

The **Elephant**

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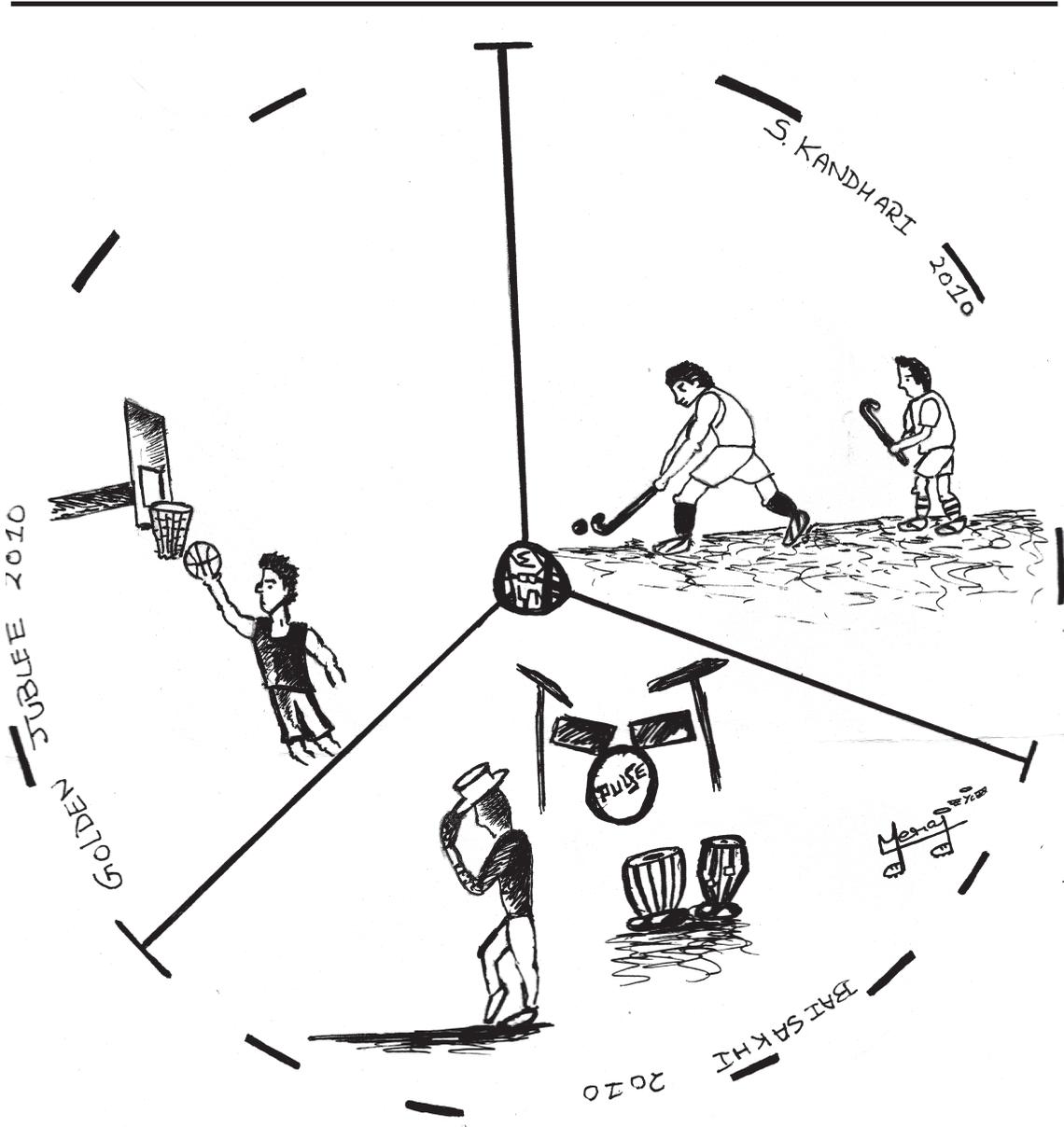
Elephant

WELHAM BOYS SCHOOL

THINK ABOUT IT.....

Before God, we are equally wise – and equally foolish.

Albert Einstein



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Editorial

It is in the midst of a melancholy atmosphere, that I write this Editorial. The Dantewada massacre has surely overshadowed all the other happenings in the country. It has shown us the brutality of vengeance, that the Maoists execute, and our condolences are there with all the families of the valiant C.R.P.F Jawans. May God be with them.

The situation is getting out of control. It is a bitter pill to swallow, but many policemen of the rank of constable, mostly armed with lathi's salute local Maoist leaders on a daily basis to remain alive. And on the other hand our leaders in New Delhi claim that the Maoist's days are numbered. The situation in the red-terror zone is abysmal. The finger here can only be pointed at the kind of leaders India is producing, those who are failing constantly. When organizations fail, it is the leader who has to be held accountable, and our world today faces a shortage of good leaders. Pope Benedict XVI, in his recent letter of apology to the victims of sexual abuse by the Irish priests has aptly said, "The shepherds of God's flock and the sheep, both must be held equally guilty for flouting the law." Our leaders are have to step up to our expectations.

The Oli urges all Welhamites to take heed of such situations, as they are the leaders of tomorrow, and your successes and

fallings will determine how the pendulum will swing in tomorrow's world. The process of bracing themselves to face this challenge, starts now.

The midterms were a welcome change from our busy schedule at Welham. This midterm took us up to the hills. There was a lot of fun and adventure, along with loads of trekking. After a serene break in the majestic Himalayas, Dehra Dun welcomed us back with high temperatures. A detailed report on our midterms is what this month's OLI FOCUS is all about.

The forthcoming month promises to be action packed with all the Baisakhi festivities and the various sporting events lined up. There has been a great deal of activity in the campus over the last couple of weeks, as preparations are on at full swing. After their roaring success at the 'Izhaar-e-Hunar' competition, the music and dance groups hope to do equally at Baisakhi. OLI wishes them the very best for all their endeavours.

On the bright side of the things in India, the IPL has, yet again, showered the evenings with Cricket, glamour, adrenaline rushes, film stars and most importantly, cheerleaders. India has been glued to their television sets, and there has been widespread support for this event among the youth. But does it cater to the purists

eyes? Does this new form of 'Bikini Cricket' fit the bill to be the future of the 'Gentlemen's Game'? Tradition v/s Glamour and Glitz is what the word war gets for you this time. The Sania Mirza and Shoaib Malik affair has raised mountains of controversy throughout the nation with everyone talking about it right from the local cobbler, to the film stars and the Shiv Sena. Some people are calling it a welcome step towards improving Indo-Pak relations, and others are claiming it to be a conspiracy against Indian sport. Personally, I find it really amusing that we do not even let someone get married in peace!!!

Speaking of gossip, this month's Lampon is a treat for every member of the Welham community. It takes you to probably the most loved building on campus, Bethany. It is a lovingly humorous account of Bethany, through the ages, a must read for all Bethany lovers.

Lastly, I would like to end with a plea to all Welhamites. Never be afraid to accept responsibility. If responsibility is not taken by the right people, it becomes a weapon for the corrupt.



Jatan Singh Soni

The Great Wall of Welham

Abusing, back chatting, bullying, dozing off in the class, going late to bed, giving favours... if you've already done all this then the next thing you would do is-take the advantage of the GREAT WALL of Welham. I am talking about the wall which Mr. Lahiri mentions every alternate assembly. It is a helper for some and a landmark for many. I am referring to the 10 feet high red coloured, massive, glass studded and barbed wire topped giant that stands tall in front of Krishna House.

Inspite of being a giant it has gone out of its way to help hungry students smuggle

in 'Bun Tikkis', 'Mountain Dew's' and not to forget the 'Butter Chicken'. When the height of the wall was increased, the number of boys trying to fill their hungry stomachs also increased and it became tough for the wall to help everyone. In spite of the 'rising' problems, the wall has never betrayed anyone till date. All visitors have received exemplary service from this 24X7 host. Although sometimes the visitors have been caught; it was never this wall's fault. They were caught either across the wall or on the campus.

The wall started life at 6 feet when the

nearby building was known as PH. Soon PH changed its avatar to Indus and then to Krishna House. This is the time the wall achieved this title of 'The Great Wall of Welham'. In spite of being raised to 10 feet and topped with lethal barbed wire and embedded with glass pieces, this wall has and will continue to feed all hungry stomachs. Finally, each brick could tell the name of a person who has climbed it. As the wall becomes taller the number of boys crossing seems to automatically increase.

Rajat

RINGSIDE VIEW

Kishly Jha, XII-Humanities

The heat has not deterred the Welhamite from motoring along in the field. If something spurs this school on, it is sport. Let's see how spring went by on the fields.

WRAP UP

The cricket team played the Doon School on the 20th of March. A match they lost by 30 runs. Cricket in school has long way to go. Now that the season is over, the team should practice for the future in order to produce a fruitful result.

Mankaran Kharbanda has put in a lot of work with the Roller Skating team. They won around two and a half dozen medals at the recently concluded district Championships. If this is the way they go on with their task, I am sure they will achieve heights never seen before.

The Basketball team has played a series of matches and outclassed their opponents which consisted of the Army and the CRPF team.

Our Tennis team had a short coaching stint with Mr. Vivien Lafite from France. His input greatly benefitted the players.

The Hockey team played The Doon School and unfortunately lost 4-0. There were a lot of defensive let-ups which cost us the game. I am sure the coach will handle this issue.

Finally, the IPL, common room rivalries, I should say 'RIOTS'. Kunwar Lauren's Rajasthan Royals, my Mumbai Indians, Jatan's Deccan Chargers, Kuvam's Chennai Super Kings. The owners of these teams will be surprised at the loyalty we all exhibit, which will put any supporter to shame. Anyway, the million dollar IPL baby has added to our entertainment, and I just hope the rivalries get even better (read bitter) in the future. The UEFA Champions league has lost its sheen in school due to Real Madrid's untimely exit, and the hijacking of our common rooms by our housemasters.

FOCUS

Finalists in 2004, 2005 and 2009, the school Hockey team walked past the S. Kandhari trophy, only to see the opponents lift the grand prize. I can well imagine how desperately they want to lay their hand on that coveted but elusive trophy.

This year, under the able guidance of the Captain, the senior players and the coach, the team is working out rigorously in the morning, and practising their formations every day. The effort that they have put in, in the last few months is very evident in their game. If things carry on the way they are, the Hockey team is surely a strong contender for the Trophy this year.

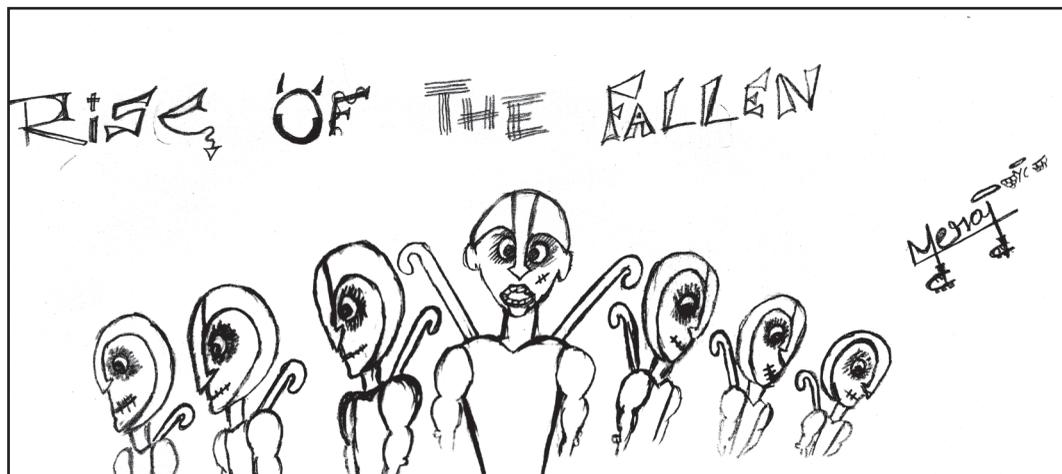
However, I feel that the work is only half done and that they have miles to go before they sleep. Watching them at practice, I feel they have all the skills, they have their basics right, but there is one area which they need to work on—they lack the 'Killer Instinct'. We have often lost games because of this. Anyway, Oli hopes that the Hockey team reaches greater heights and dreams that it is our captain who picks up the S. Kandhari Trophy.

