



The Elephant

No. 290

WELHAM BOYS' SCHOOL

23rd August, 2003

Think About It...

Wise men are dependent on fools and fools on wise men.

-Churton Collins

EDITORIAL

Well a new beginning and new things are bound to come our way. After a long and the much needed Summer Holiday the school seems to have got back on track. The new term got off to a flying start with a few Nepali students coming late to the school. Unfortunately, the School Captain and I were also part of the latecomers. For our late entry the almighty did punish us and left us to bake in the New Delhi heat sun.

The heat and humidity had us all cursing Mother Nature. Finally, all is well that ends well.

Every term there is always a long list of news to be conveyed to the students. This term is no exception. This time the news was lengthy and really ground breaking. As you

all know I do not really need explain it. Everyone must be already aware of the changes gone and come. Well if you are still the loitering in the Orchard field and waiting

to pluck those ripe and juicy Litchis, then flip the page. You know what is in store for you.

The boys who fell sick last term got a big shock on their arrival to school. They were under the impression that they were free from the

shackles of Last Term's End of Term Examinations, so sorry for all had to sit down for it, while others frolicked in the rain. Now that the examinations are over. There were smiles on their faces of many as their guess papers turned into reality. As for their other comrades, they were least bothered about

(1)



'CUNTI' ITIS

A.K.A

EYE FLU...

Richard Wright

what they obtained in the exam. The conclusion of this exam was that all of them came out with flying colours.

Every term has a certain disease attached to it. The disease is not only an appendage, but a burden to the school hospital and especially for the doctor. Citing from the example of last term, it was typhoid. This term it is 'conjunctivitis,' better known to us as 'eye flu' or in our campus dialect, 'cunji.' The toll of students struck by this contagious ailment is on the rise and seems to be just rising. The hospital is already overflowing and the boys are being 'Hostelized.' The disease seems to be uncontrollable as numerous students are harbouring the virus. Numerous statisticians from the school quote that the ratio of diseased students is 5:8, some say that as many as 230 students have been affected and finally someone came up with a conspiracy theory. Well the conspiracy theory is that the school shall be closed if 300 students shall contract this airborne virus. The name and the address of the statisticians and the one who theorized the conspiracy theory has been withheld. The virus has got the students to don the latest hued shades. This even includes the ones who have not contracted the disease as yet. This flu has not even spared the teachers. To give a chase to the boys in their fashion prowess and know how, they have come out to face the sun in their retro 'Aviator Avtaar.' Well for those with swollen eyes the day is not far away when the eye drops shall be discarded. Till then get well soon.

The Independence Day celebrations were short, yet very entertaining, with the Junior School putting up a patriotic skit. It did rain as it always does and no one was disappointed by it. The celebration had a different look to it this time. It was done in the open and it proved a success. The students were asked to sit inside a huge, white tent. It was quite a sight to see, the tri colour fluttering in the broad daylight with all its glory and might. Salutations to the martyrs and the freedom fighters, who had dreamt of this day and made it possible for

us to breathe in the clear skies of independent India.

The weather seems to have been much better than what was last term. Surely it is much cooler now than what was last term but, the relentless humidity has the school shirt sticking to our backs. The combination of solid heat and heavy humidity took its first victim a few days back during breakfast lines. He was a student from the Junior School. Thank God the School Prefects have not been infuriated this time to the level of punishing the school in the afternoon, to be specific after Lunch, when the heat is at its zenith. Perhaps with the time, they have become more sympathetic and benevolent. The pessimists to this theory feel that something is brewing, perhaps the stillness before a storm is it? Well till then keep your fingers crossed and stay out of trouble. Let not or as I should put it in my words do not cross the path of the black cat (authority).

The Bollywood was abuzz during the holidays with Aishwarya Rai making it to the Cannes. Her Haute Couture was the topic of discussion everywhere in India and abroad. The topics of the films have been going through a drastic change, with horror and sci-fi selling like hot cakes. Well for the other Bollywood news, the Punjab Kesari said that Koi Mil Gaya has been nominated Special Effects for the Oscars. For various other masala news stay glued to Punjab Kesari.

The international panorama looks bleak with no substantial news coming up about the whereabouts of Saddam Hussein. The 'yanks' are still pondering over his whereabouts while he sends them home made videotapes of him calling on his countrymen to oust the foreign invaders. To aggravate the matter they are yet to find out and dig up Osama Bin Laden and his posse. Well Hollywood Box Office has been flooded with sequels of any and every movie. The middle aged heroines of Hollywood are again turning into hot property, take Demi Moore for instance. Well that is all from the world window.

