

The Elephant

No. 277

WELHAMBOYS' SCHOOL

16th October, 2002

Think About It....

Adults never seem to follow their own advice.

- Anonymous.

EDITORIAL

Turning eighteen is an inexplicable experience in one's life. It brings with itself a lot of questions, realizations and opportunities. From this moment onwards one becomes 'legal'. Eighteen is the threshold between teenage and adulthood; stepping ahead this threshold gives one freedom. But freedom and responsibility walk hand in hand. From now on you are an adult who is expected to be capable enough to take care of himself. From hereon even the government thinks that one is mature enough to make one's own decisions about various things, including the country's elected heads. Eighteen is that year in everyone's life which one looks back in great nostalgia. It feels great to be eighteen!

The mid terms provided the much-needed respite after the September Exams. There is nothing like a typical trek up a mountain to see the sun rise and splash its first rays on the



snow capped peaks. Or sitting by the bonfire with a cup of tea, as the cold evening air run a chill down your spine. These are few experiences during mid terms that would remain embedded in one's memory for years to come. One can visit the big cities anytime, but a

typical mid term excursion like we go to has its own delight. There are so many beautiful places to be seen, which one would surely regret not having visited, sometime later in life. One would surely regret not having, sometime later in life. I think mid terms are an essential part of education; in fact it is education itself. It is not just a break from activities, but a doorway to whole new experiences. It is an opportunity for self-management and a step towards independence, which should not be missed.

We very recently witnessed a chain reaction of missing hair on many boys' heads! The trend which started from the traditionally impulsive 'K' house, quickly spread to Triveni. Very soon a number of senior boys were seen with shaved heads. As the 'skinheads' marched around the school with their shiny heads, some juniors were quick to follow. Though the style did find some criticizers in the beginning, it was unanimously accepted later. The skinheads' sensation spread overnight and managed to make many succumb to the new vogue.

Preparations for the Sports Day and fete are in full swing. Though the Founders Day has been bifurcated into two, I hope that would not spoil the spirit of the event. Many are skeptical about the turnover of Exies and parents for the two events. Though the festive mood has not yet set in, indications for it to soon take over is clear. Founders Day is an integral part of a boarding student's life. I remember how we used to admire our seniors and look at them in awe during the Sports Day, as they lead their houses holding the house banners. Then we used to always wonder – "When will our time come?" This thought however would always be followed by a self-consolation – "I know someday it will." Now that the day approaches, you can imagine the feeling. So many years of patience finally bear fruit. Though it might not seem like a big deal to be holding a banner; it actually is.

When we were juniors there was a special name given to this time of the year. It used to be called the 'scoping season'. A time of the year, when all the eleventhies of the school 'scope' towards becoming Prefects. This time around this season started right from the time our Principal took the eleventhies to his Leadership Camp in search of potential Prefects for the next year. From that day on, one can see a slight change in most of them. It is a known fact that this season is known to make boys politer, helping, and more receptive to take over small responsibilities. It is not surprising that rumors and speculations over the next Prefect body are already doing the rounds. To a present Prefect this is only an indication that his time is almost over; which again of course is a mixed feeling. I just want to wish the eleventhies a healthy scoping season. May the best, rise above the rest.

The soccer season drew to a close with a match that I am sure will be remembered for its edge-of-the-seat excitement. There had to be a winner and a loser. Unfortunately our house was the latter. Though a cliché, the fact remains that it is not the result, but the participation and the spirit in which one plays the game that matters. It gives me immense pleasure to see players of opposite teams shaking hands and hugging each other, minutes after a heated match. The same two persons, who fought aggressively for a ball inside the field, can be the best of friends outside it. When I see members of the victorious and the defeated teams sitting together after a match, joking about the incidents that took place in it, I know that the bond that has developed between us over the past twelve years is too strong to be broken by a match, and come what may, it will remain so.

After months of requests and pleas, we finally have a new computer. Now we look forward to being more consistent and regular with future issues of the Oliphant. I also take this opportunity to announce the theme for the Founders Day issue, which is going to be – 'Vision of Welham'. I invite all ex editors, old boys, staff and students to contribute to this theme. How do you want your Welham to be? How would you like Welham to have been

when you were here? What changes would the old boys like to bring about in the school, and what can be done to better our institution? Please feel free to send in your contributions. That's it for now, folks.