Basketball; This is one team that refuses

to fall. It is said that everyone's performance peaks and then it declines. So far, that has not been true of the Basketball team. They have been pushing themselves to the next level. It is easy to get to the top but very difficult to stay there. Mr. Kailkhura knows this very well, and therefore from the word 'go' he has been taking practices and nurturing young talent for the future. This man has surely been the single most important figure in Welham basketball over the last decade.

Talking about the Basketball team, they went to CRPF, a camp in Chandigarh to play a series of matches and have come back stronger and more experienced. The team boasts of players like Ravi, Veer, Abhineet (captain), Samarth and Kishlay who have made a mark for themselves in the game at the National Level. It is a star-studded line-up, I just hope they do not get complacent. The basketball team would also like to take this opportunity to thank the CRPF, Chandigarh for their wonderful hospitality and Mr. Sanjeev Rana for making this wonderful opportunity available.

The expectations are rocketing. Last season, we had a perfect record of 19 wins in 19 matches. Well, in the past, the team has never won all the 4 great (Afzal Khan, Golden Jubilee, Win Mumby and U-18) tournaments in the same season. Is it time to make history? GAME TIME!!





25 YEARS AGO IN WELHAM

This is an extract from what boys used to write 25 yrs. ago in Welham.

To bear or not to bear

A cold wind blew against his face. He was busy trying to set up his camping gear. The ground was not as hard as he had expected. A few tugs and a few shoves were all it took to setup the one-man tent. He had a slender rifle around his shoulder and a pistol in his pocket, the butt of which protruded out.

The man in question was a tall man approaching his thirties, rather thick around his waist and a face, which would give the appearance of a person who had not shaved for a week or so. His name was John Hayden. He had formerly been in the Texas Archaeological Institute, was now a marine Speleologist, and was presently on an expedition researching the habitat of bears.

The sun was not very high in the sky. Silence prevailed. He sat in the tent with rather an expressionless face. His ears strained to pick up any sort of a sound. Suddenly his face lit up 'Ah! A bear in the vicinity.'

Loading his rifle, he set off into the wilderness. Compass in hand he walked, his hand fingering the butt of his pistol. He had walked one kilometre south trailing the bear. All was silent except for the clearly audible beating of his heart. His excitement had reached its

zenith. A sudden growl shattered the frosty silence.

The man sprang around drawing his pistol. It was just from corner of his eye that he saw the bear hurrying away.

John gave pursuit, in course of which his pistol dropped out of his pocket. He had travelled a kilometre west, when he once again saw the bear. The bear turned at him, 'The gun. I must get the gun...' Before his mind had issued orders, the bear broke on him.

On an impulse he began to run, north-north he ran, without a thought of the bear behind him. He was bathed perspiration, his feet ached. 'My camp' exclaimed he, as he ran north towards it. But it was futile. A crack was heard- the last thing he ever heard- for the origin of the crack lay in his neck. He collapsed dead. Behind him was seen the bear brushing the dust off his hands.

Can you tell the colour of the bear? The clues are all there.

Aresh Shirali
Courtesy : Archives

Isn't a man NOT A MAN?

Isn't a man not a man
Unless he respects a lady;
Gives her a helping hand
Or a rose, maybe?

Isn't a man not a man
If he can't keep his patience;
Uses violence and doesn't understand
That he is spoiling his relations?

Isn't a man not a man
When he drinks, shouts and brawls;
When he acts without a plan
And staggers until he falls?

Isn't a man not a man
When he hurts for no real reason;
And he goes off hunting with his clan
Even if its off season.

A man is not a man if you
Leave him undisturbed.
Try and change him if you can
But his habits, can't be curbed.

Lalremtluanga Ralte, XI

W.O.B.S

- Navjeet Singh Khaira, 385/CA, batch of 2009, stood first in his first year Jaypee Hotel Management training programme at Agra.
- Gurjeet Singh Khaira, 88/CA, batch of 2004 is managing the 'Diya' Restaurant (Hotel Leela Kempenski) which has been voted No. 1 North Indian restaurant in Gurgaon.

MUSIC REVIEW

Artist: **Disturbed**

Album: **Indestructible**

Release Date : **12 November, 2009**



From a punk-rock band to a mature, grown up band, 'Disturbed' has come a long way in a decade. But the big question is, Is this album any better than the previous one?

The new album has some songs which were composed even before the launch of their first album. These songs sound as good as new and even have swift solos just like the new tracks. Some of the songs that I really liked were "Indestructible" (the title track), "The Night" and "Enough." All these tracks use the same element of guitaring and what we call, machine-gun drumming. All the tracks start with the "Disturbed Trademark" i.e. the wicked laugh. You will know what I mean when you listen to the new album.

There is one song that I found very appealing and very different from all the

songs ever composed by Disturbed. The track is called "Enough". This song uses the same aspect of Heavy Metal music just like the other tracks but the difference lies in the lyrics. In most of the other tracks composed by Disturbed, the lyrics are related to demise and disgrace. In this song, the lyrics are about the suffering we have gone through in our life, which is actually the opposite of what Disturbed usually composes.

Although the album has not changed a lot from the previous one overall, it has made Disturbed one of my favorite artists. It will surely help Disturbed pick up some new fans, and if not fans, it will manage to enter in the legendary "Ozz-Fest".

Destroyed

Abhinav Suri, X-C

MOVIE REVIEW

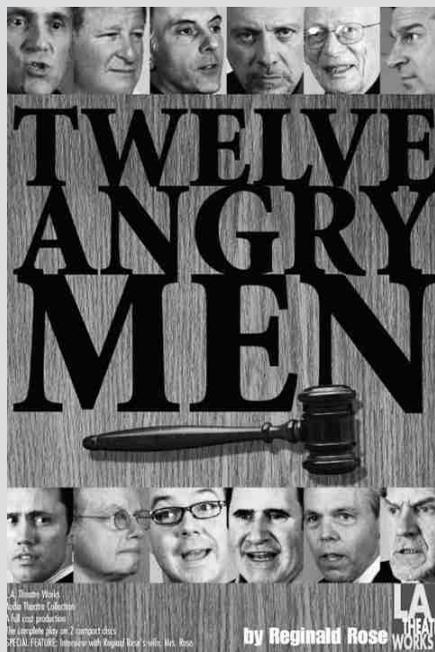
12 ANGRY MEN

The movie is about a jury which has been formed to resolve a murder case where the prime suspect is a young boy. All the circumstantial evidence surrounding the case points to the boy. In all possibility, he was the murderer. But, in accordance with American laws, the jury had to debate the topic and give an unanimous decision.

Out of the jury of 12 which had been formed for this particular case, 11 felt that there was no need for discussion. But there was one person amongst them who felt that their decision was going to affect someone's life and therefore they should at least devote an hour to the case. The movie is about the debate initiated by this person, with each juror expressing his views thereby giving the movie its title, '12 Angry Men.'

The twelve men of the jury were all from different walks of life. It was clearly brought out how strongly ones profession determines his or her conduct.

One member of the jury was a stock



broker, and he had a very crisp manner. The advertising agent, on the other hand, was very talkative and friendly. The school teacher was very gentle, a person who did nothing. The discussion between 12 people from different backgrounds, made

the atmosphere tense. Maybe this is the reason was why the movie, inspite being shot in one room, was able to hold one's attention.

The only noticeable effects were the movement of the camera, making the movie very 'simplistic'. In fact, It is a great example of simplicity at its best.

Take my advice, arrange to get this movie and watch it. It is one of the best black and white movies, I have ever seen.

Samarth Jain

WINTER BIRD CENSUS WEEK AT WELHAM BOYS CAMPUS



Working towards the conservation, research and general awareness of avian life in Uttarakhand, Welham Boys School organized a Winter Bird Census Week from February 15 to 21, 2010. Conducted by the Wings & Feathers Club, it involved teachers, students and bird watchers. The skill displayed by students who have been 'birding' for over a year made the point count census easy.

The importance of such bird counts cannot be overlooked. Avian health, habitat, behavior and the effects of a changing environment can be studied. This helps scientists to use these counts, along with observations from other such projects, to form a larger picture of our efforts towards conservation of birds. Each year that this data is collected makes it more meaningful and allows scientists to investigate far-reaching questions. To increase the accuracy, the number of point counts can be increased and the number of days of a point count repeated. Scientists and bird enthusiasts

can learn a lot by knowing where the birds are. Bird populations are dynamic; they are constantly in flux. No single scientist or team of scientists could hope to document the complex distribution and movements of so many species in such a short time.

BIRD COUNT PROTOCOL

A Point count involves standing at a fixed location and counting all the birds that you see or hear. A count of the number of individual birds of each species within the area of specific dimensions is recorded.

The Welham Boys School Estate has been divided into 17 contiguous locations which will eventually go upto 20. All future bird counts will be done in these 20 fixed locations, to enable data comparison in future keeping the area constant.

The point count at the existing 17 locations was done by four teams of birding enthusiasts of Class V, assisted by students of Class VI and VII. Ten minute counts were conducted at four locations

simultaneously. The research data collated was remarkable, with a list of 44 species recorded.

Anyone can participate in a point count, from novice bird watchers to experts. It takes as little as 10 minutes on one day, it is great fun and easy-and above all it helps the birds.

For the future, we propose to have three bird counts a year, a winter bird count, a summer bird count and an autumn bird count. This event will involve about a hundred students and enthusiasts counting birds in the campus from their designated locations for 10 minutes simultaneously. In this manner I do hope we will be able to contribute to scientific research on avian life in the Dun Valley making conservation easier in times to come.

Mr. Karna Puri and Mr. Ajay Sharma

BIRDS IDENTIFIED DURING BIRD CENSUS WEEK

15th to 21st FEB 2010

WELHAM BOYS SCHOOL ESTATE

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 1. Brown Headed Barbet | - | Megalaima zeylanica |
| 2. Copper Smith Barbet | - | Megalaima haemacephala. |
| 3. Indian grey hornbill | - | Ocyrocus birostris |
| 4. Common Hoopoe | - | Upupa epops |
| 5. White breasted kingfisher | - | Halycon smyrnesis |
| 6. Green bee eater | - | Merops orientalis |
| 7. Rose ringed parakeet | - | Psittacula krameri |
| 8. Plum headed parakeet | - | Psittacula cyanocephala |
| 9. Spotted owl | - | Athene brama |
| 10. Blue rock pigeon | - | Columba livia |
| 11. Spotted dove | - | Streptopelia chinensis |
| 12. Red wattled lapwing | - | Vanellus indicus |
| 13. Pariah Kite | - | Milvus migrans |
| 14. Cattle egret | - | Bubulcus ibis |
| 15. Rufous treepie | - | Dendrocitta vagabunda. |
| 16. House crow | - | Corvus splendens |
| 17. Jungle crow | - | Corvus macrohynchos |
| 18. Black hooded oriole | - | Oriolus xanthornus |
| 19. White browed fantail fly catcher | - | Rhipidura aureola. |
| 20. Common drongo | - | Dicrurus macro cercus |
| 21. Spangled drongo | - | Dicrurus Hottentottus |

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| 22. Oriental Magpie robin | - | Copsychus saularis |
| 23. Brown rock chat | - | Cercomela fusca |
| 24. Common myna | - | Acridotheres tristis |
| 25. Brahminy myna | - | Strunus pagodarum. |
| 26. Pied myna | - | Strunus contra |
| 27. Chestnut tailed myna | - | Strunus malabaricus |
| 28. Great tit | - | Parus Major |
| 29. Barn Swallow | - | Hirundo rustica |
| 30. Redvented bulbul | - | Pycnonotus cafer |
| 31. Himalayan bulbul | - | Pychonotus leucogenys |
| 32. Black bulbul | - | Hypsipetes leucocephalus |
| 33. Oriental whiteeye | - | Zosterops palpebrosus. |
| 34. Common Tailor Bird | - | Orthotomus sutorius |
| 35. Lesser White throat | - | Sylvia curruca |
| 36. Common Chif Chaf | - | Phylloscopus Collybita |
| 37. Tickell's Leaf Warbler | - | Phylloscopus affinis |
| 38. Jungle babbler | - | Turdoides straitus |
| 39. Purple Sunbird | - | Nectarinia asiatica |
| 40. Crimson Sunbird | - | Aethopyga Siparaja |
| 41. Eclipse Crimson Sunbird | - | Aethopyga Siparaja |
| 42. House Sparrow | - | Passer domesticus |
| 43. White wagtail | - | Motacila alba |
| 44. Scaly breasted munia | - | Lonchura punctulata |

Baisakhi Blossoms

In this age of deforestation, global warming and population explosion, we Welhamites are privileged to be living on a campus with over 300 trees. Unfortunately, we do not pay any heed to the beauty around us. So to reinvigorate the love for nature in Welhamites, we present to you 'Nature's Diaries', and I feel proud to be given the opportunity to write this article.

