



The Oliphant / Edition 389 / 2020 / Issue 6 / December / Founder's / Online

The Oliphant

WELHAM BOYS' SCHOOL

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Editorial

We got here sooner than we expected, didn't we? It's funny how we all try and delay the inevitable in the hope that it will eventually become easier. But here we are, and let me just say, writing this wasn't easy. Then again, what even is easy when you're at Welham Boys' School?

In my very first editorial I wrote about how everyone wants to do something to be remembered, to live through something and to form legacies. In hindsight, I should have been careful of what I wished for. People are going to remember this year for foiled plans and ambitions, for the distance, and everything in between. I, however, am going to remember this year for everything this board managed to achieve through the confines of Zoom calls and Whatsapp texts. I've just realised that I've never managed to thank the board that I've been gifted with. From my senior editors who've been with me every step of the way, to the interns who will have to wait some more to be part of the annals of this magazine - each one of you has made the experience ever so enriching and enticing, and I'm truly grateful you exist.

As I pen down, ostensibly, my last ever piece for the Oliphant, the only thing I feel like recalling is my joy for writing. It was in the summer of 2017 that I was asked to pen down my first ever article for the Oliphant. A full page article titled "Why tuckshops?", that was intended to reverse the embargo of dry tuck in the middle school tuckshop. Naturally, I tried my best, and naturally, it wasn't half as sarcastic as it was supposed to be. Surprisingly though, the article resonated with my peers and it became a topic of discussion on lunch tables for a few days. I still can't explain why, but it made me feel valued and involved.

Every issue, we seem to reiterate the fact that the Oliphant is the 'voice of the students', but it is only at the end of my tenure that I've realised that it's more than just that. The Oliphant exists for each one of you to express yourself, without fear of judgement or censorship. And yet, this fear seems to have crept in that makes us think that our experiences or thoughts are not worth sharing. Take it from a twelfthie who just spent his last

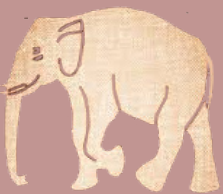
year away from school, that whatever you have experienced, and all that you still have to experience becomes even more extraordinary when you have people who share it with you - or even have something else to say about it.

I may be biased by personal experience, but there truly is nothing more satisfying than having poured your heart out on pages and pages of words; nothing more fulfilling than having written something with true emotion and seeing others feel the same way. All the hard work becomes worth it once you realise that your words managed to touch a soul - even if it's only a friend who was forced to read it. And often, in the pursuit of articles and looming deadlines, we overlook the joy of writing. I'd be a hypocrite if I said I haven't done it too, but that happens only because we seem to over intellectualise the pages of this publication. These pages weren't made for you to just discuss and debate abstractions; these pages were made to connect every Welhamite through their shared experiences - even if it is something as 'trivial' as a restriction on the tuckshop.

As I near the end of my last ever editorial as Editor-In-Chief, all I'd really like to do is implore you, the reader, to write freely. Write, not because an intern came to you with a topic or because you scored well in an English exam, but because you did/experienced something, and believe it or not, it's worth sharing. Write because out there, are fourteen year olds just like me, who had an epiphany and want to tell the school about how they felt about something. These moments deserve to become stories - not just your story, but all of ours.

*With tears in my eyes,
One last time*

Sanshray Ghorawat
Editor-In-Chief



WELHAM NOW

The music team secured the 1st Runners Up Position in ‘Taal Tarang’, an online cultural fiesta hosted by D.P.S Jaipur. The team comprised:

- 1) Diya Bahuguna
- 2) Savi Singh
- 3) Luv Juyal
- 4) Sara Moudgil

•The School participated in the Platinum Jubilee English Debate held by the Scindia School, Gwalior. The team emerged as Quarter-Finalists.

Welham Boys’ School hosted the WELMUN’20 which consisted of 350 national and international delegates. The best delegation was won by Mayo College, Ajmer.

Aarav Upadhyaya was adjudged the Best Delegate at All India Political Parties Meet (AIPPM) at the MGDmun’20.

The school organised the 30th edition of the Oliphant Memorial Inter-School English Debates which was held on 11th and 12th September 2020. St. George’s School bagged the trophy.

The School participated in the eSAIMUN (SAI International Model United Nations Conference) The awards won are as follows:

SPECIAL MENTION- Shubhankar Dhulia and Arnav Goel - United Nations Security Council
 Abhyuday Tulsyan- United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund
BEST DELEGATE
 Trayambak Pathak - Special Political and Decolonisation Committee

Arnav Goel and Shubhankar Dhulia participated in the St John’s Interschool Debate hosted by St. John’s High School, Chandigarh and lifted the Runners Up trophy.

Satwik Agarwal won the speed coding event at the HACKATHON-CODE HACK organised by Strawberry Fields High School

The school hosted ‘SUSTAINNOVATION’- an Online Young Social Entrepreneurship Conclave with more than 200 students from 32 participating schools.

The school participated in the Rajkumar college virtual Model United Nation and the following students won the awards:
SPECIAL MENTION

Aarav Upadhyaya- Mallikarjun kharge, INCPEM
 Arnav Goel- Finland, UNHRC
 Abhyuday Tulsyan- India, UNGA
 Hritvik Moody- Secretary, DONER Ministry, Stakeholders Meet

Viraj Lohia secured the 1st position and Rohan Agarwal and Samyak Jain the 2nd position in their respective events at Constantia hosted by La Martiniere College, Lucknow. The school also won the runners up trophy.

Prakhar Dixit and Raghav Kathuria secured the 1st position in the Music Bytes section of Tech VVIZ hosted by Vasant Valley School, Delhi. They also released an original song titled ‘Udae Udae’ with over 3,000 views on YouTube.

BAND REVIEW THE LOCAL TRAIN

I’ve recently realized that all good music can be divided into two categories. One is the kind that you’re proud to discover. You are so wonderfully swept by its beauty that you’ll suggest it to every friend as if declaring your love. The other is the kind you want to conceal from the world and listen to while laying alone on the bed or during a walk on the marine drive. It makes you think not about yourself or the world but something abstract, an ineffable feeling. Perhaps, it so accurately resembles your life that you fear others wouldn’t ever understand it to the same extent. The local train does that to me; for me! Each of its songs incites a different thought in my mind and like any good music, brings back many memories which are what makes it hard to share. Nevertheless, for those who have decided to go through this article, I’m going to make an exception.

Initially, the members of the band - Raman Negi (vocals), Paras Thakur (acoustic guitar), Ramit Mehra (bass guitar) and Sahil Sarin (drums) were individual performers in different parts of the country. Intending to create original music, Raman met and collaborated with the others on a song which he had written a long time ago. The group decided to call itself the local train and in 2011, the home demo of ‘Choo Lo’ was released on YouTube. As its popularity increased, the local train decided to record an album. ‘Aalas ka Pedh’ streamed in 2015 and was featured in the apple music charts, as one of the most viewed albums of the year. It starts with ‘Manzil’ and ‘ Aaoge tum Kabhi’ - one is a song about losing yourself while striving towards a goal which isn’t even visible. The other being about the power of hope and expectations and how the goal will someday become clear. ‘Choo Lo’ and

‘Kaise Jiyan’ tell a tale of heartbreak and the after-effects of losing someone close to you. And conclusively, ‘Yeh Zindagi hai’ and ‘Dil mere’ serve as an epiphany that experiencing these emotions is an indispensable part of life, that one must go through it all to complete the journey. The second album ‘ Vaaqif’ was an equally enlightening storybook if not better. If ‘Aalas ka Pedh’ was about emotions and the heart, ‘Vaaqif’ talks about the mind. Everything ranging from the need for political freedom to narcissism, to the significance of self-exploration forms the central theme of the album. While Mere Yaar’ and ‘ Aakhri Salaam’ refer to the importance of loyalty in friendship, ‘ Aaftaab’ instils a feeling of serenity and tranquillity in those who listen.

When it comes to India, Indie Rock has been forgotten. There is barely an audience left in the independent music scene. But those who are aware of artists like Prateek Kuhad or When Chai Met Toast know how soulful and insightful some songs can be. Which makes me wonder why people outside this comparatively compact circle are drawn towards commercial or mainstream artists. The apparent reason is better advertising and outreach but also because independent artists are scattered and make all different kinds of music. I find that advantageous simply because it allows experimenting with a myriad of genres and increases my options. Others would find that to be a paradox of choice. Nevertheless, I would urge people to give Indie artists a try, especially bands like ‘The Local Train.’ After all, art is a form of expression. It is an amalgamation of the experiences and emotions of various people. Listening to those experiences in the form of music serves the dual advantage of entertaining a cote de learning. And in this regard,

Indie takes the cake.

What differentiates bands from individual musicians is that numerous (four, in this case) people share their ideas and add their element to the final product which is the song. The Local Train has been inspired by bands like U2, Nirvana, Aerosmith and Alt-J. This is displayed in their colourful lyrics, a blend of Urdu and Hindi and how the youth resonates with them. As a band, the local train has shared its collective journey through its music and in the process, prompted many of its followers to understand their journey. And they are just one in the diverse, innumerable groups that exist out there. With that being said, it’s high time, we bring back Indian Rock!

Arnav Goel
X

T.V. SERIES REWIEW

THE QUEEN'S GAMBIT

The seven-episode Netflix series is an adaptation of Walter Tevis' 1983 novel, with Scott Frank having written the screenplay. It features an emerging star 'Anya Taylor-Joy' as an orphaned chess prodigy (Beth Harmon) who battles addiction while rising to Grandmaster status. The series tells her story from the age of 8 to 22 as she evolves from an abandoned misfit into one of the greatest champions the world of chess has ever seen.

The Queen's Gambit is compelling to watch. Chess, after all, is rarely described as a young person's game. The story starts in 1967 Paris, as a young woman (Taylor-Joy) wakes up, takes a couple of pills and rushes downstairs for her chess match. When she sits down across from her opponent, memories begin to race through her head and the story backtracks 10 years ago. Beth Harmon is orphaned by a car crash and sent to live at the Methuen Home for girls. At the Girl's Home, Beth encounters Mr. Shaibel (Bill Camp), the orphanage custodian who teaches her how to play chess via secret training sessions in the basement. Mr. Shaibel is a reserved and private man; it's only through Beth's stubborn curiosity that he even relents to teaching her the rules. Soon after, Beth is whisked away by her adoptive mother Mrs. Alma Wheatly (Marie Heller). Heller plays a housewife made to be complacent by her flighty & demeaning husband. Plenty of housewives in the '50s suffered the way Alma does, yet her individuality blossoms as she and Beth embark on adventures--- touring the country to compete in chess tournaments. Over the next few years- as Beth goes from winning local tournaments to being America's foremost challenger against the Soviets- a proxy war unfolds in real life at the height of the Cold War. We learn about Sicilian defences and doubled pawns, about

Creators : Scott Frank, Alan Scott

Cast : Anya Taylor-Joy, Thomas Sangster

Genre : Drama



adjournments and endgames. But at no point is the show inaccessible. It moves elegantly and enthrallingly, without alienating its audience. We know Beth will become a chess star. We know she'll do so while struggling from addiction. 'The Queen's Gambit' isn't a mystery, nor is it framed like a traditional sports story. We know she's going to win- if not all, then most of the matches she plays. So the suspense isn't derived from the games themselves; it comes from how she wins and why.

There have been many films and TV shows about geniuses and the burden they carry along with the cost of a great mind, but few with a woman's

story at the centre. Beth is as messy and mean and ultimately brilliant as the likes of John Wash (A Beautiful Mind) or Will Hunting (Good Will Hunting). That being said, the ending is a rousing success. Viewers, both young and old will appreciate 'The Queen's Gambit', and it should be on everybody's watch list.

-Aaditya Chandra Gupta XI

MOVIE REVIEW

MARRIAGE STORY

There are times when you feel like giving up on things, be it a project where you've worked hard or a relationship where you have given your everything. Director Noah Baumbach came up with a movie depicting a similar situation titled 'Marriage Story'. Starring Adam Driver, Scarlett Johansson & Azhy Robertson in the lead with other acclaimed actors such as Laura Dern, Alan Alda and Ray Liotta in supporting roles, the movie is set between the coastal capitals of the US, i.e. New York and Los Angeles.

The primary plot of the movie is about a felicitous marriage between Charlie (Adam Driver), who is a stage director and Nicole (Scarlett Johansson) an actress and the events which turn their lives into an ugly drama. As mentioned before, they had a pretty happy life but due to the occurrence of a few strange events, everything turned topsy-turvy leading up to Nicole filing for a divorce. The dispute over the custody of their son Henry (Azhy Robertson) and their property was a pretty appealing plot in itself. While watching this movie there were a couple of observations I made regarding the way the movie depicted the story. I highly appreciated the way this film deals with complications that arise during separation and these concerns manifest pretty elegantly through the course of the movie. The way this movie exhibits both perspectives during the divorce without prejudice is profound. A quality lost in most movies.

Director: Noah Baumbach
Screenplay: Noah Baumbach
IMDB rating: 8/10



Another thing which makes me applaud this movie is that despite it being a story of parting, it doesn't shy away from showing us overwhelming and tender moments. It's saddening to see something which rose with laughter and love, crumble away like just like that. This issue established by this film is something which many others neglect.

My favourite character in this heart-warming drama was Nicole's mother, Sandra (Julie Hagerty). Regardless of the genre of this film, she was able to bring laughter to her audiences' faces. Speaking about performances, I am absolutely

speechless. This was my first time seeing Adam Driver on screen and I relished every bit of his astounding portrayal of Charlie. All the other actors/actresses also displayed brilliant performances. The lack of any gender-bashing was actually really nice because for the first time, I saw characters as human beings and not as an antagonist or protagonist. If I could change one thing about the film that would be the screenplay at some moments. These scenes were quite drawn out which bored me a little. Overall, this movie is a lovely watch, and I recommend it to all my fellow Welhamites.

-Pranay Dhaka IX

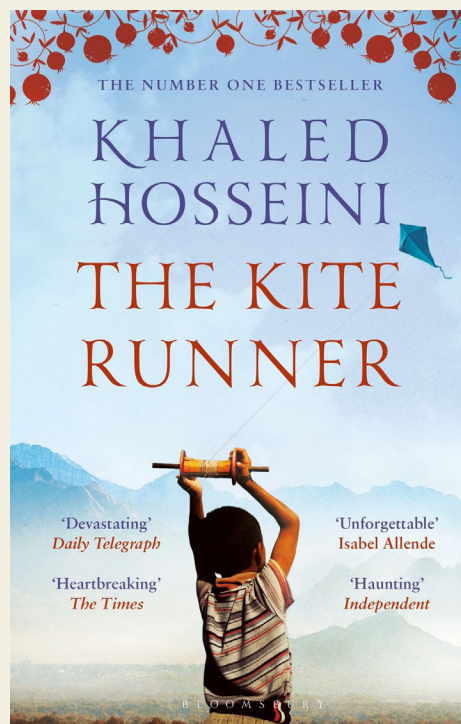
BOOK REVIEW

THE KITE RUNNER

‘The Kite Runner’ by Khaled Hosseini chronicles a heartbreaking and unforgettable story of the friendship between a wealthy boy and the son of his father’s servant. The novel is set in Afghanistan and in a time where the country is heading towards chaos and destruction. The book, following the historical events of Afghanistan, mainly focuses on the social conditions faced by the citizens during those times. It is about the power of knowledge and the price which comes through betrayal and redemption. It shows how the world of two boys change due to the intersection of personal life and political events. A sweeping story of friendship, family and love, portrayed against catastrophic war-torn Afghanistan spanning over thirty years.

A major theme of this book is about the power of fathers over their sons. The display of the father-son bond shows the difference between their generations. The drastic change where one believes in social hierarchy and society’s boundaries, whereas one has no such thoughts and leaps beyond these boundaries. Although this relation also displays their love, their sacrifices for each other. The book was named The ‘Kite Runner’ because flying kites was the only thing that he and his father had in common. Kites displayed Amir’s happiness, as well as his guilt. It perfectly portrays how far a son can go to receive his father’s approval. This theme fits perfectly in any scenario, making this masterpiece very relatable. However, their

Author- Khaled Hosseini
Publisher: Riverhead Books
Goodreads Rating - 4.3/5



perspectives were very intriguing as Amir views Baba profoundly as just, strong and confident and finds himself lacking in comparison. Baba shares this perception of his son but Amir ultimately learns that what he was trying to do his whole life was futile as he learns Baba too has betrayed a close comrade. Much of what Amir perceived as Baba’s strength was only there because he was trying to atone for his failures.

