



The Oliphant

THINK ABOUT IT

The secret of getting ahead is getting started.

-Mark Twain

Editorial

“Had to have high, high hopes for a living. Shooting for the stars when I couldn’t make a killing.

Didn’t have a dime but I always had a vision.”

These lyrics from the song ‘High Hopes’ by ‘Panic at The Disco’ define a major part of every twelfthie’s last year at Welham. It is a year full of rumination and dreams about how you want to leave school. Each batch asks itself, “How did we make this school better?” Each batch walks away with some of its goals achieved and bequeaths the rest to their successors. This day marks the start of the transition for the batch of 2021 into the annals of Welham’s long and incredible history; they also had a vision for our school. However, the world was cruel enough to throw a wrench in their plans.

Many might ask, “Why carry forward the legacy of our predecessors? Why try to execute their vision and why to keep certain traditions in place?” Though the answer is cliché, every grain of it still makes sense. Our school is a legacy boarding school; the pride with which we carry its crest is the fruit of the toils of the stalwarts who came before us. Over the years, they put these traditions in place. Some erode with time, but quite a few of them tend to stay with us. Everything from how we line up in the skating rink to love for your house is a part of these traditions. They weren’t built in a day; each batch that has passed out since Welham’s inception has added something to that ever-growing pile. Keeping our traditions around and executing our predecessors’ vision,

along with ours, is what has allowed our chests to swell with pride every time we associate ourselves with this institution. It adds value to us and will to those who are yet to join our school.

So, do we already have enough of tradition? I believe not. As I said before, some of them erode and need to be replaced by new ones. So, continue to envision how you wish to improve our institution. Think as if its life depends on your vision.

Welham will be a collection of buildings if not for the student body breathing life into its halls. It doesn’t matter what grade you are in currently, start thinking about your vision because a day will come when it will be your turn to walk out the Oliphant gate for the last time. Have a vision so magnificent, breathe life into these corridors in such a manner so that when you walk out those doors you can look behind with a sense of accomplishment.

-Viraj Lohia
Editor-in-Chief

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GAME REVIEW

CYBERPUNK 2077

Publisher - CD "Projekt" RED

Rating - 8/10

How many times did you have to wait ardently for something for a long time only to find yourself unprepared for its arrival?

It's been a little over eight and a half years since Cyberpunk 2077 was advertised. The developer, CD Projekt Red, continuously insisted that the game would release when and only when it is ready, and not a moment before. In short, Cyberpunk 2077 is a great game. It is driven by a core of characters amazingly written and presented, a layered narrative of genuine momentum and intensity; it is a technical feat of immersive decision-making and pumping, sim-inspired action. It is a game with great potential, although it is set back heavily by minor problems.

You play as V, starting with a choice of three life paths that direct your story by opening up dialogue options and controlling what occurs to you in the first four-five hours of the game. The role-playing is focused, sticking to a depth of choice through your personality, your judgments, and your plan of invasion. V witnesses cold-blooded wrongdoing by one of Night City's most prominent power players. In the ensuing chaos, they end up with a piece of critical experimental technology. They also resurrect the digital spirit of a Night City myth: metal-armed punk rocker terrorist Johnny Silverhand, voiced by Keanu Reeves.

After a few hours into the game, Night City opens up to the player. You're kicked into the world with a specific motivation that propels you to move ahead. The list of side quests is so abundant that you could spend days before you even glance at the main questlines (though you would be doing yourself a disservice if you did so, as the narrative missions were some of my favourites). Unfortunately, as I said before, with a game this extensive, there are bound to be some rough edges – and while the quests themselves are interesting, the way they are handled is probably one of the roughest stuff I saw. The amount of bugs I've experienced does need to be mentioned. I've encountered persistent and distracting issues, making it almost unplayable on older hardware such as PS4. If there's perhaps one thing that I want you to take away from this review, it's how different this game feels to play than many of the games it can be compared to. CP 2077 takes place in a city. It

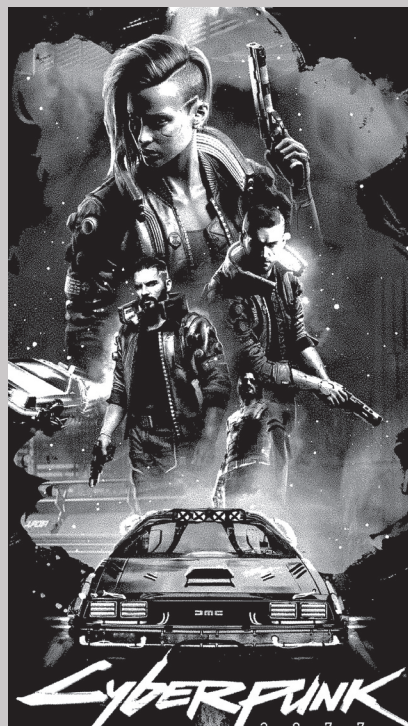
is a violent, dystopian nightmare of a city for sure. However, a city, meaning wandering itself, feels closer to something like GTA despite its structure seeming more like Fallout. As a result, I could sometimes go hours to an extent without ever drawing a weapon, completing missions just by having conversations and sneaking around a bit.

However, when I finish playing the game and wonder what the end was, I realize a resounding theme woven into it. It suggests the influence of one individual's personality and choice on another, as well as its size and meaning. It's a calm and mature ending that you cannot think of as a work that has become a hot topic in the world. And it is precisely for this cause that, despite all the technical predicaments of the production, I cannot in any way fail to assign a vote of excellence to the developers' work: the defects will dissipate over time, but already CP 2077 is a title that undoubtedly earns a place of honour in all players' libraries.

Measured against the extreme expectations, CP 2077 can't fulfil any of them. But all in all, despite the countless petty flaws and inconsequences, with compelling characters, great story and dialogues or the freedom concerning gameplay, CD Projekt delivers a unique and great RPG that every enthusiast of the genre needs to play.

