



Olipphant

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THINK ABOUT IT

“Great minds discuss ideas; average minds discuss events; small minds discuss people”
-Eleanor Roosevelt

No matter what time of the year it is, we rarely have time on our hands (with varying nobility of reasons). Yet, encumbered indoors by the calamitous rains or walking on the Marine Drive, we always find the time to lament over the lack of it. I do not see the merit in re-enforcing the aphorism of how thoughts form words and words, actions. But, it is time we had a conversation about conversations.

The reason for this deviation from ruminations over changing seasons and people that usually fills this space, is that I was enamoured by the opening 36 pages of Julian Barnes', 'The Sense Of An Ending'. What captivated me in the story of three (plus one) friends through their school days were their conversations. It was consistent with the callousness that our teenage accord us, but simultaneously they quoted from texts we are oblivious to, their capacity for reason and intellect (even to discuss frivolous matters) was greater than the childish prattle we know; all of it exhibiting a mature, well-read, and informed worldview.

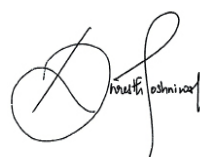
Compelled into retrospection over our daily conversations I think more than anything, we are training to be jokers (or stand up comedians, though the former fits our endeavours more aptly). I think, without realising, most of our conversations contain criticism (the useless kind), lamenting (over what we don't have) or making fun of each other. Each of them is regressively debilitating in the following manner.

Criticism is like breaking an old house to build a new one – essential for

progress – but you can't demolish an old house by telling the bricks how they should fall; you need to leave the armchair and take the walls down. This armchair criticism is an alluring illusion of taking ownership of our concerns that can say a lot but can't get a lot done. The School makes mistakes (just like us), but we make a bigger one if we don't do something about it. Secondly, complaining is helplessly conforming to the problem rather than solving it. There are a lot of things we don't have, which we will never have if we don't work towards them. Finally, the death of nascent endeavours from puerile discrimination of differences, what we thought was just pulling each other's legs.

It's funny how when we talk about conversing, listening seldom comes to our minds even though it an indispensable part of talking. Maybe that's why we fail to notice such trivial aspects of daily life. Don't get me wrong, interactions are ultimately a social tool. Nothing pulls people together like hot gossip but is that all. The best colleges and schools for that matter are not made up of the best libraries or fields, but the best of people. People, who construct an environment that is enlightening by making every conversation an opportunity to grow.

So in this congregation or a class that you thought was mundane, initiate a conversation on something you didn't know and assess what you learned after it. I bet someone knew something you didn't.



Been silent a while,
Shresth Toshniwal
Editor-In-Chief

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A.F.S.P.A

Not quite long ago, I was in Chandigarh attending a debate in one of those schools at the upper echelons of the education system. Apart from the fact that I was a finalist in the debate and had a blast at the gala, I scantily remember other details and the intricacies of the debate. However, there's one thing in particular that stuck with me, if my memory served right, it was a motion for the semi final debate, this motion in particular revolved around something I had heard of earlier, yet didn't know a single thing about; the **Armed Forces Special Powers Act** which is better known as **AFSPA**.

In recent times, there has been a substantial amount of debate on AFSPA. Regarding the inherent nature of this Act to the limitations and guidelines that go along with it. Quite certainly, AFSPA proves to be a very sensitive issue having its own pros and cons. Allow me to introduce AFSPA to those of you who don't already know; the **Armed Forces Special Powers Act** is an enabling Act that gives the army the powers necessary to conduct counter-insurgency operations efficiently. Under the AFSPA the Army is given special powers for operational purposes when it is called upon to undertake counter-insurgency operations in disturbed areas. As the army does not have any police powers under the Constitution, it becomes imperative, in the name of national interest to give it some operative power. AFSPA comes into effect only after the government declares a State, or parts of it, as disturbed. In effect, this means that in the disturbed area, the normal functioning of the government has broken down. And that is why the army is brought in to restore normalcy.

If I go back in time, I still remember how perplexed I was when I was given this motion. Needless to say, winning was a necessity. So I started preparing for the same and as I delved deeper into the topic looking for arguments I came across the pros and cons of AFSPA. The Act was first promulgated in 1958 in Assam and Manipur — and in 1990 in J&K. The very reason the Act faces significant

criticism is due to the provisions of Section 4, which gives the armed forces the power to open fire — and even cause death, if prohibitory orders are violated. It also confers the power to destroy structures used as hideouts, training camps or places from where attacks against security forces could be launched; the power to arrest without warrant and to use force for the purpose if necessary; and the power to enter and search premises without warrant to make an arrest or recover hostages, arms, ammunition or stolen property. Human rights activists object against the act on the grounds that these provisions give the security forces unbridled powers to arrest, search, seize — and even shoot to kill. Critics say this provision has on many occasions led to even non-commissioned officers brazenly opening fire on crowds without having to justify their action. Stats showed that in the 25 years of AFSPA's existence there have been a total of 43,000 killings out of which 12,000 were those of innocent citizens. At one end this should be reason enough to abolish this act yet at the same time AFSPA happens to be the only provision that has considerably reduced insurgencies.

After I got through with the debate. I decided to read more on AFSPA on my ride back to Dehradun. As I read further, I was made aware of the fact that in 2004 there was a committee appointed to review AFSPA headed by Justice Jeevan Reddy. Although, the committee found that the powers conferred under the Act are not absolute, it nevertheless concluded that the Act should be repealed. However, it did recommend that a few essential provisions of the Act be inserted into the **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA)** of 1967

To put it simply, an extraordinary situation requires an extraordinary law and therefore, existing laws, which deal with routine law and order issues, will prove inadequate to overcome the challenges faced by the country.

