



# The Oliphant

No. 294

WELHAM BOYS' SCHOOL

1st November, 2003

## Think About It...

Those who insist on the dignity of their office, show they have not deserved it.

-Gracian

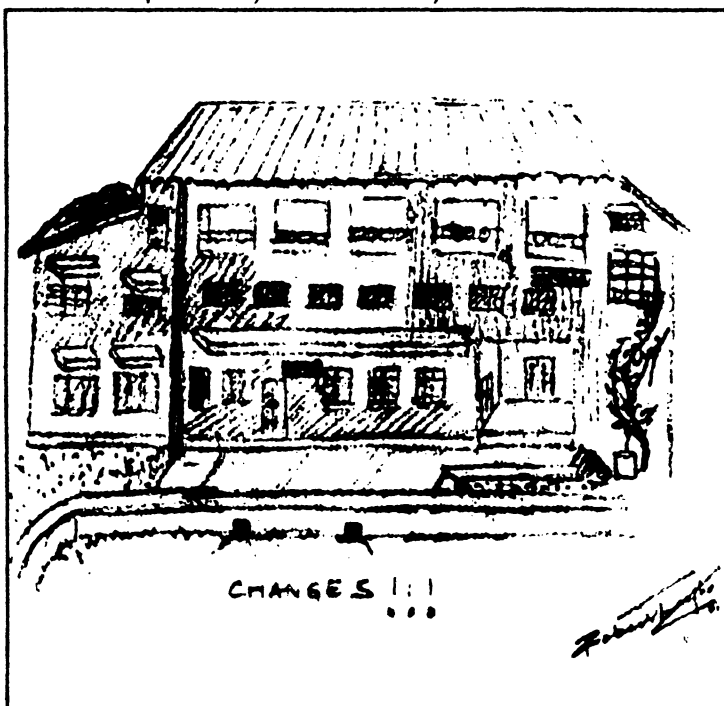
## EDITORIAL



A year ago I had never thought this day would come. It came as a rude shock to me when I was told by the staff rep. that this was the end of my tenure. Guess, I have reached the end of the road. I can still remember of the first day when I was inducted as the Supreme Being of the Oliphant Room. Come to think of it now, I can hardly remember how the days just flew by.

Every ride in comes to an end; trip which lasted 2 minutes.

From obsolete computer to leaving behind computer, I do not express my job once nearly existence in the staying up late till dawn, from hectic keeping to time experience has From getting staff rep on occasions to DTE on the same



Disney land mine was a long for a miniscule

facing an on the first day an upgraded have words to feelings. This cost me my very school. From the break of typing, to ??? The whole been worth it. rebuked by the numerous rebuking the occasions the

feeling has been unique. From rushing through overdue issues to bringing out a double issue in a matter of seven days, my board and I have worked really hard. At the end of the day all I can say is that my memories of it will live with me till eternity.

The whole year, work went on as usual. With the work, an assortment of scandals took place, which nearly compelled us to shut down the magazine. With both impediments and incentives the magazine journeyed on...helped by many well wishers this magazine has survived the disasters that rocked it. With the change in the environment the magazine also underwent a change. What we need to believe is, 'Men may come and men may go, but the Oliphant must go on for ever'.

Speaking of what is new, the school is surely looking as if it has turned a new leaf. The buildings have undergone a massive cosmetic change. They have been painted white, as is very evident. The historical and daring red has been subdued by the white and grey. I guess the new saying should be that, "I am going to paint the town white." The path that led to the Activity Center has also seen a change. Long gone are the days when the dust laden and pebble strewn path use to welcome many a visitor. The Principal's Office is also in the process of being shifted to the Physics practical room. With labourers working round the clock, the office has been completed at a phenomenal speed. Krishna and Indus have switched residences. With the exodus lasting a day, a tractor was kept busy ferrying luggage till the sun set. Many parents must have noticed this major change too and must be getting used to the fact there was once hostel named Krishna that overlooked the Dalanwala road. It is all too easy to say that we have got over the past. But for a student it is quite impossible. Come to think of it, changes are meant for everyone's benefit. Changes are all about upgrading and creating new waves. The classes here are being turned into 'Smart Classrooms.' There soon will be a projector, computer and every possible gadget to enhance the learning process. It is good that in the near future there shall be smart students walking out of 'Smart Classes'!

The weather is a cool and a mellow atmosphere has come to settle in the valley. This is the season which gets everyone to jump into their dancing shoes, partly because the 'Jam Session' happens to be just a day away. The surroundings seem to be gearing up for the winter. With the Welhamites donning their winter uniform (not to forget those badges,) it looks as if a harsh winter is awaiting us. With the board examinations looming ahead the winter seems infinitely harsher.

While the winter is but a few days away Founder's Day is upon us. As always it carries with itself a festive and jovial mood. Also as usual there is a Chief Guest to view the festivities. This year the school community has Mr. Salmaan Khurshid, a member of

Parliament and also the President of the Delhi Public School Council. Sir, we welcome you.

With time running out for the outgoing batch the responsibility resting on the upcoming batches seems to be increasing. The ethos of their seniors will urge them to lead a life like theirs. The spirit of Welham will pass down to posterity. The upcoming batches should ponder over their senior's drawbacks and try to improve on them thereby justifying the motto of the school, "From strength to strength."

In the end to sum up the international news all seems to be going blurry in my eyes. Now the question arises why this phenomenon is taking place. Well, with so many activities going on in the school, putting in my entire soul into bringing out this Founder's day issue, chastising my DTE, perfecting the hostel's marching and getting chased by the Staff Representative, my bird's eye view of the world has been lost in the journey of stepping into the real world. The same goes for the Bollywood scenario.

The end has always been a thanksgiving to the vital people who backed the board, physically and mentally. First and foremost I thank all members of my board for having put up with me and also having stood by me as rocks through thick and thin. Mrs. Anand, I sincerely thank you for having patiently gone through our drafts and made them printable. Lastly the Staff Rep. takes the cake and also the cherry. Mr. Tripathi, "how can I ever thank you for having been omnipresent and always being there to guide us as we stumbled along the path? A thousand salutes to you for having been through the rollercoaster ride with its many booms and depressions."

From being helped by the bearerji to dress up to donning the Twelfthies blazer with panache, this life has now come to a crucial crossroad. The time has come to pass on the reins to future Welhamites. For now we might as well take on the role of Ex-Welhamites. With tears in my eyes, my batch thanks the School whose spirit embraces each of us.

I see you when you get there,  
See you if you get there.

thanks the School whose spirit embraces  
each of us.

I see you when you get there,  
See you if you get there.



(Pranab B. Shrestha)

# Letters to Ed

Dear Ed,

It may have been a long time since and I mean really long since I left school. But the very old memories of Welham that I carry makes me get back to school and its happening now and then.

The spirit "From strength to strength" has made me what I am today and I will carry that forward. I am currently at THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON, TX, (USA), doing my Masters in Computer Science.

(Just to remind the school fraternity that I am the Krishna Manav Goel (batch of 99). I had left Welham after 10<sup>th</sup> to join D.P.S (R.K Puram). However after that I went on to finish my B. Tech in I.T from Amity, Delhi.

My absence from the school has in no way dampened the spirit that I carry but as the years ago by the things that Welham as an institution has taught me has only endured the passage of time. May the spirit of Welham live forever.

- Manav Goel (87-99)  
Krishna, 737

Dear Teachers and Welhamites,

This is to let you know that I am doing my BS in Mechanical Engineering from Iowa State University in the United States. I joined this fall in August. I know the name sounds unheard off, but this is a really good place for engineering. The state of Iowa is located in the great Mid-West region and the city, Ames, is a small one and very peaceful. Any of you who are interested to come to the States for their further studies can contact me for information, etc.

Bye, best regards.

Deepak Sanan  
(Batch of 2002)  
<dsnan@iastate.edu>

Dear Ed,

I am at the University of North London doing a Masters in International Business. It is a very demanding course with a lot of research work to be carried out. At the moment. I am in the self catered hall. I have settled to the life in England.

I would like you to give me the contact details of any ex-welhamites in the U.K.

Thanking You,  
Yours Sincerely,  
Lalit Kumar Auluck  
(lauluck@rediffmail.com)



## Literary Affairs

### It is an Attitude

Have you ever wondered why some people wake up in the morning as chirpy as the busy birds outside the window, while others wake up grumpy? Ever wondered why some people are seen happy most of the time, while others are withdrawn, sad, depressed or bitter? Well I have, and since I pondered I went to find out why.

Come October, and the Oliphant gears up for the Founder's issue. I look forward to writing for it, as it gives me a chance to ponder and reflect on the years gone by taking with it generations of gentlemen Welhamites into the wide world. All of them have made a niche for themselves. What made them succeed? Thinking about it, gave me the topic for my short – write up – “Attitude”.

It is all in the attitude. Changing the way you think about things. Is the glass half full, or is it half empty? Is the sun bright and beautiful or is it hot and miserable? Does the rain falling day after day drag your spirit down or do you even look at the beauty of the rain?

Every situation in life has two sides as we have well, we also have to have evil, for without evil we would not realize good. Without

noise we could not have realized the beauty of silence. When Einstein failed, he didn't think of failure, he basically thought “Oh! I have found one more way that my ideas won't work”

Attitude and how you perceive things is the key to your own happiness. If you are feeling overwhelmed in a situation in life, rather than sitting there feeling sorry for yourself, think positive. Find something that you can have and gain from the situation.

Attitude, wake up in the morning, smile in the mirror, welcome each day with the love you would give your precious one and savour each day. When things are down, lush them around. When things are happy, pile that happy time, into your mind, where you can pull it out anytime you need a bit of cheering up.

Make this attitude your strength and courage, for these aren't always measured in medals and victories. They are measured in the attitude for the struggles which we overcome.

- Mrs. Mimi Bajpai  
(Head of Biology Department)

### From Thin Air

“If the mountains don't come to Mohammed... then Mohammed must go to the mountains.”

Since times forgotten and bygone era's. Mountains have represented firmness, power and indomitable superiority. They are the very epitome

of strength and have stood unchallenged in might and continue to do so. But can humans with their insuppressible spirit ever resist a challenge?

