at her commands. The love between them is expressed there, their bond is extremely warm. Holden is a boy who cannot stand phonies and hates his brother writing stories for Hollywood, as he thinks that Hollywood is full of people pretending to be what they're not. He gets depressed quite fast. An excellent quotation from the book goes, "The mark of the immature

man is that he wants to die for a noble cause, while the mark of the mature man is that he wants to live humbly for one."

Holden keeps on thinking of running away from home and going to the West, while he thinks and plans we get to know that his dreams will never turn into reality.

This book is a marvellous one, and once you start reading it, you never wish to keep it down. The way J.D. Salinger has described Holden's character is quite near that of every student, and when one reads this book, he says, "By Jove, that's me!"

-Rohan Sachdeva
Class IX

What's In

T.T. in P.H.
Athletics
Sidharth Jatia
Rain water
P.H. Servers
Twelfthies with short hair
Preity Zinta
The "Barometer"
Jatia jokes

What's Out

T.V. in P.H.
Soccer
Nikki Bedi
Pool water
P.H. Bearers
Twelfthies with long hair
Neha (of Kareeb Fame)
The Welham Weather Station
'Sardar' jokes

Dude of the Fortnight

Selections are certainly "happening" these days. And any department without their "chosen one" (or ONES as the case may be), is most certainly not "with it". By chosen ones, we mean the students of course. Those poor weary, tired souls, who go around with an expression (read vacant stare) that says "BITE ME!"

If chosen ones are any measure of a department's being with the times, the English Department seems to have taken the cake (and to misquote a proverb, eaten it all too).

Therefore, as a tribute to those martyrs, who have given their all to the school, the Oliphant Board has unanimously decided to give the distinguished title of "dude of the fortnight" to the automatons, Mehul Mayank

and Ahmed Ali.

The poor gentlemen have gone for every debate possible. From the Saroj Sristava, at Welham Girls' to The Scindia School Debate, to our very own Arthur Hughes, and the Doon School's Chuckerbutty. A lot of "I beg to differ"'s and "I firmly support the motion"'s eh ?!

They do of course make a great pair. One makes up for what the other lacks (and we don't just mean the size!) Not to mention, that Mehul is also the "chosen one" to participate in hindi debates. That would probably make him the Hindi Department's chosen one too!

Here's looking forward to some new faces on the debating scene.

Through the Keyhole

*Mehul asking Siddharth Dugar intentionally: Oye Dugar, who wrote Mark Twain ?
Dugar (confidently): David Copperfield!*

Amrut Kar commenting on three matrons walking together: Oye! look at the three trios!

Abhijeet Sengupta telling Bhanot about

Lalit's achievements in sports: you know he took a wicket in the hockey inter-house!

*Venue: Ellora's
Abhijeet surprised at the size of the box containing his pastries: Sir, how can two chicken pastries fit into this ?!*

RINGSIDE VIEW

The soccer season has eventually come to an end with the conclusion of the senior inter-house matches. As expected the senior matches proved to be awesome.

The junior inter-house matches concluded with Cauvery playing Ganga in the finals. The match ended in a goal-less draw, so the referee had to resort to a penalty shoot-out. Eventually the Cauveryites emerged triumphant and the final score read 3-0 in favour of Cauvery.

The senior section matches proved once again the unpredictability of Inter-House matches at Welham with Krishna the underdogs emerging as the undisputed champions. The first match was played between Cauvery and Krishna. Krishna played with amazing 'pep' and beat Cauvery 4-3, in spite of Cauvery having a much better team. However, the Krishnaites seemed unstoppable on that particular day and simply outplayed their opponents.

The next match was played between Ganga and Jamuna. Jamuna house scored first when **Adhir Bhatt** put in a spectacular left footer. The Gangaites recovered quickly and equalised the score, before half-time. The next half was very well fought with both teams putting in all they had. Ganga house finally won after the Jamuna house goalkeeper let in a real lousy goal.

The Krishnaites drew their next match with Jamuna and won against and moved into the finals. Ganga with six points was all ready in the finals by then. Cauvery and Jamuna supposedly the best teams played a match for the third and fourth positions, which was clinched by Jamuna, and the score read 7-2.

The finals between Ganga and Krishna was probably one of the best matches the school has seen in a long long time. Both teams put their best into the game. The quality of soccer played was just marvellous.

The match concluded in a tie with both teams scoring one goal each. Krishna eventually won in the penalty shoot-out. The final score was 3-2 in Krishna's favour. Incidentally, I've noticed the zest and enthusiasm displayed by the boys in the Inter-House matches seems to be absent in the school matches.

In the junior section, **Pradipta Rana** was adjudged the best player and **Abhijeet Sengupta**, Captain of the team clinched that position amongst the seniors.

Our squash team played a match with R.I.M.C. on 17th September. There were three categories : Under 14, 16 and 19. **Subhashish Thapaliya** and **Karan Manchanda** outplayed their opponents in the under 14 section. They both won in straight sets. In the under 16 section, **Charanjeet Mann**, **Shivang Sud** and **Avneet Brar** all won their matches. **Abhinav Kothiwal** who played the R.I.M.C. Number 1 in the under 19 section lost. The final score read 5-2 in favour of Welham Boys' School. On behalf of the school, I must thank R.I.M.C. Commandant, **Col. Arun Mangain** for his co-operation. Four members of the squash team will be going to Delhi for the National Tournaments to be held on 30th September. The school will be represented by **Abhinav Kothiwal** and **Avneet Brar** (under 19), **Charanjeet Mann** (under 16) and **Karan Manchanda** (under 14).

The school basketball team will also be going to Mayo College, Ajmer for the I.P.S.C. Basketball Tournament, on the morning of 28th September.

The students and staff of the school will be looking forward to both the above teams to do well in their respective fields. Indeed it's high time that the basketball team brought in a winner.

-Ahmed.

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