To conclude it all, CD Projekt RED has packaged a game world with an out-of-scale artistic design, with a deep and multifaceted role-playing component, excellent gunplay and engaging writing, which will make you fall in love with a narrative universe that has still a lot to tell.

-Vihan Shukla
X



BOOK REVIEW

BE NOT FAR FROM ME

Author - Mindy McGinnis

Publisher - Katherine Tegen Books

Rating - 3.5/5

"The world is not tame. People forget that."

I adore a new Mindy McGinnis book. She is one of those authors that I can forever rely on to seek something fresh and her writing has just the right amount of thrill. I do not admire all of her books, which is expected from an author who is continuously trying his hand at different genres and themes, but I always feel upbeat to see what she is writing next.

Unlike McGinnis' other work, "Be Not Far From Me" is wild in all senses of the word. It is, quite literally, a survival narrative about a girl lost in the wild and to draw a parallel McGinnis also captures the wildness of human passion and distress. McGinnis is a terrifying writer to read because you do not know how dark she will get, how far into the abysses of pandemonium she will let her characters slip. You should believe she can because she will let her characters fail, break, and maybe even die.

The book starts when Ashley is out camping with her friends. She woke up one night and was a little dizzy and unsteady. She saw her boyfriend with another girl and was furious. She ran tirelessly without thinking and tumbled into a ravine. At daybreak, she realized her potentially fatal mistake: she is solely in the forest, way off track, with no supplies and an open wound on her heel. Nevertheless, Ashley knew the wilderness well, and she wasn't ready to give up easily.

Her resentment and stubbornness add complexity to her personage, but both are relatable and reasonable enough to make her character likeable almost spontaneously. However, even when things got increasingly worse for Ashley, her commentary remained full of bite and dark humour. Her thought process was quite fascinating. In some ways, she had aged beyond her years. In other ways, she is so childish, and all these reasons makes it fascinating to read about her.

This was an above-average survival novel that I enjoyed for a while until the book felt predictable, but it was enjoyable for the young-adult demographic.

Usually, that isn't a deal-breaker for me. However, she's just so unlikable and since the entire book is her alone in the woods reflecting, pondering and recollecting about the days of her juvenility that reading this book became a chore. The writing is superb, but this specific storyline and the annoying main character ruined the experience for me. If you are a fan of a solo combatant who's trying to survive, then it is quite likely that you will like this book..

-Kritin Thokchom
X



ALBUM REVIEW STILL HERE

Artist - KR\$NA

Album - ‘Still Here’

Label - Kalamkaar Music

Krishna Kaul has been rapping since 2005 and can be easily counted among the first few rappers who were a part of rap’s resurgence gaining ground in India. Then, as ‘Young Prozpekt’, which his original moniker was, he veered into socio-political rapping and associated himself with social change organizations, engaging with them through his rhyming skills.

‘Still Here’ is the first Hindi Album for the artist, the debut being an English album, ‘Sellout’ in 2014. This album is a project that signifies KR\$NA’s roller-coaster journey in the hip-hop scene and that KR\$NA is still in the scene. The album has nine tracks, out of which three were pre-released and have performed exceedingly well on YouTube.

In this album, you’ll see the effort KR\$NA has taken to balance things out. It has commercial tracks to boost the numbers, a trap and a song that briefly brings in the new sound to the album, and a few tracks where he’s playing it safe and giving his audience what they want and when I say that, I mean the critical audience that wants heavy intelligent bars (bars refers to a rapper’s lyrics, especially when considered extremely good). The album features nine tracks, including the intro and interlude.

This particular album isn’t theme based but focuses on the rapper’s perspective of himself and his people. Let me now discuss the tracklist :

The album begins with an intro, ‘Still Here’, an introspective track that soon turns into self-boasting and expresses his dejection toward his first album, which failed to impact. The next on the tracklist is ‘What’s My Name’; the song has an old school beat with an international vibe to it. To my surprise, it was the only song with minimal lyricism, most minor references and wordplay, but it was a great song nonetheless.

It was followed by ‘Roll Up’, a commercial track in which there are numerous references and name drops but with simple lyrics, which is nice to some extent, except KR\$NA is known for his complex lyricism.

The rapper pays homage to some of the actors who were popularized by their iconic role as villains in his next song, ‘Villain’. In this song, he talks about some classic Bollywood movies, such as Sholay and Mr India, which were so memorable because of their respective antagonists and how KR\$NA sees himself as a villain in the Indian rap scene. The song has incredible verses by all the three artists who collaborated-Ikka, Karma and KR\$NA.

The next track, ‘Dream’, is all about his journey and is my favourite on this album. This is the first song in which the artist has expressed himself so much. He talks about how he started to

rap to get acceptance in his school in London and mentions his old crewmates with whom he started doing hip-hop.

Next up is the interlude, ‘Fall Off’. The track starts with KR\$NA addressing his audience and telling them that some believe that he has been only acknowledged because of his beef with other famous rappers in India (a beef is when two rappers or rappers have a feud). The song has a unique flow with excellent lyricism, which is usually expected from the artist.

From this track is Raftaar’s new tone where he has added a lot more bass in his vocals and I loved that experiment by him in ‘Saza-e-Maut’, and I think that has worked well for him in this. The next song, ‘Na Hai Time’, has a pretty memorable hook and will be stuck in your head for a long time. Also, the song being a trap, the KR\$NA has managed to rap his verses almost perfectly.

‘Living Legend’; he justifies the track title with his numerous rapping achievements. This is the outro of the album, and it celebrates the grandeur of the album and KR\$NA’s journey in every way possible the beat is majestic. The hook and the little detailing that are there in the song is magnificent. This song brings out the real KR\$NA with tons of references, wordplay, flow, rhyme schemes, and Rashmeet Kaur’s hook is a cherry on the top.