Pass me my eye drops,
Pranab

Welham Now

For the information of all students, parents, staff, old boys and all others concerned

After a very careful process of investigations, Newspaper Advertisement, short listing and interviews conducted by a well known professional search agency, and final interviews by the board of Management and the Trustees of the school; it gives me great pleasure to announce the selection and appointment of Mr. Dev Lahiri as the New Principal of the school. He will join us on 15th August, 2003 and take over from Mr. Suresh Bakshi on 1st September, 2003.

Mr. Dev Lahiri, Rhodes Scholar, is a seasoned school Head and was a teacher at the Doon School, and the head of the well known Lawrence School, Lovedale, (Ootacamund) followed by stints at the Selaqui School in Dehra Dun and the Heritage School in Kolkata.

Mr. Suresh Bakshi, who has so nobly held the fort till now, retires on 1st September 2003 after a long and meritorious innings at the school.

We have also appointed Mr. Prabir Basu (Ex. Welhamite, class of 1957) graduate of IIT, Kharagpur and with many years of administrative experience as Vice Principal effective 1st June 2003.

In the months and years ahead, we are confident that our School will reach greater heights.

I am sure you will join me in wishing Mr. Bakshi a peaceful, well deserved, retired life and in welcoming both Mr. Lahiri and Mr. Basu.

- Darshan Singh
(Chairman)

LITERARY AFFAIRS

The Intruder

Fiona stepped out of the hospital and into the sunshine. It felt really nice to be out in the sun once again. It had been a long year in the hospital where she was under psychiatric care. Fiona had had an emotional breakdown when her husband, Frank, had left her. She could not control herself and had frequent violent outbursts and would break the window panes with her bare hands and would hurl stuff at the walls. Finally, the neighbours took her to see a psychiatrist and had been under observation for a year.

Now Fiona was able to control her temper and was free to go. She thought of going to her house where she hadn't been in a year. She would start a new life and try to forget the past. But she stopped at the café around the corner to have some coffee.

A handsome man came and sat by Fiona and introduced himself as Mark. He was tall, well-built with blond hair and blue eyes. Fiona fell in love at first sight. They had coffee together and Mark walked Fiona back to her house. By the time they had reached there Mark had asked Fiona out to dinner and she had agreed.

Fiona went into the bedroom of her house and found everything spic and span. She had thought

to find her house in disarray-just the way she had left it when she went to the hospital. The maid must have cleaned it up she thought. She went to her room and picked out a black dress for the evening.

Suddenly the front door barged and she heard footsteps and voices. Were there some intruders in her house? She checked around the house but there was no one. Fiona put the black dress on the bed and went to have a shower. She came out of the shower and her dress was missing from the bed. She found it hung back in the wardrobe and certain thoughts began to run through her mind. There certainly must be an intruder in the house. The voices and footsteps could have been a figment of her imagination but the dress cannot fly back into the closet. Was she turning mad again? What was happening she could not understand? The phone rang and she picked up the phone before she could say anything she could hear two voices talking already. There's someone in the living room on the other telephone line. She raced downstairs but the living room was empty, but the TV was on. Fiona felt scared. Shivers ran down her spine. Somebody else was living in her house.

It was 8 o'clock. Mark would arrive any minute. Fiona put these thoughts to the

fact of her head and when Mark came went out for dinner. Fiona returned home and it was close to midnight. Mark had taken her to a nice Chinese restaurant and then to an ice cream parlour. It had been a wonderful evening after a long time. Fiona was tired and went to sleep.

Fiona woke up with a start. She heard the faint sound of the TV coming from the living room. Her fear came back to haunt her. She heard some footsteps going down the stairs. Like a thief she stealthily walked downstairs. She saw the TV turned on and the dark figure of a woman sitting in an armchair across it.

Fiona ran back upstairs and dialed 9-1-1. A voice on the phone said "LAPD. How can I help you?" Fiona replied in a shuttered voice "th-theres an intruder in my house. I live on 1562 Elm Street. Please come quick". The voice asked "who am I speaking to ma'am?" "Fiona. Fiona Williams", she replied, "I'm really scared. I'm hiding in the closet

in my bedroom upstairs" "Ok ma'am. We'll be there before you know it".

