

The Elephant

No. 223

WELHAMBOYS'SCHOOL

22nd February, 1999

Think About It

With, is educated insolence. -Aristotle

EDITORIAL

The Welham Community, is proud to present a glimpse of it's new production, "Welham Boys" (as opposed to Bombay Boys). From the makers of slaks, tyes and skool shirts, coming soon to a magazine near you.

The Plot: The year is 1999, a time plagued by the ravages of 'Cash Checks', morning PT and some truly bland concoctions from the drawing board of the caterer (Horrors!).

We're back at where we started, and school goes on (notice, I did NOT say "life" goes on.) Spring is in the air, and zealous teachers with eyes thirsting for homework roam the land. Just for good measure, we even threw in some cricket fanatics (yes yes! the kind who roll their eyes upwards and foam at the mouth at the mere mention of the word 'Tendulkar').

The Heroes: Since this is a family show, we decided to omit some of the more lewd sequences, as a result, the heroes would obviously be the male members of the staff. But honestly, they do deserve credit. Lucky us, we even have a certain Jackie Shroff in our midst (how convenient).

The Villain: Who else but that, O most wicked of souls, the school captain himself. The mere mention of his name, turns the knees of his unsuspecting victims to jelly. You have to admit though, he's not

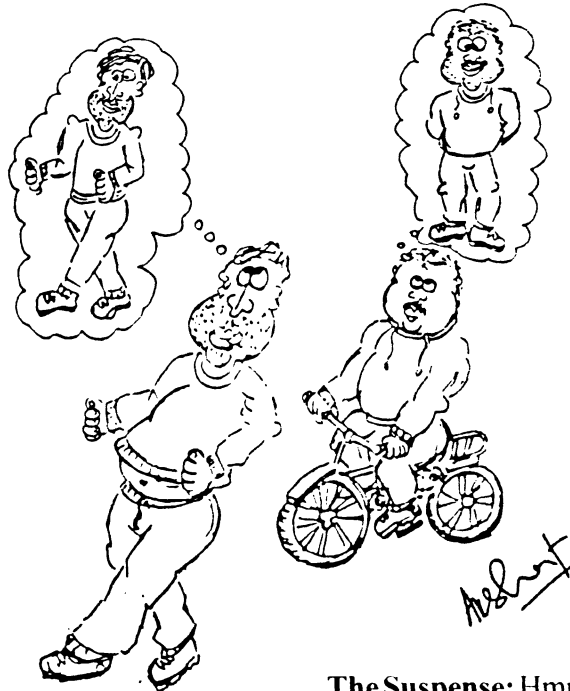
the usual hindi film bad guy. This guy has style.

The Romance: Incidentally this is also the month of Valentine's Day. However, it is one area where our masterly creation is a little lacking. But then of course, we could give you the usual, running around trees song and dance sequence. In an all boys school though, that doesn't seem quite right. Speaking of which, why are all Hindi movie songs stereotyped to running around trees?

The Suspense: Hmm..I'll tell you another time.

The Obstacle: Okay, answer me this, which hindi movie is complete without the heroine's father dying of cancer, or the hero's mother being kidnapped? In true Hindi movie style, we too have introduced the element of hardships to suffer, et al. This time it's the board exam-scare. And although it compares poorly with hindi movie drama, it is quite a terrible ordeal for some.

Coming soon to a magazine near you!



Welham Now

1) Classes 10 and 12 are having their preliminary exams, before the boards. We wish them the very best.

3) School team Cricket practice is in full swing.

4) The Following were appointed captains of various school activities:

| | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Music | Saswat Prasad |
| Hockey | Saswat Prasad |
| Football | Pranay Shrestha |
| Cricket | Suman Saurabh |
| Swimming | Maneesh Shrestha |
| Athletics | Rahul Dawn |
| Weight Training | Hamza Ahmad |
| Chess | Abhishek Rungta |

Taekwondo

Volley Ball

Badminton

Tennis

Squash

Table Tennis

Basketball

Mukti Bikram Shah

Ashish Kumar

Kunal Virmani

Anant Dwivedi

Charanjeet Singh Mann

Sulabh Arora

Sachin Gupta

5) Best wishes to Mr. Mehngaram on the marriage of his daughter.

6) Best wishes to Mr and Mrs Joy Arora on the birth of their son, Kabir.

7) The cricket team played a match against a local school.

Obituary

Our condolences to Mr S K Kandhari, on the sad demise of his mother and to Mrs Hannah on the sad demise of her father.

W.O.B.N.

1) Milan Gupta presently at IIT-Bombay, studying Material Science and Engg in a letter has said that his present institution did not even have half the pep of Welham, and that he missed his old school greatly.

