

The Oliphant / Edition 387 / 2020 / Issue 4 / September



The Oliphant

WELHAM BOYS' SCHOOL



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A MUCH AWAITED TÊTE-À-TÊTE

"Sweet are the uses of adversity which, like the toad, ugly and venomous, wears yet a precious jewel in his head."

- William Shakespeare

Quite synonymous to our current predicament, right? I am sure, many of you (if not all of you) are feeling as despondent, restless, apprehensive as me. Yes, the times are grim and with each passing day things are becoming worse. But not worse than ever. Allow me to explain why. Remember the Spanish Flu of 1918? According to unofficial records a staggering 500 million people worldwide got affected in this deadly pandemic which lasted about a year and resulted in the death of more than 50 million people. Compared to that, the Covid 19 hasn't hit us that hard (till now). So, if mankind has survived that, we will survive this pandemic too (especially considering that medical science has evolved exponentially). But for that to happen, the mind and the intellect needs to be driven in the right direction. If there is one thing which can act as a catalyst to facilitate this process and ensure that the intellect gets the nourishment it needs to thrive, that is reading. Yes, we (everyone in the Oliphant Editorial team) intend to make you readers. Avid readers. Because that's what is going to sustain us in trying times like these. I ask you all for a favour. For me and all the members of the Editorial board. Once a copy of this is made available to you, make it a point to complete reading it without skipping anything. Do it. Mindfully. Diligently. I assure you, before long you will find yourself delving deep into the reserves of your mind and soul. You never know what's lying unaddressed there. A child that wants to unleash. A teenager who refused to grow up. A poet whose poetry waits recognition. The possibilities are endless (Trust me when I say this that you will end up surprising yourself). I say this to you after having completed reading three issues of the Oliphant which has left me craving for more because every time I read a new issue, a new ME resurfaces. It might do the same to you. Who knows? It might help you revisit those versions of yourself that you thought never existed. Wish you a blissful journey inwards.

Raunaq Datta

EDITORIAL

Settings, Audio settings, Input Volume, Mute.

That's how life has become. Not that I despise studying or want to run away from it; on the contrary, the next four months are probably going to be the most crucial ones in my life, both academically and in terms of where I want to end up. But after 7 months at home (one more than most of you, mind you), it seems like my brain has begun to clamour for silence.

However much I wish, there's no time for me to shut down. Over these months, fourteen odd brains have worked as hard as they possibly could to bring out sixteen odd pages of literary expression - every month. And now, I think it's just inevitable that one of these has to go on standby. And so, unlike most issues, I'm not going to attempt at putting a message across, or as my "editorial advice" describes it - a call to action. Read between the lines if you will, but after pondering for weeks over what my next editorial was going to be about, I've arrived at the harsh conclusion that I've run out of abstractions to appraise you and lack the wherewithal to motivate you.

But maybe this is good, to just sit down, mute everything and focus on the simpler things. And the first way to do that is to not try and condense your smaller thoughts. While as a writer I've cherished my ability to whip up essays out of the simplest lines, after writing 8 different Common Application drafts, I can only say - it's not worth it guys.

As I write this, I'm more susceptible to recounting lyrics in Coldplay songs and comebacks uttered in daily video calls. And of course, like lovers, all melodies and tunes eventually make their way to Welham. It's funny how the line, "Can't get over/can't get over you", makes sense to my friends for so many reasons, and yet I find myself repeating it to myself as I gaze at Shikhar - on my desktop instead of a balcony from Krishna. It's also funny how we all got used to staying up till 3 AM in the night, without anyone's knowledge, and now when my mom asks me to get some sleep, I just smirk. When I asked one of my friends for some undue inspiration, his answer, without the blink of an eye was to write something "sentimental", and well, I did. After writing it, I put it up on Instagram - I mean, that's where all the likes are.

Please don't mistake my attempt at honesty for laziness. This might be lazy, but in my defense, I was told to put in what I was feeling in the Editorial. This space is, quite literally, my space. What

else, you ask? Well, firstly, the Oliphant has a new teacher-in-charge, and on the behalf of the board, I'd like to wish him a very warm welcome. Other than that, there's also the long overdue welcome to one of our own, Ma'am Kain, and a sentimental piece from the friend who asked me to be nostalgic in the first place. Happy reading, if you're actually taking out the time to go through the whole magazine, and well if you did flip to the end first - surprise, surprise. And well, if you were so excited, you should try whipping up jokes out of blatant inactivity.

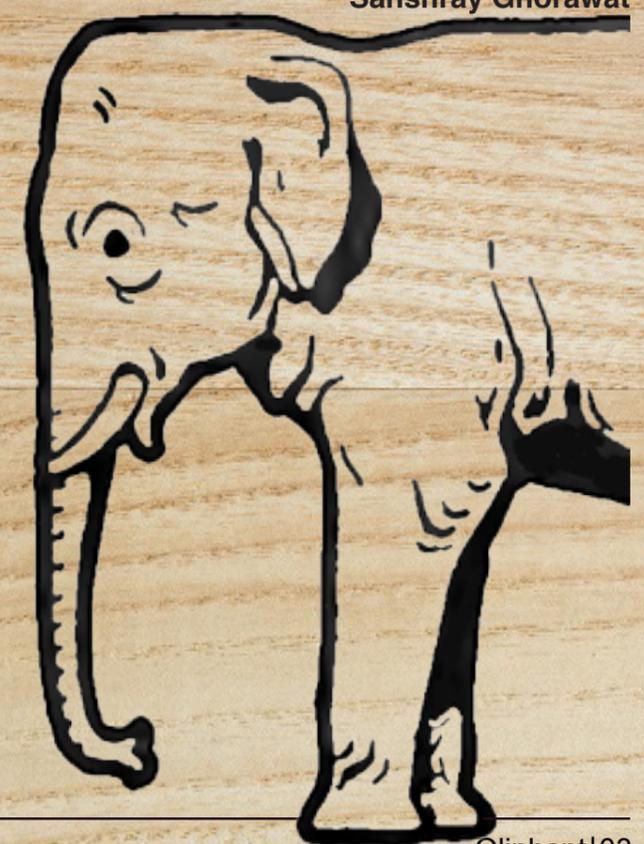
For those of you who wanted me to reminisce about school, I just spent half an hour charting a route from Welham, the school to Welham, the village. If craziness was a metric, then there you have it.

Was this really an editorial?

I don't know, and frankly speaking, I think this caught your attention more than most of my pieces, so maybe it is.

What is an editorial? What really, is an English magazine?