And thus began man's quest to conquer the unconquered and challenged the unchallenged in a test of endurance, strength and courage. In

India the flame of the spirit is kept burning by "The Nehru Institute of Mountaineering (NIM)" situated in Uttar Kashi, Garhwal and run mostly by the Indian Army. This institute was the brain child of Pandit Nehru and has been doing laudable service to the nation by training thousands in the art of mountaineering .

I arrived at NIM on the 21<sup>st</sup> of April along with my friend Sarthak for a Basic Mountaineering Course which has successfully been completed every year by numerous Welhamites. As we stepped into the campus we were surprised by the high degree of cleanliness, natural beauty and silence. We were allotted rooms randomly and were soon given a lecture on discipline of the institute and its expectations. The lecture on discipline soon cleared all doubts, if any, on it being a purely army organization. Half the trainees were army men themselves and made us feel puny in comparison.

The training began sharp at six in the morning. A 4km run with raised arms mingled with duck walks, frog jumps, head rolls, pushups, sit ups, chin ups, stretching, jumping, bending and a steep trek back to the institute at along with four sets of frog jumps. This was only the 'warm-up' for it was the first day.

The next three days passed in growing agony. The instructors were certainly not joking when they termed the first day as "warming up". Days got longer, the schedule were hectic, meals were measly (but nutritious), the discipline stricter, the P.T. more rigorous and the average

trainee came a step closer to the acclimatizing to a lifestyle which would go on for a month.

On the fourth day we were introduced to the first stage of mountaineering –Rock craft. A grueling 10 km trek with a 20 kilo rucksack through the town of Uttarkashi to a remote area called Tekhla much higher in the mountains was to be a daily routine from right now. This was the official training area of NIM. An exhausted course settled group wise, while the unfazed instructors smiled condescendingly upon us, still brimming with unbelievable energy. Breakfast was

invigorating after washing our muslins. The first lecture began... Tekhla was beautiful with boulders and huge rocks interspersed with bushes and pine trees and the vast, hilly area was as familiar to instructors as the back of their hand.

An exhaustive eight day programme made us familiar with rocks, ropes and their usage. We were made to ascend and descend umpteen number of times on each rock face using different methods and techniques.

Panting and groaning under the hot sun we realized that rest was crime at NIM. Relief swept over us when we were picked up by the bus at 5pm. However the eight days came to an end and so did rock craft. As we bade goodbye to Tekhla we carried exhilarating memories of our experiences and vivid pictures of ourselves struggling with the gargantuan rocks, and a feeling of nostalgia. But we could now proudly say that we had left no boulder unturned....

Come morning and we left with a heavier rucksack for the final phase of training which was



to be conducted high up on the mountains amongst snow and ice. We arrived by bus at Sankri after travelling for the whole day and next morning we began our trek into the mountains. After covering fifty tough kms in three days we reached Runsara Tal at a height of thirteen thousand feet. Undisturbed by habitation and adjacent to Har Ki Doon valley, the Tal was undescribably beautiful. We set up our tents on our end of the lake as instructed and our instructors and kitchen remained on the other side so that we would have to walk the distance several times- the law of suffering pioneered by NIM.

It snowed heavily that night and as a consequence many tents were damaged. At 2 am everyone was called outside amidst a snowstorm and made to tighten the tents, fetch rocks and rescue those who were trapped inside collapsed tents. So much so far excitement – despite being cold and wet we dozed off without a blink. Snow craft was enjoyable but it lasted for just two days after which we shifted still higher to 14,700 feet. The agony experienced while trekking in snow with a pair of fiberglass boots weighing two kilos is unimaginable to those who haven't experienced it. We somehow reached the campsite and set up our tents, thoroughly exhausted. We began ice craft the next day on Bunderpoonch glacier which was a steep two hour trek away. Ice craft was dangerous but we were awed by the sheer size

and beauty of the glacier. Ice craft was the most technical phase of the course, especially crevasse crossing and crevasse rescue. However we finished within six days and were made to bow at the end before the glacier as a sign of our gratitude. Thus having finished all the three phases we undertook a height gain trek as the final act during which we reached an altitude of 17,500 feet.

Having completed the course we journeyed back through the mountains happily, each moment etched in our memories forever. The experience in NIM taught us respect for nature and most of all humility for it is only the ignorant who underestimate the power of the magnificent, majestic mountains.

The graduation ceremony was an event marked by pride and euphoria. It was wonderful to watch dark sun tanned faces receiving the much coveted badges with pride and unbounded joy.

As for us the mountains will always remind us that barriers to be broken and boundaries to be crossed will remain forever for nature is not to be overcome.

*A mountain is not conquered, what we conquer is ourselves.*

*-Sir Edmund Hillary*

**-Manu Sanan and Sarthak Thapaliya**  
11-Comm



## Word War

### Should 'Mobile Phones' be declared legal in school For

There is a multitude of opinions on a subject as highly charged as permitting the use of mobile phones in schools like ours. As with all issues of such social and academic import, the question of whether such a move would be right or wrong depends entirely on the perspective from which the subject is viewed. The school authorities would look at the issue from a point

of view that would be diametrically opposite to that of parents and the boys would have a host of reasons of their own for wanting them.

Back in the early eighties when our son was in school, communication was, to put it mildly, not easy. Distance rendered visits to school difficult and long distance telephony was as unreliable as time consuming. Our only source of

news about the boy during term time was his standardised weekly school letters. Even those depended on the ineffectual postal system. There was always a sense of helplessness, because there was little we could do to ease our anxiety. How we wished in those days for a more efficient communication system, which would allow us to keep in touch with him and find out how he was doing in school, thousands of miles away.

That efficient system is here now. The mobile phone is a marvel of modern technology, unimaginable only a few years ago. As with all appliances when they first arrive in the market

place, it has quickly progressed from a being a convenience to an essential part of everyday life. Life without one is already becoming inconceivable.

In a world rapidly becoming a global village by recent advances in communication and information technology, censorship and the rights of the individual are

increasingly coming under scrutiny. The right to communicate, like the right to free speech, is fundamental to any free society. The need to communicate is a basic requirement the world over.

In the circumstances, as a parent, I feel it appropriate that boys be accorded that freedom of communication by permitting use of mobile

phones in school, provided all the accepted norms for use of these devices in public places are strictly adhered to. This would permit boys to keep in touch with their parents on a regular basis, as also with their friends and relatives, even if sometimes via text messages or email only. There is much to be said in favour of networking and maintaining of social contacts. It is also well established that parents in regular touch with their children provide the best defense mechanism against antisocial habits and behaviour. In school, the long queues of boys calling home from the

crowded telephone booths would be quickly relegated to history, as would the frequent disappointments resulting from the vagaries of the poor telephone network and boys in pursuit of House Masters for permission to call home. Communications within the campus would improve dramatically.

These, and many other advantages would accrue.

All this, of course, is only one side of the picture. As member of the faculty, I can think of just as many good reasons for not permitting mobile phones in school for the whole new set of problems that would bring. But then again, that is another story.

- Mr. Prabir Basu  
(Vice-Principal)



## Against

A few days ago the Literary Affairs correspondent came up to me, and asked me

to write an article. The strange part was that he wanted me to write why mobile phones should not be allowed in school. Now why would a student want to write about that? But then he also mentioned that my counterpart would be the vice-principal and he would write in favour of allowing mobile phones in school, (God I hope he is more convincing than I am) and then saying no wasn't an option anymore. Now before I get fired at for writing everything else rather than my topic, I will start at it.

Having a mobile phone once you are out of school may not be that big a problem, but in school, it raises some major issues. If I had a mobile phone in school, I would have ways of occupying my self, playing games on it, smsing, calling, downloading stuff etc. but then studies would certainly be neglected. No one finds studying fun and if one has an alternative, he is most likely to take it. A mobile phone will provide him with this alternative and therefore distract him. I agree with people who say that one should have self control, but then again how many of us can have that degree of self control? Not allowing mobile phones will just eliminate the root of the problem. I have seen people waiting in eager anticipation, for a phone call from their girl friends, rather than sitting and studying till they receive it. And once they start talking, no way will they stop before atleast half an hour.

To pass time, boys have often made prank calls to various teachers. Although the student thinks its fun, the teachers don't. No one would consider it to be even slightly funny, if I were to keep ringing them all night!

Then you also have the problem of people calling for food from outside. And if one calls for food, he has got to have money. And if one has money, he can call for numerous other illegal substances, at anytime. Something which is totally unacceptable in a school.

If a boy has the money to buy himself a phone, he will surely also have money to get himself the most expensive one so that he can show off in school to his friends. And what if he loses the phone? Then parents will blame the school for it, saying that we have thieves in our school and that our school atmosphere is not right. Which management would want to face such an ordeal? The simplest solution is to ban mobile phones in school. And everyone knows that the signals a mobile phone receives and transmits are injurious to ones health. So why carry a mobile phone at a young age and harm your body now instead of waiting for a few more years?

-Abhishek Shrestha  
(School Captain)

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## Round Square Conference -2003

The Round Square Conference was held in South Africa this year. This time there were 2 schools, which organized this conference – St. Stithians (Johannesburg) and St.Cyprians (Cape Town). The delegation from our school comprised Mr. Painauli, Kaustubh, Karun, Ankur, Ankit and I. We left on the 8th of September for our pre- conference tour to Kenyan jungles for a safari. In Kenya we visited the famous Lake Nakaru Reserve and also the Masai Mara Reserve. After a wonderful safari in Kenya we left for South Africa, where we landed in

Johannesburg, as we had to go to the Sun City. We spent 3 nights in Sun City and had a ball of a time. There were many things to enjoy like, the water park, entertainment centre, wildlife reserve, a lake for water sports, casinos, shops, etc. We had spent most of our time in the water park and the entertainment center. The next day we left for the city again and then visited the Gold Reef City and also had a drive around the town. On reaching St. Stithians we were sent to our host families for the night. The next day we got ourselves registered for the conference. We were



already divided into groups and we had our meetings in the evenings giving us a clear idea of the theme of the conference. There were small presentations in the form of skits and speeches, also dealing with the conference theme. The theme was **UBUNTU** for short but it stands for **UMUNTU NGUMUNTU NGABANTU** – in a common dialect spoken in South Africa. It means – “**A person is a person through other persons**”.

