

**THINK ABOUT IT**

“The Earth is littered with the ruins of empires that believed they were eternal.”

-Camille Paglia

Editorial- Fallen Empires

A major flaw plagues us as repositories of emotions, especially for the selected few that end up sitting at the top of this hierarchical society. The flaw? Once you reach the top, you build up a false perception that nothing can topple you—a perception that makes you feel entitled to believe that everyone under you is just an army of tiny ants, an army you can easily step on, an army who can never overthrow you.

And that, my friend, is our flaw. In our pursuit of conquest, and after its inevitable completion, we humans start to believe that our reign is eternal. This sheer ignorance is what led to the downfall of some of the greatest empires in history. Whether it was the Roman, Mauryan, or Mongol Empire, the one thing that they all share is that they believed themselves to be everlasting. They lost their grip on reality, believing that they had transcended their status as mortals and attained Godhood. Yet in the present day, they are nothing but a collection of inscriptions, tales, and epics that recount their short-lived glory. All the magnificent battles fought, all the lands conquered over a course of several decades reduced to a few hundred words in our textbooks, helping us remember that no matter the feats we achieve, at the end of the day, we are nothing but mere mortals—just a tiny string in this gargantuan web.

So, why did I start this editorial with such a sombre recollection of history? Quite simple, really, because these empires reflect the journey of a Welhamite all too well. In junior school, every Welhamite wants to enter middle school thinking about the freedom that comes with it. They think about the songs they will download onto their MP3s, they think about playing in the skating rink well into the night. Yet when they enter middle school, they don't enjoy a single one of these 'luxuries'; rather, they want more. Similar to the empires that never ended their conquest, one nation conquered led to another being invaded. The Welhamite then, all of a sudden without realiz-

ing it, reaches the top in grade 12th, and they then think that their hold over their juniors is everlasting, just like the belief of these long-gone empires. This misbelief, this flaw is what plagues us. Annually, a bitter pill is served to the 12th graders, and that is watching their empire being toppled right in front of their eyes. The empire they spent years building is gone and replaced by another; they will now have to start from scratch to build another. Alas, the cycle will only repeat itself. As every twelfth grader sits down during their Graduation Ceremony, the pill is served to each one of them individually. Unfortunately, they are forced to accept that their kingdom has fallen, and all they are able to remember of it is its glorious moments, which were amazing while their reign lasted.

As much as I hate to say it, this pill is a mandatory one for us to take. It is required for us to gulp it down in order to stay grounded and remember who we truly are. We aren't Gods, just humans. I too will be forced to swallow this pill within the span of another year, and so will most of you over the course of the next few years. And to the few of you that feel the pill travelling through your throat as you read this, I think it is the perfect time for me to advise you about the next empire that you will build. Remember, your kingdom isn't a constant, but time is. And sooner than later, the latter will catch up, and the cycle will repeat itself.

Ashaaz Ansari
Editor-in-Chief

**School
Captain's
Desk**
2

Farewell
6

**Twelfthies
Sheet**
12

**Defectorial
Body**
21

**Literary
Affair**
25

School Captain's Desk

As I saw the raindrops dripping down from the leaflets while sitting in the White House, contemplating the very essence and purpose of the School Captain's desk, I am still unsure if I will be able to write one. The next moment, I found myself filled with a sense of nostalgia, reminiscing about the past when a ten-year-old boy would find it difficult to adapt to these red walls and wondering if he was the right fit for this institution so-called Welham. Well, this was seven years ago, and now there is a day where he is finding himself in a dilemma of what message should he pass on to the entire school to follow (a tradition into an ultimate obligation).

With the commencement of the Spring Term, new leaves are replacing the ones that were shed, however we often tend to neglect the importance of these old leaves blown away long ago. It is these old ones that have made way and nurtured the newer ones to grow. The novice won't be able to take the traditions and the legacy ahead until the existing ones guide him to. This cycle continues till eternity and once again, we see our senior batch bidding us farewell and leaving us on a new pedestal, a journey filled with responsibilities along with a hope to take the school to greater heights.

All of us only run behind certain materialistic desires to achieve whereas we often forget the process that is involved to achieve them. The moment the badge was pinned, I realised that it's not the end or an accomplishment of a story whereas it's just a commencement of a story punctuated with complexities. The journey ahead may look like a glamorous one, however, it is one of fulfilling obligations compelling and guiding us to become the leaders that the people desire us to be. However, it is also one full of self-doubts where each one of us is in a dilemma if we would be able to scale the same high standards that our seniors did. The feeling of self-doubt has instilled in me a sense of fear as

well as left me bewildered about what my future actions should be or if I could uphold the dignity of my 43 predecessors. It was then I finally realised that it's not only about the journey to the pedestal or even to be the pedestal. The idea is what one does after embarking on the journey once you are on the pedestal. It's when I put forth this issue in front of my predecessor, he told me that self-doubting is an integral part of every journey and it is the motivation that keeps one on the path of improvement. However, one should not restrict himself/herself only to self-doubts whereas one should attempt to get rid of them because instead of moving on the path of progress, it can also deviate one to the darker side of it.

Finally, the message that I want the Welhamites of today to understand is that the spirit of the Mighty Elephant is not only enclosed in these four red walls, it's the spirit that each one of us should have in our hearts. It's not about how many badges we wear on Founder's Day it's about knowing the worth and dignity of the 'Elephant' embedded in our crests. Finally Remember, never should we try to make the post our identity, it should be quite the opposite.

May the 'Mighty Elephant' move 'from Strength to Strength'.

"Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."
-Ralph Waldo Emerson

**Devoting my service,
Signing in,
Atharva Agarwal
School Captain 2024-25**

RINGSIDE VIEW

The Zephyr winds of Spring are widely popular for having brought an end to the permafrost blanket of winter.

Each year, Spring blossoms and stands out as an iridescent opal of hope, signifying a termination of a cycle of seasons and the birth of a new year. For Welhamites, 2024 began in cloudy skies and rainy showers (a gloomy atmosphere if you ask me), but not even the natural phenomenon of weather could challenge the sheer determination etched into each Welhamite's spring spirit.