The story mainly revolves around the inner turmoil Amir experiences after betraying his friend, Hassan, who was ready to do anything for him, driving the entire plot of ‘The Kite Runner’. Amir’s struggle is to choose what kind of a man he wants

to become. A man like his father or a man who knows what is right in their ever-changing world. When the plot comes to an important juncture in both their lives, Amir’s mistake further makes his inner conflict magnify itself. Amir never corrects his wrongs for the rest of Hassan’s life, worsening their relations. These intersections and mixed feelings show the extent of complexity in one’s personal life making ‘The Kite Runner’ an unusual and impactful novel that has become a beloved, one-of-a-million and an all-time favourite classic.

-Trayambak Pathak
IX

The Hathras Case

A 19-year-old woman was savagely gang-raped and tortured by a group of 4 men in Hathras, Uttar Pradesh on September 14. She succumbed to her injuries after a 2-week long battle for her life at a hospital in Delhi. This is not the first time we hear of a case as brutal as this one, so why the sudden outrage?

Safety for women in India is not a new concern and has been relevant for a long time. However, this case has allowed our pent up emotions of anger and frustration to surface finally. These emotions keep adding up every time a female is asked to change her outfit, not to provoke others or to bear the sickening male gaze at any place and time of the day. However, the opposite does not hold. Women have to carry pepper spray and learn self-defence just because men cannot practise self-control. The list goes on and on.

This is much too prevalent in our society. Any woman irrespective of her caste, age, colour, profession or the clothes she wears has at some point in her lifetime faced some form of sexual harassment. It is rightly said that “When a shadow lurks at night, men fear it is a ghost, women fear it’s men”. Women are suffocating under the restrictions being laid upon them, which, sadly, seem necessary to survive in a society such as ours. However, we all deserve better.

I understand that I speak from a place of privilege. I am an upper-caste male belonging to a reasonably well-off family with the highest level of education handed over to me on a platter and the choice to make my own life decisions in my hands. Some have it much worse- the ones belonging to the suppressed section of society, for whom primary education is a privilege and their very right to live is not in their control. It is, thus, necessary for us to acknowledge the privilege we all hold and use it to better our society in whatever way we can, beginning at questioning all that has been taught to us, by learning and unlearning.

Every time cases such as this one surface we demand justice in the form of severe punishment to those accused. But will hanging the accused help in stopping them from running amok? What we need is to eradicate the problem at the root level. Do not just call them ‘India’s daughters’. Instead, teach the idea of consent to children and include sex education in their school curricula. Stop telling them to adapt to the circumstance by putting restrictions on what they can do, instead, help them voice their concerns and bring more significant changes.

We must use this opportunity to take a long hard look at ourselves for we all have internalised misogyny, casteism or racism and it is thus our responsibility as informed citizens to question these social norms.

-Vihan Shukla
X



Subash

It is with a deep sense of gratification that I write about Mr. Subash Thapa, who has been associated with the school for close to three decades. He is a living legend, possessing striking qualities of loyalty and undoubted commitment towards his assigned roles and responsibilities.

For generations of students he was Subash Bhaiyya who would faithfully escort students to the airport party and take charge of the situation. He would offer help beyond his call of duty. His effort in getting their gas connection in order besides running other errands was hugely appreciated by new staff members. He would offer his services to make them feel comfortable and welcome.

He was attached to Mr. Kandhari's Office and during that time digital communication was in its infancy. I still remember that he used to pass on stapled or enveloped messages to staff members without any expression on his face. The good thing about him was that he knew how to read and write. During those days, the support staff was also allowed to go for the midterm depending upon the need. He was fond of fishing and enjoyed it during the midterm excursions, besides, on weekend outings with staff members and students. He has varied interests from painting to craft and most importantly the skill of managing things.

If you gave him the task of making up a board, he would happily do the job because he used to enjoy doing it. Computer literate, he willingly uses his wisdom to not only suggest but also correct you if you are not doing some routine work correctly. From ringing bells to running daily from offices to classrooms to keeping things moving in the usual manner--- he does it all with a smile on his face. During CBSE evaluation work, you will notice him assisting teachers with adeptly and efficiency. I have never seen him complaining and cribbing. He

was self-directed to offer help and engage beyond defined roles which is truly praiseworthy indeed. It is quite normal to expect the work delegated to him to be not only completed but done in a satisfactory manner.

Legacy institutions are known by the people who walk the talk and leave an impression on the minds of the generations who pass out from the gates of the school. Batch after batch remembers the bond which the support staff forges with the children through their roles.

Shabaash Subash!. Keep going and keep the Welham spirit alive!

-Dr. R.M.Bhandari

My Experience Teaching Yoga To The Young

“Yoga is a light, which once lit will never dim. The better your practise, the brighter the flame.”

During the lockdown, I was missing the sport exercises which our boarding P.T teacher made us do as a regime. Seeing my parents, I started doing yoga at home. I found it quite rejuvenating and it energized me for the entire day. Gradually, I started enjoying it. My yoga practice reminded me to cultivate equanimity both on and off my mat.

My school outreach team has taken an initiative to cater to the needs of abandoned, special needs children of Aasra home-shelter by engaging in education through service. We started by feeding starving families and now we are concentrating on perfecting an activity delivery model for the shelter home children. Yoga was one activity for which I expressed my desire to our outreach teacher that I would organise the session and teach the children the importance of a few special exercises which would be helpful for immunity building. I was encouraged and motivated by my teachers.

Teaching teens yoga and that too on a virtual model was an eye-opening and empowering experience I could ever have. The students of AASRA all came with an open mind, excited for the session. They practised the asanas transparently and attentively. At first, I was apprehensive if they were following me properly or not but after playing the video, they performed the asanas accurately. They responded to my questions enthusiastically which motivated me to explain to them the benefits of each asana and how it would help them grow their immunity, confidence and will cultivate willpower to achieve the goals they set. My compliments encouraged them to perform the asanas in a proper posture. I was thrilled to see the students listening to me. I felt like an elder brother to them mentoring and teaching them.

We started the session with a prayer to start the day on a good spiritual note and give us strength for the

entire day; the Aasanas and breathing techniques we practised were- Tadasana, Vrikhasana, Bhujanasana. Naukasana, Kpalbhati, Anulom Vilom and Soham inhalation and exhalation techniques. The students all promised to be inculcating this as a daily habit and I felt a small purpose was met. It was a sense of fulfilment.

Unlike many boarding schools, where the students live in an upper-class bubble completely isolated from the majority of the country in which they live, at Welham Boys' School the students develop an understanding of India and their place in it. The opportunity for them to do this comes through the outreach programmes so many of them participate in as they offer service and the proof of its success is the depth of understanding they demonstrate while debating a whole range of issues back in school. This is not simply a privileged minority talking; it is a group of talented people with a clear vision of their country's direction and how they can find a role in this journey.

Let me end by saying a big thank you to all. We could not have done it without you!

‘The best and beautiful things in the world can not be touched –They must be felt with the heart.’

Helen Keller

Naman Sarawgi

X

WACKY WOODSEATS

The Horizon of Linguistics

Languages are a crucial part of human communication and we all try to learn more by going beyond our reach to learn new languages. Let us jump into the vast horizon of linguistics. Linguistics is the scientific study of language. It involves the analysis of language form, language meaning and language in context., as well as the social, cultural, historical, and political factors that influence language. Being linguistic not only teaches you different languages but also improves you in your communication and thinking skills. Linguistics research involves talking with native speakers of different languages and collaborating with a team to develop experiments. Apart from simply understanding the intricacies of world languages, this knowledge can be applied to improving communication between people, contributing to translation activities, assisting in literacy efforts and treating speech disorders. Linguistics is engaged in the scientific research process from finding data, analyzing them and then forming conclusions regarding patterns or regulations. Linguistic research requires writing papers, giving presentations and creating projects. So, linguistics teaches the skills necessary to communicate efficiently using evidence and arguments because linguists read through large amounts of data, including texts, audios and videos; they are trained to search for essential information among piles of data. Through this process, linguists gain intuition as to where and how to approach information. Linguistics

involves solving puzzles, whether it is trying to decipher the grammar of a new language or understanding the patterns of sounds. These puzzles require linguists to search for patterns and regulations which builds logical reasoning skills. We can recognise these advantages as Third Language and that is how schools manage to get their students perfect 3 languages. Apart from these languages you should enrol yourselves in learning as many languages as you can. Remember to complete a language thoroughly once you start it and just stretch yourself. Language is a vital part of human connection. Although all species have their ways of communicating, humans are the only ones that have mastered cognitive language communication. Language allows us to share our ideas, thoughts and feelings with others. It has the power to build societies, but also tear them down. So now I hope every one of you will be interested in learning new languages and follow the tips to perfect them.

**-Eklavya Anand
VII**

The Dilemma of Two Paths

From a daily schedule starting from 6 with a continuous flow of work to a lifestyle where even getting up at 9 seems difficult, there is a lot of difference between a day in school and a day at home with online classes. The main difference between online and offline learning is location. With offline learning students are required to travel to school. With online learning, the process of teaching and learning can be conducted from practically anywhere in the world. In general, it is very hard to learn or understand in online classes. In offline classes, it is still a bit practical and easy as we are in front of the teachers as we are just in front of them so the students are able to understand better. Although online learning has become the preferred method for the majority of learners, it is important not to dismiss the benefits of

studying in front of the teacher. The number of distractions we have at our homes are more than enough to distract us from anything. Let us take the example of a digital notification. A mere notification can make our whole thought process change, so not being able to study in online classes is almost inevitable. On an average day in school, the things are mostly scheduled, but in our own homes, things keep changing and it is tough to keep a time table and a track of what we are supposed to do at what time.

As we all know, the school has given us a twenty-minute break. It is easy to efficiently utilise this break in school, but in our homes, this time's value turns out to be much less as there are a lot of things we need to do in those

twenty minutes, like breakfast, meeting our families and also sitting five minutes before the class starts! And even if we cut out any one of these things, we will still not be able to keep up with the time. When we are at home, even if we make a time table, things will keep on changing and it will still be very hard for us to manage our time. While we are in the school, we create a habit of doing things on time and we also memorise the things we do during the day. Lastly, even though online classes can be comfortable, we shall not forget that learning requires us to come out of our comfort zones.

**-Divyam Duggal
VIII**

The Binge-Watch Era

You sit yourself down in front of the TV after a long day and choose to start out watching that new show your friends are talking about. Fast forward to midnight and you've completed half a season and end up tempted to stay up for one more episode, even if you know you will be paying for it the next morning. This way of going into an entirely different world is called binge-watching. In a survey conducted by Netflix, 73% of people define binge-watching as watching between 2-6 episodes of the same TV-show in one sitting. Binge-watching creates a sense of community around a show. According to psychiatrists, binge-watching releases dopamine within the brain which creates a sense of enjoyment and might facilitate folks to relax and relieve stress but the question arises- is it something that can harm you? We know that it may stress your eyes but the imagination boost given by series can enhance a person's personality to a great extent. If we talk about money and prices, the average ticket price for cinemas across India was around 207₹ and if you include some food and beverages it will be a lot costlier. A premium Netflix subscription costs 799₹ per month. Although the old-time cinema vibe certainly cannot be beaten, cinemas cannot provide the comfort level that streaming services can. However, we should also remember a few things related to bingeing. If you binge, it's very important to stand, stretch and take breaks, for while binge-watching can be fun and feel fulfilled, there's always the danger of being addicted and obsessed.

Many people cancel plans to sit back and complete a season of popular sitcoms. People surely should take pleasure in solitude, however, they should also not adopt a completely anti-social attitude. Those who are identified as binge-watchers show signs of fatigue, most symptoms of insomnia, poorer sleep quality and greater alertness before going to sleep. We can say that binge-watchers had a higher likelihood of having poor sleep quality compared with those who did not consider themselves to be a binge-watcher. So after all, binge-watching has its benefits and drawbacks. If we do it on balance, binge-watching can be worth doing from time to time. If you find that you are never leaving your house, you should consider cancelling your Netflix subscription to remedy that problem because it may become a hindrance to your social life.

**-Achintya Arya
VIII**

Musings of a certain brooder as he was entering the portals of adulthood----

Lost in Anonymity

My life has become one abstract painting,
An indecipherable collage of brittle dreams,
A haphazard assortment of naïve wishes
Seeking identity in an alien world,
Pleading for a little empathy, not love;
The doors of love are ajar for those
Who can dally with its whims;

Not for paupers like me who yearn for its acceptance---
Everything seems to come with a price tag quoting ‘conditions apply’
In a world where values and idealism are but ingredients of a slapstick comedy,
Today I seem ditched by my own beliefs, thwarted by own dreams
Duped by my own ideals;
When I tried to discover a new self, I was greeted by a new abode of nightmares;
Today, I lie stranded between a past that haunts and a future that never was meant to be,
Looking for not a voice saying ‘I care’, or a reassuring touch saying ‘I’m there’
But a way unto ME
Where I’m just happy being myself, where no conditions apply,
Where no questions are asked,
No judgement passed,
Where only a numb quiescence prevails.....

- Mr. Raunaq Datta

What My Pet Thinks

I brought a Husky away from his habitation,
He was forced to come and suffered a separation,
How could I’ve known he was in depression?
He couldn’t even appeal for objection.

But what if my pet could raise his voice
And could have the freedom to make his choice?
What if he could pen down his feelings
And could express all that trouble he had been dealing with?

He couldn’t move out,
As it was as empty as his inside,
The instability could be seen through naked eyes,
His life was a mere house arrest.

Our help couldn’t reach him,
Our desire to get enter a by a pet was sin,
For we understand the pain now,
For we have taken one’s life.

**-Arjun Prasad
XI**

VE’R’SSES

Hauled Suddenly from Solitude

Two Poems. One Heading. You Be The Judge And Jury

Time keeps ticking
People come and go
Filling in you this passion
Making you contemplate to and fro

Obstructions in your mind
Making the head grind
These words that are taking over
Making you forget even the divine.

Out of all the other
‘Why?’ is the most admired question
When the mind is full, but mouth empty
Marking you in a transparent juxtaposition.

Sometimes they rise, sometimes they sit down
Sometime they scare, sometimes they flaunt
Sometimes they cry, sometimes they chuckle
Sometimes they have it all together
Sometimes they’re missing the buckle.

They just don’t choose to leave!
Some are the devil, some are to embrace
The wind shall take the clouds away someday
For everything looks peaceful; only at the surface.

**- Viraj Mahajan
XI**

My earliest memory of life,
Was a boat in the middle of nowhere,
As empty as my stomach,
And sightings of any creature were very rare.

The sky was blue,
And so was the sea,
Questioning my existence,
Was the fuel of my seed.

I had a book which was blue too,
Filled with colours never seen,
Wished them in reality,
Which came true.

I saw a hand taking me out,
As I woke up in something resembling hospital,
Surrounded by people,
I thought I was freed from my misery.

But there was more to it than I thought,
Fifteen years in a coma,
At last, freed from my solitude,

But what is the point of this freedom?
When the blue book’s the only thing I got.

**- Trayambak Pathak
IX**

Happiness is Overrated

There always comes a phase in life when you feel drained – mentally, physically and emotionally. Everything seems to go against you and you feel lonely in this world despite having many people around you. You feel absolutely nothing and your thoughts are always in constant discord with what you expect out of that particular moment.

We have all probably come across one of those mega-inspirational videos while we are scrolling through our Instagram feed at 2 in the morning, with it telling us to wake up early, get on the “grind” and have a “warrior mindset that never backs down”. All of this happens when we are sitting under the covers and munching on some snack with crumbs all over our clothes. We experience this sudden desire to get our life back on track, which gets completely negated in the next 5 minutes after we see another video on YouTube. Why is it like this?

We have all been part of that frantic chase of being the best: Getting good marks, being involved in a healthy amount of extra-curricular activities to prove we are not mentally challenged and have to play one sport or the other because if we are doing all of these things already, why not add another one to the fray anyway.