The next day was the opening ceremony and the chief guest was the King of Contestine-Greece. There were many activities and discussions following this day. There were outings also, to certain destinations such as Sterkfontein caves, Soweto, Refilwe, and Rhino and Crocodile Park. We had a session of paralympics also, and then there were events like- dance and music sessions, auction, formal dinner with a – social night between the delegates itself.

We left for Cape Town after 3 days of conference in St. Stithians. There we were led to the St. Cyprians School, and the boys were sent to stay with host families. The beauty of Cape Town is beyond expressions – surrounded by sea and greenery all around. The school was below the Table Mountain and was ready for the conference. On the eve of our arrival we had lecture by the head- girl of this girl’s school! He talked about sex and AIDS also there was a talk

by a survivor of the Apartheid era in South Africa. There were more meetings and discussions following, but we had the opportunity to visit the Table Mountain and the Robben Island (where Nelson Mandela suffered 27 years in jail). We went for a day of social work in the rural area of the city. The experience in both these was unique in its own kind and will be always remembered. The last evening was also very special for all of us; there were certain conversations to be exchanged with some people. The next day there was the closing ceremony, final bids to our friends and exchanges of gifts, souvenirs, etc... Alex, Pan, Aph, J.D, etc. would now be more than just names. After we left the school we spent the entire day roaming around the dockyard, shopping and sightseeing. The next morning we made our way back to India.

There were many things we have learnt from this conference, which have made an impact on us. The exposure that we got also was an asset to us. Our perception of the Round Square has changed. This organization has a purpose and is working towards it and there is no doubt that Welham is also working from strength to strength towards these goals.

-Sahir Sethi

## Those Wacky Woodseaters My Unusual Pet

Hi! Today I am going to talk about pets. A pet is a friend who just cannot talk but they indirectly talk in their own way. A pet is a partner who comforts when we are sad or feeling blue. People keep pets for many reasons. Some keep them as friends to enjoy or play with. Some people keep pets for serious matters like police dogs or fire dogs. By the way dogs aren’t the only pets from which we benefit. Some people keep cats for cuddling and cows for milk.

Today I am going to tell you about my unusual pet.

I have an unusual pet. His name is Speedy Can you guess who he is? All right! I will tell you. He is a Terrapin a very close relative of the tortoise. I got it when one day we were playing

cricket and my friend hit the ball. When I went to pick it up. I saw him crawling and ants were all over biting him. I quickly threw some water so that the ants could leave him. From that day our friendship started. He is 1 ½ kilograms in weight and 56 cm from nose to tail. He is coloured with infinite shades of green. He has a very long neck and sharp and long nails. Once when I picked him up he scratched me and I had a deep cut. But I did not mind. I think he was angry with something. He eats cabbages and carrots. He is very curious. I must tell you an incident. Once after playing with Speedy I forgot to put him back in the box. He crawled out of the room. He was lost for three days. I cried continuously and on the fourth day when my grand father took out his

shoes he found it tucked inside the shoe. I shouted with happiness and from that day on I was very careful with him.

In I miss him in school. That's the sign of a great friendship.

-Jatan Soni  
(5-A/Narmada/512)

## Smile Please

If you always smile,  
All the sorrows fly,  
If you always cry,  
All the happiness will die,  
So, always smile and don't cry.  
Try again and again,  
Till you don't achieve fame,  
If you smile,  
The world will smile,  
It will make you feel high,  
And enable you to fly.

Sarthak Choudhary  
(7-A/I/418)

## My Pet

I have a pet dog named Tony,  
He is white and bony.  
His eyes are shiny,  
He is very tiny.  
His tail is bushy,  
He's very pushy.

He jumps and plays,  
I wish with me he always stays.

-Anurag Pratim Saikia  
(639/R/3-B)

## The Planetarium Show

Last month we had a Planetarium Show in our school. We entered a small igloo shaped balloon. Inside it was pitch dark. We saw the stars constellations. Do you know? There is a big dipper in the sky. It is in the shape of a kite. We saw the great Bear. It looks just like a bear. We also saw Orion, the king of all constellations. We also saw his dog. Did you know that the Dog Star is the brightest star in the sky? There are

eighty- eight constellations in the sky but we can only see forty-eight from India. We also saw a constellation named Cygnus. It is in the shape of a bird. There are many stories behind these constellations. This show has really increased our knowledge about stars.

-Aishwarya Bagla  
(IV-A/N/562)

## Mr. No(X)

Mr. No lives in San Francisco,  
He has a parrot named Yes,  
And a cat called Less,  
He is always sad,  
And looks like a man who is mad,  
He is a big foul,  
And his favourite animal is a mule,  
He is a good soccer player,  
And plays polo on a mere,  
He is a stupid donkey,  
And talks like a monkey,  
His house is in a small lane,  
And you know he doesn't even know his own name,

He was born on 25<sup>th</sup> June,  
And as a child always longed to go to the moon,  
He is scared of a rat,  
And always wears a large hat,  
His complexion is dark,  
And he loves to eat roasted larks,  
He wants to be mummified like a pharaoh,  
This is the description of Mr. No.

-Vaibhav Lohia  
(VII-A/414/Sutlej)

# Little Kingdom at 5, Circular Road

Eight years ago, when I came here  
I had a tear in my eye,  
The memories in my mind  
Had soon begun to die.  
Now I was a part of the little kingdom  
Of which I had heard about a lot,  
Of all the little kingdoms  
This was the one I sought.



The first year at Welham  
Was like a child without a toy,  
How could the child's parents,  
Leave alone a little boy.

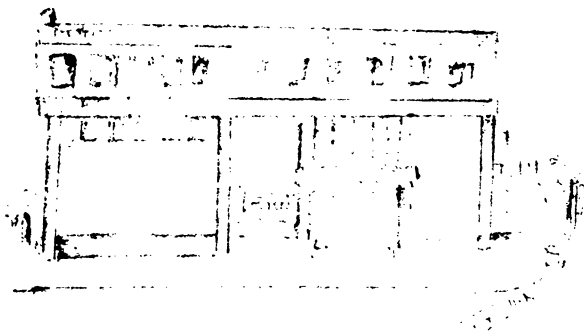
The eighth year, you see  
Made me a subject of another,  
Yes, the next ruler was  
One of the school's own brother.  
'The walking dictionary'

Second year came, third came  
And then came the fourth,  
Till then I was quite familiar  
With the school's south and north.  
At this time the kingdom  
Was reigned by an old man,  
'Pablo Picasso' whom he looked like  
Would say 'I'll do how much I can'.



Seventh came very quickly  
Which gave a feeling of insecurity,  
But this was the time I was enlightened with  
The sense of maturity.  
The same year the ruler left us  
And the successor was a young lad,  
The fellow was quite a person  
And the art of charming others he had!

As he was rightly called,  
Every man who would see him  
Would always be appalled!



Ninth came, and here I am  
Standing in front of you,  
Yes people you guessed it right  
This year had a new ruler too!  
Tall, dark and handsome  
Is what he really looks  
But I can't say anything about him today  
Or I'll not be in his good books.

That's all for now folks, I'll beg leave now  
Let's talk about other things,  
And let's see if the coming years  
Bring us again new kings!

The next year I learnt a word  
Which was to 'Report',  
The one to whom this was said  
Would have to suffer a lot.

- Ajitesh Kir  
9 - B

# Know Your Principal

## An Interview with Mr. Dev Lahiri

**Q.** You were a Rhodes Scholar, a principal of a prestigious institution and have numerous achievements to your name. Why did you decide to join WBS, when I'm sure you had many avenues open?

**A.** To begin with, I was an ordinary teacher for almost ten years before I became a school head. Prior to that I worked in corporate sector for a while but soon got tired of that life style. I had always wanted to be

a teacher from the time I was in college and used to take the college athletics team up to Sanawar for high altitude training. There I met Mr. S.R. Das the then head of the Lawrence School. As a teacher, he made me a great impact on my life and inspired me to follow in his foot steps. I must confess that I was too scared to 'take the plunge' in my earlier years- hence the decision to work in the corporate sector. However, after a few years I realized that I was fooling myself and that I should do what my heart tells me to do- i.e. teach. So I joined the Doon School as Assistant Master, whilst my wife taught at Cambrian Hall. From the Doon School I went on to head the Lawrence School at Lovedale for nine years. There after I returned to Dehradun to help set up the Selaqui School. Various circumstances forced me to shift to Kolkatta where I was heading a prestigious

day school called 'The Heritage'. However, both my wife and I missed the ethos of a boarding school intensely. We missed having children around us, as the day school children would go home in the afternoon. So when the Welham

advertised, we jumped, at the opportunity. The rest is history.

**Q.** In all the days that you've stayed here at Welham, what has your experience been?

**A.** My experience on whole, here has

been pleasant. From the experience here I gather that this school has immense potential. Very few schools have this kind of potential. We have all the facilities here but the school has a couple of problems. I am not saying that this school should be a clone of another school. I want that this school should create a niche for itself in the market. The school should have its own, original image in the public's eye. To create this image this school should have a more intellectual environment. Students here should give more emphasis on their studies, right from the junior school. There should be a more serious academic culture. Once this happens everything will fall into place. The school also needs to undergo quick infrastructural improvements and lot of capital investment .

**Q.** As a House Master at The Doon School, what was your impression of Welham back then and now that you're here how much difference is there in what you heard and what there is?

**A.** When I was a master at the Doon School I had never really heard much about Welham. I only met the teams against whom we played, and I never say that the impression was very favourable. I lost touch with Welham after I went to the South, but what little I heard there was not entirely favourable. However, I like to make up my own mind about things and not depend on hearsay. I cannot say that all is fine at Welham, but then which institution can say that it does not have problems. We need not be too bothered about what others say. If we need to set our own benchmarks.