-Shubhankar Dhulia

MUSIC REVIEW

Album: **Fine China**

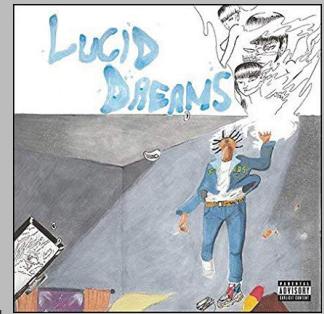
Artist: **Juice WRLD**

“I have these lucid dreams where I can’t move a thing, thinking of you in my bed. You were my everything, thoughts of a wedding ring. Now I’m just better off dead.”

Not quite long ago, I was surfing through Spotify (by far the best music streaming app there is). I vaguely remember, as I was scrolling through the Global Top 50, I came across this song. So I got tuned in and this turned out to be the type of song that would pin back one’s ears.

For those of you who haven’t yet got a hang of what I’m talking about (although the lyrics are quite prevalent, aren’t they?); that day on the Global Top 50 I came across a song by Juice WRLD or lesser known by his birth name Jarad A. Higgins. Juice WRLD unquestionably is one of hip-hop’s modern day pioneers and currently stands as one of the most listened to rappers in the game. But even so, how did I get tuned into his music? Like I said, it was a kind of song that pins back one’s ears. But more importantly, it was because of the pertinent impact that Juice WRLD’s songs had on me.

Yes, as obvious as it sounds, these songs have immense relevance to the day to day life of any Welhamite, albeit, the life of any teenager for that matter. After all, the main theme of almost all of Juice WRLD’s songs are “every broken heart, every wounded feeling”. By the way, dear reader, when I talk about relevance, I absolutely don’t mean that every teenage guy or girl has a broken heart or are terrible at relationships. But still, the very themes that these songs revolve around, happen to be issues of extreme relevance, topics such as love, relationships, (and needless to say) heartache. Moreover, what overrides the genre of Juice WRLD’s songs is the way he sings and raps, it is the manner in which he sings. All in all,



when his style of singing blends with the extensive (and quiet relatable) themes, this creates a pretty addictive song (for any teenager) which you want to play on repeat, again and again.

As I scrolled down that day, listening to one Juice WRLD song after another, I got hooked on to his music, (yes, there certainly was more and more of Juice WRLD on my daily mix) but that’s besides the point. Over and above that, what fascinated me the most was the fact that Jarad A. Higgins is only 19 years old and his net worth is estimated to be roughly \$3 million dollars. Also, his first song was released no more than two years ago, yet, he has shot up the charts and has had over seven entries on the Billboard Top 100 and as tantalising as this sounds, Juice WRLD was ranked No.1 on the Billboard Artist 100 chart earlier this year.

Through my journey with Juice WRLD, I’ve experienced a tactile touch on matters of love and relationships and have even got a vague idea of the wide-ranging problems faced by the blacks, or simply people of the African diaspora. As for the title of this article ‘Fine China’, you’ll understand only if you listen to him (for those of you who already know, you know what i mean)

P.S- By the way, if you haven’t figured out yet, ‘Lucid Dreams’ is the song whose lyrics are flying above and below my article.

“I still see your shadows in my room. Can’t take back the love that I gave you, It’s to the point where I love and I hate you. and I cannot change you so I must replace you.”

-Shubhankar Dhulia
IX

The Time for Tao is Now

“Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, but today is a gift. That’s why they call it the present”.

-Bil Keane

Why is it that some people, no matter how hard they work, or how much effort they put into something, never achieve their goals, while other less diligent people seem to succeed effortlessly? Why does the latter group of people seem to have it easy in life? They seem to subconsciously attract good luck, and their problems appear to automatically solve themselves.

I recently stumbled across Taoism, or the “philosophy of flow”, and the profound idea of “effortless action”. The concept of effortless action goes against the workaholic ideology of working harder and harder to get results. In the competitive rat race of life, we are encouraged to be overly ambitious and to strive to triumph over the rest. We think that the way to achieve our goals is to simply work really hard. We set elusive goals with no clear direction or plan of how we may go about executing them. And then we inadvertently end up burning ourselves out, seeing how far away we are from these goals and give up. It is perhaps the tendency of humans to focus on results rather than on process, that is to blame.

Taoism compares life to a river. You can swim against the river, you can hold on to a branch, or you can let go, and flow along with the stream. Most of the time we swim against the current and we don’t even realise it. Sometimes we just need to go with the flow of life and take whatever it throws at us with grace. We should be like a leaf in a river. The leaf does nothing but gets far.

This state of flow is achieved when we practice mindfulness and live in the moment. We worry too much about the future and dwell too much on the past. Most of the things that we stress about are out of our control. And if we can’t control something, why worry about it? If we simply focus our energy

on what we do have control over and let go of the rest, our problems will start solving themselves. We must embrace the outcome no matter what it is, and start living in the present. This is a stoic concept called Amor fati or ‘love of fate’, where one sees everything that happens in life, including suffering and loss, as good, or at the very least, necessary.