The primary negative for me in this whole album was a minimal experiment done by KR\$NA in terms of a tone variation, and to make it very clear when I say change the tone or vary the tone, and I do not mean fake the voice. A perfect example of tone variation in albums would be Raftaar’s 2020 album, ‘Mr. Nair’. The biggest positive of this album was its intelligent writing, almost every track will have at least one verse that will make you exclaim, and along with that, even the mellow tracks had a few hard-hitting lines that people will neglect. The production was and the sequencing of the songs was average and could have been better.

KR\$NA breaks the sophomore album jinx and comes up with a more desirable project than his previous attempt. He builds on a narrative that expands as he navigates stardom, works through a new brand of pitfalls and recreates himself in the guide of evolution. This album owes its shimmer not just to the rapper but also to stellar producers.

The Web of Branded Clothing

Today, any teen with a pair of Yeezys is in the spotlight; for those who do not know, Yeezys are shoes by a collaboration of Adidas and American rapper Kanye West. The biggest luxury consumers are members of generation Z and this new trend of becoming Sneakerheads has given a hoard of opportunities to companies to get entangled in this materialistic reality. This addiction is as infectious as a plague. Imagine a scenario- if a bunch of friends are talking about sneakers and one wants to join, he’ll have to own them or at least have a basic amount of knowledge about them to join the ‘cool kid’s gang’.

However, this Gen Z-driven sneaker hype is just beginning. The ever-increasing offerings from brands like Off-White, Gucci, Louis Vuitton, Balenciaga and even Adidas and Nike with their high-tech and high-end lines, give us an estimate of the intensity of the disruption we can expect within the luxury shoe business in the future. Our taste causes extreme disruptions in the luxurious business. Consumers demand experiences that make them feel comfortable, those that are inspirational and homely. Fortunately for the industry, shoe creativity seems to be limitless.

These companies influence people from all around the world into buying their products, and the people who get these are considered as ‘cool kids’. For example, Supreme sells their pieces at a low price on release day; however, once the piece arrives in the resale market, the prices go up dramatically. This is because Supreme only produces a small quantity of each design and they never produce the same product again which makes the item rare. For example, one of their most iconic pieces are their sneakers, which are just like any other on the market, but with the word

“Supreme” added to the front of the shoe. These shoes retail for around 100 dollars. However, the resale prices can vary depending on the shoe, some of these can come up to a dramatic price of 800 dollars. These are high prices, but there are people out there that are willing to pay that amount as people feel that them getting this product will get them more attention.

These companies bait people into buying these products which makes the people spend their money recklessly into getting a shoe that is not fundamentally different from other kinds of shoes in the market, it’s just that these shoes are a ‘limited edition’ and a special logo on which drastically increases the cost of a shoe by almost 650 American dollars. These brands determine the status of a person on several occasions where people are judged on the basis of the brands they’re wearing. These brands determine the value of a person in a society. Some of us are privileged enough to afford such luxury but many people can’t afford such apparel. Even though there are many of us entangled in this web of materialism and are very well aware of it, we deny the fact as we’re so deeply entangled.

-Tejas Agarwal
X

WHY DO WE CONFUSE EDUCATION WITH COMPETITION?

When we talk about education, we tend to think about grades, teachers and competition. We never think about how treating the process of education as merely a competition and giving a lot of importance to marks and grades would ruin students' mental health and self-esteem. If the performance of a student does not live up to the expectations of teachers and parents, it leaves them disheartened. Furthermore, in some cases, even if students do their best, they are not appreciated either by teachers or parents. This culture of judgement based on grades leads to anxiety and depression, among other mental health issues. India, for that matter, is one of the most depressed countries in the world, and I feel that our education system has a big role to play in this crisis.

We, as students, have board exams in classes 10 and 12, wherein we are required to get good marks if we are to get good jobs. However, board exams are used by many parents to compare children with their peers and to gauge their ability. The outlook that marks matter and are sufficient indicators of ability, is ingrained into children from the very day they start schooling. The current education system focuses too much on scoring marks rather than on understanding concepts, which leads effectively to a rat race between students.

Let us imagine a hypothetical education system where there is no grading and therefore no competition between students. Exams would still remain, but they would be used to highlight and correct mistakes, rather than as comparative mechanisms. This system would not only go a long way in reforming the attitudes of students towards education, but would also, subsequently, encourage them to perform better out of a genuine motive to do so.

In my opinion, competition and education should not be connected. In India, marks undeniably decide your future. This ideally should not be the case for the

aforementioned reasons. Schools should encourage students to do things that matter and inculcate values within them that foster a sense of cooperation rather than one of crude competition.

**-Garvit Singh Taneja
VIII**

ANIMAL ABUSE

‘Feed an animal, and they will remember you forever.’

This phrase which you just read means a lot. I, being a 14-year-old, cannot change the world but I can change some people's mindset. Animal cruelty is not an issue that began in the present era, this loathsome activity has been taking place for a long time. Although this practice is a long-standing one, the protest against it has gained momentum and I firmly believe that raising awareness on even the smallest of scales is crucial to this fight. Millions of people post Instagram stories related to animal abuse and seeing these videos or photos incite rage, horror and disgust among the members of our globalised society. Every day hundreds of animals are lit on fire, beaten and crudely treated by humans. From a young age, we are taught to respect animals and not injure them, we are taught this lesson in school and at home. We are taught that animals are beneficial to us and that it's bad to injure them. Still, some people either forget or ignore this and continue with their cruel ways. It is completely fine if you do not want to help an animal, but at least don't hurt them.