We are required to do all of the things that constitute the ‘rat race’ at a time in our lives when we literally cannot wake up on time for anything. A significant reason for this has been social media since it has allowed the propagation of all these “inspirational” videos onto Youtube or Instagram, where you see gym harpies and Instagram millionaires preaching and sermonizing about waking up every day with the “warrior mindset” where they are always ready to “seize the day.”

All of this talk of being on the top of your game is utter gibberish because social media’s entire model is based upon gaslighting those who are doing the best for themselves and want other people to know. Social media is a place where you will always want to be your best version, regardless of whether you woke up today with a headache and zero motivation to do anything, or with a complete miserable feeling for your life.

You will also see all of these people preaching on how “To be happy” is the most significant thing one can do for themselves and have technically shoved something I like to call the “Happiness Narrative” down our throats. Who does not want to be happy? The irony is, every day, the emphasis on being happy keeps on increasing and has grown so much during the past that we are all now forced and stressed to be happy. How can someone be stressed for trying to be happy?

We have to stop putting so much emphasis on being happy or being successful at the time we are supposed to be at college and discover ourselves. Every person is different and so we have to respect their level of growth over the past few years, irrespective of how slow their progress was. A step in the right direction will always be termed as progress, no matter how many days, weeks or months it took someone to do that since it is a bold step on their behalf to unlearn the toxic and harmful traits they earlier possessed and work upon them to become a better version of themselves.

Philosophically, every feeling and emotion of an individual is beautiful in its way. When one learns to handle their emotions and thoughts, that is when they are one step closer from getting away with negative thinking altogether. When you are alone, you are bound to swim through the flood of every thought irrespective of being good or bad.

Ultimately, it is always about achieving what you want in your life—nothing more, nothing less. Furthermore, the happiness narrative has fast-tracked that approach into a hyperactive “warrior mentality” fuelled chase for being successful by having too much money in the bank and having people respect you based on the amount of money you earned. The slow and patient approach has been neglected and disregarded entirely since everyone has to get rich fast to make a place for themselves, the competition being intensely cut-throat and overwhelming.

In the end, it is all a matter about telling your story the way you want it to. No one should come in between your narrative and dictate what is right or wrong. ‘Fast and hectic’ wins the race, and so does the ‘slow and steady’. It does not matter if you are winning by an inch or winning by a mile, winning is winning.

Life will always have ups and downs and fortunately or unfortunately depending upon how you perceive it, you need to understand the fact that in your life, you should never consider yourself an issue to be dealt with. Instead, it would help if you learned how to face the actual issue and get back on the track of life.

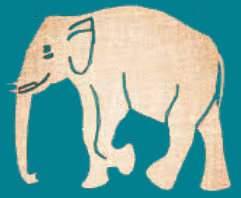
-Vihan Shukla
X

Deep Reading: Book Discussions

Spending time with books, reading them, discussing them with others creates mental engagement that enhances vocabulary, thinking skills and concentration. These qualities are essential for an effective social life. It also helps us to increase our general knowledge. For example, I never knew that American dollars notes are all uniform in shape, no matter the denomination or the fact that they are made of 75 per cent of cotton and the rest of the 25 per cent is made up of wood. This is just one instance where books can help us increase our knowledge base. Similarly, books can help in cognitive development, enriching vocabulary, improving thinking skills and concentration. You may ask how and I will tell you. Certainly, if you read a novel, it does not have to be a particularly long one, something like 150-200 pages, wherein you sit in one place and you immerse yourself in that novel, you are concentrating on that book. Vocabulary can be improved by simply going through the book once, you find new words, new phrases and expressions. This automatically helps to increase and better your vocabulary. When you read a book, say, a thriller, you don’t know what will happen but you constantly churn out your own theories; this helps to develop our critical thinking. Book discussions are discussions essentially based on a particular book a group of people have read. The said group gets together to discuss the book and to share their own, personal opinions of the book. These discussions help us to know what the other person thinks about the book, their mindset, their ideas, their perspectives. Based on the groups collected ideas and thoughts, it may change the way we think, it may change our opinion about the book. If nothing else, we can revisit a book. Listen to others and know about the content we missed or just simply forgot. In other words, a discussion will help us to refresh our memories of the book. The characters of a book are quite interesting and deserve some attention, sometimes, or most of the time, we form our own opinion of the characters; when we discuss them with others, we gain the other person’s opinion and also formulate our own opinions, sometimes reevaluating the character

entirely. Like the characters, we can also revisit the plot of the book as we sometimes miss some portion or part of the story. Other than the book and the characters we also get to know our fellow mates and peers, their ideas, thoughts, mindsets and more. Not only the groupmates, but also the general mindset of the public, a general idea of what people think and how they react. We can also know about how people of different communities think, the differences between them and the similarities. These types of discussions can also improve our social skills because we are pitching our ideas to others. This can also improve our confidence and speaking skills. Lastly, book discussions are fun, open, friendly conversations that everyone should participate in.

-Vibhav Panwar
VIII



Rising Intelligentsia

Impact of COVID-19

Acceptance of change is the key to evolution. Change is the only constant but no one was expecting such a drastic one in our lives. The COVID-19 pandemic has taught us that we can never be too sure of anything. It swept us under our feet and now poses enormous health, economic, environmental and social challenge to the entire human population. Imagine a young child whose mother lies in the hospital bed. Not being able to see her only makes it worse. The child, knowing that nothing can be done to treat her, stares lifelessly outside the window while the mother is left isolated, alone with her thoughts. The next day the child gets to know that the mother has passed away. Imagine being that child. Such pain should not be brought upon the worst of enemies. Hundreds of thousands, if not more, are currently suffering this fate. If we continue down this path, mental illness will soon be a common phenomenon for this generation.

Now more than ever, we together need to be aware of ourselves and our shortcomings if we want to survive. It seems like the only viable solution left. Consciousness at the deepest levels stirs many emotions. Quite often, faith is the only thing that keeps people going through their darkest times. Amazingly, intangible qualities like these affect such real-life scenarios. In the case of our environment,

we must realise our incompetence in this sphere. Humans have known to choose the path of least resistance. For people in the 21st century, this rule is indifferent. Ease of getting things done faster has led to the negligence of our surroundings. No matter how superior we may feel we are, it is nature that prevails ultimately. It all starts with a thought and then slowly creeps up to the mindset. We may have continued to fuel greed and desires, but at what cost.



Complete species have been wiped off the face of the earth due to our lack of care. Each day we continue to lose thousands of animals. It is their planet as much as it is ours, but the way we are headed, it seems like we won't have much of a planet to live in. The pandemic has resulted in the world coming to a

standstill. But as Paulo Coelho said, "Not all storms come to disrupt your lives, some come to clear your path." The good and bad in situations will always exist; it is up to us what we focus our attention on. If we focus on the positive aspects, they will continue to grow.

The scenario has changed things for everyone globally. People have been laid off from work. Those who were living lavishly with little worries are now concerned about how they'll afford their next meal. The situation is dire, to say the least. In some cases, people who aren't able to cope with stress, unleash their vexation at home. During

COVID 19, domestic violence complaints have risen to a 10- year high. The stress and anxiety have led to increased alcohol consumption. When we take into consideration limited access to necessities, the unease of possibly getting infected and most importantly, economic loss, all of a sudden the unease one feels becomes truly palpable. Humans are social animals and when we are deprived of things, we are more likely to get more agitated. People who live alone have particularly been struggling with stress, isolation and fears about the future. Loneliness is a real predicament that is not to be taken lightly. People of all ages, old and young currently need a lot of care and support. The fact that they are not socially connected with friends and family members makes it tougher.

Although the effects of this pandemic may seem grim, not all is bad. In terms of the physical environment and our ecosystem, there have been astounding results. Air pollution in several cities has had a staggering decline. The improvement in air quality is good for the environment and therefore has a direct positive impact on human health. There has also been a change in the consumption patterns in almost every economic sector. As Mahatma Gandhi said – "The world has enough for everyone's need but not enough for everyone's greed." Gradually, the mindset of people is changing. We need to think and take into consideration everyone's well being rather than being individualistic in our approaches. Consumption patterns have changed. The masses now realise that we must promote local businesses rather than fuelling the giants of industries who have gained major capital share and dominate the sectors. From the perspective of a student, I see a change in the grassroots of society.

Societies have now started to reorganise themselves differently in a more sustainable manner that promotes growth for everyone rather than individual benefit. We have also gained perspective on how others may live their lives. Often enough, our worries are trivial compared to the plight others suffer. The forced lockdown has made us spend time with people that are important to us in the long run. We must learn to enjoy the time we have on

this planet. In hindsight, the monotonous lifestyles that we had before the pandemic make it seem like we were running an endless rat race with an indefinite goal of finding happiness.

The universe has multiple ways of communicating its ideologies to us. Good and bad both exist in societies but it is all about perspectives. In the materialistic world we may be tied but mentally all of us are free. We have been tied by the walls we've built around ourselves. Nothing stops us from thinking the right thoughts. Let us consider this lockdown as a change and one that helps us to grow. Together, with the right mindset, people can achieve whatever we want to. Our minds and ego are all that bind us from achieving greatness.

**-Mohin Viraj Gandhi
XI**

Is it better to move outside India for education beyond secondary schooling?

Welhamite Speaks

Various qualms come into the picture when one is to decide the feasibility of moving outside India for education beyond secondary schooling, especially from the parent's perspective.

To better understand a student's point of view, let's examine why would someone even want to study abroad whilst the availability of highly competitive universities within the country.

I think most students are fascinated by a foreign lifestyle, while also because the admission process is more holistic, contrary to what they see in India. They are not wrong - indeed, studying abroad will help you stay a notch ahead of students who chose to stay at home and study from Indian universities. This assertion is based around two arguments: Versatility and Quality of Education. Let's take an example. An Indian, who wants to take the road less travelled and study literature in India has little or no encouragement to do so. Indian courses are broadly categorized into STEM & Finance. On the other hand, there is a rich variety of courses available abroad. Even if you plan on pursuing a STEM course, you aren't limited to it. The education system is rather liberal in these universities and one can pursue the career as well as their passion. I can be an architect who sings, a musician who cooks, an engineer who dances, and everything I want to be.

Moving on to my second argument, even though the standard of courses available in colleges across India is developing, it is immensely lacking in opportunities for practical applications of skills.

A student receiving a Bachelor's degree from a foreign country will inherently pick up essential skills for a strong work ethic including communication, independent research, socializing and time management. Along those lines, American universities enforce a strong emphasis on innovation and technology that is seemingly absent from Indian universities.

In my opinion, the education approach between the schooling system in India and abroad makes most of the difference. An engineering student in India is taught the rules and then are co-opted into the practice of following them. On the other hand, an Engineering student in the

UK or America is first taught the rules, then how to break them and remake them.

Moreover, the resources offered by foreign universities are miles ahead of Indian colleges. They offer state-of-the-art facilities, ground-breaking research opportunities, a strong build of the alumni network and a holistic education for better employability.

Some might call this an unnecessary factor but the fact remains, receiving a degree from a foreign university that is deemed prestigious by the whole world will increase your chances of employability in any country, even India. Moreover, you will interact with different people from across the globe, learn from your peers and collaborate with them for many projects.

Studying abroad does call for one to step out of their comfort zone, but at the same time, it has surprising benefits that parents rule out while making their decision. A returning student from a foreign university, academics kept aside, is a well-rounded adult who is emotionally mature, independent, outgoing and can manage his finances well. Along with this, you get to be a part of various clubs, societies and organisations, allowing you to explore your interests and hobbies.

Therefore, I'd like to conclude by saying that despite the major financial investments and emotional burdens, it is advantageous to move outside of India for education after secondary schooling.

**- Aaryan Mahipal
XII- Sci.**

Teacher Speaks

After their school leaving exams, students disperse in different directions according to their merit, affordability and purpose to achieve their cherished dreams. In life, education comes in the form of a package--one having boundaries which leads to acquiring a formal certification and the other being the limitless absorption and adaptation of undefined learning with no formal structure. The capacity of the learner to stretch and spread out to maximise opportunities depends upon the learner's zeal to find a way to live and be contented in life.

Typically, a student in class XII oscillates between the mainstream syllabus and the add-on preparations to secure admission for a regular or a professional course. The surplus effort required to get into top colleges is at the cost of compromising overall learning and at times, making choices which are sometimes uncalled for. On one hand, the brighter lot of students in most of the schools choose to align themselves with the flow of coaching, thereby improving their chances of success rather than creating and contributing something for acknowledgement and appreciation. On the other hand, the privileged lot aspires to take advantage of global education and the remaining lot slogs to outperform each other in order to seek admission in the country itself. The quest for scoring marks creates a lot of unrest in those who, despite getting admission to top notch colleges, find it hard to co-exist with the stark realities of life. Scoring well at the Boards does not necessarily imply learning well. The craze for marks transforms a learner into a smart consumer of knowledge and he gets caught in the trap of memorization rather than building on curiosity to construct levels of learning. The worrisome part of this exercise is when the top scorers are given undue publicity with bubbled objectives. The sad part of this is when credit for the success of an individual is claimed by several claimants. Moreover, schools adore the toppers as perfect products for enhancing their own market value. The unrealistic cut-offs in our colleges generates mind boggling competition

and pushes students to think beyond boundaries of India to explore, extend and enrich their learning.

There are designer schools which add an 'international' tag to increase their number of intakes by offering international curriculums such as International Baccalaureate (IB) and Cambridge Assessment International Examinations (CAIE). Do students passing from these schools have a different world view or set of skills? How many of them can sustain the pressure of getting into colleges in India? On the contrary, we have students passing out from the Navodaya Vidyalayas who are making it into JEE Advanced and NEET without making a noise. The aspirational approach between the financially privileged and academically proficient students is up for debate. Does this social disparity influence the future decisions of students? This year's Advanced Joint Entrance exams topper, Chirag Falor decided to take admission in MIT over IIT. Does it imply that our education system is skewed?

I completely agree that education in our country needs attention and interventions to improve and hook on to the global changes. Yet, the great thing about our education is that it is robust and rigorous, catering to a diverse segment of the society. There is great hope and promise in our education system but there is still a long way to go to achieve those. A slew of measures with a touch of forward thinking is proposed in the NEP.

Yes, there is no second opinion that the benefit of a foreign education, acquired with a purpose adds a layer to one's perspective besides increasing domain knowledge. Numerous opportunities, apart from state-of-the-art facilities, attract students very much. That education teaches how to conduct research, work laterally across disciplines, think critically, analyse problems and communicate clearly, succinctly and cross culturally. The pedagogy encourages the unfolding of learning and deepening of understanding. The shift from 'acquiring to applying' gets enhanced.

Everything depends on whether the learner is using the qualification for its face value or intrinsic value.

Has our education system failed to live up to the expectations of our youth? The growing disenchantment with higher education is because of a paucity of good second rung undergraduate institutes in the country. Also, the far from satisfactory rankings of Indian Universities at the global level discourages young minds. True learning enables decision making which is discreetly acquired through consistent engagement, curiosity and observation without the conscious effort to acquire a certificate. The hard boundaries between different transactional methodologies and curriculum are being levelled so that learners

become truly global citizens.

