



### **Think About It...**

*Two roads diverged in a wood, and I - I took the one less travelled by, and that has made all the difference.*

-Robert Frost

## **Editorial**

I stood in front of the mirror perplexed and asked the new Editor-In-Chief – “Hey, is it actually you?” I smiled, giggled and then laughed like a care free soul. “Now this is what you call metamorphosis!”

The new editorial board is still recovering from the pleasant blow, for it is a Herculean task to tame Oli the elephant. But we hope we will take our charge to greater heights.

The new Prefectorial body is brimming with energy; and just like Barrack Obama - during the campaign for the US Presidential elections, is seen now and then delivering ‘lectures’ and ‘speeches’ emphasizing the importance of ‘change’.

Oli wishes them the best and hopes they succeed in bringing about the ‘change’ they desire.

On a serious note, it was not many days ago that I overheard this conversation between two students:

“Do you believe in love?”

“What??”

“I said, do you believe in love?”

“Are you out of your mind!!!”

It might sound extremely trivial but if you ponder on it you will see where our society is headed! It is such a tragedy to see the most beautiful gift of God, love, losing its importance. Is love vanishing in the quicksands of hatred and self-indulgence?

Pause for a moment and ask yourself when was it that you last spoke the three most powerful words on earth – ‘I love you’?

Everyone needs love and I hope you will agree when I say children are very hungry for it. Even in their little ‘home away from home’, they often feel lonely and dejected and in their loneliness they crave for a warm hug and look forward to being told, “Son, I am always

there to support you!” or “Do not worry – I am here now!” But how many of us actually see such a day?

Children are not always blue eyed (in our case black or brown eyed!) angels and at times, I admit they prove to be intolerable brats, but a touch of love can do wonders – wonders no scolding, sticks or punishment can achieve. If love can bring down the ‘great’ Berlin wall why not the walls of misunderstanding between grown-ups and children? Just give it a try and love will take care of the rest.

‘A touch of love can make anyone a poet.’ Well, here in school it has transformed some into singers and actors. (Thanks to a ‘surprise’ event in the school calendar.)

LOVE! This issue of The Oliphant is for thee and thy followers and all those who seek thy support!

Love, be it for a teacher, a parent, a friend or more importantly of course for a ‘valentine’ (for some it may even be English or the Environment!!). If you give it, you will get twice as much in return. So people, why wait?

Sit back and enjoy this issue of the Oliphant. But do not forget what someone once wisely said:

A bell is not a bell,  
Till you ring it.  
A song is no song,  
Till you sing it.  
Love in your heart,  
Wasn’t put to stay,  
Love is no love,  
Till you give it away.

(KUSHAGRA PARASHER)

## 2 The Oliphant



### Welham Now

- During the winter vacation, some changes to the infrastructure of the School were made: The Jubilee Gate has been shifted to a new location - opposite The Doon Girl's School!
- The old Indus House building has been refurbished and converted into the new Office Block. It now holds the Despatch, Accounts and the Purchase Offices.
- On 1<sup>st</sup> February, **Mr. S.S. Khaira** participated in a workshop on 'Young Climate Saver's Programme' at the LRC, conducted by the WWF.
- The winter camp for classes X and XII started from the 4<sup>th</sup> of January, 2008.
- Mrs. Sarla Patenkar** has joined the Welham Community as an Environmental Education teacher. Oli wishes her a long and happy stay at WBS.
- The School re-opened after the vacation on 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2008.
- The Prefect's Investiture Ceremony was held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February, 2008, at a ceremony full of pomp.
- The School has been declared a totally 'plastic free' zone.
- SISU – a percussion instrument group from Norway, sponsored by Spic Macay, gave a stupendous performance at the Activity Centre on 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2008.
- The Staff played the students at a friendly Cricket fixture on 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2008. The match resulted in a draw.
- The Inter House Ramanujan Quiz for the Senior School was held on 11<sup>th</sup> of February, 2008. Jamuna House secured the First place.
- On 14<sup>th</sup> February, **Dr. Ajit Nedungudi** from Lovely Professional University addressed the senior boys on career options available today.
- The new class X has taken the first step towards taking care of the environment by conducting a poster campaign, and waste - paper collection from the school campus.
- On 15<sup>th</sup> February, Mr. Samir Dhingra took over as DSW - the Dean of Students' Welfare. Oli wishes him the very best at his new office.
- Dr. Rautella** and **Capt. Jugram** addressed the school on Disaster Management, on 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2008.

*Oli takes this opportunity to wish the students appearing for ISC and ICSE 2008 Examinations, the very best.*

- Mr. Manish Pant** has taken over as Housemaster of Jamuna – B while **Mr. Prashant Arora** has taken over as Deputy Housemaster of Jamuna – A.
- The Arthur Hughes Inter-House English Debate for the Senior School was held on the 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2008. Jamuna stood first followed by Ganga. **Param Shah** and **Jaskunwar Kohli** were adjudged the Best and the Most Promising speakers respectively. **Aashutosh Todi** won the Best Rebuttal award.
- Scholars' Recognition day was held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2008, as a glittering ceremony where excellence in academics was rewarded.

#### OBITUARY

Mr. Salim's mother, Mrs. Fatima passed away on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2008. She was 70.  
May her soul rest in peace.

### Investiture Ceremony

It appeared to be just another day, in another week of a month but in reality; was very different. This day had the honour of hosting a sacred event, an event affecting the lives of Welhamites in more ways than one. The event is called the Prefects' Investiture Ceremony.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2008, Welham hosted its third ever Prefect's Investiture Ceremony, presided over this year by Admiral (Retd.) Arun Prakash, VrC, VSM, AVSM, PVSM. The Activity Centre, bathed in golden light illuminated by many candles, was the venue where the task of 'managing' the institution was passed on to a new batch of Prefects; with a whole new set of ideas, policies and a new way of running the school.

It took 45 words and 45 seconds to change the lives of those 17 forever. One by one, the former Prefects 'shed' their responsibilities and administered the oath to the new 'leaders' of Welham.

Finally, the event ended, beginning another era in Welham. The nine students selected are:

Head Boy – Kushagra Prasher  
Sports Captain – Sarthak Singh  
Captain of Academics – Chakshu Sharma  
Captain of Activities – Suryanshu Vasishta

Prefects:

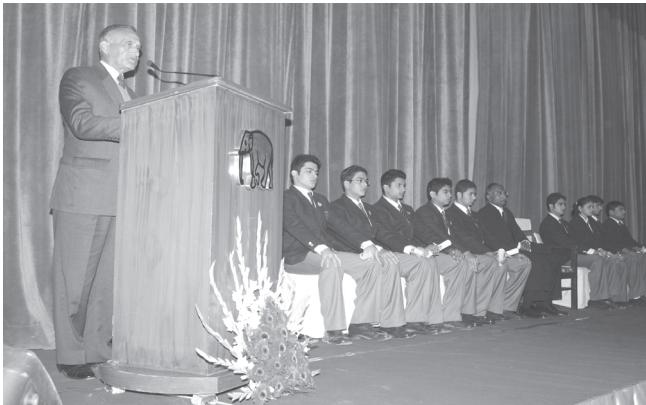
Rahil Valson  
Pulkit Agarwal



Pranay Todi  
Sawan Kukreja  
Harsh Sharma

The ‘destiny’ of Welham now lies in their hands. Now it is up to them, how they make a difference and ‘lead by example’ to ‘uphold the honour and good name of this our school’.

All the best, Guys!!!!



Admiral (Retd.) Arun Prakash addressing the school.

## Film Review: *Jodhaa Akbar*

All love stories are not the same. All of them are not famous and one such love story is that of the 16<sup>th</sup> century emperor of India, Mohammad Jalaluddin Akbar and a fiery Rajput princess, Jodhaa Bai.

Ashutosh Gowariker’s epic, gives us a story of emperor Akbar and his empress. The movie has been surrounded by a lot of controversy, that Jodhaa was Akbar’s daughter-in-law. This probably helps to market it better. However, over the centuries, Jodhaa and Akbar’s names have always been taken together.

The story is about two people who are forced into marriage and end up falling in love. The movie also shows the state of the Hindus who had to pay the *Teerth Yatra* tax and who lived in a world full of suffering. On the whole, the film has beautifully depicted life in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

The film has exquisite shots of the deserts and palaces of Rajasthan. The direction is brilliant. Although it is a three hour twenty minute long film, *Jodhaa Akbar* manages to keep its audience spellbound throughout.

The powerful performances only add to the charm of the film, as does the cinematography. The most striking performance is by Hrithik Roshan who has portrayed Akbar fantastically. He has brought to life the character

of the emperor. Aishwarya Rai looks stunningly beautiful and has managed to portray the role of a Rajput princess with great aplomb.

A.R Rahman’s music leaves the audience mesmerized. The choreography in the song *Azeem-o-Shaan* is one of the finest in a long time. The most striking feature of the film is its story. Ashutosh Gowariker has done a commendable job of making a film like ‘*Jodhaa Akbar*’.

If watched closely ‘*Jodhaa Akbar*’ sends a message that the country is above everything else – even self. The film is pretty long and heavy with very little humour. Another message that the film conveys is that it is not necessary that a person should fall in love before marriage.

‘*Jodhaa Akbar*’ leaves us all spellbound, enthralled and awestruck as Ashutosh Gowariker gives life to the legendary characters on screen.