From the beginning of this academic term, Welhamites have not let the heavy academic burden on their shoulders overshadow their aspirations on the field. And to me, as the Sports Captain, that is uplifting news. Overcoming all the challenges and a plethora of tasks that the school throws at you requires an immense amount of courage along with investing valuable time from a hectic schedule that each and every student has.

The previous year, the fields of this institution have seen noteworthy effort from the students, which would later translate into exceptional performances and multiple victories at tournaments at several levels from inter-schools to nationals.

I believe that excelling in sports is no small feat. Neither is it a gift that you are born with; it is the final outcome of all your perseverance, dedication, and hard work. On this note, I would like to mention something in order to motivate all my juniors: "no effort goes to waste". The fields of Welham, whether during Marching or Athletics, stand as a testament to my statement. But before competitors become victors, one must win a battle with his own conscience because if you were to lose that battle, then you have lost a battle in life. This battle has another name: determination. Determination does not just mean your yearning for success but also what you display on the fields.

Many Welhamites might have been sceptical at first to venture into the endless possibility of learning on the fields, but even in the dreadful rains, if a single student goes out into the fields, it is a moment of learning for many.

Lastly, as the pandemic has finally come to an end, the fire in every Welhamite's heart is burning ever so brightly, illuminating the darkness ahead. The previous year, we, as a school, made huge progress in sports, and being honoured as the Sports Captain of this prestigious institution, I want to make it my goal to lead the Welham fraternity to prosperity. This dream cannot be completed just by me; for that, I will need the help of each and every Welhamite present in school.

Spring is claimed as the season of rejuvenation, and I hope that this spring brings a fresher wind that invigorates the soul of every Welhamite.

"If one really aspires to fulfill his dream, this universe conspires to help him do so." So help me fulfil my dream and lead Welham "From Strength to Strength".

**Signing In,
Aditya Nitin Kumar
Sports Captain 2024-25**

Artist Review

If I ever ask you to name a singer from the 90s you may recall Nirvana, Radiohead, Madonna and also a name so memorable named “Elvis”. The legend who mixed the blues, country, gospel, and pop all together. He is just not a musician but a cultural icon who was influenced at an early age by musicians around him and moved his groovy legs, the legendary move of his. His style of singing and his persona brought a different vibe to the boring music industry in America and all around the world.

Presley was born on January 8, 1935, in Mississippi. He grew up in a poor and religious family, and got love for beats and acoustic at an early age. He was exposed to many genres of music, such as gospel, country, blues, and rhythm and blues. He started singing in churches and at school, and learned to play guitar by himself. He moved to Tennessee with his family when he was a teenager, and soon became fascinated by the colourful music scene there.

In 1954, he recorded his first single, “That’s All Right”, at Sun Records, a small independent label. The song was a fusion of country and blues, and it got pretty famous among the young listeners. Presley had discovered his forte, and he quickly became a sensation. He signed a deal with RCA Records in 1956, and released his first album, Elvis Presley, which topped the charts and sold many copies worldwide. He also made his film debut in “Love Me Tender”, which was a blockbuster. He soon became a national phenomenon, with his records, movies, and television appearances generating huge popularity and controversy. He was adored by his fans, especially the teenage girls, who swooned over his handsome looks and sensual moves. He was also criticised by some, especially the conservative and religious groups, who denounced his music as vulgar and immoral. Elvis Presley was not deterred by the criticism and he continued to innovate and explore new musical realms.

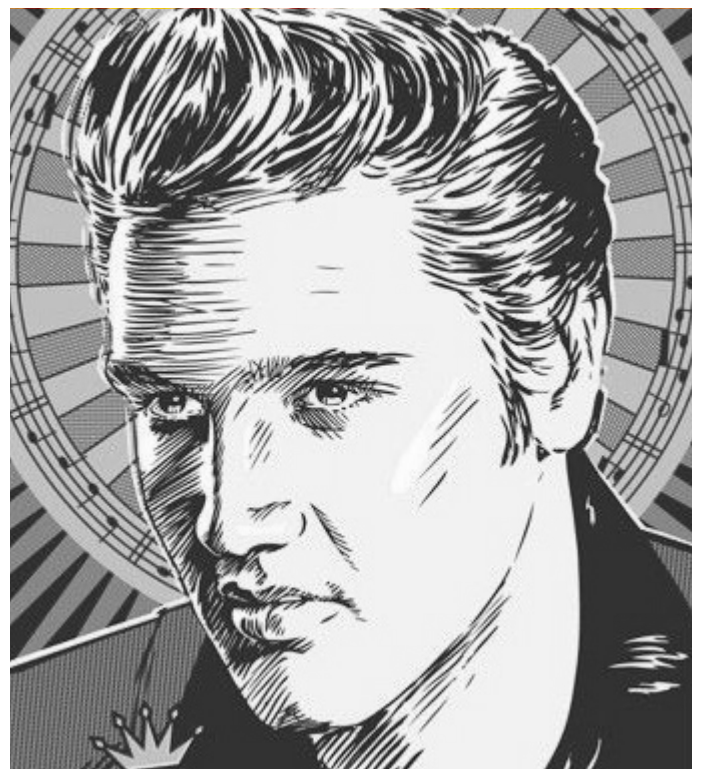
Elvis Presley faced some legal troubles and public backlash during his career as a rock and roll star.

He was also arrested in 1966 for getting into a fight, also threatened to be arrested by a judge who disapproved of his hip shaking dance moves. Some people in that time accused him of being an addict, pervert and a threat to the youth. Despite facing these multiple broken cement on, he didn’t stop his journey on being a rockstar.

Elvis Presley died on August 16, 1977, at the age of 42, after having a cardiac arrest. He left behind a legacy of music, movies, and memories that continue to inspire and entertain millions of people around the world. He was a legend who transcended his time and realms of music, and became a symbol of pop art. He was a king who ruled the realm of rock and roll, and fulfilled his destiny as a musical genius.

