



The Oliphant

No. 246

WELHAM BOYS' SCHOOL

26th May, 2000

Think About It...

I must be cruel only to be kind.

-Shakespeare

EDITORIAL

To tell you the truth, I never actually did understand this facility called the IT Lab. Information Technology-it needs to provide more regularly- it is simply impossible to get connected. And if by chance, once in a blue moon you do get a connection, your Hotmail does not seem to work. But hats off to the ACs, now the IT Lab is actually air-cooled (not air-conditioned). Power problems continue to plague.

I can't believe it. Another eventful term at 5, Circular Road has come to an end. Looking back, I can't help but think did we make all the right choices? I know it is a very tough question to answer, but I just wanted to put across my feelings about the whole thing. The tragedy at Auli, I hope, will see us maturer in more ways than one. And, perhaps only time will tell where we will stand.

Right from the beginning, we have been getting 'jiggy wit it'. On the whole, we have moved ahead in all spheres, be it academics or sports. The quiz team (affectionately called the 'quizzies') has shone bright this term. Tired of coming second all the time, they finally struck gold at all the quizzes held. Debating, too, has come up, but that level of excellence cannot be achieved without any talent to mould into

perfection and new talent is what we seriously need. So anyone of you who think that you can rock the world with your oratory skills go ahead and give it a try (you never know where it might take you).



Sports saw us marching ahead into the arena of hockey. Right from winning the Councils to the Swing Memorial tournament at Oak Grove, we have done it all. Basketball, usually in the top slot, is being played at a low ebb. I think it is high time the team got serious and stopped talking about past glories, and try to get some themselves. Not to forget the evergreen Cricket squad. With a number of feathers in their cap, they will have a whole new season to look forward to. Hope that they follow the example set by the hockey team and bring

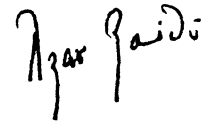
glory to the school.

Before I forget for the zillionth time, all readers-students, exies, staff, parents and well wishers, please do have a look at the Principal's letter regarding home night outs and leave, republished in this issue of the Oliphant. And please let us know your views as any decision following participation will be more acceptable.

That's just about it for this term. I think

I will preserve my intellect for next term and hope you have by now developed a taste for it. That's all from the editorial desk this time, catch you next term.

Wallowing in Chlorine.



Letters to the Ed.

Dear Ed,

For sometime now I have been wondering whether boys should be permitted to go home overnight whenever requested by parents or to limit it to twice a term or to continue with the present rules which do not permit night outs as a general rule. Also, I wonder whether there should be same rule for the Primary School and the Senior School.

I have just received a thoughtful letter from a parent whose son was not, as per school rules, permitted to go home for a 'Griha Pravesh'.

"However, as a person who believes in the value of both formal and non formal education in the healthy development of an individual, I feel I should share my thoughts with you and explain why his presence may have been important for him.

Our family life has many drawbacks and we are unable to impart family values and culture to our children on a day to day basis. Hence, their connections to their roots are not strong, they are also not in touch with their extant family either to learn of their heritage and derive strength from it.

An occasion like this is second only to a marriage and family members from all over the country feel it important to come all the way to participate and my younger son will be missing this experience, wherein he may learn their importance of family ties.

On this occasion my husband, my daughter and my elder son will be sitting together for a three hour Havan-Puja which will be a first in our life and the last as far as I know and forsee. Much importance is going to be given to us doing things together like the first step into the house, the first night etc. as customs go and this child will be deprived of such a rare and happy experience of being one with the family.

As I see it the only person to lose will be our younger son since the rest of us are not really used to having him around during the minor occasions like Diwali, Holi which annually, we may

not feel it much. He will never have this as a memory his whole life long.

I realised this strongly when I observed my elder son's reaction while we consulted our elders regarding norms and customs. He spoke of roots, family culture, heritage and how it appeared important for him to learn of them to enable him to carry them to the future. He has decided to take leave from his college for three days to be involved in this occasion.

Earlier, I was just a disappointed mother, now I too realise that my younger son will be missing a major educational opportunity towards his culture, a major factor in enhancement of the E.Q. of an individual.

As an individual, I have great respect for your philosophy and principles and have never had a moment of worrying where my sons are concerned as long as they are under your guidance.

I do trust and believe you will always take decision with their well being in mind and have had in the past eight years no occasion to doubt that.

Though the contents of the letter sound like an emotional appeal for my son, it is only partly so. What I want to emphasize is that the school rules should take every care on individual merit and some of the sons be allowed too be with their families for very important occasions-important for and to the child, not to the family. Such a provision may be incorporated in the school rules.