- Welham Film Society

## Night in the L.R.C.

“Be there for work,” I was told by my friend, also the Art Monitor of the School. He is really busy these days because of the Founder’s Day preparations going on. I being an Art student, had the responsibility of helping him out exhibiting the paintings for display in the Art Gallery where the Art Exhibition was going to be held the next day. The day had been really hectic for me what with classes and other activities and by dinner time I was really exhausted.

Just then a pal of mine who too was an Art student, reminded me that I had to go to the LRC Art Gallery.

On reaching there, I saw many people already at work, some still giving final touches, while the rest were just ‘hanging out’. I went directly to the gallery where Art students were taxing their brains for new ideas. A couple of seniors who were really working hard at that time were the ‘Macau’ brothers.

I looked around the LRC and found that the whole area resembled a museum with all the departments displaying their best.

By the time all the paintings were displayed and my work nearly done, I was terribly tired and told my friends I was going to take a cat nap on the sofa. Outside the Gallery everyone had gone and the whole ‘museum’ was prepared for next morning’s inauguration, I decided to take a walk around the gallery, till I reached the sofa

## 4 The Oliphant



where I sat down and picked up a magazine. After flipping a few pages, I snoozed off.

I do not remember clearly, perhaps it was the magazine slipping off which woke me up and I found myself staring sleepy-eyed into the darkness all around. I called out to my friends. When I got no reply, a realization hit me that everyone had already gone and had locked me inside the LRC. At first I could not believe it and thought that my friends were playing a prank. But then I looked at my wrist watch which showed that the time was 2:30 am and figured that it was too late to play pranks. I was really locked in the LRC for the night!!!

It took a lot of effort on my part to quell the panic rising within me. Finally, I began to think how to get out of that situation. That proved to be a very difficult task as many horrible thoughts of ghosts were flashing across my mind. Even little noises like the squeaking of my shoes or the sound of wind outside started bothering me. I half suspected that the paintings and sculptures would come alive and haunt me. The very thought of it made me run to the main door and start banging on it and calling out for help without even realizing that there was no one to listen to my cries. When my body was sapped of all its energy due to my desperate cries, I stopped and did the first sensible thing – switching on the lights. I took a moment to look around me and it was then that I caught sight of my saviour – a telephone!

Waiting there holding the phone and hoping that someone at the other end, in my House would pick up, I had a very strange feeling – that the ex-Principals of the school were staring down at me from their photographs. This was really un-nerving. Two tries and no answer from my House. Obviously everyone was snoring away to glory oblivious of my absence from the hostel. I tried the Shikhar Hostel – no better results. Krishna was my last hope. I dialled. 1 ring, 2 rings...5 rings...8 rings...I had nearly put the phone down when someone finally picked up!! It was one of my classmates. With hope and anger I just started yelling at him to come and rescue me as I was locked in the LRC. He sleepily asked me to stop joking and put the phone down.

Furiously, I redialled and showered him with a few ‘good words’, gave him a piece of my mind and finally was able to get the message across that I was really trapped in the LRC. My friend (now fully awake) told me that if it was a joke I would really find myself locked up in the isolation ward of the hospital. I assured him that I was telling the truth. Convinced, he tracked down the Art Monitor and told me to wait; they were coming.

Relieved, I sat down on the floor wondering what would have happened if I had not been able to call or nobody had picked up. Just the thought of spending a night in the LRC gave me the shivers! In about seven minutes my friend arrived with the Art Monitor and I was finally rescued. The way back to the hostel seemed ghastly to me and the sound of our footsteps piercing the silence gave me the spooks.

When I asked who had locked me in without checking, I wasn't surprised to hear the answer. It was the younger ‘Macau’ brother!!!

Come on guys, this is for real. Not inspired by any movie.

- *Hursh Pratap Singh*  
XB

## Light in the Dark

“Learn to be the lamp post – and emit your light in the dark world...”

I stand here blinking  
And in the darkness dogs bark.  
Merry Christmas to you listeners  
But that's not the whisper I have to make.

I stand here thinking  
About light in the dark.  
I stand here wondering  
About the softness of stone,

About the calmness of thundering  
And the rotten seed not sown.  
About the courage in fear;  
About the peace in war.  
About the goodness of a sneer  
And the coming of the gone...

I feel the cleanliness in dirt  
And the freedom of a prisoner.  
The painlessness of someone hurt  
And the words of a listener.

My mind shifts to other stuff



Like the coolness of fire,  
The truthfulness of a bluff  
And the urge of a desire...

I think about life in death  
And the warmth of ice;  
The fragrance of a bad-breath  
And the cheapness of high-price.

There is kindness in cruelty  
And joy in sadness;  
Loyalty in disloyalty  
And wisdom in madness.

I think about the wise words of a fool  
And the vision of the blind.  
The usefulness of a rusted tool  
And finding something you cannot find.

And all this but came to me  
When I flashed my eyes in the park –  
At eleven fifty-nine on Christmas Eve  
At the dogs who in the darkness, barked.

I am but a someone on duty  
I only get to see the dark.  
A lamp post, of eternal beauty:  
*I am light...in the dark.*

Just learn to see the good in bad – and everything will  
be OK.

Trust me.  
- Jaskunwar Singh Kohli,  
X B

## A Happy Welhamtine's Day

Since time in memorial, love has been shackled by chains, stranded by the skeptic and opposed by all. Yet here, at Welham Boys School the spirit of this enchanting emotion lives on.

It was no ordinary Thursday. 14<sup>th</sup> February was a special day for all the devoted disciples of Saint Valentine. Radiant eyes and immaculate faces were seen early in the morning. Boys were reported staring into the clouds, day dreaming, with many a heart racing at a 1001 km/hr as our Maths teacher explained to us 'the relationship between distance, time and speed' and 2000

Watt smiles on perfectly moisturized faces in the Physics class. The 'Blind, deaf and dumb in love' had spent all morning combing their eyebrows (a disaster) and applying secret lip gloss – which they had apparently borrowed from the girls in WBS.

As Mr. Lahiri has so often said, the economy was given a boost once again with the high consumption of deodorants and hair gels. For a rather 'drastic' change, the four letter word in Welham changed from 'ahem...ahem...' to 'love'. Students who were frequently reported speaking in 'gutter Hindi' became masters of 'romantic poetry' and *shayari*.

But as fate would have it, History repeated itself and the 'detesters' of love, sealed the 'LOC'. All those boys with smiling faces turned into saddened Romeos and long faced *majnus*. All mushy letters were sent to the paper recycling bins and many a boy could be spotted outside the 'Lost and Found' office, searching for his heart.

However, the 'Welham spirit' is not just about wearing 'low waisted' trousers or filling our bellies with *bun tikkis*; it goes beyond that. It encourages all young lover birds to try harder. With no other option left, the love struck Romeos reverted to traditional methods of 'instant messaging'. A sudden rise in the number of pigeons in and around the school was recorded!

The Physics students were engrossed in building a hot air balloon. Skilled archers launched arrows with their secret love notes tied to them. However, these messages could not cross all barriers and eventually landed up at 'The Cottage'.

Mr. Lahiri heaved a sigh of relief as he sat, skillfully compiling all the love notes into a romantic novel dedicated to Mrs. Lahiri.

Like all other things in Welham, Valentine's Day also ended on a note of suspense as rumours of a 'joint production with Welham Girls' began to do the rounds. As Mr. Lahiri confirmed the 'overwhelming' good news at Assembly the next day, the students' hearts nearly burst and hope arose again like the phoenix.

It is a privilege for us to take the stage with our 'bitter halves'. We the students are forever indebted to our Principal, for this wonderful Valentines Day gift. Needless to say the joint production had an extremely large number of volunteers compared to the bird watching trip to Assan Barrage, earlier. Everyone can now be spotted brushing up their voice modulation and a huge leap of interest in 'pure' Hindi has been noticed.

## 6 The Oliphant



Happy faces reveal that this year even though Valentine's Day was a disastrous flop we have been given the golden opportunity to celebrate a whole *Welhamtine's* term.

- Gaurika Mehta,  
VII C

### Love...

We live in a society where I do not think that love has really managed to find an identity for itself. Everyone knows it exists based purely on the fact that everyone loves someone, but somehow it is still kind of a hushed up topic. Girls still are not allowed to choose the boyfriends they have... as a matter of fact a lot of guys too, are not allowed to choose the girlfriends they want. In a country that has a marriage industry that is worth a couple of billion dollars, love is still difficult to talk about. There are temples and pundits at every street corner that perform weddings all the time but the girl who is due to get married in that temple still cannot walk up to her parents and say, '*Maa! Mujhe uss ladke se pyaar ho gaya hai. Mai usse shaadi karna chahati hoon*'. Can you imagine the consequences? Locked up in her room, *pooja* is being performed in the house to bring back the daughter's sanity and if that does not work then a couple of *goondas* to catch that *ladka* and banish him to depths of a government hospital, if not a graveyard. I think that is the problem with living in a country like India. Too many religions, languages, castes, colours, vegetarian, non - vegetarian etc etc. We are also of course the most gullible bunch of idiots on the planet. Our Emotional Quotient is time and again raised to higher levels thanks to the cinema we watch. Love at first sight is what most know in this country as being true love. Its either love at first or arranged marriage to Mr. Kumar's son who has done his MBA from *Amreeka*. Love at first sight here doesn't just mean that you take one look at the girl and cannot stop thinking about her. It is a little more complex. You look at her, imagine what she is going to look like wearing your mothers jewellery, where you want to have the wedding reception, what the parents are going to exchange as dowry, where you are going on the honeymoon, what Chintoo and Pinto (names are pre-decided did not you know!?) are going to like, which school they will go to and so on. Everything is long term. Remember that scene from

'Dhoom – 1', where Uday Chopra looks at Preeti Zinta and imagines her in her wedding clothes and Bangles with the kids on his motorcycle? That is what I mean!

