

The Oliphant

No. 233

WELHAM BOYS' SCHOOL

29th September, 1999

Think About It...

Wars begin when you will, but they do not end when you please.

-Machiavelli

EDITORIAL

The most obvious aspect this past fortnight (apart from this slightly delayed issue of the Oliphant!) has been the rain; it just doesn't let up. And it continues unabated like boring classes by some of the more monotonous staff. Apart from that, they both serve as excellent cures for insomnia. Morning PT too has been disrupted (to the glee of many) by these stray but exceptionally heavy showers which choose a strategic time to strike.

One thing that always accompanies the monsoon is soccer, and the mud stained 'football hooligans' it brings with it. Of course, soccer has always been a favourite with the Welham community, or do I say the 'Nepal gang'? It's no mean achievement then that over the past three years, all our soccer captains have been from Nepal. Good going guys!

The midterm break is just around the corner. This is the one time during the term when the boys get a chance to get away from it all. Lucky us, after the gruelling first half of term, the break is quite welcome. Plus, it also gives the hero (borrowed from the Principal's vocabulary) in all of us a chance to go out and tackle those challenges. Been there, done that, bought the T-shirt.

One bunch of guys who won't be enjoying the midterm however, is the school basketball team, who specifically asked to be allowed to stay back and practice for the upcoming IPSCs, for which incidentally, we are the host school. It's nice to see such dedication and it's not everyday the school gets

a chance to host such tournaments, and it would certainly be good exposure for the school as well as give us a chance to show off (ahem!)

On to serious matters, in the course of a rather enlightening LRC Council meeting that was held only a few days ago, it was decided that boys from senior classes would be allowed to use the photocopying machine in the LRC by themselves,

and were expected to write down their names in a register on their own. Yet another example of the 'honour system' which is rapidly gaining acceptance. Initially, it will only be an experiment to see how the system works. Let's hope this leads to brighter things

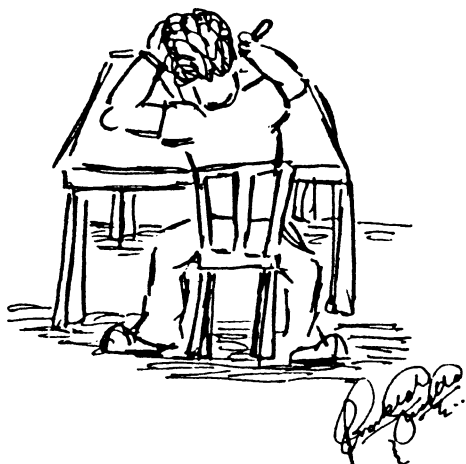
Two weeks ago, the school was visited by a team of two counsellors from the Institute of career studies, Lucknow. For

many of us, especially class twelfth, it proved to be a turning point at how we look at possible career choices for ourselves. It was perhaps, one of the most widely acclaimed workshops organised in school, and one that drew in, surprisingly enough, almost every twelfthie. After having attended the workshop I can say that the administration perhaps needs to get a qualified, full time counsellor on the school staff.

Wishing all of you a pleasant break from the school, staff and above all the prefects

Prefectorially yours,
Karan.

THE EDITORIAL HANG UP



Welham Now

1) Economics students from Classes IX & XI went to see the Daewoo Motors India Office & Factory at Surajpur on 12th September.

2) Sandeep Singh, Aditya Malhotra and Pranay Patodia participated in the Kashi Naresh Debate held at RIMC on 11th September.

3) Azar Zaidi, Rishi Bagaria, Amish Mulmi and Rohan Sachdeva went to Scindia School, Gwalior for the IPSC Debate and Quiz held on 11th and 12th September. We were the runners up in the Quiz.

4) Ajeet Bajaj, Karan Gulaya, Anant Goel and Ijlal Shamsi participated at the COFAS (Computer Fair and Seminar) International '99 held at Lucknow from 16th to 18th September.

