



The Elephant

No. 228

WELHAM BOYS' SCHOOL

7th May, 1999

Think About It

Vision, is the art of seeing things invisible

- Swift

EDITORIAL

The sweltering heat continues unabated, and this is only the beginning of May! Less than a month left to go home and the Countdown seems to have already started for the desperate homesick bunch. Everybody has to face the nightmare posed by the exams, before they can enter into the bliss of the holidays. The swimming pool, which is under repairs, has remained unopened, which only makes things worse.

The past fortnight has been bathed in activities and events happening almost every evening, in spite of the fact that the term is drawing to a close, and the exams aren't too far away. Maybe next term, it would be in everybody's best interest if we scheduled most of our events towards the middle of the term, which would give everybody more time at the end.

The past few weeks have seen some surprisingly original Assembly speeches, as well as a lot of interesting and valid points. One speaker who talked about the upcoming Summer Carnival even took the opportunity to ask the Principal for yet

another holiday after the event! However, I noticed that the general tone of these speeches tended to be somewhat overtly critical. Criticism seems to be

the rule of the day and everybody wants to have his or her chance to get even with the administration, often leading to a certain degree of exaggeration. Perhaps it's time somebody decided to applaud the school for the finer things, which we often tend to take for granted, and overlook.

Preparations for the summer carnival are in full swing now, and it's the one thing we've got left to look forward to this term, before the dreaded exams. With rehearsals for the Hindi play for the summer carnival already

underway, everybody seems to be working really hard at it, and the talent is beginning to show. Even though the cast only started rehearsing last week, they seem to be doing surprisingly well. Full points to them. Let's hope that they get an appreciative audience, which will include a lot of old boys and parents.

**Till next time,
Karan**



SUMMER KOOL TRENDY HAIR

Welham Now

1) The results of the Meera Sundaram Essay Contest are as follows:-

First: Avinash Agarwal

Second: Karan Mehrotra

Third: Dhanurdhar Singh

Consolation: Umamah Burza

2) The results of the Junior Inter School English Elocution contest held on 28th April, 1999:-

Hosts- WBS- First position

Class V- Shrey Verma

Class VI- Soumyo Jyoti Ganguly

The trophy was lifted by Hill Grange Prep School, who were the runners up.

3) The results of the Senior Inter School English Elocution contest held on 29th April, 1999:-

First: The Doon School

Second: WBS

Third: CJM

4) Our school played host to the preliminary round of the Oberoi and FOD quiz held on 17th April,

1999. We were represented by:

Amish Mulmi

Rishi Bagaria

Karan Gulaya

We stood first.

5) The school participated in a quiz held on 1st May at RIMC. The team comprised:-

Amish Mulmi

Kumar Nilay

Rishi Bagaria

Karan Gulaya

6) A slide show of the Nubra Valley project was screened on 1st May at the Activity Centre. It was very beautiful. Hope we have such events more often.

7) Our heartiest congratulations to Mr & Mrs Nagalia on the birth of their son.

8) The first round of the Inter-House Computer Quiz was held on 17th April, 1999. Krishna house is leading.

The Welham School community invites all old boys and parents to their first summer carnival on Saturday, 8th May, 1999 at the LRC steps.

Literary Affairs

The Most Memorable thing that happened to me last year!

It was a Saturday morning. The sun was slowly rising in the sky. It was going to be one of the memorable days in my life. My parents and I were going to spend our weekend in one of the wildlife sanctuaries in Northern Assam. It is a drive through riverbeds and oak trees. It is named after the person who started this place- Pakhui.

We departed for Pakhui at eight in the morning and drove for three continuous hours. As we got there we found out about the activities. There were elephant safaris, jeep safaris, white water rafting and a night in the jungle. We chose to go on an elephant but to our dismay we were informed that all the elephants were on anti-poaching duties. So we decided to go to the forest on foot. We took a guide and then crossed a river by boat. The guide was a huge man and carried a gun.