The wait seemed like ages. Fiona heard the police coming. Any minute now, she thought, and that intruder will be behind bars. Suddenly the closet door opened and a police officer took her by the hand and led her outside. "Here's your intruder lieutenant" he said. Fiona did not understand. This was her house. Then she saw the woman who was in her house. "This is my house! I'm not the intruder, she is", said Fiona pointing to the woman. The lieutenant stepped forward. "I'm sorry ma'am. But you are the intruder. This woman called us in the evening saying somebody was using her clothes. Miss Williams, this home is hers. After you were kept under psychiatric care, your husband sold the house to this woman. Please come with us. You'll be under our custody, until we find a new house for you".

- Shaunak Valame

Lampoon

Dream Girl

It was a calm Sunday morning. The sun was shining which seemed like an unusual monsoon phenomenon. Well I suppose that was because it was about to be a very unusual day! Stepping into a crisp set of clothes I picked my shades and walked with a proud gait out of Welham. I looked at the "auto wala" and asked him to take two of my friends and myself to our usual "chill spot". As usual however I had no choice but argue with him about how much he was going to charge. This spot which on this calm humid day was heaven seemed so new which I credited to the fact that it was the first time I was coming here since the holidays had started. A cup of coffee, a guitar and ladies all over... what more can a fellow ask for? Looking down at a girl sitting at the opposite end of the coffee shop, I signaled to her asking her if she would like to join me for a cold chocolate flavoured coffee. I got turned down! I smiled at her, lifted my glass in the air and whispered to myself... "cheers!"

Suddenly I caught myself staring into open space and I had no clue what I had been thinking about. I tried hard to remember but just couldn't.

Involved in my own thoughts, I didn't even realize that she had come and sat down in front of me when the words 'Hi, I am Tanvi' struck me. I needed a moment to pull myself together. The girl of my dreams had just come and sat in front of me and only moments ago I was attempting to flirt with another of the fairer sex sitting no further than 20 feet away from me. What if she had seen me? "I'm Sangmeet" I said, "May I buy you a cup of coffee?" She looked at her watch and said "sure. I'll have a iced-mocha" I thought to myself, that that was exactly what I liked and exactly what I had offered that other girl. What if she had seen me? I ordered our drinks and then remarked "what a coincidence... that's exactly what I like". "Really", she said "you don't look like the cold mocha type though". Popping up my left eyebrow I said "what do mean cold mocha type". She gave me a cute giggle and hid her face in her hands while her beautiful brown hair fell over her face and then she whipped back her head and with another chuckle she said "my god, you are such a flirt". "Really" I said astonished popping my eyebrow up again "and what makes you think that?" This was the girl that I never had the courage to walk up to

and ask if the chair next to her was empty and today she was sitting next to me and calling me a flirt. "Well" she said, "I have come to realize that people who pop their eyebrow's up turn out to be complete flirts and are always afraid of commitment" I got very scared and looked at her with great discomfort and assured her that she was wrong. How was I to convince this beautiful damsel with eye's like shinning crystals that I was actually waiting for the right girl to come along so that I could prove that I was 'committed to commitment'. More so that she was the right girl, the only girl, the girl that I dreamed of. "Well whoever told you that popping an eyebrow up is the sign of an uncommitted flirt was very wrong and I think should see a psychiatrist. That is exactly opposite of what I am I don't know how to prove it to you". Wait a second yes I do. I gently lifted her soft creamy hand, looked into her eyes and said "you are the girl of my dreams. The one about who I dream happy thoughts every night and if takes telling the world that I cant live without you, then I will not rest until the world knows that its you and only you that I want to be with"

Suddenly I heard about twenty people burst out into laughter and pop out from all corners of that orange textured cofee shop. Then I realized that it

was a prank! I couldn't believe that my friends would do something like that to me. I was going to pulverize each one of them. They knew what my feelings for her were. How could they do this to me!! Then it struck me. How did they manage to convince my lady love to play along? I looked around and saw blue dots with shades of brown everywhere. Was I hallucinating or had my friends and her friends' actually joint hands and played a prank on me? I looked at her and she seemed to be equally if not more dumbfounded than I was. Oh my God!! They had played a prank on both of us!! I couldn't believe it. Just then there was a blackout. What luck, I thanked the heavens. Everything was dark and I seized the opportunity to take Tanvi into the book store behind the coffee shop. I took her behind the best-seller rack and in darkness I lifted my left arm and pressed a button on my watch. "This is my new indiglo!"