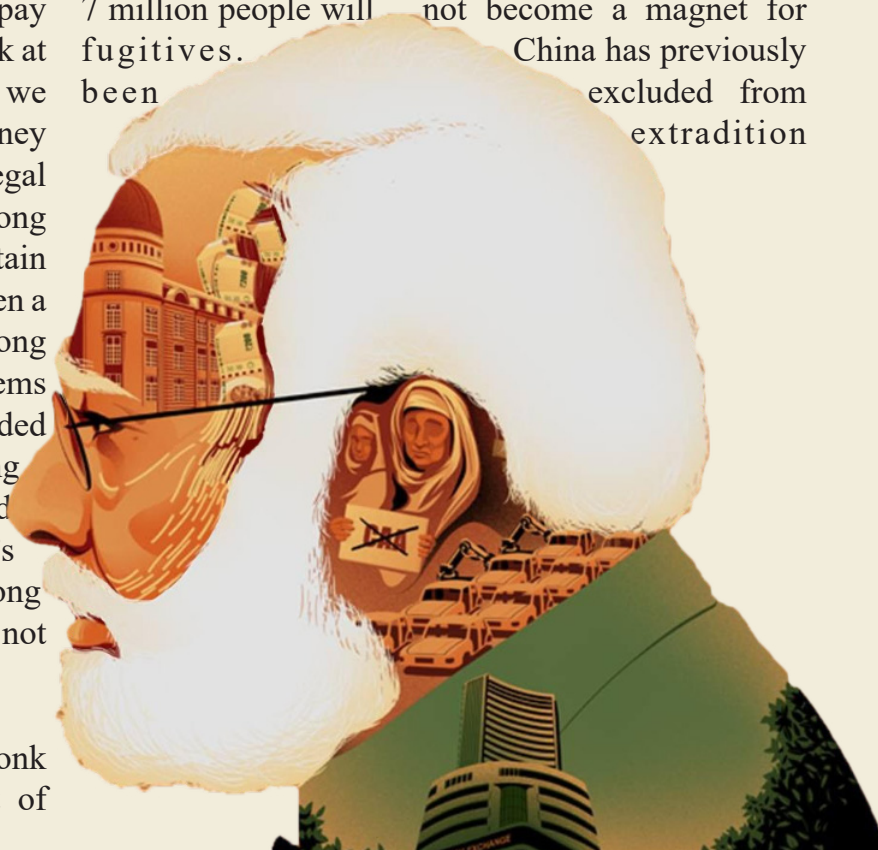
The prosperity of a nation is measured in terms of the impact of education on its citizens and their response to it. The humane and ethical values should not be distant from the learner. History bears testimony to the fact that Gandhi, Nehru, Ambedkar and other stalwarts had foreign qualifications and contributed immensely to the development of the nation. Real education is when one gives back to society in different ways so that social inequality is bridged and thereby promotes peace and prosperity for the betterment of our existence on this planet.

R.M.Bhandari

Red herrings in the name of Nationalism

Nationalism is a sense of belief and pride towards one's nation. This feeling has been fueling many countries' or as an example, our country's development and future but as we advance this very sense of pride towards the nation it has been changing over the years as it is being used as a red herring to hide the matters on which we should pay attention. To understand it more deeply, let us look at the situation of Hong Kong-China. Hong Kong as we all know is a semi-autonomous nation with its money bank, passports, immigration channels and legal system. But it isn't quite independent either. Hong Kong was never an independent country. Britain ruled the region as a British colony until 1997 when a 99-year lease expired. China agreed to govern Hong Kong under the principle of one country, two systems and the deal was left with China when Britain ceded its control. However, in the last few years Hong Kong residents have become fearful of mainland Chinese control. In 2014, China's Central People's Government released a report stating that Hong Kong's judiciary should be subordinate to and not independent of the government.

basic human rights for everyone whereas China is the exact opposite. Hong Kong's government has been trying to push a bill which will extradite those convicted of crimes back to Taiwan and China. Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam has stated that the proposed bill is very crucial so that a community consisting of 7 million people will not become a magnet for fugitives. China has previously been excluded from extradition



agreements because of concerns over its judicial independence and 'human rights record'. All the acts of China in Hong Kong have spread an enormous amount of hatred against the Beijing government and China has already published Chinese origin books and started regulating them in schools to make the future generation 'qualified for the Chinese system'. To hide its doings they state that all has been done to provoke the feeling of patriotism for their country in the people. Government ignorance can affect its people and the world in many ways; hiding a matter in the name of nationalism is just an act to cover up the acts of the government. These red herrings can affect people in many ways. Just parallel to this situation is today's India-- the way all the crimes and brutality happening around in the country take shelter in the name of nationalism. Whoever tries to throw light upon important issues which have to be tackled is automatically considered an anti-national. These red herrings not only start from the government but also the media, which is supposed to be the voice of the people but now becomes the voice of the government. On an individual level when a citizen is misled and unaware of the situation, they tend to rather connect to the government and the level of the movement is suppressed. Even in the era of social networking, the amount of citizen connectivity varies from place to place and it is not limited to posting about a situation just for the sake of it. Let us take the example of the "Black Lives Matter" movement. Despite continuous efforts by the government to defame the movement through red herrings such as "anarchy" and "unlawful behaviour", citizen connectivity and the presence of the media as the voice of the people exposed such strategies. The Government's ignorance leads to such violations of ethics where it can degenerate the society to an extent where the government rule will silence the voice of the people. As such, as the cases rise the number of countermeasures needs to rise too. We, as a global community, have to reach a level of connectivity where red herrings cannot affect us, which will ultimately lead to the creation of a society that betters itself everyday.

-Trayambak Pathak

NOT IN DELIRIUM

It's 3:07 am and the hallway is empty,
The eerie white walls are staring at me,
My convulsing body is laying helpless,
On the hospital bed.

The collapsing walls are laughing,
At my desolation...
And I just wait, wait for the sun to rise,
and extinguish the bleakness of this room.

I realise, I can't close my eyes,
It's the seizure again.
Panic-stricken, I look at my grotesque self.

The taut muscles of my left hand,
Fail to grab the bottle of phenytoin.
It fell, the tablets all over the teal floor,
The bottle, shattered, like my faith.

Every drop of tear flows back into my eyes.
Even though they're rheumy,
I can see it approaching,
That apparition, again.

They say it's epilepsy,
And prescribe me bottles of pericyazine.
But I know, it's real,
And not a mere hallucination.

The air is frigid,
Indicating the beginning of the third episode,
Of my encounter, with the Profane.

I can feel it going inside me,
Like a gallon of ice, swallowed at once,
It gains control over my body
And latches on to my soul.

The episode lasts for minutes,
Its end declared by a fit of nausea.
The relieving sensation of muscles loosening up.

I look into the mirror,
Blood smeared all over my mouth.
No, it's not uncanny anymore,
I've learned to live with it...

The other half of me,
The worse one, will soon conquer me,
And I'll be gone forever.
And still, they'll think, it was psychosis, all along.

-Manvi Makkar
X

When I say that I seek a world where certain nations did not interfere in the social, political and economic affairs of certain other nations, I say that from the perspective of a benevolent bystander and not as direct stakeholders in the potential profit or loss of any of the nations involved. In that sense, when monetary, military or political gain is removed from the equation of international intervention, all that remains is historical precedent and moral justification. By both these standards, historical and moral, international intervention stands to be largely unjustified and counter-intuitive. Let us dissect both these dimensions, one by one.

It has almost become cliched to say that it was international intervention that countered the Nazi ideology and ended tyranny in Germany, setting examples for decades to come. Using World War 2 as historical precedent for international benevolence is inappropriate for two very important reasons. First, intervention against the Germans was not meant to benefit the world order from the very beginning. The Americans joining World War 2 was never a question of ideological disagreement or disgust, it was always a question of territorial sovereignty and of counter-aggression to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. The same is true for the British and the Soviets. For many years, the UK and its government followed a policy of ‘appeasement’ towards Nazi Germany and the USSR even signed a non-aggression pact with it. It was only when the Axis posed a tangible threat to the Allies did they attack and thus there was never a humanitarian aspect to World War 2. The second reason is that the new world order generated and galvanized post-World War 2 was and is highly selfish, for the lack of a better word. Under the name of multilateralism, forces and counter-forces have come to dominate much of international politics; yesterday it was the USSR, today it is China. For a large chunk of the international community, the effects of international benevolence and aid are only expected to ‘trickle down’. A historically materialist analysis would reveal that this world order was only possible because of World War 2 and the power vacuum formed after it.

But we would be remiss to think that there are no counter-examples to this narrative of international and ideological benevolence. The fruits borne even by ‘ideological’ international interference, unlike WW2, have also been rotten. From the Korean peninsula to Vietnam to Chile, the effects (read consequences) of ideological international interference have been dire. Bombs have been dropped, farms and forests destroyed and legitimate governments

toppled. All of this was supposedly part of a larger fight between capitalism and communism. And so, while the fight may have been ideological, the lives lost were much too literal. Even today, the people of Cuba suffer from heavy sanctions just because they chose to follow a path different from that which is followed by the rest of the world.

But, says the globalist, international intervention is justified not by historical precedent, which can only serve to supplement an argument, but by morals and ethics, which make up the meat of any logical argument. The fact of the matter, however, is that the individuals and entities that stand to gain from international intervention are not constituents of affected countries, but war profiteers, arms manufacturers and oil giants. If international intervention was, in fact, justified by morals, then the outcomes of many instances of interventions ought to have been largely positive. They were not. Who they were positive towards, however, were the Washington oil lobbyists and Congressional warmongers. Today, at a time when more fairness creams are produced than Malaria vaccines, the decision to undertake any action, whether to intervene or not in another country’s affairs, is determined by cost-benefit analyses. If instead morals and ethics were the driving force behind geopolitical decisions, genocides would not have been met with blind eyes, suffering populations would not have been sanctioned and tyrants would have been promptly ousted. As is sufficiently evident, this has not been the case for much of modern history.

At risk of being misinterpreted, I must clarify a few things. International aid and humanitarian projects are not forms of international intervention. When a nation intervenes, it does so at the cost of the other nation’s integrity, sovereignty and autonomy. And thus, limiting international intervention would serve to minimize instances of counter-intuitive interventions that stand to destabilize a nation’s political and economic structure. What I have done throughout the course of this article is to show the reader how international intervention is motivated not by morality or benevolent ideology, but by prospects of tangible gains and threats of tangible losses. And thus limiting something that exists primarily for profit would be in the greater interest of humanity.

**-Samanyu Malik
XI**

The world that we live in today would be much too different without nations intervening to stop blatant abuses on the freedom, dignity and liberty of people around the world. While international intervention has been used for pursuing domestic national interests, the net end result has always been largely positive, regardless of the motivations behind nations interfering in the first place. Even though certain parties have profited from interfering in another nation’s affairs, the results of said interference have been beneficial for those suffering under the yoke of tyranny. One need not be skeptical to acknowledge that a country would be shirking its moral responsibilities to its own people if it intervenes without consideration of its national interests. A universal approach to international affairs does not reject the validity of the pursuit of legitimate national interests, the respect for a state’s sovereignty and the need for international peace when they are human-centric and accommodate global interests. To respect a state’s sovereignty it must have a legitimate government whose legitimacy is difficult to judge, therefore, when sovereignty becomes an obstruction to protecting human rights and maintaining international order due to a failed government, a legitimate entity will have to fill the void.

It is imperative that we reinterpret sovereignty as an instrumental norm and not an absolute one so that when governments fail to fulfil their obligation to protect human rights another state may intervene. When we talk about limiting international intervention, we are essentially talking about leaving sovereign nations to their own means and creating a breeding ground for potential tyranny and oppression. Time and again, whenever prominent and powerful nations have isolated themselves from the international arena, the resulting vacuum in international oversight has bred tyrants and created environments conducive towards right-wing, ultra-nationalist mobilisation. And when that happens nations are again forced to intervene, albeit to a much greater degree. Sustained international oversight by multilateral organisations has always served in the best interest of humanity.

But these international organizations exist because of a legitimized understanding in the international fraternity. Each nation agrees to divert a certain amount of resources to these organizations along with agreeing to potentially interfere in a nation’s affairs if it starts to oppress its own people or overstep its boundaries with other sovereign nations. And that is why we cannot assume that all international intervention does not further the interests of hu-

manity at large. The prospect of benefit from intervention only serves as a potent incentive for countries to interfere where it is needed. It cannot be assumed to be something inherently bad, rather a catalyst for positive change. States have a responsibility to protect their inhabitants’ human rights and their sovereignty is dependable upon the same obligation so that when they fail to do so, their sovereign rights are forfeited. The ‘responsibility to protect’ doctrine introduced a new definition of a state’s sovereignty which now included the state’s responsibility to protect its own citizens from any atrocities and when they are unwilling or unable to do so the global community has a responsibility to put an end to any crimes inflicted upon the human race. The right to life and other human rights are universalizable and serve as the bedrock for humanitarian intervention making it legally justifiable.

But what does a future where nations are left to their own means and foreign intervention is limited look like? For one, the constant cycle of geopolitical isolationism demagoguery by right-wing populists would become much too real. Opportunistic tyrants would make use of this very isolationism to further their own interests and ideology which would again warrant prompt international intervention. To put an end to this vicious cycle, nations should continue with sustained oversight and interference and participate in mutual dialogue and discourse. All of this requires nations to be active in their outlooks toward the rest of the international community and subsequently requires a certain degree of international interference.

**-Hrittvik Moody
XI**

Importance of Consistency

People who achieve their goals in their life and are successful are simply said to be intelligent or may be ambitious. However, there is just one element which turns an average successful person into a masterpiece that is, 'consistency'. It is the strongest brick for making a tower and is the most crucial ingredient for achieving success. Consistency is a commitment to ourselves for being regular and putting in concerted efforts from time to time continuously. All the responsibility lies in our own hands. It is therefore important to hold ourselves responsible for choices.

The chief reason why people struggle is if they don't get immediate results from their actions, they don't see the point in continuing those actions over a long period and that is wrong. Consistency doesn't mean being quick at something, it is rather about being steady at work. For example, when a child starts to learn walking, he falls, gets up and this cycle goes on. Imagine, if he thinks, why should he walk, if he is falling again and again. This is a situation in which he would never learn to walk. But the child is consistent with the practice of walking and that's what makes the child achieve the goal. All we have to do is work like this baby which is by being consistent with our efforts in trying to achieve our goal.

In this way, we develop discipline and self-control. Self-control is needed to be reliable, which means we don't allow ourselves to get off track. This will help us develop the necessary discipline to keep going. It is this discipline which can monitor your progress or growth quickly. Consistency can lead to progression, which will accelerate the process of achieving what we want so badly. This will boost our self-confidence, which will allow us to set goals that are bigger and more complicated. For a moment, imagine a kid learning how to shoot a basketball. In the beginning, the kid is shown the correct method of how to shoot the ball. However, things aren't easy

early on. They learn and practise the correct action and motion, but it is difficult to produce results. It just seems like the basket is too small and too far away. However, for several weeks, months and years, the child continues to practise their shooting technique. And they are beginning to score more baskets by repetition. And this is known as the consistency of practising which is responsible for the existence of legends like Michael Jordan, Lebron James and many more.

In our experience, we have seen many intelligent, skilled individuals failing due to lack of discipline. If we truly think introspectively, we will see for ourselves that we ourselves are responsible for foregoing valuable time. It is easy to blame, to lament, to moan but it superficially excludes us from accountability. But this mentality means that in the long run, we are robbed of even the slightest chances we might get to redeem ourselves later in our life. Today is the day we have to consider whether we wish to lead a life of mediocrity and like ordinaries or lead a life of satisfaction and pleasure while being consistent.

- Rakshit Khurana
IX

OTT PLATFORMS DECISION

On the 11th of November, the Government of India brought OTT Platforms (such as Netflix and Prime Video) and social platforms under the ambit of the information and broadcasting ministry, which simply means that these platforms will face stricter censorship laws, similar to censorship laws are applied on television. Particularly, there would be censorships on cuss words, nudity, drugs and everything else which the government deems unsuitable. For example, even if the government officials found this article offensive, they'll censor or remove this. In my opinion, this is a direct attack on freedom of speech and expression because many creators will not get as much liberty as they used to get to express themselves on matters of controversy. For instance, comedy is something which is inherently meant to be offensive to someone or something; if any government official thinks that any clip is offensive to any religion, culture or the government itself, he/she will remove or censor it. At this moment, where liberalisation in all spheres should be the norm and people should be exposed to more quality content in general, our government is creating the exact opposite circumstances. The Prime Minister of India refers to India as 'the largest democracy'. This is not nearly how a democracy is supposed to function wherein someone can't even say anything publicly when they want to.

There was a reason why everybody shifted from television to OTT and other social platforms because there was an increasing amount of censorship on television and subsequently a decrease in quality content. Everybody wanted a platform where everything could be free from censorship and red tape. It was never only something which was to be used for purposes of entertainment. There are movies and TV series which are never going to pass the censor board's standards, but are available on OTT platforms

and are much better than certain Bollywood movies which are just based on toxic masculinity, patriarchy, homophobia, etc. Good movies never pass the censor board. For instance, a film called 'Lipstick Under My Burkha' which portrays some lesser-known aspects about women such as their sexual urges had to pass through miles of red tape just to be released. Apparently, it was censored because of vulgarity. This is what our censor board looks like and if the same standards would start applying on these platforms, we would never be able to see actual good movies. This decision is not beneficial for any of us or even the forthcoming generations. I am happy that many people do not support this decision but many people also didn't support CAA/NRC and I don't think any of them achieved what they wanted.