I hope I have been able to communicate my thoughts to you in an objective manner and look forward to comments on the same. Please note, I understand and accept that even if you agree, you are at this point, unable to comply to our earlier request."

I would be grateful if boys, Old Boys, parents and others write to me or to the Oliphant giving their views.

- Yours sincerely,
S.Kandhari

Welham Now

1) Members of the School Committee—2000-01

Convenor - Mr. Kandhari

Staff— Mr. Hannah

Mr. Gosian

Ganga- Shaunak Valame

Saumya Khaitan

Krishna- Ayush Agarwal

Pawan Rana

Jamuna- Karan Mehrotra

Amish Mulmi

Cauvery- Abhinav Kir

Animesh Pant

Prayag- Parimal Piyush

Amit Prashar

2) Rishi Bagaria, Azar Zaidi and Amish Mulmi won the preliminary round of the Friends of the Doon Quiz held on the 9th of May at Welham Girls'.

3) The hockey team won the Council Tournament. They faced Doon School in the finals.

4) The hockey team also won the Swing Memorial Hockey Tournament held at Oak Groves.

5) The Basketball team was runner up at the District Basketball Championship.

6) Aatir Ansari, Karn Singh and Yoginder Negi participated in the State basketball.

7) Dev Agarwal, Deepak Sanan, Sharad Kumar, Arjun Sabharwal, Vinayak Pant and Rana Raghubir. Rishi Lashkery have come back after completing their NIM course successfully.

8) Neeraj Parikh, Rishi Bgaria and Amish Mulmi won the Rajeev Khanna Memorial Quiz held at Scholars Home on the 12th of May.

9) Azar Zaidi stood the first runners up at the Frank Anthony Memorial Debate-NORTH ZONE held at SJA, out of 24 speakers losing the first position by 3 points.

10) There will be a group of boys going to Ladhak for the Round Square Social Project.

A QUESTION TO ALL

The Disciplinary Committee was formed in our school to punish all boys who did not abide by school rules. The Committee has been very active over this period, solving many problems in a systematic manner. Till today such matters pertained to the disciplining of the student community. But, today we stand in a peculiar situation where one of the staff members, who is supposed to always guide us to the right path and teach us the difference between right and wrong, has himself committed a big mistake by not abiding by the school rules. The question is... is the right example being set?

- The Disciplinary Committee

Literary Affairs

STARRY NIGHTS

The sun is down,
The evening set.
Sky lit in an orange frown,
The deserted earth seems wet.

Sulky and tired you are,
Makes you hot & angry.
Peace is only way too far,
Oooh me, what else could it be.

Eventually the fireball sinks,
Darkness takes over, it reigns.
Deep purple, ivory and inks,
The devils are here it means.

Transparency it seems,
Now forms the shadow of those.
Ones up and the high dreams,
Stars far away yet so close.

Outside as you sit,
A million winks are set.
Lights over darkness are lit,
Moroseness is what you get.

Staring gloomily at them with,
our imagination that drifts.
Search answers find in myths,
With these heavenly gifts.

Isolation is what may,
Build up and rise.
Things seem so gay,
The stars and the moon their prize.

Suddenly you're hit by,
A breeze, cool and starting.
The clouds cover the moon so shy,
The stars never seem to be departing.

In constant urge to invade,
All privacy they could

Part of a truly divine blade,
Would've slaughtered the sky if they should.

Abundance of heavenly lights,
All wrongs undone but rights.
And your earthly form bites,
They are a drunken poet's delight.
These are only starry nights,
They are your weaknesses & your nights.
Dream, dreams that no one could see,
Oooh me, what else could it be.

- El Kanishko

"7" WONDERS OF WELHAM

They've been there since years. Enduring the sands of time, and greater still, the sadistic tests of Welham. These structures of brick and cement, has almost become a part of my life. Yes, I'm talking about the buildings of our campus. You've heard about the 'Seven Wonders of the World.' These are the 'Seven Wonders of Welham!' See them from a Welhamites point of view:-

(i) White House – Named so simply because of its colour. And from no angle does it look like the one in Washington D.C. The first building acquired by the school, way back in 1937! The date, however, puts one in doubt about the strength of the building. That might explain why, as juniors we weren't allowed to run around or make noise inside there. Who knows, it might just crumble down!! A 'legend' that is mostly associated with this building is that the 'White House's Ghost Lady!' (known as '**Chamcham**'). It is believed that this building was made over her grave. Later she was dug out and buried outside. (Ever noticed the big mound of earth in the Principal's garden?) Have you ever wondered why we only have night – watchmen who are over 50? She was known to stalk and scare away only young watchmen, every year on the night of the 30th February!!

