

The Elephant

No. 252

WELHAMBOYS' SCHOOL

16 November, 2000

Think About It...

The only thing that comes easy in life is death itself
-Lorenzo Carcaterra

EDITORIAL

Eleven years have finally resulted in my being blessed with the position of the Editor. I don't want to talk much about the past Prefect body, as the last Ed wouldn't stop not mentioning about them. But as I have heard they did a good job. The new Prefect body is a good one and I know I talk on behalf of the whole school when I say this.

I don't want to show people their way, as they are old enough to realise their own worth.

It is difficult to write this editorial, believe me, it is, because there is so much to talk about and it is impossible to find a perfect start.

Here I go. As usual the immediate consequence of the new Prefect body being appointed is the birth of the non-present body. Yes, I'm talking about the present class 11. More than the Prefects, they seem to be in the lime-light. Some awaited eleven years while the new comers have been presently surprised. Before I forget, I would like to convey my congratulations to the new Prefect body on behalf of the new editorial board.

Supposedly late night parties, oh forget it. I'm talking of the upcoming exams. One question that haunts my mind is "Are people actually study-

ing?" I'm writing this with my Commerce text open in one hand. Thank God, at least I am.

The season of running around like mad horses is over, finally we get to see some hard hits and full strokes. Rejuvenated with the thrill of the country's favourite game. You can spot aspiring Tendulkars practising their strokes. Be it in the corridors or in the open fields. Basically, everywhere it would be ungracious of me not to mention my 'Guiding Light'. Although it has faded off into oblivion it has nevertheless revealed new avenues, for me and my team to explore. The pen might be mightier than the sword, but as words come out from the depth of truth they cannot express my gratitude for the big one. His

'Vast' experience as an editor could even shadow his physical vastness. Truly, I am inspired.

I don't know if I will live up to expectations. What I do know is that I'm one of the few editors to have an able board, people who I know will do everything possible to make this fortnightly an interesting, informative and inspiring magazine.

So this very first issue is my personal tribute to the board I have.



This fine day today, matters most.
The past has been great, therefore relevant.
The future is unknown, therefore irrelevant.



LETTER TO THE ED...

Extract from a letter from Dev Agrawal, Exchange student to Mowbray College, Melbourne:

“... Here the way of teaching is quite different as compared to India. The students here are made to do more of practical work than theory. There is a huge difference in culture. The teachers are more like friends. Everywhere there are computers,

which are connected to the school server, therefore we are connected to the Internet 24 hours. Every student has a school e-mail id and he or she is just allowed to use the school's mail and all other e-mail sites are banned.”

E-mail: dev_agarwal@hotmail.com

WELHAM NOW

(1) The Prefect Batch for the year 2000-2001 has been appointed. They are:

1. Saumya Khaitan (School Captain)
2. Kaushik Choudhary (Sports Captain)
3. Yoginder Negi
4. Abhinav Kir
5. Amish Mulmi
6. Deepak Sanan
7. Shrid Dhungel
8. Vir Bhadra

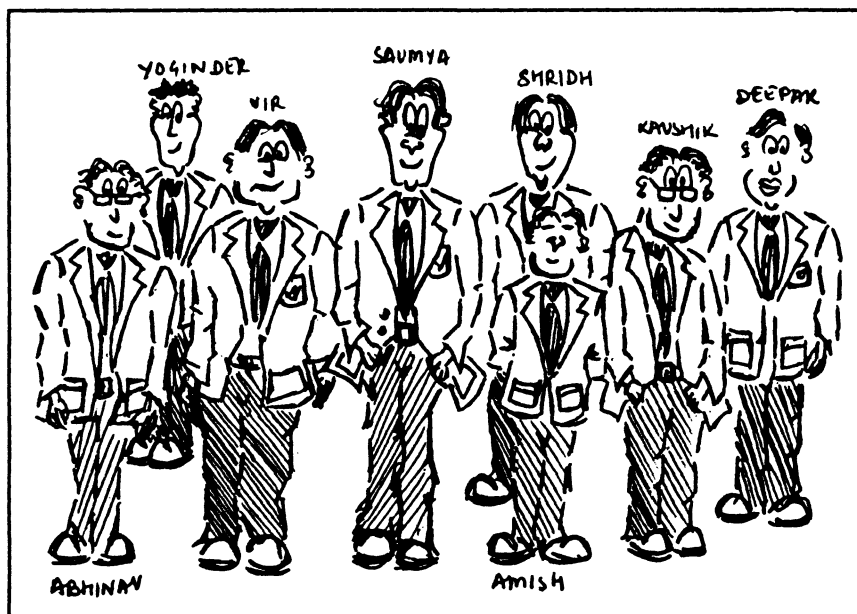
We wish them a successful tenure.

1. Rishi Bagaria
2. Amish Mulmi
3. Anshuman Singh

(4) The quiz held at Riverdale High did not prove to be lucky and we stood second runners up. The team comprised:

1. Amish Mulmi
2. Anshuman Singh
3. Neeraj Pareek

(2) The Founders Day Hindi Play was performed once again on the 3rd of November for various local schools and other students who had missed it.



(3) We qualified for the F.O.D. quiz finals and emerged victorious. The team comprised:

(2)

(5) Daman Chikara broke the district record in the Under 18 and set a new school record in shot put by breaking his previous record.

(6) The New Oliphant Board for the year 2000-2001 has been appointed. The previous board did a good

job and we will miss the various passing out members. The new members are:

Chief Editor : Anshuman Singh
Desktop Editor : Sagar Sharma
Cartoonist : Prabesh Shrestha
Literary Affairs Correspondent: Amish Mulmi
Welham Now : Karan Mehrotra

Nature Diary : Prayaas J.B. Rana
Ringside View : Rohan Sachdeva

(7) A career counselling session was held for classes 11th and 12th. The counsellors were from Lucknow. The session proved to be very helpful and I hope each batch has an opportunity to attend such a session.

LITERARY AFFAIRS

We are the Welhamites....

We are the Welhamites, the mighty-mighty Welhamites, to honour ourselves this article I write. Some are good, others are a pain. Here are all those characters that make Welham:

Hip Hop Dudes- These kinds of Welhamites are the easiest to spot. Look around and you will find them wearing their shorts at least 4 inches below their waistlines. They are known for trying all kinds of strange hairstyles, and stranger enough, popularizing it all over school. Music seems to rule their senses at all times. You will see them swaying their heads and throwing their hands around in the corridors of Triveni, whenever, the deck is on. They are greatly influenced by the American Black generation. Say "Hello" to them and they return "Hey Man, Wazzup?"

The Chatoos- For these their tongue seems to be the most important organ of their body (believe me, I don't mean for talking!) These are the ones that usually carry huge piles of books for teachers, and hunt around the school for them to greet them "Good Morning!" They would agree with a teacher even if they were to say that Michael Jackson founded our school, as long as it made them happy! They would laugh wildly at a teacher's cheapest joke and sometimes agree even for extra prep. Their tongues would jump into action at every small opportunity! Ask them why and they say 'A good student knows the subject, a better student knows the teacher'!

Mr. I Don't give a Damn - All of us know what type of people I am talking about. In three simple words they are 'the teacher's nightmare'. Studies

are things they do when they get bored enjoying! Half of the time they are out of school. They watch each and every movie in town (even the morning shows of Garhwali Flicks)! They bunk so many classes that you won't be surprised if, on spotting one in the academic block a teacher asks, "Are you a new boy?" They receive Principals'/ Housemasters' cards like greeting cards, and they carry them proudly in their shirt pockets. These are the ones you are mostly likely to find opening their books a night before boards!