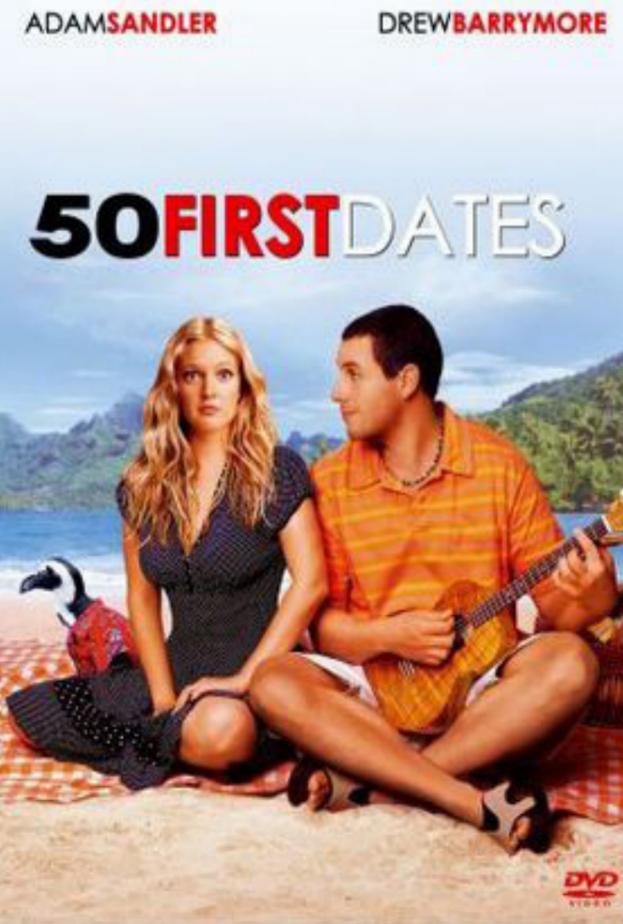
Exit Meeting
Sanshray Ghorawat



Movie Review: 50 First Dates

Director: **Peter Segal**
Rating: **9/10**

Released way back in 2004, 50 First Dates is a romantic comedy starring Adam Sandler and Drew Barrymore as the leads. The general plot of the film revolves around Henry Roth (Adam Sandler), a veterinarian who likes to casually date tourists who come to visit tland of Hawaii and does not want to get into a serious relationship as he aspires to leave tland one day to sail to Alaska. One day when he goes to a local restaurant for breakfast he meets a girl named Lucy (Drew Barrymore) for whom he begins to have feelings. The two hit it off, with Henry luring her with his charm; however when he meets her the very next day at the same place for breakfast she does not recognise him. The owner of the restaurant explains to him that a year ago her father and her were the victims of a car crash which resulted in anterograde amnesia (short term memory loss). Thus,



she only remembers things before the crash and treats each day as the day of the crash, leading her in doing the same things again and again. That's how the story of Lucy & Henry Roth begins with him trying to make her fall in love with him again and again, every single day.

Most rom-coms that I have watched typically have the same plot, a pretty, dreamy starting, followed by an emotional falling apart and ending with the clichéd, romantic, coming together. Of course, this movie too consists of a few of these elements, but it has its own unique twist. The brilliance of the movie lies within the plot. The out of the box idea of a character with short

term memory in a romantic-comedy makes the movie stand out in comparison to others of the same genre. There is an element of humour and perseverance added to the film as you follow Henry's attempts at winning over the same girl everyday.

As for individual performances; like most of his movies, Adam Sandler portrays his role exquisitely, and completely steals the show with perfect use of slapstick humour, with the occasional display of emotion in the mix. Drew Barrymore too was a perfect fit for the part of Lucy; her acting was not only believable but seemed to connect with the audience as well. The supporting cast too was brilliant in their respective roles, their presence made the movie more cohesive. Rob Schneider, a well known American comic and actor, certainly boosted the comic element, whereas Blake Clark and Sean Austin who play Lucy's father and brother respectively make the movie real and pure. Peter Segal did a really fine job in directing the movie, achieving the goal of being romantic and hilarious along with bringing a sense of believability to the film.

50 First Dates is an amazing film to watch with your family and friends. Even if they don't find rom-coms interesting this film will surely leave them all glued to their seats in anticipation.

Yousef Shahid Bhutia
XI

Book Review: The Power of Your Subconscious Mind

Author: **Joseph Murphy**
Rating: **9/10**

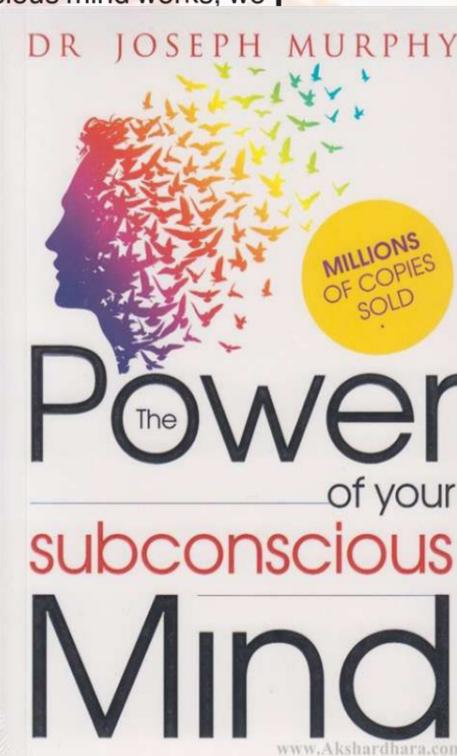
For such an unconventional genre, I was quite impressed by the content I found in this 'self-help' book. It most definitely changes the way one's thoughts are formed. One can relate to it in everyday life and figure out subtle things that most people are oblivious to. One can simply say that if we understand how the subconscious mind works, we can turn dreams into palpable results. Through this book, Joseph Murphy attempts at comparing the subconscious mind to the darkroom in which we develop images that are lived out in real life. "Believe, and you shall manifest" seems to be the message that is being conveyed over the course of the book.

Every phenomenal event occurs in a more logical way than it seems. The author suggests that these are the results of the combination of the conscious and subconscious mind. Think of destiny as something that's practically malleable. The book gives techniques through which people have the power to shape their future by redirecting energies in a miraculous way. Behind all the spiritual life, the power lies within all of us. Not only does John Murphy assert all of this throughout the book, he also goes on to substantiate this with statistics and facts.

He postulates that the subconscious mind works backwards, seeing something before it actually happens while the conscious mind sees an event and remembers it. In the moral sense, the subconscious tends to be neutral. It adapts to the thoughts we feel in our minds. Often, we tend to let our minds breed negative thoughts that drop into the subconscious and then act surprised when it finds expression in day to day experiences. Through his words, Joseph Murphy is quite literally, apprising us of the power of our subconscious minds.

If we are aware of certain things, we can take control in a more effective manner. The book talks

about affirmations having the greatest impact on the subconscious, a tool of liberation. The subconscious cannot be coerced into feeling something, it only responds best to relaxed faith, that subsequently, allows it to do it's transforming work with ease. Later on, Murphy takes somewhat of a contradictory tone and says it is less important to know how your subconscious works, than it is to develop the faith that it can actually work.



The book also talks about one's beliefs at great length. The author says that the West has given truth the highest value. Though it is important, the truth may be 'weak' compared to 'beliefs' when it comes to actually shaping our lives. As described earlier, the subconscious tends to be neutral and therefore whatever you give your subconscious, it will register as a fact. Murphy said there should be nothing 'mystical' about getting answers to our prayers. One who knows the workings of the subconscious mind will learn how to pray 'scientifically'.