“You’ve got to follow that dream, wherever that dream may lead.” - Elvis

**-Yuvraj Gulati
XI**



Book Review

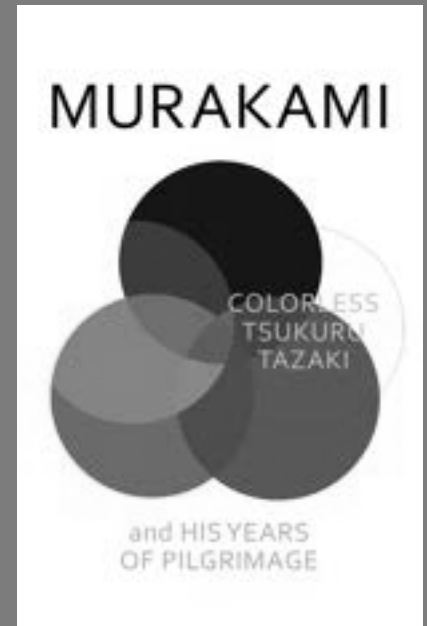
Book: Colourless Tsukuru Tazaki

Author: Haruki Murakami

Rating: 8.5/10

“You can hide memories but you can’t erase the history that produces them.”

It should be of no surprise that for a book with “colourless” in bold letters, one would naturally anticipate a philosophical rollercoaster. But that’s the “page-turner” effect novels possess (this story specifically)—“you don’t see it coming.” “Colourless Tsukuru Tazaki” is one of the most-celebrated works of renowned author Haruki Murakami, who has drawn quite the attention from contemporary media. In a presumably striking manner like many of Murakami’s previous novels (Colourless being no exception), the story unfolds on a suicidal note in the concrete jungles of Tokyo.



The story follows the routine life of Tsukuru Tazaki, an engineer for the Tokyo subway who has had terrible luck in forging friendships. It is gradually revealed in the unfurling of this magnificent novel that Tsukuru’s haunting past lingers over his choices like myriads of shadowed figures imprisoned in his conscience. In a vividly pictured world, Tsukuru remains colorless. He often reminisces of his high school days when he was not denied his immaturity and a carefree life. The protagonist, Tsukuru, in his high school days, was an inseparable part of a pentagon. Each of his friends had a remarkable talent and a colour in their Japanese names. The boys’ last names were Akamatsu (red pine), Oumi (blue sea), and the girls’ last names were Shirane (white root) and Kurano (black field). But Tsukuru always stuck out as “an odd puzzle,” seemingly “a colorless dummy” with no striking expertise or passion for anything materialistic. Yet Tsukuru faithfully clung to his friend circle, indifferent to the difference between him and his friends. But one day, his friends announced their parting ways with Tsukuru without any explanation. Since that fateful day, Tsukuru has been ostracized, reluctant to forge friendships. Ever since his soul manifested a monochromatic colourless tone, until one day, colorless Tsukuru Tazaki has a decisive encounter with a girl, Sara, who encourages him to piece the puzzles of his foggy past.

The author effortlessly intertwines tradition and reason in modern-day Tokyo, not once failing to entertain the readers with an emotional rollercoaster filled to the brim with despair, trauma, love, pleasure, but most importantly, hope. Murakami honours the dainty fabric of the emotional heartstrings all the while maintaining questions shrouded in mystery and perplexity. But the most intriguing factor of the novel is its juxtaposition of life with death, of a passionately pictured realm to a colorless oddity and of Japanese philosophy to modern sentiments. In the end, Tsukuru finds solace in change as all of his friends have moved on and so shall he. “Colourless Tsukuru Tazaki’s” mystery is solved before the curtains are closed, but many questions remain unanswered, leaving for multiple possible outcomes as Murakami reveals his concluding strokes, juxtaposing with the readers’ minds this time. The novel’s end remains indecisive and ambiguous as the author leaves it upon the reader to conclude the novel and the mysteries within it.

In conclusion, Murakami’s “Colourless Tsukuru Tazaki” remains a truly addicting opium—“a novel I’ve been obsessed with because it is not just a pile of pages but rather a beloved memory that I and my fellow readers shall cherish.” Every moment is worth spending on this book, and I’m not saying it out of an obsession but rather experience. It is a “must-have” in one’s bucket list since this book is “an escape from reality both in an educational and fictional perspective.”

-Koustabh Gupta

IX

MOVIE REVIEW

Cast - Julia Roberts, Ethan Hawke, Myha'la Herrold, Mahershala Ali

Director - Sam Esmail

Rating - 7.5/10

The movie "Leave The World Behind" is a masterpiece by Sam Esmail. It can be considered one of the best post-apocalyptic movies. This movie has multiple genres but the central theme revolves around suspense as well as a psycho thriller. The movie is adapted from a novel by the same name by Rumaan Atlam and worms through a plethora of oddball characters.

The story revolves around a pretentious family caught up in world-altering circumstances. Amanda along with her husband Clay and two children, Rose and Archie spend their weekend in a lavish mansion in Long Island. G.H. Scott along with her daughter Ruth are forced to take shelter in the same mansion due to a mysterious black out in New York City. Around the same time, a shady cargo ship crashes on the beach and disturbs the cell service. The people in the mansion get cut off from the rest of the world and Amanda's family starts to doubt G.H. Scott. Amanda is seen as a vicious and self-centered character who only cares about her children and despises Ruth because of her race. Her daughter adds subtle comedy to the film by relying on jokes regarding her friends.

As the movie progresses Amanda and her family face a lot of problems including an invasion of animals in their home. They have to tackle all these issues while they try to understand their problem at hand and solve it. The character development shown throughout the story is quite interesting. Rather than having a backstory, the characters develop according to their surroundings which is quite a rare trait. The roles of the characters are quite complex and fulfilled well by the actors who keep us on our toes as the



movie progresses. The cinematography and editing is wild and there is a mix of unique shots that we won't usually see.