5) The Inter-House Hindi Extempore Debate was held on 23rd September. The results were:

First: Daman Chikkara

Second: Shubham Khanna
Sandeep Singh

Third: Pranay Patodia

House Positions:

First: Jamuna

Second: Ganga

Third: Cauvery

6) The Inter house Hindi Quiz Contest was held on 14th September.

First : Jamuna

Team : Deepak Sanan, Nitin Agarwal and Sharad Kumar

Second : Krishna

Team : Raj Krishna Maheshwari, Jai Kapoor and Anirudh Gupta

7) The Inter hosue Hindi Elocution was held on 14th September.

First: Pranay Patodia

Second: Rachit Bhatnagar

Third: Shabeer Grewal
Gaurav Rohatgi

House Positions:

First: Cauvery

Second: Ganga

PARENTS MEETING

There was a meeting of parents from Meerut, Ghaziabad and Hapur at Hotel Mela Plaza at Ghaziabad where excellent arrangements were made by Mr. S C Gupta and Mr. M Mittal.

As at the previous meeting, Mr Kandhari gave a report on changes, on the various development programmes as well as the on-going projects. He also briefly touched upon the abolition of Class II in the year 2001 and assured parents that Class III upwards would continue. He also requested parents to share their professional experience by coming to Dehradun and talking to boys. He appraised them of the status of the subway project and appealed to them to help raise funds. Other topics that came up were various aspects of the dining hall, school food, arrangements for supplementing the municipal water supply, discipline, etc.

There was a question and answer session and parents got to know each other while they separately discussed their respective son's progress with the Principal. Subsequently, there was a second session of question and answer and some people suggested that CBSE exam may be better

than ICSE though the Principal disagreed

Some parents expressed surprise at Mr Kandhari's invitation to have meals in the Dining Hall and also that they should not hesitate to discuss any matter with the Junior House Matrons. Many people were under the wrong impression that they were not allowed to join their sons for a meal in the Dining Hall!

Parents expressed their desire to have this kind of meeting more often.

Present were:

Mr and Mrs Vishvendra Goel

Mr and Mrs M R Walia

Mr Mukesh Mittal

Mr S C Gupta

Mr and Mrs Rajiv Bansal

Mr and Mrs Ashok Bharti

Mr and Mrs Mahesh Dutt Sharma

Mr and Mrs A K Agarwal

Mr and Mrs Naveen Modi

Mr and Mrs Khazan Singh Klair

DELHI PARENTS MEETING

There was a get-together of Delhi parents on 10th September, 1999 at the Delhi Gymkhana Club.

Mr Kandhari initiated the discussion by giving a report on the various student and teacher development programmes as well as some of the on-going projects. He also requested parents to share their professional experience by coming to Dehradun and talking to boys. There was also a discussion on the sub-way construction when Mr Yuvraj Narain also spoke about the project.

He also pointed out that many parents did not take a continuous deep interest in the school's activities but only showed sporadic involvement. He suggested that parents got together during Founders and discuss ways and means of being involved in the schools development in the course of the year. Mr Kandhari was requested to announce this at Founders Day so we can begin having parents gatherings soon.

He also felt that the sub-way project which had been mooted originally by parents should be directly funded by specific donations by Parents. At this point some parents present spontaneously offered to send donations and others said that in due course they shall be happy to inform the Principal of their donations.

After this there was a question and answer session, as well as some discussion on various aspects of school life. Suggestions were made regarding the drilling of a tube-well and of course improving the Dining Hall. One suggestion made was that there should be rice and chapatis at both

meals. Also it was felt that only boys who were allowed to use the house common room music systems should be made to give contributions from their pocket money for its purchase

Mr S Kandhari then thanked Mr Gugnani for his help in organising the get together.

The meeting then adjourned for a 'social' get together.