The Bheja Fries- On the other hand we have people for whom life is only studies. They literally eat, drink, talk walk, sleep, studies, studies and only studies. Ask them anything for instance- What is the population of Mozambique (Where's that?). and they will not only tell you that but also its history, its population, the G.D.P., its infrastructure, constituency and what not. They can also give suggestions to improve its economy! They start studying for their board exams 3 years in advance. And by chance if they score below 90% in any exam you see them with a sullen face for god knows how many days. These are the crackpots, which later hit the jackpot!

Casanovas- These are our very own Don Juans and Romeos. They seem to know the Bio-Data and life history of each girl. Every school activity and function seems to be the time for them to come into play. They are a real master at their game. These desperate guys drool just at the sound of the word 'girls'. Open their cupboards and you will find books such as - '101 Flirts' Bible', 'How to improve on first dates', 'The way to a woman's

heart'. No wonder they are so good at it.

The Big Ps- (No, no that's not a printing error, it's not supposed to be Big B). What I am referring to are the P's – Popats. These are the most jilted, pushed and abused ones. They are however, usually the ones who do not represent the school or the house in any activity. All they do is eat and sleep. (Some cannot even do that). Being one of these in Welham is like being a piece of meat in front of the starving lions. They become mere toys to be played with by seniors and fellow classmates. If you are one, may God help you!

Gods of Good Looks- These are the ones that would go to any extent to look good. A pimple on their face, and they will bring the house down. These can also be spotted easily by their habit of applying all sorts of face packs and creams after prep! Seeing the number of times they wash their faces, one could be led to think that water is not meant for drinking it all! Open their cupboards and you will see a replica of Shenaz Hussain's boutique! Seeing their collection of perfumes, hair gels, creams and face washes, even a Versace

model would be embarrassed. They look into each and every shiny object (that's not only a mirror!) around to see their faces.

The Dopes With No Hopes- Although the number of these guys has dropped recently, some still might be existing. These are those who are hell bent to kill themselves. In spite of knowing the hazards of smoking to health, but also to academics, they continue and will go to any extent to get a 'kick' out of it all. Blame it on lack of self-control, and ... Saturday Nights!! Academics always seems to take a back seat in their lives. Ask them what about I.C.S.E and I.S.C.? They say "what the heck yaar, I CAN'T SMOKE ENOUGH!!" and then "I STILL CAN'T" ... just one word of advice- Quit!

After much said and done we all know it is all fun. Still give it a thought or two. Which one of these you belong to?

PRAYAS J.B. RANA
Class - X

Welham's Income – Tax Raid.

It's late in the evening and I have been wondering the whole day what to write on. The Editor has already given me several reminders but nothing seems to come into my thick head. Ahh..... I've got it!!!

A tragic event took place in the school, the other day. It was unexpected, of course. The Prefect body must have run out of cash, so they decided to take a 'Cash Check'.

The School 'Captain' standing in front of me said, "Anybody who has cash, this is the time to own up." God knows why, but I didn't. I must say, I was pretty confident that I wouldn't get caught. Some of the prefects scurried to Krishna House while the School Captain and a few others stayed back in the hope of catching a few guys.

The School Captain asked two prefects to take Ganga and Jamuna while he decided to take Cauvery (my hostel). My confidence was beginning to diminish and I started, actually started to

sweat. He went into the eleventhies room and asked everyone to open their treasure box, or rather their cupboard. As I opened my treasure box, the treasure (if I can call the contents one) stood right in front. The School Captain himself started to take a thorough check throwing out everything. I was so nervous that it became a compulsion for me to walk out of my room. Later on when I re-entered, I realised that Lady Luck was not on my side that day. I was caught and the most frightening part was that the School Captain of Welham Boys' School had caught me.

My heart racing, I wondered whether I would be publicly embarrassed and severely reprimanded and suspended. The Schoolie gave me a glare and said that I would get my due.

The next day, it was the hottest topic in school. All the teachers were inquiring and were inquisitive. And all I could do was bend my head in shame.

But now it is the past. I was punished, only one disadvantage! I ran out of money, Please help! And please support this poor chap, a miserable victim of the Income Tax raid.

Bankrupt:
SHRID DHUNGEL
Class - XI

Gone, Gone too deep.....

I came into this place, too early to be.
Just before the evil world was set free.
Set free from fear, fear of pain.
But that thought made me feel insane.

Fear was there, knocked deep in my head.
It was in my mind when I went to bed.
Will I awake and rise tomorrow,
Will they set me free from my sorrow.

It all stabbed me, thinking of it.
It made me go into a furious fit.
But! What could be done,
I was not the one and only one.
The whole timid world was scared of them

Not a finger raised, not a voice cried.
For they knew their hands were tied.
This was not what I wanted to be,
Please! Please set me free.

No matter what came,
Their attitude could not change.
I hoped that one day they would let me go.
But it was just a hope, I guess so.

I cried, I begged, I tried to run.
But I had become a prisoner of this new worldly sun.

One day I decided, I had had enough.
I couldn't bear all this stuff.
Their whipping, their walloping, and their abuses,
It had blown my mind's fuses.

This day I decided, thy shall be,
What this world deserves to see.
I shall teach them the rules of life,
I shall show them, how it feels when stabbed by a knife.

Each sniff, made me feel insane.

The hot lava of grudge inside me,
Made me see what I couldn't see.

I bullied my way into the innocents' life,
I stabbed the wrong people with my knife.
I then realised, why the hell was my frustration sized.
Just because I was not manly enough to spit it out on them.

Half a mind to kill,
I walked into the shambled inn.
It was here where these blood shedders lay,
It was time to have my bloody way.
I kicked, I raved, in my frustrated state.
I knocked each one out cold.
I had grown from timid to bold.
After my job was done,
I realised, I differed none from their lives,
And this weird idea of ruling struck my mind.

I became boss, and governed life,
On the tip of a knife.
The weed and my dedicated state,
Brought me to my evil fate.

Each one tried to stop me,
But I had gone too deep into this sea.
No turning back seemed to me.
Bewildered off my path and gone
And landed up in the wildest storms.
I couldn't leave it,
I couldn't live it.

I had gone, gone too deep...

Fallen into the hands of fate,
Lying in this drunken state,

KARAN MEHROTRA
Class - VIII
(5)

Mid Terms - Dodi Tal.

For mid terms I went to a place called Dodi Tal. I was not sure what to expect from this, being a lake up in the mid Himalayas, but I was sure it wasn't going to be easy getting there. The trek was, to say the least, quite tiring. We trekked for five kilometres before reaching Agoda, there we got to indulge ourselves in magi noodles. The next day started at about seven in the morning, this one was even more tiring than the first, having to trek sixteen kilometres! But upon reaching Dodi Tal, I knew that the trek was all worth it. The area was just beautiful, there was a temple right next to the lake and it was surrounded by hills on all but one side. The second day up at Dodi Tal was the best, all we did was sit around the lake trying to catch Rainbow Himalayan trout. It took a lot of patience, but after a long wait, I finally hooked one, it wasn't too big, but it was a fish. Not too long after this a second fish was caught, by Mr. Jagjit Singh. That night Mr. Jagjit Singh and I had a meal quite different to the usual noodles, we got to eat the delicious fish we had caught earlier on in

the day. That night we had a big campfire, we all sat around it to keep warm, and telling stories the boys kept themselves amused. Some of them quite amusing indeed. After the fire was slowly burning to an end, every one left the fire and went back to their tents. It was quite cold at nights, but snuggling up in your sleeping bags made it nice and warm.