Recently, there have been a lot of videos in which animals are brutally killed. People fry them, cut them into pieces and even throw hot water at them. To these people, I ask, ‘What have these poor, defenceless animals done to you?’. Animals provide us with milk, eggs, companionship and many other things. Currently, various non-profit organizations are working for a change and trying to better the lives of hundreds and thousands of animals by providing them with food, water and shelter. We should also spare our time and materials to help them do better and have better operations for the injured and the ‘at risk’ animals. In my opinion, animals are not harmful at all, and even if some of them are it is because of the poor treatment they receive from their owners. We need to save such images by reporting to the proper

authorities or NPOs working towards animal rights in our vicinity.

As I mentioned earlier, people take to social media handles to raise awareness about animal cruelty. Such actions and improvements in technology have helped save and rescue many animals from violent homes and hostile environments. Recently, a dog was being abused by its owner. However, as the act was caught on a CCTV camera, the dog was ultimately rescued and the owner arrested. Such advances in the technological field have become a boon for animal rights activists.

If we want to put an end to this malicious act, we require stricter laws and coordination between NPOs and animal activists. With proper support from the Government, we will be able to apprehend the cruel owners and put them to the task. I urge each and everybody to feed or shelter a stray animal (puppies or cats) instead of buying them from pet stores and protect it. Each and every animal deserves our love and protection.

**-Divyam Duggal
IX**

THE COMEDY CULTURE

Back in the 1990s, when comedy revolved around circuses and jokers, those things don't make us laugh anymore. Comedy now is more about social commentary, satire, anecdotes and observation. In the 1990s, comedy or making jokes as a career wasn't a passion or an option; people did it just for the sake of earning minimum wage to feed their families. Contrary to that, comedy nowadays has become a full-fledged profession. Apart from that, it has even become a medium for people to express themselves and voice their opinions. Comedy has even become the utmost form of entertainment for some; there are comedy movies, stand up clips, and long-form videos. Comedians now get a decent amount of money out of this career choice and it's on its way to becoming mainstream.

When I refer to comedy, I don't always mean stand up comedy; there are many variations in this genre. Memes are a great form of humour and are associated with our daily lives. Be it using them as a mode of conversation or just watching them for entertainment. There is so much humour related content that is consumed daily by us, and comedy can not be limited to any particular genre either.

As I mentioned before, comedy is related to anecdotes, observations and satire. Masses are swayed by the performances of their favourite comedians and satirists. These artists have become icons in their own rights and have a huge influence on their audiences. Many artists have been idolised as well. Idolising anyone blindly can be dangerous for society as well. We, as a community, need to be cautious about who we idolise. We just can't go on idolising people who make toxic content in which they abuse others.

You must have seen your favourite comic or any content creator doing brand advertisements. Ever thought, why do these brands choose creators to place an advertisement for their brand and not television

channels? These brands decided to pay these creators instead because they'll get much more exposure and profit. After all, these comics and content creators influence the audience much more than television channels. As I mentioned about idolising, these brands generate huge profits just because a small part of their audience believe everything their favourite content creator says.

That said, some brands avoid collaborating with content creators as their content is controversial and can get them in trouble. In my opinion, dark humour or offensive comedy is the least discovered genre of humour in India. Whenever such content is put out, there's always some controversy around the comedian. If someone is offended by this comedy genre, they can either ignore it or go through proper legal channels to file a case against the comedian; there's no point in beating up a comedian and then calling for the ban of their content. Ignoring such content would be the best, as humour is subjective and I don't believe everyone would feel the same way about a video clip or stand up.

To conclude, comedy has evolved a lot in the past few years, and we all know that comedians have a social impact, and we shouldn't be falling for everything that a comic says, as they might be paid to do this. All we need to know is that for us, comedy is a mode of entertainment, for comedians, it's business, and for brands, it's an opportunity to grab attention.

-Pranay Singh Dhaka
X



Literary Affairs Of Welham

A Fallen Star

There was a world far beyond our reality, a place where light couldn't reach, a place forever dark. Where every life form was the spawn of the devil and words like happiness, hope and compassion were mere text written on forgotten walls. But there was a man who didn't belong to that land. That outlander was held captive and bound in chains for an immeasurable period of time. The chains consumed the very essence of his life and left him rotting in the void. He was counting his days, but little did he know that his end was not fated. The story of his origin was folklore; some thought he was a fallen angel and others thought he was the last of a long-forgotten line. He suffered for so long that now his memories are fleeting away from his recollections. He forgot that his body could move and that he could find joy in lifting a finger.

Aeons had passed, but that land hadn't seen a ray of light until that fateful evening. The outlander moved his head and caught a glimpse of a shooting star. His eyes captured the light's glow. A brief moment was enough to get him hooked on such a sight. He resisted against the enormous force trying to bind him and broke the chains. He started running towards the light- the source of his newborn hope. When he reached the site, he saw a being similar to him, a woman personifying elegance. She approached him while he just stood still. To him, she seemed like a goddess and he believed that her blessings would take away all his agony.

All she told him was that she was back for him now. Others also arrived after chasing the light that fell from the sky. Their stride broke as they saw her, but they started howling soon. She passed on her energy to the

outlander and told him to fly away, and he did what he was told. While he was flying away, she was getting ripped apart by the people and the land's darkness. They fed on her light as they tried to satisfy an unquenchable thirst. Afterall, they had consumed all the light their realm had to offer. He had a choice -- he could save the goddess who freed him from his misery or fly away. Overwhelmed by fear, he escaped that world ; he was a star, just like her, but had truly fallen. Her love cut through the fabric of space just to help him and he was free now but the emptiness wasn't gone. Even though he was in the land of the stars, the birth land of light and hope, he regretted his choice as the very same void consumed him once again.