Countless cases have been stated in this book about people's experiences and how their lives have completely changed through the power of their thoughts. It's amazing how such intangible things have had an effect on such real life scenarios. And while some books may provide a good source for entertainment, some make us think more. This just happens to be one of those books, that not only change the perception of the world around you, but how you view your life as well. Unless you try to capture the non-rational, things as a whole will never make complete sense. I would highly recommend it. "The Power of Your Subconscious Mind" opens you up to a whole new world of perception, and I'd even say reading it is as important as reading lighter books during these trying times.

Happy reading!

Aaditya Chandra Gupta
XI

Sympathy for Lebanon

The harsh reality of today's world is that we are indifferent to political disturbance and often divert our attention from pressing issues. Unless we are directly involved in a conflict, it does not concern us. Perhaps, it wouldn't be going too far to say that we, as a generation, are accustomed to blind social media activism, when truly, we never realise the gravity of a situation. But somehow, I was perturbed by the magnanimity of a recent blast when I came across it. Maybe for a moment, I stopped to think about the many citizens of Lebanon who were dead, injured or displaced. And surprisingly enough, my immediate action was not to post it on my Instagram story but dig deeper into the background of the crisis.

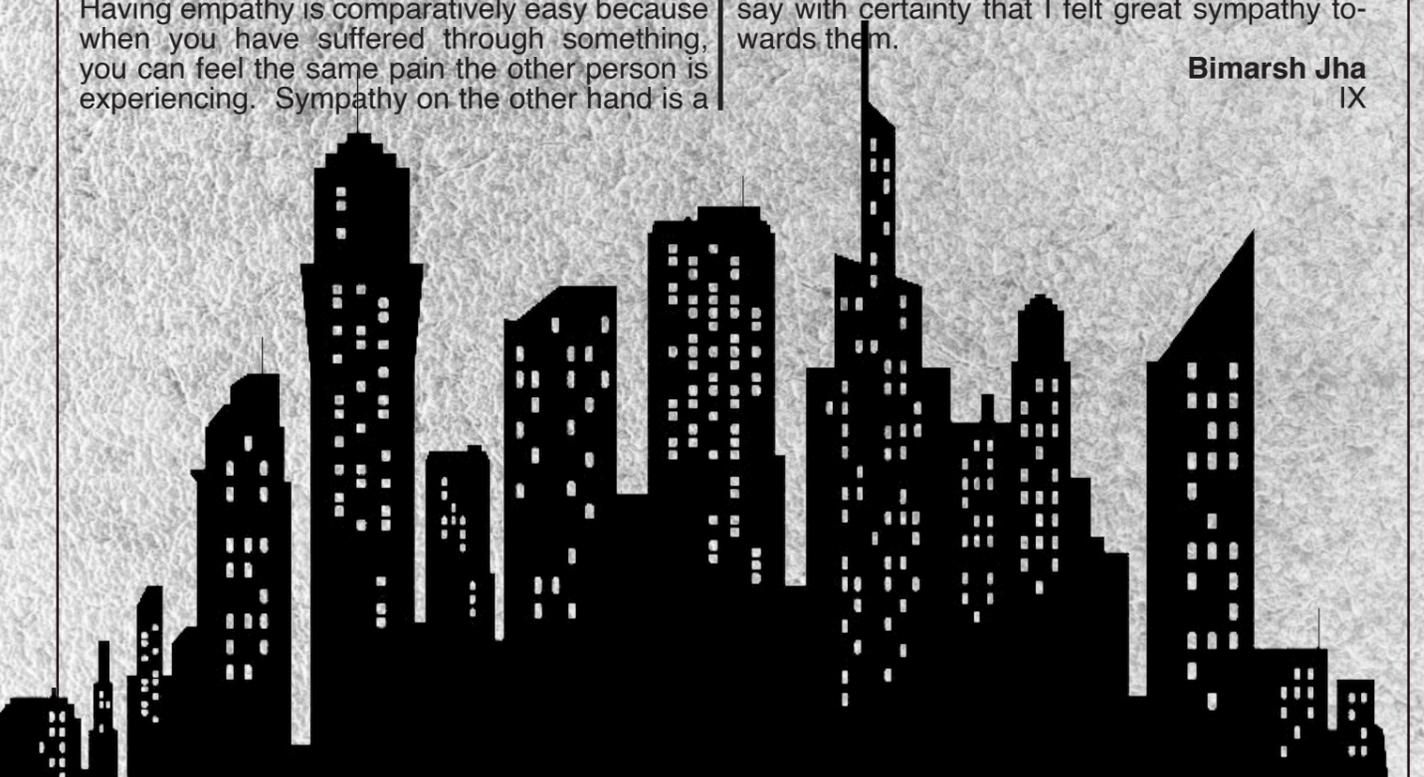
On the 4th of August 2020 the Port of Beirut had been functioning as per the daily routine expecting many ships to dock through the Mediterranean Sea. Suddenly, at 8 minutes past 6 p.m, 3000 tonnes of ammonium nitrate exploded due to mishandling and rough conditions, causing an explosion with extremely devastating effects. This accident which injured more than 6000 people, is one of the most destructive ones Lebanon has ever witnessed. Normally, one would leave their research at this point and never think of dwelling upon why something happened. But this wouldn't suffice the purpose, which according to me is to fully understand something and then comment upon it. If you don't do that, complications arise.

Having empathy is comparatively easy because when you have suffered through something, you can feel the same pain the other person is experiencing. Sympathy on the other hand is a

delicate and probably, one of the most revealing, true emotions that exists. I choose to believe that genuine sympathy can only arise after getting to know the intricacies of something. Think of it like this, how can you certainly say, that a person offering condolences for the loss in Lebanon on Instagram, actually feels sympathetic for the country? What should be the criteria for judging, should it be the number of stories one has put on the same, or should it be the number of posts one has commented on? Of course not, because emotions come from within and so does sympathy. We can only comment on the condition in Lebanon if we are truly sorry about it and that will only come once we explore its social, political and economic condition.

This is when I decided to plunge into the history of Lebanon. I got to know about the conflict around the Port of Beirut which ensued because of differences between the National Customs Authority and the Beirut Port Authority. I read about the poor implementation of the constitution and how it affected the religious diversity in Lebanon. I even understood the various reasons behind it being the third worst economy, with issues ranging from corruption to mass unemployment. And finally, I realised how the public government relationship had deteriorated over the years, Covid-19 being the last straw. All of this combined with the resignation of the prime minister, made me perceive the dilapidated situation in Lebanon. I knew I still wouldn't feel the same despair as its citizens, but I could say with certainty that I felt great sympathy towards them.

Bimarsh Jha
IX



Rising Intelligentsia

India at 75

75 years. Countless reforms and this nation continues to strive for excellence. The road is hard but the harder the battle, the sweeter the victory. Independence, the freedom that our forefathers gifted us, is at risk. Now more than ever, we need to focus on self-reliance, as a collective. "Wide is the gate and broad is the path that leadeth to destruction".