Here are some beautiful blossoming trees that are sure to grab one's attention in our school at present:

Common Name - Silver Oak

Botanical Name - Grevillea Robusta

Location - Opposite Shikhar, Southern side of the main field, between Oliphant



Gate and the LRC

Silver Oak is a fast growing evergreen tree, which is about 18-35 m high. It has green bipinnatifid leaves that are 15-30 cm long and have silvery underside (thus giving it, its name). It has bottlebrush-like golden orange flowers that are 8-15 cm long. The stem of the tree is just about 2-3 cm long. Many leaves of the tree fall in spring.

Common Name - Tecoma

Botanical Name - Tecoma Argentina

Location - Corner of the Activity Centre (on the ground)

Tecoma, also known as golden trumpet, is a very artistic shaped tree and is just 5-6 m high. Its leaves are opposite and imparipinnate. They are 20 cm long and each leaf has 5 or 7 leaflets. It has a green 5-toothed calyx 5 mm in length. The flowers are bell-shaped and golden yellow in colour. They are about 4-5 cm long. The root of the plant is a powerful diuretic and a tonic.

Common Name - Jacaranda

Botanical Name - Jacaranda Mimosifolia

Location - Along the boundary wall of the

new basketball courts

Often referred to as 'Neeli Gulmohar' in Hindi, Jacaranda blossoms from April to May. It has large fern like bipinnate leaves that are separated into tiny sections and consist of several small pointed leaflets set in opposite pairs along the branches of the mid rib and a larger terminal leaflet. Its fruits are round and bear numerous seeds. The trumpet shaped tube like flowers have a deep blue-mauve colour and grow at the end of branches. They are twisted and divided into 5 unequal lobes- 2 of which are curvy and dirty white, and the rest are large and straight. It is believed that if one of the trumpet blossoms of a Jacaranda tree falls on your head while passing under it, fortune will favour you.

So, the next time you walk around the campus, make sure you catch a glimpse of these beauties that nature has offered to us. Specially these days, as they are now in full bloom, a baisakhi delight.

-Satyendra Pal Sahota.

WACKY WOODSEATERS Mid-Term to Dhanauli

Every year we go to a different place for our midterm excursion. This time we went to Dhanauli, 'Camp Thangtha', also known as 'Whispering Pines' until last year. Class four went there with Mrs. Anita Joshi, Mrs. Nanda Joshi, Mrs. Monika Gupta and Mr.Santosh.

On our first day, we did not have any activity because we were very tired. The next day we were divided into four groups, 'The Tigers', 'The Leopards', 'The Black Panthers' and 'Wild cats'. Our first activity was the 'Spider web' and just after that, we played the 'Call of the Jungle'.

In the evening prizes were distributed and we had a lot of fun as most of us were awarded with something or the other. The third day we went for rappelling, it was a very good experience but some boys did not do it because they were scared. At

night we went for a nature walk and experienced many interesting things like listening to sounds of various animals and enjoying the beauty of nature. On the fourth day, the first activity was 'The Eskimo Walk', where we had to place our foot on a log, pick it with help of a rope and then take it from one point to another. After a short break, we started rock climbing. This was also an adventure activity. The fifth day was the last day. In the morning, we packed and looked forward to going to Mussoorie for lunch. After lunch, each of us got Rs20/- to buy mementos. After shopping, we left for Dehra Dun. We reached our school at about 4:30pm.

I really enjoyed our trip to camp Thangtha, and I learnt to overcome my fear by participating in all the activities.

-Yugdeep Shokeen V-B

Mid-term trip to Nature Village

We were very excited when we heard that we were going to Nature Village. We started our journey at 8:00 o'clock. On the way we stopped at a local restaurant to have breakfast.

When we reached Nature Village, it was very hot, so we jumped into the pool. We enjoyed splashing water on each other. We also played water rugby.

We went for a walk in the jungle. We saw different trees and a blue bull killed by a panther. We even went for a night safari on a tractor. We saw sambhar and a

black panther.

We did lot of interesting activities such as 'flying fox', 'rappelling', 'pottery', 'star gazing' and we even milked the cows. It gave us the feel of a village. We had a great time doing activities like Horse Riding, Camel Riding and Bullock Cart Riding.

We also tried to drive a tractor. The food at Nature Village was delicious. Our trip was very enjoyable. We learnt about animals, plants and village life.

Aryamaan Ahuja, 801, 4 B.

WBS EXPRESSES ITS HUNAR

Welham Boys School really outshone themselves at this year's Izhaar-E-Hunar held at Hopetown Girls School. The event included various activities that comprised the event, such as dance, music, face painting, poster making, digital photography, a quiz and Enact-a-Tale.

Obviously, everyone was wide awake throughout the event. One should hardly question what kept the boys awake. Narayan Dev Prasher claims that someone threw her phone number at him while he was working on his poster, and after that he couldn't help diverting his focus elsewhere. No wonder you're a Dev, Narayan! Everyone's jaws dropped when they saw Sukhmanjeet go hug two girls, but they heaved a sigh of relief as they discovered they were his sisters. However, no matter how many such incidents occurred (contact Narayan for more information), the boys still did a fantabulous job in their respective events. Whilst we weren't able to score in Digital Photography, Face Painting and Poster Making, we bagged ourselves a second spot in both the Western Dance and Indian-Classical and Western Fusion Orchestra. Hats off to Hrithik Agarwal's brilliant recovery after he took a drastic fall while performing one of the tougher steps. Of course, one can't forget the Enact-a-Play team of our school. They fought through tough competition to bag the first spot, but unfortunately, they had to share it with Selaqui, who took the trophy for the first six months.

In the end, while the results were being announced, there was a general opinion circulating among the Welhamites that Hopetown would grab the cup. In fact, there were plans to shout a dull "Hopetown" when the *announcer ke liye term jo bee hai* would ask us, "Who do you think won?" But confusion prevailed when Hopetown came second. In the next five seconds, all hell broke loose when Welham Boys was declared winner. Mr. Painuli granted an official treat to all the participants that evening. No wonder they arrived late. Oli salutes the efforts of the Izhaar-e-Hunar team, specially the teachers involved, that is, Ms. Monica Chadel, Mrs. Neena Singh, Mrs. Vandana Srivastava, Mr. Pradipta De, Mr. Orindam Chatterjee and Ms. Rashmi Rawat.

Akul Gurtu



The Oli 24 X 7

WELHAM NOW

- The IT Department made a presentation on 17 March 2010 (Pe Pe Pein).
- A workshop on youth for understanding exchange programmes was conducted for class 10th on 13 March.
- Mr. Ajeet Bajaj who is the first Indian to reach the North and the South Pole gave a talk on his experiences on 25th March.
- In the Squash inter-house for the Middle School Krishna House bagged the trophy.
- Bidding adieu! Two staff members namely, Mr. Sukhendu Dhara and Mrs. Sangeeta Singh left us this term. We wish them all the best.
- New students joined the school on 3rd April.
- The Welhamites enjoyed the midterm break from 27th March to 3rd April.
- The school's music, dance, art, quizzing and dramatics team took part in Izhar-e-Hunar held at Hopetown Girls' School on 10th April and stood an overall first. Congratulations!!
- The school participated in Woodstock MUN from 9th April to 11th April. Overall the school stood second and individually Yuvraj Goswami and Ab. Manan Bhat were adjudged Distinguished Delegates. Well Done Team!!
- Welham Boys School hosted an inter school quiz where Doon International School stood first, followed by RIMC and Welham Boys as the joint runners up.

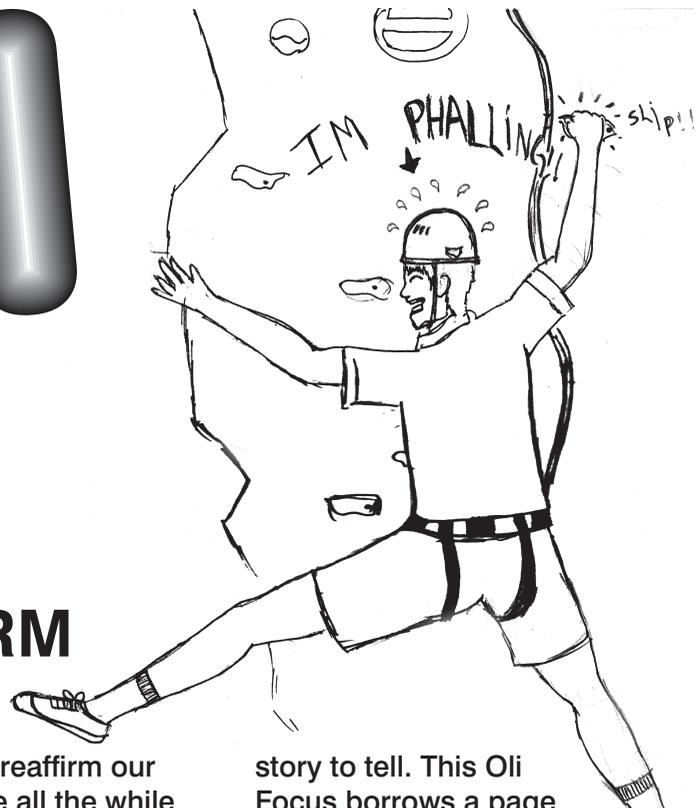
O L I

FOCUS

In the middle of an action-packed and demanding term, a midterm break is what feels like a zephyr on a hot, sultry evening. The cool mountain breeze, makes you feel refreshed. That is just one of the reasons why we Welhamites are thrilled to head out into the mountains and rough it out. Besides having a great time, we learn to be sensitive towards our

MY MIDTERM TRIP

environment and reaffirm our spirit of adventure all the while appreciating the intoxicating beauty of Mother Earth. Midterms leave each of us with our unique lessons and with a



story to tell. This Oli Focus borrows a page from the diaries of Welhamites who vouch to have been hit by 'Midterm Madness.' So read on and enjoy the train.

CLASS 6

As I got up on the 27th morning, I realized that today was the day for us to leave school for midterm. A sudden excitement rose in my mind. We left for our destination at 7 o'clock in the morning. We were headed for Pine Hills ecological camp, Barog. It is said to be a place with many adventure activities.

Our journey was quite long and tiring but whenever I thought about the destination, the tiredness just flew away from me. We reached the camp at about 4 o'clock and had our lunch. The food was extremely delicious especially after such a long journey. All of us ate the food to our heart's content. After that, we settled in our tents which were very luxurious. In the evening, we moved to the ridge and the camp owner, Maj. Gen. Hemant Krishnan (Retd.) introduced himself to us and showed us the camp. We also divided ourselves into two groups, Tigers and Cheetahs. Later we had a bonfire and enjoyed ourselves.

The next day after a delicious breakfast we set off for trek of about 27 kms. It was tough, we were climbing a mountain. On the way, we visited an old railway station,

which was one of the biggest railway stations of India. A record had been set by Welham Girl's of completing the trek in three hours. We broke it with two minutes in hand. That afternoon, we practised the obstacle course with the motto 'We Can and We Will'. There were many difficult obstacles, which we were surprised, we were able to do.

In the evening, we cooked our own dinner. First we made a stove by digging into the ground. We cooked a delicious dinner and enjoyed it thoroughly. Soon after we were fast asleep as we were exhausted.