(2)

He told us many tales of the forest and also informed us that people spent whole days in the forest but did not get to see anything. He showed us tiger pug marks and the water hole. After spotting wild fowl, wild boars and deer, I thought enough is enough. Now I was desperate to see a big animal. As if God heard my thoughts, a trumpet sounded nearby. Walking a few steps further we realised it was a herd of wild elephants. My heart was in my mouth. Luckily there was a 'machan' close by, and we hurried up to it. High up on the machan, my father clicked a few photographs. The herd had four adults and two calves. Hours passed but the elephants refused to clear the way. Slowly the sun started to set and I was really worried. But then our guide fired a blank. Hearing the sound of a gun, the elephants ran here and there. We gradu-

ally got down the machan. There were two ways to get back, one a bit shorter to the other. But we could not take that as the herd had gone that way. Therefore it was the longer way for us, and by the time we reached the base camp it was literally dark. I was tired at the table and after helping myself to sandwiches and cold drinks, I wearily went to the

tent and creeping inside the sleeping bag, I thought of the day's experience and realised, this day would remain unforgettable to me.

- **Karan Mehrotra.**

(**This Essay won the Second Prize in the Meera Sundaram Essay Contest**)

A MID-TERM REPORT

We left Dehradun at 9:00 am towards Rishikesh; on the 20th of March, 1999. We were a group of seven boys with Mr. Basu as our escort. One Tata Sumo was our mode of travel. We reached Kaudiyala via Rishikesh and Muni Ki Reti and stopped for a while there. We proceeded on our journey towards Ukhimath where we were to spend the first night. Finally, passing through towns such as Devprayag, Maletha, Srinagar, Rudraprayag, Tilwara and Chandrapuri we reached Ukhimath. It was quite cold when we reached there in the evening, but we realised the place was really beautiful.

The next morning we trekked upto Deoria Tal. The trek was 3 kms. long but the path was quite easy to walk upon. The lake up there was huge and as we could see there were many fish, we tried fishing too. It took us two and half-hours to reach the lake, but the descent just took thirty minutes. Trees, especially those of Rhododendron, surrounded the lake. By the time we reached Okhimath, we were quite exhausted and therefore spent the night at the same place. The next morning we left for Chopta, passing a village called Mandal, which had a Musk-Deer Breeding centre. The road, not being metalled, made our journey quite uncomfortable. The valley here in Chopta presented us with a magnificent view of the breathtaking Himalayas. This, along with the lovely rhododendrons in bloom made the place look like

heaven.

In no time, we were trekking up to the Tungnath temple. The trek was a mere 4 kms long but the climb was really steep and soon we all were panting for our breaths. The hike took a long 2 hours, but we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves on the way after playing with the snow nearby the path. Then there was snow too behind the temple. Tungnath was situated at a height of eleven thousand feet, and it gave a commanding view of the magnificent peaks that surrounded it. The descent was quite easy compared to the climb and we reached Chopta quickly. Down there we were ready to head towards Gopeshwar, another town nearby.

Reaching there in the evening, we could not think of better to do except resting. And so after a filling dinner we slept early. The next day we returned to Srinagar, where we met the group who had gone for the skiing trip. That night we did not find anything better to do except talk about our whole trip, as the next morning we had to leave for school. But before reaching Dehradun, we stopped at Rishikesh where we took a ferry ride across the Ganges.

The experience, which each one of us got after a lively trip to the hills of Garhwal, is one, which cannot be forgotten easily. It was a really enjoyable trip in every manner.

- **Deepak Sanan**

THE ORGANISATION

Cross called it quits this day and handed charge of his organisation over to Steinback. The 'Organisation' was co-founded by Cross and his brother Steve, who had been murdered a few years by one of the traitors in his vast web of crime, better known as the 'Organisation'.

This particular group of people comprised hard core criminals who had attempted every possible crime. Their business flourished in the first five years and they became a dreaded force, outinsanely to defy all laws and to torment the government. These people made crime look so easy; it

looked as if they were doing as scheduled. But then the downfall began and all the success went sagging. Cross being a clever man heard the bells of danger and alarm. He immediately decided to choose a successor. Although it was law that he would have to make one of his blood the successor, this man had no family. His dreams of a family had collapsed when the only girl he had ever loved died of leukaemia. Seeing his beautiful girl slowly go into recession and then that lovely face slowly fade away into the realms of death, he decided never to fall in love again. But then, the decision of a successor came back to his life. How could he just pick up a child, groom him, and then throw him into the slush of crime where no one saved but lived to kill.

Cross had put his whole life into the development of the Organisation, and thought it had much more significance than his own life. It meant all that was left of him; it had given him an identity of respect and fear everywhere.