-Pranay Dhaka
IX

NETFLIX

prime video

VE'R'SES

The Dungeon of The Mind

Two Poems. One Heading. You Be The Judge And Jury

In the dungeons of my mind,
Was trapped a hideous girl,
She told me to do things,
Things which I regret.

Even though it was wrong,
She talked me into it,
For she said,
That it will make you better.

The desire of getting better,
Consumed my whole conscience,
And it fueled her sayings,
For me to implement it.

Told me to steal things,
Which made gave my
inside demon contentment,
Even forced to steal my mother's
jewellery and I did so.

My parents caught me red- handed,
She said the only option was to
put them to sleep who created me,
And I did what I always had,
Leaving me alone in my mind
and the world.

-Rakshit Khurana
IX

The mind is itself a devil where several thoughts
come and blow away like the wind,
Some of them are strange, weird or revolutionary
It is impossible for a fabulous mind,
to let bad thoughts enter like burning up
A garden in a gardener's mind.

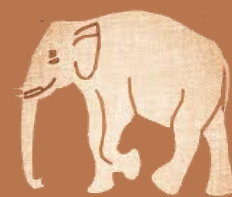
Once there was a man with pockets
but not having a single penny,
His mind was his key to everything,
Being a priest, he was honest like the day,
humble as a lamb and as kind as the king.

He was a man to whom requests for help
came in without hesitance,
Many thought how he helps
without any ulterior motive,
Well, it was the humility and kindness that
did not let poverty get in the way of helping others.

One day he found a box of lead
repulsive like a lump of coal
Curiosily he went towards the box,
He found a crown with some diamonds embossed
Still emotions were kept at bay,
To malice and avarice, say nay

Thoughts of him getting rich consumed him and he did
what he thought and he wasn't the same anymore,
Because he was trapped in the dungeon of his mind,
and the demon inside had left.

-Keshav Agarwal
IX



Literary Affairs

Jonathan Livingston Seagull – the Metaphor

Literature, especially fables, has an uncanny habit of portraying human behaviour through fascinating metaphors. Stories like 'The tortoise and the rabbit', 'The monkey and the crocodile' are common knowledge but fables are not limited to children's stories. 'Jonathan Livingston Seagull' by Richard Bach, probably one of the greatest fables of our time, explores an idea that is horizons beyond Aesop's fables but stays true to its genre. This story of a gull society captures the essence of our history where canonical principles prevailed; being different meant being feared and the fight for progress meant risking everything.

The plot follows the story of Jonathan Livingston Seagull, a bird who is extremely curious to unravel the secrets of flying. Whereas, his society looks at it as means to feed themselves and nothing more. They look down on those who disagree to the extent of vilifying Johnathan's preference to quench his thirst for knowledge over a humble hunger for fish and bait. In the end, Johnathan was cast out but that did not stop him from growing and soon he found solace with like minded gulls. The author has, in simple words, modelled the era of inquisition of the Catholic church, when non-believers were labelled heretics and silenced. Johnathan's character is a reflection of people like Copernicus who challenged the status quo

in their quest for the truth and chose not to be silenced by authority. He embodies tenacity to an extent we assume impossible but get inspired by. After moving beyond to another plane of existence, he decided to return to those who need him. Now, his tenacity not only fuelled his growth but supplemented the gulls whose lives he would touch. Soon a small group of inquisitive birds took shape, who trained and then aimed to change the society that shunned them. They were not very different from a secret society during the times of the French Revolution, maybe the author's version of Young Italy or Young Europe.

Even though John managed to inspire change, his teachings were soon covered up in ceremony and religion. The true essence of his tenacity and teachings were declared too holy to be taught as if he was a God. I believe this narrative is very similar to that of religion today. Teachings and religious philosophy have been misinterpreted innumerable times and true knowledge lay hidden behind layers of miscommunication and heavily obscured by manipulations to exploit religion for selfish ends. Modern day Jihadists, the inquisitions of the past and religious violence can be attributed to misinterpretation and manipulation of such beliefs. These people compromise the very morality that their religions

preach by re-defining them for personal gain and power.

The various obstacles Johnathan Gull and the progress of the human society faced are disregard for new discoveries and misinterpretation. Looking at this led me to question that can knowledge and tenacity be passed on without corruption? Like Mr. Bach I hope that this is possible because knowledge is much more than theory written on pages of paper. It carries a

deep history filled with emotion which inspired its search. Along with theory, knowledge passes on the determination that was needed for its invention or discovery, so that it can grow with each successive generation. The world might demonstrate that this is not possible but forsaking this hope would mean accepting knowledge is not meant to grow or to be passed on in its true form.

-Viraj Lohia
XI

THE WEAVER'S WILL

Ages ago there lived a weaver,
In the town of Amerold,
She wove the richest of silk and muslin,
But wore clothes tattered and old.

The applauded street of Fleet,
Housed the weavers- grand,
But she lived in the basement
Of the smallest shop in the land.

Her work outdid that of the masters,
But she never wore what she wove,
and worked day and night
For all of it had to be sold.

Each day, her shelves would be empty,
The nobility would buy her out.
Taking two but dined for one,
Still, they would curse and shout.

They called her, dowdy and unkempt
and her shop a foul cellar
but as they cursed, they picked her work
and wore it to dances-stellar.

On one fine morn, she closed the shop
To open the backdoor,
She sold all her fine pieces
To servants rushing down the road.

Scowled and bellowed, the lords and ladies,
When the trapdoor was closed.
Now, for works paler than the weaver's
They paid lofty sums of gold.

Soon the winter dance came around,
the nobles dressed to impress,
but on that fateful eve,
the retainers outshone even the empress.

'T was a night no teller foretold,
While the servants danced their fill.
The gentry cried and shrieked,
For, it was the weaver's will.

-Viraj Lohia
XI

The Privilege of an Opinion

Anshul's feet were paining. They had been hurting for quite a few days now. Four, to be exact.

"Maybe I should have asked the doctor", he thought.

This thought made him smile, a painful smile, to be sure, but it was the result of a painful memory. The doctor was a clutz of a man. He was barely a man. A mere student, about 20 years in age, but instead of spending time chasing girls and getting introduced to bad hobbies by his friends, this student was at the Jharkhand border, whisked there alongside his friends by the government. His job? To don one of those ghastly white suits and help with the testing of the migrants. Anshul remembered the doctor, 20 years his younger, joking about how despite all the harm it had caused, the disease still wasn't the worst Chinese products he had ever encountered.

In his effort to make the poor migrant laugh, the yet to be certified doctor had forgotten to check the numbers displayed on the white, pistol-like device in his hands. But the line behind Anshul was long and the doctor was confident that nothing was out of order.

Then he patted the digital thermometer with his juvenile hands, awarded the uncouth migrant one of his trademark winks. Anshul was still trying to understand what he had said in his polished, upper-class Hindi, but the tap on his behind by the escorting policeman's stick was motivation enough for him to move along.

With renewed vigour, Anshul continued on his path. He had started from Pune approximately 10 days ago. Initially, he had been able to convince a man with a bullock cart to let him travel alongside him, but soon, funds had run out. All he had now, were the clothes on his raw, sunburnt back, scarce funds for food in his pocket (or hidden in a secret sleeve, to be precise), his tattered slippers, and hope in his heart.

Anshul knew the route well. He had used it 2 times every year for the last 20 years.

Once for Chatt Puja, and once on any other holiday, the sahib let him take.

Except Anshul was used to sitting on the back of a bus,

not walking till his feet felt numb.

And so Anshul watched. He walked in the great Indian Savannah, trudging alongside the hundreds of others that shared a similar, unfortunate fate. It was the land that had bested empires, from the Mughals to the British. Every man who had trudged on its dry, hard earth had cursed it. No one bested the central Indian Savanah, especially in the summer and Anshul and thousands of others were learning this lesson the hard way.

But there was hope. There were rumours of a kind man who had organised buses for the poor migrants to return home. And that too at no cost to the labourers themselves. Life in the city had tried its best to make the migrants forget that vestiges of kindness still existed in a country that called the world it's family. There were also some utterings among the Dhaba owners, who's children regularly read the newspaper, about the government reopening the trains for free. But these were mere rumours.

Generation after generation, the poor of the Indian subcontinent had learnt the futility of hope. With so little control over their own life, it made little sense to sit and discuss things. The luxury of a relevant opinion was not something these men could afford. Instead, they shut their mouths, squared their shoulders, uttered a simple prayer and trudged ahead.

-Mrinank Chandar
XI

TO 2021

The victim of one of my most recent I'm-missing-school rants told me something rather intriguing; she told me, "At least we got our original families for a bit", and suddenly I was barraged by a number of epiphanies (not that I have those very often). Three months of staying away from school tells you a lot of things, so does not being able to enter the one room you've been yearning for (for various reasons) and so does not seeing the people you've practically grown up with (and probably won't see for God knows how long).

The first image that barged into my head was that of my mother. I imagined what it would feel like sending her child away from her, for the second time in a decade and then realise that when he comes back he'll practically be an adult, his childhood and naivety long gone. What my friend told me suddenly made a lot of sense. However, something seemed off this time. The thought of being away from my parents for another couple of years, possibly in a different country didn't fry my nerves as much as it would have 5 years ago. However, something else did...

The second image that I saw came in just as fast as the first one, and it was one that, for some reason, felt closer home. This image was an image of six misfit 12-year-olds on their first day at Welham Boys', clueless about what was to come. One thing led to another and the next thing I knew, my terrified sister had to listen to psychotic soliloquies about WELMUN and the Oliphant,; Lean On and Paradise in the Bethany, our escapades during camps in 10th, even the tiniest things like the whole batch standing up together during assembly (remember that?); the election that turned out so different and the tears that flowed before and after. I could see the surprise in a day schooler's eyes when she heard of absolute strangers hugging me as I cried while three 50 year olds decided my future, and of the same 'brothers' who hugged me after every little triumph. I told her of people who I barely converse with, but would probably lay down my life for. In the same breath, I also told her about the people I've counselled at 3 in the night and have gotten counselling from at the weirdest hours of the day, the people I call my 'brothers', people I didn't even know existed before the 1st of April 2015.

What I didn't tell her was how much more I loved the place. Even for a child as gifted with words as I am, it's impossible to explain how much you fall in love with the strangest things about a place. How do I tell her that I've fallen in love with a building whose sole purpose is to provide food to me, 3 times a day (with the occasional cake)? How do I tell her

that we'll wander around aimlessly around a path that doesn't look anything like its namesake, or that after that very aimless wandering, we'll all take the most serene naps in a library, of all places? And finally, how do I tell her of the most amazing conversations - intelligent or not - in balconies, and rooms; conversations where half of us are trying to make sense of the world and the other half is trying to figure out why we'd even want to do something like this.



It's weird that we should feel strange about separation from family. I mean we've all 'been there, done that' right? All of us decided to say goodbye to our childhoods and comfort zones a couple of years ago to come here in this seemingly harsh place, only to realise that this place would turn out to be a comfort zone better than home and a place safer than family. Personally, I think it's because we're more afraid of losing this family that we just luckily stumbled upon - a family gifted to us, if you will. None of us, by even the wildest of imaginations would have

thought that we'd end up here, like this, so in love with something so strange. None of us expected to find the best feelings in the world, all rolled up in one big, brown package. And that's why we're afraid of losing this near perfect thing. We're afraid that just as these strangers walked into our lives and made it heaven, life is going to phase them out, forever. A lockdown isn't helping and so isn't time.

After 5 years of constantly being in denial, I'll finally concede and say, Welham Boys isn't the best boys boarding school in the land, not by a margin. But what Welham is, is the best 'home-away-from-home' that someone could possibly have. It is here that you realise that coming to a boarding school was never about "being independent", and "maturing"; because if it was, we've failed gloriously. We failed, because in the years that all of us have spent here, we've learnt to depend on our brothers for everything - to pull us through thick and thin - and instead of maturing, we've learnt how to become even more childish; to be more straightforward and honest with the world around us. And that's what the point behind coming to Welham was and that's what I'm going to tell you, and so will my batch mates.

As for why you should believe us? Because we managed to stick to Welham despite being a million miles away. We managed to stick to the feeling of saying "5 ka sikka, 10 ka note" at home; that feeling of 20 people sitting in a room that was made for 8 and having the time of our lives; the feeling that even when everything seemed to be wrong, it still wasn't, because we had family and finally, that feeling of being together, even if we had plasma screens and a thousand kilometres separating us.

That's what the 70 of you mean to me. We might not get all the love and respect we should for making it through, but take it from me, you're the best of the lot - I wouldn't trade you for the coolest kids in the world. I mean, you're making me write a thousand word letter telling you how much I love you as I play 'Lean On' on repeat, aren't you?

**To you 2021
Hsp_G**

lasagna

Lampoon Online Magazines

Due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the school and all its activities are being conducted online. This obviously caused disruptions, but there was an institution that not only emerged unscathed from this but also seemed to have taken this opportunity to serve. We are talking of course about school magazines. What would we be without our (plagiarized and typo-filled) mouthpieces. Magazines haven't suffered much because work could be done and compiled online (except for Sankalp they ended up having a hard time as always). The magazines although did end up diligently serving the environmental cause. As they went without printing hundreds of glossy papers that would have otherwise carried their (un)ingenuous half-plagiarized bi-annual columns (The exception being the Oliphant of course). As we draw the curtain on what was an eventful year to say the least, here is a look at how the year treated all the online magazines:

Sankalp

The board members of Sankalp didn't actually notice anything different about their process this year, to be fair. The chaos, the lack of response from readers, the shortage of willing contributors, no editions coming out; everything that your usual Sankalp board encounters through the year was all there. Therefore, I don't think we can go and criticize Sankalp here, it would be unfair. They have done

well. So in my book, a pat on the back is deserved. The only problem that was large enough for their excellent troubleshooting skills was contributors not being able to type in Hindi. But they overcame this problem through some quick thinking and some quick help from kind, unmindful strangers and their already published pieces on the internet. Wow, Sankalp does have an ability to bring out the best in people.

Politicia

People were saying earlier this year that the Politicia had finally fulfilled the reason for its creation and we can now look at its possible retirement. But all of that is not true. Politicia has a dedicated writing and editing staff of 5 full people, so all that is just unwarranted criticism. The school clearly has a knack for and loves the excellent 'political' content that Politicia creates. I mean, who doesn't love pieces that are paraphrased from already published articles in mainstream media outlets. It's not as if people rely on actual media houses for their news anyways. A courageous paragon of political journalism, what sets Politicia apart is the courage that the writers and editors have to 'differ' with what's popular and write something 'out of the box' in each issue (a process that, no doubt, begins at the very top).

Wavelength (if it comes out this time)

An occurrence rarer than the blue moon would be Wavelength coming out on an occasion other than Founders' and Baisakhi. But we are not complaining about that by any means, we are rather thankful to the board for clearly demarcating the times when they publish the magazine, giving us ample time to delve into the inner workings of the magazine. While most years, the Wavelength functions aimlessly, this year they overcompensated by having two Editor In Chiefs - both with their own plans for the magazine.

Innoventure

This year, under a rather motivated Edi, Innoventure set out with the goal to rival the Oliphant in the number of issues published and re-imagine the role of the 'business magazine' in school by setting (often outdated) themes. However, the early enthusiasm soon watered down and threatening regular calls were reduced to the gentle touch of Whatsapp messages. So much so, that the July issue was 'redone' and published in November (why waste the effort). Shreyansh has absolute faith in his editorial board of novices, and his confidence is only bolstered by the 'deputy's' ability to handle everything on his behalf.