The next morning was a dreaded one; we had to leave Dodi Tal, but not before a nice hearty meal of bread, cheese and baked beans. After that we went to have one last look at the temple and then set off for the twenty one-kilometre trek that lay before us. After starting the trek, the time flew by and I found it to be easier than the first two days, but I was sure glad to get back to Uttarkashi, and to top it all off, we got to enjoy a meal of butter chicken to finish of our mid terms.

PETER HICKMOTT

Born Once Again.

This is a story from a distant land,
I found it buried in shifting sand,
It tells about the hostel life of a man,
As faithfully a patient sufferer can.
As morning unfolds we rush for P. T. we dread
Fearing the instructor's whistle leaving our bed.
Then the day is filled with many a duty
But breakfast is first grabbed as booty.
Then starts the assembly and hymns are sung.
But "we are hungry" is the cry on our tongue.
Next come classes which are very boring and
You can hear the boys gently snoring.
Then we are released and let loose for lunch
And enter the dining hall in a bunch
But how can we relish the junk that is served as
food, our spirits sunk.
The rice is hard never properly fried
To eat which we have often cried.

Thank god evening brings welcome tea.
Otherwise we all would be dead, my friends and
me.
Then we are free to play any sort of game.
Mostly our vigour ends with a sprain.
In extreme cases we become lame.
We are supposed to have a bath at 6:30.
For we aren't allowed to dine when we are dirty.
Evening brings dinner and you see all graze
Followed by arithmetic, which leaves us in a daze.
Night bring much awaited sleep which is infinite
deep.
This is the fruit of our daily labor we reap and
Such privileges in Fort Knox, Welham we keep.

-MANU SANAN
Class - VIII

NATURE'S DIARY

Man, Nature's Enemy.

All around us we see the great creations of
man. The car, in which we can travel long dis-

tances by road, the plane in which we can travel
even longer distances in the sky, the microwave

oven in which we cook food, the telephone by which we communicate with each other and many more things.

But for such things, one needs material wood for a house, wool for clothes and trees for paper.

In today's world, the population is growing so much, that more of these things are required. And as a result, man has put in danger lives of many plants and animals.

The blue whale, the king of the ocean is being slaughtered in large numbers for the making of shoe polish and eye shadow. The tigers and lions are being massacred in huge numbers for their priceless skin. The musk deer are being killed for their musk gland, which is used in perfumes. According to a W.W.F. census, five tigers die every month around the world. If this goes on, the Indian National Animal will soon be extinct. The number of platypuses has dropped down to an alarming number. The musk deer too are dying out before you can say 'Jack Robinson'. The felling of trees too is very alarming. Just two decades ago, the total earth surface covered by

trees were 38%. But now its dropped down to 26%. If in just two decades there is a drop of 12%, then it won't be long when the period will come when there are no trees! By doing such things, man has become nature's foe and not friend.

Man is just not the enemy of nature, but he is his own enemy! Due to the arms race, more than 100 million people have perished in this war century. In World War II alone more than 56 million people had died. Half civilians and half soldiers. In today's sophisticated world, countries at war hardly send soldiers but deploy nukes, smart bombs, missiles and even biological and chemical bombs. These weapons are called 'The Weapons of Terror' and if deployed, a huge number of innocent people will be massacred before the blink of an eye.

So all this must be stopped if we want this world to be a better place to live in.

SAMRIDHA S.J.B. RANA.
Class - VIII

THROUGH THE KEYHOLE...

Mr. Basu talking to Parimal and Kanishk:
"Ay yaar, even I was the *School Captain of Cricket* in my school."

* * *

Deepak: Where does your Uncle stay?
Vikrant: Mostly in Delhi but every winter he *migrates* to Naini Tal!!

* * *

Saurav Kumar proudly to all his classmates:
"Hey guys, I'm going for the 100 m shot put!!"

* * *

WHAT'S HOT!!??

"Cool Ed." Anshuman
The 'Different' Batch

Pavitra: "Which car have you got?"
Aseem (proudly): "I've got a Honda City made by Mitsubishi.

* * *

Mr. Sandeep Khanna shouting at 10 - B :
"Can't you see what is written on the board, are you boys deaf and dumb!!"

* * *

WHAT'S NOT!!??

"Bulky Ed." Azar
The supposedly 'Worst' Batch

SEPARATED AT BIRTH

Utsav Agarwal
Madhav Gulati
Gautam Mahajan

Om Nivas
Abhishek Bachchan
Geetika Upadhyay

RINGSIDE VIEW

Well... where do I start? I seriously don't know and writing this is not pleasure as you think it is.

Rumours have it that 'Softball' has been introduced as a new sport. After constant questioning and interrogation I found out, to my utter dismay, that it is a dame's sport. Furthermore very soon there is going to be a captain of this non-existent sport! I have sacrificed my afternoon naps to snoop around and look at the field if anyone plays this – NOBODY DOES. Hope this gets rolling soon then we might play WGHS or MIS – way to go!!!

Moving on to the juicy bit. Basketball is in full swing, with the boys getting up at 5 in the morning to practice, the councils started on the 7th of this month. Our first match was against GRD, we beat them hollow by a lead of 28 points. This match ended with a score of 60–32 in our favour. Aatir and Anshuman were said to have played exceptionally well. The next match was against RRMA. We lost 54 – 61. The boys played well till the end despite Kaju and Anshuman not playing, Aatir being sent out for fouls and Saumya getting injured. Despite no more tournaments being held the practices still rage on. Not to forget Negi - the new (undeclared) Captain cum Prefect. The only one who has broken Krishna House's dominance on the sport's Captaincy. You can see his expression change as he enters the basketball court. Best of luck and hope he makes

the team stronger and makes it the most popular Welhamite's sport again.

Every afternoon you can see the three Enthusiasts – Gaurav, Owais and Neeraj, slogging their guts out at the pitch's near the orchard. All of them suffer from insomnia as they eat, drink and think only about cricket. Cricket practice is in full bloom; the season has started early due to the enthusiasts. Recently a match between Class 11 and 12 was held. The eleventhies thrashed the senior batch by 9 wickets with the Malhotra brothers (Aditya and Gaurav) making a 46 and 38 each without getting out.

The squash season once again commenced. The Inter - House matches are over. Cauvery lifted the trophy with Krishna coming second. Most probably Subhashish will get the best player.

The volleyball craze has not yet faded but is raging on with Gurpreet Gambhir, an ex – Welhamite who was captain in his time, becoming coach. He is one tough guy, you can see the boys doing push ups as punishments. Oops, how could I forget Shrid – he is becoming the captain, but that doesn't mean he is excused from punishment. So all who want to see a prefect and the volley ball captain getting punished, visit the volley ball court – A sight you will never forget.

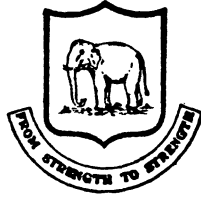
**Thats all for me,
ROHAN**



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The Oliphant

No. 252

WELHAMBOYS' SCHOOL

16th November, 2000

FOUNDER'S DAY SUPPLEMENT

PRINCIPAL'S SPEECH: OCTOBER 2000

Ladies and Gentlemen: Welcome.

This year our community has suffered the loss of 2 members: Our Chairman Emeritus, Mr. Dharma Vira, who had been our active Chairman from 1978 to 1998 died in September. But his association goes back to 1940 when he admitted his son Indu to school. A pillar of strength, a font of great advice and encouragement, we, and I especially, will miss him. Short in height, but great in wisdom and vision he stood very tall.

A great tragedy was the death of young Sandeep Singh of Class XI. He died in March of pulmonary oedema when on a skiing holiday in Auli. He was a cheerful lad, always helpful and cooperative and growing into an excellent young man. Amongst his many contributions were the building up of our Hindi paper, Sankalp. He leaves a great gap in the lives of his family and many friends.