Note: All characters in this episode are non fictional and bear resemblance to people in real life. Therefore resemblance to actual people is not coincidental!!!!

-The Witch Doctor

Nature's Diary.

EGREGIOUS EVEREST FACTS

- Height-8850 m. (29035 ft.) Age—6 Crore Years.
- The height of Mt. Everest is equal to 122 Qutub Minars l.
- At the summit of Mt. Everest atmospheric pressure is only 30 percent that at sea level.
- The collision of Indo -Australian tectonic plate into rigid Tibetan plateau is causing increase in the height of Mt. Everest 2 mm every year.
- Till 1865 the highest peak of the world was known as Peak XV by the British. Mt. Everest was named after Sir George Everest, then the Surveyor General of India. He was also the first to map the Indian Sub-continent.
- Mt. Everest is known as 'SAGARMATHA' in Nepal and 'CHOMOLUNGMA' (meaning Goddess mother) in Tibet.
- There have been several failing attempts since 1921 to conquer the top of the world. In 1953,

May 29th, the first people to climb Mt. Everest were Edmund Hillary (New Zealand) and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay. Edmund Hillary spent 15 minutes at Mt. Everest.

- Since 1953, more then 1300 people from 120 countries have climbed atop of the world.
- To make Hillary and Tenzing's climb success, 350 porters has carried ten tons of supplies to Base Camp near the Khumbu icefall.
- Kushang Sherpa has climbed Mt. Everest from all directions.
- There are 15 ways to reach the top of the world.
- First flight over Mt. Everest was by two British Westland biplanes, on 3rd April 1933.
- First successful attempt to conquer Mt. Everest by Indian team was made in May 20-29, 1965 under the leadership of Commander M S Kohli.

- During 1966-69 the mountains of Nepal were closed to climbers.
- The oldest person to climb Mt. Everest is 70 years old Y. Miura of Japan.
- Junko Tabei on May 16th 1975, from Japan became the first woman to climb Everest.
- Bachendri Pal is the first Indian woman to climb Mt. Everest in 1984. (Fifth woman overall).
- The first winter ascent of Everest was made by Polish Expedition on 17th Feb. 1980.
- Two men team R. Messner and Peter Habler were the first to climb Everest without Oxygen apparatus on 8th May 1978.
- On August 1980 Reinhold Messner became the first person to make the entire ascent of Mount Everest solo.
- Lydia Bradey, who climbed Everest on Oct. 14th 1988, was the first woman to go atop without oxygen.
- Tom Whittaker in 1988 conquered Everest with one leg.
- First complete ski descent of Everest was made by Slovenian Dave Karnicar on Oct. 7th 2000.
- On May 23rd 2001, a record of 89 people climbers summited on one day.
- On May 25th 2001, Erick Weihe was the first blind person to climb the Everest.
- Tenzing Norgay's son Jamling climbed Everest in 1996.
- Ming Kipa 15 year old girl may be the youngest ever climber to have reached Mt Everest.
- On May 25th 2002 Peter Hillary, Jamling Norgay and Brent Bishop celebrated at top to honour their fathers on a tribute climb sponsored by the National Geographic Society.
- On 26th May 2003 Lakpa Gelu set a record for the fastest ascent of Mt. Everest in 10hrs. 56 minutes breaking just three days old record of 12hrs. 45 minutes by Sherpa Pemba Dorjee, on 23rd May 2003.
- Year 1996 is marked for Everest's worst death toll for a single year i.e. 15.
- Dick Bass a Norwegian climbed Everest on 30 April 1985 at 55. He is the first to have reached the highest points of all the seven continents.
- Japan has the credit of nine successful Everest expeditions.
- Maximum deaths have occurred in the Khumbu icefall, while conquering the Everest.
- Appa Sherpa has climbed Everest thirteen times. The last attempt was on 13th May 2003.
- 120 dead bodies are still lying on the Mt. Everest.
- Out of 175 deaths on climbing Everest 46 were of Nepalese.
- Large deaths have occurred due to stormy avalanche or land slide.
- Ken Naguchi of Japan conquered Everest in 1999. He initiated 'Asia clean up Expedition' to clean up rubbish and junk around Mt. Everest.

Compiled by Surjeet Singh Khaira
Welham Boys' School
Dehradun.

Everest 50 years.

