

The Oliphant

No. 241

WELHAM BOYS' SCHOOL

18th March, 2000

Think About It...

*There are more things between heaven and earth Horatio,
than dreamt of in your philosophy.*

- William Shakespeare

EDITORIAL

A serious after thought... is Welham the breeding ground for budding wrongdoers or is it just a freak of nature that I have been observing. I seriously believe it is all about something we lack inside. We cannot blame it on the establishment or the teachers or for that case even the prefects. It is like an in born disease waiting to incubate at the slightest chance. Nevertheless it is not too late to make a change and this change should come from within. So lets try and make Welham a better place to be in.

Amongst the brighter things at Welham, the cricket team has finally lived up to its expectations and has returned jubilant from Lawrence school, Sanawar where they put up a dazzling display of skill and sportsmanship. Not only did they rock the cricket pitch there but apparently scored with their girls department as well. Nothing like the sweet feeling of success.

The boards continue to wreak havoc on us and for the first time I actually miss my editorial staff. With backbreaking amount of work to do life does not come easy these days. Somehow, I have not been able to meet any deadlines this time. And to top it all off the Staff Rep seems to be getting more and more strict by the second. Definitely not my can of coke.

The new twelfthies can be seen hovering

around campus on a thick cloud of air, with dreamy eyes and excitement is in the air. Why? Of course, they will be moving to PH soon, PH being every Welhamite's epitome of freedom and maturity.

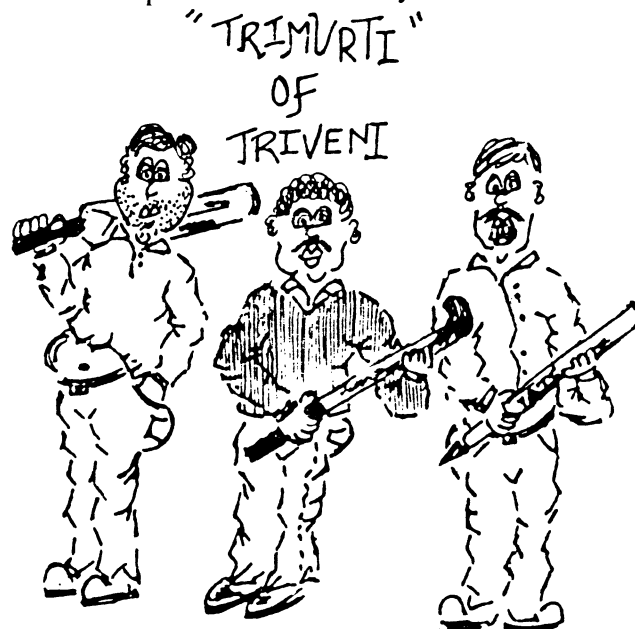
The weather continues to surprise us every-day. Believe me it is a very weird feeling, to get up

every morning not knowing what the weather will be like. The good news is that snow is back on the hills, much to the delight of our Auli enthusiasts who as I write, gear up for their skiing expedition.

Only today did I see the graffiti done by the outgoing batch of twelfthies for the Oliphant and believe me I was touched. And only now do I realise how precious these years are

to us, how we will ache to relive every moment spent here at Welham. It is like a dream come true. Everything that you could possibly want, and everything required to make a perfect life is present here. The very thought of leaving it one day leaves me guessing as to what life will really be like after this. So, once again lets make a change and make Welham a better place.

With this passing batch we will lose many great athletes, scholars and all round achievers who strove to excel in every field and really took the school from strength to strength. Let me tell you all one thing that they will be missed by all of us here at Welham. We wish them the best of all that there is



to come.

I will rest my pen for now and if I do survive

Auli then we shall meet again.

-Till Next Time

Azar

Welham Now

1) The Scholars' Recognition Day was held on 29th February.