As he walked beside Steinback today, he felt a sense of fulfilment. Steinback's happiness didn't know any bounds, walking with this identity of the leader of the Cosa Nostra's most dreaded group, which made confident.

Then, Steinback took out a .38mm Colt and pressed it on Cross's temple, at point blank range good enough to send this killer soul to hell. Silently, he thought, the mission of the CIA was over, the Organisation finished.

- Kanishk Kaushik

" I didn't wana go there but..... "

I did not want to go there, but I was told by everyone in my house to go to Welham. Since a young age I had set it in my mind that I would not go anywhere without my parents. By anywhere, I meant going to some hostel, going abroad for business. I tried my best to resist coming to Dehradun, to Welham. I was sent there on the 25th of March 1992 to start building the foundation of my future. I cried for days after my parents had left. At first I took no interest in anything until I realised this was an institution where you got opportunities to do anything necessary for physical and mental development. This school, I discovered, had several facilities, including a swimming pool. There are all kinds of subjects to learn and to be taught by well-qualified teachers. The teachers are so helpful that they call the boys to their places for

extra coaching. There are co-curricular activities, S.U.P. Ws and then there are different coaches for different sports. Slowly I began to feel at home in Welham. The classrooms are heavens where knowledge is imparted to all the students.

Now that I am in class 8th, everything has changed for me. The matrons, the hostels, the boys, the work. EVERYTHING. Welham now feels like a totally different world where I have been given the training to meet the challenges of life. Life at Welham has totally changed my views and now I would do anything to get away from home.

- Avinash Agrawal

(This essay won the first prize in the Meera Sundaram Essay Contest).

Those Wacky Woodseaters

India VS Pakistan

This is the world cup '99 final match. Mohd. Azaruddin wins the toss and chooses to bat. He sends S. Ramesh and S. Tendulkar and Wasim Akram sends Sohaib Akhtar to ball. The first ball goes for a six by Sachin. After an over India's score is 12. When Sadgoppan comes to bat he hits six sixes in Wasim's over. When the score was 289 India lost Sachin's wicket, who

scored a brilliant 200. When Dravid came he scored 124 and lost his wicket. Saddagopan played till all the overs finished. He scored the highest, 294 not out.

India scored 618 runs and got 20 extras. India was 638/3 after the end of 50 overs. When Pakistan came in Anil Kumble dismissed Saeed, Shahid, Wasti, Inzamam and Ijaz for duck. Pakistan

had lost the match scoring only a 124 runs.

India lifted the trophy.

**- John Samuel Sundaraj &
Arjun Singh**

My Garden

I have a big garden. It has green grass and has many beautiful flowers. I water the plants every morning and evening. I have a swing in my garden. There is a boundary of roses around my garden. There is a fountain also in my garden. There are many trees like Silver Oak, Mango, Gulmohur and

Litchi. My gardener plants the seeds. There are many bees in my garden. They make their hives on the Mango trees. I pluck flowers from my garden to put them in my flowerpot. I play games in my garden. I like my garden very much.

Kandarp Singh & Anant

Nature's Diary

KALIMANTAN FIRES

In a protest to save the world's last remaining wild Orang-utans and other endangered species, WWF Indonesia has called upon the government to stop timber companies and halt the conversion of the remaining forests into agricultural land.

WWF researches into the causes of last year's forest fire show that Indonesia's forests have been shrinking at an unstoppable rate under an onslaught of rapid land clearing, bringing ecological disaster to a very bio-diverse region.

With some 5.5 million hectares of Sumatra and Borneo already converted to palm oil plantations, and another 24.5 million hectares marked for clearing, the government must now act to protect

the remaining forests and concentrate plantation development on degraded land.

Last year's fires were largely caused by opening up of forest areas by plantation companies and coming in of people. Poor land use planning, poor forest management by timber concessions and badly controlled fire for land clearing worsened the El-Nino droughts of last year.

The fire and haze of last year, resulted in vast tracts of degraded land which, if properly utilised and managed by the government could be used for development of oil palm and other plantations, the main commercial industry in Indonesia which provides it with maximum earnings.

- Anshuman Singh

Nature's Diary (2)

Alik is a fisherman in the Caspian, hauling out sturgeons from the icy cold waters. What he is doing is illegal, but he has a reason to do so. Infact it is the most basic reason, for he is the sole supporter of his family.