Successful athletes understand how important it is to live in the present. When Ronaldo is dribbling past multiple defenders, I’m sure he isn’t thinking about that embarrassing thing that he did in high school, or where he’ll go for dinner after the match. He, like other top athletes, is in a state of flow. Completely immersed in the moment.

When we are focused completely on the task at hand, the subconscious mind takes control, and we perform the activity in a smooth manner without the interruption of conscious thoughts and feelings. We become substantially more effective in whatever activity we engage in. According to Taoist philosophy, people who are in the state of flow radiate charismatic power. This is why leaders who are focused on their vision attract people who admire their passion and want to follow them.

The liberating feeling of happiness one gets by living in the moment is by far the greatest benefit of “going with the flow”. Most people are in the pursuit of happiness. It is their ultimate desire to one day be free from stress and to enjoy life. The moment they incorporate living in the moment, to their lives, they will realise that happiness and success always follow suit.

Shrey Sharma
X

Opinionata

“Dissent is the truth that freedom enables”

The spirit of change is something that fills people with optimism, the supposed need for it energises them. And nowhere is this spirit more evident than Welham. A school of strong young men (and women) who are accustomed to questioning authority, the call for constant change is something that the administration has been more than successful in answering. However, in such a storm of change, there will be rocks present to break the winds. For every stride in the direction of progress, there are those who want to go in the opposite direction. This opinionated prose is a representative of that side, and the topic at hand is CCA Based midterms.

CCA based midterms are a wonderful concept. It is a move towards a more comprehensive learning experience that propagates a more holistic learning model considering the co-curricular activities students participate in. Resources which cannot usually be accessed by students within the school are now available to them. The diversity of destinations increases, with CCA's like herbal gardening having very specific locations in mind, as compared to locations that CCA's like dance would prefer going to.

And is the fall of the concept. While it is conceptually a marvel, it is intensely contrasting with the ideas that come to a Welhamite's mind when he thinks of mid terms.

Most Welhamites do not choose their CCAs with their friends in mind. So when a boy realises that he will be going on his midterm trip with the bunch of seniors or juniors whose only relationship with him is meeting once a week for their CCA, he wishes to change it. Not only is this because of the fact that midterms are generally associated with an experience that you enjoy with your friends, be it staying up till late in the night in the hotel room watching cartoons, or remembering old times around a makeshift camp fire. This obviously is an issue, because a student normally attends midterms in company with his tutor group, or batch. While it may be a bonding experience for some, for most it is a scramble to stay with your batch mates. There is also the issue of children not going with their tutors, and while it may not be a major factor, most you would agree that the best time to see the true colours of a student is during the mid terms.

Then there is also non stick difficulty of finding a suitable destination for each CCA, which results in students from various CCA's going to meeting destinations that are completely unrelated to their area of interest. This coupled with the aforementioned facts of the slip, play against the very purpose of having CCA midterms, and that's why it is my belief that CCA based mid terms, no matter how great an idea, still require time before their implementation is feasible.

-Aditya Gupta
VIII





The Oliphant 24x7

WELHAM NOW

- The Oliphant Memorial Inter-school English Debates, 2019 were held on 30 and 31 August. Welham Boys' Team B emerged runners up. The team comprised;
- **Shubhankar Dhulia**
- **Mrinank Chander**
- **Arnav Goel**
- **Samanyu Malik**
- **Shubhankar Dhulia** was also adjudged the overall best speaker of the preliminary round.
- The school participated in the Kidd Swimming Championship held at Wynberg Allen School, Mussoorie, on 31 August and 1 September, 2019, the School won 4 Gold, 5 Silver and 5 Bronze medals. **Moksh Kandpal** was adjudged the Most Promising Swimmer in the U-17 category and **Zaid Ahmed** was declared Individual Champion in the U-19.
- Incredible India Quiz ' was co- hosted by Welham Girls School and Welham Boys' School on 19th August, 2019. The venue this year was Welham Boys' School.
- **Ansh Tripathi** was declared the Champion in the BU-15 category at the 6th Bengal Junior Open Championship, held at the Calcutta Racquet Club, Kolkata.
- The school participated in the C.J.Bergin and J.G.Masterson debates held at the St. Georges School, Mussoorie. The following won awards:-
- **Shubhankar Dhulia** was adjudged the best speaker two times in a row.
- **Viraj Lohia** and **Sannidhya Agarwal** were adjudged the second best speakers.
- **Shubhankar Dhulia** and **Sannidhya Agarwal** also won the overall best speaker.
- The School participated in the Doon School Model United Nations Conference 2019. Following are the Awards-
- HONOURABLE MENTIONS
- **Chirag Bansal** and **Shubhankar Dhulia** - United Nations Security Council
- **Aryan Garg** - Economic and Social Council
- **Aarav Upadhyaya** - Rajya Sabha
- **Mrinank Chandar** - Special Convention on Religion and Terror
- MOST OUTSTANDING DELEGATES
- **Viraj Lohia** - Lincoln's War Cabinet
- **Sannidhya Agarwal** - United Nations Human Rights Council
- **Sanshray Ghorawat** - Special Political and Decolonisation Committee
- **Aaryan Mahipal** - Viceroy's Executive Council
- BEST DELEGATES
- **Naman Kapoor** - Lok Sabha
- **Devraj Singhania** - Disarmament and International Security Committee
- **Shreyansh Jindal** - United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- Ultimately, we lifted the BEST DELEGATION trophy at the Doon School Model United Nations Conference 2019, for the sixth time and the second consecutive year.
- **Saiyam Madan** just returned from the Har-Ki-Dun trek.

