

The Elephant

No. 254

WELHAMBOYS' SCHOOL

20th February, 2001

Think About It...

A place for everything and everthing in its place.

-Samuel Smites

EDITORIAL

This could be the first time in a long time that I am writing with fresh enthusiasm. After all it's a new term. I hope you are as excited as I am, trust me, I am. Welcome Back!

What a pity though that my spirits are damped as I think of Gujrat and the state it is in. I need not elaborate on the horrendous aftermath of such a major catastrophe. However, I am proud to say that all of us sacrificed our breakfast for one day in order to contribute to the relief effort. A special mention also goes to the teachers who contributed a day's salary for a noble cause.

Moving on to domestic affairs. Our good ol' princi is nearing his retirement. His achievements have been exemplary and surely he'll leave behind a legacy, his successor would be proud to build upon. Speaking of successors, we had two visitors recently who interacted with the students and teachers alike. As our future leader is still undecided all we can do is wait...

Winds have changed and almost everybody

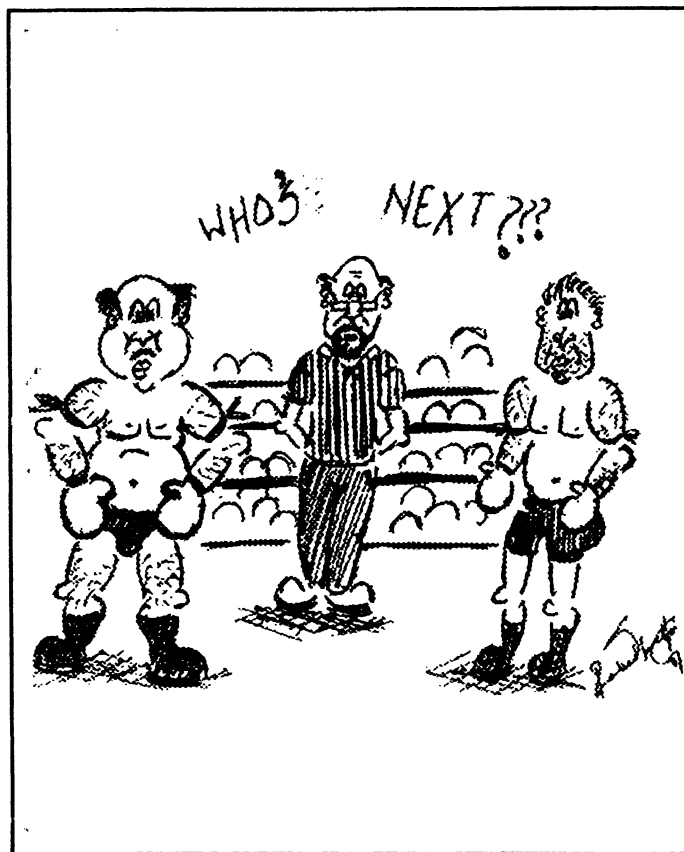
can note the difference. Consider the I.S.C and I.C.S.E students who burn the midnight oil to secure a better future. Those passing out are going to take a giant step forward from a very protected

dome into a bare unexpected world full of trials and tribulations. Here's wishing that our good ol' seniors have a fantastic life ahead.

The sports arena is alive and kicking as the cricket season has commenced. The new captain has taken over a great responsibility of channeling abundant talent into fruitful avenues. They along with the tennis team are to leave for Sanawar any time next month. Till then we will wait for the coveted trophy.

Our school has been ever expanding

over the decades. As time progresses, the needs and demands of our school in the 21st century rise exceptionally high. To keep up with modern times, change is necessary and hence development, or rather redevelopment. Recently Mr. Kandhari conducted a poll, in order to prioritise a number of



projects he had proposed to the School Board. The projects include building a new swimming pool, demolishing old buildings, replacing them with new, modern ones, and major resurfacing of the school fields. Anytime soon, we may see any of such exciting prospects materializing. So watch out...

The winds of change,
Steady, yet swift,
Propel us into territory unknown,
Are we afraid...
Very afraid?

Anshuman

LETTERS TO THE ED...