I request you all to stand in silence for one minute.....Thank you.

Mr. Girish Rangan, Members of the Board, Parents, Old Boys, staff, students and guests: I am delighted to welcome our Chief Guest and Mrs. Rangan and must thank him for stepping in as our Chief Guest at the last moment as Mr. Chandrasekhar was unable to come. I was very keen that our Chief Guest be a person imbued with what the next century is all about and so would be able to give our School community a vision of the interesting but explosive changes that our students will face in the future.

You will have read Business India's profile and so know of Mr. Rangan. But briefly, he has worked in a senior capacity in various advertising and marketing posts and now he is head of BPL Mobile – so he will be the ideal man to bring a breath of fresh air into our ivory tower.

I also extend a very warm welcome to Mr. Nasser Munjee, the dynamic CEO of IDFC Ltd on to our the Board of Management and also as our Special Invitee to the Board, Mrs. Jyotsna Brar, Principal, Welham Girls' High School.

Today we are gathered to remember Miss H S Oliphant. As I will be the last Principal to have personally known her well and that too over a span of twenty years, I have taken the liberty to print a long note on her life in the School paper so that our archives will have a more detailed record. I hope you have read it.

Hersilia Susie Oliphant was a great figure who set a very difficult role for her successors to emulate. But

I know that she will be proud of what her school has attained and how it has weathered many storms. Alas that people in the political and bureaucratic worlds should have caused so many of these storms.

The last decade has seen much change here, and most of it has been strived for. In 1997, in my Founders Day address I discussed some of the forecasts people like Toffler had made about the future; in 1998 I dwelt on the theme "to prepare for the future, what in concrete terms are we at Welham trying to do?" and last year I developed the theme further and elaborated on it. My main points were:

Students and their mentors will have to acquire a thorough understanding of how technology works and what it can do.

We will have to cope with the changing structure of the family and a new set of sexual mores as, to quote Huxley, "contraceptives have made chastity superfluous" The rise in consumerism; and the mindset of the male chauvinists of Welham which leads to difficulty in facing the concept of gender equality. A problem that perhaps they share with many of you!

To some extent the School has addressed these issues; every boy has access to the computer with i-Macs in the Junior School and p.c.'s elsewhere. So they have the Internet and the use of e-mail within their reach. Of course there are the usual computer and media labs, but this is not enough. Every classroom, hostel, staff room, must be wired and teachers must know how to use smart boards and the school must provide them! Some departments have, I am happy to tell you, made effective use of new technology but much remains to be done.

Earlier this month, our delegation to the Round Square Conference in Canada visited various schools. Accompanying them was the Head of the Computer Department and I. We now plan to submit a report to the Board on technology in the Classroom, that I hope will lead to the 21st century sweeping throughout the school. As a start, how about you indulgent parents purchasing laptops for your wards? Please keep in mind that "The computer/internet are creative tools for learning. They do not replace the parent, teacher or the classroom – they add to a child's basic equipment," and the providing of such tools is the hallmark of a good school.

The other dimension, that of coping with the changing structure of society, we have partly addressed by having a continuing series of workshops on Sex Education as well as employing a clinical psychologist

who is available to all staff and students, on a one to one basis.

Alas, we have failed to do much to stem the rise of consumerism though we have held a workshop on the "Wise Consumer". Perhaps our Chief Guest, with his great experience in the world of marketing could suggest ways in which we could advise the students on how to cope with this world wide phenomena.

What about gender equality? Here I must strike a discordant note : parents appear to want schools to transmit to their children things that homes avoid or discard. After a series of encounters with parents, a fellow head teacher David Newsome, reported "that when I observe the shallow materialism of some of the homes and the glib expectations that schools such as mine will provide the culture, sensitivity and spirituality that was so inconspicuous at home, I feel despair." Speaking of myself, I do despair at times, but I am not disheartened, because many parents do cooperate and are good role models.

But it is unfortunate that though our boys are only too delighted to socialize with the opposite sex, they are so used to be pampered by their mothers and sisters that they cannot really accept that the male sex is NOT necessarily the superior one!

Perhaps the most important dimension of the human psyche is spirituality (including within it, the concept of service). This is also the most difficult one to inculcate in our pupils and their mentors.

Fortunately at this years Round Square Conference the theme "The Power of One" drove home to us – students and teachers – the message that every one in some little way can help make the world better and so also make ourselves better. Some of the role models that came in are people like Craig Kielberger (whose book "Free a Child" is in the LRC) who started a movement to free children from bonded labour at the age of 12.; Pete Dalglish who began with air lifting food and medical supplies for war-torn Ethiopia and went on to found "Street Kids International" and nearer home, late Rippan Kapur who began working at a slum with a group of class mates from Class 8 and at the age of 25 founded CRY with savings from his salary as an Air India purser. These are lives that may teach all of us to believe in the concept of service and I am happy to report this concept is alive at WBS in a few of our boys some of whom have done excellent work at Cheshire Home and Raphael.

To put it briefly, in our goal to help make "the complete man" we are aiming to (1) to impart skills; above all, the skill to continuously remodel oneself as we go along in life; (2) instill values including cultural values and a sense of service i.e. social responsibility; (3) to give a deep and abiding concern and consciousness of our environment; and finally, to emphasize team work, not competition.

To achieve these, we have to make a two-pronged attack: (1) design a curriculum so that it promotes a spirit of enquiry and creativeness and (2) go in for a regular, continuous and high quality training programme for staff development. The above may seem a tall order but within the school we have been focusing on building skills such

(2)

as effective communication and the management of information; working collectively and helping in making our environment better. Those of you who went around the exhibitions may have noted that we have achieved in some measure, developing skills of effective communication, team work and environmental awareness that I have just spoken about.

Our staff too has participated in a variety of training programmes and at times conducted them. One center of excellence that continues to forge ahead is our dyslexia unit. In short we are in a state of constant development and change.

On the Staff front too we will see many changes. Mr. Shashi Bhushan, our Senior Master, retires at the end of the year. He has been a pillar of strength in the last decade shouldering much administrative work, directing plays like the one you will see later, galvanizing the Hindi department, etc. I wish him all the best and as he is settling down in Dehradun I hope he will be visiting the School.

Another colleague who retires is Miss Zeba Rehman. With her going, an era departs. She is the only teacher left whom Miss Oliphant personally appointed to the staff of the school in 1960. She has been the mainstay of our Junior School and generations of young Welhamites remember her with affection and regard. Earlier generations like mine remember her father who was an instructor here. We will miss her but I trust that she will keep in touch.

Another retirement in the offing is that of the Principal. You will be relieved to know that this is the last Founders day address that I will inflict on you. Having had two innings in the School, 4 years as a student and 18 as a Principal, I will naturally carry many images of the campus, of the characters who give it life and colour, and those boys and parents who are now friends. As I survey the years that I have been Principal, I realize that I owe much for the support and advice I have received from members of the Board, friends of the School – but above all from the boys themselves, many of whom skillfully manipulated me into acceding to their requests.

When I look back at my stint here, it is with a quiet feeling of satisfaction and pride, because I observe how the school has found its own identity and has developed its own world view. This, to me, is more important than the many physical facilities that I have managed to create for the School though I am proud that I could fulfill Miss Oliphant's dream and purchase all the property we had rented.

With the pride there is also an awareness of failure in three areas:

The inability to get many of my PH boys, over the last decade, to understand that self-discipline and a high level of aspiration go together. I have tried to give them a chance to grow up without the constraints and rules that are the norm in most schools, giving them more freedom than is common for Indian students of 17 years – but many have misused this.