**Q.** The first day that you walked into Welham, what was the vision you generated for it?

**A.** The first day that I walked into Welham, I thought to myself that this was a school without any equal. The amount of potential that I saw in it just walking around the campus was immense and that with a little bit of work Welham would be second to none. The campus is beautiful and the people are great.

**Q.** How are you going to turn these visions into reality?

**A.** Well the first front will be the discipline at every level. From the students to the staff to 3<sup>rd</sup> class staff, all need to be tightened. The systems are all laid down if you read the rules; they just need to be enforced. The punctuality needs to be improved. The boys are late for class all the time and I think that is inexcusable. I find people entering and exiting the dining hall as when they feel like which needs to be stopped. The dress code, I find in many cases is not observed. There are unofficial amendments to various things in the school which over time have simply been accepted as normal.

On the second front the academic base needs to be strengthened. I feel that we are not offering enough options to the students. Accounts and commerce are very mechanical subjects and don't really prove an intellectual challenge to the students. Without great intellectual challenges the

expectations of the students go very low which should not happen. Humanities should be introduced and maybe with a little more work even the IB. Most students don't really enjoy what they study and if they don't enjoy what they study then they will never be productive. By enjoying studying they will set higher standards for themselves and strive to meet them. We are planning to introduce something called multiple intelligence testing where we test the intelligence of each child in order to get to know his capabilities better. This testing is likely to start in class 8. This will then help us to know the child better and then help and make appropriate choices of subjects later along with the help of the teachers and the parents. The Indian boards unfortunately have not matured and are more quantity based rather than quality based.

**Q.** Now that you've been here at Welham, for over a month, what do you think we are all about?

**A.** The basic ethos does not need to be changed. The amount of pride that a Welhamite takes in being a Welhamite is immense and I am very happy to see that. We however need to be able to demonstrate that pride and translate that pride into actions. It is great to see the pride of a Welhamite and now we need to turn it into action. I went to a school run by the Ramakrishna Mission where the students do everything. The students get up in the morning, instead of P.T. they clean up the entire campus. They divide their duties and do everything from cleaning the toilets to the classrooms. The best thing is that they are proud of it. There should be no compromises on high standards.

**Q.** To sum up, in short where would you see Welham in two years, five years or ten years from now?

**A.** In 2 years I see the school having taken a huge step forward.

In 5 years I see the school calling itself the best.

However 10 years is too far off for me to say anything.

-Correspondents

Pranab B. Shrestha & Kartik Mahajan

# Lampoon

The previous batch named themselves "The Inmates," not in its defaming sense, but for having spent a really long time in the school. Our batch has seen four principals in a short span of three years. We were once termed as the "Rebellious batch," but with the turn of tides the batch has become the "Righteous batch." At one point of time this batch became the thorn in the flesh of everyone in the school and is the last one to have truly experienced the wraths of turbulent seniority. This was five years ago when we had just stepped into Senior School. From then on to now the batch has been there and done everything possible. From undergoing mass starvation acts (Bhookh Hartal) to standing in night suits in front of the school before the breakfast lines, the various acts just do not stop here. As for the class's personal antics, here they go.



**Adhaar Ohrie:** Rumoured to be the missing caretaker of Cheshire Home, he found his way to Cauvery House by mistake. Says he is the President of India and always wants to eat parathas from 'Sunny's.' He has the keen sense of catching any one eating 'Wai-Wai' even if it is

a mile away. Loves to eat 'Mughlaiese' food and is under the impression that all waiters in President hate him, as he never gets his food. The sleepy head of the class he once retorted that he was awake, when the English teacher questioned him about Pip. He once struck gold in class eight, but was confused about how to spend it. The 'marathoner' of the school loves to run in his three-fourths that seem quite uncomfortable and when he was told this he switched to shorter than short shorts. Has a serious lisp that has not left him since he joined school in class three. I believe he still has the problem of sucking his thumb while asleep.



**Vansh Vardhan Joshi:** Mispronounced as 'Bans Bardhan' he is also known as 'Beta Banshhh' and 'The Chiraah!' He also once struck gold and for that matter he too was perplexed about how to spend it. The

most steady lover boy of the class, his daily two minute talks last more than a couple of hours. He is said to have fasted on 'Karva Chaut,' and that's what's called

faithfulness. He is the king of the push back hairstyle and he uses 'Chameli ka tel' more than liberally. Adhaar and he are both anti insomniacs and have their heads down anytime, any place. He is the most enthusiastic non-sporting bloke around, he once invaded the football field with a raincoat and a 'jhadoo' to remove the water in front of the goal post. He is the pioneer of all 'lokkal language' studies and is in charge of coming up with 'lokkal' comments everyday. He is also the Music monitor who learnt how to play the tabla and then forgot. For him, Welham is unforgettable.



**Paresh Chaudhary:** The 'Gujju' of the class, as we all sweetly call him, he hails from the once plague stricken Surat. He became the Jamuna House goalkeeper and in the entire Hockey Inter House conceded 13 goals in total, or was it more than that. This science student has the thrifty brain of a commerce student. The Shoaib Akhtar of the house cricket team, this person took such a long run up that he would always end up being served glucose by the umpire after the ordeal was over. Probably his gravitational pull towards the earth did not allow him to do so. It is said that he lost 10kgs after the Inter House got over, was severely malnourished and did not attend classes for a week. He is known for his mimicry of his H.M., which he does to perfection.

**Utkarsh Gadodia:** He is the so called only serious student in the class full of



completely insane scientists. Has often been compared to a skunk for his seriously refreshing 'B.O.' Though of a meek disposition, he has never been involved in any of the Class paranormal activities. He once did the unthinkable. He had the sheer audacity to ask the School Principal, "Who are you to check me for doing this?" He has never fallen in love with the right person. On one instance he had a major crush on the substitute educationalist. Ah just like Pip, he also aspires to be a gentleman, no wonder he was caught copying hip English songs from other guys' discs. I guess he should stick to his mother tongue and remain rustic as this metamorphosis will prove a liability for him. A Welhamite who has stuck to his skin, all these years.



Reetesh Ramnaresh Saini: This Kenyan is an export quality male from the Basti next to our school. From day one he has mesmerized everyone in the valley with his accent and stupendous questions. To get himself inducted to the life here in Welham we had to do many 'Night Shifts' with his bed and ask him to keep shut. To get him indicted as a Welhamite he also impersonated Superman from the Doli, but ended up head down and feet facing the sky. The self proclaimed hip music lover is persistently hooked to the local radio and does not know the contents of his disc. He is a social activist and once 'refused to be punished,' but ended up having back aches for giving in to becoming a 'Murga' for more than an hour. He was heard shouting in his 'over the head transmission' accent, "Guys they screwed my case. Ohhhh! Maaan!"

Prashanta Pradhan: The only Nepali amongst five others in the class he is called the 'Human Dog,' because of his thirst for human blood. He has given a chap the trademark of his fury by



imprinting it on his forearms. He is a councillor to all students trying for colleges and even got away by correcting the Career Counselor. He is called the 'Mad Scientist,' and he bunks his classes only to study the subject in peace. This uncoordinated athlete has only one thing to say, "How dare you say Nepalese cannot play Volleyball?" He is known for octave shattering laughs. He gives a major fight to Bejan Daruwala when it comes to sun signs and the future because he has literally mugged up every sun sign- its pros and cons.

Dipesh Tamrakar: His siesta and novel are what matter most. As far as I know he seriously does nothing but seems to be constantly sleeping, even in the class. The only other thing that he does other than sleep and read is watch HBO and Star Movies. He has been living in total dormancy and can hardly be seen even during the day. He has lead a life of great obscurity, but the true side of him is seen on the football field. He is said to be very aggressive and always ends up ripping apart the opponent's jersey. He is a sentimental Nepali and can make anyone break down with his speeches which are full of patriotism and nationalistic passion. Using him as a specimen we can practically prove that a sloth is an aggressive animal. Probably at the end of his life in Welham, he shall incorporate the same nationalistic passion in his speeches, now pertaining to Welham.



Naman Batra: This Ferozabadi just joined school last year. He was seen entering the school in body hugging jeans and in a chunky funky shirt. For this person it did not even take a week to change his

colours like a chameleon. The transition has made him sport the most 'hep' clothes in the class, however all being local brands. From above the navel trousers he has made a transition to 'below the back side' pants that swing all around him. His favourite hang out because of the deadly merchandise happens to be 'Indira Market.' Complementary to his fashion sense he has been called 'Neminem.'



**Kumar Abhishek Narayan Singh:** His name takes a long time spell, so in short we call him 'KANS.' From the junior school days to date he has read all the Raj Comics present in the school or that will come in future.

In the junior school days his name was coined as 'Doga.' The name happens to be of his favourite comic character, a dog masked crime buster. His method of entrapping beautiful counterparts is also truly unique. He went up to a bunch of girls and asked them, "Who is coming for the Science Quiz?" With this question it is said that he found the girl of his dreams. With the help of Providence she turned up for the Inter School Science Quiz. 'Croccifixio,' he was literally the last man standing to admire his hand written articles. His jaw is something that always juts out of his face, while eating, sleeping and most noticeably while speaking. It is said that the braces did this reverse effect on his pearly white denture. From class 1 to 12 this guy has grown taller but his weight somehow happens to remain static.



**Faisal Ansari:** The 'Mian' of the class he is the first of his kind to ever join in our class. The editor of the Wavelength can be seen begging, borrowing and stealing articles and writing material for his editorial. Science as a subject is not a problem for him, but it is the medium in which it is taught that gives

him sleepless nights. He is seen in Ganga listening to hardcore Indi-pop from a case full of the latest tracks that rock local discotheques. He still lives in the days of past regalia and till now converses in fluent Hindi, always refering to himself as "Hum." Since his inclinations were different than the original ones, he stuck to conversing in his mother tongue. A staunch follower of his faith, he is said to have been the principal of a madarsa, situated in the remote hills of Kashmir.