Now this was our third day. We were very confident and did not hesitate when we were told to climb a mountain called 'Panchmundiya'. The trek to this mountain was shorter than the previous day's but more dangerous. We kept on climbing with the belief that "tiredness is only in the mind not in the body", and finally reached the top where we visited a cave. On our return to the camp we had our lunch. In the late afternoon, a wildlife lover gave us a talk about wildlife. In this talk, we found out that the knowledge he shared with us was not bookish. Instead, he had observed it all himself. In the afternoon,

we also played a match with local villagers. Welham played very well even though the village boys were older than us.

On our fourth day we had a relaxed morning. Then came the final competition of the obstacle course. The Cheetahs won the competition! In the evening, we had a cone collection competition, which was won by the Tigers. We also went for a jungle safari trekking by ourselves at night. It was a wonderful experience. We performed a skit, that evening by the bonfire. We all did very well in it and showed our responsibilities as citizens towards the environment. Finally, after eating dinner we all had a comfortable sleep.

The fifth day had arrived and it was time for us to leave. We had a ceremony after breakfast in which there was an activity where our teachers had to walk on broken glass without getting hurt and I am proud to say that our teachers did it very bravely. We also got our certificates and with that, we started off for our school at 10:00 clock and reached here by 5:00 clock.

Mohit Gupta, 6

CLASS 9

This midterm were the second for me at Welham. This time, the destination was a place called Camp Mehi near Nainital. The good thing about it was that it was located in complete solitude, in the wilderness of the jungle. The ones who were fortunate enough to go there were the tutor groups of Mrs. Alka Bhandari, Mrs. Tara Sharma, Mrs. Pant and Ms. Nirupma Goel.

In the camp, life was all very simple. We woke at 6:30 in the morning for a

toughening-up, exercises, which to the amazement of our teachers, was done perfectly and without complaints. After the morning warm up, the day continued with activities such as obstacle crossing, flying fox or even long exciting treks. The best one was the trek to Naina Peak the highest point in Nainital, from where all of Nainital was clearly visible. Unexpectedly, we also visited a zoo, where we saw all sorts of exotic animals.

The most adrenaline pumping activity, according to me, was an interesting activity called flying fox. In this one had to

glide down horizontally at a 30 degree angle on a rope which was attached to a sturdy tree. The speed at which one travelled while gliding was enough to give the jitters, for the rope was attached very, very close to the ground!

All in all, it was an excellent trip. The extreme scenic beauty of the camp in the hills, the friendly and rare attitude of the camp instructors, made it an experience that we will remember forever.

Akul Gurtu, Class-9

Class 10

We were forewarned- 'This is not a midterm break, it's training! We conditioned ourselves to that spirit, to the strict discipline that was expected of us and we were prepared. The class Xs took part in a 'Special Adventure Course' in NIM, Uttarkashi, during midterm this year. Our routine was completely regimented. It involved rigorous physical activity, a strict daily schedule with a fixed diet, proper lights out timings, formal lectures, and a disciplined code of conduct. Nevertheless, these conditions could not

deprive us of our share of fun. Our course was a wonderful learning experience. It introduced us to the reality behind adventure; how life threatening or rewarding it could be. We were part of a number of adventure activities like bouldering, rock climbing, rappelling, fox flying, river crossing, rafting etc. This did not just pump up our adrenaline levels, but we also learnt about them in a theoretical way as cadets on an adventure course! Various kinds of mountaineering equipment was made familiar to us. The climbing rope, we learned, was a climber's

lifeline.

It so happened that Welham Girls had also planned their midterm break in NIM, and just as they say, the best things are always worth waiting for. Our last day was when both the 'Welhams' socialised, and the air seemed to have acquired a peculiar scent. Our last midterm had taught us a lesson. This time, 'practice had made us perfect! Most of us were willing to give up what Welhamites crave the most for, their 'sleep'! We were even up and about by 5:00 A.M.! Not to leave early, but for a 'very special morning tea'!

These were the moments that gave the 58 of us a reason to be optimistic! NIM helped us achieve a lot more than just

lessons in mountaineering; and that is what this midterm would be remembered

for by most of us.

Yuvraj Goswami, 626, XB

Class 11

After our board exams finished, the now class 11s were taken for a midterm break to Dharamshala and Dalhousie via Chandigarh from the 31st of March to the 5th of April. There were about 40 students who left in a bus with Mr. Rahul Sridhar, Mr. Sameer Dhingra and Mr. Udayan Banerjee.

We left after lunch and reached Chandigarh by dinner - time. There we had a good stay in a resort. Next day we

left for Dharamshala and reached there by dinner. We all were very tired and had very good sleep after dinner. On the way we had watched movies in the bus, and so the journey was not all that boring. We visited the McLeodganj market of Dharamshala and saw the wonderful scenic beauty of the waterfalls there. After lunch, we went to the Tibetan Buddhist monasteries and did some shopping in the market. We left for Dalhousie and reached there by lunch. We then went to see Kahjhar, a very good sightseeing spot

in Dalhousie. We returned to Chandigarh. And spent the evening in the Sector- 17 market. Next day we returned to Dehra Dun.

Although there was a lot of travelling, it was on the whole a good mid-term. Our teachers were really good to us (Thank you teachers) and so was the budget. It was a "chill out" midterm for us, and we all enjoyed it.

Snigdha Bhalotia, Class-XI

Class 12

Harki Dun, the most popular Mid-term destination in Welham (more than Dubai, sir), is the spot 15 of us went. Jatan Soni rejected the idea of taking extracts from my account of the entire trip, so here I am, summing up 20 pages in, what, 130 words? Wow, imagine Harki Dun in 130 words.

Harki Dun, the place from where the famous Pandavas ascended to heaven. That's the place that we, literally, conquered. Here's our entire trek in a nutshell: Taluka to Seema, Seema to Harki Dun, Harki Dun to some random spot around seven kilometres away and back, Harki Dun to Osla, Osla to Seema, Seema to Bugyal to Seema, Seema to Taluka, Taluka to Sankri, Sankri to the lake en route Kedarkantha... and back. That's right: we walked the entire way, the technical term of which is "trekking". And I assure you, it's just as enjoyable as it is tough, and enlightening.

From Narayan's god-awful jokes, to Dwivedi's Chinese-speaker laughter, from BRs smiles to MNs instant outbursts, every tiny memory has etched itself into my heart (not mind, for once). And that's why forgetting it is impossible: the mind has no role to play when my heart has stolen the memory for itself. I definitely won't go for the trek again, just because it would make the first time I went there less valuable.

Jatan will probably be frowning at the fact

that I've typed 242 words by now, but then, dear Ed, I tried my best to sum up 7 days, 103+ kilometres, and a million memories, into words. Try doing it yourself.

Jsk Yc Seth Kohli, XII

We reached Netala, a very calm and serene town with only a few shops and hotels. After the 10-hour journey we were too exhausted to go anywhere. The day ended with a delicious dinner and an introduction by our tour guide, Mr. Pawar.

It was hard to get off our cosy beds the next morning, but we managed to do it. A moderate trek of 8 kms took us to Dayara Bugyal. We were truly mesmerized with the beauty of the place. The little snow around only charged us up until the evening when we were informed that after having dinner, we had to wash our plates with the same snow as there was no water available!

By the evening, we enjoyed the 'bonfire'- which was very welcoming during the sharply dropping temperature. We were taught to pitch our own tents. We woke up early in the morning and made our way to Bakra Top which proved to be a tougher trek. But, the heavy snow at the top was exciting and we forgot all our tiredness. We trekked down and covered almost 25km back to the resort at Netala.

On the 30th of March, we left for Bebra which was on our way to Dodital. Our night stay at Bebra gave us a different more experience as we collected wood

from nearby trees to light a bonfire. We cooked the food and enjoyed it. In addition to that, all of us gathered around the bonfire and sang and enjoyed the full moon night.

On reaching Dodi Tal the next evening, we pitched our tents in no time, much to everyone's surprise. After chatting with a few tourists from Israel, we visited the Annapurna temple. It was quite cold, but now we all were more experienced and it didn't really bother us.

The next morning, we woke up at 6. It was freezing cold but we had to leave, for our toughest trek yet, i.e. to Darba top at a height of 15000 feet.

As we pushed off, we had to make our own way through the forests, rocks, streams and all that. It was a truly adventurous trip. It was a tough trek but also very exciting and very enjoyable. With snow all around us, we were all very excited. We never expected 3 feet of snow with frozen cakes amidst us. After an hour of fun on top of snow covered mountains we came back to Dodi Tal and then to Netala.

To add to our fun, we also visited a nearby sulphur spring. All the hard work paid off and we set off for Dehradun. It was a very exciting trip, made more so by our teachers.

Ayush Singh, Class XII

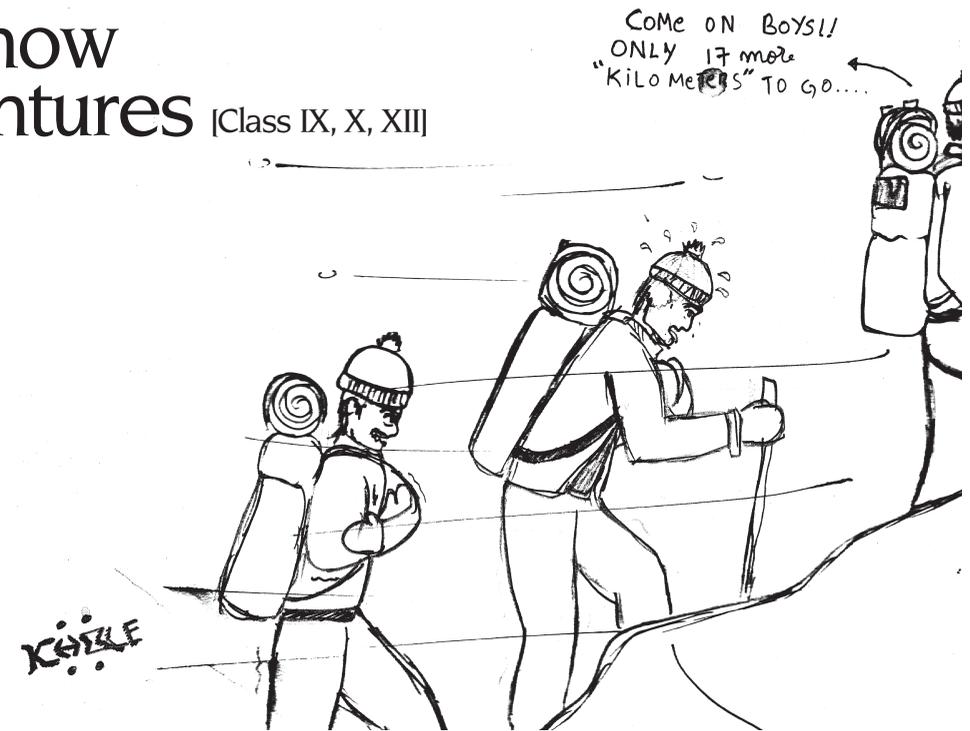
Mid-term to Snow Leopard adventures [Class IX, X, XII]

I had always overheard my seniors talking about the honour of receiving IAYP badges, blazers, and certificates. So since Class 6 I had been apprehensive. Would I be able to trek for, say, 20 kms and climb a couple of steep mountains, while living in canvas tents in the midst of thick forests, and getting only 4 hours of sleep a day? For these Mid-terms, I decided to change my 'not-my-cup-of-tea-attitude'. I opted for an IAYP trip to Shivpuri along with twenty-nine classmates and six seniors, and, believe me, it turned my ideal of an ideal Mid-term upside down forever.

Snow Leopard Adventures organized our trip to Shivpuri [about 10-12km from Rishikesh]. We spent our first six days at Camp Panther and one day at Camp Tusker [both of which are set up by Snow Leopard]. I had plenty of fun on all the seven days I spent there.

On our arrival, the adventure team and our tour operators Ms. Pooja Khanna and Ms. Anchal Berry welcomed us. Mr. Vinod, their chief team adventurer, briefed us about the 'dos and don'ts' and allotted us our tents. Our first day was easy and went smoothly; little did we know what was in store for us. The next day we woke up full of enthusiasm for our forthcoming activities. We were taken by bus to the banks of Ganga where the Snow Leopard group had set up an entire camp on the beach. We did a strange, yet exciting, activity call it "Ganga Panga" by the locals. All we had to do was wear our lifejackets, lock our hands and form a chain. After this, we had to jump into the wild, swollen river. The others expected that it would be very easy, and so did I, though I was very nervous. But sometimes you just can't suppress the adrenalin. As we jumped into the river, I was cold and shivering to the core. I was also totally numb thanks to the freezing cold water but when I got back on to the beach I felt great. There was a great sense of victory.