These words, from a very famous book, speak the complete truth. Since the beginning of time, humans have known to choose the path of least resistance. For people in the 21st century, this path includes indifference and complacency. It is easier for us to locate the producer and procure materials from them rather than making them ourselves. At the macro level, independence and complete sovereignty is difficult to achieve and the import of foreign goods may seem easier (the path of least resistance), but these choices have wide ranging ramifications and will shape the future of this country in a major way.

Our dependence on other countries makes us weak. Even though we stand tall as an independent nation, people continue to have westernised thoughts. We've fallen prey to trying exceedingly hard to mirror every western trend and tradition and emulate those lifestyles. Not only is it evident in our adaptation to their style of clothing, it has also drained our culture and values. This hindrance stands between us and self-reliance. Given their own dynamic strengths and unique characteristics, the path of western adaptation does not look like it leads to the brightest future. A land that was advanced in all spheres now seems to be evolving backwards. Once again, there is a difference between having good international relations and solely depending on other nations. No doubt we were dependent on external help, but that has turned into conscious incompetence, a sphere that we as whole are radicalizing right this moment.

We Indians have often figured out solutions via the idiosyncrasy of "jugaad". This is just to state that it is in the true nature of people here to make do with what they have and not complain about the shortcomings they may suffer. When you become self-reliant, power remains completely in your hands. This has everything to do with self-awareness and playing to your strengths. Consciousness at the deepest inner levels stirs a great deal of emotions. Quite often, hope is the only thing that keeps people going through their darkest times. It's amazing that intangible qualities like these affect such real life scenarios.

Selfawareness is what shall lead us to self-reliance. If we are conscious about our mistakes and competitive advantages, we can learn more. India can be described as a multifarious organisation. In some domains, we have achieved conscious competence. On the other hand, there are regions where we suffer from incompetence both conscious and unconscious.

Prime Minister Modi's efforts of bringing individuality to this great nation surely has affected societal progress in a positive way. Giving back power to the ground roots of society has been beneficial. For decades, the farmers of India have been a symbol of self-reliance. Working hard and being resilient are some of the attributes that one can learn from them. The new schemes have been considerably successful, especially the national mission for sustainable agriculture. This mission is not only enhancing agricultural productivity, but also enabling jobs for more people.

From a students' point of view, change is taking place at the grass roots of society. It all starts with a thought, and then the right mindset. Even at home we now think twice before procuring imported goods. People are shifting their focus towards local sourcing. The "Make in India" move-

ment has made an impact on people's minds. Over the course of time, many movements have taken place here. But the most promising one seems to be the very recent one undertaken by the government and it directly affects about 37.4 million people. A vision without a plan is just hallucination but the New Education Policy is definitely a step in the right direction. As I mentioned earlier, a change in mindset is imperative and according to me, the shift to an educational system that promotes more real life applications is the most prudent decision.

most rewarding. Conscious incompetence has now turned into conscious competence. Visions don't change, but they are refined with progress. Plans rarely stay the same. We need to be stubborn about the vision but flexible about the plan. The steps taken by the government are giving rise to a new India, a more progressive one. Acceptance of change is the key to evolution and as long as we keep adapting to newer ideas, we as a nation will be a global force to reckon with.

Jai Hind.

Mohin Viraj Gandhi
XI



The more arduous path to a goal is never easy but, eventually, it is the

Impact of The Covid-19 Pandemic on Society and Environment

The SARS -CoV-2 originated in the Hunan seafood market in Wuhan, China. Covid-19, the disease caused by it, has wreaked havoc all over the world. This version of the coronavirus evolved from the bat virus RaTG13 which was discovered by an organization called the Eco Health Alliance and was classified in the low risk category. Naturally the question arises, how can a mere virus possibly cause chaos on such a large scale? Actually, the virus did not have the potential to develop into a global crisis on its own. Like Seneca said, "A sword does not kill anyone, it is a tool in the killer's hand." The major cause of this outbreak was lack of preparation and funding on our part. We should have learned from SARS and MERS but our lack of preparedness and mishandling of the situation in its formative days resulted in a pandemic. Developed nations utilize a major part of their budget in the fields of military and security while funding for the World Health Organization remains scant.. In spite of our shortcomings and the casualties suffered during this time, the Covid-19 pandemic might actually impact humanity favorably in the long term

In any conflict, psychology plays a vital role. An experiment conducted at the University College London inferred that a small chance of receiving a painful shock can be significantly more stress-inducing than knowing one will receive it for sure. I believe that stress and tranquility are two sides of the same coin and they create a balance in the human body which helps us function properly. Control

is the underlying factor which monitors both. We admire being in control of various aspects of our life; it helps us stay composed whereas uncertainty elevates stress. Perhaps, the most astonishing characteristic of this outbreak was its unpredictability. It struck at a time when nobody could have anticipated it and today, nobody can anticipate what the world will look like tomorrow. This is why the pandemic has given rise to apprehension, be it for the fortunate who are confined within the cozy walls of their bungalows or the homeless who can barely find sanctuary.

A cynic would say that, Covid-19 has adversely affected society and indeed, it has. It has irreconcilably damaged the economy and it has resulted in more fatalities than the SARS and MERS, viruses combined, even the Spanish Virus for that matter. But its role in molding society will not pertain to economic or political issues. These will not sustain and after a decade, we might not even remember the loss. The real impact of Covid-19 will lie in the aftermath and how it will influence our thinking in the long-term. In his book 'Politics', Aristotle said that man is, by nature, a social animal. Our innate desire to share experiences and connect with those around us stems from the need to feel supported and valued in society. Life before the outbreak had picked up an exceedingly fast pace and most people were engrossed in their own affairs to the extent that they forgot this elementary need. We direly needed a slowdown that would help us

refocus our attention to what Aristotle rightly pointed out. We needed a complete shutdown to realize how addicted we were to control and how even the slightest deficit of it could give birth to stress disorders and depression.

Nature never fails to highlight our mistakes and this pandemic has been successful in delivering its message. The feeling of captivity inside our own houses has shown us the wonders of self-sufficiency and minimalism. To quote Mahatma Gandhi, "The world has enough for everyone's needs, but not everyone's greed." It is now that we finally understand the gravity of his words. We can lead a life of simplicity without spending in excess and still be rich, in terms of knowledge and skill. I choose to believe that this crisis is changing everyone's perspective towards life in a positive manner and in this process, we are averting another disaster.

The World Health Organization estimated that about 3 million people have died each year due to air pollution. Even global warming had increased at an alarming rate with greenhouse gas emission being at its zenith. However, a study in New Delhi, India concluded that the air quality had improved by 50% solely in the first few days of the lockdown. 88 major cities of our country have recorded cleaner air on the air quality index in the pandemic and levels of nitrogen and carbon dioxide have significantly plummeted due to less industrial production and shutdown of factories. These statistics indicate

that we were progressing with our lives and exploiting our environment without assessing the risks. This pandemic is a natural disaster which ensued as a consequence of our own actions so that Mother Earth could renew herself. But it has also acted as an epiphany and helped us perceive the importance of respecting nature in the future.