Milan Gupta Ex-542/Jamuna Batch of 96.

2) Devrat Khichi (batch of 1990-G/321) wed Yogeshwari Devi in Jaipur in the beginning of this month. We express our heartiest felicitations for a happy married life.

3) Minutes of the Meeting held on 1st November, 1998 at 11:00 am in the Learning Resources Centre.

The Office Bearers of the Welham Old Boys' Society:

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| President | Mr Darshan Singh |
| Vice President | Mr Tanuj Sethi |
| Secretary/Treasurer | Mr Jagjit Singh |
| Members | Mr Haripal Singh Gill Mr Nirmal Gaur |

(2)

Mr Rakesh Seth

Mr Nikhil Kriplani

Mr Parth Arora

Ex Officio Member

Mr S. Kandhari

New Appointment:

Mr Prashant Kochar

1) The President, Mr Darshan Singh addressed the meeting by saying that it was now time for the WOBS to stand on it's own feet and that could be achieved only if it's membership increased and there was active participation by all it's members, including the old boys who did their prep school in Welham Boys'.

He further stated that this team of executive had been working through the year to achieve the above goal but it needed more consolidated effort from each and every member.

2) The minutes of the previous meeting were read and passed after discussing matters arising out of it.

a) The President told the House that in spite of little response, the secretariat in Dehra Dun was able to compile a telephone/address directory with

updating information of two hundred and fifty members out of a membership of 800 members.

b) The house was also told that despite writing twice to the members who did not pay their registration fee during the diamond jubilee, the President did not get any response, neither did the secretariat in Dehra Dun.

The members present suggested that the defaultees should be barred from the membership of the society after another warning. The executive has yet to take a decision on their suggestion.

3) The President congratulated the Dehra Dun chapter for holding a get-together on 14th February, 1998 which was attended by 23 members. He further hoped such meetings would be held elsewhere in the country to strengthen the bonding among its members.

The house suggested that certain towns be made centre points and towns with smaller gatherings could merge with these centre points in their get-togethers. eg. Dehra Dun could be a centre point for Rishikesh, Hardwar, Saharanpur Mussoorie and Yamunanagar.

4) Nikhil Kriplani, suggested that he would like to fix a time/date and venue for the Delhi get-togethers on a permanent basis, so that on the following day of the month Old Boys would know a get-together was on and could attend it. If any outstation member was visiting the city, during that time he could also join in to meet other alumni. This would finally become a permanent happening and the participation would increase among its members.

Tentative date and time for the first meeting was suggested by few members to be the first wednesday of every month. The above has yet to be finalised.

5) Mr Darshan Singh emphasised the need for a secretariat in Delhi to handle the Old Boys Society work efficiently, which should ideally be run by a retired Old Boy on a part-time basis initially and then when the Society is financially strong, it could manage a full time person to run it. He further stated, "It is a vision which we must fulfil, first from our own offices and then taking up a separate, independent place for it."

6) Tanuj Sethi, The vice president put forth his report - The Vice President with the help of the

President has been writing to various regional representatives and passing on whatever data the Delhi office and the Dehra Dun Secretariat has to offer so that the regional reps. could from time to time update it and also strengthen the society's databank. They held a meeting in Delhi for all the regional representatives and have been in touch with them through correspondence and telephone. The response has been mediocre.

7) Mr S. Kandhari suggested that non-active representatives should be voted out and more active ones be appointed in place of them.

8) Mr Darshan Singh told the house that when we appoint a representative it is done in good faith and we hope that they would work to strengthen the society. Although most have done so, others have slept at their jobs.

New Appointments:

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| Punjab | Mr Gurvir Singh |
| Himachal Pradesh | Mr Anup Singh |
| Haryana (South) | Mr Digvijay Lamba |
| Chandigarh | Mr Harbeer Batra |
| Delhi | Mr N. Kriplani / Parth Arora |
| Delhi Univ (South) | Mr Dhruv Dhindsa |
| Delhi Univ (North) | Mr Vibhu Arya |
| Bombay | Mr Narendra Kandhari |
| Lucknow | -- |
| Kanpur | Mr Mohit Agarwal |
| Moradabad | Mr Rajeev Kothiwala |
| Calcutta | -- |
| Dehra Dun | Mr Raju Verma / Mr P. Kochar |
| U.S.A. | Mr Mansingh / Jai Singh Yadav |
| Pakistan | Mr Rifaat Hayat Khalil's n Dahan |
| Nepal | Mr Yarendra Basnett |

9) Tanuj Sethi, said that there was a proposal to have the Welham logo on a Citibank credit card and that they were working towards its feasibility.