Overall the movie was heavily dependent on character driven motives and actorly prowess and remains distant emotionally. It shows how dependent we have become on the Internet and how dull and miserable our lives become without it. It is a great escape from the movies we generally see and I find it hard to describe it in a single word. It is quite underrated and did become a subject to hate however I as a person liked it.

**-Angad Khurana
IX**

Book Review

Book: Animal Farm

Author: George Orwell

Genre: Dystopian Fiction

Rating: 9/10

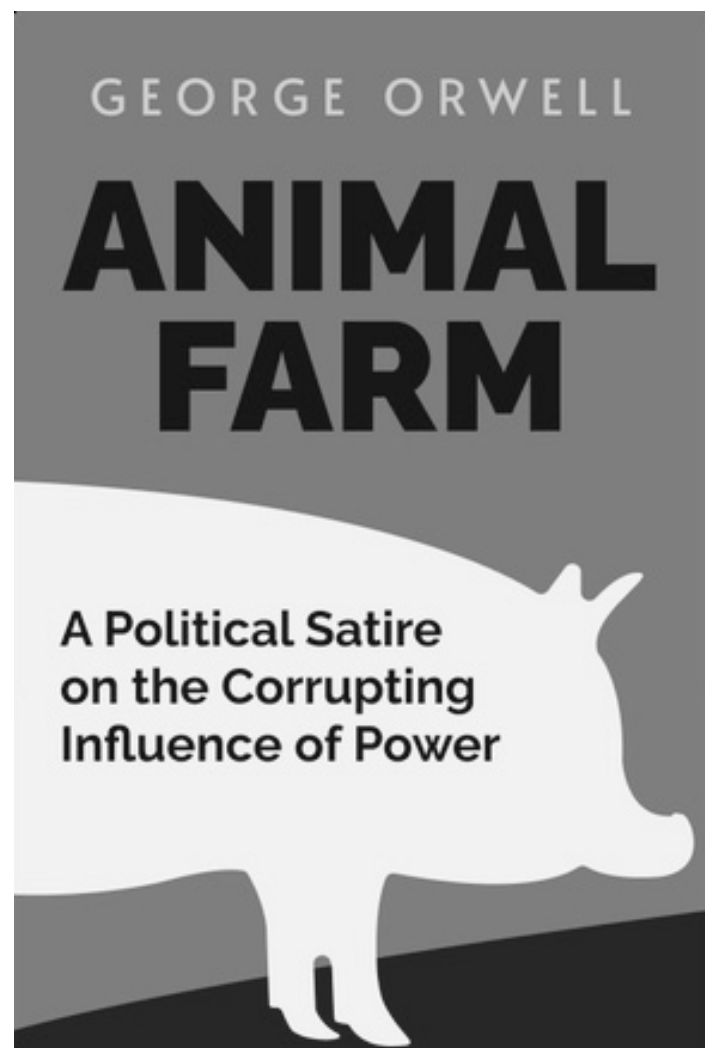
What is the primary incentive behind reading a piece of fiction? In our opinion, such a book should be able to deliver a message both realistically and humorously. 'Animal Farm' by George Orwell proves to be an epitome of this and quenches the thirst of the reader. The book is based on the idea of communism and in a satiric way, informs the reader of how dismantled a society following such a principle could be. The cherry on the top, however, is that it conveys the message through the lives of not humans, but animals on a farm. George Orwell, the author of this book is an amazing writer who expresses his views on profound topics using simple and relatable concepts. He has authored another very famous book '1984' which also discusses a similar topic in a complicated manner.

'Animal Farm' can be classified under the category 'Dystopian Fiction.' We all know that utopia is a place which is perfect. Dystopia is the exact opposite of utopia. It's a book where the plot eventually turns out to be a nightmare of the worst degree. Before introducing the plot, it seems essential to define communism. In India, we follow a system of capitalism, where the individuals control their own property and income is based on merit. In communism, however, the state owns everything and strives to provide equal money to all. 'Animal Farm' shows how this is just a policy on paper and is practically impossible to be implemented. The plot revolves around the animals of Manor Farm who labour very hard but are deprived of basic necessities. They overthrow the owner and take control of the farm. But soon, some animals start taking advantage of the situation. The stronger animals get more grains and a disparity is clearly visible between the creatures. It is evident that the aim of utopia, the animals thrived for, had soon transformed into a dictatorship. This gradual transition depicts the pragmatism of capitalism and inefficiency of communism. The story ends with the animals getting accustomed to this unfair system and

the situation turns out to be similar to the opening of the plot. Orwell has indeed succeeded in indicating that communism eventually reverts back to capitalism and all of this has been written in an understandable, relatable way.

We personally liked how the author has made such a basic plot that any student can comprehend and also alongside, satirised such a vast ideology. We have rated this book a 9 out of 10 as it is perfect in terms of content and overall impact, but the writer could have presented it with even better vocabulary and sentence structure. Nonetheless, Orwell has outdone himself and has enriched the world with a thoroughly intellectual, interesting and a must-read masterpiece.

**-Athrv Ahuja
Chiraag Bhargava**



What Really Matters ?

February. Here in Welham, it is quite the time of essence. For some it starts a year closer to their dreams, for some it means the end of a life that they would do anything to get back. For many, it marks the end of an era and for others a step yet closer to the end. For some, it may be the time of new beginnings. It is a time of opportunities, when some prepare to move up to what some may consider a higher pedestal, whereas others brace themselves to bid a final farewell. Amidst all this activity, the permanence of things causes wonderment.

Every year while we sit at the footsteps of the Main field and watch our seniors bid farewell to what we all call a home away from home, I can't help but realize that my time closes in fast too. Every Graduation Day that passes, inevitably brings me closer to my own. It is as if all of a sudden, it all just comes to an end. All of a sudden, it is your last day in your room. All of a sudden, it is your last meal in Bethany. And then you're just gone.