I. Distinction Certificate (Over 85%)

Daksh Tyagi	Avinash Agarwal
Abhishek Narayan	Raunak Agarwal
Arun Dahiya	Ashutosh Pandey
Abhishek Agarwal	Siddharth Mohanty
Raj Krishna Maheshwari	
Kumar Prashant	Anupam Biwas
Ayush Agarwal	Gautam Mahajan
Amish Mulmi	Mohnish Rathi
Alok kapur	Farhan Zaidi
Diwas S Bam	Rishi Bagaria
Himanshu Gupta	Parikshit A Bhide
Rohit Agarwal	Kumar Nilay
Varun Bhathwal	

ICSE-99

Saswat Sarda	Pankaj Agarwal
Arpan Gupta	Prashant Khemka
Siddharth Dugar	Sushovan Karki

II. Subject Awards:

Sec A (7-9)

English:	Atir A Ansari
Hindi:	Ashutosh Pandey
Maths:	Saurav Kumar
Physics:	Ayush Agarwal
Chemistry:	Ashutosh Pandey
Biology:	Amit Gupta
Computer Sc:	Samyajit Das
History&Civics:	Ashutosh Pandey
Geography:	Ashutosh Pandey
Economics:	Atir A Ansari

Sec B (10-12)

English:	Karan Gulaya
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Hindi:	Nitin Bansal
Maths:	Mohnish Rathi
Physics:	Anant Goyal
Chemistry:	Mohnish Rathi
Biology:	Diwas S Bam
Computer Sc:	Manan Sah
History&Civics:	Amish Mulmi
Economics:	Amish Mulmi

III. Scholars Gown (Over 90%)

Siddharth Agarwal	Divya Agarwal
Sanjay Saraogi	

IV. Service To The Community

Suman Saurabh

V. Kataria Trophy For The Best All-rounder

Kumar Abhijeet

2) Inter House sub junior Debate was held on the 8th of March. Cauvery won the trophy. The results were as follows:

1st - Samridha Rana

2nd - Daksh Tyagi

Most Promising speaker - Nishit Jalan

Best Rebuttle - Samridha Rana

3) We welcome Mrs. Geeta Sharma, who has joined school as the matron of Triveni. We wish her a long and happy stay.

4) A group of boys from classes 5, 6 and 8 participated in a workshop of CRY, conducted by Miss Bhavna Mathur.

5) Our cricket team returned victorious from Sanawar after having defeated them by a comfortable margin. Congratulations!

6) The disaster control department has set up numerous fire extinguishers all around the school campus.

Literary Affairs

ENGLISH MEN...EASTERN TIME

When I was first asked by the satirical editor of the Oliphant to write an article in his distinguished magazine on my first reflections at Welham, I found myself drawing a complete blank. Basically for two reasons; firstly I have never written anything in my life, which has been perused by quite so many people, and secondly because of the time I had (2)

spent in the months proceeding my arrival here disciplining myself not to think too much about my experiences in India. This all sounds strange, and may even offend in the manner in which it parallels former British attitudes here but basically it is the only method I know which stops me from becoming utterly confused. This is especially in relation to

scenarios such as the one I found myself in Pushkar about a month ago.

After making my seemingly compulsory, "Pushkar Puja" in the holy lake, *Theie*, under the spiritual guidance of one obviously, deeply religious, Brahmin priest (wearing jeans and a Casio), I was looking forward to receiving a quick sanctimonious blessing before locating a nourishing breakfast. Unfortunately, having discarded my rose petals in the lake my pious, spiritual, guardian stunned me with a rather extravagant bill of 500 rupees for his services. Not having my credit card handy, I opted to place a somewhat more modest sum in an adjacent donation box sincerely believing that by forfeiting breakfast I could be compensated by my imminent assent to a higher religious plan. You can imagine my shock, therefore, when the devout priest turned around and called me something which I have no intention of repeating here, before raising his voice and disclaiming my evil soul. I am not a notably religious person but from a Protestant upbringing I can certainly not describe this sort of behaviour as "good cricket". The point that I am trying to make is that for a foreigner travelling in India it seems difficult to learn about the culture since the majority of people I have come across here have been more concerned with relieving me of my cash rather than educating me. It is because of this that I have developed a habit of simply taking things at face value rather than searching for any explanations.