10) Mr Prashant Kochar asked the executive committee, why the WOBS wasn't registered yet. Mr Darshan Singh clarified that a rough draft of the constitution has been drafted and the committee is working towards an ideal workable constitution and once accepted by members, it would be registered.

11) Mr Raju Verma asked the secretary how he could enrol a new member. The secretary told him

that he would have to write to the secretariat in Dehra Dun which would then send the applicant a form and after fulfilling its terms and conditions he would be enrolled as a member of the Old Boys' Society. The terms were:

- i) The boy should have studied in Welham Boys' School.
- ii) He should not have been expelled from the school.
- iii) He would have to pay an entry fee of Rs 2000 currently.

12) Mr Arvind Agarwal suggested that we needed to build up the corpus of the society and to work towards it there should be a voluntary contribution annually.

After it was put to the floor of the house, various suggestions came about and the most suitable to all the members was -

Age group above 35 to contribute Rs 1000 annually.

Age group between 35 to 25 to contribute Rs 700 annually.

Age group of below 25 to contribute Rs 500 annually.

13) Mr Darshan Singh told the house that they needed to induct more active people into the executive committee to strengthen and streamline its working. Mr Prashant Kochar's name was proposed, being an active member of the Society and a chartered accountant, based in Dehra Dun to help look into the Society's finances. The house approved Mr Darshan Singh's appointment, making Mr Kochar a member of the executive committee.

14) Mr Parth Arora, a member of the executive told the house that he had not received payment for the thousand copies of the school film that he had

supplied over a period of a year.

The secretary informed Mr Arora that the quality of the film tape was substandard in majority of the cases. This was the feedback from the Old Boys' and parents who bought the film. The bad tapes have been replaced. Mr Kandhari informed the house that the film did not fulfil the initial contract in the first place. The setting of our campus with the surrounding valley and its hills and mountains was not inducted in the film and it ended without showing a vision of the future of the school. Mr Darshan Singh informed the House that the film was to be given to professional in the first place but when Mr Parth Arora approached the executive committee to get the contract, being an old boy the executive helped him getting the film. That was its only responsibility. He further stated that the executive committee in its previous meetings had decided that the money they would collect would go to the school. The Society never took the responsibility of funding the film.

15) The budget of the Society for the year 1998-1999 is yet to be passed by the executive committee. Mr Prashant Kochar would assist the secretary cum treasurer to put forth an accurate budget before the executive committee in a month's time for its approval.

16) Other suggestions with the permission of the chair:

a) The secretary requested the executive committee to grant him a budget to update the Dehra Dun Secretariat computer. The Executive committee agreed to this after getting an estimate.

17) The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.

Literary Affairs

Life's Irony

The Bomb erupted with a tremendous flash, followed by an ear-splitting explosion. Shrapnel of the explosive were falling in all directions targeting anyone near by. People ran amok, fleeing from the site as quickly as possible.

Meanwhile, I, who was standing at the nearby

townhall had seen the incident happen and was out in a flash helping the injured people. This was a busy market place and due to the explosion an obvious stampede took place. Even the injured were left on their own. My first response was to call the police or some Bomb Squad which I did from

my cellular phone.

Gradually, the market place was beginning to empty and by that time the Bomb disposal Squad was there to take care of the havoc and get the present circumstances in control. Seeing the people in distress was a tearful sight. Someone's skull had been broken apart by some wayward sharpnel or some had multiple burns. So much blood-shed. One question rang in my mind like a gong and kept asking me, "Why is there so much blood-shed, why can't people live and let live?"

The dead with their heads covered were taken away on stretchers while the people who still had life in them were taken to the hospital. The reporters, the press had arrived to give live coverage to the incident.

Then something struck me, my wife, she had gone to buy vegetables. I quickly nursed one

injured and ran off to look for her. I saw all the heads of the dead people. She wasn't there. She wasn't among the injured who were taken to the hospital. I inquired in all the hospitals about her, but she was nowhere to be seen.

In grief I reached home weeping. It was night by then. I sat in the living room recalling the day's happenings. I had lost my wife. To get my mind diverted from the incident I switched on the television to watch the news. In a few minutes, I got the shock of my life. The news reader read out that the police had arrested a suspect believed to have had a hand in today's explosion and had links with all major terrorist outfits, including the ISI. "Can you guess who was the person." My wife, whom I had trusted and with whom I had promised to spend my entire life. She had turned out to be a suicide bomber.

*Rishi Bagaria
Class X*

Tears. Tears. Tears

Never will I forget the dreadful sight, of the mutilated corpse lying in a pool of blood in front of my car.