Seeking higher depths,
Prayaas.

Literary Affairs.

Welcome to Reality....

The problem with the world today is not that we don't think positively enough but that we are constantly thinking more positively than we should. We always hear philosophers and the wise say, think positively and you can achieve anything. Yet we hear of so many positive thinkers who have failed miserably, or who have had their fifteen minutes of fame and have then returned to square one. Take Saber Bhatia for instance. After 'Hotmail' his venture was called 'Arzoo', it failed miserably and he was compelled to shut it down. If you watch his interviews you find he is a happy man because he has enough money to sustain him a long way but if you try looking past that you will see the inner Bhatia. He is upset due to the failure of Arzoo in comparison with hotmail. He had thought of his venture very positively which made him overlook the negative aspects and loopholes thus leading to the downfall of Arzoo.com.

Nobody says thinking positively is bad but it is neither too good. Thinking positively to a certain extent is alright but once it starts veiling loopholes that might rise later in the path, and it raises your expectation very high. That's when it leads to a downfall. Thinking negatively doesn't mean that you are a pessimist. In fact thinking negatively only opens your channel of thought wide enough so as to examine every aspect of your venture, negative or positive.

Where do you draw the line? Where is the line that helps to determine whether

you are thinking negatively or positively? The answer is that there actually is no line. There is no thin red line, which puts you on either side of thought. This probably gets you wondering when you are not thinking either positively or negatively, then what are you thinking? This grey area is called reality. Reality is the fine line of thought or the area that exists between the negative and positive and between pessimism and optimism. A lot of us today seem to be losing our grip over reality. The sudden hype of positive thinking has inclined us more towards raising expectations to a dangerously high level. This not only exists individually or personally but also for example applies to the economic theories.

In an economy we have periods of a boom, recession, depression that work like a cycle. When an economy is at a level where its booming everyone is happy. Everyone being happy means there is a huge proportion of the suddenly prosperous, start thinking big, really big! Targets and expectations inflate to a level where the prosperous and booming economy cannot handle the pressure and it just bursts. Everyone is back to square one and the economy is in a depression. Somewhere along the line the economy lost touch with reality and burst with a deafening pop. Lets face it, the world cannot be a great big wall of positive energy and society cannot be completely loving and forgiving. Thinking this way is positive to an extent when we look back the concept of reality does not even

exist. Live life the way it is, positive or negative and moreover enjoy living it that way.

Reality will bite sometime and it will hurt but that is something you have to work

your way around.

Think realistically not positively or negatively.

-The Witch Doctor.

GONE WITH THE WIND.

*Gone with the wind is politeness,
Which was once spread everywhere.
If anybody ever dies today,
There will be none to care.*

*Gone with the wind are honest men,
Who, not many people are.
You ask for a pair of wheels,
They'll give you a second hand car!*

Gone with the wind is peace,

*Which ruled the world one day,
There is a war going on every minute,
Everywhere a body is lay.*

*Gone with the wind is time,
That bids the days goodbye.
You never knew when you were born,
You'll never know when you'll die!*

**- Ajitesh Kir
Class VIII.**

Nature's Diary. Selfish Factor.

We often talk about how selfish some people are. They take from others but never return the favor. Some people boast that they are practically unselfish and are ready to give the shirt off their backs to someone needy....think again!

We take oxygen from the atmosphere and give back fumes and gases that cause pollution and holes in the ozone layer.

We take eggs etc. from the chickens and in return kill them too for consumption.

We take trees and cut them down for making paper, furniture etc. and give back dirty chemicals, which are harmful for plants and animal life.

We take animal skins, tusks and feathers giving in return dead bodies compelling species to face extinction.

We take oil from the ocean beds and give back and give back oil slicks which kills the marine life.

We take water from rivers for agricultural purposes and return dirty sewages full of harmful substances.

Going through this, I have a feeling its better to remain selfish rather than 'un'selfish.