All that remains of you is probably a memory, enclosed within the hearts of a few. With time, that fades away as well. As hard as it may be to accept this, your journey at Welham is gone with you. That, to me at least, seems intimidating, knowing that my time here is limited. Knowing that one day, my existence in this institution, this home of mine, will be history and that too a forgotten one. To every Welhamite, it is a day that they dread and for some that day is nearing.

Every year brings opportunities and every year we become more capable of utilizing that opportunity. In junior school, we are not aware of these opportunities. Then we transition and these opportunities come a step closer. After this, you invest your time in these opportunities and try to face failure while trying for

success. Finally, the time comes when can you reap the fruits of the work that you have put in and it is not the fame or the posts that would matter, it would be the experience that does.

I believe that this mere fact brings out the importance of time here. All that remains of our time here after us is no other than our very own selves. The skills we learn, the knowledge we gain; all that stays with us forever. It's all about the journey and in my opinion, that is what's important. It is all about the use of our time here that we still have, because it just may be what really matters.

**-Ahan Sparsh
IX**

CHANGE- A CONSTANT

Heraclitus once said, “Change is the only constant in life.”

Whether we like to admit it or not, everything around us is in a perpetual state of flux. Society changes, technology advances daily, the world is always changing, but the most important thing is that we adapt as individuals. Even with this information, learning to adapt to new circumstances is among the most challenging things a person can do. A lot of individuals are afraid of change. That is typical. Every day, change serves as a reminder that we are ageing, and the passage of time is inherently gloomy and terrifying.

For others, the prospect of change or trying something new is too daunting, dangerous, or unclear. “People would rather be unhappy than uncertain,” Tim Ferris famously stated. Additionally, it is supported by scientific evidence. Our brains process uncertainty in the same manner as they process mistakes, according to a new study in neuroscience. All we want is for everything to be over with so we can finally relax.

Embracing change entails realizing that control is impossible. This idea is both terrifying and freeing, in equal measure. As a matter of fact, when it comes to your success and pleasure in life, nothing matters more than how open you are to change.

Having a pessimistic view on life and the universe is often associated with a fear of change. Our parents’ pessimistic view of life may have left an impression on us, and we may have internalized that view. This pessimistic viewpoint on life might be a result of our upbringing. Another possible explanation is that we are temporarily unable to cope with the stresses of life.

It’s not just a matter of upbringing; it’s also a matter of our innate wiring: we feel and see bad things more strongly than good ones. When you add the pressures of daily life to the mix, the result is a dogged resistance to change or, worse,

an inflexible desire to maintain things exactly as they are.

Rest assured, however. Gratitude is a beautiful and easy remedy for our negative bias.

A simple, often-overlooked habit that may propel our spirits to higher heights is expressing appreciation. Not only has it been seen in animals, but it also has profound origins in the human evolutionary past.

Because it might make us feel like we’re going to lose touch with who we really are, change can be terrifying at times. The problem intensifies when we begin to judge ourselves in relation to other people. Looking at other people and trying to gauge our own performance by theirs is something we can’t help but do; it’s in our DNA.

Refraining from comparing yourself to other people and focusing your attention on your own objectives can make embracing change much simpler. The novelty you must endure should be evaluated only in regard to yourself.

**-Tanay Pratap
XI**

Closed Gates

In our lives, we come across many situations where we are forced to accept failure as the only option. The situations are comparable to closed gates whose only keys are nowhere to be found.

The only key to these gates is acceptance. One should always know when the gates are closing and that acceptance is the only key to these gates. Acceptance does not come easily, whether it is about the death of a closed one or a missed opportunity. Acceptance requires a lot of calmness, composure and wisdom from a person. Thus, acceptance is closely comparable to enlightenment. Enlightenment also requires a person to be calm, composed, wise as well as years of determination. The enlightened one always knows how to accept things such as death.

Coming back to closed gates, a person can only benefit from the situation if they accept it and move on. They can thus take over another opportunity and probably benefit from it. I think this acceptance also requires precision as well as time. One may move from the current situation without realizing that there was a way to resolve the problem. Therefore, acceptance can only benefit when one is certain that all the gates are closed and there is no key. One might wonder that these are just words and they don't hold true in the real world but there are many situations where acceptance remains the only route to find an alternative when the gate is closed. It is always hard to recover from the death of a known one but acceptance is necessary. One has to accept that the dead have left the world and can never return. One must learn to move on or their heart will always remain half empty until the person meets death themselves.

A heartbreak can also be considered a closed gate. One can either remain sad or move on. The latter is inevitable. Therefore, one must know how to accept it.

Thus, failure and tragedy should not be treated with sadness or grief. It should always be welcomed with acceptance. Eventually we will learn acceptance and know how to handle the closed gates we face in our lives.

-Atharva Saxena
X

To,
The Batch of 2024

We write to you to express our gratitude for all the shared memories you helped us create. As you leave us behind to carve out yet another path of your never-ending journey, we the Oliphant board wants to thank you for all the amazing moments you gave us, we wanted to thank you for all the laughs you gave us. So here is an article dedicated solely to you, obviously the board members leaving us have been mentioned, but to the rest of you 67 who we were not able to write about, we wish you the best on your journey ahead. So without any further ado let us start with what would be a final goodbye to some incredible members of the Oliphant board.

Pranay Singh Dhaka- Dear Edi, your humorous remarks and constant banter have been what helped us push through some of the most difficult work sessions. You will be sorely missed by all of us, some more than the others. Yet let us hope that your endeavours to become a lawyer finally allow you to gain a sense of free will and escape your captors once and for all.

Trayambak Pathak- Dear Schoolie, you intimidating other members of the board has been the highlight of several board meetings. You will be missed for your friendly conflicts with (almost) all board members. We hope that your conquests never stop and even though you will be leaving the Golden Elephant behind, you will still move forward 'From Strength to Strength'

Vihan Shukla- Dear Gymboy, your quirky way of thinking has been what made us laugh on several occasions. Your tales about ants, lizards, and butterflies have all been a fun read. The board hopes that your midnight adventures as the protector of the city don't go haywire.