That cold miserable night I'd gone out to a friend's farm which was around 50 km from the city. And on my way back I had hit this man who had died. I felt so scared, I started crying. I didn't know how this happened. I was not even drunk that night but at the party I had had a fight. And then on the road there was no light. So I had become a killer. Now nobody could save me, not even God. So I sat next to the corpse and started crying loudly. I kept on crying till five hours later when the police came and arrested me. I confessed to the crime and was sentenced to 10 years in Tihar jail.

When I reached the jail I started crying again and kept on crying continually for three days. The jailor thought I had gone crazy and so he sent me to an asylum.

In the asylum also I kept on crying for five consecutive days so when the authorities could not find any other way of shutting me up they gave me electric shocks. After being electrocuted I didn't cry for two days and then again I started crying. This time I went on for a week. The authorities got fed up with me and put me in isolation. There also

I kept on crying. So they again electrocuted me. After this time I don't think I could have taken any shocks so I stopped crying. Finally, after a week the authorities were convinced I was normal so they sent me back to Tihar jail. After two months I was transported to Bihar jail. Bihar jail was full of lunatics, who physically, mentally and sexually harassed all the new prisoners like myself. So I stayed two weeks in Bihar jail and I started crying again. Again they sent me to the asylum. This time also the asylum doctors tried shock treatment on me but it didn't work. I kept on crying. Eventually they also gave up and left me the way I was.

Now it's been six long years and I've still not stopped crying. And I think I never will because I've forgotten how to express any other emotion. Now if I feel happy I cry, if I feel sad I cry, if I'm angry I cry.

And all this happened to me just because one night six years back I drove like an idiot. I have a piece of advice for anybody who drives anything. "Drive so that you don't expire, before your licence does".

*Ahmad Ali Khan
Class XII*

Nature's Diary

The Vanishing Turtle

Project Tiger! This was the name of the multinational conservation project which began in 1973, to save the animal and its habitat then rapidly depleting. The next much hyped project to come up was Project Elephant. While all this project business was going on, did any conservationist even think about a small animal called the Olive Ridley Turtle, whose numbers were decreasing yearly and still are?

This medium sized turtle is not a resident of India, but it comes onto the shores of Orissa and West Bengal every year to nest, and that's where the real danger begins. These marine creatures are caught in the nets of the fishermen, and by luck if they escape that, then these beaches are surely not a good place to rest.

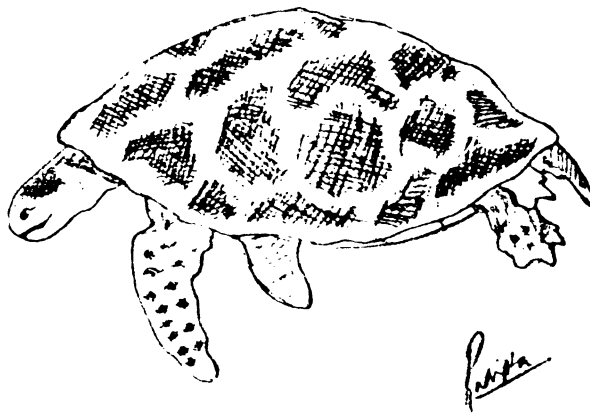
Nesting problems start with the scavengers like dogs, lizards etc who dig up the sand. But the real

enemy of all the unborn turtles is not any creature but man himself. Every year thousands of eggs are turning up on the beaches and humans hungrily grab them as they are considered a delicacy.

Fishing trawlers have also wreaked havoc amongst the turtles. Hundreds are caught in their nets and end up as a delicacy on the dining table. Even though the government has taken steps to

ensure that fishing is done at a distance from the coast, nobody seems to follow regulations and the turtles face the threat of extinction from India's shores.

I guess life is really tough for these turtles who are caught either in the nets or in the neglect the conservationists have shown towards them.



Amish Mulmi
Class X
975/J

The Other Side

Quietly, a new threat to the tiger is becoming apparent. It is the slow but sure vanishing of its prey - the Sambhar, the Barasingha, the Chital, the Wild Boar and the young Gaur - the sustenance of the tiger. If tigers are eating cattle it is not because the cattle are straying into wild-life protected areas, or the tigers hunting outside their territories, but because they have no other choice except to eat what *is* in abundance - CATTLE.

The increasing attacks by leopards on man, cattle and dogs in Uttar Pradesh is for the same reason. With the wild fauna wiped out the hungry leopards pick up what is easily available.

Instead of blaming the tiger and the leopard, we must make sure that we rebuild the prey base of the big cats. So far experts watching over the

future of the tiger have focused on the increasing man-animal conflict as a result of human and cattle pressure on protected areas.