The failure to get all of my colleagues to understand the depth of involvement required of teachers and the significance of the pivotal role they play in the life of students in a residential school.

Finally, I have not succeeded in getting parents

to fully cooperate with the school in maintaining necessary discipline.

Having said this, I must also add that it is the same lot of people, teachers, parents and senior students who have been my co-workers in taking the School from Strength to Strength. I owe thanks to so many, that if I was to list their names the litany would go on forever. But, I owe special thanks to my school captain, Parimal Piyush and his team for having done such excellent work.

Finally, for the first time in public, I must express my gratitude to my "trouble and strife", Usha, who has been a pillar of strength for all these years. Her memory for names, faces and dates, accompanied with the ability to give a patient hearing to Mothers and Staff and also listen to me fulminate have been invaluable.

I now read one of our Assembly prayers:
Master, give us this day hard word to do, work that will

CHIEF GUEST'S SPEECH: OCTOBER 2000

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen, Students, Mr. Kandhari, Members of the Board. Mr. Kandhari was very kind enough to invite me here to talk to you on this very, very important occasion of your Founders day and he requested if I could share with you what I call a peek into the 21st century and he also requested that I do this with some emphasis on the technological aspects and changes that are happening in the world around us. Second that I would be addressing apart from the parents and the teachers a particularly bright young bunch of lads who were very savvy. Because let me tell you, in my career I have addressed several board meetings, press conferences, I have probably given 'n' number of interviews but I don't think that I have felt as nervous on any occasion as I do standing in front of you and knowing that the kids in the back probably feel the same about me as I did in my school days when I heard the speech by the Chief Guest.

I'm going to keep this speech short I will try and keep it interesting.

For both Shiela, my wife, and myself its been a wonderful morning. We arrived a little late but we got the chance to go around quite a few classes. As we went around the school, saw the wonderful, creative exhibits which were so inspiring, and spoke to your students, and interacted with your senior ones, we could not help but come away with some very, very strong impressions so I thought this is just as good an occasion as ever to share what an outsider thinks of your school.

I must compliment your Principal and your board for keeping the aspect of technology so alive. I think it is wonderful what they have done by providing you computers, by creating the multi-media room, by providing the computer lab. In the world that you are going to be facing boys, it's a tough world out there, and you are getting the best kind of equipment to face that world.

What your school is doing is to give you a sense of responsibility towards your environment and towards society. I have been through a fairly good schooling myself, but I do not think that my school that kind of an awareness about the importance of environment or society or the role that we all play. And I think that you are going to go out there as wonderfully strong fellows, and you are

tax us and strain us, work that will stretch our muscles and engross our minds, work that will employ all our powers of body and intellect and heart.

If our work appointed this day be study and training for life, reveal unto us our responsibility for the future, teach us that every faculty of body and mind must be faithfully prepared so that when our time comes, we may go forth, fit instruments for service, weapons polished and keen, wherewith we may fight the battle of righteousness and truth, vanquishing error, oppression and wrong.

If our work be the training and teaching of others, then make our minds pure and humble, that no strain of selfishness or lethargy, of mean purpose or low ideals, may mar this weighty and honourable service which has been committed to our charge.

I request Mr. Girish Rangan to address us.

going to be making a difference to the world.

The third aspect, which inspired me and impressed me, was the whole aspect of self-governance that this school seems to be doing through the senior children. This is a school that is not just managed by the teachers and the Board and the administrative staff and the Bursar, it is a school that is managed by the students. And that is a fantastic thing because it creates ownership, it creates responsibility, and that creates a sense of "this is my school and this is the way I want it to be" because I could sense a fierce sense of pride in every student that I interacted with. I think that's all part of a great education. Because each one of us has certain strengths, certain creative abilities, which are very special to us, which cannot be measured by marks and grades alone, but which can only be measured by the extent to which that talent is brought up. And that aspect or that skill is made known to you so I think Welham school is doing a great job of that and I was equally impressed by the Dyslexia center, I think it is a fabulous initiative taken by the School and I must compliment Mr Kandhari and the Board. I think you are leading the way in the field of education and I think that Welhams is going to be giving and continue to be giving a stream of well-rounded individuals to the world.

I would just like run over the things which have happened, some of the achievements that mankind has done. Number 1 man has invented the automobile, the aeroplane, the radio, telephone, vcr, the dvd the microwave oven, thank God for that, the mobile, the computer the internet. He has set foot on the moon, he has explored space, he has launched a hundred different satellites that orbit the earth, and he is also now planning to set foot on Mars. He has invented life saving drugs like anti-biotics, insulin; he has learned how to transplant the heart, the liver, he has even managed to make our Prime Minister a little stronger around the knees. Equally he has also invented life-extinguishing things like the nuclear bomb, and all of you know the stealth bomber nerve gas and the deadly art of biological warfare. He has mastered the art of cloning. Now wouldn't it be funny if you had a classroom of identical kids and the teacher could not make out who threw a chalk at him! Soon for all you know people may be deciding what kind of baby they want and they

may say they want a kid with blue eyes, brown hair and so on and so forth, and cloning can take a whole series of turns that God never intended to be.

All these inventions, progresses, technological advances have happened in the last 100 odd years. And you can imagine that if all this happened in 100 years, and none of this had happened, in the entire history of man prior to that, Ladies and gentlemen, boys, you can imagine what's going to happen in the 21st century.

Everything is changing rapidly. If in a hundred years, mankind can bring about such wondrous changes, and such incredible technological advances, the rate of change is immense and what you can expect month on month and year on year in the 21st century is going to be mind-boggling. It is all about dreaming and watching those dreams come alive. That's what technology is doing.

Let me now give you a peek into the 21st century. Mr Kandhari mentioned about the Internet. The Internet is probably the most exciting invention of the millennium. And do you know something boys; the Internet is only as young as some of you. And yet it has become the single most exciting advance that man has ever made.

Looking ahead, in the 21st century the Internet is possibly going to be the single biggest factor that's going to redefine the balance of power between nations. 20 years ago the US through its technological entrepreneurship had built itself with tremendous muscle power into an economic power. Today technology and knowledge are being exchanged across the internet at such a rapid pace and with such rapid growth that the whole concept of geographical borders, of nations is starting to crumble and governments are beginning to realise that the only thing that can keep mankind going is the power of information. So in the 21st century you are going to see the Internet completely redefining the balance of power of nations. I believe that knowledge and not dollars is going to be the currency of the 21st century. I firmly believe that intellectual capital and not financial capital is going to define the strength of nations. Last week I had the privilege of playing host – we had invited Mr John Perry Barlow who is an Internet guru, he is the ultimate Internet guru. In fact he is called the father of cyberspace he is called the Thomas Jefferson of cyberspace and all the encomiums I could think of would be falling short. And I had a chance of spending an entire evening with John Barlow. He believes that India is going to become one of the top super-powers of the 21st century thanks to the intellectual capital and thanks to the fact that the Internet is exploding here at a faster rate of growth than anywhere else in the world. I would not be surprised at all that with all the talent pool that you have in this country we do become an emergent super power in the 21st century and equally I would not be surprised if sitting right there in the back, there is a future Bill Gates of the internet world. More power to you guys!

As you know, I am working in a mobile phone company – it is an exciting business and I think it is just as good for me to share some changes that are happening in telecommunications because telecommunications is the sunrise company as far as technology is concerned.

Till very recently the main function of the mobile phone was connectivity. Talk to your friends, in other words voice was the primary reason for telephony. Just last fortnight in BPL Mobile we launched mobile Internet wherein through your mobile phone you could actually surf the Internet and you could do anything that you wanted in the palm of your hand. Today on the mobile phone you can manage your e-mail, can check on your stock quotes, can chat on the internet, can actually have your entire calendar for the month day by day programmed on the internet and coming down to your mobile to remind you that today is your wife's birthday, or you have this xyz meeting. Someone today when he was interviewing me for the school magazine asked me about e-commerce. The word for tomorrow is m-commerce, mobile commerce. Because you are going to be shopping as you are driving.