Present were :

Mr and Mrs Avtar Bhat
Mr and Mrs Yuvraj Narain
Mr and Mrs Vinod Gugnani
Mrs K S Makhni
Mr and Mrs Nand Kishore Arya
Mr and Mrs Arun Kumar Joshi
Mr and Mrs Sunil Bahl
Mr and Mrs Vinod Kumar
Mrs Sunanda Singh
Mrs N K Suri
Mr and Mrs Harsh Mayor
Mr and Mrs B R Lohia
Mr and Mrs Ashok Bhat
Mr and Mrs Madhukar Shah
Mr and Mrs Deepak Gupta
Mr and Mrs S Thakran
Mr and Mrs N K Agarwal
Mr and Mrs N Butta
Mr and Mrs Sultan Singh
Mr and Mrs K K Malhotra
Mr and Mrs M R Sharma
Mrs Jalan

OBITUARY

We deeply regret to inform of the untimely demise of Chaitanya Sood (ex. 898/K) who passed away on 4th September. Our deepest condolences to the bereaved family.

Literary Affairs

THE YOUTH AND I: A REPORT

The youth and I. It may seem to be a paradox, because when I say 'I', I mean the 'youth' and it is quite a clear statement. It simply means how the youth relates to itself.

The world is changing very rapidly. Every

happening, every milestone, is but a blur. We are suffering from what Alvin Toffler rightly put down as 'Future Shock'.

The youth, that is our generation, is under great stress and quite likely the generations after us

will be more stressed. It may be due to competition or just rapid change. We are being bombarded with such a large and voluminous amount of information everyday, by the different forms of media. This causes great stress because the brain has to choose between the right and the wrong from such a vast supply of information. The mind also resists the change because we are not mentally prepared. Choices and opportunities are increasing. The roads not taken are many.

The phenomenon of globalisation has put us in a tight spot. We are wedged between our own and the western culture. Trapped between nationalism and internationalism.

It was to meet such challenges and to try and identify the multitude of problems faced by the youth today, that a workshop by the name of 'FACE-IT!' was organised under the auspices of the 'Shishya Society' on 27th and 28th of August. A delegation of four students and a teacher represented each school and more than 15 schools were present. We were represented by Parimal Piyush, Rishi Bagaria, Ijlal Shamsi and myself. Mr. Viswa Ghosh was the teacher in charge.

The workshop dealt with problems like relationships viz. relationships between parent and child, teachers and students and between members of the opposite sex. The other problems discussed were AIDS awareness and stress.

The workshop was spread out over two days so we had abundance of time to grapple the issues. This was done by involving teachers and students in group discussions, group discussion amongst the students alone and by means of skits. Only some schools had the honour of being asked to make a presentation. The WGHS presented quite a fantastic piece of drama which really made everyone realise the fallout of contracting AIDS. We presented a skit on Stress and, of course, being, Welhamites lived up to the expectations. Ijlal Shamsi stole the show with his brilliant and impromptu acting.

A quick survey during the workshop revealed very interesting attitudes of boys and girls alike. Girls felt that maybe parents and elders could mutually share their problems and provide solutions. On the other hand very few of the boys agreed. They felt that 'he' is capable of sorting out his own problems and, thus, need not consult elders.

The workshop closed with the promise to give the youth a better chance. Mr. Ghosh and I volunteered for the FACE-IT working committee and are presently working on a 'Value Consensus'. All suggestions are welcome. And remember - **'Don't do drugs!'**

- Azar Zaidi
Class XI

MORNING OF A WELHAMITE...

Every morning there's a headache hanging,
From the corner of a Welhamite's empty head,
At 6:15 he's got to report outside PH,
That is what his prefects have said,
As he stands in the line waiting to be dismissed,
You can see his eyes wide spread,
And by the time PT is over,
You can spot him on his bed nearly dead.

Couldn't understand,
How to work it out,
Just wouldn't take a stand,
He is gullible no doubt.

Now he is to attend the first two schools,
Which he dreads the most,
In the classroom there ain't no rules,
His teacher to him is more of a ghost.

(4)

For breakfast is something he is to wait 'n' watch,
As he stands in the line,
He dreams of being served roast fowls with scotch,
And the food he gets is anything but divine

The next two schools that follow then,
He eats what fruit he gets during the break,
He swears he could even kill a hundred men,
The fruit he gets is as edible as he can take.