The Oliphant

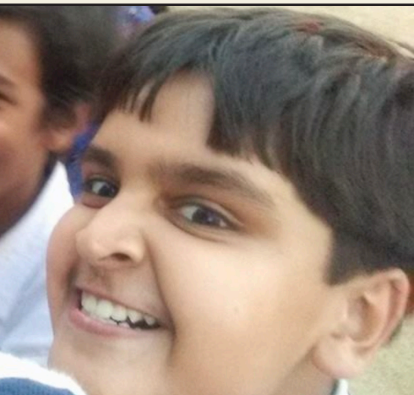
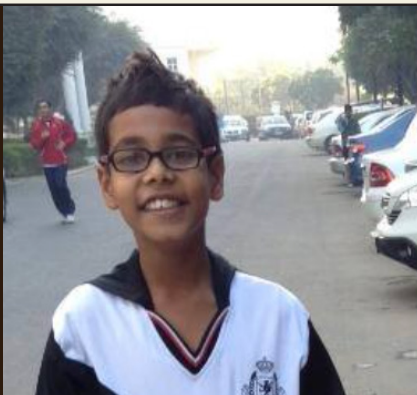

Let's end with the hosts. To be fair, we don't need a reason to laugh at The Oliphant. We just need to social-distance from their wack 'humour section'. This year's cycle actually began in early February for the Oliphant; that is also where the cycle ended. After publishing that edition we were forced to come back home due to the pandemic, and from there on, it has been a bumpy ride. While the first few editions that we took out online were borderline bearable, they soon became reflective of the board's own diminishing hope - the short lived collective enthusiasm vaporised and board members started going AWOL. It is a testament to how excited everyone is to work for the Oliphant. The Editor In Chief was absconding from this duty, and for a long period was seen lamenting his loss of the High Table one. However, the one good thing




that he did was pick a worthy successor (which is also subject to the test of time). But despite all that, the editorial board is proud of its creation and will scorn and spite at other magazines (so much so, we decided to put it in the Lampoon) and never look in the messes of their own magazine, specifically the 'humour section' and 'Lampoon'. A mess which is also added to by Yours Truly (which is also why I can be so direct).

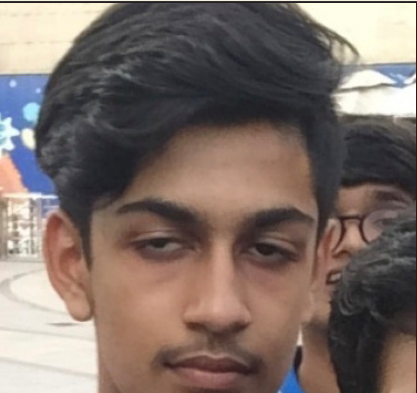


-The Lampooner


<div>ADVIT AHUJA</div> <div></div>	<div>ARJUN DHILLON</div> <div></div>	<div>ARYA SHAHI</div> <div></div>
Alias: Kaddu	Alias: Dhilaaaun	Alias: Shahi
Style: Taka Tak	Style: Dhillon Clan	Style: Techie, Hacker
Stigma: PayTM	Stigma: Elder Brother	Stigma: Low FPS, Lag
Famous Moment: Skating Rink	Famous Moment: Abhay was school captain	Famous Moment: Hacking Webcam
Advit seems to have bipolar disorder, for there is no other explanation for the amount of times he's gone back and forth in the same relationship. While some may attribute it to not being over his first love (TakaTak), Kaddu has someone else to turn to in case things don't turn out to be as he'd hoped. An expert at playing football, while his skill may not have been enough for the school team, Advit has become a constant in every Skating Rink feature.	Never in his entire life will the word 'pressure' have meant something to Dhillon more than it does now. Joining school right after his brother's rather glorious tenure as school captain, Dhilaaaun had lots to live up to, and little to offer. And while a brother's name is usually enough to guarantee one's 'protection' in the house, Arjun's legacy has unfortunately been confined to as the 'resource' boy for Cauvery 12th.	A techie in the truest sense of the word, Shahi's only aim in life is to create a life 'Dedsec'. Low FPS and lag are the bane of his existence, and while his gaming skills are unparalleled, he's taken his interest in hacking to another level altogether. Ask him a question about Windows or macOS, and his rather condescending reply will be, "Use Linux bro". Like real life hackers, Shahi believes in maintaining anonymity, and while we're nobody to fuel the rumours, it is said that this anonymity stems from his unsuccessful exploits across the border.




<div>JATIN DAHIYA</div> <div></div>	<div>SUPHAL SHARMA</div> <div></div>	<div>SAKSHAM AHLAWAT</div> <div></div>
Alias: Jateen	Alias: Phodu, Teetu	Alias: Jaat, Saxam
Style: National Crush, CLAT	Style: Identity crisis, Umakant sir	Style: Haryana, PUBG
Stigma: Girls Schools	Stigma: Srikanth Sir	Stigma: Academics
Famous Moment: School House Captain	Famous Moment: Rejoining school	Mantra - Easy subjects are the prerequisites to scoring anything
The self proclaimed National Crush, Jatin has long given up on his pursuit at being a jack of all trades. He's a topic of conversation in a number of girls' schools...as well as boys, but for all the wrong reasons. A favourite in Political Science and Legal Studies classes, Jateen is the first one to be 'conjulated' after every achievement. If only this appeasement had happened at the right time, Jatin would have been at the post he really wanted.	Suphal personifies the words bubbly and confused. Someone who's lived with a consistent identity crisis in school, he seems to believe that he's been reborn after having lasered the 'parasite' off his nose. Like most serious sciencees, Phodu decided to leave school after Grade X and try his hand at coaching. Unfortunately, it wasn't meant to be and Teetu came back scampering to his beloved Umakant sir. Rumour has it that he is the only living soul on campus who can challenge Srikanth sir's kick on the bum.	A true Haryanvi at heart, Saksham has long abandoned his academic pursuits. Instead, he focuses on being the condescending voice of every team he plays for, be it basketball or football (his dad can 'afford' for him to do it too). Unlike most others, his mantra to passing any exam is to have the easiest subject combination possible. This year has been harder than most on Saksham as his budding PUBG career halted even before it took off.

<div>DEV GUPTA</div> <div></div>	<div>DIVYANSH GUPTA</div> <div></div>	<div>KUMAR HARSHVARDHAN</div> <div></div>
Alias: Polpu, Baldau	Alias: DG, Takla	Alias: Takla, Babboo, Cancer
Style: Fake JAW SAW	Style: Lionel Messi from Bhadohi, Scholar's Tie	Style: Desi Katta, Bihari
Stigma: Baski A team	Stigma: 12th Science	Stigma: Speaking
Famous Moment: Basky Tournament in SA	Famous Moment: High Table	Famous Moment: Voracious Reader Award
Dev joined the school as a rather innocent, shy young boy, but he soon realised that he needed to move up the ladder. While his efforts in basketball only took him as far as South Africa, continuous disappointments led him to try and join (unofficially and rather unsuccessfully) some higher organisations in school. It is said that Dev has now resorted to telling people about an imaginary girlfriend in order to salvage the popularity he has left.	DG's transformation (not due to Glow and Lovely) from a Scholar to a sciencee will leave many surprised. The underrated Messi from Bhadohi can often be seen lamenting the tragedy that his life has become (the effect on his hairline is evident). A broken man, even his ascendance to the high table wasn't able to raise his spirits. Oli hopes that he can come to terms with his fate of being a sciencee in time.	The Invisible Man of the batch, Takla likes to let the explosiveness stay in the family. Judging by his obsession with the bald look (Sardar Khan?) and depressing books, one could mistake him for a patient. Harsh's family inspired him to take up shooting, but how well those efforts served him is still to be seen. Jiya Ho Bihar Ke Lala!

<div>UDAY KAJLA</div> <div></div>	<div>VARDHAAN KHANNA</div> <div></div>	<div>AYAAN SUHAIL</div> <div></div>
Alias: Kajle, Majnu	Alias: Khanna, Sexa	Alias: Dawood, Jallad
Style: Majnu bhai, Shirt Size 34	Style: Shivansh	Style: Gaming Fan
Stigma: Nominations	Stigma: WGS	Stigma: Junior School IT Lab
Famous Moment: President of the AWrganisations	Famous Moment: Shivansh becoming Ganga House Prefect	Mantra - If it speaks, you don't reply
Ever since the disappointments of March, Kajla has overcompensated for his lack of an official leadership position by becoming president of every possible underground awrganisation. However, under the sakth guy facade is a Majnu bhai (as is evident by his gait), painting in the wait of his beloved. And while his hard work on the field might suggest otherwise, his shirt size has remained constant ever since he joined.	A funny guy with a passion for cracking jokes on himself, Khanna's talent for exaggerating the costs of his perfumes and watches is unparalleled. Being sent home was a blessing in disguise, because he didn't have to learn to stay without his beloved Shivansh. Sexa has accepted that when people laugh, they laugh at him, not with him. And no matter how bad a mood or how grim a setting, there is nothing that his trademark laugh can't solve.	If there is someone in the world who's proud of being a sociopath, it's Ayaan. Unlike his brother, Ayaan is quite 'explosive' in nature. The real 'techie' of the batch, if there is a problem that he can't solve, it probably doesn't even exist. Jallad is well versed in arts so dark that one could be forgiven for thinking he carries more than just a laptop fan in his bag. Another member of the BOO gang, it is advisable to maintain your distance at any point in time.

AKSHAT JAIN		DEBOPOM DE		DEVANSH MITTAL	
Alias: Jaini, Meetha		Alias: Bugga, Mocchi		Alias: Moti, Patiala Pal	
Style: Wannabe, Prediction		Style: Tabla		Style: Sannidhya, Fulkaariyan	
Stigma: High Table		Stigma: Music Captain		Stigma: Pimples	
Famous Moment: Main Field Reporting (if you know, you know)		Famous Moment: Inter House Music		Famous Moment: Ganga House Dance	
The list of stigmas would have overflowed if we'd taken the liberty of listing each one of Akshat's mishaps at Welham. Truth be told, with all the 'accidents' his uncontrollable mouth has caused, there's only two things he's been able to keep successfully going in life: his surprisingly long relationship, and the 'Akshat Jain' legacy (but then, nobody else got it if he didn't, right?). A true Gangaite at heart, his 'predictions' for first place in each inter house will be sorely missed. We hope life doesn't send him on any more 'leaves' that he doesn't ask for.		Debopom is the person who takes care of spreading the loner vibe wherever he goes, in the school and elsewhere. The inner workings of his life are a well kept secret; and apart from honing his English skills (a legacy he's inherited from daddy don) nobody knows what he's up to. The Oliphant sympathises with his inconsequential musical endeavours.		With a friend in a high place, Moti has been kind enough to not misuse his rather strong influence. A seemingly simple man, Moti holds as many secrets with him as there are pimples on his face. Known for the Bhangra he did for the Ganga House, Devansh really shed his 'silent' facade as he twerked to the beat. Rumour has it, the Ganga House Captain and the School Captain competing for his affections at the moment.	

DHRUV SINGH		DIVYANSH GOEL		SHIVAM DODAI	
Alias: Carpet, Thakoor		Alias: Gangubai		Alias: Hamster, Dodo, Do-dhai	
Style: the streets, Tik Tok		Style: Hindi poetry		Style: Too short to find somebody	
Stigma: "Stalk" market		Stigma: No HT City		Stigma: Tanishq Rijhal	
Famous Moment: Ganga House Dance, Dance IPSC		Famous Moment: Jayesh leaving school		High point- Art Captain	
The 'kewlest' guy in the batch, Thakoor has finally embraced that he belongs to the streets (as is evident in his choice of clothes). Someone who doesn't need to do anything to reach unspeakable heights (Nachos are the secret, some say) his high point as a dancer came last year when he united both sides of Welham at the Dance IPSC. We hope that he can one day shift his focus from the local stalk market and get serious about his dreams of becoming a beatboxer after all.		A sneaky personality, you never know what Divyansh is up to in the confines of his bed. Rumour has it that he possesses an extra locker with a year's worth of HT City's stashed inside. Before 10th grade, Divyansh could often be spotted hanging out with his best pal, Jayesh, but ever since he left school, Gangubai has resorted to writing Hindi poems in his memory.		A man who personifies the saying, "Chota packet, bada dhamaka", in his two years at Welham, Shivam has single handedly ruined 8 years of "hard work" by Yashwardhan. While his walking into school was a literal relief to Tanishq, he now has to fulfil the hard duty of being the batch's punching bag. While there are perks to being as short and nimble as he is, Shivam has been unable to find somebody short enough for him (inferiority complex).	

GUNIT KOTHARI		HARKIRT ANAND		HARSH VIKRAM SINGH	
Alias: Gunnu, Kothawwriiii		Alias: Sardar, Bondu		Alias: Tiklam, Ille	
Style: Jai Kothari, Accounts		Style: Arguing, Debating		Style: Jai Vikram, Focussss	
Stigma: BR Sir, Poverty		Stigma: When the clock strikes 12, Political Science		Stigma: Expectation	
Famous Moment: 3000 high score on Bikes Hill		Famous Moment: South Africa Exchange		Famous Moment: Academics Captain	
It is unfortunate that despite all his best efforts, Gunnu will always be remembered by the legacies his (younger) brother, Jai has already made in school. As much as he tries to hide his bling, it's difficult for him to shed his identity of being a 'Kothawwrii' (the Baazaar kinds). When not occupied with being in Joy sir's good books, Gunnu can be found breaking high scores in any possible VODOO game or binging a new show on Netflix.		At first glance, Harkirt may come off as a rather peaceful sardar, but make the mistake of getting into an argument with him and logic jumps out the window. A man whose clock is always stuck at the 12 mark, the only place where Harkirt is subjugated is in KT Ma'am's class. Rumour has it that Harkirt left his heart behind in South Africa, and can be seen eagerly trying to make conversation with a certain someone.		Throughout the course of his entire life, Harsh has only felt threatened once and that was when he almost lost his coveted position to Ishaan. And while people may not have forgotten the 98% of class 7 and 8, the expectation of repeating those same feats have often kept him up at night. It is a surprise how 3 other people (including Akshat Jain) placed above him in the entrance exam. One of the few younger ones who has come closest to repeating his brother's legacy in school, Tiklam can often be seen sermonising people to study and focus (like a true acadi).	

KARTIK TRIPATHI		KRISH GOYAL		KUSHAGRA DIDWANIA	
Alias: KT, (mama's boy)		Alias: Suar, Amar Chaudhary		Alias: Hawa, Dandi	
Style: Politicia		Style: Balli		Style: RSS, Gyan Sir	
Stigma: Mom		Stigma: Suyash		Stigma: MCGS, Prefects Room	
Famous Moment: Scholars' Scarf		Famous Moment: Shooting Welham Newz		High point - Yoga Display	
To say that Kartik has received everything on a silver platter would be an overstatement. An industrious young man, nobody really has any idea about what really goes on behind the windows on his eyes. Kartik has probably had the easiest job as Editor In Chief of the Politicia (everything becomes easy when you have enforcers to do your job). When he's not slogging it out to score higher than 100 marks (Mommy don can be dangerous), he can be seen disseminating football news to his friends.		The highlight of Balli's life have been his futile attempts at trying to become one of the 'cool' ones. Despite his best efforts - from buying an expensive laptop, to using cheap humour - to appease the 'don' of Ganga house, he's still struggled to become part of his inner circle. However, as is evident from the extra effort he's put into shooting footage for the Welham Newz this year, it seems as though he may finally have found his 'godfather'.		A man of bold stature and a quirky grin, Kushagra takes his responsibilities at the yoga room very seriously. While he is rather dedicated to his duties as Yoga captain, it's unfortunate that the post didn't get him the room he actually wanted. A devout Benarasi, Kushagra has trouble accepting the school's "secular" outlook. While his connections to the RSS are clear, he could often be seen campaigning for another politician inside Ganga.	



AARYAN MAHIPAL

Alias: Mohipol, Hool

Style: Shaurya Poddar, Summer School

Stigma: Project Mahipal, Ishaan Kapoor

Famous Moment: Last place at Cross Country

A walking, talking disaster, Mahipal holds virtually all kinds of posts (in work more than duty). Thin and thick from the wrong places, his infamous run at the Cross Country last year earned him a reputation as a tedha. After spending the beginning of the year trying to usurp Ishaan Kapoor's post, his failures drove him to a rabid spree of attending any possible summer school programme. When he's not juggling with his non-existent existential crises, he can be seen writing college applications for a long list of 'clients'.



MAYANK MOOLCHANDANI

Alias: Garfield

Style: Business, shreyansh

Stigma: English language, RW Ma'am

Famous Moment: Shreyansh becoming Sec-Gen

Mayank joined school as a rather normal kid in 2015, but it's unfortunate that Shreyansh's company has made him a wannabe socialite. From someone who embraced the Welham lingo, he now resorts to (unsuccessfully) reprimanding people in English. Garfield can shift between his 9 personalities as smoothly as he can appease people with his Kanpur charm. The Oliphant hopes all his weird business ventures finally see the light of day.