Rakshit Khurana- Dear UNW Chair, unfortunately we will not be able to remember you for anything simply due to the fact that you weren't present in any of them due to your allegiance to the Editorial Board of another school publication. Yet we hope that you can get into DU (we hope you know which university).

Keshav Agarwal- Dear RSP, you will be missed for being the last in your lineage. You rushing away from meetings to handle the thousands of tasks piled upon you especially the ones regarding your own publi-

FAREWELL

cation is what the board will remember you for. We hope that you won't be shutting down any other posts any time soon.

Bimarsh Jha- Dear Musician, your philosophical remarks and melodious tunes will be sorely missed by the entire board. Your words of wisdom that no one but you could understand will be something that all of us would like to hear once more. We wish you the best for your board exams, especially because you are a sciencee.

Sabhya Malik- Dear Hsc-G, the board will miss you for your valuable contribution to each and every issue of The Oliphant (or the lack thereof). Jokes aside, your wits have saved the Humour section on countless occasions. The board wishes you the best and hopes you can finally pick up a camera and click the first and last snap as you finally leave the Editorial Board.

Keshav Rungta- Dear Director, you have perhaps been one of the biggest contributors to our magazine. From late night design sessions to allowing us to stay in the newz room when we were on a time crunch. We wish you and your film-making obsession the best.

Tejas Agarwal- Dear Business Prez, you not being present in any of the board meetings comes as no surprise to any of us, yet once in a blue moon when you did show up you certainly helped lighten the mood. We hope that your business ventures prove to be successful.

Kaustubh Swarup- Dear Cartoonist, on the rare occasion that you did draw for The Oliphant, your cartoons were absolutely fantastic, despite your absence in every board meeting. We hope your artistic skills don't dwindle as you leave us behind.

With that, Batch of 2024 fare thee well, on your ventures ahead. The Editorial board will always be behind you.

From,
The Oliphant Editorial Board

OKYTO!!

Loved every moment of it! Will miss you Welham. 14/07/24

IF it hurts when you leave, then it is nice.

Uncensored!!!

(2015-∞)

Intense love Always Leads to Mourning. Forever In my heart. Rastogi. (2018-∞) Will never forget the late night walks! Takshi

WELHAM taught me,

sacrifice
pain
glory
friendship

There are NO goodbyes for us. Wherever you are, you will always

Will be indebted forever (2015-∞) Anisham Aw (HSC-J)

be in My Heart MONI

The Two hardest things to say is the 'Hello' for the first time and 'Good Bye' for the last time.

Raman

Yesterday brought the beginning, Tomorrow brings the end, though somewhere in the middle, we became the BEST OF FRIENDS!!

(2015-∞) Virat Singh

CLIMAX OF THE STORY, I'VE BEEN TRYING FOR SO LONG. - FROM THE CORE, EDI C23-24)

MAY YOUR BIRD BE THE HAJA BIRD
MAY THE ELEPHANT BE OF WELHAM

21-01-23

PRESIDENT

I know it wasn't easy but surely WORTH IT!!!

Dilans

I'm not leaving you, I'm taking all the memories with me

Love you welham!

It's love for WELHAM but life for the Boys!

(2015-∞)

Our ride on the elephant 'WILL MISS YOU WELHAM' is finally over.

Aditya
(2019-20)

Good times never seem better people!!!

DON'T CRY IT: BECAUSE IT'S OVER
SMILE BECAUSE IT HAPPENED

IDK why those 6 years felt like 6 days but hard to believe it's over. Will miss you!!

Sakshi
TBSM4L

~ JOKER (2015-∞)

Gone but not forgotten Love you welham!!!

NOT ENDING SOON...

ONCE A WELHAMITE, ALWAYS A WELHAMITE

3/2/24

(HSC)

LOVE THE GIRLS, BUT

NOT THE END!

Sumayy Jindal

(2018-∞)

LOVE THE BOYS MORE

- Malik (2015-∞)

When we first met,
I didn't think you would
become so important to me.

If the dream scares you,
It's worth giving it a shot.
Time and the Marine drive
will take care of the rest.

Will love you & miss you always
WELHAM.

- Priyanka
gives a kick.

The best memories with the
best mates. Always quite fun.
- Neha
May this chapter never end
- Vinod

One Time Wellhamite (2022-∞)
Life Time Wellhamite

Where the heart leads,
a man must follow.
Prayambhathak
SC 2023-24

Cliffhanger

To being the unwanted
roommate of many.
- Thakur

Had to let her go
but, love to remember
- Anjali
(2020-∞)

Short But Not
Enough

And then
there were none!!
Yuv (2017-∞)

One step forward,
nine steps back
My one and only
Love you Wellham
- Vijay (2015-∞)

8 years and feels like, it
all started yesterday.

Thank you Wellham!
(2016-∞) Keshav
RSPC (2023-24)

The voices in my head
told me to not leave
but I had no choice
Tyagi (2017-∞)

been there
less, Best of you
most Sai

Thanks to sports, mischief,
and may be a few pranks.
After all I am the most pieces
Wellham Created.

Nothing lasts forever
but at least
we got these memories!
(2016-∞)

Rajiv

fields of Wellham
been my sacred
In my heart
forever!!!
Aj

Hell of a ride!
It was Wellham
is Wellham
will always be Wellham

Wellham <3
2016-∞
Rose :-)

Some day I wish I could go back
in time not to change anything
but to live some moments
twice (2017-∞) Shobha

Bamboo se awaz aate rhegi! ♥

WORD

Escapism is a form of Acceptance

FOR

In all words, in all phrases that I've heard associated with the term "escapism", none have ever projected it in a positive light. Some term it a disorder, some call it a symptom yet nobody calls it a saving grace, a plank for the one drowning. Escapism is detachment, letting go of the circumstances that hold you, even just for a minute and thinking about that one good moment or that overly hypothetical situation.

We define acceptance as "coming to terms with" or "agreeing with what is there in store for you", yet many more definitions exist, something even as basic as a "Okay, I can handle that."