Marriage has nothing to do with love in this country.

It is often just a business arrangement between families and has been so for centuries. Strategic partnership is the phrase to be precise. Get real. How many of you think that you are actually going to marry that girlfriend of yours from across the LOC. Unless of course your parents live next to each other and are both exporting steel to Sudan? The question though for a lot of people is... is love, or rather what I think this is at the moment, worth the pain, money and the effort! (Please note money...yes it costs money to have a boyfriend or a girlfriend these days, people!). The answer in my opinion is yes. It is totally worth it. Why? Quite simply because if you do not do it now, once you are married to Mr. Kumar's boring son or daughter, you are going to regret not making that move on that girl or guy that you are imagining in your head right now. Even if it did not work out, at least you will know what it felt like and of course the garb about being content with the fact that you did make the effort. You are never too young or old to start and he/she is never too old for you. Forget caste, race, creed, religion and economic background... it really is not worth it. Some of the most exotic and interesting people you will meet in your life are going to be people from a different religion and caste and possibly even from some strange half - extinct tribe from the back of the beyond. Appreciate people for their individuality and not from where they come from and love will not only happen, but it will make it all the more worthwhile.

- Kartik Mahajan  
(Batch of 2004)

\* \* \*

The night has a thousand eyes,  
And the day but one.  
Yet the light of the bright world dies,  
With the dying sun.

The mind has a thousand eyes,  
And the heart but one.  
Yet the light of the whole life dies,  
When love is done.

- Francis William Bourdillon



*We told you.....a touch of love can make anyone a poet. See it for yourself.*

## First Love

The first time I saw you, my heart melted,  
I wasn't in my conscience but I still felt it.  
It was beating very fast that I couldn't catch it,

It wasn't in my conscience because you had snatched it.  
Days and nights passed in your memory,  
Life was tough, though still merry,

Now that you are with me I often wonder,  
Was I in my senses or did I make a blunder?  
Every moment I spent with you, now,

One word comes in my mind, "How...how..."  
I hope I never see you again,  
'Cos if I do, be ready for disdain.

- Aditya Mahara,  
ICSE 2008

## The Pending Answer

Every corner have I roamed,  
Though longitude and latitude,  
In search of a soul with attitude.

Every corner have I roamed  
specially during hours alone,  
In search of a soul,  
as eternal, divine and valuable as gold.

Whose everlasting beauty,  
Attitude, elegance and silence speaks it all.  
Who's kept me walking  
at day and haunts me at night.  
my dream , my light and part of  
my might is this soul.

A heavenly soul that I have found  
Who has her hold upon me like a cast that I  
have been bounded into.  
Very divine is she, the soul that  
I have found, when luck favored  
on the journey to my goal.

Then came the oath and the promise that

I had taken on my own to my soul,  
To be her ladder and her stepping stone,  
And the support that will stand  
by her whenever she is alone.

In need when she is  
I will be there indeed.  
"Never to part with this soul",  
A divine obstacle or a hedge,  
for the unconditional love  
I bear for this soul.

Yet I have a question to ask before I set off  
On my journey with this soul...

A question whose answer  
Is worth waiting for,  
The question whose answer  
Will taunt me all the time.  
Tell me please, O divine soul  
if your answer to my  
humble question is fruitfully sweet:  
Will you be my Valentine?

- Kunal Khemlani,  
ICSE 2008

## I'll miss you

I know that as the years go by,  
I'll miss u more and more.  
But I have to stand here and watch you,  
Walk out the door.

Your robe has been donned,  
Your tassel turned.  
You've passed all your tests,  
All lessons, you've learned.

I've only known you  
For one short year,  
But I've grown to love you,  
And now I'll shed a tear.

For as many years go by,  
I'll miss you more and more,  
But I must stand here and watch you,  
Walking out the door.

- Krishna Nand Singh,  
X C

# 8 The Oliphant



## Protect the Protector

"Let me live! Please let me live. Neither am I a danger to you nor your sworn enemy. Even God gives the guilty another chance, and me, let me first make a mistake!! Have sympathy, be merciful O wise men. Please let me live."

These are not my words, nor of any accused pleading in a court. These are the words of Nature. The shouts, the screams, the cries of nature which are echoing all over the world. But when, when will we 'wise men' respond?

Fish, crows, snakes, frogs and almost all other animals except man have one thing in common – they adapt themselves according to the environment and not expect the environment to adapt according to them. They live in places which are free, live in forests and do not cut trees. They consider nature as a friend and not as a foe. This actually makes them superior to us at least in conservative thinking. We have developed 'well developed' brains, but what is the use of it if we use it to destroy our own home. What is the use of a sword if it kills you instead of protecting you?

In most places in India, people worship trees. Cutting them is considered an offence. Trees are like

their Gods; like members of their family. They look after them. Nature should have one place and that should be in our hearts. Well only some understand the importance of this statement and I am happy that we Welhamites do and which is why we have firmly resolved to declare the Environment (along with English) on top of our priority list. Some of us have gone to an extent to call Environment as our 'valentine'.

But still it is a known fact that:

We are taught to help the needy,  
but we do not.

We are taught to help those who help us,  
but we do not.

The only we know is destruction,  
even if it is of our protector.

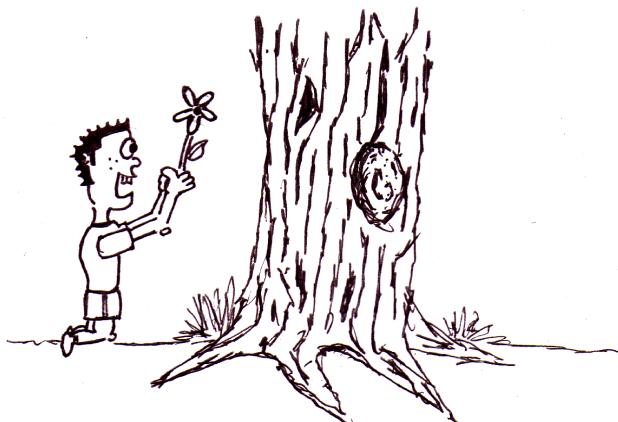
- Aashutosh Todi,  
XA

*Write to us at:*

*The Editor,  
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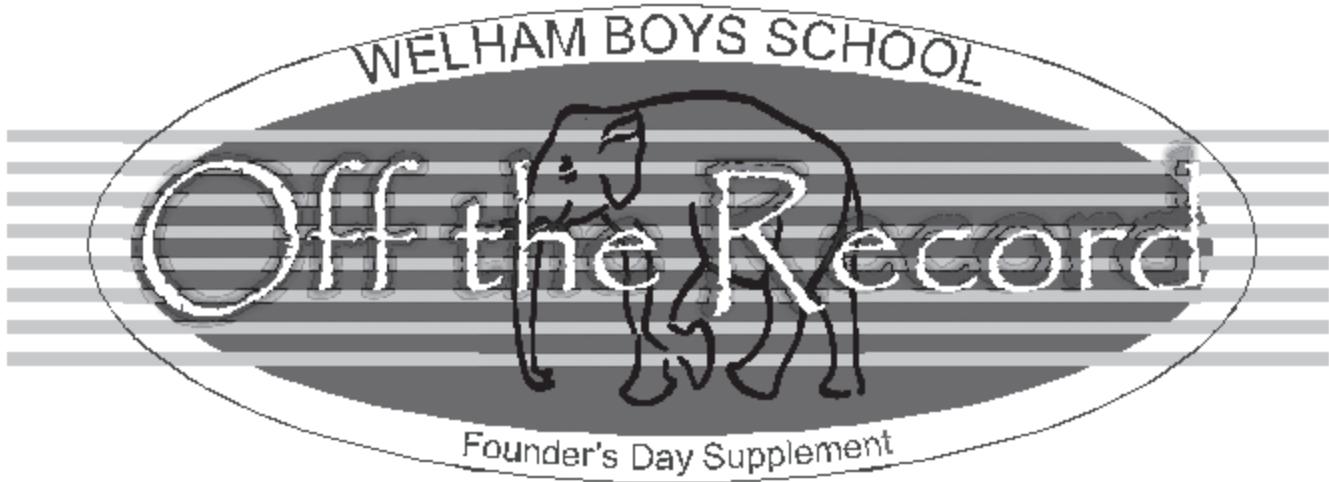
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Well, hmmm.....



Urgh!!  
I can't believe he left  
me to choose 'THAT'  
as his.  
VALENTINE!!

100.00000000000001



## Principal's Address

Our honourable chief guest on the occasion of our 70<sup>th</sup> Founder's Day, Mrs Ratna Pathak Shah, Chairman and members of the Board of Governors, ladies and gentlemen, and all members of the Welham Boys community, past and present.