The Editor
The Oliphant

Dear Sir,

Over the years the School has built up a development fund, so last term I circulated a list of major development projects which in my opinion should be taken in hand over the next 5 to 10 years. I asked the School community for their views. I gave nine projects – of the few responses I got the following were the top 5 in order of priority:

1. To level and grass the main field
2. To build modern hostels after demolishing Welham Lodge

3. To build a new swimming pool
4. To build a new academic block
5. To build new staff quarters.

Now as I do wish to get a final opinion of the school, on Monday 19th February, I shall arrange for every boy and staff to cast their vote listing their first five choices in order of priority.

It is important that major decisions taken by the board are a result of the feedback from the students, staff and the Principal.

Thank you for letting me use your columns.

Yours etc
S.Khandhari

Views of parents, and students specially old students would be welcome. -Ed

W.O.B.N

- 1) During these winter holidays the following old boys got married:

Jayant Gokhale – Batch 1994 to Gauri
Durgesh Bhatia – Batch 1991 to Gitanjali
Jagjit Singh – Batch 1983 to Padmini

We wish them all a long and happy married life.

- 2) Our warmest congratulations to Mr. Jagit Singh on the publication of his book 'Birds of India' a vividly colored and very informative book. Bird watchers who wish to purchase a copy

will need to pay only the discounted price of Rs. 350 a copy. Copies are available from the Principal's office.

- 3) Prashant Khemka Ex C-759 has completed MCSE, is an E-com and Java professional. Presently designing Web sites and working for STIC as a Marketing person, promoting ISIC cards.

Can be contacted at:
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WELHAM NOW

- 1) **Captains – 2001**

**Sports Captain-
Athletic-**

**Kaushik Choudhury
Gaurav Malhotra**

(2)

Badminton-	Vir Bhadra
Gym-	Vir Bhadra
Basketball-	Yoginder S.Negi
Cricket-	Niraj Pareek
Hockey-	Saumya Khaitan
Soccer-	Pradepta Rana
Squash-	Sarbansdeep S.Sandhu
Swimming-	Aditya Malhotra
Tennis-	Ankush Vinayak
Table Tennis-	Rajiv Goswami
Volleyball-	Shrid Dhungel

2) Dev Agarwal has returned after his exchange visit from Australia.

3) Mr. S.Sahi has left the services of the school.

4) Mr. S.Upadhyay has taken over as house master 'Ganga'

5) Mr. S.Bhushan Senior house master retired from the service of the school.

6) Mr. S.K.Bakshi has taken over as Senior Tutor, effective from 1st January 2001.

7) The following attended the school net foundation camp held from 22nd January to 1st February 2001 in the multi media lab:

Ms. N.Goel
N.Singh
A.Nathani
N.Bagga
S.Upadhyay
A.Mehra
Mrs. Segra
Ms.S.Chaturvedi
Mr. M.Mitra

8) The following boys achieved excellence in Morning Assembly Speeches held in Autumn Term, 2000.

English

1. Raunak Tibrewal
2. Sameer Suri
3. Vibhor Gupta
4. Nishant Joshi

Hindi

1. Sarthak Johar

9) Special Achievement Awards

1. Atish D.Bajracharya
2. Shrid Dhungel
3. Parimal Piyush
4. Diwas Bam

10) Results of the Kandhari Essay writing contest 2000.

Group A (Class XI)

- 1st Shrid Dhungel
- 2nd Rishi Lashkery
- 3rd Deepak Sanan

Group B (Classes IX-X)

- 1st Geetika Upadhyay
- 2nd Tarun Saraf
- 3rd Abhishek Kumar Singh

Group C (Classes VII-VIII)

- 1st Raunak Tibrewal
- 2nd Ujjwal Kumar
- 3rd Sarthak Johar and Gaurav Chopra

11) Vinayak Pant was awarded the Best Actor for the Founder's day Hindi Play.

LITERARY AFFAIRS

The Lover's Way

You may say that there are lovesick people, cause on Valentine's Day a lot of them are.

There are some who with great enthusi-

asm write letters, post cards and yes, spend a lot of money on gifts. They send this stuff to a few numbers of girls asking each of them to accept their proposal, praying that they will. Sometimes

there is a negative reply but the next day they go off to a friend and say "you know, that girl....She accepted my proposal but after a lot of consideration I dumped her."