(ii) Bethany (Dining Hall) – This is the place, where everyone likes to take out his rage and frustration.....on the food. Probably, in its entire history, not once have the students praised its food. Recently, a 'menu board' has been installed outside to warn people before hand of what they are to encounter! The place's hatred can be seen in the writing on the walls of Triveni toilets. One of them read – 'Eat what you exert' (An arrow pointed towards the pothole!) 'Direct connection to the

dining hall's kitchen! Why walk up till there, when you can eat the same thing here?!' Adjoining the Bethany is the Peacock Stage. The beautiful tiled peacock explains the stage's name. But what do those red dancing figures signify?

(iii) Academic Block – Reputed to be the most hated site in the campus. A place, which the students are forced to sit everyday. They would rather get themselves run over by a car on the way to reach here!! This is the major reason for the construction of the 'subway'. Ironically, this block also consists of the swimming pool. However, as it is, the 'pool' turns into a 'pond' in a matter of days. One can witness its water turning from blue to green, green to black!! A suggestion was once made: 'Timings for use of Pool':-

(a) Monday – Wednesday – Frogs, tadpoles, Daddy-long-legs.

(b) Thursday – Saturday – Toads, water snakes, salamanders.

(c) Friday – Fryday!!

(d) Sunday – Rare insects & Exotic amphibians only Welhamites – Kindly adjust!!

(iv) Activity Centre – The proud possession of the school. Before its completion rumours were aired that it would consist of a basketball court, with a convertible swimming pool under it, and stuff like that. Now you know how wrong you were!! It is also called the multi – purpose hall for nothing. It is a basketball court, a badminton court, a stage, a store, a gym, a tuck – shop, a cinema hall, and to top its also a guest house! What 'jugadoos'!!

(v) P.H. (Prayag House) – How could I not mention P.H. in an article such as this. This particular building is the 'Heaven of Welham', in fact, better than that; to go to heaven, one has to die first!!

Formerly, known as Principal's House, (probably because the luxuries it enjoyed were the same as that of the Principal's!) this was constructed to give the twelfthies, the feeling of junior college. Staying here, you feel much more than that! The house is also known for its secret routes that lead outside the campus. However, this brings me back to a question that had been eating me for long. 'What use is the recently acquired plot of 'litchi orchards' to the students? I suppose, it merely brings our boundaries nearer to 'My Shop!!'

(vi) **North Block** – Popularly, nicknamed as 'Bhushan's Palace.' This building hogged up the land, originally meant for the construction of a 50m swimming pool! (A plan, made 10 years ago, and still to materialize!) At its initial stage of construction, its purpose was not revealed. Speculations led to rumours of it being for a new hospital to a new girls' hostel!! If only one knew that it were to lodge staff members. However, one benefit it provides to the school community is that it acts as a 'filter'. The staff breathe in all the poisonous fumes from the adjoining lime kilns, before they reach us!! Thank you!

(vii) **Triveni** – Lastly, but definitely not the least comes our very own Triveni. The building that houses more than 120 of us Welhamites. This building can also be classified as the most ill – treated one. It always tops the list of damages done, at the year-end! People have different ways of enjoying themselves here. Some like simply to sit in the common room and watch T. V. while others like to 'risk their lives' by going to 'Triveni top.' However, an incident which has been passed down by generation will always run parallel to this building – 'An ex - welhamite once visited Triveni. Getting senti and nostalgic, he said, "Nothing has changed. Same old rooms. same old corridors. same old toilets." As he happened to look inside the toilet he bumped into a student, coming out from there. He had a 'magazine' in his hand. Startled and taken aback by this sudden intrusion, the boy stammered, "I.....I.....was....just....re.....reading.....it!! The exie smiled and said, "Same old excuses.....!"

- Prayaas J.B. Rana

THE POWER OF ONE- BUILDING SOCIETY THROUGH INDIVIDUAL INITIATIVE

Individualism is not just about wearing different clothes or just being different. Its about being yourself – apart from the collective society. An individual with your own thinking, your own prospective, your own ideas, your own identity, as opposed to conformism where your thinking is done for you, your opinion and ideas are formed for you, robbing you off the use of the faculty of mind.

Looking back at the 20th century we see many examples of individualistic attitude that changed the world.

Adolf Hitler, a poor labourer, went on to form one of the greatest countries in the world. It was his individuality that motivated him and helped him to do so.

Mahatma Gandhi, followed his own policy of passive resistance and won our independence.