Conclusively, this outbreak has brought mankind closer than ever before. Rarely in history have so many of us faced the same crisis all at once. The pandemic has provided a reason for us to stand united and collectively fight it. From all parts of the world, people are connecting and communicating and this can be exemplified by the social media activism against racial discrimination and animal cruelty. After all, a society is made up of individuals and the Covid-19 pandemic is inspiring every individual to thrive. We will uplift ourselves and emerge stronger. In the words of Boonaa Mohammed, "Sometimes you will find yourself in the middle of chaos, and sometimes, in the middle of chaos, you will find yourself!"

Arnav Goel
X

THE NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY IS

FOR

The New Education Policy is envisaging a change at different stages of the learning journey of an individual in school. After 34 years, there is a vision document which looks to complete the unfinished education agenda of the country and proposes seamless integration of interventions to prepare our students for a better tomorrow. Education is a process which cannot be sudden, but certainly attainable and sustainable. New initiatives have to be embraced keeping in mind our past traditions and modern advancements in education. It requires a paradigm shift in thinking in order to meet our national objective of access, equity and quality education.

Under the NEP, there is a structural change from the 10+2 model to 5+3+3+4 years of school education. There are ample opportunities for an overall growth of students and at the same time tracking the developmental process through checks and balances. If Preparatory and Middle Stage learning is joyful and experiential, then in the Secondary Stage it is multi-disciplinary with varied flexibility in terms of choice of subjects and assessments. In fact, students will be taught the twin notion of 'how to learn' and 'what's right'. The first one dwarfs rote memorization and deepens understanding while the second one lays foundation for the ethical decisions. The students of Grade 3, 5 and 8 appear for an Achievement Test to assess whether their learning outcomes conform to benchmarked learning national standards. On one hand we have art integration to promote cross fertilization of ideas to cultivate thought processes and consolidate creativity through collaboration while on the other hand there is sports integration to develop skills such as self discipline and self direction. The content of subjects is to be reduced to core essentials so as to promote critical and analytical thinking. Furthermore, there is a shift from merely acquiring to applying knowledge to real time situations.

The computational thinking is to be widened by introducing coding at the Middle Stage and at the same time giving hands on experience by introducing '10 Day Bagless Day's to strengthen soft skills and this is to be followed by internships at the Secondary Stage to engage students in vocational activities. Both learning deficiency and proficiency are covered and suitable panacea is recommended. The Smart Classrooms for transacting digital pedagogy and thereby creating an enabled learning environment in schools is also proposed.

To promote national unity and multilingualism the existing three formula of teaching in the local language at Preparatory Stages is being continued. Introduction of contemporary subjects such as Artificial Intelligence, Design Thinking, Holistic Health, Organic

Living, Environmental Education, Global Citizenship Education (GCED) etc. are also to be offered. The Indian Knowledge Systems aims at showing documentaries on inspirational luminaries of India and students are encouraged to visit different states as part of cultural exchange programs.

The blended model of assessment to check 'for' and 'of' aspects of learning to be in place. There is going to be a National Assessment Centre with an objective of PARAKH Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development. The progress card will be holistic in design to report overall progress and uniqueness of each student. The existing board exam at the end of an academic year is retained with flexibility in choice of subjects besides conducting it two times and limiting high stakes by assessing core skills, capacities and competencies. There will be a Common Aptitude Test and specialized common subject exams conducted at least twice every year by the National Testing Agency (NTA). Maintaining the subject portfolio will better students' chances for securing admission in Colleges.

Having described briefly the nuances of the NEP, I believe that the benefit of all these initiatives will pay dividends in the years to come despite there being inherent challenges. The existing education model has been revisited, revamped and a roadmap has been prepared to roll it down. The proposed disruptions are being gradually incorporated to change the education scenario in the country and thereby leading the country into a knowledge superpower. The current pandemic situation has pushed us to think about the hybrid model of learning and a concept like home schooling has been conspicuously noticed. All learners in the school education system will overcome their mindsets apart from moving towards a culture of adapting and looking forward. The desirability to coexist peacefully in this world will provide the purpose and meaning to move on with the change in schooling in the country long overdue anyway.

Are we ready to embrace the envisaged changes in education that depend upon us?

R.M.Bhandari

A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

Against

Education in India is often criticized for being overly reliant on rote learning and even bigoted. To its credit, the NEP does at the very least try to solve some of these problems. But the presence of sinister and ulterior motives highly dilutes its good intentions. The so-called 'liberalization of education' is largely superficial in the case of the NEP, and the consequences of its demerits seem to be a lot more far-reaching than its otherwise surface-level merits. That is why a critical analysis of the NEP's cons is necessary to truly understand how the NEP actually is just an artificial extension of the government's plans of centralization and blatantly unapologetic capitalism.

Atrocious and appalling ideas are often masked with gaudy words and touted as progressive and developmental, while they may be the exact opposite. This is what seems to be the case with our New Education Policy. Privatization of higher education has been equated to liberalisation, and welcoming and incentivization of foreign universities to establish local campuses has been disguised as globalization. Euphemisms or not, these ideas are blatant blows to a strong and integrated public education system. Those who disagree with me have time and again lauded the very same policy for being a step in the right direction, and while they may be right in some respects, they seem to have glossed over some key details.

A look at emerging trends in higher education in India would startle many universities consistently at the top of government rankings are not the AMITY's and Ashoka's; they are the JNU's and Jamia's. Public education in India often gets a bad rap; the creaking chairs, broken ceilings, and dust-ridden classrooms certainly do not make a good case in support of it. But when we look at trends in intellectualism and academic excellence, it is, in fact, these institutions that prevail. And that is precisely because of the consistent funding and support that they receive from the government. A withdrawal of this long-standing support would lead to a complete and total collapse of our strong public education system, which caters particularly to millions of talented but underprivileged individuals. This is just one of the many far-reaching consequences that would come about if the NEP is implemented to its fullest.

Additionally, the NEP not only invites foreign universities, it incentivizes their entry. This severe commodification of education to meet foreign standards is not only incompatible with our es-

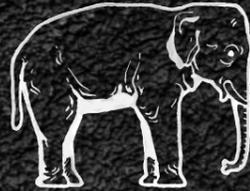
tablished formula of higher education, it is antithetical to it. Years of hard work have gone into pushing public universities to the height that they are today, even though that height might not be their full potential. And while a well-thought-out policy may strive to develop pre-existing structures and frameworks, the NEP seeks to do the exact opposite. Even though one may argue that the funding for profitable institutions does not necessarily have to be at the cost of public institutions, that is not entirely true. The fraction of the national budget allocated for purposes of education is finite, and thus any funds diverted to private institutions result in a significant decrease in funds for public universities.

Another blow to our established formula of education is the centralization of educational oversight. While our forefathers had put education in the state list, it was subsequently added to the concurrent list and while it still remains there, the NEP's intention of consolidating all forms of educational oversight with the center cannot be ignored. The merging of the UGC, AICTE, and the NAAC to form one, unitary body is at best a disruptive bureaucratic move and at worst a blow to the federal structure of our democracy. In a democracy which aims to be federal in order to accommodate as much diversity as possible, oversight and supervision from a central body are impractical and even preposterous. This move to centralize education is one in a long line of similar moves like the 'One Nation, One Election' campaign in 2019. While a language policy that accommodates minority aspirations might be in the interest of federalism and diversity, a move to consolidate power in one single body is far from it.