In recent years, poaching of tigers for the manufacture of oriental medicines has somewhat declined because of the international ban on such forms of alternative treatment. However, we must also stop and think about restoring the ecological food chain of these magnificent beasts instead of only imposing bans on poaching.

However, the grim reality remains that all conservation efforts will come to an end if the big cats have no sustenance, and with the fast depleting reserves, swift action is necessary.

Anshuman Singh
Class X

What's In

Re-exams
HM's jogging
Sulabh
Cricket

What's Out

Terminal-exams
Boys jogging
Sachdeva
Baski

Dudes of the Fortnight

The beginning of term brings with it a whole new batch of achievers. However, the spring term is special in this respect because, for class 12, it is a sort of emotional rollercoaster, steeped in the fear of their boards, and the the bittersweet thought of leaving school forever.

Truly, they are the heroes of the year, who have tried to lead by example, leaving us

with fond memories of their years at Welham.

Strangely enough, this is also a time of the year when you can find the most unlikely 12thies hitting their books. And they do seem to be working hard at it.

For some, this fortnight has brought with it new insights, and we wish the entire graduating class the very best, in their exams and in the test of life itself.

Separated at Birth

Sunny Sarta
Sharan Narain
Samyajit Das
Prashant Kumar
Snehanshu Verma
Rudra Raksh
Tarun Jyot
Anant Golyan
Nehar Deep
Samarjit Singh
Apoorv Bhaskar
Rameez Raja
Joy arora

Shashi Kapoor
Dharya Goel
Adhar Orei
Abhishek Narayan
Utkarsh Gadoria
Abey Kuruvilla
Vinayak Pant
Rajiv Goswami
Saeed Anwar
Ratik Arora
Sulabh Arora
Rahul Sridhar
Saeed Anwar

Through the Keyhole

(Time: 12:00 noon)

Ratik asked **Avjeet Sahni**: Which section are you in, 9A or 9B?

Avjeet Sahni (thinking): I don't know.

Prem to **Shabeer**: Agar wide ball wicket par jayega to out hai kya?????

Arjun to **Sharan**: My dog is one year old.

Sharan: He's how many months old?

Saswat told **Pranay**: Oye yaar! It's so cold and you are just wearing a pullover.

Gagan intervenes and says: Abey yaar! Woh bhi half sleeve.

While **Karan** was holidaying he got a form to fill in which it was written, "**Only capitals**". So he went to Delhi and filled the form.

RINGSIDE VIEW

It's great to be back in the alma mater after a month and a half's break from almost all physical activities. The school is already bustling with sporting activity at the beginning of the new academic year, with people playing all over the place.

We 10thies however don't pair it so good. Studying for the boards takes up most of our time but still some of us manage to fit in some game during the day.

The cricket 'PAAPS' around town are feasting nowadays. There is cricket on the main field, cricket on the backfield, cricket on the Krishna field and cricket is also on 'TV'. The school teams seem to be working hard at improving their standard, specially after the thrashing they got from the local school hostel.

The batsmen just failed to stick on with one of the openers departing in the first over itself, to a rather ambitious shot. Thereafter, wickets fell like nine-pins. **Sachin** and **Suman** both looked good at the crease but they too failed to stand for a long time. The entire team was bundled out for a meagre total of 64 runs. It was an absolutely appalling batting performance.

The bowlers on the hand, did a relatively good job, **Dawn**, **Charanjeet** and **Suman** all bowled quite economically but it just served to delay the inevitable.

The visitors eventually won by 7 wickets.

The team will have to really work at it's batting if it wishes to raise the level of play.

Another interesting point is the back field. Students seemed fairly adjusted to the lack of fields in school quite well and have learnt to survive with balls flying all over the place. It is seriously beginning to resemble the 'maidans' of Mumbai or to Victoria Memorial ground at Calcutta.

The danger of getting bonked on the head by a cricket ball doesn't seem to exist in the minds of these 'paaps' as they go about their business in the usual, cool manner. I must say, their bravado is certainly inspirational.

Poor 10thies. Apart from the fact that they have to work hard while the rest of the school is still in 1st year (except the 12thies, of course), there is the agony of missing the entire cricket season. I do believe, that the cricket season must be extended and especially the senior cricket matches should be held after the boards.

Well, the cricket Inter House (juniors) is coming up in a couple of days and it will be

followed by the seniors. Best of luck to all and may the best house emerge victorious.

The captains of all sports for the coming year have also been announced. Here's wishing them all best of luck and lets all hope that the standard set by their example will be better than that of their predecessors.

Sidhanth.



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