PULKIT JOSHI

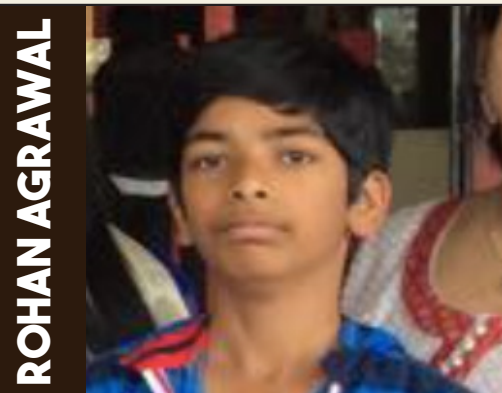
Alias: Baahubali, Khamba, Hodor

Style: Johnny bhai, Jallad

Stigma: House Reportings, Gandhi

Famous Moment: Announcement on High Table

Do not let his towering height and big biceps scare you, for he is the sweetest person in class 12. A tall bulky guy, under Pulkit's Baahubali like frame lies a silent, Gandhian boy. It's tragic that for someone with as much 'wisdom', Khamba hasn't yet found a girlfriend. What sets Pulkit apart from the others is his unique sense of humour, expressed mostly through memes and old Musicallys. Judging from his misadventures with the announcement mic, Pulkit was lucky to not conduct any house meetings this year.



ROHAN AGRAWAL

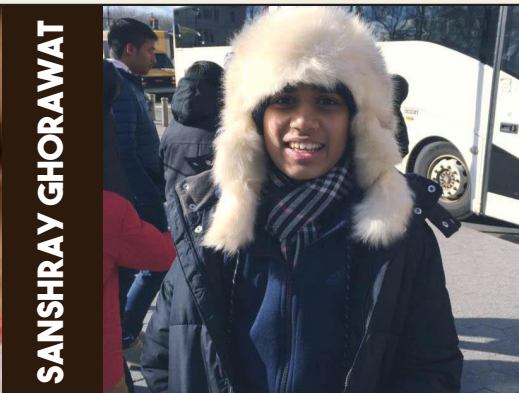
Alias: LA, Nepali

Style: Techy, Binge Watching

Stigma: (surprisingly enough) the camera

Famous Moment: Welham Newz Director

A product of the school's dental care program, Rohan takes pride in having contacts that nobody else seems to have, and access to places that people don't know exist. True to his Nepali nature, give Rohan a game to finish or a series to binge, and he'll finish it faster than you expected him to (how he does it is anybody's guess). A skilled cinematographer, one look at his own photos is all it takes for one to realise is that it's his own beloved camera that seems to haunt him every time.



SANSHRAY GHORAWAT

Alias: Digit, Ghodu

Style: Behenon ka Bhai, Son-shrey, Edi

Stigma: 242, Shashwat Ranjan

High point - 27th Feb, 2020 (If you know, you know)

Sanshray tried so hard, got so far, but in the end it doesn't even matter. Usually of a docile nature, the one time Son-shrey decided to make Shrey proud, it ended up biting him in the back very hard. While he may boast of having a billion sisters across all girls' schools in the country, Sanshray is still haunted by his experiences with H-242. The Oli board is obliged to hope that Digit, unlike his predecessor, makes it to his preferred college.



SHIVAM AGARWAL

Alias: Bholu, Nashedi

Style: LGBTQ

Stigma: Red Eyes

Famous Moment: Suyash's(non)nomination

A usually friendly person, Shivam scares off people by being over friendly at times. A very welcoming person, he won't hesitate if you asked to borrow his bed on a very cold night. Though his heart radiates innocence, his eyes often deceive people into thinking he's part of an AWrganisaton. While his personal goals are limited, Bholu was visibly heartbroken when his beloved Dholu didn't make it to the ballot.



SUYASH MITTAL

Alias: Aalu, Dholu

Style: MIB, CLAT

Stigma: Shivam

Famous Moment: Nominations

A rather loud personality, Suyash makes sure his name is heard in every possible discussion at school (no such thing as bad publicity). While he means well, DB sir's judgement precedes his reputation. And while he didn't get the post he 'deserved', he managed to secure the all important room (couldn't do the same for his lackeys though). While he has a very industrious business to turn to if things don't work out in college, we still can't find a reason why Suyash enrolled in the CLAT classes (someone we don't know about?).



TAHIR MAHMOOD

Alias: Makhmood

Style: Shayari, Saudi, Oxford

Stigma: 12th Science

Famous Moment: There's always a re-examination

Judging by the surprising levels of calmness in Tahir's behaviour, one could be forgiven for thinking he's a bomb waiting to explode. Rumour has it that there hasn't been a single exam where Tahir has passed in the first attempt, and it's a surprise how Tahir has convinced the school for him to continue science. When he's not occupied in writing love shayaris, Tahir can be found entertaining the juniors with stories of his various exploits and 'missions'. The Oli hopes that his dream of studying Engineering at Oxford (don't ask us, we don't know either) comes true one day.



VEDANT SWARUP

Alias: OCD

Style: Silence, Drama

Stigma: Words, Dirty Words

Famous Moment: Housefeast dance

Known for his silent demeanour, Vedant has spent a rather uneventful decade at school. How someone can be so innocent and yet not fall in with the wrong company for over 10 years is beyond us. Always engrossed in his books, OCD is a man of many talents, many of which are showcased only on the stage. Be it literally washing his pillow, or meditating after saying a 'dirty' word, there is no quirk that one cannot associate with Vedant.



YASHWARDHAN

Alias: Bappi

Style: Day Boarders

Stigma: Art Captain

Famous Moment: @moving_with_meraki

If following in the footsteps of one brother was hard enough, ask Yashwardhan how it's been following in the footsteps of two consecutive Squash captains. Having spent a lot of time in the art room and the skating rink, Bappi was 'almost there' at both places, but eventually had to leave empty handed. A good guy at heart, Bappi often overcompensates the niceties to hide the 'darker' hobbies he has.



GARVIT AGARWAL

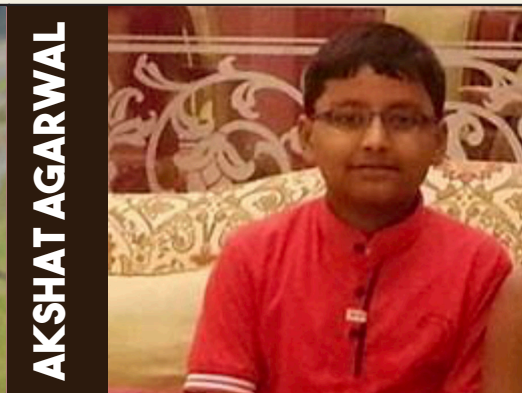
Alias: Ghoda, Zappy

Style: Loading time

Stigma: Looking out from the corner of his eyes

Famous Moment: Finishing anything at a normal pace.

If humans had loading times, Garvit would have been the perfect example. The Bing browser in the era of Google Chrome, by the time Garvit has finished comprehending something, it's gotten over, been repeated 5 times and even been tested in class. While most of his normal motor skills function perfectly, what his eyes are staring at at any point in the day is a mystery.



AKSHAT AGARWAL




Alias: Mau, Sheesh

Style: Black Panther

Stigma: Akshat Jain, Light

Famous Moment: Yearbook Edi

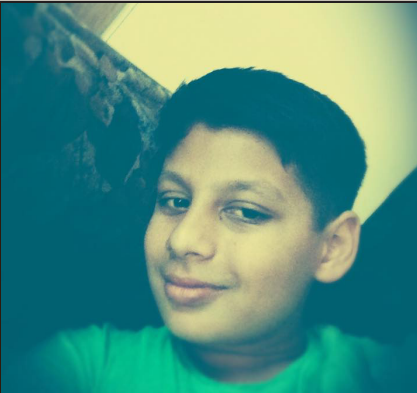

Akshat quite literally rose from the "ashes" this year to gain what was rightfully his. While some believe it was merely a mess up of similar names, after 3 correspondents' badges, Mau can finally flaunt the badge that matters the most. When he's not occupied with being the victim of racist jokes, Mau can be found bingeing through any kind of psychotic teen thriller on Netflix.

ADITYA BHANDARI		KARAN DALMIA		KULVINDER DAHIYA	
Alias: Bhandu		Alias: Richie Rich, Choti		Alias: Dheela, Kullu	
Style: Oscar		Style: Other people's girls, Dixit		Style: Moustache, CCU	
Stigma: Maths		Stigma: iPad Pro, Angels		Stigma: Goalkeeping	
Famous Moment: Squash Captain		Famous Moment: Farewell (if you know, you know)		Famous Moment: FIX 5 Champion	
A day boarder who has seamlessly transitioned into the boarding life. There's still confusion whether it's him or Oscar who's actually the son in the Bhandari household. A constant disappointment to his father's legacy in Maths, he's now focussed his efforts to squash, the only thing that fills him with hope in life anymore.		The short boy your girl didn't warn you about, Karan is a heartthrob. Don't be fooled by his lack of height or hair, for under that facade is a man with a mission (and the resources) to do every possible illegal activity in school. Infamous for his affinity for angels, Choti's cute charm and smile has been responsible for multiple breakups. Once a dedicated Squash player, he's now resorted to writing about his 'struggles' and 'disappointments' in college essays.		It is a mystery how Kullu is still the number one goalkeeper for the school. With seemingly no control over his long hands, his eyes will always make it seem as if he could drop dead at any moment. A Manchester United fan, Kullu will defend his love for the club with as much passion as people can only dream of. And while his eyes and quirky moustache may suggest otherwise, Kullu is not, perpetually, on a roll.	

PRAKHAR DIXIT		PRANAV GUPTA		SAI SHARAN VATS	
Alias: Dixit, Buddha		Alias: Paspas, PSG		Alias: Baba	
Style: Rockstar, Hibernation		Style: Casual, Finsta, Hacked PUBG		Style: English Debating, Peaky Blinders	
Stigma: Games Time		Stigma: Heights		Stigma: 12th Science	
Famous Moment: Nomination for School Captain		Famous Moment: Close call with JB Sir		Famous Moment: Basketball Captain	
A truly versatile personality, Dixit has carefully balanced the sycophant and the rebel inside him. While on one hand he can be seen steeped in conversation with Pandey sir, hours later you may find him questioning school policies. Prakhar's only goal in life has been to follow in the footsteps of Jordan from Rockstar, and it seems as if he's finally made peace with the 'heartbreak' part of it. While he may pretend to be a polymath, Buddha has an allergy to Games Time, and there is not a single day where this old man can't be found sleeping.		Once a normal lovelorn teenager, the effect of various 'trips' on Pranav's outlook on life is evident. Someone who believes in getting out of things before they get serious (casual friends the, fir achhe friends hogaye....), he recently had to give up studying to follow his passion of becoming a PUBG streamer. His pursuit of reaching greater heights is unaffected by time, day or the risk of having a teacher in front (JB Sir still doesn't know).		For someone who seemingly inherited Welham Basketball at its lowest, Sai must be disappointed by not being able to do anything about it. Someone who believes strongly in a lot of things, Sai will go to great lengths to convince people to agree with him - be it through his excellent debating skills (yeah soo...like) or the Thomas Shelby way. A budding doctor, we hope he can finally start focussing on what's really being taught in Bio class.	


SANNIDHYA AGGARWAL		SANYAM GOYAL		SATWIK AGARWAL	
Alias: Dalla, Khachhar		Alias: Teddy, Chhaiyam		Alias: Topper	
Style: Sycophancy, S^3		Style: Vatsal's Teddy bear, Panda		Style: Chatur	
Stigma: Formal clothes		Stigma: Aloo Ke Parathe		Stigma: Second Highest	
Famous Moment: WELMUN '19		Famous Moment: Vatsal's Nomination		Famous Moment: Chemistry Subject Award	
For someone with a clean record, there's a lot of dirt under Sannidhya's rug. He almost lost it all at WELMUN '19. His journey to the very top, however, has been quite unchallenged (giving away his share did come in handy after all). While most school captains look forward to spending the year in full glory, Khachhar is practically incapable of doing anything 'classy', or wearing any sort of attire that includes a tie. Despite his weird lifestyle and affinity for mood swings, The Oliphant fails to understand how so many people, in and out of school, still like him.		There are loyal people, ultra loyal people, and then there is Saiyam. A man who has devoted his Welham life to being Vatsal's right hand guy. Another one of those people whose looks make them seem scarier than they really are. Under Saiyam's hard exterior is a really soft teddy bear who has a weakness for Sunday's aloo ke parathe.		The one who has single handedly spoiled all of Ishaan's plans of Science domination. Satwik is the messiah 12th Science deserves. In simpler words, Satwik, unintentionally has broken the dreams and aspirations of a long list of people (Aaryan, Ishaan....). Though it hasn't been seen a lot of times, the hollow look on his face when he's second best in class is enough to depress anyone - Oli hopes he doesn't have to experience it again.	

SHASHWAT SINHA		SHREYANSH JINDAL		SURYANSH DALMIA	
Alias: Mashwat, Daanav		Alias: Jappy, Tubelight		Alias: Flatty	
Style: SKD (Shashwat, Kullu, Dubey)		Style: Blue and Grey, S^3		Style: Genius, FIFA, Fortnite	
Stigma: Being oversized		Stigma: Social Interaction, Laptop Password		Stigma: Curved surfaces, MCGS	
Famous Moment: Madhav leaving school		Famous Moment: Almost Leaving School		Famous Moment: Performing Genius on the Peacock stage	
Rumour has it that Shashwat is still reeling from the breakup of Mashwat. School hasn't been the same for him since Madhav left, and he seems to have renounced getting involved again. An adept sportsperson, while he's often felt too big for his boots on the football pitch, Daanav's huge frame allows him to literally bump people into the air with one push. Shashwat can often be seen debating the intricacies of football with Kullu and Divyansh.		To be very blunt, Shreyansh is a man with no heart and all brain. Someone who believes in over analyzing everything, the regret of wearing brown instead of blue is evident on his horrified face each day. All jokes aside though, Jappy loves the school so much that he even faked a rather sentimental exit once. When he's not busy lamenting the tragedies of his life, he can be seen devising new ways of hiding the contents of his laptop from the people around him.		Look from afar and you might sight a walking contraption of boxes, come closer and you'll realise it's Suryansh Dalmia. A confident young man, he's still reeling from the disappointments of BVCMUN and WELMUN. During any point in a conversation, make sure not to mention the words FIFA or Ultimate Team, or you may find yourself barraged by a thesis on how the market works. One often wonders whether his unusual head shape has had any effect on the functioning of his brain.	

VARAD VENKAT		VARUN KHANDELWAL		VATSAL GOEL	
Alias: Barad, South Indian Bihari		Alias: Barun, Pandit		Alias: Travis	
Style: Netflix, Marvel		Style: No Ingliss Speaking, Beedi-sa		Style: 100M	
Stigma: Uncontrolled Hair Growth		Stigma: Humour Section		Stigma: MIB	
Famous Moment: Film Society		Famous Moment: S^3 Prediction		Famous Moment: RoundSquare President	
Varad is living proof of the evolution of man. How he manages to make girls fall for him, despite having an uncontrolled rate of hair growth, is beyond any man's understanding. And while his binge watching skills could rival anybody's in school, he still manages to maintain the 'chick magnet' fitness by carefully planning out his schedule. A true Marvel and film fanatic, we hope he's able to get the much awaited Film Society Honour's Board before he graduates.		As is evident from his various appearances in the humour section of this very magazine, Varun seems to have an allergy to all things English (including one of the Senior Editors). Despite his best efforts to shed the image of a Pandit, his predictions of the 'division of power' amongst the S^3 suggest otherwise. And while he may roam around with a protein shake and iPad in his hand, if you asked him, Varun, for the life of him, won't be able to tell you what sophistication means (no literally, ask him).		For someone as fast on the field as Vatsal, the urge to 'slow things down' is understandable. Part of multiple joint ventures in the balcony, Vatsal likes to live life to the fullest like Travis. While he may have been forcefully handed a 'Behtar Post' at the beginning of the year, the Man In Black couldn't care less about the lesser pursuits of life. We hope Vatsal gets to visit his beloved room (balcony included) one last time before graduating.	