We spent the rest of the day playing



beach volleyball and listening to stories from the old folk of the region. We finally got to our beds at night very satisfied with our day. The next day we went rock climbing on a nearby hill, was followed by a long, tiring trek of about eleven kilometres. As the day passed, I realised there was always something new and adventurous to do. Simultaneously we attended a theatre workshop organized by Mr. Dilip Shankar. He showed great humility while attending to each one of us, keeping in mind our talents and capacities. All through the workshop, he was a like friend, a genuine, forgiving friend who never let his ego or pride interfere with our joint motive i.e. to learn simple truths of life. We had to do a little investigation of our own to find out that he is a gold medallist in Microbiology, an Oscar winning director for a short documentary and the casting director of 'Rang de Basanti' and 'Delhi 6'. It was just another workshop for him but for us it was a dazzling experience. He has had a long-term effect on me. I have learnt to be more sensitive to others, to spread the message of trust, and leave a space in my heart for all those who are underprivileged.

In the course of our trip we also did kayaking and banana boating. Both were

new experiences for us. On the fifth day we were taught how to pitch tents and make some special knots used in mountaineering. We were really impressed with the expertise showed by our instructors. On our sixth day we shifted to Camp Tusker where we did cycling [for about 3-4 kilometres] and visited a local orphanage run by an NGO. Here we played and talked to underprivileged children. That really brought joy to my heart.

Before we knew it, it was a 'one-day-to-leave' situation. We were very depressed. However, rafting came to the rescue! To pep us up, our instructors said that we would be permitted to go rafting before leaving for the school. We were really thrilled to hear this. We strapped on our lifejackets, hopped into our rafts and floated down the rapids of the holy Ganga for about ten kilometres. Finally, we boarded our bus in Rishikesh and set out for the school. It is one Mid-term that will always occupy a special place in my heart.

Raj Shekhar

INTERVIEW WITH Mr. DILIP SHANKAR

They say good people (like dinosaurs) don't exist anymore. Well, they say a lot of things, not all of which can be trusted. There are people who dedicate their entire lives to make this world a better place, those who actually make a difference. During an IAYP Theatre Workshop in Shivpuri, we found one- Mr. Dilip Shankar, the man behind the workshop. He is an incredible person. A gold medallist in Microbiology, an Oscar winner for his short documentary "Little Terrorist", and the casting director of Rang De Basanti and Delhi-6, he didn't forget that this world needs a change. He uses his medium of theatre to impart good sense to the society, be it trust, love or sensitivity. Here is a peek into the conversation Akshay HBK Jhamb and Tushar Singh had with this hard to forget personality.

Oli: What inspired you to get into theatre despite your outstanding academic career?

D.S.: - When I was very young I realized how happy I was doing theatre. I found it in me because of a teacher. And then academic life was over. I would have spurts of theatrical activity. Somewhere in my second year of graduation, I found that I was rusting and rarely being creative even in my academic life. I needed to supplement my creativity and somehow charge it with something that I loved doing. I asked myself what it was that charges me the most? Apart from music, which really inspires me, I started looking at theatre. I found a lovely theatre group in Delhi called Yatrik, one of the oldest theatre groups in Delhi. I joined them as a stage manager for a fantastic comedy. Eventually I started auditioning and then I did one play after another. By the time I got to my post graduation, I had admission to go and study abroad but I realised that theatre was my life. This was what I wanted to do all my life. So, I took a really big step - despite everybody, including my theatre friends and teachers saying "Don't do it", I did it. I dropped academics and I made a shift to theatre.

Oli: Sir, what actually is theatre all about?

D.S.: - For me theatre is very diverse, so I don't know if there is one definition. While on the one hand it is a representation of reality, on the other hand it can also have magic realism or fantasy. Theatre can also be 'message'. All those aspects apart there are varied styles and forms of theatre. It's a deep study and I think its very organically human just like music because it comes from earlier civilizations where storytelling and acting out experiences were the first ways of communication. Today we have media, the electronic media and film that are very strong. But, you know theatre still has a dynamic dimension. I feel very blessed that I am still being able to act and, direct theatre and people still come to shows because there is something very magical- a live energy. Cinema has its own magic and

television has a role to play, but theatre has its place and I don't think it's going to die. People in the eighties had started saying "Oh! Television has come and theatre will die." It has not died, It won't die. I think the bigger role of theatre has begun now. It shares some basic human values with people who participate in the processes of theatre. Therefore, I now take it beyond just performance activity. I have started doing workshops not only with all kinds of children including street children and children in difficult situations, but also with adults because I feel that this world could be a better place if people really practise what we practise in theatre - the basic elements of trust, partnership, love, sensitivity. These are very basic human things.

Oli: According to you, what makes an actor?

D.S.: - Again, human beings are so diverse, some great actors are trained some are not trained, some have experience of one kind, some have another. So, if you had to ask me what makes a good actor, I would say that an actor should be full of humility. Yet actors are contradictions of themselves. They have to be full of humility but they are also Narcissists; they have to like themselves, they have to like what they see in the mirror for instance. Even if you are Om Puri and you have pockmarks on your face, you have to believe in yourself so much that you can be out there performing everyday. I know a lot of great actors and I think the common thread that binds them all despite their diverse backgrounds is the love they have of the art and the concern they have for humanity, for life, to be beautiful, I know that they all have so much to share, they want to say so many things and that is what keeps them going. Those are really important things.

Oli: Sir, do you think movies like Rang De Basanti have an impact on today's generation?

D.S.: - I think yes, somehow they do. It's an interesting time where we are all having to

question ourselves, take a call on how to go from here. Everyone's saying doomsday is coming. I don't think any doomsday is coming. We are our own doomsday if we don't wake up. But having said that human beings have great potential for living and for creating. Movies are a way of communicating and cinema can play this role. It's not new. You have seen cinema was contributing to society in 1950's. Movies were a comment, they would inspire. Rang De Basanti and 3 idiots are only taking the Bombay Film Industry back to where it was. So I am happy that its happening and, Yes, it has a role to play. However, its not the only thing that can play that role - we all have do it in our own ways.

Oli: Did you find any upcoming star in our ranks?

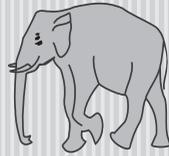
D.S.: - For me everyone is a star. I truly believe that every human being has the potential of being a great actor. I noticed a lot of talent. It was really fabulous. Today there were some people such as you (Jhamb) who gave one of the best performances.

Oli: What would be your final message for us?

D.S.: - I feel that this world has a chance, I really feel we are at the threshold and your generation is one of the most open generations. There are various choices open to you that were never open to us. I think they were post- modern, post-cliché, everything is new now, You can do so much and you don't have to be trapped by systems. You can experiment, you can create. In a way it's another renaissance. It's another time to think afresh. You have really got to project your vision, your inspiration and work towards this world because you know we are all capable. We use about one percent of our mind which is an amazing creator. If a heart fires the mind, the world can become an amazing place. Will we do that? That's up to us.

Thank You.





THE RISING INTELLIGENTSIA

WORD WAR

IPL, boon or bane?

FOR

With bigger bucks and shorter skirts, the IPL is back in action. This time it proves that it is not just a cash enhancer but a movement that is taking sports in India to a zone of excellence and support. It has made us break all boundaries and come together to celebrate.

The growth of infrastructure in cricket has received a boost. New stadiums are being built while the old ones are being renovated. The technology, the seating capacity and the ground conditions have reached new levels. Sawai Man Singh stadium, for example, was in ruins before the IPL and today, it is a World Cup venue. New cricket academies with excellent facilities are now found everywhere. This infrastructural growth has increased the possibility of sports throughout the nation. All this was primarily because of the IPL (and its lots of money!!!).

Cricketing for Indians today has become a reality largely because of IPL. How? Every IPL team has to have seven Indian players out of which 4 have to be under 23 years of age. These policies have given a platform for Ranji and under 19 players for their talent. These youngsters are guided by cricketing giants such as Tendulkar, Ganguly, Warne etc. Players such as Ravindra Jadeja and Virat Kohli had vanished after under 19 World Cup but came back in the IPL to make it to the Indian team. New tournaments at the district and the state level have opened up many opportunities for junior players to show their talent. A career in cricket is today a reality all because of the new private franchise participation in sports initiated by IPL. Competition levels are increasing dramatically with more exciting opportunities.

Many say all this money and fame have

degraded the Gentleman's game. On the contrary, it has glamourised it. Today, countries that had never even heard of cricket, talk about it... The whole league has made cricket a multinational sport by getting players of different nationalities into one team. The association of Bollywood hot shots such as Shilpa Shetty and Sharukh Khan and business tycoons like Vijay Malya and Ambani has been a stimulus for the game. Innumerable franchises and advertisements have spread the word of cricket(and IPL) throughout the globe. What could be a better contribution to a sport than to integrate more and more people into it? The IPL has not only improved the condition of cricket in India but has also helped other sports. BCCI is now looking forward to sponsoring sports such as hockey and soccer. There are private franchises coming up to sponsor the Commonwealth games. The IPL had given \$ 910 million as tax to the government in 2008, a huge contribution to the Indian pocket.

Lastly, the IPL is not just a clash of cricketers from all over the world, or a money minting exercise. It is much simpler and much greater. It gets a billion people from a land of economic hardships, saying OOOLA LA LA O LE O! This is the power of this sport-which indeed is the new 'Indian' religion. The whole nation treats this as a mega spotting festival. Family and friends come together over a match. Moreover, social, political and religious barriers are destroyed. When five out of ten of the highest scorers are Australians, nobody talks about the racist attacks in Australia. It seems IPL creates a completely new world where there are no political differences, just one big world admiring a DLF MAXIMUM.

Abhineet Kanodia and Shriyam Gupta (with inputs from Kunwar Lauren)

AGAINST

76 security personnel were murdered in cold blood by Maoists in Dantewada; the morning of 7th April saw an unprecedented attack of such an ugly magnitude. But would you like to know what everybody was interested in? It is how Rajasthan Royals fared against the Deccan Chargers.

Marketing, publicity, money, scandals, skin and sport - the IPL promises to be a complete package, much like a concert or good entertaining flick. The only difference here is that an IPL match ticket can cost anything between Rs.200 to Rs. 2 Lac. With every season the IPL seems to only be getting richer and bigger. The amount of money a single team costs now is more than the sum total of all the teams bought in first season. So unimaginable are the sums of money that one feels like questioning the authenticity of the currency. BCCI today is one of the most affluent sports authorities in the world. The heaps and piles of bundles of money it can boast of are mind-boggling. If only a tiny amount of this money could be spent on the development of other sports, it would change the face of things in our country.

The sad thing is that the situation is quite the reverse with our national sport-hockey. The world cup of hockey concluded recently with India finishing in the eighth position on home ground. Yet, the defeat seems so distant and inconsequential with the limelight being stolen by IPL3. IPL has only compounded the apathy towards the other sports in this country.

I am also often forced to think as to why a selfish cricketer would like to struggle and play for his country when he can

make ten times the money by playing for two months? Why would seasoned players play domestic cricket tournaments such as Ranji when they do not feel the need to? The day is not far when patriotism will be replaced by individual interests. And the good old days of Greame Smith trying to save a test with a broken hand, and Anil Kumble turning it with a broken jaw will be hard to come across.