The Rising Intelligentsia

War is an idea which makes societies and nations tremble, this word in itself has great depth and strength. War is a measure you cannot take half way. It leaves a trail of despair, wherever it goes. However, this word is being thrown around in institutions like the UN as if it is not herculean in nature. This concept is not a binary concept that it would only affect the two entities who engage in it, but it goes way beyond and successfully rids various individuals of the suns and moons in their lives. With rising tensions in the Kashmir Valley, we have seen Pakistan's Prime Minister, Imran Khan imply a threat of nuclear war in the UNGA and on various other platforms. Coming from the man, the word might sound inconsequential to some; yet it manages to draw heated debates and attention from the leaders of our nation.

The world went through various wars and intense diplomatic phases over the past fifty years and the one thing we managed to learn is that every word said, matters. We have learnt this since we were babies. Our parents themselves used to tell us that our words shape our actions. However, the Pakistani leaders have not understood the depth of this concept and the expanse of their actions, when they termed this conflict as "us versus them, rich vs poor, north versus south, Muslims versus others." We have heard phrases like 'bloodbath', 'fight to the end', 'pick up the gun' and 'racial superiority' on different platforms from their Prime Minister. To me, this reflects depths of irrationality and the kind of conversations leaders want to have. These conversations shape the political web and discourse of the world. With threatening issues like climate change, we reduce the quality of conversation on international platforms to squabbles over threats of conventional wars. We do not value the time we have to take action on various other issues, but later manage to plead with various sections of the world to take action. We are in this never-ending cycle of diplomatic conflict because of which we reach no consensus. On the one hand our nation criticises Pakistan's medieval mindset when it comes to war but on the other hand, we wish to

keep such a matter of import to the world at large, under wraps. With the evolving global structure, such conflicts between two countries end up affecting the whole world like the US-China trade war did. Here too, there exist distinct stakeholders, such as the US and China. Therefore, it is not justified, on our part and theirs alike, to declare this conflict a regional one.

We, as a nation, cannot go forth with 'part globalisation'. It is important to respect the intricacies of world politics. We compare our economy and democracy to the standards of the world and go on to talk about liberty and change on global platforms. We also hold developed countries to their promises when it comes to financial matters and go on to scrutinise them when they break them. However, here we are ready to violate the ethics of this global community because it makes our ends meet. Nobody knows what is happening in the Kashmir Valley, even though we have international stakeholders. We say that developed countries owe us those resources as certain issues like climate change are global ones and they have certain responsibility to the developing world because of their superiority. However, do we not owe them any information or stake when it comes to an issue like Kashmir. We keep hearing various statements reassuring the country of Kashmir's situation but have got no real information.

The question is: do we want the polity of our country to be defined by such situations, where we make hypocrites out of ourselves? We need to realise that as a nation we cannot go forth with part globalisation. Like every community, the global community also has some ethics and members of this community, who enjoy the benefits of being a part of it, are morally bound to follow them. In this situation, India wants to have its cake and eat it too but will we be established members of the global community if we live by such ideals?

Viraj Lohia
X



Wacky Woodseats

The Battle of Saragarhi

The battle of Saragarhi has been one of the magnificent battles fought in history. It was a combat between 21 Sikhs from the 36th Sikh-regiment and twelve Afghans mainly from the Afridi and Orakzai tribes in the Samna valley on the north-west frontier (now in Pakistan.) The battle took place because the king of Afghanistan had annexed land in the area where the Sikhs were present, under British rule. In Samna, the 36th Sikh regiment had three forts- Gulistan with a total of 300 soldiers, Lockhart comprising another 350 and Saragarhi consisting of only 21.

Gulistan and Lockhart were the primary forts and Saragarhi served as a medium for communication between the other two. The British had never thought in their wildest dreams that Afghans would attack Saragarhi but one fateful day, they did. On the 12th of September, 1897, while the first ray of dawn was still commencing the day for the Sikhs, a sudden uproar of villagers nearby, accompanied with severe gunshots propelled them in panic. There were about 10,000 Afghans marching towards the fort from a couple of miles away, when a warning from their senior officer- Lt. Col. Houghton advised them to leave at once. However, they were determined to fight and protect their abode.

I feel this action was correct, considering that, if the Afghans would've captured Saragarhi, they would automatically break the connective backbone between Lockhart and Gulistan. The battle carried on for a prolonged time of twelve hours resulting in the saddening death of all Sikh soldiers. Nevertheless, the Queen of England, herself awarded the 21 brave men, the Indian Order of Merit. In their remembrance and as a tribute to their loyalty, Indians have built Gurdwaras at Ferozpur and Amritsar. The battle proves to be an epitome of determination and only further cements our believe on the famous proverb which states:

"Nothing is impossible, the word itself says - I'm possible!"

-Zorawar Bedi

VI

Unity in Diversity

Unity in diversity, what does that really mean? To find out the meaning first we have to find out the meaning of the two words that make up this huge phrase.

Let's start with unity. What is the first thing that comes to your mind when you think about unity? Lots of people, fighting for a cause could be one of the reasons. The example I am going to give you now is the one that the whole School remembers. Once the students requested Ma'am Bindra to let us watch the movie, 'Avengers Endgame'. The students were the people who were fighting for a cause [well it was not a very serious issue or cause, it was just a movie but still you get my point]. Another great example of the power of unity can be when our junior school sports captain requested Ma'am Bindra to extend our sports time, but the efforts made by a single person could not help which lead to a lot of students getting together to stand up and unite for this cause. Thanks to the unity of the students and generosity of our principal, we now play our favourite sports for one and a half hours.