**Girish Chandra:** This dude joined school recently and got infected by the winds of Welham which led him to grow a funky beard. Hopelessly this act of his earned him the name of 'Prem Chopra' and now even his girl friend calls him that. This beard made him fall from the hot water to the frying pan. This dude



changes mobile gadgets every week. He knows all the people who are ready to sell off their hand sets as second hand and those who need new ones. His parents went through the frightening ordeal of looking at a Rs. 22,000 bill, of multiple companies that he was trying to dupe. He fears his house master who once pulled him down from Ganga to Jamuna in his bathing towel, as he was late for his first school. Rest assured this dude is getting his name in the record books of Welham.

**Gurjeet S. Khaira:** The Tajinder Singh of the class he shot to fame with the girls with his brief stint at the 'Rock Show' when he introduced 'Brimful Of Asha'. The 'Punjabi Paap' of our class, he has been here for twelve years. The head of adventure sports in the school; he is one of the NIM graduates who will climb any



mountain just to see the view. This 'Surdie' is also a great cricketer with fabulous capabilities as a batsman, bowler and fielder and has been chosen



for the Dehradun Distt. Team. Once sitting in an auto in winter, he popped his head out and said “Yaar Thand Lag Rahi Hai”. If by chance you do happen to cross this fellow, just stop a moment and stare at him and he will burst out into fits of laughter.

Amit K. Gupta: Rumour has it that this bloke turned 23 this year and as the result he is called everything from ‘Papa’ to ‘Uncle’. He was the first target of The Witch Doctor’s ‘Dream Girl’ bombs and has since then been called ‘Sangmeet’ and ‘Indiglo’. Also one of the NIM graduates whose blood boils for adventure and sports. This fellow has capabilities to



enamour those of the fairer sex from all over the world, ranging from Canada to the Basti. He was the tallest fellow until class 6<sup>th</sup> but now it seems that he has started shrinking since then. It seems that he forgot he was the sports captain and didn’t take part in very many sporting activities this year. Once he wanted to buy a cell phone and walked into a store asking for an Airtel phone, the shop keeper told him that he could give him a Nokia phone with an Airtel connection but he said that he wanted it the other way round.

Lovesh Kalra : Recently he tried to organize the ‘Arnold Schwarzenegger Memorial Power Lifting Championship’

which seemed to fail miserably because a couple of ‘pansies’ wanted to rehearse their play. This gym freak has been in school since the beginning and has changed dramatically since then. From the quiet ‘localite’ on E.C. Road he is now the ‘Bhai’ of the area. Rumoured to be the C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>OH captain as well because of all the ‘Red Ribbon(d)’s in his cupboard. Loves saying ‘Popat’ and is called ‘Champion’, ‘Smart Boy’ and



‘White Collar’. He walks around at dinner time asking the people dressed in white, “Umpire, match kab hai re??!”

Abhishek Shrestha : ‘Howz it goin mate?’. The school captain got back from Australia with an American Aussie-



Nepali accent after his two month exchange. Plays basketball religiously everyday and was one of the contenders for the ‘Arnold Schwarzenegger Power Lifting Championship’. The bassist for OHMS, he is rumoured to have gotten into the ‘exclusive’ books

of the ‘schoolie’ across the LOC. Stole the hearts of numerous females at the Woodstock School which helped build his ‘Firang base’. He has girls in Paris, girls in Rome, he even has a girl in the Vatican Dome. This guy used to be a small fellow in class 1 but is now a Yeti.

Arun Dahiya: ‘Phus Phus’ is what he is called. Oh no! he has disintegrated. ‘Sukhi Dahiya’ joined us in class 3 and was a major WWE trump card champion



back then. Ask him to say Rupees Sixty Six and sixty six paisa and you will be covered in spit. He did a C++ diploma in class 10 so that he could open the “Desi Dahiya Computer Institute” after school. With the shifting of

Krishna he moved into the ever famed ‘DDP’ and turned it into ‘Desi Dahiya’s Paradise’.

Deepak Sharma: He has promised that one day he will go where he has never been before... for the first two schools!!



A baski player till last term, he quit this term to catch up with his sleep and hasn’t seemed to have woken up yet. The most invisible prefect who in all likelihood

doesn't know the difference between the summer and winter schedule!

**Pranab Shrestha:** He is the Ed that never went to bed. Has been in school for a long time and most definitely holds some sort



of record for the number of times he has run into law. 'Pinky', 'Nep Rap Superstar', 'Barbie Boy' and 'Hot Head' have been his nicknames over the past. This quizzer evidently has got girls who have evidently been after him for over five years but unfortunately he has certain 'Convent' commitments. If the world had a complexion like this fellow then 'Fair and Lovely' would most definitely be out of business. Despite that he used to smear his face with talcum powder in middle school.

**Kaustubh Dwivedi:** The happening Bihari of the class 'like' has been 'like' in school 'like' since 'like'



class two. Recently he went on a Round Square Cruise to South Africa where he bought himself a pair of 'Billabong' shorts but still doesn't know what 'Billabong' is. A picture of this 'Billabong' on his posterior was the object of much controversy for the 'Twelfthies Unleashed' page. Thinks that he is God's gift to the fairer sex and tries to prove it all the time but sadly they think otherwise. He can fall in love as fast as he can wallop a plate of Butter Chicken... trust me that's very fast! Unbelievably he is the Hockey captain but actually shot to fame because of his 'Hardley Davidson' jacket and his ultimate 'Chipku' hairstyle.

**Varun Sharma:** He is the 'Dilli Dalal' with an astounding Spanish accent which even the Spanish cannot understand who has been in the school since class eight. He is one of the 'Haat' boys of the class and



tries hard to use his accent to his advantage without much success though. He loves eating 'Kukumbar' sandwiches and always piles on all the 'Kukumbars' in the dining hall.

His favourite song is 'Shava Shava' and he can be heard singing it even in his sleep. He is a real 'loverboy' who can be found at 'Presi's' and 'Hawaiian Blues' at all times of the day and night. Developed an unfathomable desire to play Volley Ball from class eleven onwards and if not eating out he is doing either of these things.



**Puneet S. Oberoi :** Another one of the 'Localites' of the class he joined Welham in class eight. He is the school 'Baddi' champ and can be seen playing with the 'Dean of the whole School' all afternoon.

He has a severe phobia against soap and water and these days is stuck to his books for so long that he has forgotten the use of even the toilet. He is also the dining hall monitor who sends 'extra's' for the whole school except himself. He fell in love with a certain 'High Flying' female in the holidays during his tuitions but was heart broken when he found out she was spoken for.



**Gaurav Shrestha:** This Nepali is the blood brother of the legendary and original 'Bango.' It is due to this relation that his name too stuck to 'Bango.' He has mathematical abilities that left many including the Math teacher perplexed. He has a quiet disposition and is often mistaken as the 'Pondering Philosopher'. If spotted near a spider, he has a sudden adrenaline rush and can be seen chasing it, yelling at the top of his voice "Scossh it!" Finally when the chase is over, he is the proud 'Spider Exterminator'. He has been in the school for two years but has the attitude of a true

Welhamite. If asked about his secret ambition he'd say," I'll become an entrepreneur and someday employ you in my firm." He may be short statured, but his body is dignified carrier of a true Welhamite.

Ayush Agarwal: Well known as Dumbo in the Junior School, this "Elephant Ears," has arrived in Class 1. After 12



years in the school this Najibabadi knows all the nooks and corners of the school. His daily schedule is so tight that even time has to catch up with him. His daily morning is planned out as drinking 500ml. of water, spending precisely 10 minutes in the safe haven and then waking up everyone at exactly 7:20 a.m. He has all the hip medicines around the block consisting of U.V. rays, alcohol based drugs and God knows what else. The biggest brain in the class, he emits the right vibes to every teacher, no wonder he is always stuck doing some or the other teacher's job. Always dressed to his teeth, he can be always seen donning an evergreen side parting which is so accurate that it is perpendicularly bisecting his cranium into 3 quartiles. Recently, he has fallen prey to the fairer sex with a 'Dream Girl' bomb and has been named "Devdas,". It is said that he was caught impersonating a statue in the Jam Session, his excuse however was that he had a neck problem.

Nikunj Agarwal: Everyone named him 'Baby Elephant' a long time ago, and today he lives to prove the name given to him. With age, his height and weight also tipped off the weighing scale and height measuring instrument. He holds the record of being the first person in our class to have broken the weight barrier of 100kgs. This huge guy is related to Ayush, but somehow has turned out to be totally opposite of him, physically. Mentally, he however falls a little short



of Ayush. A part of the 'Najibabad Gang' he was also caught up in the act of painted nails and a coloured face. This giant may not have athletic endowments, but is a staunch supporter of his House. Has stayed in this institution for 12 years and from day one has always been jovial. For all these years he led a life of minimal publicity and still does fear the paparazzi. Is very amiable and supportive, this guy epitomizes true friendship and brotherhood. Way to go, Dude.

Sumit Periwal: From the day he stepped into Welham, which was a year ago, he has been assiduously working on his

English and communicating skills. His hometown was mistaken as 'Appu Ghar,' he actually hails from the 'Drug Capital of India' Abhor. From the first to date his name keeps on changing. His name has been distorted as sometimes 'Chaki,'



'Chacolate,' 'Dark Temptation' and very recently he has been christened as 'Chaknath.' A very sentimental person, he is annoyed every morning as guys in his house do not let him sleep. He has been thoroughly perplexed by one question. This person has a yearning to be the truest Welhamite and learn all the tricks of the trade to lead a life as cool as he could. After his outstanding performance in the Founder's Day play, people have coined yet another name for him. This one happens to be 'Alladad Khan,' though he played the role of 'Juggan Dhobi.' Personally, he is very open and has a clean heart and this guy has proved that he is one of the 'Truest Welhamite' around. You can take out this guy from Welham, but not the Welham out of him.

**Yashdeep Singh Sandhu:** God created humans and he also created a 'Jolly Giant' amongst us puny humans.



Towering above our class, this person has been in school for only a year. The worst nightmare on '13<sup>th</sup> Triveni Street,' for every junior, he is feared by all but fears none. This person is just like Joe Gargery, but instead of banging hot iron he focuses on juniors' heads. This guy has the bad habit of nocturnal

revelry and was once caught in the middle of his psychedelic dance routine by the Principal. No wonder he is always absent from the morning sessions of classes. From Yashdeep, his name has been distorted into 'Gilakhasdeep,' 'Gilkasdee' and 'Yezdi.' He has a weird accent and pronunciation that leaves anyone perplexed. A part of the Jamuna Team he has been the most energetic player in the house.