Then there are some who with a lot of hope visit the post office more than 5 times on this auspicious day and if anyone notices them all they say is "...was supposed to receive one but don't know what happened." But deep down inside they know what's gonna come – a letter from dad. An example: An over excited guy came up to me today saying he had a 'conversation' with a major babe. On showing some interest in him I enquired about his 'conversation' with the so-called major babe. "She asked me the way to the toilet" he replies.

Again there are the honest guys who have Valentines and keep the letter to themselves, not revealing their secrets. But some guys come to know

about these 'young lovers' one way or another.

In our school, we have the M.I.S paps who drink M.I.S, sleep M.I.S and love M.I.S. What is there in them gals? Cause when I went up there all I found was a fortress protected by a lot of guards who were very strict (stricter than 'our' very own muchar, who mans the LOC.). Even the innocent brothers have to go through a series of tests to prove to the killer guards that they are BROTHERS and not BOYFRIENDS. I sympathize with them. Better luck next time!!! And as for the unsuccessful boyfriends they return to school as failures with a long face like a farmer's horse. I sympathize with them too.

So here goes to all the 'young lovers' of the world, seek out the right person then freak out.

Adios
Astalavista

The Anti-Lover

R.S.I.S - Orissa

So there we were at one of mother nature's exotic sights having a ball. And I don't think that anyone would have thought that a R.S.I.S project would be so beautiful. There were five of us representing Welham at the R.S.I.S camp in Nuagaon and Gadgujung (Orissa). The objective was to build two classrooms in Gadgujung, which we did complete and there was a great satisfaction derived was wholly pleasurable.

The journey from Delhi to Bhubaneshwar was uneventful except that the train got delayed by 12 hours due to a strike. To be very frank, nobody minded it as all of us got another 12 hours to sleep.

We reached Gadgujung with us seeing two things at a time, because the bus journey was so bumpy and the bus so rickety that my head touched the top at least a hundred times. Well no one's complaining. As we got off the entire village was staring at us wondering who these idiots were and what kind of transport were we using. We got a warm welcome from the students already there but not from the authorities.

The days ahead were full of fun and frolic and hard work with us getting a shouting from the authorities once in a while, but who

cared? We took it in our stride. All of us were doing our work seriously- some were painting digging, pulling out the shrubs or talking. By the night all of us were dog tired and some slept by nine in the evening.

Yoga at five was a must and compulsory. In the chilly weather we would groan and spread our sheets near the toilets (which would eventually get damp). Yoga is an entertaining sport. You do exercise that relaxes you physically and mentally. Then there were these funny exercises which would make us all laugh. (There was one where you had to put water in one nostril and take it out through the other) A nice way to start your day. The most thrilling Aasan was when we had to stick out our tongues, clasp our nostrils and take out this funny noise from our bellies. It was called the Lion Aasan.

The toilets were the normal Indian commodes. We didn't have to go to the 'Jhari'. The door's sides were made of cloth and if the wind blew too hard you could get stuck in an embarrassing situation.

Every evening there would be this 'tug of war' between the girls and boys over the hosepipe, with which we would bathe. Eventually the boys would win and a girl would come

sneaking into the male's bathroom and snatch the pipe while all of us were astonished at their serpendity. As for us we obviously couldn't do the same however hard we wished we could.

There were times when we would carry on working till 11 at night instead of stopping at the usual time. The girls would be sent back to the camp much to their annoyance. The villagers would be linking us up with a number of girls and we would be listening to their love stories. The students were not working all by themselves; in fact all we did was assist the villagers. In particular there was this deaf and dumb person who would work till 2 in the morning.

The food we ate was pretty good though the international students did find it a bit spicy. Everyday it would be a group's duty to serve the

food and entertain us. Dinner was arranged each evening where we would have to get a date along and my date was one of my good friend's infatuation. Believe me, I was drilled with snide remarks that entire evening.

During the entire stay we made loads of friends and shared different opinions. We laughed, cried, argued and worked together. All together it was an experience we shall never forget.

We went there to give but came back with more than we gave. The memories, the experience and the satisfaction of helping somebody is invaluable after all.

- Rohan Sachdeva

INTERVIEWS

Amish Mulmi and Karan Mehrotra interviewed Mr. S. Bhushan and Miss. Z. Rehman on their retirement.

Interview – Mr. Bhushan

Q: It has been a long teaching career for you, please share a bit of your teaching life with us.