Now let's get to diversity. In our School itself, people come from all parts of India. I will give you an example from my travels: I was on a trip to Mumbai, so I went to a shop to get a bottle of water and then a person asked me something in Marathi. I did not understand a word but it reminded me that our country is so different from other countries and people are so diverse in nature. We should be proud to live in a country where we are allowed to speak in our language and follow our own culture. Now let's come to unity in diversity. Again let's take our School for example. In an inter-house we may cheer for our own house but in an inter-school event, we don't care which person is from which house, we

don't cheer for the person who is from our house instead we support and cheer for all the students of our school and forget all our differences. Our own school is an excellent example of unity in diversity. So as a line in our School song says, "unity in diversity, from far distant lands, across the seven seas."

Arnav Goel

Chrysanthemum

It was our little joke, from the day we met,
the yellow petals and cocoa Elysium
the perfect gift, but wrongly given.
Still, it was wonderful from every bite to breath.

I smiled sheepishly, and you laughed openly
I was dumbstruck and forgot the gift had to be delivered
I couldn't get myself to take it from you even if I remembered,
You put it in my hands and said that I was being silly.

Maybe that was the last I would see of that smile,
Maybe that was the last time I would glimpse into your life.
I was smitten like never before and I will never forget;
Since then I hoped we would meet again.

My request was peculiar but, "when you want something,
The whole universe conspires in helping you achieve it."
A few days later you were standing in my shop, brightly lit
Gazing at the chrysanthemum, I hoped you had developed a liking.

I saw you stroll in every few days, for more chrysanthemums,
Soon I got to know your name, Elizabeth.
Soon, we started talking over chrysanthemums,
I got to know more about you, the best latte artisan.

One fine sunny day, I mustered up the courage to ask you to dinner, and waited for an answer.
I saw the smile and heard the laughter from day one
and what I got was a much-awaited yes.

That day, you did not buy the flowers
and I knew that we had exchanged a silent promise.

I was gazing at the chrysanthemums' rise,
waiting for the day to pass, just pondering about the awaited hour.

Finally, the time came, and I was ready
I could just imagine how stunning you would be.
But I couldn't see that imagined beauty.
For tragedy strikes when most despised.

I don't know who it was and I did not care to know
all he left with me, were the yellow chrysanthemums.

Lying in from my eyes, drenched in my blood.
I could taste the salty tears, for I failed.
From a mile away, I could hear you hum
In the alley, as I wasted away
missing your beauty and regretting my days
for I failed to give you the promised chrysanthemum.

-Viraj Lohia
X-B

Epiphany

As I was strolling through the woods,
I caught a glimpse of a silhouette;
Faint and puny at a distance it stood,
Far from the glimmering sunset.

On the dewy grass I placed my foot,
And followed the glistening path,
For it took me through the mossy route,
To the mysterious creature in the dark.

I dashed as it scuttled away,
Frolicking on every boulder as it described,
It made me reminisce my carefree days,
"They have long gone!" I mumbled with a sigh.

I stopped at the spur of the moment,
As the creature dashed into the abyss,
I smirked as I realised an eternity, I've spent
To chase the pristine creature's bliss!

Manvi Makkar
IX

WORD

“COLLABORATION IN EXAMS (CHEATING) IS NOT A FORM OF SELF-HARM”

For

To all the teachers who got mortified by the very topic under discussion, I assure you that I have tried my very best to provide a satisfactory answer to such an unorthodox question.

All our lives we are taught that collaboration is an important skill. Even in nature, the survival of many organisms is entirely dependent on their ability to group together and survive. Humans too, throughout the course of their life, collaborate and solve common problems. After all, it forms the basis of all social skills man can hone. Then why is collaboration in exams called cheating? I have a two-fold answer to this question. Firstly, I'll talk about how the purpose of exams has been detached from an evaluation of the student's abilities to merely an exercise which ranks and labels students. Secondly, I'll draw light upon how the current education system has reduced learning to an almost mechanized process, that has little focus on a student's cognitive capabilities.

It can be said that collaborative exams hinder a fair evaluation because there is a lack of individual accountability. Or that they only help the underprepared students get marks, while the prepared students don't necessarily benefit. Or the reasonable claim that they will only lead to students just spreading the correct answers. All of these arguments seem perfectly feasible; that is because we imagine our current examinations being turned into collaborative ones and all forms of chaos following suit. This is a fallacious line of argumentation. That is because collaborative exams are incongruous to our education systems. The existing public education system takes the education of students to be secluded and a private affair. Where all collaborative efforts yield little to zero results and are in fact counterproductive as students would rather waste time when left in a group. Thus if we are to talk about collaborative exams at all we would have to imagine a completely different mechanism where students are taught differently and their evaluation is pretty different. When we worry that in collaborative exams students just spread the correct answers, we worry that for factual questions where there is a single definite answer. The focus is on cramming hordes of information and writing “by the book” answers in exams to score marks. But in an age of robots, when a machine can store exponentially more data than a human being, should the focus be on developing the student's ability to store information or his ability to think in a more expansive and critical way? I sincerely believe that this question has an obvious answer.