When we think of escapism, we picture a spaced out person, sitting alone in the corner of a crowded room, eyes deep and unblinking in a random direction. That's how we view escapism. However, it is more than just that. Everything which pulls you away from even the simplest problems of real life is escapism; it is a coping mechanism.

Acceptance comes when we think that the particular situation is over or what we worked hard for, bore fruits in the form of glory, accolades or fame. This fame and glory gives us fulfillment and a sense of contentment within, making us believe that our efforts are worth it. However, it is never the same for everybody.

While someone will be content and satisfied with the outcomes, there will be somebody fussing because they realize that they'll never be that someone, content and satisfied. This turns out to be a turning point in their life, a fork in the road where they try to run away from the despair of reality and fall in the crutches of what they believe is the way out. They finally arrive somewhere, but have to live with the pain that this wasn't the destination where they had intended to reach. In a world where both these people exist, acceptance and escapism start to coexist. They start to be the flip side of the same coin.

A person trying to escape something or even someone finding a different approach first needs to accept that their current situation has become a problem; an event which they need shelter from. Then they need to accept that their means of escapism is the one that will help them get away from their current situation. Despite seeming so distinct as their definitions and appearing the polar opposites of each other, perhaps escapism and acceptance are closely related.

As Welhamites and more importantly, volatile teenagers, we come face to face with escapism and acceptance more frequently than we would like. From the moment we join school, we take time to accept Welham as a home, our peers, our brothers and this campus, our life 8 months in a year. The time flies and we start nearing the end. This becomes the time when we start to accept that our journey will end, and to accept our departure. However, it is in this journey that we also encounter escapism - making excuses, bunking and a bunch of stuff that only we Welhamites could come up with. Still, we make it a part of the journey and the adventure and there does come a time when we don't have to worry about these things anymore for we have accepted all that we have experienced.

-Samarth Agrawal
X

WAR

Escapism is a form of Acceptance

Against

Acceptance means fully acknowledging the facts of the situation and not fixating on how it shouldn't be that way. Still, people worldwide tend to escape reality whenever they find themselves outside their comfort zone. It might help them find peace and comfort and help them avoid their problems, but this feeling is temporary. People tend to put on a mask and find various excuses to avoid issues they don't want to face and accept. People have different problems or issues to escape from, like growing up and taking responsibility, but the sooner they accept it and face reality, the better it will be for them.

They find comfort in many little things and fantasise a lot just to escape from the real world, but we have to realise that reality is far more significant and robust, and we have to learn and master the art of acceptance. Life is all about change. We may be able to avoid it for a while, but sooner or later, we have to accept it and move on. Temporary relief might give us a sense of ecstasy, but it deprives us of far greater life experiences that we are missing and might help us grow. It's a choice that is up to us; we can either escape from our problems or accept them and try to find solutions.

We have to face those issues no matter what. The longer we stall them, the harder they hit, so accepting and facing them from the beginning is better. Not only worldwide but also in our schools. Just take a look at our sports fields. Whenever children find problems or have to go out of their comfort zone and put in extra effort, they tend to find excuses or leave that sport and join another. This is also a form of escapism, but we need to learn the importance of accepting those issues and facing them head-on rather than escaping from them because we might develop a habit of taking the easy way out of all problems in life, which might shape our life in the wrong way.

Escape is a natural way to avoid pain and suffering that gives us short-term relief, but it impedes the individual from working through events and feelings, often leading to emptiness and guilt or shame at best. Brene Brown, in her book *Daring Greatly*, points out that shame and guilt are fostered by our attempts to escape our feelings. Acceptance holds extreme value in our lives and is one of life's most important virtues. It plays a crucial role in our positive mental health and going out of our way to accept the unavoidable, even though we might disapprove of it.

Life is a roller coaster; there will always be ups and downs, and it will always be easy to escape, but the real challenge will be staying up till the end and facing it head-on. It is easy to accept the good parts of oneself, but accepting the imperfect parts of oneself is complex, and those who can accept them can truly be considered successful in the journey of life. In this time and world, nothing lasts forever, and nothing goes as planned. There will be problems at every step of life, and it is up to us whether to escape and stall them or accept them and make decisions that will help us change that part of our lives.

-Angad Khurana
IX

VER'S'ES

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

WHEN REALITY BECOMES A LUCID DREAM

Deep in the night, when the moon claims her silvery throne,
A dreamer lay in his slumber, cuddled in dreams of his own,
As mysterious figures in conscience sing a dulcet euphony,
To the pensive souls, caressing them with languid schemes,
As appears in the cosmic tapestry, a realm of lucid dreams.

Awakens thereafter a dreamer upon this surreal stream,
Restless in the illusions as he wonders of his lucky bliss,
His heart a toy in this masquerade, in this sinister abyss,
For in the nightmares' theatre not all marvel is as it seems,
If only mirages were kinder, in this realm of lucid dreams.

And as the twisted petals of reverie fade into a new fantasy,
Reality entwines in a fleeting spectre, as time loses its grip,
While in a bewitching miracle, in such ingenious disguise,
Intangible desires build into existence- a hex upon the eyes,
Upon this sombre dreamscape, painted into lucid skies.

And dawn breaks as waking moments seamlessly unfold
But not for this unfortunate and vulnerable dreamer,
Who has surrendered to the alchemy of phantom's embrace,
Hence he shall not live to face reality's wicked schemes,
For now he lay in a slumber, in a realm of fleeting dreams.

-Koustabh Gupta
IX

My heart numb
My mind dumb
My soul naive
My body in solemn reprieve

A boy's innocence
Through a man's lens
A world of wonders
Where life ponders'
An ask
With no mask

Give and take
Our only make
The devils bargain
A thin margin

A child's toss
The world at loss
The story of conquest
Evil's armrest

My heart stone
My mind my own
My souls torn
My body a strangers oan

-Jaap Sardana
XI

INTERN'S CHOICE

Adjustment to Hot-Water Timings

With the tight schedule that Welham students have to follow, we often face issues in adjusting ourselves to the timings of the many events that take place back-to-back. We think it's crucial for students to maintain physical hygiene, especially considering the demanding sports activities we perform every day. However, we often find it extremely difficult to adjust our schedule to that of the hot water. Therefore, we find it in the larger interest of the school's student body that there be an extension to the hot-water availability timings. In our opinion, 5:30-7 pm would serve as a perfect extension to the existing timings, as it will be able to account for students arriving late from sports as well as getting ready before time for other engagements.