As a result of this, when Azar asked me to write an article two weeks ago on my reflections of Welham, I found it necessary to take sometime to think about what these were. I will start by explaining how I came to be here, and highlighting some of the differences between English and Indian public schools as I see them:

On the 27th of June last year, I left Eton College where I had been studying for five years, after sitting the normal quota of three A Levels (equivalent of ISC Boards). Then after receiving adequate grades in English, Modern European History and Economics and Politics (combined), I chose a suitable course - sociology and applied to the normal quota of six universities, deferring entry for October 2000. Deferring entry by a year after school to most British universities is something (although, almost unheard of here) which is very simple to do. For most universities an excuse is not even necessary, but in my case two sentences on my application explaining my desire

to travel to the east and also teach in a school was more than adequate, and after two of my applications had been accepted, I chose to accept a place at Manchester University.

With fifteen months to play with I then spent September through to the end of November staying in London raising money (with the majority of my friends doing the same for travelling) and flew to Bombay on the 1st December. After travelling around South India and Rajasthan, I arrived here at the beginning of the term, after a friend of my parents, Captain Paddy Singh, had organised my placement here with the Principal. The motives behind my coming here were that by spending time in an institution I would (hopefully) actually be able to take an active role in proceedings (rather than just observe them as an outsider) and expand my pathetic knowledge of Indian culture. Also on paper at least it will hold me in good stead with a sociology degree. Three weeks on, I am beginning to realise the different system of education here compared to the one I know. From my perspective, it seems incredibly conservative and even draconian that the students are restricted to the choice of sciences or commerce, and are unable to specialise which they take an interest in. Obviously, here this system makes sense since it is only by achieving these qualifications that businesses will be prepared to give you jobs, but surely this leads to an inefficient allocation of human resources in the economy. Another result of your system appears to be that students are encouraged to choose their future professions from an early age, where as in Britain there is very little need for this type of commitment; my sister for instance finished her Biology degree and moved directly into banking. (I will apologise now if I am making sweeping generalisations, but these are impressions I get).

As for Welham itself I must confess that I have been amazed by its degrees of liberalism and sadism. For instance, compulsory PT at 6:30 am strikes me as being totally masochistic whilst house masters residing in separate accommodations, and discipline falling into the hands of prefects rather than staff are two things which strike me as very liberal.

All in all, however, it is the similarities rather than the differences that I have noticed most. And I believe that certain types of characters can probably be found in every school the world over and not just this one.

- George Ingledeu

GRAFFITI: REMINISCENCE OF THE PAST

Manush
(1995-2000)
HAVE TREMENDOUS FAITH IN YOURSELVES,
BE A WORLD MOVER &
YOU WILL REVIVE THE WHOLE OF WELHAM.
'NO IF OUR HANDS SHOULD
MEET IN ANOTHER
DREAM, WE SHALL
BUILD ANOTHER
POWER IN THE SKY"
Kumar '89-'00

WASSUP?
— Manush Kumar
Be a slogger in life because it is tough,
Touch the stars some day and always be a winner
at the end
— Manush Kumar
Be a good man, that is the biggest achievement.
— LOVE WELHAM

Kumar Mohit
1987-2000.
FROM MY FATHER
TO ME
AND NOW WAIT FOR
MY SON'S
'WELHAM'

LEAVING WELHAM
WELL BE A
BAD HANGOVER.
GOING FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH...
Manush
1994-2000

"PASSPORT TO HEAVEN"
LIFE WILL NEVER BE THE
SAME AGAIN
DEATH SHALL NOT PART THESE,
WELHAM N' ME.
Saurav 98-00
Arivesh
1988-2000.

From my brother
TO ME
WELHAM (BALFO)
EXTENDS
Manush
88-'00

WELHAM IS A
LIFE AND THE
BEST
I GOT IT FOR
Manush
89-00

A HOME AWAY FROM HOME!
Manush
1994-2000

IF YOU BELIEVE IN GODS, IT IS BECAUSE OF THE DEVIL"
IF YOU BELIEVE IN "WELHAM"
IT IS BECAUSE OF "WELHAM"
Manush
88-00

WELHAM → THE GATE TO
THE NEXT MILLENNIUM!
Likh Bainik
'88-'00.