26th May, 1953. On that very day, man set foot on the top of the world for the first time. One wee built smiling 'firangi' from the land of Maoris and one shy, short timid Sherpa set off from base camp on a day which was crystal clear except for a 'mild breeze' of 25 km per hour!! At approximately 13:20 hours, Peterson, a team member heard the following words in his transmitter, "Peter, we made it. Get the damn champagne ready, we're coming down!!" A moment frozen in history for years to come.

50 years have passed since that magical moment took place, yet the enthusiasm to

(6)

reach the top of Sagarmatha lives on. Over the years many people have taken the challenge to reach the top. Many could not make it to the top and most of them didn't return alive. Yet, why do people still want to climb the Everest? What magnetic quality does it have that has allured more than 3500 people in the short span of 50 years after its conquest?

Many say that it's the challenge in it. That one day they can puff up their chests and say, "Son, I have climbed Everest." Many do it for that adrenaline rush or to push the envelope of danger. But whatever the reason, all of the people have one aim: conquer Everest or Everest will conquer you!!

However the sad fact is that this beautiful place is polluted too. People carelessly throw their empty oxygen cylinders and also discard their unwanted baggage. A N.G.O group which went till base camp to get back oxygen cylinders returned with over 500 of them! People also throw unwanted food stuff and hordes of bags. This way, the future of Everest too is at stake. People should be made aware about the problems and then only can we restore glory and cleanliness to Everest.

This year to commemorate 50 years of the conquest of Everest 30 expeditions from every corner of the world came to try their luck. Many records were made and broken. Appa Sherpa

recorded the fastest ascent and descent. One of the French expeditions had a person with only one leg! Unfortunately about 50 people lost their lives. Yet people continued and all the expeditions' except the British were successful.

But all said and done, the mighty Sagarmatha is numero uno. As the sun sets she goes into a deep slumber waiting for the new day to dawn, a new beginning. From Mallory to Irvine to Tenzing Norgay to Hillary people come and go, but Sagarmatha will last forever.

Samridha S.J.B Rana

RINGSIDE VIEW

The 'Welham scene' has started once again in the hope that excellence may prevail this term in the sports arena. The holidays have given the school some 'plump' sportsmen who vow to come back to shape soon.

While the boys were away holidaying the school games field saw some 'temporary' development. The backfield was cleared of all its pebbles however the monsoon along with the poor drainage system rolled all pebbles back into the field. It was a good attempt with a bad consequence.

The Junior National Basketball camp was held in the activity centre from the 25th of May to the 4th of June. Md. Asad Sultan and Surya Pratap went on to form a part of the Uttaranchal Team to play the Nationals at Ludhiana from the 5th to 14th of June. Talking of Basketball, The school has sustained a severe blow with Coach 'Kelly' quitting. If rumors are to be believed, he is likely to come back however his absence has only acted as a catalyst. The players are even more eager than ever to take away tournaments without the coach, after all 'Baski' runs in a Welhamite's blood.

The school has Mr. Nair, Mr. Manish Madan and Mr. Nitin Tandon as the soccer, volleyball and tennis coach respectively to enhance the standard of the game.

The school soccer team had to pull out of 2 tournaments due to short notice. The tournaments were to be held on the 4th of August, a day after school reopened.

The school badminton team participated in the district badminton tournament held at Parade ground from the 12th to 17th of August. Abhishek Kapoor and Asad Sultan made it up to the quarter finals where luck betrayed them. The duo of Asad and Daga performed better reaching the semifinals. I guess that was a sheer display of excellent performance in spite of no practices due to inherent hindrances.

The activity centre roof has probably seen its days. To be frank, it sees it every monsoon. The constant leakages of late has been flooding activity centre making it impossible to play in it.

I guess that's all I got from the Welham scene. As the teams gain momentum I promise to be back with more inside stuff next time.