While these reasons may not be greatest in sheer numbers, the effects of these seemingly irrelevant clauses can potentially be felt for generations to come. And although a positive change that ripples and cuts through time and generations may be lauded and appreciated, the changes that the NEP seeks to bring about are far from positive. In conclusion, while the country was in dire need of a new and improved education policy, the NEP miles away from the rosy picture rejoicing schoolchildren and Instagram activists paint. It may have its fair share of merits, but the weight of those merits pales in comparison to its far-reaching and sinister shortcomings.

Samanyu Raj Malik

XI



Literary Affairs Of Welham

Anger. That's not an emotion a lot of little children get to see in their parents. They hear it from their bedrooms, and sense it in the strained smiles, but outright displays of rage are a rare thing for a prepubescent to see in one's parents. But over the course of the last few days, the unseen had started to morph into the noticeable. Like those dolphins in Venice, the open expression of anger between Jake's parents had been a direct result of a particular bat from northern China, who had given the human who had eaten it a special kind of fever.

This small act of Nature's revenge would soon go on to ravage the rest of the world (except China, ironically), and caught up in this fight between Man and Nature was little Jake, yet to celebrate his thirteenth birthday. His parents, who had not had the best of relationships to begin with, stopped going to work. His school had shut down too.

Earlier, Jake had been overjoyed at this turn of events, and the word 'quarantine' had become synonymous with video games and sleeping late. The love for a Sunday is derived from its uniqueness, and once the difference between a Sunday and a Wednesday had vanished, Jake began to question his monotonous existence. No amount of little dopamine rewards from his games and scrolls could compensate for the loss of companionship they brought. But it was his parents that were the problem.

While Jake had been enjoying what he perceived to be a silver cloud, his parents were struggling to identify its lining. Sure, they got to spend time with their child. A moody pre-teen addicted to his phone. What a treat! They didn't even have to pretend to enjoy spending time with each other. Their jobs didn't leave them the energy. His mother, who already disliked being the soom service of her house, had put her foot down early on.

A direct result of this was his father giving more thought to the amount of cutlery he was using. He would be the one washing it, after all. His father, used to reclining in his office chair and ordering around his secretaries, was not taking

the change in environment very well. The lack of tempting outside food, the newly introduced domestic chores, the apocalyptic news addicted to people committing suicide, and the friends showing off from their houses in the countryside, all only served to harshen the circumstances.

It all started when Jake broke a plate his father had asked him to keep in the sink. His mother disliked his dad ordering him around, and she let it show in the sort of lecture that married women give to their husbands. His father, grumpy already at eating the same vegetables for the third day in a row, reacted like a married man listening to his wife shout at him. It wasn't pretty.

Soon, it began to get worse. His mother would snap at him at every meal, be it for wasting food or complaining how bad it was. His father snapped at him every dinner, commenting on how the only thing he would get from all that screen time was a pair of glasses. With him however, they had to wait for a reason to let it out; with each other, they let loose for no reason at all. Of course, in the end they would reconcile over the post dinner tea, like two souls seasoned with all the spices of anger that gave love its taste. What about him? Well, they tried, but after weeks of close proximity resulting in a screaming match, could anyone really blame Jake for not wanting to "sit and talk" with them? Well, apparently, mom and dad could. And so it came to be that in the typical way of the modern family, the child refused to understand the parents, and the parents failed to understand the child.

To be more precise, the mother failed at understanding her son. The father didn't even try. Because back in the good old days, a simple slap would have done the job. Oh how good, those good old days. The Dolphins could have been fond of this new era, but the children? Not so much.

Mrinank Chander
XI

THE LINE BETWEEN 'COMMON' AND 'NORMAL'

I am quite fascinated by the interchangeability of words such as 'hate' with 'criticism' and 'common' with 'normal'. The discrepancies in the meanings of these words may be minor, but it creates a significant difference when applied to situations. For example, we are used to confusing criticism with hate speech, and this has created chaos all across the globe. In this article, I will talk about something very similar to this, which is how social media is confusing what is usual with what is normal. This misinterpretation of words and concepts happens because of our 'problematic' society, which is the central reason for the people living according to society's culture to be problematic.

Our problematic culture renews with every generation because the youth lives in a toxic environment and follows baseless traditions. The question is, what is the epicentre of such malicious and problematic content? It's the internet and social media. We are all consumers of the internet, and we are inspired by what the internet serves us. The problem is the misinterpretation of different words, be it through the meme pages or some toxic creators. To say the least social media is the hub of this toxicity, and its malicious nature is a result of a misunderstanding. As I said, people take hate to be hate and criticism to be hatred too. In the same manner, they take common concepts like unisexuality to be normal, and think anything other than this to be a taboo. Then when they encounter homosexuality or a different sexual orientation, it triggers the unconventional button in their minds. I wonder why people still don't get the primary difference between these two words, because I thought we as a society had evolved to a certain extent. I felt that sensitivity about this issue had started to evolve, but I still see people screaming disgraceful things regarding gender without any complications. 'Not all men' trends on social media, but we should know that the ones who do possess such a mindset strike a bad reputation for all others. The sad part is that we can relate these misinterpreted synonyms with all the normalised problems such as communal hatred, elitism, classism and numerous more. We need to admit the essential truth as a society, we are classist, we are casteist, we are homophobes and transphobes solely because we are. There is no reasoning beyond that, and we need to stop concocting excuses.

Once a politician said, 'Hypocrisy also has boundaries.' The biggest irony is that a politician said this but keeping that aside I ask you, can we still extend this frontier of hypocrisy? I think we can, and we are, every day. No matter how much society has evolved, at the end of the day, people are accepting what is common, not what is normal. If these two words can lead to such complicated social arguments, then we indeed are corrupt as a society. The thing our society needs to realise is that every 'common' aspect is not 'normal', and that every 'normal' factor is not 'common'. The sooner we start noticing the 'thin' line between the two, both our society and social media will prosper. And only when we have completely understood the importance of this 'thin' line, will we realise how concrete it is.

Pranay Singh Dhaka
IX

3rd April, 2019

3rd April, 2019. I stepped into Welham for the first time through the Indus Gate. Nervous as ever for my admissions test, I asked myself one question, "Who am I?"

My test didn't go so well and to be really honest, neither did my interview. I left the school gates that evening, dissociated. I paced around the corridors of the admissions office the next day only to receive the information -

Cue dramatic pause
THAT I GOT IN.

Now this was just a high school admissions test but I'd never thought I could get in. Nevertheless, amidst the joyous celebrations, I still searched for the elusive answer to my question. I left that aside and promised myself that I'd ask myself that question again when I felt it's time and I could confidently say - I'm ready.