**Kunwar Mehtab Singh Sandhu:** 'Tiger' has come a long way in the school, from



Class 1. Likes to be called 'Sandy' but we call him 'Puncture,' 'Choothanath Kattarji,' 'Sheru' and 'Kutar Kutar!' An athlete from the day he stepped into school, he has lived up to his tracks. A Prefect,

he is the apple of everyone's eye in the school. Can be seen loitering in the K-House compound in his 'Bum Chum' or 'Superman Chaddhis.' Known to have an everlasting stock of 'Roohafza and Fruitkick,' this guy takes all the pains to serve us this hard liquor. Although during the day he has problems conversing, while snoozing he can talk to anyone at a great length. Our very own 'Manchi' is a great fan of Alpha Punjabi and Channel Lashkara. But after all this no one encourages him to carry on his act and

he is consoled by them as he has a 'Puncture Problem.'

**Prabesh Krishna Shrestha:** The dude from Nepal lives his life to its maximum here



in Welham and has been called 'Sweet boy.' Till middle school he was called by this name, but actually took on a role that was totally opposite of what he had been called. With the sudden exposure to the world right across the road he turned to the 'Hottest boy,' in our class

overnight. With his silky middle parted locks he became the most eligible boyfriend. The cartoonist of the Oliphant, he is the oldest board member at five years. His brain sometimes has technical glitches, like on one count he asked us out of the blue, "What year is going on right now?" He on another count mentioned that, "A bullet is something that pains." Considers himself very energetic, he on many counts has slept for more than 12 hours. An art student, he holds the record of obtaining the highest marks in the board examinations.

**Sunny Makhni:** The youngest fellow in our class thereby being called 'Bachcha.' Recently his name was warped to 'Butter



Makhi,' by his House Master. Is constantly pestering his juniors to get him water, I guess that is what seniority means to him. His

antics are normally termed kiddish and the math teacher once yelled "Sunny! You want a toy or what?" Has always stayed out of trouble and harm's way, because his friends incorporate parental advisory against everything he does. He went for on exchange, but returned as immature as before. He leads a very low profile life and his whereabouts are hardly known by the masses. His latest hang out is the gym. One can see him pumping iron, probably to obliterate the fact that he is

called 'Bachcha.' In the recent few months his voice has begun to crack and his vocal chords have begun to strum away at high decibels. This baby face shall truly mature once he shall become an Ex-Welhamite.

Saurabh Thapar: Owing to a mispronunciation of a word (Joyce) he was christened 'Joysee!' His second home is the Nepal Gymnasium, where he



is seen praying and doing 'puja' of Arnold's poster. Calls himself the true 'bhakt' of this muscle man, but is known as the 'Pehalwan' in the class. Recently a lot of the guys have started calling him the auto-

wallah, for no reason whatsoever. He is the whistler of the class and whistles even in the bathroom. I had heard about singing in the toilet but this guy is a notch above all else. He was a crooning guitarist a year ago when he joined school. He would go around begging for a guitar and show his talent by acting as a wedding singer (Jimmy from Jaipur). Well, for this fellow he was earlier hunting for Punjabi mundas, but then he began haunting them with the punch line "Punjabiyaan di shaan vakhri."

Vivek Kumar Arya: The 'Macavity Cat' of the class, he has grown from 'Chota Billa' to the new age 'Zimi Hendrigns.'



He gained laurels in the junior section for being the most resourceful fellow. His prize winning act was that he cut a chewing gum into four pieces and survived on them for a week. A very eligible participant of the Survivor

series. He has been under Mr. Mitra's guidance since grade 1 and his nimble fingers strum away at every occasion. Be it the tuck shop, on an outing at Barista. Known to have never shared even a packet of chips, it is said that he gifted a

mobile gadget to a female, in only the second time that he had met her. This green eyed feline though small in size has a mammoth sized ego, which in the recent days has been fuelled by the successful 'Rock Show.' A part of the 'Pandu Gang,' he has a special tormenting power which he unleashes on the juniors. He cannot make his guitar weep but surely makes those listening to it cry out 'Naahiiii!'

Ramendra Goel: This burning sensation has been wreaking havoc from the day he stepped in the school. This inferno has



been compared to the geyser attached in the toilet. Known as 'Gizu Doddah' and 'Bunsen Burner' he is literally the hottest boy in our class. Now that winter has set in, guys can be seen crowding him and trying to heat their hands through this guy.

Though he is not that much of an insulator, his local comments are enough to heat up a person. This 'mangal sutra' wielding dude was suspected of having all the board papers. But his exam marks proved everyone wrong. The bubbliest character, this guy keeps nodding at everything you say, not because he cannot understand English, but half the time he cannot comprehend which language you are speaking. Well nothing more can be expected of this Welhamite, save for that he might end up having the ISC board exam papers, hopefully.

Tarun Butta: The 'Haat Boy' of our class, this guy first shot to fame in our class around a month ago. Actually he shot to



fame not because he did something out of the way but because the fairer sex found him 'Haat.' The official 'chaiwalah' of our class chants just one line in an ear shattering tone, "Chaaaaiiiiaa, samosa aur patty le lo." The official

king of local comments it is better that no one makes him open his mouth. Once he opens his mouth there is really no end to when he shall end his local yet highly lethal comments, which are often laced with severely distorted English words. In front of the teachers he too undergoes the syndrome of just nodding the matter away. Famous for calling up his family physician Dr. Dre to cure his ailments; he is also famous for petting a dog, Snoop Doggy Dogg. His music horizon has been ever widening from Sameer Dada to Gangsta Rap to Trance and finally ending at Patelscope. For this dude that is all, soon you shall see a new chain of Chaiiiiaaa and Channevalah at a place near you.

Kartik Mahajan: Oh! Sorry if I misspelled his name it is actually 'Karthick.' From being called 'Elvis' for his side burns to 'Godsmack' and very recently a 'Third



Rate Bollywood Villain,' this dude has come all the way from class 1. Being a day boarder from day one, he has influenced and won over many by the weird gadgets that he brought to class. The 'Witch Doctor' and 'Hannibal' this guy has been in the board for a long time and has somehow kept his true identity away from everyone. He can be seen with a camera everywhere he goes and at every instance. Do not be shocked to see the photographs that he clicks. He has always been the speaker of the class, from class 8 History periods to the present Economics classes. A social activist of the school he can write an article off hand on anything. Says that he is a true Indian, but is found dumb struck on being given a Hindi novel. A social animal, the fairer sex calls him a gentleman for his formal antics. One of the band members of the 'Ohms,' he can be found singing in his stinging voice at Barista. About this guy's future, everything is uncertain, but as far as

passing out of Welham is concerned he is going out with Welham in his blood.

Varun Kumar Modi: He has come all the way from Hapur and has been here since class 1. Always known as 'Chotti Modi' or 'Modulator'. This C.C.A. Monitor



actually has never attended any co curricular activity. He has always been resourceful, way back in class 2 when a peg broke, he fixed it by offering his miniscule hammer. From the start he was called small for his stature, with time every feature of his grew, yet his left eye remained the same. He can be seen all around the campus in his trademark red shorts, red cap, playing his favourite sport Hackey. Although he is not a female freak, he was seen in the Girls' School video munching away a slab of chocolate and enjoying the view. A big 'Aum' lover he made this sacred sign on every one of his registers and thus turned his books religious. Although he is quiet in the class, this back bencher is always seen troubling guys (only Adhaar Ohrie) by tapping at heads and throwing paper balls.

Namgyal Wangchuk: The Hand of God as most of us call him, for his skills that leave everyone shell shocked. The unofficial Captain of skate boarding he



does tricks that would leave pro-skaters like Tony Hawk astounded. From being called 'Namu the Killer Whale' to just Namgyal this free willy has come a long way in school since class 2. Vows to be a 'Gangsta' true to the core, he wants bring peace everywhere he goes. A preserver of life he would never hurt a bee or an ant. The earliest known 'Cute Dude' in the world across the LOC, he still holds the crown. A person who is known for his immense(hidden) strength, he is

feared for his quite likeable introvert nature. A sportsman by blood, he holds the record of being the youngest member of the School Hockey team. The school has seen few people like him.



Kunal Walia: The 'Hrithik Roshan' of our class, this local kid is known by this name all over the valley. Always turns up late for every class, but always has a viable reason that he was 'on location.' Has been given the name of 'Doggy' and recently has been called a 'Localite.' The reason for his being called this is because he woofs around and when asked at dinner, "Are you a local?" he retorted, "I am a localite." Has always been discouraged from participating in class discussions as all the teachers say, "When I speak let no dog bark." The most sought after bloke in town, is also known as the infamous cocaine king pin and on average cuts through ten lines a day. The blind goalkeeper of Jamuna house football

team, he on several occasions saw the ball go right between his legs and yelled, "Goal! Goal!" This dude has beaten all records for getting the newest models of every mobile phone. It is said that he shaves on Saturdays so that it would be easier for him to shave on Sundays.



Vivek Kumar Beltharia: The second 'Haat Boy' of the class he has been named the 'Bacardi Breezer.' I am still not sure is it for his drinking habit or just his 'talli' attitude. For his drinking problem he has also been named 'Thaili or Thaila.' He has been imported from 'Uncle Brown's' school. One day he went for an outing and came back with his hair blow-torched in weird patches and at various places. A teacher once mistook his motley hair for a wig and began tugging at it. This was because he was evidently playing with a blow torch and burnt his hair making it look like a new age wig.

## For Miss Oliphant's sake, we are singular not plural!!!!

(Conversation between 2 parents)

"So Sweetie which school have you decided to put Raghav in?"

"Oh didn't I tell you, he has got admission in Dehra Dun"

"Really! Where?"

"Its one of the best schools in the country. Its called **WELHAMS**"

I have news for you Sweetie Aunty. Raghav hasn't gotten admission in Welhams... he has got admission in **WELHAM**. Notice the difference? Well if you haven't then look again. Come on...cant you see that there is no "S" at the end of **WELHAM**???