Nelson Mandela, fought against the Apartheid in South Africa before actually succeeding.

Bill Gates dropped out of Harvard Business School and look where he has taken Microsoft.

The bottom line is that individualism makes a

difference.

A very keen example is that of Anna Hazare. This army man on returning to his village in Maharashtra, found that women had been taken to prostitution, and men produced illicit liquor for a living. Basically the whole village was this whorehouse.

With Rs.20000/- his whole life savings, he set to reshape the society. The local temple was restored, and literacy drive was launched.

And today this village boasts of a computer lab for its children. A perfect example of individualism, and the massive difference it makes.

Its high time we have some faith in 'I', in ourselves. Because even if we think about we set a chain reaction through. Such thinking is what we need to make a difference. It is such positive impulses that help us Indians remove the evils of corruption, poverty, and communalism from Indian society.

Every drop counts it's the drop that makes the ocean. Just as the ocean is made up of tiny drops, so too, is society made up individuals.

Everytime I hear a classmate or a friend

say, 'But what is the use? If only I do it, its not going to make any difference'; my blood boils.

Because their attitude is precisely, what creates this situation we have today especially in India. Look around you – do you like any of the politicians you see? Do you respect the elders who give you advice? Speaking for myself there are a very few people, I can say I genuinely look up to – very few people whose honesty, wisdom and dedication I can trust and believe in.

If only every person were to say 'I can do it – at least its a start' - imagine what a big difference that would make. Its' the ideas and actions of the people like this – those who strongly believe in the power of their individual self. That sets off a change in society. Yes, it can make a difference, but more importantly, I know that yes I can make a difference too. Society does what its members dictate. Society isn't something that is far away and complex – it is I, its is you and all of us. When we start thinking of it as such, we start imagining what we do as

individuals could affect others, that makes a difference. It is up to every individual of course to make that difference a positive one.

It sounds innocent and sometimes very foolish to say that I intend to do what I believe is right. We live in an age, and in a country where its okay not to pay taxes, okay to bribe, okay to murder and okay to achieve your goals by any means but this is not all there is for every five people I dislike there is one I can trust and respect. That's good enough for me – I can do it too – and I intend to.

And lastly, on this subject of making a difference as a role model, I believe that I have an important role just as people before me showed me how to live, it is my duty to filter the right value – but not just mine – it is yours too, and yes, you can make a difference.

- Gurkirpal Singh Mann

BLACK BOY

Richard Tucker who later came to be known as Big Black Richie had a weird life. He was born in the ghettos of New York. As everywhere in the 50's, in his vicinity the 'Cosa Nostra' were to be found in plenty. His father was a janitor in an office building and his mother a maid in one of the Mafioso houses, the only ones that could be even called lavish in that area.

Richie grew up seeing his father come home late every night, always drunk and dirty and disheveled cursing away at everything that moved and quarrelling with his mother and always discontent and bitter at being 'black' and having a poor life. While at the same time he saw the Mafioso at the local Bar & Restaurant 'La Napoli'. They just sat there the whole time going out only once in a while that too just for an hour or two. They just lounged around dressed up stylishly made merry, and laughed and joked all the time. They always spent money very lavishly and still had more left over. For him his only ambition in life was to become like them and believe me he did.

When he was just 13 years old he mustered courage and went to the 'La Napoli' where he asked one of the Mafioso Chiefs, Vincentino whether he needed any errand boys whoever willing to risk necks. In a few days time he was

working carrying packages and messages, shining cars and doing all sorts of odd jobs.

The tall gangly, eager youth soon struck it off with one of the more important Mafioso – 'Garry Solezono', who was charmed by his smile and eagerness. It was nice to see the thin, lanky boy play poker with the short, wide shouldered man with eye-patch that gave him a piratical air.

Soon the young boy was in charge of all the 'errand boys' some older than he and with Garry as his mentor, by his 14th birthday he was earning more money than his father earned in a month and this came as a boon to his mother but a curse to his father as he stopped working and drank away the day and died just a few months later. For Richie there was no stopping he just aped the Mafioso aping their dressing etc.

On his 18th birthday he was given a gun and go signal. His assignment, to get money from this bookkeeper who refused to pay money to 'Cosa Nostra'. Richie was nervous at first but he just went in and let his instinct take over. He shoved his gun into the keeper's mouth and rang it like a dinner gong. This, he did so efficiently that the bookkeeper's second handed the money over without any hassle. With acts as such this the 'Black Boy' was a giant of a man reaching six feet seven inches soon

walked up such a scary reputation that by 20 he was one of the head retainers of Garry, who now was the Don on his own right.