A paper published in the American Journal of Physics examined student performance in an “open-ended, two-stage collaborative assessment” that comprised an individual round followed by a collaborative round. The results showed that collaboration resulted

in much more than just the spreading of correct answers. The paper found that the rates of correct answers went up, even for the stronger students. This indicates that the benefits of collaboration were not unilateral. More importantly, the notion that it will mask the competencies of the student is ill-founded. Students can only propagate the correct answers to factual questions and not open-ended questions. Thus, If we are to move towards collaborative exams we would have to increase the amount of concept-based and application-based questions. These questions do not have a fixed answer. Thus, it will compel students to collaborate.

This brings us to the second part of my debate. Which is that our education system is outdated. The Indian education system was designed by the British to churn out a docile, punctual and loyal workforce that would work in its offices and serve as clerks. The emphasis was on the mass production of a workforce that was obedient and did what it was told to do. The student was thought to be an instrument which would go on to serve the state and thus the state would decide on what the student should learn, in accordance with what kind of service the State needed. Hence, there was very little focus on the cognitive development of the student himself. “Oriental” literature was discouraged, the concept of gurukuls was thought to be regressive, and vernacular literature was dismissed as savage and uncivilized. This education system created ‘factory schools’, a system that originated in 19th century Prussia and was adopted by colonizers everywhere. This system is closely linked with the Industrial Revolution as factory owners required submissive labour, and many families were getting the means to afford to send their children to school. So the very notion of a school was conceived in the industrial atmosphere of mass production and exploitation. This system suited the British well, but what is its relevance today? Saying even little relevance is a stretch. This brings us back to the point we were discussing. Our students are living in times of unprecedented change. Change in the planet, change in our tolerance, change in our attitude towards helping ‘outsiders’. We are living in times when we gravely require cooperation. But we do not feature collaboration anywhere in our curriculums and still expect students to go into this hostile atmosphere of tomorrow. This is perhaps the most puzzling part of our education system.

Aarav Upadhyay

X

WAR

“COLLABORATION IN EXAMS (CHEATING) IS NOT A FORM OF SELF-HARM”

Against

Assessments are part of learning. There are informal assessments where collaboration may add to inventory of learning of students but it can become counterproductive if it is used for formal assessments which are conducted at the end of a term or year. The achievement score gives feedback to students about their cognitive abilities besides other acquired competencies. Collaboration during assessment decimates individual critical thinking and problem-solving skills. It limits independent learning, creativity and curiosity. It is an aberration to learning, an impediment to overall growth. The shared learning is a good idea for a project or research work but not for formal assessments. The purpose of collaborative learning is to extend an idea with a common objective and goal.

During formal assessment students consolidate ideas rather than connect with others to prepare answers collectively. Assessment assesses conditioning of mind to convey how much one has understood. The preparedness of pupil instill confidence in them and thereby improves performance in assessments. It is also a reflection of how seriously students have taken it and what it means to them. The nuances of a good /balanced paper checks different domains of learning. Think of a situation where collaboration was allowed during assessments and all students achieved the same grade as opposed to a scenario where students took assessment and scored according to their competencies and achieved different grades. Which is a better proposition, the answer is obvious.

If collaboration is allowed during assessments then the purpose of self-learning and acquiring skills will be defeated. It will not give students a fair idea about the gaps in their learning and thereby create confusion in their minds. The learning gap of a student may widen in this process and if not addressed timely, learners may lose out to a great extent. Teacher's intervention facilitates learning of students. Students may become victims of their own casualness and there are chances that learning may be compromised. However, if collaboration is allowed during assessments then student will be dependent on others for clue or lead to get going. In fact, the initial trigger and right choice in deciding the right course of action during assessment is a strategy. Why is reading time given in the papers to students in the school based formal assessment? During this time, they have to learn how to work on a strategy to manage and perform to the best of their ability in the paper. During assessment student's coordination between head, heart and hand is under

scrutiny. If say collaboration is allowed then some will use head and some will use heart or hand and there will be others who will use nothing. This will make learning outcome more scattered and incomplete. Both, teacher and taught will not get to know whether learning has happened or not. Few years ago, the Open Book system was introduced in the school-based system of assessments. There were concerns because it had limitations and after two to three years it was discontinued. The Open Book system is also form of collaborative learning because here a student has something to refer and figure / frame out the correct answer with the support of an external medium.

Admission to any University or Institute is based on individual performance in a standardized test, which is not collaborative in design. Take for example, the college admission based on sports or extracurricular activities. Here also students are assessed on the basis of individual talent and interest. Candidates are judged on their individual performances in team and ranked. If a student is used to a culture of collaboration during assessments then beyond classroom he will not be able to face challenges. Students need to compete with themselves by setting a realistic target and challenging their faculty of thinking to achieve their desired goals.

The learning is extended and enriched depending upon how motivated and self-directed the learner is. There are ways to deepen and broaden understanding keeping in mind the purpose and aim in life. The learning journey of a student is personal. Success in real life is based on individual performances and effort, not on the basis of collective contribution in assessments. The role of the school is to prepare students to face challenges in life and step in this direction is to make students realize the importance of writing assessments seriously and confidently without looking for a way to avoid or even dream for collaboration during assessments. Education has to be individualisation and socialisation. In life collaboration is required to co-exist and succeed after building on individual strengths .Confucius once said, `` When I read, I forget, when I see, I remember; and when I do, I understand' It is .I'(Individual effort) and not .we .(collaboration) during an assessment which will go a long way in building learning blocks of students.