**- Selfishly yours,
Samridha SJB Rana.**

WELHAM NOW

- 1) The Inter-School Financial Studies quiz took place on Saturday, 5th October 2002 in the Activity Center.
- 2) The Inter-House Soccer matches started on the 3rd of October. Ganga emerged victorious by defeating Cauvery in the Finals, which ended in a penalty shootout.
- 3) **The following boys achieved merit status in the English Handwriting Contest**
Classes IX-X:

Siddharth Mohanty
Sahir Sethi
Abhishek Kapoor
Umamah Burza
Vibhor Gupta
Abhinav Kumar
Anshul Bhatia
Tanmay Agarwal
Maroof Ahmed
Akshat Jalan

Classes XI-XII

Summit Gupta
Prayas S.J.B.Rana
Pawan S.J.B.Rana
Summit Periwai
Anant Golyan

- 4) Class IX left for Delhi to attend a workshop. They were escorted by Mrs. Anand and Mr. Biradar
- 5) Maroof Ahmed, Surya Bhaduria and Asad Sultan will be leaving for Jalandar to play the U-16 Basketball Nationals representing the Uttaranchal state team.
- 6) Our school Soccer team has left for Indore on the 11th to participate in the I.P.S.C. Soccer Tournament
- 7) A group of 30 boys went to watch documentaries on wildlife at FRI as a part of the wildlife week celebration. They were escorted by Mr. S.S. Khaira and Mr. Jagjit Singh
- 8) Mr. Arun Sharma has returned from his exchange from St. Phillips' College, Australia. Mr. Micheal Tear was given a hearty fairwell, in which he delivered a touching speech.

- 9) Our school Basketball team played the Fixed Five Tournament, held at Hilton School. We were runners up.
- 10) Mr. S.S. Khaira participated in a workshop on “Environmental Science” held at The Doon School on the 27th of September 2002.

LETTERS TO THE ED.

Dear Sir,

I am in Cardiff University doing my bachelors in Mechanical Engineering. It's just wonderful. We have Adhir Bhatt here too. Engineering at first looked tough early on especially after around five months of fun, but now I am getting settled in here. I am in a self-catered flat and now realizing the importance of P.H. I have to cook my own food and am on my own for most of the things. As an old boy, the idea of abolishing P.H. was rather disheartening. As for my own experience, I considered P.H. as a platform from where we could prepare ourselves for college. What else is happening in school? My regards to all the teachers and friends.

Sincerely Yours,
Vinayak Pant.

Dear Vinayak,

Thank you for your mail. It has always been a pleasure to hear from old boys studying abroad. I am sure that you are not the only old boy having such reactions on the abolishment of P.H. We wish you a pleasant and a successful stay at Cardiff, and hope that you will do the school proud.

The Ed.

THROUGH THE KEYHOLE. . . .

(A junior boasting to another)

“Have you seen the Bhakra Dam ? My dad built it.”

(Not to be outdone the other returns)

*“Have you seen the Dead Sea ? My Dad **killed** it!”*

(Shashank Agarwal to Pranay Patodia after Cauvery defeated Jamuna in the soccer match):

“ Let us go and ‘console’ the Jamunaites”

(Shashank walks upto Rahul Kothiwala and patting his back says):

“Console, yaar console !”

(6)

(Mr. Bakshi addressing the class twelfth sciences after a class):

“Okay boys, lets call it a day”

(Shashank Agarwal responding enthusiastically):

“Sir, sir Wednesday!”

Mr. Jagjit Singh to Kartik: I have a new MP5 player. Alright, tell me one thing, when one side of the CD finishes, does it change the side automatically!?!??

Adhaar Ohrie in President : Guys, lets not eat Chinese today, we will eat Mugaliese.

RINGSIDE VIEW?

With coming of the October the chill of winter is showing signs with boys being seen around in their tracksuits.

The school Basketball team returned from Ajmer as the runners up of the IPSC Basketball tournament. The team rolled into the semi-finals with victories over Modern school, Scindia on the way. We were set up for a semi final clash with Punjab Public School, Nabha. It was a close match with both teams tied at 32 each with 5 seconds left, when ‘apna begu’ stepped up and fired the winning shot at the buzzer. In the finals we met DPS RK Puram and we were

comfortably placed in the third quarter with a 8 point lead, but things turned around and we lost by 2 points. Abhishek Singh walked away with the most promising player award. The team got a grand welcome on their return but I guess some people didn’t like the whole idea of welcoming the team. Though the team did not win the world cup but they certainly did the school proud.