In IPL or T20 rather, hitting the ball beyond the fence is the only objective of the batting side, taking cricket to an all new realm. The adrenal rich performances, glamour and stars compel many to look down upon test cricket as a futile and disposable form of the game. It is here that the question of 'legend' crops up in my mind. Will IPL ever be able to produce the likes of Sir Don Bradman or Sachin Tendulkar, considering its growth charts

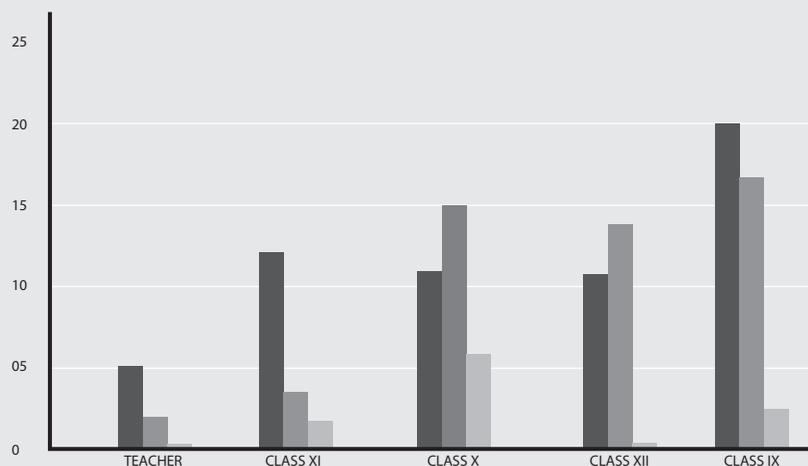
over the years? I believe the answer is evident. Cricket, 'the gentlemen sport' has now been fed testosterone rich bludgeoners, rather than technical stroke makers. To conclude, be it Olympics, football or world cup hockey-they will keep coming and going as humiliating indicators of the redemption which is for us to seek, of being masters of a little well, which the 11 nation cricketing world is.

Rajat Arora

OLIPOLL

Has the IPL trivialised the spirit of cricket?

YES
 NO
 CAN'T SAY



Fighting the Red Menace

From a small rebellion by cadres of CPI(Marxist) led by Charu Majumdar in Naxalbari in the late 60's the Naxalites are spreading terror and now have a strong hold in more than 12 states in India. They believe in fighting oppression and exploitation in order to create a classless society by seizing power through violence. In addition, with support from the oppressed local masses, the Naxalites are the biggest threat to internal security at present.

But who funds these guerrillas?

According to the sources, the ultras get their weaponry from countries such as Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar and China who happen to share the same ideology. This uprising started with the use of vintage .303 rifles and bows and arrows, now they have sophisticated weaponry

such as rocket launchers, mortars, IEDs(Improvised Explosive Device), AKs and INSAS rifles, most of which have been looted from ordnance factories and the CRPF. The land mines used earlier by the ultras were conventional, manually operated IEDs which when placed in a tin can by the road side could take anything to down 10-15 yards, but the effect was minimised because the shrapnel travelled in all directions. Today the ultras have directional IEDs better known as claymore mines, which when fixed on a tree or under a bridge could be aimed at a particular spot to maximise the damage from a distance. Naxalites now also use locally made rifles called 'Pahar', which are manufactured in temporary manufacturing units in the dense jungles of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand. Gelatine sticks obtained

from the mines of the mineral-rich state of Orissa also make a new class of low cost weapons. Their overall training is complex, like that of the CRPF, and includes overcoming different obstacles.

Operation Green Hunt, launched by the central government against the CPI (Maoists), is backfiring because of the local support that the Maoists have gathered from oppressed villagers and the lack of coordination in gathering intelligence. In a mobile war, the ultras apply guerrilla tactics, leading to heavy death tolls in the security forces. The government now should assess the situation and bring in good weaponry to back the forces. Article 356 of the constitution talks about an "emergency in case of armed rebellion" but everyday our security forces are being massacred like sitting ducks. It is time the government wakes up and ends the war it started.

Kunwar Lauren, XII Sc.

It Feels Good To Be Good

In the fast world that we live in today, it is still the rule of the survival of the fittest that rules our everyday lives. Everyone gets involved in the rat race and we are more ruthless than we've ever been. It is indeed unfortunate that we do not have many stories of valiant, kind and generous people to tell anymore except of the past that is long gone—mostly forgotten and lost from our mouths and minds.

Everyone is taught at an early age that kindness and honesty are needed to live in this world. I was wondering if this still applies today... and it brought back in my mind an old, warm memory of mine, when I was just another toddler, with a mind unpolluted by greed and gluttony. (Oh I do miss being that way... living in a world sans worry and pain)

Every evening, when I walked back home from school, I used to buy sweets from a small shop, not far away from my house. Before I left, I always said 'Thank You' to the lady and she would smile the warmest smile at me. At times when I did not have enough money she would give me extra sweets for free and smile that warm smile again. She was really kind. One day, my father went to the shop along with me and the lady excitedly praised me for my good manners and politeness in front of my father. I did not know that simple words 'Thank You' could make someone so

happy! I just said it because it was what my mother taught me—how to speak to adults.

My father, after listening to the lady's praises of me, looked down to me, and smiled, and said that he was proud to have me as his son.

If I had a voice loud enough, I swear I would have used it to tell the whole world how happy I was at that moment. But, I was speechless and all I could muster at the moment was a weak and embarrassed smile!

Maybe I am the only one who remembers that day, or maybe not, but that day became one such special time which I will remember for my whole life, and I am not sure if any other day like that will ever come again. I still smile at the memory. And it was then that I learned the power of kindness. I will never forget how I felt that day. And it is painful to know the world's changed significantly over the years, and even more painful to know that so have I. I have toughened considerably to be able to walk on my own in this world. But, I believe this world would not exist if it weren't for the good it contains, no matter how small or insignificant it gets.

LALREMTLUANGA RATLE

XI-Humanities

THOSE ONES

- **Mr. Brahma Raina** - Akshay, why are you always so quiet?
- **Akshay Jhamb** - Sir actually I talk sense...
- **Yuvraj Goswami** (being realistic about success in life): always project yourself a little more than what you really are. That makes people expect more from you, and you subsequently work harder.
- **Akshay Jhamb** - Dude, what are you doing in the Oli room? Don't you have a class right now?
- **Shivansh Bansal** - Forget it man, Oli is more important to me than my classes. (AL, please look into this!)
- **Shriyam Gupta** - I want a good humour section, even if I have to make fun of myself. (Our dedicated Brigadier)
- **Jaskunwar Kohli** - Life may give up on you, but you don't give up on life.

Intent

All of us live with a purpose, something that we think about most of the day. This "something" in the English language is known as INTENT. Intent has scores of meanings, all of which sum up to reflect one's life. To have an aim in your life is to have INTENT and it is this aim of yours that makes you work hard. It is because of this that intent is regarded as one of the key ingredients of the recipe of success and the cycle of life.

I somehow tend to relate everything to science after my boards ended and intent is no exception. I feel that it is very closely related to the element Carbon. It might appear stupid, but as a matter of

fact these two are very similar. Those of you who have studied chemistry will agree with me. Be it pieces of paper, a ball, a car or anything for that matter, Carbon is present everywhere. Like intent. I see intent in a visually impaired person trying to cross a road with the help of his white cane...he has a fixed purpose, which is to cross the road. He has an aim in life: to be able to walk without a stick someday. I see intent in a dumb person who manages to tell anyone and everyone his or her feelings, just using his hands. This signifies how determined the person actually is - wanting to speak his heart out but not being able to. He has a simple

goal in life... to speak. Though this one is rather unpleasant, you can still feel the obnoxious vibes of intent radiating from a rapist, his sole purpose being a rape attempt. The rapist can do anything and everything to achieve his target, because of the strong bond he has between himself and his own idea of INTENT.

Some people choose whatever they want to do to earn their bread and butter at an early stage and some decide a bit later. But there are people in this world who do not have any aim or ambition in life; they just do whatever they are asked to do. I feel it is rather preposterous to have a dream and not to follow it, and even more

brainless, to not even have one! Most of the teens today do whatever is told to them and DO NOT follow their heart. Do you ask someone before you take a breath? Do you ask someone before you take a step? Then why ask someone before taking a decision in a life that

concerns you?

Intent can mean different things to different people and can affect different people differently. Your aim in life will eventually decide your fate but it is you who has to choose whether it is your

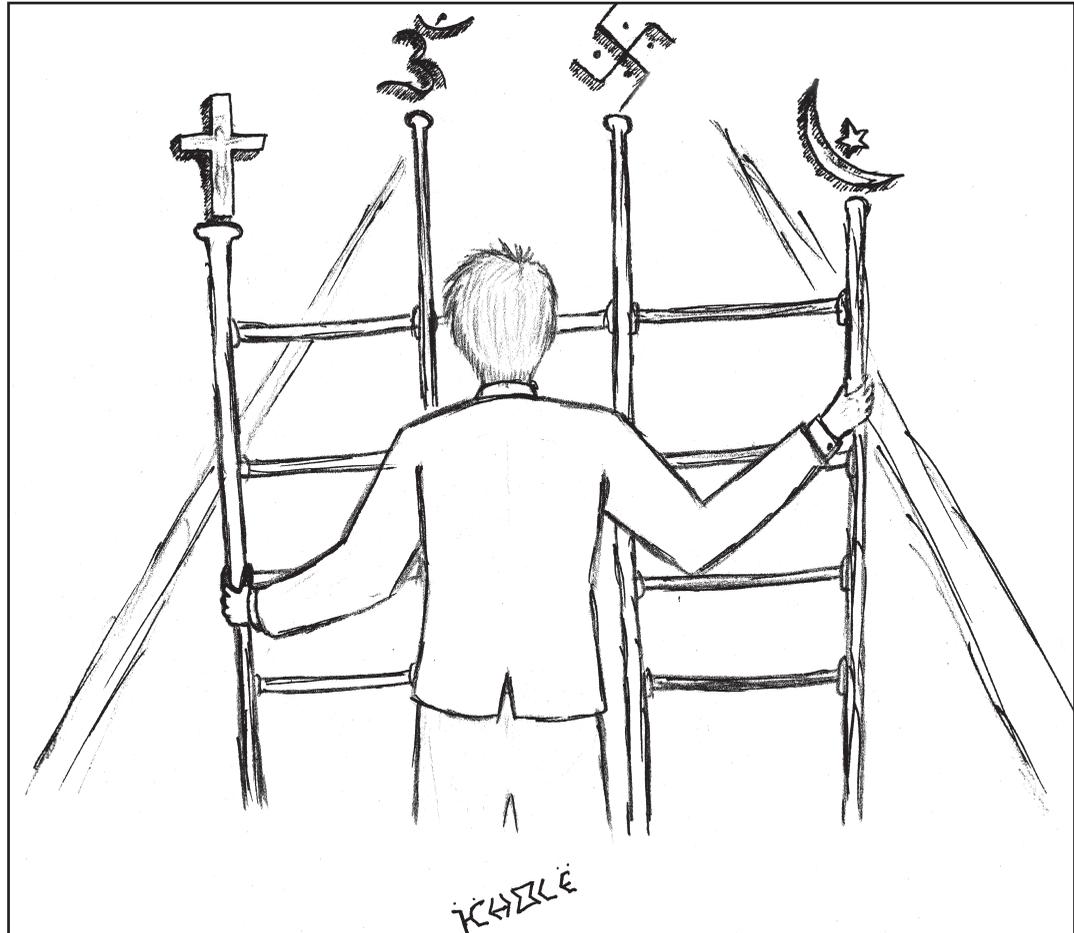
intent or your aim that affect your life. It is you who gets to choose whether you want to follow your own dreams, your own ambition or do you want to carry on with life the way it is...

Parambir Singh
XI- Commerce

RATIONALISING RELIGION

Once in an informal debate discussing the existence of god, one of my fascist friends came up with a fallacy. He proposed a question to us, and sealed the matter by answering it as 'god'. His question was typical- 'What came first; the egg, or the chicken?' I knew that I couldn't answer this question as simply as it was put forward to me, but I was certain about the fact that 'god' couldn't be assumed as the answer to everything that couldn't be answered. My dilemma was something else- 'Did god really create man, or did man create god for his own personal interests? This thought provoked me to lift the pen.