The 70<sup>th</sup> Founder's Day of an institution is a hallmark event, and it is a great privilege to have with us Mrs. Ratna Pathak Shah to preside over the occasion. I say this with some deliberation because Mrs. Shah wears many hats, and the hat she is wearing today is quite different from the one that the general public is used to. We all know her as a screen and theatre personality of considerable repute. Very few of us know of her involvement in various social and educational causes. Mrs. Shah is a founder-member of the Avehi - Abacus project, and has been involved in producing teaching and learning kits for children in schools and non-formal education centres. I have indeed had the pleasure of visiting her centre, and was so impressed with their work, that I ordered a kit straight away for the school, and followed it up with a workshop on its application. Mrs. Shah also conducts in-service teacher training programmes, largely for those teachers involved with those children of a lesser God.

As a screen and theatre personality her achievements are only too well known. Her masterful performances in films such as 'Heat and Dust', 'Perfect Murder' and many others have won her universal acclaim. Recently, she has been seen across the country on television in serials such as *Sarabhai vs. Sarabhai* and *Choti Choti Batien*. Equipped with a degree in Sociology and a diploma in theatre arts from the National School of Drama, she brings a rare kind of sensitivity to the roles she plays. She has excelled on stage as well. 'Dear liar', 'The Bear', 'Ismat Apa Ke Naam', are few of the productions that come to mind. She has been awarded the screen award and the Hero Honda ITA Award for the best actress in a comedy role. It is an honour and privilege to have you with us ma'am, on this very special occasion.

It is also my privilege today to introduce our Board of Governors. Our Chairman, Mr. Darshan Singh, who never ceases to amaze me with how he manages to find time for the School, and indeed to make himself available whenever required, in spite of world-wide commitments; Mr. Gulab

Ramchandani, whose eye for detail borders on the uncanny, and whose energy level at his age make him a little difficult to keep up with; Mr. Talukdar, an eminent geologist who combines a rare perspective of the best of the worlds of Sciences and Humanities; Mr. Pushpinder Maliah, one of the oldest friends of the school ; Mr. Kamal Sehgal, an eminent citizen and founder of the Hopetown Girl's School, a remarkable success story itself; Mrs. Jyotsna Brar, Principal of Welham Girls' School, a school also founded by Miss Oliphant , and which has this year completed 50 wonderful years of contribution to education; and Mrs. Alka Sharma, who as a parent, stood by the school through some difficult times.

It is a great pleasure to welcome on our board, two eminent new members - Admiral Arun Prakash, who retired recently as Chief of Naval Staff, an appointment which speaks volumes in itself for the qualities of the incumbent, and Mrs. Lousie Khursheed, a very successful and caring politician (a rare combination in itself, I may add), in her own right and more importantly for us, one closely linked with education in this country through her association with the DPS movement. Regrets have been received from Dr. Anil Wilson, the Vice Chancellor of Himachal University and Mr. Nasser Munjee, Chairman of the Development Credit Bank, who are unable to be with us owing to prior commitments. As a Principal, I could not have asked for a more supportive Board and to them I am deeply grateful.

It also gives me great pleasure to extend a very warm welcome to the large number of old boys who have made an effort to be here for this occasion. The Welham Old Boys' Society is in keeping with the school motto, growing 'From Strength to Strength', and I speak for the whole school when I say that we are very proud of you, and happy to have you with us.

The detailed Principal's report is already with you, and I will dwell here only on the milestones and that too with a view to giving you a picture of the direction in which we are trying to steer the school.

In the ICSE Examination, this year, we sent up 48 students, of who 8 finished in the 90-100% category, 22 in the 80-89% category, 12 in the 70-79% category and 6 in the 60-69% category. The top three of the batch were Pranav Singhal

# 10 The Oliphant



with 93.6%, Chandan with 92.6% and Kushagra Prashar also with 92.6%.

In the ISC examination we sent up 37 students of which 11 finished in the 90-100% category, 12 in the 80-89% category, 11 in the 70-79% category and 3 in the 60-69% category. Archit Aggarwal with 93.7 Akshay Aggarwal with 92.7% and Ajitesh Kir with 92.2% topped the batch.

Whilst the results are definitely on the up, personally I am not enamoured by the bulls rampaging on the educational stock market. To my mind what is more important are the processes we are setting in motion to raise our educational standards in general, rather than the marks in particular. After all, if it were only the marks that were the issue, we should merely emulate the tuition academies flourishing in every nook and alley of the country. Towards this end we have taken a quantum leap forward.

You are already aware that a decision has been taken to move to the CBSE. The Board of Governors has done considerable research on this subject and has decided to go with a board that is progressive, student - friendly, and backed by huge research and development.

Within the school we are developing an integrated curriculum that is dynamic, and ensures that there are no 'learning gaps' between the Junior, Middle and Senior Schools. A slot for PPA (preparation, planning and assessment) for teachers has been introduced in the timetable, whereby teachers of each department meet regularly, exchanging ideas, and generally explore methods to enhance the teaching learning process. Boys are encouraged to research and reference and you will have seen some of the results of their work in the presentations yesterday. Some more will be on view later tonight. A Middle School committee has been set up to constantly monitor the performance (academic or otherwise) of the boys in that group and to suggest improvements in the existing systems. Life skills are being taught as a part of the curriculum. This is over and above the numerous workshops that are held to hone subject and teaching skills.

I could go on and on about this all evening but the point is that we are proud of the fact that we are progressive, open minded, and constantly evaluating ourselves. It might interest you to know that each department has made a SWOT analysis (i.e. an assessments of our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats), and a 3 year action plan on the basis of this analysis. This has been presented to the Board of Governors and will be implemented a.s.a.p.

A similar thrust has been made on the sports field. The Department of Physical Education has launched a campaign to "catch 'em young". The emphasis, therefore, is on nurturing the Junior and Middle Schools. Nowhere have the results been more apparent than rifle-shooting, Basketball and Soccer.

In the IPSC Rifle Shooting championships Miraj Khan, Khyat Mahajan, Dhruv Paliwal and Snehdeep won bronze medals and Navandeep Matta brought home gold. And this in a sport which is little over a year old in school!

Our sub-junior Soccer team did us proud by winning the Carbery Soccer Tournament. The senior team made it to the finals of the Om Prakash Memorial tournament, and lost narrowly to the hosts.

The Under 16 Basketball team won the District Championship and the Senior team won the Frank Anthony Memorial Fixed Five Tournament.

Here once again, more than the results it is the processes that are important. I say this because unlike other well-established schools, Welham is relatively young, having graduated out of being a preparatory school a mere 20 years ago. Add to this the instability the school has gone through, and you will realize that what we are involved in is a process of building. So our triumphs, little though they may seem when compared to our more illustrious neighbours, are very hard-won, and we have every reason to be proud of them.

We have broken ground in more ways than one in terms of infrastructure as well. All of us will probably have seen Shikhar, the new hostel dedicated to the memory of the late General Bakshi, an erstwhile trustee. Shikhar is a tribute to the vision of our Chairman Darshan Singh and our ex-Chairman Mr. Gulab Ramchandani. New staff accommodation has also been built. The children are being served fresh fruit juice, including sugar cane juice from our new juice-centre. I can proudly declare that our healthcare and catering facilities compare with the best in the country. And watch this space for the old boys' contribution!

There is one challenge, however that is staring us in the face but I am not sure as to how many will agree with me on this one. Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyer, in his speech at The Doon School, pre-empted me when he spoke about the need for co-education. In a world where social modes are rapidly changing, when gender equality has become a huge concern, when all kinds of conflicting messages are being hurled at our children, the time has come, I feel, to re-evaluate this entire business of single-sex schools. Our children must be brought up to treat each other with respect, to do away with the sometimes unhealthy mystique that surrounds the business of growing up. I know that many feel that adolescents are more comfortable growing with their own gender, but to me it seems that we are trying to absolve ourselves of the responsibility of teaching them to grow up together in a co-ed world. We are then hoping that it will happen on its own, or that somebody else will do the hard work. It is my personal opinion that in time, single-sex schools might go the way of the dinosaur.

Here at Welham we have a great opportunity, and since we have a lady (who is a great role model) as our Chief Guest, and the Principal of Welham Girls present here, may I make a suggestion which may sound outlandish? Why not merge the two schools? After all, they were founded by Miss Oliphant who herself was a very progressive lady. Can you imagine the power that would flow from this synergy? Our facilities clubbed together- what a combination! And of course, I would get to work with some of the most beautiful ladies in the world!



And to continue on a lighter note, but mind you, with serious implications, it would save me and Mrs.Brar from being pestered with demands for ‘socials’ every single day. The situation is indeed becoming so desperate that I fear a repetition of something like the famous incident that occurred a few years ago, when 3 intrepid Welhamites entered Welham Girls clad in burquas , and asked to see some of the fair damsels on the pretext of being their relatives from Pakistan. Welham girls were obviously very hospitable, no doubt taken in by the wonderful falsetto one of the lads had managed to muster. All was going well, until one of the teachers spotted a rather hairy leg peeping out from under a burqa. Dalanwala was then treated to the sight of 3 burqa - clad individuals running like bats out of hell down the street with half of Welham Girls in pursuit! Desperate times call for desperate measures!

The range of activities that the school seems to be involved in, leaves us all quite breathless. Whether it is the investiture ceremony, the scholars’ recognition day, the Oliphant debate, it always seems to be a packed schedule. The crowning highlight was of course, the Baisakhi festival which featured amongst others, Shubha Mudgal, Dadi Padamji and the entire gamut of folk dances and regional cuisines of the country. What an exposure for our boys and what a treat for the town! I am deeply grateful to all parents and sponsors who helped with this venture.