You will be able to operate vending machines with your mobile phone. And how does this happen. Technology has advanced to the level where your mobile phone number and your pin code is recognised by the vending machine. The vending machine talks to your bank account, finds out if you are good for the money, it gets its authorisation comes back to the machine and throws out the can at you. This is happening today in Helsinki, Finland and it is happening in a manner that is going to come to India before you can say Jack Robinson. And to top it all, in mobile telephony there is something known as 3-G – i.e. 3rd generation – 3-G in mobile phones is about getting actual video streaming on to your mobile phone in other words you could watch a movie on your mobile phone, you could actually see your colleague live at the other end on your mobile phone, and all this is 3 years away for India. In Australia they have invented a device for preventing car theft. If someone tries to break into your car, your car sends a message to you on your mobile phone telling you 'hey your car is being broken into' – you press a button that goes back to the car and the car releases a cloud of red smoke around it. There was a time when ATMs (Automatic Teller Machine) when they came into India, people who came from Rajasthan or from the interiors would actually come to the machines to see "yeh machine paisa deta hai". Today the ATM is a fact of life you really don't think about it.

In the early part of the 21st century, possibly within the next five years, possibly in the next 3 years, you will be able to travel in cars that don't need you to drive them. They will be equipped with a system known as the GPS, which is Global Positioning Satellite system. That system will have an inbuilt map of your city it will have a geo-stationary satellite above which is constantly taking in readings of your part of the world, of your city. All you have to do is to get into the car, close your door, and punch into the computer of the car where you want to go in your city. The car will then take over. It will decide for you which is the best route to take, because while you are sitting in there and while you are punching it, it is talking to the satellite, to figure out which is the least congested traffic-easy route for you to take. And it will chart out the entire route for you. Thereafter it will check with the car to see if your car has enough gas to travel that distance, if not it will stop on the way so that you can fill gas in your car,

as you get into the station and want to fill your gas, the camera will recognise your car number, check your personal identity, talk to your bank, check your credit limit, release the authorisation for the petrol to be filled in your car and you are on your way and while you do all this you don't have to touch your steering wheel because the car is equipped with sensors in the front, in the sides and in the rear, to sense its distance from the environment the car in the front, the car in the back, the kerb on the side, the traffic light ahead, and what have you.

Do you know that in a time not too far from now most surgeries are not going to be done by human beings? They are going to be done by robots, they are going to be done by computer controlled devices, they are going to be done by the help of optic fibre aided scope. And in this entire procedure the surgeon is going to be standing there merely to supervise not do the surgery.

What will be the advantage of this? Number one, the operation success rate will be significantly higher, because everything is auto-diagnosed even before the surgeon can see it. Number two the recovery rate for the patient will be significantly shorter because it will be done through keyhole surgery.

I have Nasser Munjee here and he can probably tell you a million things about this – but as I see it, currency as we know it – in fact in one of the exhibits today I saw currencies of the world – I saw Indonesian rupiahs, the old 10 rupee notes of India, and the dollar and the pound. Currency as we know it is going to be increasingly redundant in the 21st century. Almost all-commercial transactions are not going to involve physical cash being handed over. There is a company called Gemplus in the west, which has developed the smart card. The smart card actually is your credit card plus. Apart from your entire banking history, and your authorisation limits, it also carries your medical history, so that in case you get into an accident someone can pick up your card and say hey this guy has got RH B- blood he suffers from lactose intolerance, he actually cannot be administered dextrose because he is a diabetic, or he or she has had a renal impairment, your entire medical history will be on a little smart card. It will also have your emergency contact numbers and it is also your credit card.

And even before that can happen, there will be a smart credit card within your mobile phone. Which again will make currency, the rupee I mean the RBI will probably not need to print out as many notes or punch out as many coins as it is doing today in the years to come.

Another technology that is actually happening in some cities in India and is picking pace rapidly is this whole concept of telecommuting. You know, Bombay city where I work is like a north south loin cloth. It's very long and it involves phenomenal commuting times. You need to work out of your home because you are entirely linked to your office your objectives for the year and the month and for the week and for the day are set out. You work out of your home and you go into office when you need to.

Your productivity and the value you add will judge you. This is how this concept is known as hotelling. You will telecommute and when you want to go into office,

the office will reserve a desk for you. When you will complete your work as related to the office you'll be out and after you leave your hotelling concept moves your desk over for others. It means smaller offices and more productivity. Have you heard about The Blue Tooth (Neela Daat)! It is actually a radio frequency based technology that will do away the need for wires. This means that when you are driving home, you could actually talk to your home through your mobile phone or your car phone and set off a series of interested commands. This will warm your bath, start your air conditioner, open your garage door, heat your food, get the microwave going and so on.

Let me share what's going to happen to life of the housewives in the 21st century. Japan has invented a robot, which vacuum and cleans your house without supervision. Even your refrigerators, where you store your eatables, are going to be programmed.

Once you set this programme, the moment the quantity goes below the programme will automatically call up the super market through Blue Tooth, and will place the order. The super market is going to check with your credit card to see if you are good for it, authorise a transaction and then get the food despatched. Machines, computers, and robots are going to replace most routine jobs. In a country where joblessness is already high, even in advanced countries like the US there is an increasing joblessness. This has a danger in leading to social imbalances and interest. Bombay Municipal Corporation has got the largest work force. If you see the average garbage collection truck in the city it's a very fancy little cab. It will come with a hydraulic bumper and two rods to pick up the bins; it will also have six people in the truck. One guy to tell the driver to reverse, three guys to watch the garbage being picked up, and two guys to hook the truck rods into the garbage bin. In a country like ours it's gonna face a lot of resistance because we as a labour intensive country and if they have their way Politicians are going to resist it more, which is not to say that technology will not make its advance, it means that it will have to be managed very intelligently.

So what's my message for you? The boys of Welham, how can you prepare for the 21st century, so that you not only survive these changes, but you actually take them in your stride and you manage them to your advantage and to your nation's advantage. Understand what are your special skills. Figure out for yourself how are you intelligent? What areas are you specially good at? Your teachers, parents and friends, they can all give you this feedback if only you went and asked them. Once you know that you have developed your skills, you'll find that your skills collect something you will start loving and using. Simply because if you are good at Maths, you will love Maths. When you are young, you can easily convert your attitude into your liking. The secret in life, specially in the 21st century is to build your livelihood and your career around something that is a match around your skill set and your liking. As long as you are doing something in the 21st century which you love doing and which you are good at, you will not fear it in the 22nd century. But if you are going to go out and you are confused, not

knowing how you are intelligent but you only know how intelligent you are because of the grading system in education. In India, you are not well equipped and you are going to spend a few years stumbling around to see which is the area that is good for you. Once you have identified your skill area and your special liking, you will develop your knowledge. You know they say that the era of the worker is gone, the era of the knowledge worker is upon us. Knowledgeable is one who has a very specialised and irreplaceable set of knowledge based skills and he will command his own price in the market. Never, stop upgrading your skills just when you think you are good. Remember, there is someone out there getting better than you at it. That's the only way to stay ahead of the curve.

I don't know how many listen to rock music, I certainly do. Have you heard of a song called – 'Video

killed the Radio Star.' Its all about the radio being the big thing in the 50's and the 60's and along came the video and the man who was a radio star, who became useless.