-R.M.Bhandari

Ver's'es

If Teardrops could be Bottled

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

Those blithe and bitter memories,
Those after wailing smiles,
The remembrance of losing someone acquainted,
Crying as if a wellspring until fainted.

Even if there was a sad part life,
You miss them although they pricked you as a
knife,
Even if they were somber factors but behind,
You are connected to them and think about them
even today in your mind.

What if your tear drops could be bottled?
Every tear reflecting something,
Deep significance beneath every drop,
Envy and hatred turned into sweet little simpers.

Sharing your emotions to person to person,
Showing the intricacy of your mind,
Those tangled recognitions in your head,
Only you could understand.

But why do people move on?
Leaving behind all those pieces,
Forgetting them as never occurred,
And left in dismal as small tatters.

Why not keep the emotion saved,
And not keep the memories alive?
Why not bottle up your tears?
So the joy the thrill the sadness could be relived.

Wonder if it could be true?
Limitless emotions and feelings you could brew.
In the flagon of and feeling, you could swirl,
I would love to live in the emotional bottled world.

Trayambak Pathak

If teardrops could be bottled
I must open a factory
for the ones in pain,
require a bottle time and again!

If teardrops could be bottled
I must find a place,
where I can pack happiness
and send it overseas for people to embrace.

If teardrops could be bottled
I must be with my lover,
For all I crave, is what I find in her;
maybe unique, maybe rare!

If teardrops could be bottled
I must stop genocide;
maybe plant a tree everyday
because 'they' would still work with brainwashed
pride

If teardrops I unbottled,
I mustn't stop people,
for what I am made of,
I don't follow the same example

If teardrops could be bottled
I must not run away,
for what I long for
is maybe what I would reach everyday...

Viraj Mahajan
x

United Under Indifference

Narcissism has ignited an escalating trend in society, and everyday, we can observe an acquaintance joining the bandwagon. If the mere thought of our friends uploading updates and boasting about their achievements is not exasperating enough, the ever-increasing hyperbole is the cherry on top. While I acknowledge the endeavour of people trying to celebrate their minor triumphs, some fail to practice the policy of being modest in victory and sanguine in failure. It is significant to enunciate the hindrance of self-development due to narcissism.

Today, we exist in a domain where people give precedence to the outlook and neglect the insights; these intricate insights which might not be relevant to image but form the basis of character. Even people who have more interest in deliberating upon trivial matters, believe in projecting a dominant or 'charming' personality, since ultimately it is society's perception that matters to them. However, to see the hollow disposition behind such dramatic facades, one needs to step out of society and introspect. Rightly mentioned in 'The Merchant of Venice', the society has put upon a veil of solemnity and wisdom, but if these men actually open their mouths, nothing constructive would come out. On the contrary, this vicinity has been living in an amaranthine illusion. They believe that, because they have gained popular support, their perspective can be considered a fact. They expect you to patiently listen to them even when they are blabbering and boasting as if the more you achieve, the better you transform as a person. Or is it that these people very well perceive this, but choose to ignore this bubble, a bubble they would never want to burst? Such propaganda has been instigated in our lives so meticulously that only a few are able to distinguish between surface development and actual development; between outlook and insight; between achievement and contentment or between the cover and the book inside.

If I focus on this conceited, ignorant group which constitutes most of the world now, then I would be subject to their conviction as well. Therefore, it is essential to reckon the minority or more accurately, the 'plummeting' minority's viewpoint. This is the scarce population that has succeeded in escaping this prison that has been build, its walls being

elongated constantly. It is indeed a task demanding huge risk to separate, to distance oneself from attractions. Social media has also fuelled the flame of vanity, especially in teenagers. Today, the moments that ought to be enjoyed are wasted in clicking photographs and updating one's social life. This obsession has become a norm and being in boarding school, we can easily recognise this convention. While we ourselves are distant from social media in school, the addiction of outsiders towards digitalisation is quite obvious to our eyes. Conclusively, narcissism has been incorporated, humility is fading and there is no point defying this. There might just be a point where we forget our integral value system; there might be a time when important workers like doctors, politicians and the police become entirely corrupt, portray themselves as epitome of godsend and nobody would be concerned about it. Such people have worked and will continue to work collectively, while modest people fail to unify. We see, realise and neglect and perhaps due to this amplification of narcissism in society, there isn't much that can be done about it. We might not take collective responsibility because of numerous factors like peer pressure or the inability to command, but as individuals, if we manage to metamorphose internally; if we make living our religion and not displaying or showcasing, then we will manage to evade the herd. Unlike this herd, the minority lacks the very salient ability to cherry pick the slightest positive in themselves and make a mountain out of it. This herd feels that they grow multidimensionally- both in character and pride- but actually they delve into stagnancy. They only grow more vain; more fond of themselves. Life is the greatest gift and happiness the greatest wealth and the few who appreciate this gift and try to attain this wealth are diminishing. After all, we are divided, so we fall while the others are united; united under ignorance; united under egoism; united under aimlessness and united under indifference. They propel themselves into the crowd, to step in the limelight but they assimilate only a minuscule bit of it ; we struggle hard and await the light to shine upon us, but when it does, it satiates every individual, both inside and out and that is what makes all the difference.