And it is as an extension of this philosophy that we continue our campaign against substance abuse in Dehra Dun, with workshops, street theatre and what-have-you. The Uttarakhand Police Department have in fact joined hands with us in this crusade.

We work relentlessly with the Municipal School in the parade ground. The kids from that school participate with ours in the Pagal Gymkhana we organise for our support staff on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August each year. It has been one of my most heart warming experiences in school over the last four years, to see the affection, warmth and respect that our boys extend to the support staff on this occasion and indeed in their daily interaction with them.

You will see for yourselves the presence of the villagers of Jaidwar on campus. That is a village that has adopted us, and we work there with a sense of humility- for they have much more to teach us than the other way round.

We have built a community centre for the women, involved the services of Dr. Dinesh Sharma, the city’s leading eye doctor, to conduct an eye camp over there. S Chand and company, the noted publishers have very kindly agreed to donate a solar – heated water purifier developed in Germany which we hope will become a model for water purification in remote rural areas not only for Uttarakhand but perhaps for the rest of the country. But these are small things compared to what the villagers have taught us. Their cheerfulness in the face of such adversity, their generosity and warmth has not failed to enrich the life of many a Welhamite.

On Founder’s Day a Principals report usually carries the names of all those who have won glittering prizes, whilst those have been involved in reaching out to others not as privileged as themselves remain unnamed. At Welham Boys

their number is legion. But in our view of things they are just as, if not more important than, the medal winners. We read a prayer in assembly which reminds ‘to toil and not to look for any reward’. The greatest reward for these boys’ is the knowledge they have made a difference and we as a school, are proud of them.

It is also customary on Founder’s Day to dwell at length on how the school is different from all the others and how those who attend this school somehow find membership to a kind of exclusive club, with an exclusive identity. My own dream for students is that they should certainly not see themselves as exclusive. On the contrary, they should be able to empathise with and blend into the mainstream with the majority. After all, what is it that is said about being able to move with the kings and yet not lose the common touch?

If the boys who leave this school are different, it should be because they are unafraid to do things differently, to tread upon unexplored paths. It should be because they believe in honesty, integrity and secularism. It is because they are ‘driven’ in whatever they choose to do with their lives. It should be because they have a deep and abiding love and respect for all their fellow humans.

And if indeed we are inching towards these goals, I have first of all my Board of Governors to thank for their vision and solid support. But most of all, I have all my colleagues, be they academic, administrative or support staff, to be grateful to. Ladies and gentlemen, for all of us here, everyday is Children’s Day – and it is these wonderful people who spend every minute of their waking and indeed sleeping hours, worrying about the children entrusted to us. On this occasion of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our school, I can think of no better tribute to our founder, Miss Oiphant than to stand for a moment and applaud all these wonderful people who are taking her vision forward.

And as for the boys (and girls) – dealing with hormonal levels from the age of 8 to 18 can never be easy. But it is they who make our lives delightful and fulfilling. This Founder’s has stretched each one of them to the limits – and bless their hearts, they have responded magnificently. I can think of no better illustration of this than an incident which took place during a soccer match with The Doon School. I had given a pep – talk to the team just before the match, on how important it was for us to win, for reasons, I’m sure you will appreciate. As things turned out, we were leading 2 – 0 towards the end. Then our right winger, a gentleman who is usually in my office for the wrong reasons, dribbled cleanly through The Doon School defence, and netted the third goal. He then spun around towards me, took a bow and said “Sir, that one is for you!”

Ladies and gentlemen that is the spirit of Welham. I now request out Chief Guest to address the gathering. Happy Diwali.

## The Chairman Speaks

Good Evening!!

Distinguished Chief Guest Smt. Ratna Pathak Shah, Fellow Members of the Board, Honoured Guests, Parents, the

## 12 The Oliphant



Principal and the Faculty, all non-teaching Members of the Staff and the Support Staff and, of course, the Students and old Students of this great Institution.

On behalf of the Welham Boys School, I welcome the Chief Guest, Smt. Ratna Pathak Shah and, I thank you, Ma'am, for sparing time from your busy schedule and accepting to be our Chief Guest on this important day in the life of our School. This is a special year in the history of Welham Boys School, as we have completed 70 glorious years. I also welcome you on behalf of each one present in this hall and on behalf of the entire Welham Fraternity. To the Students, I say that you must learn to strive to the same levels of commitment and perseverance that our Chief Guest has made in her lifetime to reach the highest levels in her targets, her goals and her chosen Career.

Education is our business, where the profits are measured not only by Academic standards but also by all round development of our own clutch of young Indians. Education in India is at a crossroads. This may appear to be a cliché, but now our education system is facing bigger challenges. The systems in India and the methods of teaching have multiplied in the last few years. On our part, at Welham we are continuously facing these challenges to not only improve our grades but also to produce better human beings, with better employment and leadership opportunities. Today the world as a whole is going through a "knowledge revolution" where there are four key principles - Access, Equality, Accountability and Quality and I assure you that in our planning these have constituted basic planning inputs.

It has been said, "To be a teacher is to touch tomorrow." A good school, staffed by well-motivated, well-qualified staff, that is trusted to get on with the job without too much of outside interference, is vital for the well-being of our future generations. So important is this attitude that it is also the sign of a civilized and constantly developing community. I assure all of you, and in particular the Parents, that these factors are well entrenched in our philosophy.

Do remember that the young in India represent one third of our population, and I stress that this is for our nation, one hundred percent of the future. Dealing with a small fragment who make up the students in our school is not only our privilege but also our responsibility. We have to get education right. Education must not only serve the needs of society in general but also the individual needs of every individual child. That is why we as 'the practitioners' have the duty to honestly speak out about what we believe is wrong in education, but equally to point out the strengths and successes in the system. This will protect the interests of our children and thus protect the future of our country.

The Board has deliberated on various issues and learning methods. We have decided to henceforth seamlessly incorporate the CBSE system, as they are adapting to modern challenges. At Welham we consider that it is not enough to learn, but it is equally important to be able to implement, and enable the Application of knowledge. Schooling in India, has through numerous decades meant only the acquisition of

knowledge, I mean only theory by rote; but now it is more important that you use the information to do something productive. We hope to have an interaction with the CBSE, when we will forward some of our own suggestions for improvements.

To look after your School, and its directions and policies, we have the benefit of a capable Board of Governors. During the past year, we are strengthened by having with us Smt Louise Salman Khurshid who among other achievements is an Educationist, a Social worker and a successful and upright politician. We also welcome Admiral Arun Prakash who recently retired as Chief of the Indian Navy after a distinguished career including a war time bravery medal, the Vir Chakra. He is another great asset to the School as he brings invaluable experience. Both our new members also bring considerable fresh ideas and literary talent, which was not without some pleasant surprise.

Last year we continued relentlessly on our "Welham Initiative". Twelve additional sets of accommodation were added for the Staff. This has immeasurable value, for as a Boarding School we need Staff attention, on Campus, even after normal classroom hours. Further, I also congratulate the School and the Administrative Staff, on completing the challenging task set by your Board, of the construction of the new Hostels. These accommodate two Houses enabling us to fulfill our promise of decongesting existing space for our Students. The hostels, now known as 'Shikhar', were recently dedicated to the memory of Gen Ranbir Bakshi who for many years helped guide the destiny of this fine institution.

During the last year the Board deliberated on how we can further strengthen the Principal in running the School. Sometime ago our previous Vice Principal retired and we have decided to fill this position once again. I am pleased to announce that from this day the new Vice-Principal will be Mr. Mahesh Kandpal. We are sure that he will continue to put in his best and validate the confidence that your Board and the Principal have placed in him.

As the Chairman I can tell you that, of the many aspirations, the two greatest tasks that the Board places before the Principal are high 'Academic Standards' and 'Institutional Discipline.' I say Institutional because this is not only for the Students, but also for all other sections of the School and its processes. We are putting in our best, and these are areas where the work can never cease, year after year. For us to rise to higher levels, we seek the active participation of all, in particular that of Parents in helping to form right "Attitudes".

In these times when pressures are intense, let me say that if you were in the Army, fighting a war, if you said, "Life is not fair," perhaps the reply would be, "Get used to it." But then even though we are not the Army, we do push for 'discipline' and for its by-product 'leadership.' When you leave this School then the tough outside world will be a reality, and then our own appropriate message may be "If you think your teacher is tough, wait till you get a boss". At that time, the honest courage of your convictions, of your leadership skills, and your pursuit of excellence will stand you in good stead.



This brings me to the fact that this nation is poised to rise to great heights in this Century. For you to be a part of it, let me tell you why USA got ahead of Europe in the last 60 years. The reasons may be the same for the then USSR also losing out in the Cold War, or why the small nation of Israel is so formidable. There are two reasons Technology and Risk. Remember innovation is a risk while imitation is not. Those of you that learn and develop 'Technology' will make the Nation. Once again, I remind you of what I said earlier, apply your knowledge. But here also the catch is implementation, and for that you need entrepreneurship, which is the ability to take 'Risk.' Since our own government loosened controls in 1990, our own entrepreneurs have shown they could take calculated risks and the resulting positive change in India is there for all of you to see. For the young minds in the audience, I will expand in brief. Technology is just a word, but it means a million things to different persons in different times. If, you want to be a part of 'Technology', then the most important input is 'Mathematics.' This is an area where India is lagging behind other ambitious countries. When I talk of Risk, please do not merely think that risk is driving a motorcycle at top speed. On the contrary, I am referring to the exploitation of your acumen to take calculated gambles with your resources and career so that you can be an entrepreneur, as an employer or as a team leader.

