

The Elephant

No. 269

WELHAMBOYS' SCHOOL

21st February, 2002

Think About It....

Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you are going to get.

- Tom Hanks (Forrest Gump)

EDITORIAL

The normal tradition for an editor to write in the opening lines of his first issue of the term would be - 'Welcome Back.' I thought that would be too expected and boring. As it is we are being reminded of the fact that now we are back in school almost everyday; why add to it?? So that's it.

Change.

That has been the keyword in school, since the very first day our now not - so - new Principal took over. The word has been repeatedly surfacing itself time and again, to remind us of its presence. We felt it the very first day we arrived here to see raised walls and barbed wires. We feel it everyday. Its really interesting though to hear mixed reactions on the changes that are "supposedly positive". As the wind of change sweeps across the campus the to - be twelfthies are obviously concerned about the privileges they were expecting. Do not get me wrong, but being a part of this great institution for 11 years is reason enough why we deserve at least some

privileges. Now here is where the tale of the kite and the string comes in. We have flown the kite since the last 11 years, what makes the last year so different? We shall fly it well.

Love is a beautiful feeling. If you have not experienced it yet, you are missing something that has inspired countless poets, writers and musicians.

It is amazing how a mere four letter word can influence the lives of 6 billion people. Valentine's Day of course is the ultimate festival for lovers. However, I wonder how many of us actually know the origin of this day. If not, it would be like celebrating Christmas without knowing who Jesus Christ is! Anyways, the 14th of Feb, this year too was marred



with social and cultural debates and controversies. Newspapers were splashed with photographs of Shiv Sena activists literally punishing young couples on the day. The notion of our generation being more influenced by western culture is a grave debate. However, just

how feasible the methods used by some of our so-called "cultural police" are.....I leave you to decide it for yourself. And what about our very own Romeos in the school? Well, that is a different story, better left untold.

The very second day, the Prefects conducted a supposedly surprise cash check. The check however has made me cognizant of the fact that guys are no more foolish. With every passing year a Welhamite's brain slowly adapts itself to the hardships he might face, and devises new ways to overcome them. It would be foolish of me to even think that guys did not get any cash from home. So the Welhamites brains must have come up with some better places to hide their cash, than the one's where we used to. But do not fret, the Prefects are Welhamites too!

With the elusive Bin Laden still playing the hide - n - seek with Uncle Sam the media hype over the whole Afghanistan affairs seems to be gradually abating. It was a great sight to see an actual match of soccer being played between local Afghanis and Uncle Sam's warriors. The symbolic thing

about this match was that it was being played at a place which till recently under the Taliban rule was being used as a playground for death. A country which has never known what freedom is, is finally seeing a ray of hope.

Back home, Bollywood has finally come off age with Aamir Khan's Lagaan being nominated for the Oscars in the best foreign movie category. This makes it only the third Indian movie to be nominated in the Oscars after Mother India and Salaam Bombay. After sweeping most of the home awards we just hope he is able to recreate the magic of Lagaan in US as well.

I take this opportunity to announce the starting of a new column in the Oliphant namely - 'The Word War.' This column will push the freedom of expression to its limit and would provide us a space to express our opinions and concerns on various issues on school matters directly or indirectly affecting us and our institution. For a healthy discourse is very essential for growth. We look forward for a positive response from the Welham community in this latest endeavour of ours.

Rollin' On....
- Prayaas.

LETTERS TO THE ED....

Hello everybody,

I write on the behalf of the students of the 2001 batch who are currently studying in the United States. Just to let you know that we all met and had a great time together in Ohio last weekend. Following were present there:-

(i) Bishesh Shrestha – ex. 869/K (bishesh@hotmail.com)

He is studying in Ohio, in Miami University and this is where we all met.

(ii) Bisharad Shah – ex. 901/K

He got here just this semester. He is studying in Kentucky State University.

(iii) Saurabh Gupta – ex. 917/G (saurabh917@hotmail.com)

Mohnish Rathi – ex. 895/C (mohnish895@hotmail.com)

These both are in Purdue University.