In early sixties during the great wars Garry Solezono was assassinated and the power of the clan fell into Richie's hands. With recruitment of more soldiers, clever strategy and lots of luck Richie won power in New York and gradually the

whole East Side.

The Black Boy was the first black gangster and he is the one who started the 'Era Of Niggers' which has prevailed till now.

So I guess those who like gangster rap owe it all to him.

- Pawan Rana

"DUDES" OF THE FORTNIGHT



GOING PLACES

SEPARATED AT BIRTH!

Mr. Sahi
Sarbans Deep
Mr. Kandpal
Mr. Bhandari
Daksh Tyagi
Sudanshu Modi
Anant Dwivedi
Karn Singh
Kanishk Kaushik (without his hair)

Pranay Patodia
Akshay Kumar
Govinda
Hans Raj Hans
Mr. Ghosh
Fardeen Khan
Red Colobus Monkey
Shahrukh Khan
Mahatama Gandhi

RINGSIDE VIEW

The hockey team silenced all critics (if there were any). After drubbing Marshal School 13-1 in the Councils Hockey, the team took on Moravian in the next game, the team played a thorough game and comfortably won 3-0. Mukti came up with a fantastic one hand shot to score a goal, truly speaking Mukti plays a lot better with one hand than he does with both hands. In the semi-final we faced SJA. Shubham came up big in the game scoring 4 of the 7 goals scored. The team played the Doon School (who else!) in the final. It was a close match but your own Ringo guy scored the only goal of the game in the first half. The opponents came close to scoring a goal but the defense managed to hold on and the team won the councils after three years.

The team also defended its title in Mussoorie. In the D.M. Swing Memorial Tournament held at Oakgrove, we first faced Oakgrove itself. News worth mentioning here is that the Oakgrove team has nine players called from outside including three all-India coaches to play for them. And if this is not enough they had the referees on their side. Gurkirpal made some spectacular saves in the first half. He did practically everything to stop the ball from going past him. The team also played brilliantly and lead 3-1 in the second half. But two dubious decisions cost us two goals and the match ended in a 3-3 draw. Parimal, Shubham and Amit all struck a goal each. Amit's goal was a fantastic one. Shubham, Saumya and Amit combined to make a deadly move which zapped the Oakgrove defense. Later the coaches were overheard rating it as the goal of the season. The next match was a do or die situation as we had to win against CBS to qualify for the final. Though the opponents drew first blood, but the team bounced back and finally defeated them 5-2. Parimal and Amit had a great game with both scoring a couple of goals. Last years finals were

replayed. We met St. Georges in the finals. Again Saumya and Amit played magnificent in the mid-field. The match ended in a 2-2 draw and the result of the game went on to be decided by the penalty pushes. Mukti and (ahem!) myself were the two scorers.

Parimal, Kaushik and Amit all scored from the spot. Karan and myself missed as their keeper saved them. Then Gurkirpal came up with two amazing saves and the team successfully defended its title, winning the match 5-4 on aggregate. Under the excellent captaincy of Amit Prashar, the team has not lost any match this season. Out of the 9 matches they played they won 6 and drew three.

Though without a coach, the team has done exceptionally well and kept saying, 'Hockey is in the Blood of a Welhamite.' Well done, guys.

Changing gears to Basketball. The Basketball team reached the final at Districts Basketball Championship against the Doon School. The three-pointers let us down once again and we lost 35-61. Enroute to the final we had played two matches. The first one being against Riverdale School which we comfortably won 57-23. We faced SJA in the semi-finals. Yoginder and Kaju combined heavily and led the team to victory (67-35).

This term has been a 'sporty term'. in every sense of the word. The cricket team made its mark by beating Sanawar and winning quite a few matches. The Basketball season took off fashionably with the team reaching the final at Woodstock. But a string of bad performances in the Afzal Khan and Golden Jubilee messed up the season.

Hockey has dominated the term. They practised hard and their hard work has borne fruit. They played like true Welhamites and did not give up till the end.

See you next season,

The dying Ringostar,

Aatir

EDITORIAL BOARD

Chief Editor : Azar Zaidi

Literary Affairs : Kanishk Kaushik

Welham Now : Rohan Sachdeva

Cartoonist : Prabesh Shrestha

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Desktop Editors : Ijlal Shamsi & Vir Bhadra

Ringside View: Aatir Ansari

Nature Diary : Amish Raj Mulmi

W.O.B.N : Mr. Jagjit Singh

E-Mail: oliphant@giasdl01.vsnl.net.in

Web-page: www.welham-boys.org

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