When I stepped in on the 7th of April, 2019, as an official student of Welham Boys' School with a "new boy" collar, I was nervous. I had no one to talk to, nor did I have a direction to go in, but I knew one thing for sure - I was not going to give up. My first few weeks were a hilarious mix of embarrassment as I mixed up names and directions; meeting so many new people was overwhelming for me. That being said, I could go on for hours about the stories I heard and the possibilities I could explore. And from there began to grow a worm inside my head: I ought to be perfect. I'd probably say it came from the ambitiousness of the people around me. But this was supposed to be a good thing - I was trying to grab every opportunity I could and this landed me in a quandary. When I saw the pile I had on my plate, I realized that I had taken up more than I could handle.

I dropped sports off that plate. I'm not very proud of this decision but unfortunately, procrastination took over. I could slowly see my grades dropping. However, I was ecstatic to see my future elsewhere with a consistent track record in Model UN and me striving to live up to my expectations with writing. It wasn't all easy for me though - adapting to a new culture and transitioning from a completely different lifestyle. I started making friends in a rather uncanny way - by teaching them Maths. I started by sitting down and "tutoring" these strange people who were really surprised by my academic perseverance, which helped me get along with a few. That being said, I probably should've known where to draw a line because at Welham, the harder you try to fit in,

the more you end up isolating yourself. Maybe it's harsh, or maybe, it just shows that people are only going to like you for 'who you are' - a question that I'd been seeking to answer.

People tried to push me down, and some of them affected me a lot. I started doubting myself and my capabilities to do anything; but I was extremely fortunate to have found 4 people who wouldn't give up on me even when I had given up on myself.

Summer break got over and I fell in love. Contrary to popular belief - and to much disappointment - it wasn't a girl. It was not the place either. It was the feeling - the feeling of being a Welhamite. Just a few weeks ago, I read somewhere that home is not a place, but a feeling. That hit hard. It sent me crumbling down to tears for I haven't seen my friends in nearly six months and that's killing me. I've been away from home for too long.

Today, as I write this account, I ask myself the same question, "Who am I?"

And a soft whisper at the back of my head replies, "A Welhamite".

I picture myself sitting on a creaky chair with my children asking me to recount my school days. And when they do, I'm not going to tell them about how much I achieved, or how hard it was for me to fit in. I'm going to tell them about the kid from Calcutta who became my musical twin, or the kid from Patiala who stole my coffee, probably even the Sikh from Ayodhya who's more Hindu than I am. I'm going to tell them about the time I ran shirtless through Shikhar only to chase someone with a slipper, and the time those slippers came to me in abundance to the beat of Magenta Riddim. I'm going to tell them about the utterly embarrassing yet memorable standing ovation I got for my run at the Cross Country or my trademarked body language that people made fun of. Now, it seems to me that being a Welhamite was never about being over-ambitious as I once thought. Being a Welhamite, especially one who'd received the opportunity so late on, was about feeling good about myself. These two years, without a doubt, have been the best years of my life and will always be because I never had to worry about my problems because they all seemed a little bearable with my friends to help me deal with it.

Aryan Mahipal
XII

VE'R'SES

Hesitation

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

Yes! there it is.
The wind has a story to tell
One you would really want to understand
Either to cry or to yell.

You feel coming up against it
Not too sure if it's by will.
Demanding answers after all, you are
Something needed; for the backfill.

The remembrance hits again.
The 'reasons' for your high and low
Beholding to and fro
While you go, towards the blow.

The voices of convictions(maybe)
The desire to run from them
Run as far as possible
Still not helpful, for the mayhem.

Silence isn't the answer
The internal request is not to rush, nor delay
What will you do now? The wind has gone
While, you just stood there, with so much to say.

Shivering legs,
Tired after running
Endless circles
For you while fantasizing

Transparency is no longer the question
The crises ain't the commotion.
The losing of focus on the vision.
Standing disgusted, pre-discussion.

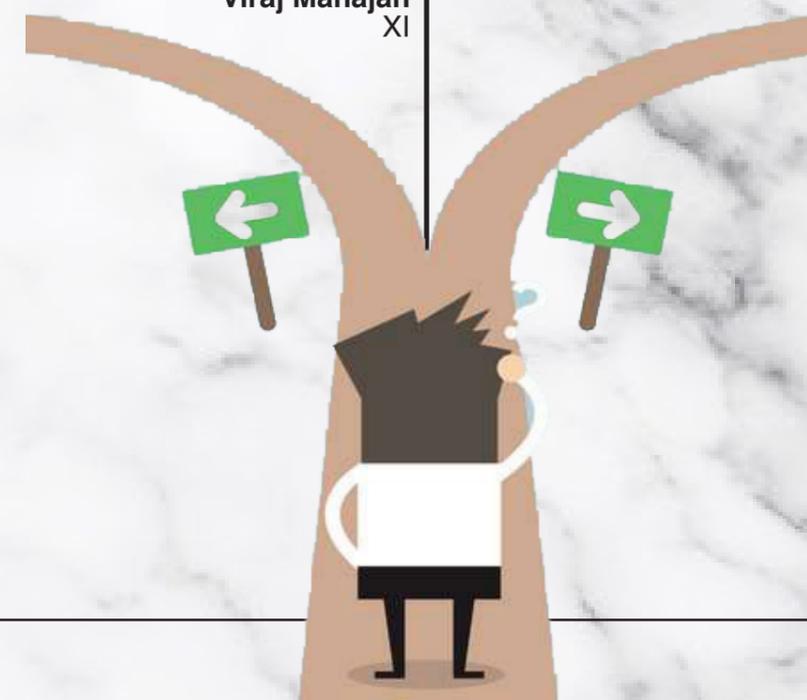
Each step forward is a must
Eye-to-eye is suddenly severe
Peaks and valleys in your mind
Coming forward, is a time to endeavor.

Cordial faces
Bruises underneath
Too much merry making
Smiles you see above the broken teeth.

It's about time
The murmuring within starts to gyrate.
Embrace and leave
It's not worth the hesitation...

Viraj Mahajan
XI

Hritvik Moody
IX



THE OLD GUARD NEEDS TO STEP DOWN

The cycle of the world revolves around two major factors, the present and the future, the one who stands today, shall give his position to the next. But living in the 21st century, we have come to a point where the next generation completely differs from the ideals of the previous. One is a community which is ready to take risks and bring innovation for the betterment of the world whereas the other is a community which knows all the cards on the table and take a defensive and slow stance in the advancement of the world. Such patterns are evidently present in all dimensions around us, and they are different on many levels.

These differences give birth to disputes between the two; let's understand this by taking the example of the Indian society who believe that the younger generation doesn't have it in themselves to lead the world, from rejecting a beginner for a job to Ashok Gehlot vs Sachin Pilot case (a political dispute between the generations). May it be at any level or circumstance, ageism can be encountered everywhere, people reject the ideals of the youth because they are considered reckless and work along very different dynamics than the rest of the society. Hence, till today society tends to support the experienced because they know how the world works, in we stick with the status quo to continue with what's popular, and not what is needed.