You should always believe in yourself. If you have faith in yourself you will succeed in everything. You should never judge people based on what you have heard about them, judge them with your experience with them. For your own opinions develop your own faith in other people. That will really help you. Keep at it, but keep at it in a smart way and not a silly way. They say the Greek definition of an idiot is a man who does something the same way and expects a different result. The last bit of advise is don't be afraid to dream, because if you can dream you can make that come alive.

I wish each and everyone of you happiness and success in life and thank you for inviting me here.

CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH: OCTOBER 2000

I was fascinated listening to the vision of the future for you guys. For me I'm shuddering that one day somebody, a robot, or something will be changing my pyjamas for me. I'm frightened, there is a considerable debate on whether the year 2000 is the last year of the 20th century or the first year of the 21st century. Be that as it may I would prefer to look ahead at the new millennium and try and envisage how our school should develop to play in the coming years its rightful role in producing good citizens. I think that, above all, should be our focus, not just good marks, college entry, and other mundane things but to produce good citizens.

We had a very interesting and stimulating parent – teacher meeting in Kathmandu and we encouraged the parents to talk about what they felt should be happening in this school. and what they felt should not be happening. I think that this was a great hint to us to repeat this exercise in other parts of the country and get a communication link with parents on a very spontaneous basis. Rather than just this PTA which you all heard of and its only when we get this sort of feedback from you that we can improve the school. We can have specific objectives of improving our infrastructure, giving your kids hygienic living conditions, modern hostel facilities, good wholesome food and so on. We can improve our academic facilities. I don't have to say much about the IT network, not everybody understood it. Modernising our labs, making well ventilated and happy classrooms, find good teachers, pay them well, train them, retrain them. Put our school on an International map by joining conferences such as the Round Square. Exchanging students, exchanging teachers, and in fact one of my pet objectives and I hope to convince the board one day, now is that that we should introduce the international bachelorette in this school as an alternate stream to our 11 and 12 because that is the most exciting system of education prevalent today.

If we think we have done or are doing a reasonable job, I think it is worthwhile to clone this. Not by opening new Welhams but by offering our expertise as a school,

SCHOOL CAPTAIN'S SPEECH: OCTOBER 2000

Good evening Chairman sir, members of the board, Mr. Kandhari, honourable guests, ladies and gentlemen. We are grateful that you have been able to come for

as technical collaboration to other schools who wish to follow our path and so on. But I repeat, in one sentence I think we should not lose our overall objective of producing good citizens. I was invited to be a trustee of this school in the 80s and had the opportunity to work with three heads in this process. But I would like to say now is and I want to put it on permanent record is that what Charlie Kandhari here has done for this school has been stupendous from a fledging school known only as a feeder school to the Doon School. Charlie has by tireless efforts and unbounded energy and ably supported in all stages by his good wife – 'Usha' given Welham Boys' a full fledged status as one of the premier public schools of India for which we will ever be grateful.

As you are aware, Mr. Kandhari now takes a well-earned retirement on March 31, 2000 and this is his last Founder's Day as he has already told you. I'm sure you'll all join the board and me in wishing Usha and him a healthy, happy and peaceful retirement and I ask you to express this in no uncertain terms by giving Usha and Charlie a standing ovation.

Now the whole country is bussing as to his successor, well so am I so let me tell you what the board of governors has planned. We have widely advertised the post as you have seen in the national press and we have appointed a pre-selection committee, consisting of experts in various fields who are not connected with this school. The team is led by Dr. Anil Wilson, who is a colleague of ours on this board who is unfortunately not present today and is well respected as a principal of St. Stephans College, Delhi. They will sort out the applications, they will create a short list. They will interview, and make a final selection of three of the candidates who will then be put up to the full board of the school for final approval. We hope to complete this process by the end of this year. Can I end by thanking again our Chief Guest who was very erudite and with forward-looking thoughts and wish you all well.

our 64th Founders Day Celebration and hope that you'll will find the function interesting.

In my capacity as the School Captain I would like

to mention about my eleven years at Welham and about our Principal, who as you all know, has done so much to take Welham to the foremost position that it is today. What I'm today, indeed as all my colleagues are, is because of what I've gained from our school. It is not only in academics that we have endeavoured to excel, but in all fields of activity. Be it sports, music, art, debating, dramatics, service to the community and many more. Welham has made available all these facilities and those of us who have made full use are today, I believe, better equipped to face what lies ahead.

As a child in junior school, cleanliness and punctuality were cardinal qualities learnt under the demanding supervision of our matrons. In senior school, one had not only to learn, but also learn how to excel in all that one did. Team work, the acceptance of defeat, the humility in victory and most important of all the sense of freedom. There has been no regimentation and the environment has accorded full opportunity for an individual's creative growth.

SENIOR SCHOOL PLAY

Alive – yes that is what 'Khajoor Mein Atka' kept us. The play was hilarious and was seen by the audience with rapt attention. A lot of hard work went into it. Vinayak Pant's role was a delight to watch. Hats off to Mr. Bhushan, the many practices paid off.

After a long span we were presented with a comedy proving that we, at Welham, can present serious plays as well as comedies. The play is based on a lawyer's family whose honesty does not pay. A corrupt army officer who steals important papers and sells them. The comedy begins when the army officer hides the papers in

JUNIOR SCHOOL PLAY

On the evening of Sports Day the Junior School staged the play 'The Prince and the Pauper' based on the well-known book written by Mark Twain. The actors showed their talent. The story was of that a pauper and a prince being born lookalikes. The prince wanted to experience the life of a pauper and the pauper wanted to experience the life of a prince. So they both exchange places. The pauper is astounded by all the luxuries of a prince while the pauper's father beats up the prince. The pauper does funny things at court like drinking water from a finger bowl and eating like a glutton. While the prince is getting a sound thrashing, he is helped by a general who has come from war victorious. On the following day is the day on which the pauper (the prince) is to be crowned

INTERVIEW WITH THE CHIEF GUEST- Mr. Girish Rangan, CEO BPL MOBILE

Q: You have had a most interesting commercial background. Apart from communication skills what are the other attributes to which young aspirants like us should pay special attention.

A: Firstly, you need to be completely on with technology as there is practically no aspect of business without technology. You do not have to be only up to date and you have to be ahead others. It can be any technology whether software, hardware, advertising, medicine, planning, budgeting etc. Secondly, you must be an excellent communicator because one who is able to sell his

Mr. Kandhari, our Principal, is the personality who has been responsible for the school community's many achievements. As you know, he himself was a student at Welham, thereafter joined the Doon School and graduated from St. Stephen's College. Although many opportunities came his way to be a corporate man, Mr. Kandhari in his usual humble way, opted to teach. This speaks of his commitment and dedication. What Welham is today is because of him. We have seen the school go from 'Strength to Strength' and the many valuable additions that have come about during his tenure are a testimony to his vision. Not only in providing better facilities, the best computer facilities, the exchange programmes but also in the finer aspects of life, the concept of service, the concern for our environment, the thrill of adventure, those are the fine sensibilities, which we are glad that we learnt. We are thankful, Sir. Thank you for making your vision an opportunity for us to grow in and to become better human beings.

the lawyer's house.

There is dramatic irony and too many electricians. The play has a moral suggesting that honesty is the best policy and that corruption gets you nowhere. In a nutshell 'Khajoor Mein Atka' is a comedy with a serious side.

Besides the acting and direction the stage setup were realistic. The background, light and sound were appropriate. The play was the highlight of the Founders and was staged again for some other schools and the boys who missed it. Overall an excellent performance.

King. At the nick of time the real prince along with the general arrives and the coronation takes place. The prince, now king gives a title of Earl to the general and after experiencing life in misery the prince makes the pauper a Lord. Thus the play ends.