-Trayambak Pathak
X

WORD

Points system

For

The points system that has been newly put into place is set to be implemented in 2021. This will reform the way students apply to the position of prefects or get elected. Before moving on to whether this system is better than the one in place before, it is important to explain how it works. Every student who wishes to be part of the prefectorial body will prepare a resume which will enlist his achievements in various fields like academics, sports and co-curricular activities. On the basis of this, he will be nominated for particular posts i.e. Sports Captain on the basis of contribution to sports, House Captain on the basis of contribution to the house and so on.

One thing that needs to be emphasised upon is that this system is only a way of earning a nomination, and the rest of the election procedure will happen as usual. Initially, nominations were decided after taking inputs from teachers and seniors but this system wasn't foolproof. The points system will put everyone's achievements on paper making it easier to decide who is more deserving. The advantage of this is that the nomination procedure will become more fact-oriented and will be based on meritocracy. When different people took part in the decision making process, they only presented their opinion about candidates, an impression they had formed of someone on the basis of their encounters with him. This was obviously subjective and resulted in many unexpected nominations and also some disappointment. When nominations will occur keeping in mind the merit aspect, only the truly deserving options will stand out. Secondly, this system will help in electing prefects who are the best in their field and can teach their juniors from their experience. This will highlight the role of prefects as role models for the school.

Some people have opposed this system in the belief that popularity and command are the most important aspects of leadership and those who are truly popular will not be nominated in such a system. However, these two criteria are not exclusive of each other. Someone

who has contributed to the school in different ways is usually popular and can exert command thus, rendering the point system useless because it will exclude the popular candidates. The common misconception about the election of the prefects is that we see them only as figures of authority and not role models. The rationale behind having a prefectorial body in the first place is not just to give students command over the school but also to recognise those who form the face of the school and represent it. The role of the prefects has been reduced to merely maintaining discipline; something they're themselves fed up of. Due to this false perception of the prefectorial body, students usually vote for popular nominees rather than deserving ones. Someone might have not done as much for the school as compared to another student but still be preferred because the deserving candidate seems 'passive.' This is something that can be ratified by the points system.

Ultimately, the prefectorial body is the school's image in front of the outside world. It needs to not only be efficient in controlling the school but also in representing it. This is why the best candidates need to be elected through any system that the school adopts. The present system also assured this to some extent but often some deserving students had to suffer because of no fault of their own. Hopefully, the new points system will help in nominating a prefectorial body that the whole school is satisfied with.

-Arnav Goel
X

WAR

Points system

Against

To be a part of the prefectorial body is an ambition of every Welhamite. We have seen our prefects standing on the peacock stage addressing the school, sitting on the high-table for meals and maintaining discipline on a daily basis. But imagine-- if all of our ambitions become an illusion. This could happen if the point-system is set in place. What is this new point system? According to this system, if someone aspires to be a candidate for any house or neutral post then he has to make a resume of all his activities, which he has done encompassing co-curricular, sports and academics. Then his resume will be marked based on his achievements and if his "resume" stands above a certain benchmark then he will be a nominee for the post he applied for.

Now, what is wrong with this point system? This system only reflects what the applicant has done for himself. If you are good at some activity, does this justify that you have those leadership skills? Does this qualify one to be a prefect? Let's discuss what qualities a Welhamite should possess to become a prefect. The first and foremost thing is that he should have popularity amongst his juniors. This popularity doesn't only come from playing a sport, being a consistent scholar or being good at co-curricular activities; rather how much he respects his juniors, how he treats his juniors and how he leads them. But this system completely ignores that aspect of senior-junior bonding. For example, if an aspirant has that popularity amongst junior, but unfortunately fails to reach that benchmark then he won't be nominated and eventually someone else will take that post. Isn't it unfair? If someone has the potential to become a prefect but it doesn't happen just because he fails to reach some benchmark then that system is flawed. Hence, this should not be the way we are electing our prefects.

How do you rate one's potential to become a prefect? The prefectorial body is there to represent the students and not teachers. Secondly, a prefect has command over his juniors which means that if he instructs the juniors to do something then they will necessarily do it

out of respect. This command doesn't come overnight but it requires a lot of influence to make it happen. Our understanding behind our ideal prefect is not about his personal achievements but about his overall personality, which he creates in front of his juniors. The system has to understand that prefects are not always the best players in the house but they are the ones who run the house.

-Parth Tiwari
X

VER'S'ES

Two poems. One heading. You be the Judge and the Jury

Abstract

When I wake up in the morning,
The first glance falls on our picture.
The only thought I have in my mind,
Is the forgotten love we had.

Looking at the picture,
It feels like you are watching me.
The purity of those watery eyes,
Makes me gloomy.

Sometimes I wonder about
This stir of excitement within me
Leaving me with nothing to say
For you're always within me now

Although you are gone,
I still feel you in my heart.
I hoped to forget you for good,
But my soul couldn't bear the pain.

I wish you could have stayed longer,
So we could spend our life together.
But life is full of abstractions,
And begs explanation.

-Rakshit Khurana
X

The air smelled of bergamot...
Was it the sillage, of your perfume
Lingering on,
Like dew on a silken gossamer web.
Or was it,
Phantosmia,
A deceptive hallucination.
A deep languor possessed the atmosphere,
Like a sirocco had just gone by.
But, it was you,
Your presence,
Palpable,
Existing in thought,
But imperceptible to touch.
You live inside my head,
Yet, it ignores
Your very existence.
And you slip away,
Sometimes,
Subconsciously,
Like Cinderella's glass slipper.
And I try to remember you,
Like a forgotten dream,
That once gone,
Is lost forever.
I marvel at your transience,
Your enigma, and it makes me think,
Was I chasing a mirage?
Seeking the elusive,
Seeking something which is
Abstract?

-Manvi
XI



LASAGNE

Ever Wonder Why?