A: Well, I taught at D.A.V College in '64-'65. Before that I taught in Cambridge School in '63. At that time it was called Sishu Niketan. I was young and got my first teaching experience with different kinds of people. Then I went to a military school King Gorge, where I taught for 24 years. Over there the boys were of a middle class background and definitely more disciplined. When I joined Welham coming from a military school what I expected I didn't get. It was later that I realized that it was my mistake. I should have learnt to deal with these boys when I was young for I was from a military school and expected more discipline. When I came I was 49 and found it difficult to adjust at first but later due to the co-operation of the boys I adjusted. Although I don't differ from Mr. Kandhari in my age but he enlarged my outlook and he taught me a lot.

Q: You have undoubtedly directed a fair number of plays. Please tell us about your experience.

A: My experience has been excellent but the only drawback I found was that people always found faults. They always said that he is taking help from other people but my aim was to train the boys and not compete. I directed 'ek tha gadha' in 1991 'permit ka chakkar' in 1998 and 'khajoor mein atka' in 2000. The boys I helped in 'khajoor main atka' was a new experience for I dealt with the boys of senior class. In public school you have to have more activities, and good relations between teachers and students. More as a friend, modern ideas moving with technology.

Q: After going what changes would you expect in school?

A: The athletics standard in school is extremely poor. In my time I was a sprinter and high jumper and I know the amount of practice I did for it. Boys don't play but loiter around the fields. Despite the hindrances they excel in sports. There should be a lot of trees, shades, pathways, flowers etc. plants which require less water can be planted. Krishna house should come towards Triveni and there should definitely be less bajri.

Q: After your retirement what do you plan to do?

A: After retirement I will try to take a total change.

Normally everyone carries along with the same job when trained but I would like to learn new fields and become a member of theatre groups, participate in all cultural and social things but will not teach. I will attend all school functions and help out if necessary but no question of earning money.

Thank you very much Sir we wish you a very happy retired life.

Interview – Miss. Rehman

Q: When did you join school?

A: I joined school on the 10th of April 1960

Q: What memories do you have of Miss. Oliphant?

A: Well Miss. Oliphant treated me like a child. She

was like a mother for me.

Q: Out of all the Principals you have worked with whom did you enjoy the most?

A: I enjoyed the most working under Mr. Kandhari as he was very understanding and open-minded person. He has done a lot for the school and dedicated himself towards it. The only disappointment is that class I has been abolished. I didn't like this idea one bit and I feel the charm is gone.

Q: What do you plan to do after retirement?

A: I plan to take rest for a few years and after that I will do social work and teach Quran Sharif to the poor children and I hope after my retirement the school will stay as unique as it is or rather as Miss. Oliphant wanted it to be.

NATURE'S DIARY

The land of NO SECRETS

I am at the beginning a little perplexed as to how to start this article. I have contributed before, but this has only been on the fiction side of the magazine, but here I am now writing about nature, well what can I say, our Nature's dairy correspondents, write well and have covered a lot of areas.

So I thought to myself why not write about a culture, a land and its people, well I choose Bhutan. Yes Bhutan, a small neighbour of India, a country which is not open and explored, a country which does not thrive on tourism unlike India and its neighbors. The Bhutanese people are not keen on it as they say it is their way of preserving their tradition and culture.

The name Bhutan comes from Bhutana meaning end of Tibet or from the Sanskrit word Bhu-uttan meaning highlands. The capital of Bhutan is Thimpu, the national language is Dzongkha (of Tibetan origin), but it has other languages like Nepali schopra and other dialects. The people here are a mix of various races. In the north and west the people are of Tibetan origin. In the east, Indo-Mongolian, in the south, Nepali. The government here is hereditary monarchy. The currency is called Ngultrum.

Bhutan, unlike other parts of Indian sub-continent, was never colonized. It had been shut to the world until the late 1960 when a road was constructed linking Thumpu and the Indian boarder. Money was non-existent, and taxes were paid in kind.

Bhutan is a mix of various religions, Buddhism being the main followed by Hinduism. The people here are very friendly and caring. The Bhutanese are known for their hospitably for example they will invite you to their house, they will feed you till you cannot eat anymore then they will apologize for not having fed you anything.....

They respect all forms of life (this due to Buddhism), so one should not kill rodents or insects in one's house in Bhutan in front of the Bhutanese. The women wear Kira- a brightly striped, ankle-length dress. The men wear the Gho a knee length robe similar to the Japanese Kimono, except that the top part is especially voluminous.