(iv) Usamah Burza – ex. 868/G (usamahburza@hotmail.com)

He is studying in Parkland College – Champaign, Illinois. Usamah probably will be visiting the school in May and he also conveys his regards to all the staff of Welham Boys' School.

(v) Ijlal Shamsi – ex. 914/G

Well, I am studying in University of Missouri – St. Louis.

(2)

We just wanted the school posted about us. Here is a link to a picture from our meet:-

<http://www.umsl.edu/~is4gb//ohiomeet02.jpg>

We would all like to wish everyone Best of Luck. We would also be glad to help any Welhamite and would try our best to provide any information about the universities here. So students may feel free to contact us.

That's all for now,

Regards,

Ijlal Shamsi.

P.S. – I am not receiving the Oliphant at all at home in India. When I visited India in December, all I saw was the Founder's Day Issue. Please be regular to mail us our copies. Also if they are put online then we can possibly read them from there. Do keep us informed.

An email from Azar Zaidi – (azar_zaidi@hotmail.com)

For the attention of Mr. Bakshi,

I came by the last Founder's Issue of the Oliphant, and it was very saddening to know that you are no longer the staff representative. I immediately remembered that one time when there was no longer electricity and Ijlal had to run around with the CPU looking for a place with electricity!

You'll be pleased to know that I am doing history honours in Sri Venkateswara College (DU). I find it more interesting than English, though I still read voraciously.

Mr. Shelat's agenda for the improvement of the school is indeed very impressive, but I strongly disagree with the decision of abolishing PH. A wiser thing would be to curb some of the undesirable activities going on in the PH. It is a serious matter that needs to be effectively dealt with, for the simple reason that whatever prevails in the PH will spread further in the junior classes as a result of direct contact with the PH boys. But this is only my point of view.

I hope you are keeping well, I'll try to come down sometime to pay my respects in – person.

Faithfully yours,

Azar Zaidi.

An email from Anchit Israni(Ex. 188 – Batch of 1986)

anchit_israni@yahoo.co.in

To the Editor of the Oliphant,

If I may make a suggestion.

As an Old Boy my main source of catching up on Welham is via the Oliphant on the net. Perhaps you could include regular updates on "school happenings" in the Oliphant. Would be most welcome!

Another suggestion would be to include bylines or designations on all articles. It would be interesting to know who the writes were.

I must say the Oliphant has shown steady improvement.

Keep it up!!

Anchit Israni.

Dear Ex - ies,

It is nice to learn that even after leaving Welham our ex - students are showing interest in the proceedings of the school. Ijlal, the students are very thankful to you and the others there for offering help for further studies in the US. Azar, Mr. Bakshi and the other staff members are looking forward to meeting you on your next visit to the school.

As the staff member responsible for the Oliphant on the net had to suddenly leave we could not update the site. The latest issue of the Oliphant will be online shortly.

The Ed.

LITERARY AFFAIRS

Life's a.... JOG!!

Note – Before you start reading this piece of.... jog. It's my moral duty to warn you that incase at any point of this jog you do not want to jog along any further you may pleasingly drop out!!

The day starts unpleasantly early with a pleasant road jog. Well this jog is not that much of a pain cause you get to see early morning birds spreading their wings and flying from gate to gate.

Still in the trance before you realise its time for the 1st school and you have not yet changed. So holding a few juniors you hop, skip and jog to the classes dressing on the way. You may call this time management. The next two classes swish off, you still are trying to figure out what your hair is looking like, gazing into the window panes of the classes.

Tired and unsatisfied by your attempts, you stroll for breakfast. While you are still trying to figure out what 3rd and 4th school is the bell for breakfast goes and ahead you lies a six foot three inch barrier watching your each move. So back to normal – you break into a jog. As you manage to park yourself in the lines you are darted with ten reasons why – you should not stand with hands in your pocket, you should not put on your hood during P. T., you should lift your feet and walk, you should wear your trousers higher, etc., etc., etc., etc. Things like these keep jogging past you.