One of the fiery participants in that discussion was being repeatedly questioned on some controversial clauses in his religion. He found it hard to produce a logical argument for all that his religion asked him to do, So he declared 'Everything need not have logic'. This did not satisfy me, and I asked, 'Why'. He said, 'we cannot question god'. Irritated by his priggish statement, I was pushed to counter childishly, 'Why not'? Yet, with no concrete explanations to my fundamental questions, his faith remained obstinate, though not convincing. His inner conscience might not be convinced, but what made him so passionate? He had of course not seen god, not talked to god, but he said he did feel his presence. Again, when asked 'where' 'when' 'how', his answers did not make sense. Finally, what I concluded was that any explanation of god was itself a paradox, which is why no one could explain his existence with sheer logic. God was a phobia that made people behave



according to his own terms. He forced restrictions on what we could see, say, eat etc. only to keep his position and status intact. Moreover, this is why we have religion; different religions for different interest groups. He decides how we should act, and if questioned, the prim explanation is, 'god says so', and we accept it.

However, I do not see any reason for accepting religion. Has not religion triggered enough communal differences all over? Till date a Hindu might feel uncomfortable with an unknown Muslim. The Taliban today is using religion as a tool to justify its violence. Sati, child

marriage, may or may not actually be part of the Hindu religion, but they were practiced in society labeled as religious customs. Religion deprives women of equality and freedom with so many restrictions upon their rights for moralistic reasons. My argument is, why can't a woman be set free to take care of her own morals and deal with her own insecurity the way she wants to? Religion, in legal terms, has no business to take charge of our lives.

Now, hypothetically, we choose our religion. However, the reality is that in most cases we never have a say in what our religion will be. When one is born in a

Hindu family, he automatically will have to run Hindu blood in him and will have to show his allegiance to his religion even before he understands what their implications are. His birth certificate confirms it the moment he is born.

Question- When did he ever decide what his religion would be, or would it be at all? When that newborn Hindu matures, he never actually realizes why he belongs to the Hindu community because no one raises the issue with him. Even if he does, social pressure threatens him. This is why the number of official conversions is low, not because none have any objections to their belief, but because they hardly dare to even think about it. The concept of religion over the years has taken a new form, which is why I say that we no longer choose our religion, but the religion chooses us. After fifteen years of unscrutinised loyalty to my religion, I ask myself, 'was I actually ever part of it all?'

Religion preaches spiritual goodness; it says that we are all under the care of one superpower. More precisely, it talks about

unity in belief by proclaiming god as the master of all. However, when we find ten different versions of god, I wonder how religion is uniting us at all? Is religion an industry trying to get the maximum number of consumers by selling the same product under different brand names? This is what it seems when we see riots among religious groups with the primary objective to show their supremacy over the other. The truth is, religion's face value cannot be recognized the way it appears to be. It is religion's hypocrisy when it talks of unity in humanity. First, there are differences created between religions, and then there are nuances within a religion itself. Imagine today's world without the Brahmin, the Kshatriya, the Baniya, and the Shudhra; without the Sunni and the Shia; without the Digambar and Shwetambar; without the Protestants and the Catholics. Imagine a world in which a person's religion does not really determine anything. Imagine a world that boycotts religion. Do we not realize that it has been narrowing our horizons; it has

been giving us a reason to feel different from many others in this world? Can we still not figure out that it adds to India's divisions, not its diversity?

The discussion I was part of, never gave me a chance to elaborate my stand. I still look for an answer, 'Would we not be better off without those animal sacrifices, without the restrictions on the food we eat and the clothes we wear, without the customs which hold our purse strings? Can we not prosper more without religion? Do we need religion to tell us what is right and what is wrong; is our conscience not capable enough to judge that for us? Such questions move me to question my belief.

Even though the discussion ends, the issue remains; and the answers we get, do not always accept 'GOD' as the answer.

Yuvraj Goswami, XB.

First Challenge

It feels like I'm grown up. Time seems to have passed so quickly. My Xth boards have made me cross the first obstacle, the first challenge of my life. I fail to recall whether I was tense or relaxed during the year. Was the year straightforward or complicated? Whatever it was, I am sure that the time I have gone through has a permanent place in my heart, because it was a time that has imprinted itself onto my mind.

We started the journey in 2009 and it seems to have flown by. There was fear in our minds but that never let our excitement and joy diminish. How would the boards going to be? Would we score well? What if we did not?...These were a few questions many of us kept thinking about. The answers did not seem to help us cover our syllabus. But we kept thinking about them. It is the way humans are and one can do very little to

overcome such a situation. We woke up from our dreams when the months flew by and soon the calendars at our houses changed and we realised that there were only sixty days to go. That was the time when we actually began slogging. We were loaded with a colossal amount of text to read...but that did not interfere with our share of entertainment.

Getting up late in the night and trying to manage cups of coffee were times that can never be forgotten. Those late night conversations about our careers made us feel grown up. Saturday night movies could never be missed even if there was an examination the next day. Board examinations are a completely different scenario in a boarding school because you are with your peers. In a day boarding school, a student is generally alone at home. For him, the excitement of a board exam is not very different from any other examination he/she may have taken. The greatest advantage of being in a boarding

school is that you can take help from your friends at odd hours, and learning from peers is so much easier!

Finally, it was time for my first examination. Many of my friends and I felt that we were not prepared. Nothing could have helped us then, so, with God's name on our lips we were all set for the examinations.

The last examination finally over, I walked out of my classroom and felt as if the world had ended. Time appeared to stand still and I felt I had done it all. For at least a few months to come, I had decided that I would not touch those thick text books of mine. But, now that I have begun my new class, I realize that life is not easy any more. Thicker text books, tougher studies and more responsibilities! I stopped, thought, and realized: it is not over. Instead, it is the beginning of a new era.

Raghav Dahuja, XI Sc.

Where does strength lie?

Mid-terms are largely educative and informative. The possibility of interacting with the external world opens doors for new wisdom. Deb had just come back from a fulfilling and exciting trip. The fatigue in the body had been unable dampen his spirits. The salubrious surroundings, the mesmerising beauty of the woods, the stunning rays of the sun emerging out of the snow-covered peaks are sights one would love to have a glimpse of. However, one thing stuck in his heart like a thorn. Before they had embarked on the trek, the teacher was telling them about the trek. During the course of this discussion he had emphasized that everyone should be together and emphasized the phrase "The strength of a chain is in its weakest link". Deb was shaken by the words of his teacher. He had always considered that being strong was to focus on one's assets and not on the liabilities. He had positioned himself as most aggressive captain of his team. He always wanted to win and at any cost. He would spend most of his time discussing strategies with the best and ignore the rest. He had

rationalized this approach by convincing himself that it was futile to spend too much time on the weak. They would never win the game.

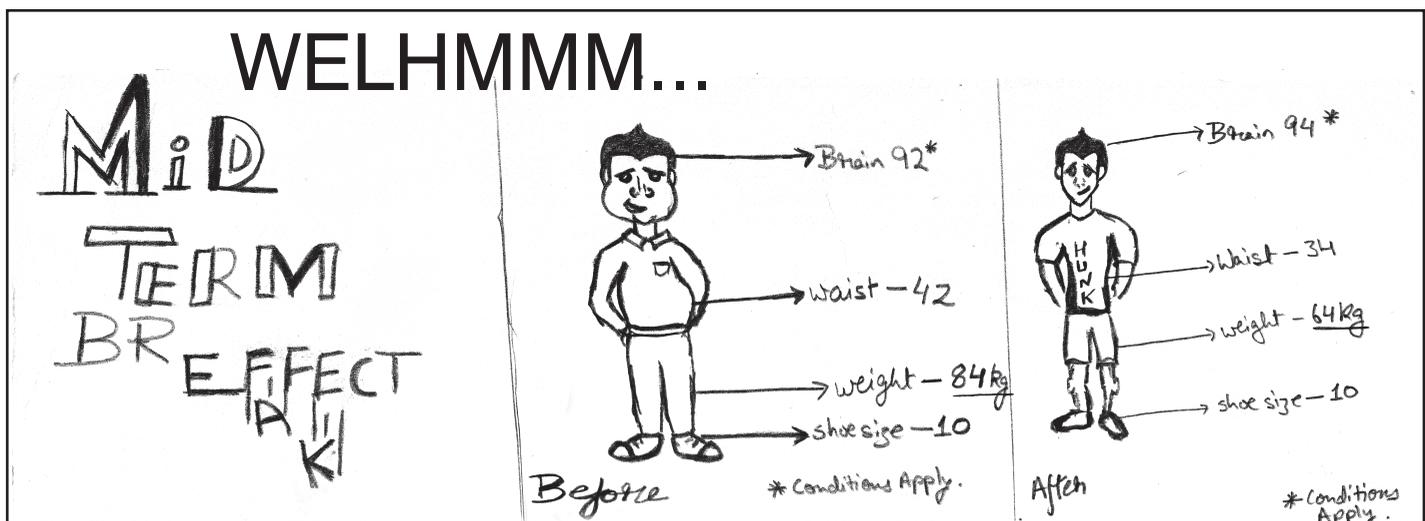
To many of us Deb's approach would not be appealing, yet we practise it without any compunctions. But the experience which Deb had shook him out of this inertia. During one of the treks the teacher instructed everyone to move at the same pace as that of the slowest. Deb retorted that this would be boring. To his surprise the teacher said nothing. He calmly asked Deb to do whatever he felt. During the trek Deb found himself spearheading the first summit all alone. He could see the rest of the group at a distance walking slowly but enjoying every moment. He could see smiles on Vish's face a.k.a fatty acid. Vish could not contain his joy at seeing his classmates walking along with him and slowing down their pace in order to encourage him. Deb was remorseful and realized what true winning is.

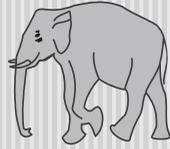
Leadership involves being sensitive and resourceful. It involves taking appropriate decisions. While leading a team one needs to have a clear perspective of the

teams strengths and weaknesses. During testing situations what makes us give in to situations is never our strength but our weaknesses. We need to strengthen the weaknesses in order to be strong. There is no point of building super structures on deep crevices.

Deb learnt this lesson this mid-terms. In life we are so preoccupied with the rat race of success that we forget these lessons. It is only when we pay a heavy price that we realize the importance of these values. Solidarity or camaraderie are subtle partners in the path to a true win. No matter where we are in life the magnitude of team work is massive. Many of us may reach the destination we aspire to but we may still not have what we want. At the end of the day non-material goals do make a difference in our life. Life is not an individual sport, it involves team work.

Mr. Srikanth and Raghav Dahuja(XI Sc.)





LASAGNE

LAMPOON

BETHANY POLICIES

KUNWAR LAUREN CONFIDENTLY WALKED UP TO ME AND SAID, "DUDE, YOUR LAMPOON LAST TIME WAS... NOT VERY GOOD." I SMILED AND SAID, "I KNOW. IT WAS DWIVEDI'S IDEA."

A WISE MAN ONCE SAID, "THE ONLY THING THAT IS CONSTANT, IS CHANGE." NOW, PEOPLE SUCH AS GAGANDEEP SINGH, NARAYAN DEV PRASHER, GURSIMRAN SINGH, AND MYSELF, WILL SCRATCH OUR HEADS AND WONDER... WHAT'S SO WISE ABOUT THAT? IT WON'T TAKE AN EINSTEIN TO FIGURE OUT WHO IS STUPID AND WHY, BUT SINCE WE ARE AT A PLACE WHERE EINSTEINS ARE RARE AND LALUS AND SHARADS, PLENTY, I'LL TELL YOU: IT MEANS THAT STUFF KEEPS CHANGING. JOKES APART, TODAY, YOUR LOYAL LAMPOONIST (OK, OK, CHIEF-ED, AGREED, YOU GOT ME THIS TIME), PRESENTS HIS LATEST *SAMPOORN* LAMPOON, ON THE EVERGREEN, AND SO, THE EVER-CHANGING POLICIES OF OUR DEAR, OLD, GOLD, WORTH-THE-HOLD, TEN-WORDS-INTO-ONE-ROLLED, BETHANY.

Early Years

In its initial years, that is, initial for me (2003), since laws of birth don't permit me to be as old as dear old Bethany can be, it was simply a centre of food. Obviously, indigestion, food-poisoning, long hours in non-jet toilets, puking, watering-eyes, high amount of bunking, etc, took place. What other option did the poor Welhamite have? I mean, ask me, food in Bethany used to be a hell-ish juncture, a living torture. I mean, let's face it, in its initial years, Bethany wasn't what it is today! Yet, ironically, who in this bumbling-land-of-blasphemous-blundering-baboons cares? They loved it for what it was: a source of, let's hear it!, food. No matter how ugly the sight of the not-so-delicious-then-but-oooooooooh-mama!-now Butter Chicken,

(hurry, hurry! Take a look! He's laughing that beautiful laugh!) seemed, the "strictly non-vegetarian" (a term found ONLY in Welham) doesn't care, didn't, I mean. Fortunately, hygiene and sanitation are one of the things that have developed, along with a whole lot of other things that are not worth-the-mention.