Bhutan is slowly opening its self up to the world, but the interiors of Bhutan are still unseen, it has been described as the last Shangri-La. One of the few hidden kingdoms.

-(.....).

Exchange to *WELHAM* !

When I left Melbourne at 12:05, Friday morning I thought that Dehra Dun was a small town, cause that is what I was told by Alex, the student from my school who had come for an exchange program at The Doon School.

My school is called Mowbray College and is in a place called Melton. It is a co-ed and day school with 1100 students. We start school at 8:40 a.m. and end at 3:15 p.m. In a normal school day we have 6 classes, 50 minutes each, except for Wednesday, when we have 5 classes. Our week goes from Monday to Friday and we have 4 terms per year.

Welham is a different school than mine. Firstly, Welham is an all boy's school and a boarding school. Some of the other differences are: -

- Welhamites have to face physical punishment whereas the only one in our school is detention.
- We only have to do English as a compulsory subject, the rest is free choice out of about 15 others.
- The school captain has no power over any

students at Mowbray.

- We only have school assembly on Wednesday.
- Saturday and Sunday are both holidays.

My stay at Welham has been great. It's a nice school in a nice country with nice people. I have had lots of fun and learnt a lot about India and the people.

I had a good time trekking, it was really great, and the mountains were a stunning view. But there were some bad things while trekking. I got sick from the good food and the trek was hard as it was the first time I had been trekking, also the height made my breathing a little harder than normal.

White water rafting was real good fun. It was the second time I had been rafting and it was better than the first. While rafting we saw three skeletons and one whole body in or on the banks of the Ganga.

I think everyone should try for exchange, it is a great experience and something you will remember for the rest of your life.

David Baily

THROUGH THE KEYHOLE...

Aseem to the house: If a junior is seen entering a senior's room without permission *I've had it.* (Realizing his mistake) oh! *Sorry slip of lips!!!*

* * *

Abhinav Kir to Mayank and Deepak: oye yaar!!! April is gonna be a busy *week* for me.

* * *

Rudra to Mr. Bhandari: Sir, I can't understand this figure.

Mr. Bhandari : *Whose figure???*

* * *

Mr. Vinod Singh to 10-A: If you have any problem then that is not a problem!!!

* * *

WHAT'S HOT!!??

Casuals during classes
Nest
Chocolate Corner
Cut-Surds

WHAT'S NOT!!!???

Uniform during classes
Sunny
Nestle
Surds

RINGSIDE VIEW

My writing skills are at a test (I have forgotten how to write- all I can do is scribble) And the heartless editor is behind me with a cane and making sure I do my work.

It's quite amazing how people adapt to new routines. The school deserves a pat on the back for getting up at 6:00 everyday. So does a teacher who goes and exercises with the boys. The chilly weather does deter the basketball team from getting up at 5 in the morning and practicing but they do practice in the evenings.

Badminton and Tennis are 'hot territory' now and you can see people hovering around the tennis courts. It's good to see the boys pursuing it with a lot of enthusiasm after a long time. WAY TO GO ANKUSH.

Cricket is the only sport that is being played with vigor and at the school. The new captain – Neeraj is a pretty confident about winning a few matches this season despite his first loss. We encourage him to give it his best. He's already taken control over the practices.

The first match we played was against Star Club, which was a great, close game. With us

losing by a run. Star Club scored 157 runs in 29 overs with all getting out and we made 156 runs in 50 overs with 9 wickets. Gaurav and Aditya made a good pair stabilising the innings after the first few losses. Kaushik made 35 runs out of 38 balls without getting out. And our man Saumya hit a cool six.

The practices rage on from 3 in the afternoon to 6:30 in the evenings. They are getting prepared to play G.R.D soon.

Talking about preparations the Indian team is also getting geared to play the great mighty Aussie team on the 27th of the month. Can we Indians stop them from winning the 16 consecutive test match.

Shifting to other arenas. The gym is the haunt of many different sized people. There are a few who have gone to the extent of getting nutritious food like grams. Volleyball has since started with regular practice on.

Hope that this term Welham shines in the sport arena and that we never forget the spirit in which a game should be played.

Living in that hope.

Rohan 'sporty' Sachdeva



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