You have barely

warmed up with your meal, the bell for assembly goes. If you have eaten – good luck. If not? Too bad!! Still what you manage to do, standing behind pillars in the dining hall nibbling away your last bite, playing hide and seek with the nine people trying to get you out of there is not to be mentioned. As you know you are late for assembly, you know what to do – start jogging.

As usual assembly drags off and you rush back to the hostel to get your books where unfortunately you get stuck with why Anna Kornikorva should be appointed English teacher in school and Amy as the principal.

Well, that was just a fantasy but the reality is you are late again, so **jog, jog, jog** and **jog**. Well things like I was in the hospital and we were left late from P. T. have been outdated so you better work up new excuses fast.

Aaaah, finally the fruit break.... So you jog up again, hoping somebody has sent you a Valentine Card back after the dozen you had disposed off. After all, Welhamites are born winners, and we do receive a few. Still lost in its sweet memories, you lie in a bed and day-dream about.... What? Oh hell,

what time is it? Huh?? 12:15? I am late??

So here we go again, stealing up the show again – **jog** it up!

Pleasing the teacher with your excuses, the fifth and sixth school go by. Lunch – ah, food glorious food! Well the school people seem to be hard taskmasters. Before you cross the subway you will hear the bell! **jog, jog, jog** and **jog** till you cross the nine disasters of life unless you wanna jog after lunch too, in different styles.

The lunch is over – time to sleep and then games. Engrossed so much in the sport you do not realise what time it is as you hurry and change for supper, but just to your luck the bell goes midst of your changing and then you keep jogging and changing till the ruler is satisfied with your results.

Soon time for prep! You jog for prep not because you are late but you because you never know when you might be – in similar words you just do not know when it starts.

One thing that surprises me after so much jogging, how come we still are not fit to satisfy our P. T. I.??

-Karan Mehrotra
Class - X

REPORT ON ROUND SQUARE SOCIAL CAMP – BHUJ.

On the 4th of December, a group of eleven boys along with Mr. Painuli left for Round Square Social Project to Bhuj. After spending the night in Delhi we caught the Ala Hazrat Express to Gandhidham. Due to some reason, we Welhamites were kept isolated from the rest of the group. From Gandhidham it was another 3 – hour journey to Gandhi - Nu - Gaon, the actual spot where we had to render our services. On reaching there we were divided into groups of four to share a Bunga – the traditional houses of the villagers.

Our work was to revive a check dam, which was fraught with cracks due to the devastating earthquake of January, 2000 and to build 50 toilets in the neighboring villages. So that there would be at least some basic sense of sanitation in the rural areas of our country.

The whole group was divided into five sub – groups for work. Two did sanitation duty; another two worked on the check dam while one group transported material to the spots. The duties were circulated regularly.

It was hard 8 hours of unskilled labour work daily. Although we were volunteers we were compelled to listen to what was said. None of our requests or suggestions was taken into consideration. Well, this was just one drawback! The schedule was rather tight. The day started with Yoga at 6 in the morning and ended at 10:30 at night after a 1.5 hour long de – briefing session. The food provided to us was better than what we had expected. All of us had never worked this way, that too under such an unpleasant hot climate. It felt like earning – earning satisfaction and self – confidence.

As a reward for all our hard work, the villagers invited us for a meal. It was rather touching! The most exciting part of the

meal was they had kept in mind that we were from North India and put in a lot of chilly for us, after which our eyes never stopped watering for a long time. We were also given two days off.

On the first day we went upto Kaladoongar and visited the famous temple. At night we were given supper there after which the Jackals came. In books it seemed all – fictitious, but the Jackals did come when the spoon and the plate was clashed. We travelled to this place on tractors and the traditional locomotive – ‘The Chakra’.

The other day out was to Mandvi, a town next to Bhuj. Mandvi also had a beach, where we spent our day. It was great fun and I bet we enjoyed each moment there. Well, we felt it was a well – earned holiday.