Now it is about 12 O' clock,
You can hear him shout,
His mind is in a lock,
He's had a black out.

Every morning.

- Kanishk Kaushik

A VISIT TO DAEWOO MOTORS, SURAJPUR

Economics students from classes IX & XI (60 in all) were taken to Surajpur on 12th & 13th September, to acquaint them with the workings of the Daewoo factory. With large scale usage of robotics, and a high degree of automation, the Daewoo factory was an ideal destination to show students a technologically advanced, contemporary and progressive factory.

The arrangements made by Daewoo were excellent. A gift was presented to each student on arrival. Students were then seated in the main conference room, where they had a short talk, and watched a video on Daewoo, before going out on the factory tour. After the tour, students were invited to the conference room for a question and answer session, involving the GM, Finance, who answered questions and provided pertinent expla-

nations regarding inventory, pricing and financial statistics for Daewoo Motors India. The opportunity to see in real life, what many students had been learning in their classroom, was invaluable.

Daewoo also organised lunch, and it was good exposure for students to eat in the factory canteen, where a communal lunch is served to all employees, from the CEO downwards. The division of labour, as well as the equality of labour, were important aspects for the children to see and know.

Daewoo has suggested that a visit to their factory be made annually, and thus subsequent classes will have the same opportunity. They have suggested winter as being more suitable, to decrease fatigue, and the months of October/November/February seem like ideal prospects.

A WRITER'S VISIT TO WELHAM

15th September, 1999- A day to remember when an eminent personality, Mr. Bill Aitkens, an author and a traveller (for those of you who did not know) came to Welham. Not more than 20 boys were present for his talk. The reason being that they would rather watch and play an Inter-house soccer match. Well the boys of the hostels playing the match missed a very interesting evening.

It was quite pleasant, humorous and enjoyable. Many boys and teachers asked him a variety of questions, which he answered humorously. Quite an open minded and a frank person.

I bet he sure got tired signing before he left. He must have autographed at least 50 books. 'Zanskar', his latest, is a must read. We have got all his books in the LRC. Among those the must reads are 'Riding the ranges, Exploring the Indian railways'.

Well, for the first time I have believed the saying, '**Mad dogs and English men go out in the midday sun**'. About 10 years back he hitch-

hiked all the way from Europe to India (I hope you all believe me). He has seen nature, the hills, wildlife here and I think that is the reason for his sticking on in India.

His novels are based on his experiences. He goes out on long trips with his wife or his mistress (his motor-bike, to be frank!) Unfortunately, he is not fit to go on risky expeditions anymore. Thank god - the myth of his being ever lasting youth and energy has been broken. He has dealt with mishaps many a times. He nearly drowned and lost his motor-bike once. He has even broken his collar bone. But, let me tell you that he had to ride with his broken collar bone for nearly 2 hours to get to the nearest hospital.

To sum it all up, the evening with him was a memorable one. And I wish that he visits the school more often, so the unfortunate lot who missed him catch a glimpse and get to know him.

- Rohan Sachdeva

Class X

NETSAVVY

Talking about the internet, the most *happening* thing in school. Fact - one will never find the IT Lab empty. The population of the cyber-junkies is growing and even the teachers seem to

have gained interest in it (ahem!!). So I thought of writing on some of the cool sites on the internet.

1) 'www.homeindia.com' - This site is first in the
(5)

world to offer **free online postal service**. One can write letters to friends and relatives for free even if the recipient doesn't have an internet facility, i.e., the person gets the letter through postage. You can even Fax to the metros of Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai, **free**.

2) 'www.fax-o-matic.com' - This site offers **free fax service** to anywhere in the world. All you have to do is enter the correct fax number and type in your message. And your fax will be sent within seconds. But there is one drawback and that is the number of faxes in a day are limited, i.e. the site only sends a limited amount of faxes per day. But do not worry it always works.