We know that change is not easy but we also know that change is the course of life. The only thing that is constant in life is change itself. While one may argue that the youth has not seen enough of the world to run it, we have to propose opportunities so they can see and learn and mainly help create a better society for a better tomorrow.

Today's society itself is not adapting to the change and development while the next generations are and have adapted to the new format. In order to understand this perfectly, we have to consider an aspect which is natural to human behaviour, the fear of the successor. Humans desire to hold on to things and keep them as they have been. However, in order to progress, humans have to learn to ignore personal desires for the society as a whole.

The sun will have to set in order for a new dawn, brighter and better. We need a newer fuel, the youth is open-minded and does not discriminate on the basis of existing social taboos. They are enthusiasts who can fill the world with opportunities with their innovation and give the world a new pair of eyes, a new perspective to look from. This denial of change will take us nowhere. When Sachin Pilot is rejected from the opportunity to lead, the whole nation's youth is symbolically rejected. Even when a corporate employee is rejected from the opportunity just because he is inexperienced, not only he but the whole society fails to adapt to this change. If we don't propose opportunities then there is no way we can hire experienced individuals.

This social psychology has come to be known as 'us versus them', a community which doesn't consider another community equal to them and think of themselves as superior. Instead of making two units of one society, we have to consider ourselves as one unit. We have to remember the cycle of life where the youth will have to take over, this is what has been happening since the beginning of life, this cycle brings reform to the society as the generations pass. Although both generations are right in their stance, we will have to follow through the course of life because the next always surpasses the previous.

Trayambak Pathak
IX

THIS MONTH THAT YEAR (1995)

WELHAM NOW

1. The Junior English Handwriting competition was held on the 5th of September. The results were as follows :-

Class I	Class II A
1st Karan Gill	1st Raunak Tibrewal
2nd Kunga Namgyal	2nd Raghav Puri
3rd Ishan Gupta	3rd Anvesh Kumar

Class II B	Class III A
1st Vishal Chaudhary	1st Ruchir Garg
2nd Nishant Joshi	2nd Surya P. Singh
3rd Karun Agarwal	3rd Tanmay Agarwal

Class III B
1st Galdam Wangchuk
2nd Rajeev Ranjan
3rd Gagandeep Singh

2. The Hindi Essay writing contest for the Middle School was held on 5th September. The results were as follows :-

Class IV
1st Harsh Rana
2nd Raunak Agarwal
3rd Anupam Biswas
Consolation Prize : Kumar Rakesh

Class V
1st Ashutosh Pandey
2nd Nitin Agarwal
3rd Neha Batra
Consolation Prize : Sukant Goel

3. The results of the Middle School English Essay Writing Contest were as follows :-

Class IV A
1st Avinash Agarwal
2nd Saranbir Singh
3rd Kanhar Munshi & Deepak Kumar

Class IV B	Class V A
1st Kumar Rakesh	1st Aatir Ansari & Prayas Rana
2nd Animesh Savarna	2nd Abhishek Kumar
3rd Raunak Agarwal	3rd Anuj Golaknath

Class V B
1st Sharan Narain
2nd Ashutosh Bagaria
3rd Vibhar Atra

4. The Inter School Arthur Hughes Memorial Extempore Debate was held on the 14th of October in the Activity Centre. As many as 6 schools participated and Rumaan Kidwai stood first. He also got the award for Best Rebuttal. Nikunj Gupta was the second participant from school. The trophy, however, went to The Doon School.

5. Mrs. Meenu Verma from the Department of Computers, The Doon School took the oral examination of Class X, Computer section of our school on the 16th of this month.

6. The results of the Hindi Handwriting Competition were :-

Class X & XI	Class IX
1st Ankur Chakore	1st Arjun Trivedi
2nd Ashish Patodia	2nd Mehul Mayank
3rd Amit Sharma	3rd Ashok Roy & Ayush Negi

Class VIII	Class VII
1st Vikas Prasad	1st Saurabh Gupta
2nd Puneet Bansal	2nd Kanishk Kaushik
3rd Ankur Jindal	3rd Vikram Khushwaha

Class VI
1st Manish Garg
2nd Gaurav Malhotra
3rd Arjun Sabharwal

7. The Hindi Essay Writing Competition was also held during the fortnight. The results were as follows:-

Section 'A'	Section 'B'	Section 'C'
1st Bharat Bhushan Garg	1st Arjun Trivedi	1st Sharad Kumar
2nd Nikunj Gupta	2nd Mehul Mayank	2nd Rajat Arora
3rd Gaurav Chaudhuri	3rd Sanjay Sarogi	3rd Gaurav Malhotra
Consolation : Ankur Chakore		

8. As the Founder's Day is getting closer, the boys are putting in more and more hours for their respective exhibitions and the various Plays that are to be staged. They can often be spotted working late at night.

(7)

Oliphant

Lampoon

Inheriting an empire is always stressful. The weight of expectations, of the pressure to perform, of the legacy of your predecessors is monstrous. Fortunately for Welham Boys, this huge weight is pressing down on the industriously broad shoulders of Ms. Sangeeta Kain. As a successor to Ma'am Bindra, Ma'am Kain has very large shoes to fill, quite metaphorically and literally. And only time will tell in how much regard will future students gaze at her beaming portrait in the R-Lab. Albeit late, the Oliphant takes editorial cognizance of the new Principal and welcomes her to the Welham family.

We can confidently confirm that the clique that had once furiously bobbed their heads in assemblies of yesteryears, wrote vows of lifelong allegiance to her without batting an eyelid. Her, almost frantic, welcome soon died down as the Coronavirus pandemic halted her stint even before it officially started. But converting this setback into an opportunity in a way that would make Ma'am Bindra proud, powered by Prashant Sir's indigenous IT-Lab technology, she got over this hurdle and successfully brought the school on(the)line. While her company, for now, can only be cherished by teachers who live on campus, Ma'am has more than compensated for that, with incessant interactions with the school via 'online assemblies' that often comprise 'singing from home' and 'hymns from home'.

Her drive to compensate for the lack of the 'at-school experiences' for the students compelled her to organize (much to our dismay) online WELMUN, online Oliphant Debates, not to be confused with Inter-House Arthur Hughes Debates, weekly seminars and of course a three-day event on Covid-19 itself. As the busy month of August approached and calendar activities started coming in thick and fast, she nose dived-first into getting the activities organized online.

While the Oliphant admits that its basket has a dearth of catchphrases that Ma'am uses or mannerisms that would can be called her trademark due to short time she has spent with us till now, that cannot be taken to mean she has a gray or temperate or insipid personality. We can recount exhibitions of her colorful personality faster than she changes her WhatsApp profile picture. As someone who has developed a reputation for being meticulous in her infantic period of time spent at the helm,

obviously high on academic output. So much so that she transformed some of her carefree, free-wheeling, singing-at-the-top-of-their-voice-at-the-Jamuna Top Floor tutees into sincere students worried about college deadlines.

The Oliphant welcomes her to the family and wishes her words of encouragement for her stint here as a Principal. May she take the school even higher in its stature and be even more 'greedy' than her predecessor for laurels. Oh, and we almost forgot. She treats her tutees really well.

The Lampooner

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