As it all drew to an end, we realised that we had built only 25 toilets as the soil was absolutely rocky and it took time to penetrate into. Well, 25 was a big number too, with those topographical conditions.

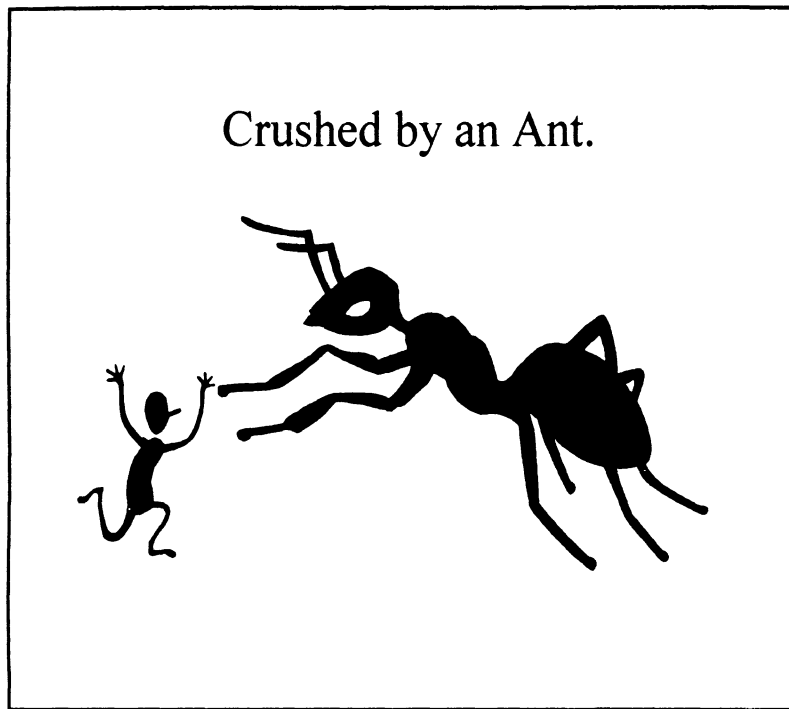
A few days before leaving we played a cricket match with the villagers (Lagaan type!). The match was a one sided affair with the villagers thrashing us by a huge margin. It was an experience watching the raw talent of the village folks.

To sum it all up we conclude by stating – ‘To help the distructed where the Gods were the distructors, we sent off for a known destination but an unknown surrounding. We met many supercilious people who tried to hamper our voluntary spirit, but proved unsuccessful to move us from accomplishing our task. Such projects are like diamonds in the crown of life. All that we left behind were footsteps and still trudging along are its sweet memories.’

- Karan Mehrotra & Nakul Sachdeva.

Nature's Diary.

Man.... the (not so!!) Greatest.



1. An ant can carry more than 50 times its own weight. If a man weighing 60 kgs had to carry 50 times his weight, he would have to carry 3000 kgs.
2. A flea can jump more than 30 metres its own height. If a man wants to jump that much, he could easily jump across a 2 – story building.
3. An owl can rotate its head 360 degrees, whereas a man cannot rotate his head more than 120 degrees.
4. A caterpillar can eat 5 times its body weight in just one day. A man cannot even eat his own weight in a day.
5. Though we use the simile 'As blind as a bat', a bat can find its way out of a maze twice as fast as a man.
6. Jessie Owens ran the 100 meters in under 10 seconds, a leopard can run it in under 5 seconds.
7. A cat can see through the dark 10 times better than a man.
8. A lizard or chameleon can stretch its tongue 5 times longer than a man's.
9. If a worm is cut into half, it does not die.
10. A Komodo Dragon can spend a whole year on just one meal.

Samridha S. J. B. Rana.
Class X.