VEDANT AGARWAL		VISHWASH DUBEY		YASH AGARWAL	
Alias: Cheelu, Dhinchak		Alias: Da Dubey		Alias: Anga, Ille	
Style: Bentley in Kanpur, Gym		Style: Bikki		Style: Vizag	
Stigma: Ambanis		Stigma: Stalk Market		Stigma: His predecessor	
Famous Moment: Gym Captain (oops)		Famous Moment: Every moment of his life		Famous Moment: Joining Welham	
The Batman to Tawde's Superman, Vedant is the real rich kid in the batch. The owner of the only Bentley in Kanpur, it is believed that a major portion of his earnings come from Dhinchak Pooja's Youtube videos. The literal manifestation of "tried so hard, got so far", he will have to be content with being second best (like most other things in his life) in the Gym this year.		Normal Welhamite's take pride in having highlights, but Dubey's life mission has been to make himself infamous for everything he does. From T-Republic in grade 7 to becoming the bane of Saurav Sinha's existence in grade 10, there's no activity where Da Dubey hasn't 'been there, done that'. Like many others, his investments in the "stalk market" have yielded disappointing returns, and the Oliphant hopes he can find someone to 'ground him' in college.		Yash's enigmatic nature is a compulsion rather than nature, considering the high standards his namesake set at school. Though he claims to be from Vizag, the lack of an accent surprises everyone around him. Yash, contrary to most new boys, learnt the ways of Welham very soon, and rightly did what would be detrimental to him - befriended Pranav. We hope his influence on Yash has been subjugated by the lockdown.	




AARYAN GARG		ARJUN CHAUHAN		AARYAN RASTOGI	
Alias: Garg		Alias: Jaanvar, Adimanav		Alias: Kaalu, Koyla	
Style: Chowmein		Style: Wrong Stream		Style: Center Fresh, Fake Accent	
Stigma: Ishaan Kapoor		Stigma: Cannibalism		Stigma: Light	
Famous Moment: Chomeen at Tuckshop		Famous Moment: Subject Choices		Famous Moment: Kabir Singh with Dodai	
A proud Sciencee, Aaryan has come to be known for his trademark laugh. Ever since joining the school in 2015, Garg has ensured that he always has a lot on his plate; but put aside his affinity for chowmein for a second, and you will notice that his looks truly are deceptive. A poet at heart, it is sad that most of his academic plaudits have been overshadowed by a "nicer" contemporary.		Up until Grade X, Arjun seemed destined to become a sciencee, but on D-Day, he betrayed his beloved science teachers and opted for commerce - how that's going for him is anybody's guess. While he may have a human face to cover it up, Arjun is an animal by nature, and don't be surprised if there is an incident that involves him taking a bite out of someone. One of Rinchin's fellow "intellectuals", Arjun never holds back from giving a very thought out opinion on every conversation that reaches his ears.		The literal manifestation of Ismail Koyla, under his soft demeanour lies a Sciencee frustrated with life. His life ever since joining the school has been rather uneventful. His outbursts, however rare they may be, are a sight to see (kisne touch kiya?). One to react to all kinds of information with his trademark beaming smile, it is rumoured that he often has to accompany people as a human torch in the "dark hours"	




PARTH DANGWAL		DEV SHARMA		GAUTAM JAIN	
Alias: Danda, Paddy		Alias: Tawde		Alias: Non Veg Momo	
Style: Eating		Style: Money		Style: Mount Abu, Aditya Mehra	
Stigma: the wind		Stigma: Poverty		Stigma: Veg Momo	
Famous Moment: Table Tennis Captain		Famous Moment: Cheeps from Dubai		Famous Moment: Sneaking in Food	
One conversation is all it takes for one to wonder whether Parth ended up in the wrong house. A surprisingly calm Krishnaite, it is in Bethany that Paddy really comes alive. It is only after you've suffered the ordeal of sitting across him during dinner, that you realise that it truly is a tragedy how he's still as thin as he is. A pale ghost, rumour has it that the only thing that keeps him 'grounded' in school is his table tennis racquet.		Already living the life, Dev truly feels that school is his 'own' home (I mean, he could buy it in a second if he wanted to). While the rest of the world struggled to buy PS5s, Dev here was sending them out as gifts on his own birthday. Once the undisputed rich brat in the batch, Vedant's arrival in grade 9 seems to have unnerved him. Tawde believes that anything in life can be inherited or bought. If you thought there were luxuries that couldn't be bought, just wait till you hear of the fancy stuff Dev has bought (Dubai Cheeps).		One of the two warring momos in the batch, Gautam settled into life in Krishna house by befriending the most un-Krishna Krishnaite - Mehra. The highlight of his short tenure at Welham has been the achievement of having watched every possible show on Netflix. A trustworthy lackey, he can be seen doing all kinds of jobs - from sneaking in phones to cooking Maggi - for his "godfather" in Krishna house.	


HARSH SINGHANIA		HITEN GARG		ISHAAN KAPOOR	
Alias: Veg Momo		Alias: Chadda 2.0, Baba		Alias: Chausa, Chatur	
Style: Bihari, Panda		Style: Magician		Style: Under the table	
Stigma: Non Veg Momo		Stigma: Pre-Sc		Stigma: Aaryan Mahipal	
Famous Moment: Sneaking in Food		Famous Moment: Big fan from india (Please reply)		Famous Moment: LRC Council Meetings	
The other member of the momo duopoly, Momo is more than capable of giving his counterpart a run for his money. A surprisingly classy Bihari, under Momo's silent personality lies a resourceful boy. One of his many attempts to be a true Krishnaite eventually resulted in an unsuccessful food run. Under his panda like appearance, lies a fox who has experienced all aspects of the Welham nightlife.		The Basketball team's 'Most Valuable Player', Hiten is still waiting for his idol's reply on Instagram. To be fair, Hiten should, by now, be used to being left on delivered. While he didn't get to inherit the Basketball team from him, he's taken it upon himself to look exactly like Dev during the lockdown. We hope his running skills help him avoid a certain Pre-SC from across the border.		Ishaan's history of usurping positions (with mixed levels of success) have proved that there is more to him than just books and studying. To be fair, things weren't helped when a certain someone decided to leave the school at the beginning of the year. Gora will never miss up on the opportunity to be part of the teachers' good books (just ask Aaryan Mahipal). And while his plans for college remain ambiguous, the Oliphant hopes that he finds desks that are big enough to fulfil his (and others') needs.	

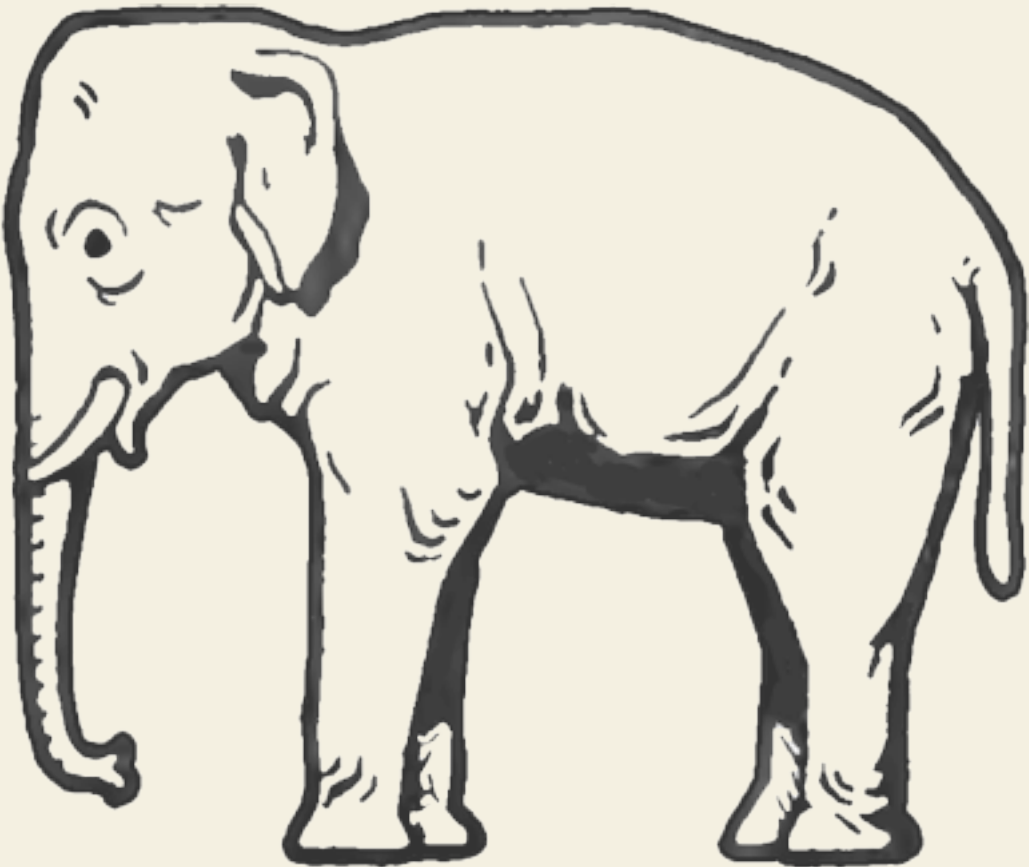
KALIND LATH		ADITYA MEHRA		PARTH SHARMA	
Alias: Chaar Sau Bees (420)		Alias: Mehra, Bakra		Alias: Bikki	
Style: Highest In The Room		Style: Kolkata, Wannabe		Style: Ujjwal Sharma, Ramjhula	
Stigma: Karan Dalmia		Stigma: Karan Dalmia		Stigma: the English language	
Famous Moment: Legal nahi, compulsory		Famous Moment: Mercedes CLA Ad on Facebook, NATO '18		Famous Moment: USA Visa Interview	
One of the few new boys who has fit into life at Welham effortlessly. Kalind at any point of the day (or night) is on a roll. The highlight of his school life has been becoming a patron of organisations such as the JAW and SAW. Chaar Sau Bees has embraced the punk rockstar inside him and can be seen humming along to the weirdest raps as he goes about his business. And while Lil Peep might be looking down at him from above, the 'angels' haven't been too kind to him.		Aditya Mehra seems to have accepted the fact that he was put into the wrong house after all. The permanent 'refugee' of Jamuna, you could be forgiven for thinking he actually was a Jamunaite. A wannabe at heart, one can always expect him to follow his trademark imaginary party plans with a 'bakri' laugh. A car fanatic, Mehra will not let up any opportunity to ask for prices if he sees something he likes. While he's had his fair share of heartbreaks, Mehra has moved on in style from the disappointments of WELMUN '18 and MGD (just ask Karan).		Some say having a brother at school is an advantage, but ask Parth about his experience and he'll tell you something quite contrary. Despite his excellence in cricket, Bikki has found it difficult to live up to the sports quota legacy set by his brother. Add to that his excellent command over the English language (My father make puls...), and you have the perfect package for entertainment. A generally likeable person, one still wonders how he managed to land a visa to the USA after his interview shenanigans.	

RAGHAV KATHURIA		RINCHEN NORBU		DEVANSH SAINI	
Alias: Kathu		Alias: Chinki, Ladakhi		Alias: Saineee	
Style: Sandeep Sir		Style: All kinds of meat, BOO Gang		Style: Instagram Model, Lal, Faizu Bhai	
Stigma: College Application		Stigma: The sun		Stigma: Plastic Surgery	
Famous Moment: Udae Udae		Famous Moment: Founders Assembly 2020		Famous Moment: Mussoorie 'trip', Farewell	
Underneath the sweet and soft spoken persona of Raghav is a Krishnaite with surprising levels of crazy. Known for his trademark piano performances and vocal cameos, he believes in reaching heights only with his music. As he struggles to present his pain filled path to becoming a musician in Common Apps. Oli hopes he's blessed with as many unexpected college acceptances as nominations.		Rinchen takes time to process things when they're happening, but by the time he does, they're already in the past. One of the silent kinds, the warmth of Dehradun hasn't been kind to Chinki's eyes, and he rejoiced at the opportunity to attend classes from his home in Ladakh. A member of the lesser known BOO Gang, Rinchen can often be seen roaming around with his compatriots, steeped in 'intellectual' discussions. One might start to like Rinchen, but all that dissipates the second you see him hogging chicken like a caveman during dinner.		Devansh doesn't need no education, and to be fair, with his budding modelling career, it seems he might not have to go to Amity after all. Someone with a knack for the 'aesthetic' stuff, his modelling portfolio is available on Instagram, Facebook and even Whatsapp. Rumour has it that he's restricted his investments to only the 'Lal' stock in the Stalk Market.	

SAKSHAM GULATI		SANCHIT CHAUDHARY		SHIVEK AGARWAL	
Alias: Suar, Smelly		Alias: Peter		Alias: PUBG	
Style: Two Weeks A Sciencee		Style: Daly College		Style: Foreign Frands	
Stigma: Anything clean		Stigma: Basketball, Hair		Stigma: Hari Om Sir	
Famous Moment: Scholar's Gown		Famous Moment: Basketball IPSC (from another side)		Famous Moment: Exchange to South Africa	
A student of the school since 2017, Gullu's life (much like his weight) has been on the up ever since he miraculously scored enough to score a Scholar's Gown (scribe who?). An achievement that filled him with so much confidence that he bravely opted to study science in Class XI. Although, predictably, that didn't last long, and Saksham has now comfortably settled in Commerce without Maths. A guy with a problem with anything remotely clean, Smelly practically invented social distancing,		One could be forgiven for thinking that Sanchit doesn't do well with breakups. The transition from being the center of attention at Daly College to being a newbie at Welham has been rather tough on him (his hair is a visible indicator). Peter entered the school with high hopes of making it into the basketball teams, but after multiple failed attempts (Inter House 2019), it seems his legacy, like his social life, will remain buried in Indore.		A loner by design, Shivek is a true believer in the phrase, 'stretch yourselves'. Last year, he took a break from PUBG and embarked on an exchange to South Africa. And while most people look for learning outcomes from such experiences, Shivek embarked on a quest to find some friends, and boy, did he make some. Once a devout believer in Hari Om Sir's squash program, he has now focussed his best efforts to improve in PUBG.	

SIRAJ ULLAH		TANISHQ RIJAL		ZAID AHMED	
Alias: Sheikh, Muzzlim		Alias: Bauna, Nepali		Alias: Jaed, Zaayed	
Style: EDM, CR7		Style: Chota Packet		Style: Medals, Lalit Sir	
Stigma: Junior School IT Lab		Stigma: MUNs		Stigma: Krishna Warden, “family friend”	
Famous Moment: Kara Riddim on Spotify		Famous Moment: Shivam Dodai walking into school		Famous Moment: Shirtless at Swimming IPSC	
A ‘sheikh’ by name only, Siraj’s influence is restricted to the confines of Dehradun. Unaffected by the day or time, he believes in using each day (and night) to its full potential. And while the excitement in his life seems to have mellowed down, his restraint is more of a ‘forced’ decision (Junior School IT Lab anyone?).		A man of intimidating height and stature, Tanishq heaved a sigh of relief when Shivam Dodai walked into school. Another one of those people whose darker sides is a secret, stories of his escapades in Jaipur will make your jaws drop (watering plants on the terrace). Once a promising MUNer (international only), Tanishq lost all interest as soon as trips dried up. He spends his rather short days immersed in his laptop, devouring any movie that he can lay his eyes on.		A product of Lalit Sir’s fitness regime and the victim of all his affection. Despite his best attempts to hide it, Jaed was disappointed when his favourite principal left school (nobody to appreciate the clinking of medals now). However, it seems karma played its part and plopped a ‘family friend’ to make things better. A man afraid of nothing else, rumour has it he fears his warden more than anybody. There was a time when Zaid took things ‘seriously’ in life, and it didn’t workout - ever since he’s focussed all his efforts into ‘sliding’ into every possible DM on Instagram.	

MANAS SHARMA	
Alias: Polio, Criss cross	
Style: Hard drive	
Stigma: Right angles	
Famous Moment: Letter to WGS	
<p>Known for his attractive gait and the outburst of pimples on his face, Manas is a mystery man. Criss cross used to be an industrious sportsperson, but the lack of motor skills has now restricted him to only gaming. A man of taste, he possesses a secret hard drive with the most amusing movies. However, beware, for behind the facade of technology and nonchalance lies a heartbroken teen who once believed in love. His failed attempts at communicating across the border have forced him back into his shell.</p>	



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