3) 'www.deathclock.com' - Hehehee, this is one **scary site**. Guess what? It is the internet's friendly reminder that life is ticking away. It tells one's **date of death**. Now isn't it one site that no one wants to try out. One has to type in his Date of Birth and give one's characteristics and traits and then ask for the deathclock. His deathclock appears within sec-

onds and they show the seconds ticking away
4) 'www.pyara.com' - Funny name isn't it But believe me don't go on the name. It is the **movie freak's** site. It offers free pictures of celebrities, free downloads of songs and trailers. It even gives the latest film previews. On the whole it is a real *PYARI* site.

5) 'www.37.com' - This is the hottest search engine around. It comprises **37 search engines**. Wow!! So imagine if there is anything on the web that you are looking for try this out. It even searches according to various categories. It is an awesome site. So go searching.

6) 'www.ohmygoodness.com' - This is a superb site if you are planning to send cards to your friends and relatives. It has really hilarious cards that are worth seeing even if you are not interested in sending one. Must check this one out.

- Anant Dwivedi
Class XI

Nature's Diary

'WILD' TIGER BURNING BRIGHT...

You must be thinking why is the word '**WILD**' there in the title, after all not many keep a pet tiger. But it is not that. In fact, I had seen a tiger in the zoo back home, when I was about 5 years old, or was it 6. Can't really remember, but at times I feel it must have been what today for me is watching 'First day First Show'. Except for one thing, the tiger was behind bars, and it seemed more like my pet cat, just walking around the whole cage.

It wasn't till another five years or so that I got the chance of seeing a tiger in the wilderness that it is supposed to be in. After all, those were the days when Jim Corbett's stories were literally eaten by me. We had gone to Corbett National Park, that is the nearest to our place, and so the only one that we were permitted to go to. And so it was Corbett, and after days of packing and long discussions about what to wear, we finally reached the park after a whole day of travel. Our backs were really aching that night, after all the mode of transport was not an ordinary one, it was a 'bus'!

As we entered the park, there was the usual hush-hush! and look out for a tiger guys! being

passed around. That was the first of many times that I felt a bus was a disadvantage if I wanted to fulfil my dream my dream of seeing a tiger. Even the tiger would refuse to come out to a noisy and smoke leaving bus, let alone humans.

The first two days were spent in the normal shouting and games! Animals seen: Elephant yes. Chital yes, Wild Boar yes. But no tiger. In fact, to lighten our moods, our escorts even provided us drawing paper and asked us to sketch various scenarios. Don't yet know whether anyone completed the sketch, but I surely didn't. Where have I strayed off! I was talking of the tiger, and since we didn't see any on these days, our minds were even more centred around the tiger as our very own story tellers kept reminding us of the tiger and its facts and figures and stories and incidents.

I have never heard of funnier names than there are in Corbett, like Dhikala, then Khinnanauli, and of course, our own haven, Gairal. Our tiger experts told our escorts Dhikala is the best place if we wanted to get anywhere near a tiger, and so we were there in the next hour. And we were all ready

for one of the funniest rides that we could ever have. An elephant's back is one in a million, the ride, an even more rare experience.

But I am giving you first hand information, so the ride went something like this: we first walked along a straight path, then climbed a mound, then came down a hill and went straight into the deep jungles. My imagination was running wild, and I felt like those old kings who are on top of gold howdahs with their troops and all set for battle. Then it came! Yes, now was the actual excitement! A tiger in the wild, here it was, on my side, under a lantana bush, but sleeping

First tiger sights are said to have adrenaline rushing through your veins, with the fear of a tiger

charge the very next second. Some others also consider it majestic, unique, spectacular. But I felt a bit let down by this creature. Here it was, in my full view, but sleeping! Some of us guys exclaimed lovely, others sat mum. But to me it was a total disaster, a failure at the box office. I didn't expect this, in fact I expected an agile creature like the Chital, a regal creature like the Elephant. But no!

Nevermind! I shall have my way with tigers one day. But this was my first sighting of a 'wild' tiger, and quietly I thought, so this is how you feel when you see the creature you want to in its' natural surroundings.