WELHAM A
LIFE TIME
EXPERIENCE
Manush
88-00

Charanjit
88-'00
WELHAM IS
COOL
Saurabh Gupta
98-'00

WELHAM MEN
WILL NEVER FORGET...
Manush
95-'00

Live life king size at Welham.
You will be missed.
Manush
1989-2000

Get a LIFE
It's easy at WELHAM
Manush
189-'00

Nine years in Welham but
still unexpected, undiscovered
and unpredictable
Manush
1991-2000

FROM THE "Old Skool"
Iha nu "BRED!"
Manush
98-'00

WELHAM HAS MADE
ME FROM "HARRY"
Manush
88-'00

MY WELHAM ARISE

Today, standing at my hostel doorstep and gazing at every feature which were mine a second before, a feeling of loneliness creeps into my mind. In a second's flashback my whole school life rushes past my eyes. Bright were those days and darkness surrounds me now. Where is my future going to take me, it is still doubtful. Don't laugh at it or just ignore it by saying it won't happen to you. Tomorrow is your turn and we know it's not like the feeling we get after being smashed by the Doscos in a basketball match nor like the joy we get from beating them hollow. This feeling is strange, its different and obviously frightening. Right now you are in the most protected and guarded environment and what lies beyond is the unknown. For a moment I feel like going back to Woodseats and starting my life once again. But then I feel as if the country is waiting for youngsters like us (WELHAMITES) to shape a better tomorrow for them.

Frankly telling you, when I entered this school in second form, I was so dumb that anyone could take me for a ride. I can still vividly picture out my second day in school when my form mate was bullying me. The reason behind it was that I had refused to throw his toffee wrappers in the dustbin. He claimed to be my senior by his early existence. It must have been so exciting but I surely felt disgusted. When I was in Toad Hall, I can remember those chilling nights when at around 4:30 in the morning we used to have our Hockey practice and Soccer practice in torchlight. Our hockey goalkeeper slept padded. Though it was tough getting up in the morning but we managed somehow. Welham was in all a great experience but I misused some of the privileges and got in such serious troubles that I was going to get expelled. I think I don't need to furnish you with all those details that you are already aware of. Seriously telling you life was quite terrible during such events. After every mistake I use to tell myself 'Ashish no more mistakes, stop yourself', but next term I was again involved in something. There was no end to my doings and a time came when the Principal called me and said "How greedy are you, you know Ashish I have not seen a student like you in my 40 years of schooling." I told my form mates about this very proudly but the humiliation I had been suffering was killing me from inside. Believe me I changed myself and my last year went very smoothly. It was too late to change and I had already missed so many opportunities.

Don't think I am telling you my 'Ram Kahani.'

Neither am I trying to project myself as 'Ashish turns Sadhu or Mahatma.' I am trying to tell you that generally at your age, students are pretty excited at trying out a few things without knowing the consequences. You do get carried away very fast, but try and maintain your cool. I know where the shoe pinches as I have gained a little experience from these 11 years of boarding life.

Standing upon the soil of this life giving school, I want to give a few words of explanation, not that I care what the result will be of these words- not that I care what the feeling I shall evoke from you by these words. I care very little for I am the same student that entered your school wetting his bed 11 years ago. I know that what ever I am going to say will roll off like water from a duck's back but since I love my school and care for its future I cannot see you degraded, weakened. Who says, the Dosco's are superior to us? I don't think any outsider has this view but some of you do feel it. If you feel you are weak you will be weak and the same way it goes for that. So tomorrow when you get up in the morning, just say to yourself that you are the best and there's no one superior to you as you are the best institution of India. Respect this every day and look at the change in your feeling. We talk of, unity is strength. from strength to strength and we are totally devoid of it. So what we want is strength. This is one great lesson I have been taught in my life is to believe in yourself. Make your nerves strong. What we want is muscles of iron and nerves of steel. Be strong, my friends, that is my advice to you. No more weeping but stand on your feet and be men. So I am warning you because this world swallows weak people. Make your body and mind strong.

Have you to learn anything from the school? You have, perhaps to gain a little in handling the responsibilities that you are given in the hierarchy of the organisation, in the ability to handle power and in bringing the best out of the smallest of causes. Stand on your feet and assimilate what you can, learn from every school, take what is of use to you. Be like the squirrel in the buildings of Rama's bridge, who was quite content to put on the bridge his little quote of sand dust i.e. be worthy of your potential, bring out your hidden talents. Don't be afraid of anything. You will do marvellous work. The moment you fear you are nobody. "Fear is negative, desire is positive" & "belief is a crucial factor- one's confidence is there, success nearly always comes." Move on the stage and express your feelings. You tend to make

mistakes because you are on a learning stage. The ones who laugh at you are fools. They will never prosper, as they have no sense of pride.