Whiter teeth, whiter slate (I meant plate)

Dear dear... the new plates came in... everyone was bedazzled. They were like... whoa... new plates and all! And from that day onwards, gleaming smiles could be seen flashing around in Bethany, and one could distinctly notice that the level of whiteness had gone up. (Even Rachit Goyal, for Pete's sake!) Each and everyone was trying to flash his teeth into

the plate, the one whose enamels shone the brightest was declared winner... baboons... it's not a sheesha, mere yaara, but kya karein? Excitement was out of control. The then Dining Hall in charge proudly proclaimed that the plates were scratch proof and un-breakable. Poor thing, the bearer that was around... had to pick up 5 pieces of one plate that night... Welhamite se panga? It was... one could say...

The Mid-Century Crisis

Who doesn't know about the huge crisis that Welham faced and that the worst affected area where happened to be dining hall? Ah well... I thought so. You don't, right? No point telling you. Wait, I might as well just do so. The entire fauj of our dear bearers walked right out of school. And Indian mobs toh we all are acquainted with, it's like the Maoist army without any general-pheneral. They were unstoppable and uncontrollable. Anyway, the protests went on for almost... two weeks? Can't really remember. The policies changed dramatically. Suddenly, bearers were all out, and we could see the ever-shining faces of our laborious teachers, working their hearts out, the boys had to literally lift the plates and spoons from a fixed place... my my... one should've recorded the look on the face of the poor Welhamite... having to lift a plate... where was Welham Newz then? (Damn! I should think twice before insulting myself). How would one describe that era? "The era... without the bearer."

Floater-chappal-OUT

That drastic Sunday morning, when our good-old-man walked straight into Bethany, wearing shoes especially for the

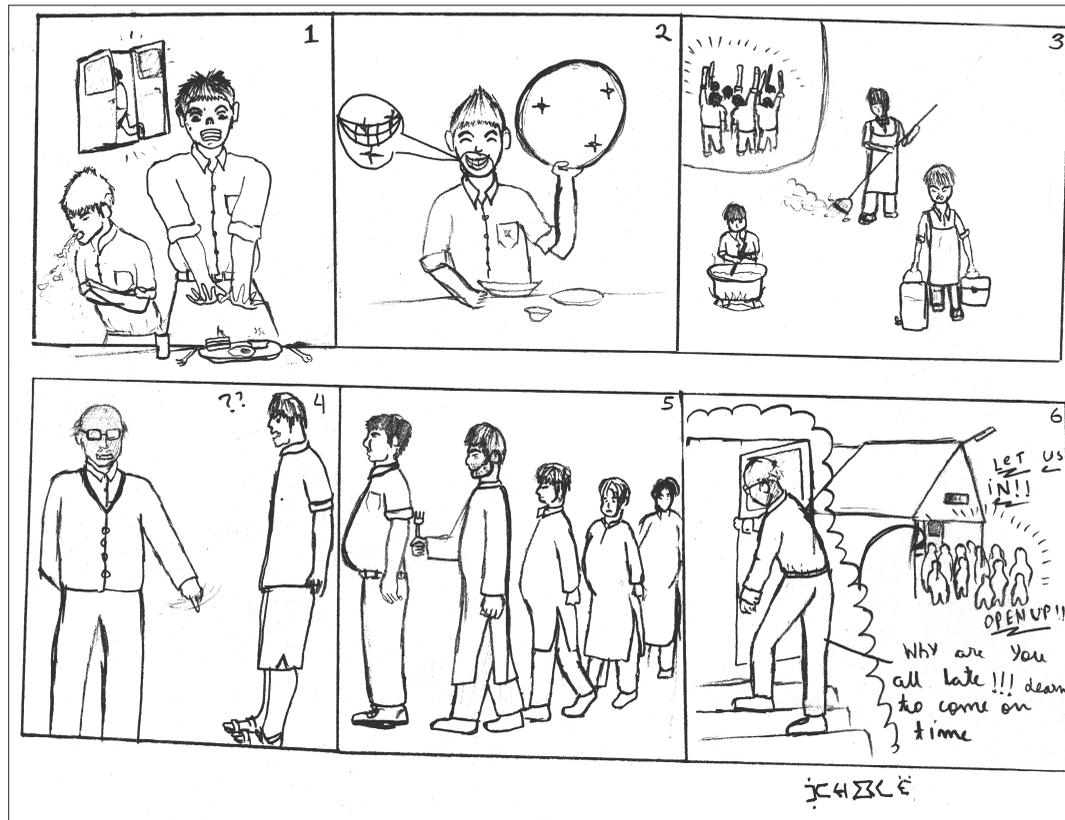
occasion. Boy, the poor Welhamite was still scratching his eyes, using the other hand mysteriously to serve hot parathas onto his plate (think about it... one hand on the eye, the other grabbing those golden-ish wonders), wearing chappals, poor thing had just woken up. The brush hadn't yet found its way outside... how could shoes? The good-old-man walked in, and in that scary, frightful voice of his, shouted the seven most feared words, "YOU... DARE WEAR CHAPPALS... YOU... YOU...", and before the poor guy even had time to realize what had happened, 80% of the school was out. Somehow, Sunday morning breakfasts have never been crowded ever since... kya yaar... bachchon ko dara diya... People have had to order floaters for the third, fourth time, since every time they bought a pair it mysteriously kept disappearing... and then people wonder how Bhavuk's and Krishnanand's lockers are full of those "sandals"? Backup plans, anyone?

The world goes "round"

It has been years now... and somehow, stuff has gone round. The quality of food has improved dramatically, thank god, courtesy many people... but then... from our dining hall in-charge to the Cassie (Is It You?) of our Bethany... everything seriously has gone round! The JOHN and the KHAU ki jodi has been doing wonders in Bethany. Mr. John, with his robust, super-fit body, has been commanding his battalion with fervor, and Khau, fork in hand, is leading the army of servers well. Their jodi... how do I put it? Yeah, truly... Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi. From Sunday's Dominos to Monday's ande ki bhurji, stuff has been great. Obviously, the Welhamite has been going round as well, with more intake, less utilization, won't the curve concave out, AT?

From Bethany to Ben"tral" jail

The latest dining hall policy runs as follows: if the Welhamite doesn't run for the love of his life, he shall be locked out of the house. Now now, don't get all dramebaaz, it means food and Bethany. Place it where you think it should be. Yep, that's right. You're 12 seconds 58



milliseconds late? Bechara bachcha. Live without food. The doors will be L-O-C-K-E-D, locked. No one really knows whether Mr. John ji is trying to stuff in more (joke, man, it's a JOKE), or is Khau trying to do something, or maybe the person behind this law (trust me... you REALLY could do with extras)... but the fact remains, the doors will be LOCKED. People have seen the school captain getting himself locked outside... the dude was standing outside the main door, trying to give the "like", senti, inspirational speech to the bearer, the bearer who didn't know what the hell this boy was trying to say, "Like, food is like, life, like, I'm a kid, like, ask your heart about this, like...", bhaiyya, hindi could work. The best day was when Kunal Seth and I were late for lunch, and the doors got locked. But then came the entire "D company" (yep, you got it, they were late), and the doors were hastily opened, and the two of us rushed in. Talk about corruption, eh!?

Bethany's policies change every now and

then. But the spirit of Bethany, somehow, remains intact. Food is the favourite

Dudette of the Month...

The scorching heat must have stopped many people from coming out of their houses, but she kept performing her duty. It's said that you should not ask a lady her age, but one cannot avoid thinking that she seems to be getting younger every day!!! One of the two Siamese sisters (with Mrs. Pratibha Kandhari)- Ms. Neena Singh (N.N.) is always there whenever the Welham community needs her. Be it mouth-watering delicacies or the hip hop dance that she performs, she makes her presence felt everywhere. Her geography classes are zilch compared to her techno savvy house, therefore kids keep on asking for extra classes at her place. In addition to this, they also visit her for various reasons such as soft drinks and hard snacks. She is highly motivating and is truly dedicated to her job. She is an unsung hero, as many of the things she has done in the last few years have gone unnoticed. But this time Oli has caught her.

She is also the head of the "Decorating" team. Be it the Prefect's investiture ceremony or the graduation ceremony, she is the person responsible for all the pomp and show. The impeccable cleanliness and the eye-catching colours during any event are her doing. I am ready to bet my bottom dollar that she is quicker and more flexible than most of the Welhamites. It is a known fact that she likes eggs (don't know why I mentioned



that). She gives her best in whatever she does, be it eating or dancing for which she has an undying passion. Therefore, she is always there to see that the dancing practices go on smoothly. She can safely be called the mother of "Fantasia", the Welham Boys dance troupe.

With her bindass attitude in and out of class, Ms. Neena Singh has truly found a place in numerous hearts at Welham. Ma'am don't be surprised next time someone walks upto you saying that he

JAZZLE

was locked out of Bethany, with the intention of getting Bun Tikkis or Butter Chicken! Oli overheard that Welhamites are dying to show her some Hoonar (is it something to do with Izhar-e-Hunar?).

Oli salutes you Ma'am for being a stalwart anywhere and everywhere and for giving anti depressant speeches 24X7.

RAZZMATAZZ

- When asked "Sir, Is a new coach coming for hockey", he replied, " Soccer, Hockey, sab main hi hun" Mr.Barthwal at his sporting best. (Sir, don't worry, your job is safe)
- It is was difficult for Mr. Vivian to remember Indian names . So, he gave Famous Tennis Player's names to his tennis players. Everyone seemed so happy after this, except one chap who was titled "Carla Bruni". God knows what the connection between Carla and Tennis is, or for that matter, between Carla and Anant Gupta.
- Shrish Gupta (Who's that...?) is rated as the best English speaker of the school. He has been proclaimed as 'God's Gift to Mankind' for his oratorial skills.

OLI'S BELIEVE IT OR ELSE

- Harkidoon is only 14 kms from Seema.
- The new record of the shortest assembly is now 59 seconds 25 milliseconds.
- Abhijit Saha has suddenly started following NON-VIOLENCE.
- Rishab Dhall is not the oldest student in the school. (Did someone say Budhau??)
- The twelfthies enjoyed a birthday bash at the Principal's Cottage. (Mansion)

WHAT'S IN

Executive Manager (The Oliphant)
Fantasia
Staff's Quarter
Izhaar-e-Hunar

WHAT'S OUT

Creative Editor
Pulse
Research Lab
Milestone

EVER WONDER WHY...

- The tennis captain is taking rigorous French lessons?
- Mr. Brahma Raina has had an acute increase in body agility?
- Class 10 was crying after leaving NIM?
- MS and RK want IAYP badges?
- The Academics captain runs away whenever he sees the Dean of Studies.

THROUGH THE KEYHOLE...



- Kunal Karan Bhuwalka(while trekking) : Don't take overtake(Traffic rules while trekking too!)
- MT (being super strict about her assignments) : Finish it first and do it later (!?)
- Ravi Ranjan(overheard in the Oli room) : Yaar, yeh Indira Gandhi, Mahatma Gandhi ki beti hai na!?
- Kuvam Behl : Let's check your IQ .
Archit : My IQ is 6/6.
- Aneesh Saggar : Yaar abhi mera dimag mat kharab kar...I have to go for Baski Dance..! (Arrey dude its Baisakhi)
- Mr. Sharma(in full authority): Open the windows and let the climate come in.

Separated at birth

Mr. Om Prakash	Mr. Manoj Tiwari
Gagandeep Singh	Crazy frog
Shubham Gupta (Gappu)	Ghani Bhai (Wanted)
Shriyam Gupta	Buddy (Mrs. Bakshi's dog)
Rema and Shantanu	Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker(Rush hour)
Ms. Rashmi Rawat	Phoolan Devi.

MID TERMS



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