- Amish Mulmi

"Dudes" of the Fortnight

Once again a Welhamite has tried to achieve excellence and make the school proud of it. It is not a easy job to represent the school outside. It takes a lot of panache and savvy to be able to represent oneself and one's school with style appropriate to Welham. And truly, we have never come across a better bunch of sports than these guys for they show humility in victory and generosity in defeat.

I am talking about none other than our

own quizzers **Rishi Bagaria**, **Anshuman Singh** and **Amish Mulmi**. This trio of die hard quizzers went to every possible quiz and brought back the results. They went across the road and went across the state to participate in quizzes. No matter we always stood second, they left their mark where ever they went. Like true Welhamites they believe in - 'Quitters never win and winners never quit' Keep up the good spirit and take Welham 'from strength to strength'.

THROUGH THE KEYHOLE !!!

Basketball Court.

Kaju: Guys, look at my 'V' shaped body!!

A stranger (to Kanishk): Excuse me, can you tell me where is Welham Boys'?

Azar (interrupting): Sir, it is just next to Welham Girls'!

Evening Classes.

Mr. Bakshi (to Gagandeep): It is time you pulled up your socks, young man!

Gagandeep (realising that he was wearing a Kurta Pajama): SOCKS!!!! I am not wearing them, sir!

Chemistry Lab.

Mr. Gosain: Arey thee, our chemistry lab has got a new *green black-board*!!

After the Hindi Extempore Debate.

Varun Modi: Nice told, Shubham!!

Tuck Shop.

Vinayak Pant to a junior: Get me a chilled coke!

Junior: Which one??

Found written on Inayat's register.

JATS DO IT!

RINGSIDE VIEW

The last fortnight has seen the elections, 2 unearthly earthquakes and India's victory at Toronto. It has also seen Welham's sports field being burnt up with the tumultuous Inter houses.

Your correspondent picks up where he left in the last issue. In the Juniors Inter house, underdogs Jamuna drew with Cauvery with a goal each and amazingly entered the finals to face Ganga. It was a true nemesis for them, as Ansari's team wrapped up the match and the cup with the score 5 goals to nil.

In the Councils, we first played against Bluebells, where a second half energy boost saw us steer into victory, scoring 5 to none. The second match was a bit tougher, that against Carman School. It eventually saw us win, scoring 3 goals with no replies. The next match against St. Joseph's was one marked with controversy and amidst much disagreement over the referee's decisions, we lost by the narrow margin of 2 goals to 1.

The senior Inter house was no less exciting than the UEFA cup. Firstly, Krishna gave Jamuna a taste of defeat humbling them 3 to none. Then it was Ganga's turn to eat the mud. Only this, it was Cauvery who thrashed them 5 to nil, with Parivesh chipping in with 3 brilliant goals. The next match was between Ganga and Jamuna each looking for a victory. Finally it was Ganga's turn to taste success getting in just one goal to win the match.

The match between Ganga and Krishna then, amazingly did not give any goals to comment upon. Krishna fought brilliantly against Cauvery to down them 4 goals to 3. The Finals were played between Cauvery and Krishna. It was of as much thrill as the finals of the English Premiere League. The scores tied at one goal each. Penalty shots were taken where again both teams got three shots in. It was sudden death now. Kaushik's magical kick got Krishna the coveted trophy.

Now to other arenas of sport. The Squash team has returned from Ajmer where they reached the semi-finals. The junior team has really sweated out.

The Basketball team will be leaving for Delhi soon. Hope they perform well.

The cricket team is gearing up for action. You can see the die hard cricketer throwing a ball around and swinging a bat here and there. As the Councils are coming up later this term, practice is required. Athletics are

around the corner as the Founder's are fast approaching. Swimming is in full swing (the pond is still fresh). Whew, is that all for this issue!

I seem like a newsreader, but just to remind you, I at least, have more humour than the guy who looks like a militant on Star news and I give you more interesting stuff.

- Anshuman



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Published By : *Welham Boys' School*

Registration No. :- *20208/86*

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