WELHAM NOW

1. On behalf of the Welham Community we wish Mr. Aseem Tripathi a very Happy Married Life.

2. The School Cricket Team played a match against the Doon School on the 17th of February. The team consisted of :-

- a. Sharan Narain.
- b. Akshat Jalan.
- c. Udayveer Singh.
- d. Aatir Ansari.
- e. Abhishek Singh.
- f. Subhashish Thapaliya.
- g. Madhav Gulati.
- h. Tenzing Deru.
- i. Prayaas J. B. Rana.
- j. Sunny Sarta.
- k. Suyesh Rawat.
- l. Shashank Agarwal.
- m. Anant Golyan.
- n. Suhail Kakpoori.
- o. Karan Manchanda.
- p. Tushar Gupta.

3. The School Squash team has left for Delhi to play the Delhi Open Tournament.

4. Mr. K. Biradar joined the Welham Community as a P. T. I. on the 3rd of February. We welcome him.

5. Our team comprising of Akshat Jalan and Shaunak Valame stood 3rd in the ESPN quiz.

6. The delegates from Bhuj returned on the 22nd of December after completing their assigned task of rederring service to the earthquake effected victims.

The delgates from Welham Boys' School were :-

- (i) Udayveer Singh
- (ii) Pratik Shrestha
- (iii) Madhav Gulati
- (iv) Harsh Kemkha
- (v) Avjeet Sahni
- (vi) Nakul Sachdeva
- (vii) Karan Mehrotra
- (viii) Surya P. Singh
- (ix) Sahil Sethi
- (x) Shomit Bakliwal
- (xi) Umamah Burza.

The group was escorted by Mr. Painuli.

7. A workshop for Mathematics Teachers sponsored by Scholastic India Ltd. was held on the 5th and 6th of February 2002.

THROUGH THE KEYHOLE

Aseem to Domino (Mr. Kandpal's cat) - Come here puppy cat!

Rakesh - Prashant's house is so close to mine that I can go there bare foot (meaning by foot).

Amber to Karan - Tell me, how much is 586 x 36??

Karan (proudly) - 3,516.

Amber (zapped) - How did you get it so quick?

Karan - My G. K. is very good!!

Separated at Birth?

- (i) Nitin Agarwal.
- (ii) Amit Saini.
- (iii) Sarthak Thapaliya.
- (iv) Sahib Bawa.

- (i) Arjun Rampal (hairstyle only!)
- (ii) Mr. Birader
- (iii) Captain Limbu.
- (iv) Suppandi (from Tinkle comics!)

Ringside View.

Coming back to school, I am sure many were disappointed at the conditions of the field (it looked straight out from the movie 'Lagaan'). And as if that was not enough, the rains made it even worse (though God has been merciful for the past few days).

Anyways, we are finally back and its cricket season. You can all catch the players sweating it out on the field. The Cricket Captain is so serious about his season, that he not only plays cricket, but sleeps, talks and eats cricket. Switching

over to Basketball, the team is gearing up for the three big tournaments coming up in April. And with already a winner's trophy (Council Schools, Dehra Dun) the team has set high goals. The squash team too is preparing for the Delhi Open and will be leaving next week. Wish them Luck!

The cricket team played a match against the Doon School this Sunday. The home team managed to amass a massive score of 242 in 35 overs. Abhishek chipped in with 3 wickets. The team made a slow start and in the end fell short by 66 runs. Akshat Jalan scored a patient 58 and Sunny also came up with a decent 30. The team did

not perform as badly, seeing that they had practised just for a week. And I am sure will do better in the forthcoming matches.

It looks like Mike Tyson is back at what he does best. Tyson created a fiasco when he went about throwing punches at Lennox Lewis. He may have lost his license but you can never be sure of

Mike, can you?

In India had a dismal series (again!) against England at home. They with great difficulty somehow managed to draw the one-day series. Looks like India's getting back to



its old ways. I do not understand how they beat Australia with this level of cricket last year.

In the other corner of the world the New Zealand and the South Africans in the VB Series beat the Australians at home (quite an accomplishment). South Africa & New Zealand played the best of three finals, with South Africa making easy work of New Zealand winning the first two.

Australian team would be touring South Africa later this month. We expect South Africa to come up with everything they have, to outdo the Australians.

- Aatir.

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