What's In	What's Out
School shorts	Home shorts
'Special' Table	High Table
Defectorial Body	Prefectorial Body
Pipe Band	Sports, Academics and co-curriculars
-	Old Welham
Teachers taking reportings	Prefects taking reportings

- Vishwash Dubey has stopped bursting "bombs" (soft spot?)
- Zaid Ahmed started studying extra hard after the Principal spoke to him (family expectations).

Rumour has It

- Votes are a commodity to be begged for. (Academics Captain in focus)
- Harkirt Singh Anand has been employed by GP-01
- Ishaan Kapoor was anxiously waiting for this year's nominations (One last try)

Separated at Birth

Samanyu Malik	Snorlax
OP sir	Ansh Arya
Hiten Garg	Badshah
Shivam Agarwal	Ram Kapoor
J-QUAD	JAW/SAW
Akshat Jain	Perpendicular (Gangs of Wasseypur)

Through the keyhole

- Ryan Garg - I an from Welham Boys's School and I am a high gamer. (Must have been on a high level)
- Viraj Mahajan to Luv Juyal - When is the 'wet' tuck shop? (antonyms?)
- Uday Singh Kajla to Geography examiner - Basically, I'm from Rajasthan but literally, I am from Chandigarh

GOODBYE
DOESN'T MEAN IT'S THE END.

ISAY, IT IS JUST TEMPORARY.

SEE YOU SOON.....WELHAM
(2014-2021)

Khanuja

ANYWHERE
EVERYWHERE
ROHAN AGRAWAL
(2015-2021)

Nothing is better than just
Love.

Goodbye Welham
- SANYAM Goyal
(2012-2021)

IDK If I'll ever
get used to a
non WELHAM life

- PRANAV S. GUPTA (2012-2021)

Pranav Gupta

10 years from now, when I stand
in front of the 'Mirror of Enraged', I would
see myself in a brown blazer entering the Elephant
Gate! ♥

I HOPE YOU REMEMBER ME THIS WAY,
ANOTHER BOY FROM WELHAM,
WHO DID SOME OTHER THINGS
AND WENT ON TO BECOME SOMEBODY

FOREVER INDEBTED - SANSHRAY (2015-2021)

AMIDST THESE FIELDS, YOU'LL
MEET MY FAMILY; IT'S MY HOME,

A SCHOOL WITH SOUL!! Given a
Your love (2015-2021) chance, I'd
do it all
over again.

I Don't know how
am I gonna gather
myself after passing out 'coz
Welham is not just a school
AN EMOTION !! ♥ (2015-2021)

CAARYAN GARGI
We will still
be friends forever
- Gunit Kothari

I wish for myself
oneday, to walk these
roads again in
remembrance of nights
I won't forget.

WELHAM
[A MYTH]
- PRAKHAR DMIT
(2011-2021)

3650 days (-suspensions)
will miss you Welham !!
#Save Welham #Old School

- VISHWASH DUBEY (2011-2021)

Vishwas Dube

I love you 3000!!
- Varad (2015-2021)
from Common Room

DONT WANNA STEP OUT
OF HE SCHOOL,
I WH I COULD LIVE
HER FOREVER.

MY WHOLE HEART, WELHAM ♥
- JD (2011-2021)

Gonna leave with
tears in my eyes,
leaving a piece of d
my soul here, Take
care of it!!
GODS NEVER
LOST

It was fun
BRB crying
- Akshat
(MAU) (2015-00)

I MAY NOT END UP, WHERE I DESIRE TO
BUT I ALWAYS ENDED UP IN A FAMILY
WHERE I WANTED TO BE. GO WELHAM!

- SHASWAT SINHA (2012-2021)

- Saradhyay (2012-21)

When someone asks
me
who I was then
I wasn't sen
I'll tell tm
I was at WELHAM
- HARKI SINGH

I'm Sick Of GOODBYES,
I'M SCARED OF MESSING
IT UP, SLEEP WITH MY
EYES OPEN, I'M SCARED
OF CALLING IT LOVE ♥.

• HOPING YOU DONT DROWN
WELHAM, I WONT BE THERE
TO SAVE YOU !!.

(GOO)* - Zaid Ahmed
(2015-2021)

3285 DAYS After all this time,
DONE it ALL, If someone asks me, 'why welham?'
SEEN it ALL, I would have to say,
Would ALWAYS WANT TO DO IT AGAIN. 'Because, it was meant to be.'
- ARYA SHAHI (2012-2021) ∞ Welham
- HARSH VIKRAM SINGH

Don't cry because it's over,
smile because it happened.

- Devansh Saini (2013-2021)

Devansh Saini

I've Loved you
for a 1000 yrs,
I'd love you
for a 1000 more
Meyank (2015-2021)
- Shiver
Agarwal Gargwal (2011-2021)

Welham, you consumed me
I consumed you. You gave me enough.
You crafted me into a fine human.
Gon' miss You ♥
- KATLA (2015-2021)
Kajla (COO)*

TO LOVE SOMEONE UNCONDITIONALLY
IS ONE OF THE STRONGEST FEELINGS
IN THE WORLD, QUITE
POSSIBLY THE STRONGEST
AND 'WELHAM', I THINK
I LOVE YOU IN SO
MANY WAYS.