On this day let us now recall the memory of our Founder. I knew her personally as a student. She had a warm and comforting personality. Rules and good behaviour were part of the School without it being apparent. She laid the foundations of a great school from her own personal resources. It was after all a Lady who started what is predominantly a Boys School. So today I am glad that in keeping with that legacy we have with us another fine person, also a great Lady, Smt Ratna Pathak Shah.

In conclusion, I thank my colleagues on the Board for their vision. All Academic, and Non-Academic Staff and our hard working support staff. Last but not the least I want to thank the Principal, and the Vice Principal for their untiring efforts.

Thank You.

## The Chief Guest's Speech

This is a bit tall for me, I'm sorry. But umm... I'm going to try. Good evening, ladies and gentlemen and my young friends I have never done this before so you will have to excuse me any gaffes that I may make as a result of my inexperience. But I have attended several Founder's Days at my sons' school so I do know the significance of the Chief Guests speech; how closely it is followed and how it is ripped apart and afterwards and worst of all, most frightening of all, how easy it is to get bored while the poor soul blunders on. So I'll try and keep this short.

I'd like to speak to the three groups that are represented at any school function. The teachers, the students and the

parents. They're the three communities that are willingly bound together by this biggy mouth that we know as formal school education. Of course the students are at the center of this universe. But all of us, the rest of us go through the processes and are deeply affected by them. So I thought that I'd like to share some of my views with you. The boys can tune out for a bit here if they'd like to because I'd like to address the first two sections of my audience first.

As a society we are all deeply sure of... and believe strongly in the power of education to change lives and improve our world. So maybe it's a good idea to ask a very basic question first, that is why do we send our children to school? What is that we expect from the 5 to 7 years that this entire exercise takes? Many things of course but I think they could be summarized. Thus we hope that our children will gain skills and knowledge that they will need to face the world and we hope they will learn values that will help them to take care of them and contribute positively to this world. This is the big picture of course. Skills and knowledge and values when translated into real life mean good marks and the drive, the will, the competition to succeed to do well in life. This is more or less true for most of us but I'd like to take it apart a little bit and see if it is what we really want.

I'd like to address the parents because they are the only group about which I can speak about with any authority. Whatever I am or am not, I am certainly a parent. I'm no trained teacher and have not or can never be a young boy. I'll talk about what I know first. Parents do one of the most difficult and crucial jobs in the world a job for which we receive no training and in this day and age very few guidelines are given. It's a job that involves us 24x7; one that we cannot resign from. It is a job that affects the entire being, our hearts, our mind and even our soul and a job that is sometimes so complex and so frightening that we are quite happy to hand over to any other agency that is willing to take on. So we send our children to school sometimes far away from us in the hope that professionals will do the job better than us. So in a small sense we console ourselves that we are deferring to experts and at the same time we do feel a sense of guilt about abdicating our responsibilities. We try and compensate by offering, you know, treats and trips and money and trips abroad or our complete attention, our focus when the children are with us. We also try to give them what we didn't have and when you look at this "what we didn't have" it usually means more money more possessions. It seldom means more time because parents today are much more hard pressed for time than they ever were. And it often also does not mean more participation in their lives because lifestyles, technology and most important of all language has widened the gulf between parents and children. In such a situation there are further complications because we are not sure of ourselves and of our values as the previous generations were.

But I don't think that's such a bad thing at all. The lack of fixed signposts on our way, of knowing whether what I'm

## 14 The Oliphant



doing is right – I feel can be liberating and empowering for both the parents and children to be able to say ‘I don’t know’. We are not so sure of the rules anymore. We’re making them up as we go along discarding the ones we don’t believe in anymore, looking around to see what our friends and neighbours are doing, learning from their experiences. It can be wonderful when generations learn together to become true partners. Personally speaking, I find it very exciting that I don’t know at all the answers and I have to look for them with my children side-by-side, hand in hand. The process of forming one’s opinion can be extremely fulfilling and I certainly think that we owe our children the chance to experience this. This is where a good teacher can contribute immensely. This is something they do so easily, so differently, to introduce you to yourself and to the world, and parents need good teachers as much as if not more than the children do.

When I look back on my life I think of all the teachers in life who have made a big difference to me I realized that they all share one thing in common. They all showed me the way and then stepped back to let me look for myself. I may not remember everything that they said in their class but I do remember the kind of people they were and I deeply appreciate what their humanity has done for me. I remember their kindness, their sense of humour, their belief in goodness, the immaculate way of draping a saree, the gold tooth that gleamed in the middle of my Math class and distracted all of us. I remember their steadfastness in the face of adversity; I remember their courage to stand up for what they believed in and most precious of all I’m deeply grateful that they believed in me. That they thought I was worth something in the final analysis what mattered was the person. I’m not the things I had achieved. Is that not the true aim of schooling? The creation of a thoughtful, happy, productive and passionate person? I fear that a lot of young people sitting here today don’t often see things that are thoughtful or happy or even productive in their environment.

Surely all you people know that school is much more than classes and your education is so much more complex and exciting than any curriculum can hope to be. I’m sure that you know what will stay with you after your time here. The rising and the falling, the intense heartbreaks, the equally intense joys, the strengths and weaknesses you have discovered in yourself, the friendships of the hatreds, in fact all that make you. Those who won’t be able to look back at these days 20 years later and say, “Ah!” Those mere days’ when you gather at old boys’ parties’ maybe you were the lucky one because you were saving it all up. Hopefully, you’ll be able to see through the frenzy and find what is important for you. If we all trust you and can have patience and if we don’t push you to have arrived by twenty and be a burnout by twenty seven! Somehow we lose a sight of this. All of us are guilty of this, parents, teachers and unfortunately you students too. Maybe we mislead you into believing that wrong things are important, the marks and the medals, the pay packets

and the rat race. We have career guiding courses and we have coaching classes and advice from every uncle thrice removed about how to grab the best lunch ticket. But surely it is as important to thank whom you are about to engage with. This question-What is the kind of person I want to be, what is the kind of world I want to be a part of. Very soon you will have to fend for yourselves. Will you be confident or will you be afraid? Will you do better than us? You know a couple of days ago I was listening to two men talking about their lives. They were both in their late fifties and both had reached the top of their individual professions and they were both men of substance. And what are things that mattered? The first football they ever had. The smell and warmth of their grandfather’s overcoat, the tooth that one of them broke in a hotly contested cricket match. So it’s interesting to realize that their other achievements are not important but it is that they are not all that important.

I’d like to end with two small stories. One of them is actually a news report from The Hindustan times. A young promising player had just won a match and she was being interviewed and was talking about her tough regime and the hours she had put in. The interviewer asked her why she chose Tennis rather than any other sport. Her reply-”My mother told me not to choose a team sport because the credit gets shared.”

The other story is about a farmer, a corn farmer. He was very well known for the quality of his produce, won awards at every agricultural show and every year he’d give away for free a lot of his own seeds, the best of them to any one who cared to ask. A stranger asked him why he did this. Wasn’t he afraid that the others would then grow equally good corn and win the prizes that were rightfully his? His reply “my corn grows so well because the wind brings pollen from all the farms around me. It grows; it thrives in the clean water and the fresh air all around. If the farmers around me grew poor corn, how could my corn strong and healthy?

I know which path I would choose if I were to live my life again. I hope you can make your choices wisely and confidently because the world is open and becoming like never before and a lot rides on the choices all of us make. Parents, teachers and most of all you young people because you are the future, and I think the future looks good, thank you.

\* \* \*

*Oli acknowledges the enthusiasm shown by students in contributing articles for the Oliphant. Although all your articles could not make it, but we will try our best to include them in the forthcoming issues.*



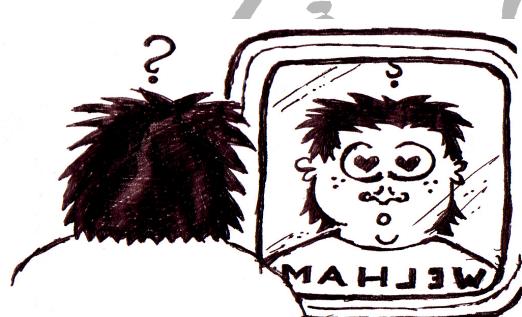
## Oliphant Focus

### Does Welham Love Welham?

We hear roars of encouragement tearing through the walls of Welham whenever our school is up against another school's team. We feel proud in knowing that the whole school is boiling with 'school spirits'.

But if you notice closely, you will always see a senior standing there, shouting and scolding, persuading them to keep on cheering for the School.

Does love for our school always have to be forced upon us? Why does an initiative not come from within? Whenever someone we know asks us about the school we study in, without even an iota of hesitation we proudly say 'Welham', but do we actually mean it or is it just because our school is famous? Is it that we love our



school from inside? Is the 'school spirit' we show every time, from our hearts or mere obedience to instruction? Let us contemplate...