This is a scene in the Central Asian highlands, but it is not only happening there. All over the world there are people who hunt not for money, but for subsistence. Economies of the third world crash down faster than a deck of cards, people are sacked out of jobs. With no employment, they can

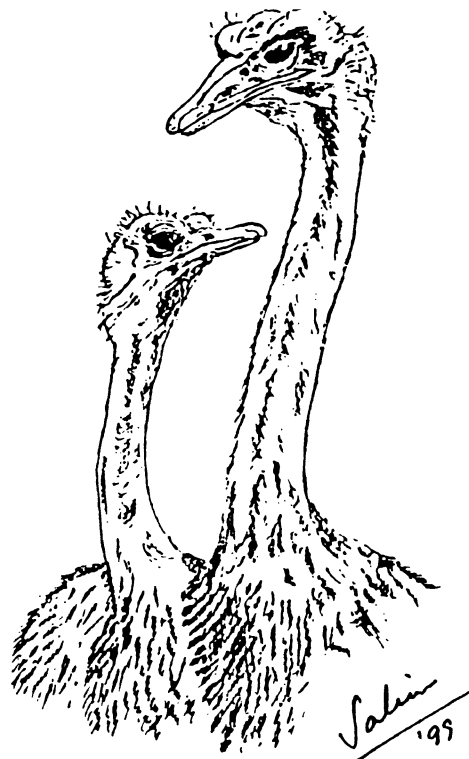
only think of is the most primitive occupation known, hunting.

People live to work, to support their families. Some work in corporate organisations while other unfortunates do not have such so called prestigious jobs. Even if they work inhumanly they just have one thought on their heads, their family's welfare. They know that when they return home in the evening, the children will ask them for something to eat.

Forests have been cleared all over the

world. A huge area might have been torn down to meet the rapid onslaught of urbanisation. But in a few secluded areas such as in Borneo, men cut down trees to provide them with agricultural land, land on which they can grow food. People hunt down elephants in the Dark Continent, but for the only reason that the ivory can make them mint money. Sandalwood trees are cut throughout South India for the sole purpose of making money by crafting the wood into beautiful handicrafts.

Poaching is a crime, but is providing your children



Ostrich

with food and shelter, a sin? The number of animals has been dwindling but then the population of the world has also been increasing at an alarming rate. We have more stomachs to feed. As a human, don't you want to feed the millions who are starving? But think of those below the poverty line, who strive hard for a job but in this corporate world they do not get any. What would you do when you returned home in the evening? When your children asked you for food, would you like to answer them - 'Son, I do not have any!'

- Amish Mulmi

LAMPOON

This Lampoon is totally dedicated to the word "summer", as summer is just round the corner. Infact, the pre-summer heat is beating down on us with vengeance.

One staff member has found quite a cool way to beat the beating heat. He was recently seen sporting cargo shorts and a jazz cricket hat. The other staff members were quick to follow and quite a few of them got the bug, hence a lot of 'shorted' staff members and not to forget that legendary 'Boston Celtics' vest.

The summer can not be complete without the famous 'summer camp'. It was initiated by a bunch of dudes of class eleven, who paid rupees 5 to 5000 to "enjoy" a week of adventure and excitement. The guy with the 5000, complained of not being treated as a VIP. While, this summer camp has lately become the most happenin' thing around campus a lot of guys can be

seen enjoying its thrills and excitement every afternoon! Infact, recently a summer camp was organised for the whole school!

One thinks of summer, the 'Summer Fest' comes to mind. This year, like every year, a fest was organised at Girls' HIGH School. Although, it was to be held on the yonder side of the road, frenzied preparations took place on this side. Everyone's Sunday best was yet again sent to the laundrers. The cobbler had his share of work as more n more of shoes were placed at this counter for shining. Every sort of hairstyle, be it a bald head or classic Amitabh locks were groomed with care and not to forget the suave frenchie. (

a Welhamite's best friend). I seriously think that someone really misquoted when he talked of women and the 'solah shringars'. 'Coz here at Welham it is cultivated as a unisexual activity.

SCOPTING



Comes Sunday night and all our 'Travoltas' & 'Jean Kellys', seemed to set the dance floor on fire with their 'Saturday Night Fever', (but was not it Sunday?). Well now all eyes are set on 'apna Carnival'. The guys have been allowed to roam about in fancy threads. Beware guys, don't take the word Carnival seriously and dress up like clowns (all puns intended).