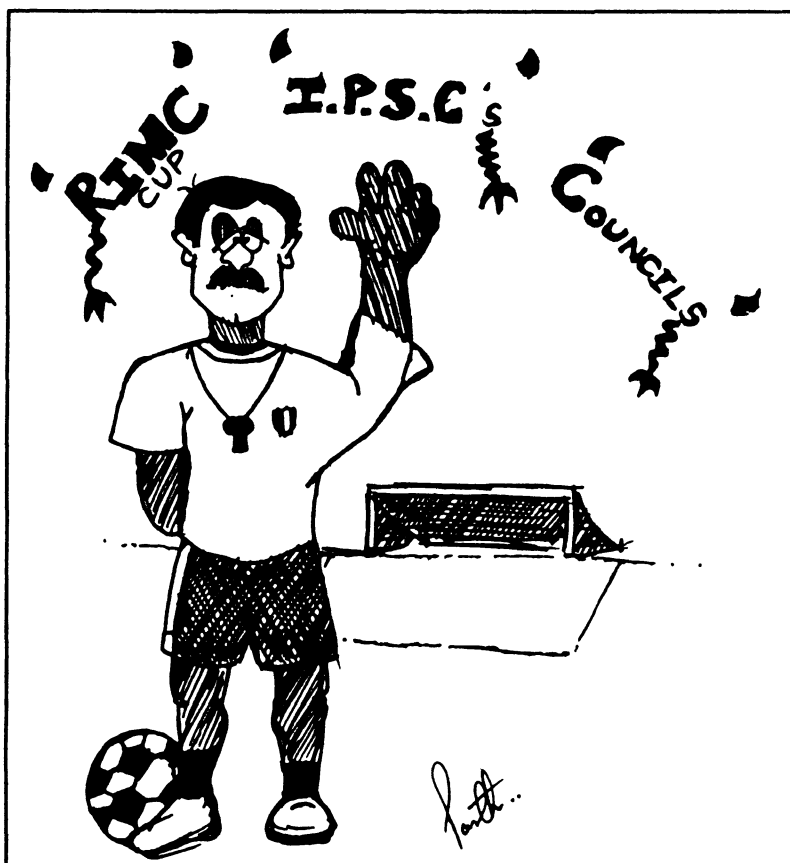
The international scenario witnessed quite a few remarkable changes in racing, soccer and basketball. Defending world champions Michael Schumacher and Valentino Rossi are struggling to take a commanding lead over their rivals as they had done last year. The BMW-Williams F1 team has won 3 consecutive races

and the season final promises to be a close call. But the spotlight fell into the Beckham transfer from Manchester United to Real Madrid and on Chelsea who have spent the most money this season buying champions. Manchester United got into this season with a Beckham and Veron- less squad. It will be interesting to see whether they can successfully defend their title against the rejuvenated Arsenal, Liverpool and Chelsea squads as the season kicks off on Saturday the 16th. In basketball, Carl Malone has been transferred to the L.A. Lakers and Major changes have come in the Knicks and the Spurs. We also see Kobe Bryant's career on the line as he has been involved in a sexual assault case.

In tennis, the Spaniards retained their title as 'Kings of Clay' as Juan Carlos Ferrero beat Martin Verkerk in the French open. It also witnessed the first final between two Belgians and without Serena or Venus Williams in a long time. Justine Henin defeated Kim Clijsters to win the ladies finals. The Wimbledon was even more astonishing with 1st seed Hewitt being knocked out in the

1st round and 2nd seed Andre Agassi bowing down to Mark Philippoussis in the 4th round. The men's final was won by 20 year old Roger Federer of Switzerland who defeated Philippoussis in straight sets. There was nothing new in the ladies finals as Serena Williams beat her elder sister Venus in 3 sets. Hats off to Martina Navratilova for bagging her 20th grand at the Wimbledon this year.

Cricket witnessed quite a few series. The Aussies played the West Indies and won 4-3, New Zealand won a tri-series against Sri Lanka and Pakistan, and England beat Zimbabwe 2-0 and also won the Northwest series. At present South Africa is on a Test tour in England with new captain Graeme Smith slamming 2 double centuries giving South Africa a 1-0 lead in two sets.



That's all for this time from the Ringer.
Begging leave,
-Karan.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Chief Editor : **Pranab B. Shrestha**
Literary Affairs : **Kartik Mahajan**
Welham Now : **Nishant Joshi**
Cartoonist: **Prabesh Shrestha & Parth Parasher**
Staff Representative: **Mr. Aseem Tripathi**
Published By : **Welham Boys' School**
Registration No. :- **20208/86**

Desktop Editors: **Prateek Baranwal & Aamir**
Ringside View: **Karan Mehrotra**
Nature Diary : **Sumridha S.J.B.Rana**
W.O.B.N : **Mr. J. Gosain**
E-Mail: **oliphant@vsnl.com**
Web-page: **www.welhamboys.org**
Printed at : **EBD Webseva, Dehru Dun.**