Moving on the soccer Inter House matches. Ganga had a comfortable win over Jamuna and Krishna winning 3-0 and 5-2 respectively. Ganga house came up with the fastest record of scoring

a goal in the tournament, under a minute. Vivek, a newcomer in Ganga house had a promising start scoring goals, turned out to be a revelation. Cauvery played Krishna in the second match. Though Krishna drew first blood, Cauvery was inspired by Prayaas’s two goals emerged victorious with a 3-1 score. In the other match Jamuna was beaten by Cauvery and Krishna with scores reading 1-3 and 1-2. In this tournament I must say that Jamuna showed great promise and played some good football. The finals was set between Ganga and Cauvery and promised to be an epic of a match. We were certainly not let down and witnessed some scintillating

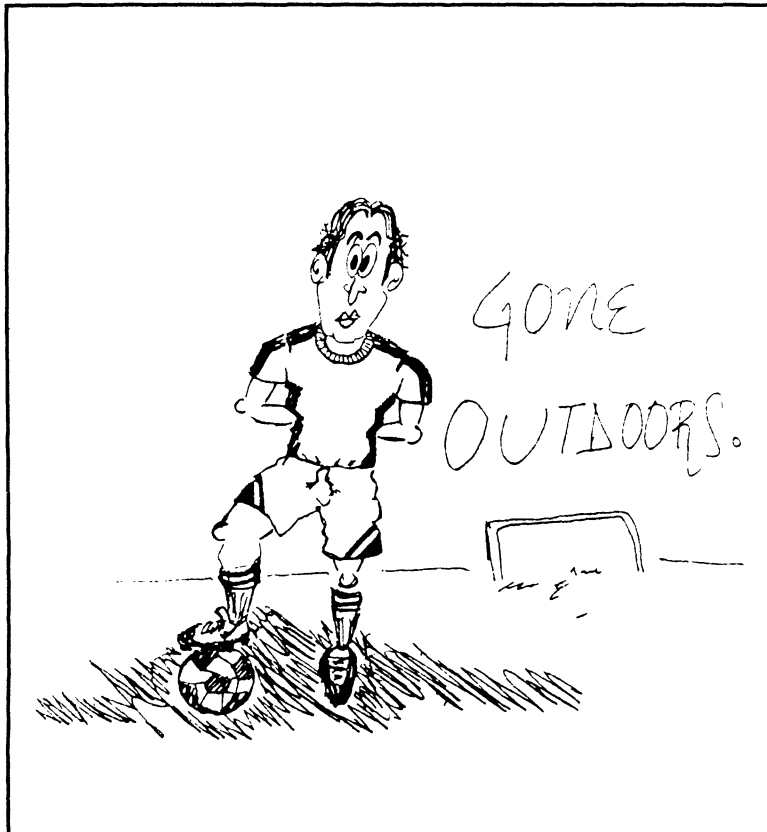
football being played. It was a grueling match with both sides attacking. Ganga scoring a goal early in the first half and Cauvery replying in the second. The match ended with a 1-1 draw leading to penalty shootouts. Ganga emerged victorious winning 4-2 in the penalties.

The field is bustling with energy nowadays with athletes preparing for the sports day with just 20 days away. The school soccer team will be leaving for Indore shortly to play the IPSC Tournament. We wish them luck.

Moving to the International scene Pete Sampras came back with a bang proving his critics wrong by winning the US open by beating his arch rival

Andre Aggasi in the finals. And though his future remains in question I won't be amazed to see him gunning for his eighth Wimbledon final next year. Meanwhile India is doing a good job at the Asian Games,

debut for Real Madrid scoring 2 goals. He came as a substitute in the second half and in a minute scored his first goal for the club. I don't need to talk about Motor sports (F1) as the results are obvious.



The Indian cricket team is riding on good form these days. The team did real well in the recently concluded ICC championship trophy in Sri Lanka. And though India ended up sharing the trophy with Sri Lanka, this will surely boost India's prospects for next year's World Cup in South Africa.

in Bussan, South Korea and though we all still languishing in the ninth position. India has done considerably well than the previous Asian Games. Ronaldo made a sizzling

Ganguly has proved to be credible leader and Yuvraj Singh and Mohammed Kaif have provided the youthful energy which the team previously lacked.

- Aa.

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