- VATSAL (2014-2021)
(COO)*

WELHAM WHERE
A PART OF YOU IS
GONNA STAY FOR EVER!!
MISS US WELHAM....
(2012-2021)

Adios Welham,

Take care of my heart.
- Parth Dangwal (2012-2021)

GOING TO MISS U
W-E-L-H-A-M
the way we spell
it, that's the
way we yell it
WELHAM!!
- Hiten Garg (2012-2021)

You've been my compass
all my life
And now, I just want you
to keep all my secrets
- Keshav Vatsal
Dalmia
(2015-2021)

If love be theft,
And hearts be stolen
I'd say I gave it all
to Welham.
- Aaryan Mahipal
Garg

Our memories of yesterday will
last a lifetime. We'll take the
best, forget the rest, and someday
find that these were the best of
times
Goodbye Welham

- YASHWARDHAN RAJ
JAISWAL (2012-2021)

A FOREVER CUELESS BOY
SITTING IN FRONT OF
A DUSTY PIANO
WELHAM, YOU GAVE ME ALL
THANKS FOR THE LOVE - Kofar
(2014-2021)

You're gonna miss this
You're gonna want this back
You're gonna wish these days
hadn't gone by so fast.
- Dev (2012-2021)

Defectorial Body

The mishappenings at the election of the prefectorial body every year, are events Welhamites should have gotten used to by this point in time. Once again, the announcement of the nominees led to widespread chaos and shock. Amidst this, few individuals emerged as the new prefects. This lampoon is a statement about their past and a speculation about their future. Without further ado, let me present to you - the defectorial body.

Academic captain - Gurkeerat Singh

Gurkeerat is soft-spoken, in person, and even when he is making announcements in Bethany. Frequently, you will find him taking strolls across the school, looking creepily confused and smiling in a manner that doesn't suit his otherwise composed persona. Other times, you will find him engaged in a profound argument with Pandey sir. Following in the footsteps of his predecessor, Gurkeerat emerged as the academic captain with the least politics involved. Mostly because, the election of the academics captain, like the annual tradition that it is, was barely paid any attention to. The other two candidates thriving to attain this position are currently in shock; one at how he lost a half-won battle and the winner in anticipation of what is to come. The Oliphant hopes that, unlike last year, Gurkeerat by the end of his tenure can assure that at least some students know who the academic captain is.

Round Square President - Aditya 'Chandu' Gupta

Aditya was the highlight of this year's elections, not because of how he was part of the unexpected three but how a large section of the student body thought it feasible to let him have the big post. After the elections, Aditya was seen walking into Bethany for dinner, with sleeves rolled up and a solemn face, having attained inner satisfaction. But he had miscalculated the events in the activity centre earlier. He could not even reach the pedestal he had aimed for initially and has to do with the nominal powers he now has. It seems as if Aditya suffered a fate similar to his hair. Nevertheless, he has a pleasant last year ahead owing to the strong bond he has forged with the new Principal. We believe that Aditya is one of the most unselfish (selfish) prefects and the Oliphant wishes the only 'President' in the prefectorial body a great tenure.

School Captain - Viraj Lohia

Well, where do I start! After an extremely long interval, the editor-in-chief of this very magazine has been appointed in-charge of the school. While he struggles to write both the editorial and the school captain's desk, the task of lampooning him has become increasingly difficult for us. Viraj is the quintessential orator. Be it dictating facts or simply giving advice, his mannerism seems quite bothering, especially his hand movements. We strongly discourage him to use the same while addressing the school in reportings or it could create a problem. Viraj was aiming for a literally neutral post without even imagining in the wildest of his dreams that one day, he will possess the school captain's tie. Even today, after having sworn in, he thinks of this as another fictitious story he once wrote (and so does the rest of the school.) Though most people hold him accountable for the cruelty of the nomination system, we sympathise with Viraj and hope that he leads the school from strength to strength. Today, he is like the soldier who climbed the wall and exposed himself to the crossfire. But whether Viraj has a bulletproof jacket or not, we don't know!

Sports Captain -Srijit Banerjee

Srijit is the newest addition to the long lineage of students who suffer at the hands of the nomination system. The days before the election were a few of the best days of Srijit's life. Delighted at the unparalleled support he had garnered, without even launching a campaign, he led a chill life in quarantine, preparing to step out into a school under his command. Unfortunately, for Srijit, he was deemed unfit for the big post by everyone except students in a student-driven school. On the field, Srijit is a beast which is why this position also suits him but in person, he is surprisingly composed. However, bold and firm Srijit might seem on the surface, he is just a gentle teddy bear in disguise, explaining his noticeable resemblance to nobita. The Oliphant sympathises with him and hopes that he can revive the sports culture in school after a year of rest.

Cauvery House Captain Sooryam Goyal

Sooryam is the personification of Cauvery's legacy and an established ring leader. Hailed for his power to persuade people, Sooryam might have been able to do a lot more if he was in school before the nominations (first impressions count) While Sooryam was busy enjoying a wedding his name was constantly thrown around for a variety of posts. He was assured of his nomination even though he has an incredibly rich history. Having a certain someone in your corner can really help your cause and Sooryam is a staunch believer.

Cauvery House Prefect Chetan Chaudhary

Chetan, the tiny perfect boy who would one day go on to become a prefect. Chetan is one of those few students who are destined to take leadership of the house primarily because of the dearth of capable candidates but also due to his valuable skills. Chetan was so sure of becoming a prefect that he even led the prayer in Bethany multiple times before the elections. A sportsman, he must now use his skills to discipline the infamous house of the school. In the list of Chaudhary brothers, Chetan is the first and probably the last person to be elected as prefect and on that note, we wish him the best of luck .

Jamuna House Captain Rudraksh Mehta

After the elections and the astounding nominations, Rudraksh was extremely insecure about his seat on the high table. At a certain point, he hoped he could follow in the footsteps of his brother, but the nomination criteria failed him. Rudraksh is a true gentleman in the eyes of many, but only a few know his true self. He has miraculously maintained a stellar reputation in front of the faculty. All in all a fine candidate who enjoyed huge electoral support, the Oliphant wishes Rudraksh best of luck.

Jamuna House Prefect Milind Pradyot

Milind has several skeletons in his closet that he doesn't like to discuss but rest assured that he will lend an ear to those in need. He now takes over the post of Jamuna House Prefect from someone extremely dear to him. Milind is an ideal candidate and we at Oliphant are dumbfounded when we think about writing this piece about him. He has the unwavering support of his house members especially the juniors which led to his appointment and rightfully so. We now wish him the best of luck on the basketball courts and may he take over another post from his dearest.