Well how can we show it? If you truly love your school you will have to do something for it, be it in sports, academics or a co-curricular activity. It is easier said than done. If 'Welham' really loves Welham it will have to stand up for itself and rise to the occasion making sure that it is the best in whatever it does. If you truly love something, you will always, till your last breath try and uphold the honour and worth of that thing and keep it shining. You will give everything you have to shelter it from tarnish and anything that threatens to blot it. So, if it is true love that we have for Welham, we will not let it down, even though we may have to sometimes face hell itself. 'Empty vessels make more noise'. So from now on just do not keep harping about the honour of your school ....do something about it.

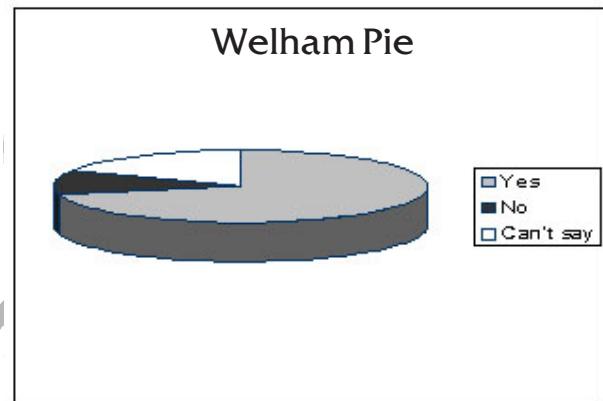
As a matter of fact it is certain that all the students in the outgoing class XII will get sadder and sadder as the day that will separate them from the place

they were bred and brought up, approaches. They will all cherish the memories of the best part of their lives that they have spent at Welham. This inseparable bond can never break.

Finally, talking about the rest of the school, I can say that the bitter truth may never be revealed, but no one should make the slightest mistake in knowing the fact that no matter how much a Welhamite curses or cribs about his school, deep down under, somewhere in a bright corner of his heart there will remain a place reserved for 'Welham'.

- Abhinav Basu,  
XII Sc.

### Does Welham Love Welham?



	Yes	No	Can't Say
Class IX	30	14	16
Class X	35	0	16
Class XII	20	3	5
Teachers	20	7	13

## The Learned Sentinel

It stood there beside the old banyan tree,  
Like a sentinel standing guard at his post,  
Trying to fight away the darkness.  
That good old lamppost.

I was merely passing by  
When it suddenly caught my attention;  
And I stopped and stood and stared at it  
With my heart full of a learning sensation.

It stood ten feet tall  
It's light growing steadily faint  
That was the only sign of its old age  
For, the rest was hidden by freshly coated paint.

# 16 The Oliphant



I stood there quietly and tried to concentrate,  
On the silent message, it was giving;  
Through its constant battle with darkness,  
Which was both merciless and forgiving.

It was as clear as crystal  
The lesson that the lamppost was teaching  
'Never give up' were the unmistakable words  
That the sentinel was preaching.

I looked hard at the grey uniformed sentinel,  
Trying to discover the wiser character beyond  
It was then that I saw the rusted, old body  
And the wisdom with which it was bound.

This was how I discovered the truth about glory  
With the help of a faint glow a light;  
The truth that with purpose and determination  
Failure will never be in sight.

I looked up gratefully at the learned sentinel  
Silently thinking him for his gift  
The gift of Knowledge and wisdom,  
Which would Make me stable and help me not to drift.

- Param Shah,

X C

**It's time now....**

"Oh wow!" Exclaimed the boy sitting next to me after the concept assembly had just got over. Everyone seemed happy with it, the Principal, the Staff, the students, everyone and so was I. The whole idea of pouring the pebbles in the jar, then the mud, then the sand and so on was just amazing but no one, not even one cared about the mud that had fallen down and dirtied the floor.

As a matter of fact even I had not thought much about it, until I saw an old man with his cap and gloves on in the cold, walk up to the dirt with a broom and a dust pan to carry the mud in. He reached the spot and swept the place, and all of us just sat. Sat not even thinking of what was happening, sat in our own little world which had no place for thoughts, for feelings or concern for others. The lot that had done the assembly seemed to be so overjoyed that they could not even think of helping someone who in a way had to clean up the place because of them.

I think it is high time now, that we stop taking advantage of someone else's needs to fulfil ours, while we cannot even take responsibility for what we do.

- Rajat Arora,  
X B

## Einstein as a little monster

*"All of science is nothing more than the refinement of everyday thinking."*

- Albert Einstein

Everyone has heard of Albert Einstein. Be it for his exotic theories of Relativity, or even more exotic hairstyle. Space, time, atom, gravity, motion or any other phenomenon – he ruled the vast world of science.

Einstein was a little genius, and all of us know that. But how many of you are aware that Einstein's head was so huge that even some of his relatives called him a monster. He had other abnormal features too, like he learned to speak much later than most of us at the age of five. Once he was gifted a magnetic compass by his father and he was simply fascinated. The depth of his imagination was unpredictable even when he was a kid. The kid spontaneously questioned, "Why can't I see the things pulling the needle north?"

He usually enjoyed tackling Math and particularly Geometry and Algebra. It was later on that he got into Physics very deeply but still had quite a scientific mind right from his childhood. Once it was that he turned 'religious' in a big way. He used to pray, preach and even read religious books, he even wrote hymns and sang them out on his way to school. Very soon he became devoted to his religious books and read them the same way he used to read scientific books. This occurred at the age of 11. Still in school, Einstein had to avoid asking question as his level of Physics and Mathematics was far ahead of his classmates and sometimes he asked questions to which even the teachers did not have the answer.

His father's lighting company went bankrupt after a couple of years. His family then shifted to Italy. Albert was very happy at first because he was discriminated against for being a Jew, but later was informed that he would stay there with some distant relatives because his parents felt that his studies might be affected due to a change in school. But Einstein followed them to Italy. His parents were not angry seeing him in Italy along with them. He was having great fun in Italy and got along well at his Uncle Jacob's factory where he turned to be a brainy and an efficient worker. Jacob was impressed and made him an assistant engineer. His next plan then was to find out how the universe worked.

Here were some times of the 'little' Einstein. Later on he went on exploring the universe by saying "The speed of light is the same for everyone no matter how



fast or slow the body is, there is no such thing as absolute motion, there are enormous amounts of energy in every single bit of matter" etc. Einstein was a genius, though using just 10% of his brain. People still wonder how he got the flash of his incredible ideas, but do you still know that he was spied on by the Nazis and FBI and even got expelled from school! After all now, he is 'Dead Famous'.

- Yuvraj Goswami,  
VII A

## Teachers and Students

When we are in class, we are STUDENTS,  
When they are in class, they are TEACHERS.  
When we gather to discuss, it is GOSSIP,  
When they gather to discuss, it is a MEETING.  
When we are found in the library, it is BUNKING,  
When they are found in the library, it is RESEARCH WORK.  
When we do something wrong, we are IDIOTS,  
When they do something wrong, they are HUMAN BEINGS.  
When we don't do our work in time, we are LAZY,  
When they don't do their work in time, they are BUSY.  
When we copy from others, it is CHEATING,  
When they copy from others, it is QUOTING.  
When we think in class, it is DAY DREAMING,  
When they are thinking in class, they are PHILOSOPHERS.  
When we are in the corridors, we are LOITERING,  
When they are in the corridors, they are INSPECTING.  
When we crack jokes in class, we are BUFFOONS,  
When they crack jokes in class, they have a GOOD SENSE OF HUMOUR.

- Raghav Dahuja,  
VIII A

## Joint Production

The impossible, has been turned into a reality. The opportunity of a lifetime has come our way. This is big, even bigger than one could ever imagine. For the first time since I joined school, Welham Boys and Girls are collaborating on a musical 'melodrama'.

The get-togethers between Welham Boys and Girls have been few and far between in recent years. So the idea of having several meetings under the watchful

eyes of an accomplished actor and probably one of the crème-de la-crème of Indian drama, Ratna Pathak Shah and producing something as unique as a Gujarati folk drama for the people of Dehra Dun, is just fabulous.

This brainchild of both the Principals of producing 'meaningful socials' has worked wonders. The opportunity to work with the 'birds' of Dehra Dun dragged many people out of their beds and onto the stage to show what they are really made of.

With trembling legs and sweaty palms many Welhamites staggered to the auditions. It was easy to make out from the faces that had popped up, how many of them were there for the acting and exposure and how many were there for 'other reasons'.

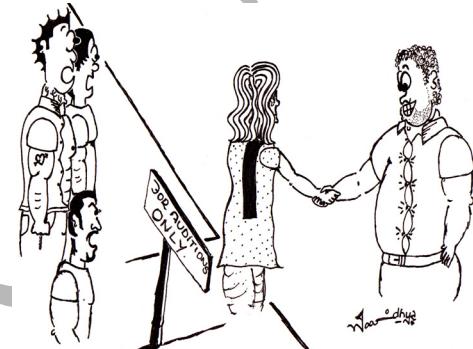
So the auditions began. Each individual had to come up and sing (perform!?) a song. As a spectator,

most of the performances compelled me to hide my face in my hands and cover my mouth to avoid bursting out into laughter. But then there would be the odd performance that would catch everyone's attention and draw great applause. There were also a few people trying for the 'non-singing' role who would put even Rajpal Yadav to shame. But all in all, these efforts are quite funny and humorous to say the least.