For years we have put with the fact that people think we are in 'Welhams'. Well its time now to clear up a couple of things. We are not

in **WELHAMS**. We are Welhamites and we go to **WELHAM**. I can't take it any more. I can't stand the fact that I get a discount at almost every restaurant in town because I go to Welhams and not to Welham!! It doesn't seem to bother our neighbours across the LoC who seem to think that it's ok for them to be from Welham "s" and not from Welham. For your son's sake and for that matter for your student's sake, take a walk around the outer perimeter of the school and look at all the sign boards. None of them have Welham spelt with an 'S' at the end of it. What is the worst is that a majority of our teachers also seem to think that they are teaching in Welhams and not in Welham. Well this one is for the teachers. **WE ARE ALL A PART OF WELHAM AND**

**THERE IS NO 'S' AT THE END OF THAT!!!!!!**

Let me tell you what it feels to be from Welhams and not from Welham. An American or British bloke walks up to you and says 'ah...from **Indias** huh??' Get the picture?

*We are Welham,*

*We are the future,*

*We aren't Welhams,*

*Cause that ain't the future.*

Over the years many have felt that they can do as they please with us, say what they want about us, push us around and get away with it. We have had rumours spread all over town rather all over the country about what kind of people Welhamites are and how we should be treated compared to others. We have taken it all quietly and to some extent continue to do so.

What is Welham about? Welham is a tradition. Some look at it as a 'resort' and some take it at face value as a school. Well to tell you the truth it is a little bit of both. The ethos that has been generated in Welham over the years has been that of a liberal and tolerant society where I lead my life and you lead yours. I can do anything that you can do, be it in class, on the field, on stage or anywhere, but what gives me the edge is that in the words of Dr. Anil Wilson I can "do all that....and a little bit more". Even though we have proved it, still many just don't get it. You can call me what you want; an animal, a 'jungle', uncouth,

uncivilized or ill-mannered. Obviously I have left a big impression on you which is why you have so much to say about me.

We at Welham do things because we think that they are right. We take decisions that are important to us; we do things that we know are right and not because the rest of the world thinks that it is correct to do something in a certain way. I really see no point in following what the outside world says should be done. It's something like this. The world is full of different cultures. In Africa they eat grub worms, in the Netherlands they can buy narcotics in a coffee shop, in America they believe in war, in the jungles of the Amazon they walk around naked. We, in the so called 'civilized world', may think of a whole host of things to say about them and their cultures. However none of the mentioned change what they do because the 'civilized world' thinks otherwise. It works the same way with us at Welham. We have our own culture and if you are not quite the kind of person that likes our culture then there is no compulsion for you to be a part of it. 'I yam what I yam!' Keep talking, I can't hear you. Once again...just a little louder. There you go...I now have the word Welham ringing in my ears with the voices of those who have helped make it what it is.

**-Kartik Mahajan**

**a.k.a**

**The Witch Doctor**

## **A Message From The Primary Section**

**All through the years we at The Primary Section have relentlessly endeavoured to make learning an enjoyable process. When we find that we have succeeded in motivating the children in the process of learning, arousing curiosity to ask questions and acquire knowledge, the satisfaction and pleasure we gain is immense and unrivalled.**

**Mrs. Neera Singh  
(Head Of Primary Section)**





# Nature's Diary.

## On the Greener Side

The perception that man lives in close relationship with all living things, plants and animals, is quite old. Ancient and medieval philosophers have often emphasized the inter-relatedness of the entire living world. Recent development in science had not only confirmed this view but have gone beyond to assert the inter-dependence of all life, microbial, plants and animals between themselves and with the physical environment of land, air, water and solar energy, this inter-dependence is embedded in the evolution of life during past three billion years.

Recent landslides in Uttarkashi in Garhwal have left thousands of people homeless and caused heavy devastation. Hundreds of houses were buried in the rubble, scree and rocks enormously. A landslide is catastrophe, a natural calamity that brings about only great loss of both life and property. What is the main reason for such a sudden disaster?

Yes! People themselves are responsible. How? Why? To fill this quench of thirst for an answer browse over the following description meditatively.

Landslides are mainly caused by the downward movement of a large mass of earth or rocks from a hill or mountain. It happens when heavy rain is soaked into the soil and the earth's muddy material on a steep slopes slips with great gravitational force. The question now is why does it happen. To answer this one has to explore the concrete truth about the bare slopes of the Himalayas devoid of vegetation. It is imperative in nature that the roots of the vegetation (trees, grass, or plants) hold the soil particles intact and prevent the soil erosion. Diminishing vegetation makes the soil erode by running water.

The available vegetation on the slopes is the only source of building houses, burning

chulas, feeding cattle and keeping winter cozy for the local people. Over the centuries ruthless cutting of wood for home consumption has removed the green carpet of the slopes. The result is landslides as nothing is left to bind the soil. This is happening all over the Himalayas and every where forests are being reduced by human greed. It is a fearsomely complex struggle. It is a global issue. Forests are not only important for preventing soil erosion and land slides but they play great role and in countless ways our life depends on them.

The word 'forest' is derived from Latin word 'foris' meaning outside. The reference being to village boundary or fence and must have included all uncultivated land and uninhabited land. Today forest is any land that covers natural vegetation comprising not only trees but also shrubs, climbers, grasses etc. when grow in natural climatic and soil conditions. Our task is to harness the forest resources for the benefit of the people in a most economical way. So the sustained development does not get hindered. They bring prosperity and fragrance; can you imagine life with oxygen? From where does this oxygen come? In our daily life we use thousands of items without realizing from where they come from? Will they be available in the same way in the near future as today!

Forest have a direct intimate and profound relationship with the economy of the people. This a natural wealth which is shared by the rich and the poor alike and is virtually indispensable. What is this natural wealth? This natural wealth is got in major and minor form from the forests. Major forest products consist of timber and fuel wood including charcoal. However the greater part is played by minor products, which are countless.

Do you know the forest provides us with a great wealth of fruits, flowers, seeds, material for paper, fibres, lac, honey, wax, herbs, bamboo, cane, leaves, gum, rubber, resin, fodder, medicinal and drug plants, catechu, bones, hides, tans, dyes, non edible oils, etc. Besides this they control environmental balance, natural calamity, thermoregulation, pollution, floods, etc. They conserve wildlife, water, soil, and moisture and are great noise absorber. The aesthetic value of a forest simply cannot be underestimated. People since ancient times have been worshipping the forest sacredly.

To be more specific let us see how forests are a part of life. A variety of grasses available in the forest are used for making cordage, matting and particularly the Sabai grass forms the raw material for manufacturing paper. The roots of Khus grass is used for making cooling screens and Munj, another type of grass is used for making chicks and strings. Bamboo is the versatile product of the forest. More than thousand products are made from bamboo. It is mainly used for roofing, walling, flooring and tribal communities eat even young tender clums. Bamboo products also include furniture, musical instruments, sports goods etc.

Tans and dyes are obtained from flowers of Palash, Amla, Oak, Hemlock Myrobalan, and Babool, Bark of Wattle etc. soap cosmetic and pharmaceutical preparations are all obtained from Sandalwood and lemon grass. Resin from

Chir Pine is raw material for industries such as paper, paint, varnish, soap, rubber, waterproofing, linoleum, oil greases, adhesive tape, and phenyl plastic etc.

Tendu leaves used as wrappers for Bidis, Mango, Ber, Jamun, Khirni, Phalsa, Sitaphal, are important fruits obtained from the forests. Amla, Anar, Imli, Mushroom, Kauranda, Munga, Kaith, Zimikand etc. are important products used in pickles or vegetables. Lac is an animal product obtained from forests. It is secreted by a minute insect (Caccifer Cacda) which feeds on the sap of a large variety of trees like Palash, Peepal, Kusum, Shisham, Gular, Banyan, Ber, etc.

Thus forests are natural resources and a precious gift to man. A self-contained system of our natural environment. They are renewable resource and contribute substantially to economic development. They have a major role in enhancing the quality of the environment. According to a recent report of the forest survey of India in the country's total geographical area of 3,287,263 sq. km, only 20.55% is covered by forest where as per international norm it should be 33% of the total area.

How many years will our forests exist before they end up in smoke?

How many years will our people exist if they think the forests are joke?

**-SS KHAIRA- HOD GEOGRAPHY**

## Migration Blues

In July this year, near the Jhankia village on the outskirts of Gujrat's Gir forest, a lion attacked two mating cats from another pride. It sneaked into their territory, challenging the male to a fight and killed it after a duel that lasted an entire night. In another incident, a lioness was electrocuted by a live wire near the village. Again, two lions were spotted near the Porbandar airstrip, though captured, rang alarm bells in the minds of the locals.

In the past two years, 54 Asiatic lions have died. What is concerning is, not the manner in how they die, but the conditions in which they live in the Gir forest, one of the last places for the 'King of the jungle'.

The Gir forest had always been a safe place for lions. Following the days of the British Raj and the flamboyant rajas, who went for hunts to kill lions during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, the population of them went alarmingly low- only 20 lions left!!! However, as they fought their way back, it soon

dawned that the forest may not be big enough. From 177 lions in 1976, they have increased to 327 in Zoo. On a calculated average, Gir sanctuary needs 2,500 sq. km of land to accommodate its 'booming' population of lions. However, it has only 1,412 sq. kms and the required amount of roughly 1600 sq. kms seems impossible. Also, let's not forget that the forest houses over 300 panthers and a huge population of antelope. It is reality; lack of space has forced the lions to spread out. Reality indeed bites, literally.

During the 1990's, lions had migrated 40 kms from the Gir sanctuary borders. It was not a matter of concern then since this was temporary. However, as time passed, their migration grew more and more permanent. Lions have been found as far as 100 kms from Gir, like the Porbandar incident mentioned earlier. They were also found in the Girnar forests, just on the outskirts of Junagadh; 50 kms north-west of Gir sanctuary. Migrations like these have led to an atmosphere of terror.

People say that their migration may affect its breeding pattern. Thus, away from its habitat, it is induced to attack other prides, vying for land. After all 'survival of the forest' is the call of the jungle.