“O Welhamites, what you have done is good, but my friends, let’s do better!” Young men of Welham, our hope is in you. Will you respond to the call of your school? Each one of you has a glorious future if you dare believe me. Have tremendous faith in yourselves, and you will revive the whole of Welham. Therefore to make the future of Welham brighter, let us be determined to scale our efforts by scales of excellence.

Every one of you would stand up to a giant, a world mover with a gigantic- intellect, so arise, wake

up and stop not till the desired end is reached. Out of that a wonderful, glorious, future WELHAM will come- I am sure it is coming- a greater WELHAM than ever was.

Don’t just ignore all this by saying, “ah! Ashish has left the school and now he is teaching us.” Remember one thing, neither one of you can be me nor I can be like you and so don’t run away from your duties like this. You are WELHAMITES and so leave a mark before you leave.

- Yours forever,
A True Welhamite,
Ashish Kumar, 835/J

"Dudes" of the Fortnight



WHAT'S HOT !!??

Surds with *Studs*
Jim Mann
Kaju(WGHS Captain)
Mukti(Ghost of Sanawar)
Sanawar GD
House masters with Wickets
Usamah(one man force)
Santana's Supernatural
Wiining on Foreign grounds

WHAT'S NOT !!??

Nepalese with Balis
Jim Morission
Akshat-ex.
Deewana Vikas
WGHS
Cricket Team
MBBS force
All Latino Pop
Losing on home ground

RINGSIDE VIEW

The cricket team is back from Sanawar and with a bang too. They have accomplished the unexpected. They beat Sanawar by a huge margin of 80 runs and did it with style. Definitely better than the last cricket team. Amit Prasher again led Welham to victory by scoring 44 runs and capturing 6 wickets. Mukti remained undefeated on 39, playing with his almost broken bat (Mukti actually considers Sanawar to be his home ground!!). You would have been amazed to see the standard of our fielding with even Daman, with all that mass, diving for the ball. Everyone put in his 100%. The squash team did not play badly but eventually lost 2-4 to Sanawar. Subhashish Thapaliya played exceptionally well and almost beat their state champion. Talking about our fielding, the Sanawar coach was overheard making an example of our fielding. Truly amazing!

Back in Welham, the cricket Inter-house has just ended. Still hot from Sanawar and in fine form Amit Prasher showed his calibre by smashing a blazing century (105) not out against Krishna. He became only the third batsmen after Vikrant Lamba and Yashab Zia to reach this landmark, in the Welham History. Cauvery scored 191 and then bowled out Krishna for 126. The next match between Ganga and Jamuna was a one sided affair. Ganga landed up making a huge total of 265 runs and created a school record, bettering the previous highest total of 235. Parimal

Piyush scored a turbulent 64 and Usamah Burza coming up with a devastating and calm 89. Jamuna offered no resistance except a determined knock of 39 from Snehanshu. Jamuna bundled up for 112 runs. This win saw Ganga through to the finals.

With Krishna and Ganga keenly poised to win the cup, the final was an exciting match. Krishna, batting first piled up 148 runs. Bishesh with his power hitting made a blitzkrieg 39 and Jitin hitting the only six of the Inter-house. Ganga started off well but wickets fell at regular intervals. Krishna held their line and length and emerged victorious by 20 runs. It was quite a controversial match.

At the international scene, India is back with a blast. Under the excellent captaincy of Saurav Ganguly they have thrashed South Africa in the first two One-Day Internationals and look eager to erase all their unpleasant memories of the white wash in Australia and their Test Match debacle against South Africa.

Well, that's all for now. And before you rate this article as being abject, there's some news

about the good ol' Anshuman. I turned the heat on my sources and found out that Anshuman has come out of hibernation and, like desperate spirit, is roaming about Triveni searching for salvation. So if you spot a somewhat hefty guy in meditation please report to ghost busters.

- Yours almost humourlessly,
Aatir



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