Something like this joint production has not aroused as much interest as now. This event is bound to generate a lot of excitement and its popularity can be gauged by the fact that even the 'lowly' jobs of 'spot-boys' and 'back-stage help' is up for grabs and more are queuing for them than required. After all it is not just the actors who will run the show and get all the attention from.... well, you know who.

The time for the disclosure of the cast is drawing near, and expectations of getting a role are growing. After all, it is a once in a lifetime opportunity.

- Jatan Soni,  
X C



# 18 The Oliphant



## Lampoon

*"Hey Cupid, give me some suggestions ...!"*

It was the 14<sup>th</sup> of February and I was walking down the corridor of Shikhar hostel pondering over the thought, how this day is ‘sooo’ important in the life of a Welhamite.

Even though he practically cannot meet his ‘valentine’ on this day, he tries to “derive utility” (ask A.T.) of Valentine’s Day from extreme usage of hair gels and anti – perspirants which cause the ‘normal’ aroma of Welham to mingle with that of Versace, Armani, Lomani and Brut, writing down of letters (which have to be faired out about five times!!) not only to people he loves but also to God, asking him for suggestions!!!!

I say –

When you have a medical problem,  
You go to the doctor.  
When you have a legal problem,  
You go to the lawyer.  
When you have academic problem,  
You go to a teacher,  
But when you have problems  
And want solutions to those regarding love.....  
You write letters to St. Valentine.  
Sorry twelfthies, I had to do this.....  
Here I go..... NO HARD FEELINGS

GUYS!!!

### Ayush Agarwal

Dear St. Valentine,

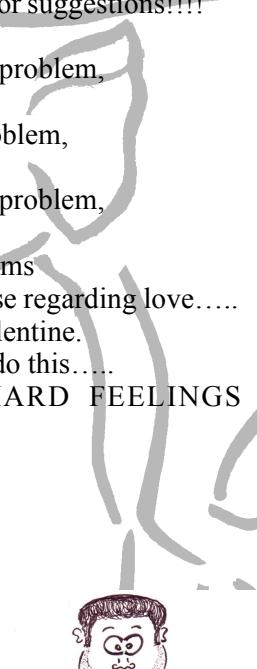
My XXXL size is no more a cause for girls running away in fear of being crushed, because I have found someone across the LOC who is double my size.

Bless my love story which seems to be like those Bob Builder ones – where a bulldozer falls in love with a road roller.

Since this event in my life, I have started believing in the saying – *Bada hai to behtar hai* and as a result I am trying my level best to get into the joint production. P.S. I recently had a nightmare of a Shahrukh Khan six pack.

Dear Ayush,

*I am glad to know about your ‘larger than life’ relationship and I hope that the world will be able to succumb under your pressure(s).*



AYUSH

P.S.: - I've got a big question, were they packs or tyres???

### Harsh Sharma

Dear St. Valentine,

HELP ME!! Of late I have been falling in love with fruits and vegetables (cherries and green chillies... no pun intended) and I surely have made the environment my valentine!!

Now I would like to progress and extend my reaches to the ‘apple of Woodstock’ and the ‘mango of S.J.A.’

Do advise me on these fruity issues.



Dear Harsh,

*I am more than delighted that you have been taking your Principal’s words rather ‘too’ seriously and hope that you aspire to become ‘George of the fruit basket.’*

*My advice to you is – keep watering your plants.*

### Vikas Arya

Dear St. Valentine,

After being dumped nearly eight times (and counting), I have only five words to sum up this letter – *Bhagwaan mera number kab aayega?* And I believe that the reason for these mishaps is that whenever I open my mouth, I end up revealing the place where I come from! .

Lately my peers have been asking me if I do not get a girlfriend, what would I do. I give them a very straight forward answer by saying, “*Arre yaar, arrange marriage kar lenge!!*”



VIKAS

Dear Vikas,

*Either you have misconstrued your numbers or you have been lying to me as well, as it is not eight but nine times that you have been dumped and I curse your nose to grow longer than that of Pinocchio’s!*

*I dispense two of my most valuable advices to you:*

1. Patience is the key to success.



2. Try and try until you succeed.

P.S.: - "Tension mat le, picture  
abhi baaki hai mere dost."

## Rahil Valson

Dear St. Valentine,

I have yet not decided from the list of b, c, d, e, f, A, P, M, C, U..... who is my valentine!!

I no longer have to visit the Levi's store as someone else is carrying out the transactions for me.

With all those girls around me, I surely have proven to my peers that I am indeed 'prince charming in Shriek's skin.'

*Dear Rahil,*

*May your alphabets give you a strong diction and you succeed in your endeavours to pattao all the alphabets of the English language.*

*I am glad that someone invented a device called a mirror which revealed your true 'Hulky' look to you.*

*Bless you and your alphabets!!*

the mocking lover,

- Suryanshu Vasishta.

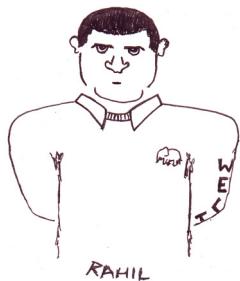
XII Comm.

## Dude of the Month

All watches in school have been adjusted according to his watch. He not only ensures that no class is without a teacher, but also that all student late-comers are brought to justice. The dude for this month is Mr. Manjeet Singh.

From providing tea to the Staff to visiting every class with the Late Book, he has never been late. Mr. Bhandari's right hand can always ring the bell a couple of minutes late but never before time and when the students question him he responds with a wide smile.

Nevertheless, he is doing a fabulous job and the Oli board takes this opportunity to thank him on behalf of the whole school and hopes that he continues to provide us with his impeccable service.



## Separated at Birth

Aditya Vardhan Joshi  
Sawan Kukreja  
Prithviraj Jain  
Eshay Tobgyal  
Jatan Soni  
Arikesh Jung

Anshuman Kapoor  
Ayush Channa  
Mr. Sameer Dhingra  
Jet Li  
Mr. Karna Puri  
Ishaan Avasthi  
*(Tare Zameen Par)*

## What's In

The 'Brown Scorpio'  
Joint productions  
Mr. Bhandari: "Johnny"  
"Keep it - kaam ayega"

## What's Out

The 'Silver Scorpio'  
Socials  
Mr. Bandari: "Monkey"  
"LOL!!"

## Through the Keyhole

Vikas Arya to The Oliphant board: "Please make me the official member of the board."

Sunil Chawla to his class: "Guys, I'm a one man woman."

Vikas Arya in the dining hall: "Why have they put this 'table manners ka menu' on the table???"

Pulkit Agarwal during an English class: "Guys we have to write a composition on 'A trip to an excursion.'

Pulkit Agarwal enthusiastically during a school reporting: "School, spread down and get down!!"

## Ringside View

The New Year just begun and the new sports captains are all ready to take to the field and assume their responsibilities, in their endeavour to take the level of sports in the school to greater heights. Sarthak Singh is the Sports Captain for the year 2008-09. The individual sport captains are as follows:-

Cricket – Rahil Valson  
Soccer – Vaibhav Raj  
Hockey – Sarthak Singh  
Basketball – Akash Godara  
Athletics – Kushagra Prasher  
Gym – Suryanshu Vasishta  
Volleyball – Ayush Toyal

# 20 The Oliphant



## Table Tennis – Pranay Todi

For the first time, Welham Boys has appointed caretakers from class XI for certain sports. They are:-

Tennis – Praharsh Agarwal

Badminton – Amanbir Singh

Squash – Tej Pratap Singh

Shooting - Abhirath Thakur

Now back to what is happening on the field. It is the most eagerly awaited time of the year for the young and restless cricketers. The cricket team, both senior and junior, can be seen sweating it out on the field during practice. The players have been working really hard and seem dedicated and determined to carry on the good record of their predecessors. The junior cricket team is doing really well and is emerging as a force to be reckoned with. They participated in the Council's Cricket Tournament and were playing amazingly well but unfortunately lost in the semi-finals to Guru Nanak School. Bhriguraj and Arikesh have performed extremely well. They have done the school proud – well done, guys!

The senior Cricket team on the other hand played its first practice match against the Staff. Both, the students and the Staff battled it out and in the end it was a tie! The senior team's first competitive match was against The Doon International School. We got them all out for 96 runs. The spinners proved themselves effective; Vaibhav Raj bowled extremely well and picked up 4 wickets. Our openers put up a great partnership of 65 runs which put us in a strong position. Harsh Sharma scored a solid 34 with Rahil supporting him with 20. The middle order struggled a bit

but we eventually won by 5 wickets. Good job, Welhamites! Let us hope that the Cricket team continues their successful run.

In other sports, the Volleyball and Tennis teams, too, are sweating it out for their forthcoming tournaments. We wish them success and hope they end the term with flying colours.

The gym is jam-packed with seniors building up their muscles to impress you know who.....!! May you have all the success you need guys. The Basketball team has been practising really hard; getting an early start in the morning at 5:30 and then

again in the evening till 6:00. They have a number of tournaments coming up this term and the school team seems confident that they will do the school proud. All the best to them.

In international Cricket, the signs all looked good when Sachin Tendulkar

broke the jinx and scored his first ODI century on Australian grounds. And after that, there was no holding him (or the team!) back as India thrashed the Aussies in a best of three final, 2 - 0. It is good to know that India are the world champions and the Australians are not unbeatable.

Well, I guess that is all for now, I better get back on the field, I will catch up with you with more exciting news next time. Till then, it is good bye.

- Rahil Valson  
XII Hum.

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