Paradox as it may seem, the local people of the Una and other villages welcome this migration. The reason being that lions don't kill humans like tigers. Also their presence keeps away neelgai and wild boars, which are a local menace since they trample on crops, thus destroying them. The flip side is that the lions mind. They are compensated by the forest mind. They are compensated by the forest officials who time and again remind them that 'it is a carnivore'.

As the debate goes on as to where to re-accommodate them continues, the lions till the time being have to hold on. If the issue is not dealt with quickly, incidents like the earlier ones will continue to take place and as for the lions who weathered the storm, life will again prove to be a battle – a battle for survival.

- Samridha S.J.B. Rana



## RINGSIDE VIEW

We have finally come to what we all have been waiting for. Time seems to have completed its circle and we are back to our awaited Founder's issue. The year that just swung past us has left behind many victories to be remembered and defeats to be learnt from. It's been a good a year for sports in Welham and year like this will very soon bring that year closer when excellence in everything shall be truly won.

**Basketball-** A game present in the blood of Welham, this year did face a lot of ups and downs with the coach leaving in the middle and then rejoining. The players definitely treaded some uneven grounds. However this of course did not deter us from reaching greater heights. With three out of five players missing due to unavoidable circumstances the team still managed to make it to the quarter finals in the IPSC basket ball quarter finals. Surya P. Singh

captained the state team and Gagan Jyot Juneja represented Uttaranchal in the National Basketball Tournament. It's a matter of great pride to have such ball handlers amongst us to bring glory to the school.

The hockey team showed the town some amazing display of team work. Winning most of the matches. However their game at Nabha was a sheer disappointment.

The school soccer team had its share of victories and failures. Though their performance was not very significant compared to the rest, they put in all they had. The Inter-House soccer tournament brought to light a few hidden talents the school possessed.

Tennis which was considered as the sport for those who could play nothing else, also proved its critics wrong. With a coach being appointed to train the boys a large number tried their hands at the elite sport. The team with little practice played the IPSC

Tennis Tournament making it to the quarter finals only to lose in the tie-breaker. The performance was just incredible considering the little practice that they had.

The squash team recently returned from Chennai after playing the Sub-Junior National squash tournament.

The boys cleared it to the pre quarters only to be beaten by seeded players. It was an

amazing level to reach without being trained by a coach. Their level has set the school authorities thinking of employing a professional coach. We hope we soon have one.

The volleyball team has played a

few matches with the neighbouring schools. The new coach who is extremely strict about his game is seen at the crack of dawn chasing boys away from their cozy beds. All shapes and sizes of boys with sleepy eyes are seen wobbling down the field. It's a great sight to see, the twelfthies for a change, running in the early hours of the morning. It seems like the volleyball team plans to play the international tournaments!!

The Badminton stars in school left the champions of the state in a state of utter disappointment. After fiery matches the champions had smoke coming out of their

nostrils and ears. The school stars gave them a good run for their position.

As far as Table tennis is concerned the team is making silent kills all over the town. Nobody is unaware of the (three Surdi team). The trio is not only physically but also mentally psyching their opponents with their deadly game strategies.

Cricket seems to have died a silent

d e a t h leaving its marks just in the corridor of Triveni. With so many sports being played to a fantastic level cricket seems to be in the shadow for the time being however I'm sure the fever will soon take over.

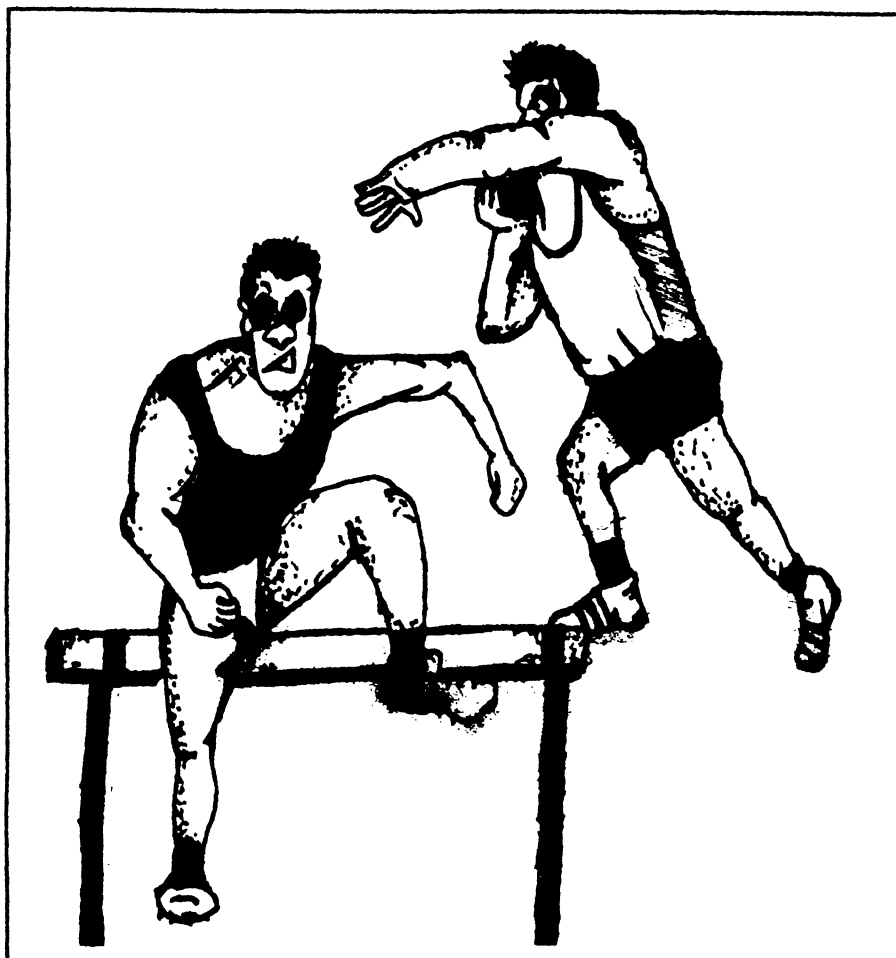
Last but not the least Athletics is in progress

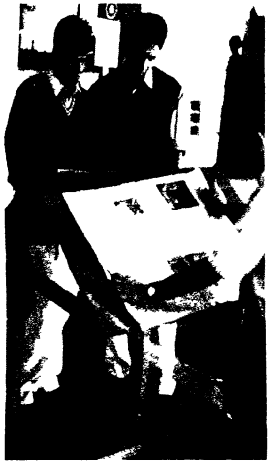
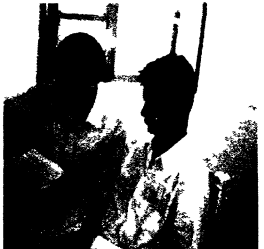
with javelins and short put being thrown all over the place, each step needs to be watched. Maroof Ahmed recently brought laurels to the school by securing the first position in the 'Clean Doon Green Doon Road' race. Who says Athletics is not our cup of tea?

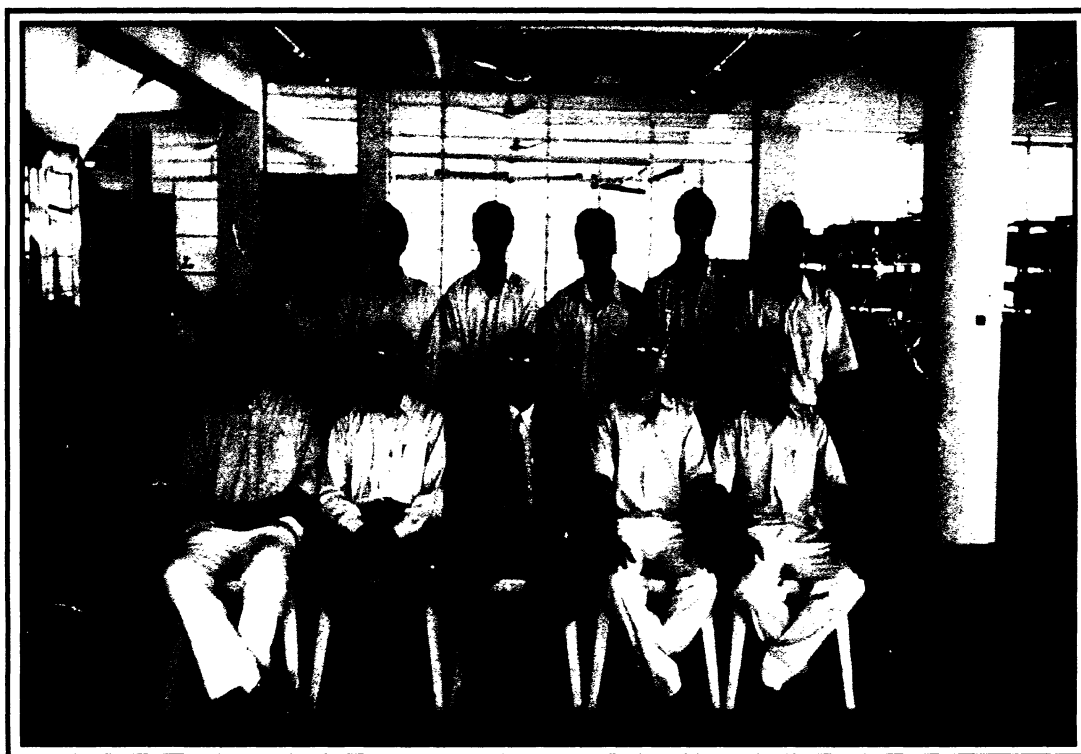
With so many sports in progress and laurels being one, it proves beyond doubt as far as sports is concerned...Welham Rules!!

At the end of this year,  
On the follow through,

-Karan Mehrotra







(Seated left to right): Kartik Mahajan, Mr. Aseem Tripathi, Mr. Dev Labiri, Pranab Shrestha, Prabesh Shrestha  
(Standing left to right): Ajitesh Kir, Samridha Rana, Karan Mehrotra, Nishant Joshi, Parth Parasher, Prateek Baranwal

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