Many actors played the role of one character in the play. The stage setting was effective and the equipment for the stage was good. Even the clothes were wonderful and bright. This entertainment was well received by the audience.

Mention must also be made of the music evening performed prior to the play. A very good exhibition of the talents which abound in the school.

ideas and convictions he gets ahead. Thirdly, you need to have excellent human resources management skills. You have to get along with people whether you like them or not. Look at one's strength while you work with them and do not look at their weakness. Remember people work with you but not for you.

Q: Apart from product excellence how important do you rate 'service'?

A: There are certain aspects that can do without service. If you have a monopoly then you can afford to be such but unfortunately there are only a few. The service

and ambience are very important for a business. This is an era where service cannot be neglected. Those concerns without service have either packed up or are not doing well.

Q: What annual growth rate do you envisage for the cellular industry? Is pricing a barrier to increased sale volume?

A: As far as growth is concerned we haven't seen the beginning yet. We have just scratched the core. There will be 50% growth per year for the next 10 year. I say this because unlike before when cells were considered to be a luxury they have become a necessity today. Yes, pricing is the single barrier in the sales. We hope that the government will lower the license fee and let the business grow. Very soon like abroad we will be following the CPP principle i.e. Calling Party Pays. The reception charge is also another small problem.

Q: What are your views on globalization?

A: Well, the biggest technology to enable globalization is of course the net. It has made possible for everyone to know what is happening everywhere in the world and that too on real time basis.

Q: When do you think that E-commerce will start to play an important role in business?

A: Well, E-commerce is completely based on the infrastructure of the net. The sooner the infrastructure becomes sound then e-commerce will take over. Other related aspects that need to be looked into are regulation, delivery and security. Suppose you order books at amazon.com then what is the time period needed for the order to be regulated, processed and then delivered. What is the security that your credit card number stays safe? The moment we overcome these drawbacks then E-commerce will play a strong role in business.

Q: What careers would you recommend for potential candidates like us in the time space of 5 years from now?

A: There should be no change in your selection of careers and nothing special for the next 5 years. Your career completely depends upon your skills and interests. But remember one thing, whatever you do you have to be the best. If you do something that you do not like then it is not a career. Do something that makes you different from others and makes you yourself. What you love and what you do has to be the same.

Q: What are your hobbies and pastimes?

A: I have been very interested in technology. I have always liked to read and be up to date. Whatever it is, cars, telephones, and computers I have always liked to read about any kind of technologies. Other than these I like snooker, pool and travelling.

Q: What games did you play in school?

A: I was a boxer and I am pretty good even now. Others were cycling, badminton and table tennis. I played

for my school too quite a few times. Apart from sports I have been into quizzing, debating and even singing.

Q: Achieving such a great feat at such a young age, what do you attribute your success to and what did it take to make it?

A: I have always had faith in myself. A great belief that I could do anything that I wanted to and I have done and tried all sorts of things. If I believe than I can do- that is my motto.

Q: What in your opinion is the most influential factor in keeping in mind your achievements?

A: Believe that all people are good and everyone needs to be good. We should never form an opinion about anything or anyone unless we have experienced it ourselves. Should not listen to others and believe what they say without confirmation. You should be unbiased.

Q: Everyone is talking of the advertisements carried off by you- BPL logos are all over the Mumbai metro. What inspired your genius?

A: Well to be true, nothing. These are not only my ideas but my teammates' too. And I believe that if you are willing to give credit then people are willing to work with you.

Q: Changes required or the faults in the educational infrastructure of the schools in the country, your views on them and the likely changes that you would like to see.

A: Well, education must make people think not mug, education must make people question not accept, education must make people create not suppress. We must not only be graded by how intelligent we are about also how are we intelligent. Your special skills, your creativity should be brought out of you. India needs to learn that education is linked with the environmental and social factors too. This is one factor that I see is present in Welham. Teachers are very sociable and friendly. This is how a society should work. The teachers here are easily approachable. Keep up the good work.

Q: Some lines about Welham.

A: Keep the curiosity of the child alive and boost it from time to time. We all should continue to be curious and I think it is happening here. Socially and environmental knowledge is a must. This is what will differentiate Welham education from normal education.

Q: Would Mrs. Rangan like to say something?

A: Well, I think Welham uses technology to the most. Before coming here I expected a buttoned down, collared formal behaviour but I am rather delighted to find it otherwise. There is a lot of informality and calm here. The teacher and student relationship is superb. The staff is very friendly and co-operative and this is what makes a good school.

- Azar Zaidi & Ijlal Shamsi

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Vacations begin Sunday, and so begins the hibernation of a species called a Welhamite. Except for the poor 10thies and 12thies, I do not think any one would attempt suicide by taking books home. However, on behalf of the School, we wish both the Classes best of luck, and hope they come out with flying colors.

*Wishing you all a blast of a holiday!
Till next term, Keep the Faith,*



LETTER TO THE ED...

Extract of an e-mail from Nitin Bhanot :-

“I have done my final year exams of MBBS and now awaiting the results. After this I will go back to the college to do an internship which requires one year’s work at the hospital. It is after the completion of this year that we shall be granted the degree of a doctor (MBBS). After that I will attempt Post graduation entrance examinations. It will be a tough competition but let’s hope for the best. It requires a lot of hard work. I am prepared for it. I have found Medical Study quite interesting. It is very vast and I do not think that there is an end to its study.”

P.S.- He stood first in his final year of MBBS and is now doing an internship in the Department of Surgery of Karnataka Hospital.

* * *

Extracts of an email from Karan Gulaya:-

“I was just reading the Oliphant on the web site (even though it’s the August issue) and it made me smile. There is a lot to remember. When I look at it now though, I realise so much that I would have changed. One of the courses that I must take here, at Columbia, is called “Logic and Rhetoric”. It is an English composition class that revolves around the technicalities of style and rhetoric in writing. It is unlike anything we study back home. Our English language classes in India seem to deal more with

superficial detail than with actual written content. I realise now how much more effective my writing in the Oliphant could have been.”

“It is funny how much power and Ivy – league education wields here. I could step out of college with a bachelor’s degree in Economics, and Wall Street would give me a job with a starting salary of \$80,000. For most people, that takes several years. I don’t really know if I want to study Economics though. I do find the subject fascinating, and it’s a pity that I didn’t get the chance to study it at Welham. I’m looking at International Affairs and Human Rights right now. I will probably end up taking classes in those subjects next term. I think I would eventually like to work with the UN, especially the UN refugee wing. Anyway, lets see.

Things here are pretty much as you would expect. Everybody is waiting on edge for the election results to be declared. Columbia, owing to its position in NYC is strongly liberal and almost 80% of the community voted for Gore.”

* * *

Atish Vatts, Batch of '99 is in the National School of Law, Bangalore. He has requested those interested in applying for this college to contact him. His e-mail is :- atish_vatts@usa.net

* * *

WELHAM NOW

1. The school has a new Caterer Mr. Amrinder Pal Singh. We wish him a successful tenure.
2. A group of students went to witness the Mastermind India at FRI on the 14th of November. They were escorted by Mr. Bhushan.
3. A delegation from the Welcome Group of Hotels visited the school to talk about Careers in Hotel Management. This was attended by students of class 11.
4. The Badminton Inter-House (Juniors) was played from the 10th November to the 15th. Jamuna House lifted the trophy. The players awarded were:-
Best Player- Abhishek Kapoor
Most Promising- Surya P. Singh Bhaduria
5. The Inter-House Squash commenced on the 11th of November. Cauvery and Jamuna lifted the Seniors’ and the Juniors’ trophies respectively.