Ganga House Captain Luv Juyal

Luv is an essential component of the prefectorial body. He is one of those prefects who are more influential outside school than they are within. An ardent musician, Luv smoothly paved his way to the high table. Initially, he was burdened by heavy competition but when most of his opponents left the school in grade 11, his hopes transcended reality. After the elections, Luv's intuition had already assured him a seat on the high table so much so that he hasn't stopped blushing ever since. Juniors hope that Luv handles his newest love affair, with his own house, unlike all others, with extreme care. We wish that his juniors learn from love, the priceless arts of music and loving.

Ganga house prefect Sujal Agrawal

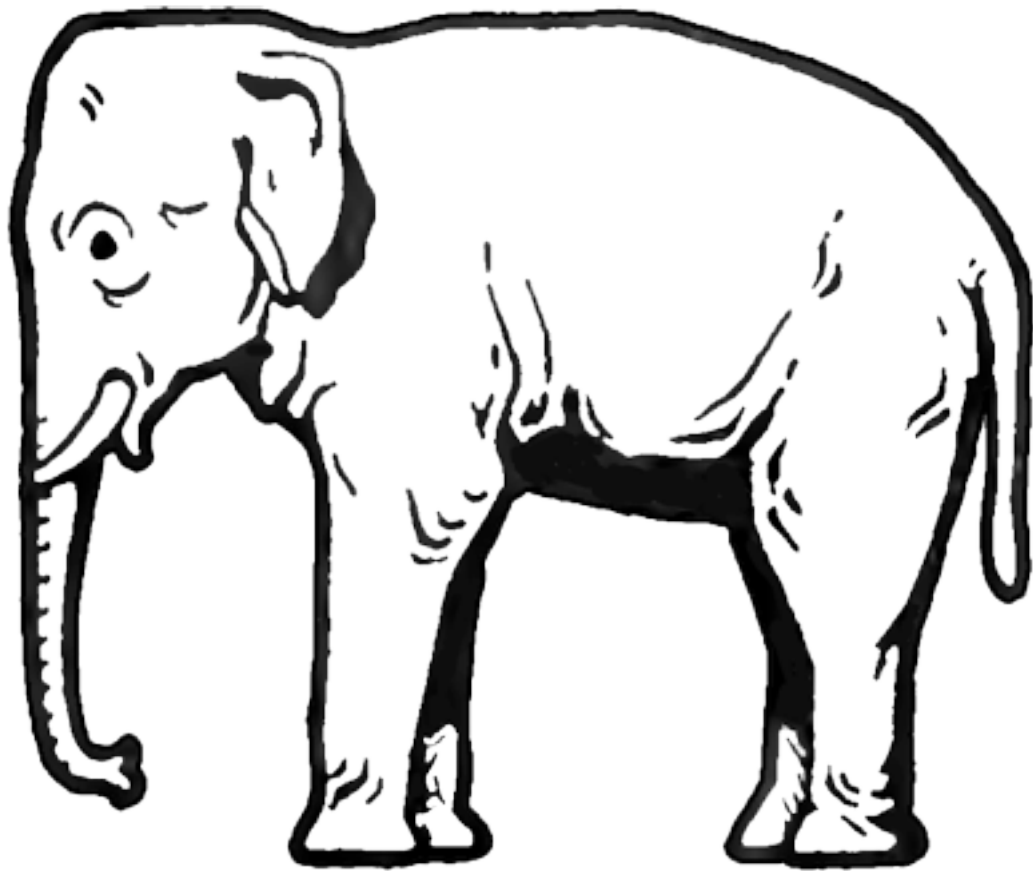
Sujal is only one of a kind. From being a silent worker to Ganga house prefect, he has faced it all and now he deserves to take charge of the house. He got what he hoped for without any difficulty (at least after the nominations were announced) and then silently made his way to the prefectorial body . Somewhere around the corner his own batchmates were surprised by this name coming up in the nominations. Sujal's exhausted face while taking the oath during the investiture's ceremony said it all. He now has to lead a house that prides itself on its sporting culture. Only time will tell if the badminton player is able to do so along with the help of his able superior. For that, we wish him the best in his endeavours.

Krishna House Captain Maneet Singh Bhasin

Maneet, the new leader of KBS, is all set to take command of his people but how he will be able to do so while juggling with physics, chemistry and math is something the future holds. Initially, the students of KBS were voting for Maneet in a different neutral position. However, with the omission of two important nominations for their house positions, the students had no other choice. Now, Maneet has to work closely with his friend, the house prefect to control those under him. Although, he is an introvert by nature , he can get things done in his own timid way (ask Krishna 10th) By coming for every early morning hockey practices, he has also forged a strong alliance with Mr. Sharma. It is rumored that Maneet missed being part of the big three by a 'narrow margin.' We hope that the sportsman is able to lead his house onto the field.

Krishna House Prefect Lavansha Shah

Lavansha has played the crucial role of a bystander in these elections. After the initial shock of his nomination for the big post diminished, he realised his part in the play and just witnessed the greater fight between the other two nominees. Perhaps because, somewhere in his heart, Lavansha knew that he had already reached the high table and was adequately content. After being the middle school representative and writing endless emails to teachers, his efforts culminated in his appointment as the House Prefect, his greatest mentor being none other than Mr. Pandey. It will be interesting to see how Lavansha incorporates his Maharaja lifestyle into his housemates' lives. It was only a year ago that Lavansha led the pipe band in the founders, a prestigious post indeed and now he will carry the Krishna House banner . The Oliphant hopes that he can now live up to the expectations of those who voted for him.



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