-Arnav Goel



LASAGNE

LAMPOON

The Military History Seminar, unarguably the most important event on the Welham calendar, has come knocking once again. Like every year, the mere mention of the event has us Welhamites enthralled to astronomical proportions. An event that has been immensely popular despite still being in its infancy, the Military History Seminar has a lot to offer every year, from the entertaining formats of discussions to the highly enlightening talks every year. The Oliphant takes a look at a few reasons behind the meteoric rise of the Military History Seminar.

As I sit down to write this, there is this voice that is constantly speaking to me inside my head. That voice, unfortunately is not Emma Watson's. It is the unmistakable baritone of Srikanth Sir. All I've heard from him this week is whether I'd like to be part of his 'dream team' for the Seminar. That is the amount of love sir has for the Seminar, second only to his evergreen romance with RD Sharma. Srikanth Sir's affection for the event is evident in the quality he demands in our research papers. If you are still unaware of how to handle your college applications, do not fear, because we're pretty sure the amount of work you'll put into your research papers will all but prepare you for university and every other paper you will have to write ever again. Nonetheless, it isn't surprising to see his love for the army considering he has been the Sergeant of Welham Boys for quite some time now.

By now, it is pretty evident that the Military History Seminar is not an event to be taken lightly. The learning that happens throughout the event will require all your intellect, perseverance and of course, your willingness. Although, dear delegates, that doesn't mean there is anything to stop you from socialising with your fellow syndicate members. To

all those who have been unlucky in the past, take it from us Welhamites (a certain someone in Cauvery) that there are a lot of fish in the ocean. And with the "creme de la creme" from each school attending this event, you'll be sure to find the special one. The MHS is, quite literally an ocean of opportunities for those looking for a purpose.

The major highlight of the MHS is, without a doubt, the very educative talks given by all the highly-decorated army officials that grace us with their presence every year. Even though the MHS is still a relatively fresh event, it surprises us that the school pushes itself more and shows more rigour in making sure that this event is a huge success. The only explanation we can find for this is the multiple news articles that you can see for days and days; even after the event has elapsed. Other than that, the almost real imitations of the talk shows are to die for. Be it witnessing the army officials in the makeshift witness box for "Aap Ki Adalat", or the huge panel discussion for "We the People", every talk show will have you mesmerised to the end (almost dreamy). We're pretty sure Rajat Sharma would have been proud of our iteration of his famous talk show.

There is no question about the fact that the Military History Seminar will be a conference all of you will be looking forward to, and when it ends you will have nothing but fond memories. We're not sure whether the war in 1962 happened or not (The War That Wasn't), but we do wish you survive the one you're about to face for the next couple of days. It is with immense "joy" and "pride" that we invite you to the Military History Seminar 2019.

- Tom and Jerry

Rumour Has It...

- Saiyam Madan has seen only one Sunday morning this term.
- Srikanth Sir does all he can to protect his (extra) exposed skin from dengue mosquitoes.
- Sannidhya Aggarwal is the Secretary General of MGD MUN 2020.
- The middle sheets of Ishaan Kapoor's Maths paper went missing during the MOTs.
- Vishwash Dubey has found 'the one' on Azar.
- 13 schedules were circulated for the MOT exams (The Head of Academics is working overtime)
- There is a camera for every acre of land on campus.

Separated At Birth

Rudraditya Pokhariyal	Harry Potter
Devraj Singhanian	Syed Hasan
Avi Kripalani	Ranbir Kapoor (Tamasha)
Shivam Dodai	Skinner (Ratatouille)
Aaryan Mahipal	Baagha (Taarak Mehta)
Anish A. Prasad	KGF Cast
Karan Dalmia	Kalind Lath
Dhruv Singh Raghav	Doormat

Through the keyhole

- Sarthak Tayal to WELMUN EB: Could the daalegetes of the EBs please come on stage?
- Pulkit Joshi: I have never seen this most amazing girl ever!
- Shreyansh to Vishwash Dubey: How many girls do you like?
Vishwash Dubey : I love all the girls man, and the boys
- Pranav Gupta to the Librarian: *Bhaiya*, can I get a Wikipedia?
- Akshat Jain: We get dengue from female ladies mosquitoes
- Varun Khandelwal: Dude, please put the iPad charger on charging. (Innovation and you)
- Karan Dalmia: It is a severe case of Death.

Ever Wonder Why?

- Ishaan Kapoor gave roses to Ma'am Bindra during WELMUN (Good Boy).
- Akshat Jain is in DB Sir's Military History Seminar syndicate.(Dawn of the scoping era)
- Shrey Agarwal is so excited for the MHS (Van-Shat will be disappointed).
- Vedant Agarwal is going to the gym these days. (Trying to provide competition somewhere)
- Sannidhya Aggarwal is often seen giving his share to juniors. (Learning from Approachable bhैया)
- Piyush Daga has stopped celebrating birthdays at midnight (In preparation for October 15th)
- Jatin Dahiya is reciting a poem at the Military History Seminar (Great alternative for TedX)

Welham LOGIC

The teachers are immune to dengue.
(Dance has anti dengue effects)

Mosquitoes will target only that part of the body where Odomos has not been applied.

A "swaggy" person's favourite song has to be a classic.

If you're wearing Airpods at night, you must be talking to your girlfriend.

A certain somebody feels punctuality is proportional to the number of clocks on campus.

What's In What's Out

Dengue Leave

Study Leave

Home Lower for Seniors only

Home lowers for juniors

Vishwash Dubey taking charge

Caretakers taking charge

Midterms

"I know a guy who knows a guy"

Your own Netflix subscription

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