The lampoon cannot be complete without the mention of authenticated morning speeches. The big boss seemed to be bored with those biographies & unoriginal mumble of a morning speech and begged that something authentic should

be presented. Well, little did he know that he had kicked a beehive. The succession of speeches starting from the very next morning, were ribald and assertive with the topics ranging from 'wrong use of sex' to 'the fashion in Welham'.

One guy stole all the limelight when he openly used taboo words like 'masturbation' and got away with it.

The heat is on and the current supply is off. Everything seems to melt away in oblivion. So I guess even I should also melt away.

- WHO AM I?

WHAT'S IN !!??

Summer Carnival '99
Schooli's frenchie
Baldies
Mr. Bhushan's new cricket hat
Untouchable outcast beats

WHAT'S OUT !!??

Summer Fest '99
Princi's frenchies
Silky locks
Mr. Basu's hat
DJ quicksilver

Separated At Birth !!

Hamza Anis
Kumar Abhijeet
Mr. Sridhar

Mahatma Gandhi
Peter Andre
Gangadhar of 'Shaktimaan' fame

"Dudes" of the Fortnight

Last time we didn't have any dudes and now they seem to be crawling all over the place. Yes, I'm talkin' 'bout the 9thies, who very obediently treated us to a variety of humorous and entertaining orations.

The topics varied from our school tuck-shop to the sometimes bland food given to us in the dining hall.

Even though their speeches didn't affect the

dining hall service but sure did have an affect on us.

Now we crave for better food. The Tuck shop seems to have taken heed and behold! Last Tuck shop we were served fresh stuff such as hot burgers, bun oms, pizzas.

So the 9thies are definitely the dudes with a cause so next time you want any sort of improvement in the school, we suggest that you pen down your thoughts and enlighten the Assembly.

RINGSIDE VIEW

After all the excitement of the Golden Jubilee Tournament, things seem to have considerably quietened down as far as sports are concerned. The school teams practised their hearts out for the

Afzal Khan Tournament and the Hockey Districts just around the corner.

The tennis open was also on and although the standard of tennis was not all that high, it was

great to see so much enthusiasm on the part of the participants. There was an incredibly positive response to the idea and a huge number of guys took part in both the singles and the doubles, which are still to be played.

The basketball team was in Woodstock recently, hoping to avenge the loss of their home tournament. Even though my efforts to go to Woodstock were in vain, I gather that the standard of play was much higher to what we witnessed in the Golden Jubilee. The field was small, with only 5 teams the competition was intense. The Doscoes, BCS and IMA were the other teams in the fray.

Our first match was with the eventual finalists, Bishop Cotton School, Shimla. It was a well fought out game even though they had the surprise element of not having been seen recently. Eventually, we went down fighting by just five points.

The surprise of the tournament came however, in the next game. BCS actually beat the hosts quite comfortably, displaying the level of play we are used to. In the other pool, IMA were steamrolling ahead, blowing all opposition to smithereens.

The final was played between IMA and BCS and all hopes of a close match were disregarded as IMA zoomed in to take the lead and won the men's section, as Woodstock's principal put it, by forty odd points.

The Afzal Khan tournament began and was something to look forward to. A few boys will be

leaving for Bareilly for their Youth Championship Trials. We wish them the very best and hope they keep the flag of Welham flying high and proud.

A group of class 11 boys has left for the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering, the premier institute of its kind in the country, for a 28-day course. It's a great opportunity and let's hope they, rather, we make the best of it.

Back to the tennis open. The captain, Dwivedi, has done a considerable job in conducting the tournament and he is in the finals, playing Mr. Bhagel and down one set. Let's hope he makes a comeback and that the rest of the worthy players get their chocolates.

It's really great to have DD broadcasting the SAFF Gold Cup live from Margao, Goa. It gives viewers a rare chance to watch the Indian team in action and I might add they are not at all that bad form what I saw yesterday. The Indo-Pak encounter is bound to be a thriller, with our captain Coutinho in full form after winning the NFL trophy.

What with the World Cup and the Summer Carnival around the bend, attention seems slightly diverted but that has apparently not affected the Hockey Team, which continues to practise it's butt off. Lets hope the results are as good.

Well, I'll be going away for a month so I hope to see you again, same time, same place but the next month.

**Until then, Cheers,
Siddhanth.**

THE UNBEATABLE SPORTSMEN....



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