Renovation of Triveni

Triveni stands as one of the oldest buildings in our institution. It is the home to countless memories and will forever be in the hearts of us Welhamites. However, the building is indeed quite old. Despite how recognized and respected Triveni is, it goes without saying that it is long overdue for a repair, especially when Shikhar recently underwent one. We believe that the renovation will not only breathe new life into this historical building but also return it to its former glory when it was recognized as the primary location for groups of students to hang out, given its strategic location.

More Autonomy for House Representatives

House Representatives, often referred to as reps, play a significant role in the running of the middle school. They are almost always held responsible for the actions of their batchmates as well as their juniors. With this much accountability at hand, reps are faced with quite the responsibility. With this in mind, it is our opinion that there should be an increase in the nominal power that the reps hold. Currently, it is not enough considering the accountability that they face. We believe that it is in the interest of the school to give more liberty to House Representatives under their supervision and shift more authority to the prefectorial body from the administration, as it will help them function better and manage their house.

EDITOR'S

THEME

As an aspiring sciencee, I like to think I know a lot about acceptance. For me, it is more than just accepting or coming to terms, it's about the contentment, the satisfaction that you get when you finally agree with the circumstances. Sometimes it might be the product of your own will, but it can also be the product of somebody else's hopes and expectations and how you settle with them. People might term it in different ways – compromise, adjustment or even a realisation that hit hard, however the essence of it, the essence of moving on remains the same.

The Spring term always begins as a journey of acceptance and remembrance. Accepting that our boards are nearby and that our studies are going up in smoke, accepting that it is 7 degrees outside and all we have is a quilt, the Spring term in itself is a phase of acceptance for all us Welhamites. It is also the phase and time when people make memories, enjoy moments without worrying about having a memory and absorbing it all – for it never leaves the minds of those who truly cherished these moments. Some of us will be seeing our batchmates, our seniors and even our juniors for the last time. It fills us with sadness, provides us with experience and gives a slight bit of contentment, contentment that a part of you will always remain here, contentment that will be felt every time you reminisce about this place.

As Welhamites, every memory that we create together and every moment that we share lasts for a lifetime. With the Graduation Ceremony being the elephant in the room, I find it hard not to link remembrance with it. Once the outgoing batch graduates, another shall step in and it too shall graduate. It is a legacy, a process which we have come to terms with and come to accept. In a way, acceptance and remembrance are the opposites of each other. We think about the possibilities and the regrets about situations and circumstances from times gone by that we cannot accept.

Perhaps, accepting change is the biggest compromise and the biggest form of acceptance. From the day we enter the gates of Welham, change is thrown at us and though we cannot navigate it initially, we slowly come to accept all there is. When we leave the school, it won't be the articles or classes that we will remember, it will be the small, seemingly insignificant moments that will matter. The walks, the pointless conversations, the serious debates and even moments of complete silence. The human brain is perhaps the weirdest when it comes to both acceptance and remembrance. It is fickle, sometimes accepting wrong accusations about itself and sometimes accepting the wrong picture of somebody else.

It remembers small things, both pointless and significant yet refuses to remember what really matters in the moment. However, it is also the projection of ourselves and when we can come to accept every little thing as something important and try to remember every moment as our last, that would be the moment we would start living to our fullest.

-Samarth Agrawal
X

TAKE

BREAKDOWN :

As we navigate the corridors of our school, we often find ourselves caught between the echoes of the past and the promises of the future. It is in this, that I actually discover the true connection between remembrance and acceptance – two inseparable faces of our Welham life.

Remembrance is not merely a nostalgic glance over our house photographs or faded yearbook pages. Experiencing five years at Welham, has taught me a visceral experience, a vivid recollection of the moments that shaped us, challenged us, and propelled us forward. For me, reminiscing over the house trophies does not just arouse nostalgia, but the joy and memories I collected that are associated with each trophy. On the other hand, places like the main field remind me of the times where I failed to achieve my goals, and have been motivating not just me but also any Welhamite moving forward. It not only helps me find moments of happiness, while struggling with my future endeavours, but also gives me optimism to create similar moments of remembrance ahead in life.

Acceptance, on the contrary, is coming to grips with our past self, and the development that has taken place (for better or worse) to a different individual than what we were before. At Welham, this acknowledgment takes the form of accepting imperfections, mistakes, and triumphs that have brought us to this moment. However, accepting my failures is a line that I never intend to cross. While defending my house's position during inter-house events, or even giving an excuse for not winning are usual things for a Welhamite to say, they are just forms of not accepting the reality that is a part of everyone's life. On this Graduation Ceremony, acceptance might seem the easier option, however the motivation to do better fueled by remembrance outweighs significantly in the long run.

In my own journey, I've grappled with moments of both pride and shame. I've stumbled over my own missteps and celebrated the victories, recognizing that each event has contributed to the person I am today. Although the path to acceptance was not always easy, it was undeniably transformative. It involved confronting uncomfortable truths, acknowledging mistakes, and finding strength in vulnerability, or coming to terms with the death of a beloved family member. Acceptance can be a great help, only if I have the wisdom to face further challenges rather than giving up.

Therefore, acceptance comes in two forms. To understand this, I had to mull over a very cliched philosophical question. What would I do if it was my last day? After some thought, I could go down two different roads: Accept my destiny and stop my activities, or continue to live the life I have always lived.

"I took the one less travelled by, and that has made all the difference"- ROBERT FROST

-Divij Gupta
X

Acceptance & Remembrance

“Death leaves a heartache no one can heal, Love leaves a memory no one can steal.”

- Irish Headstone

Although most of it will have passed by the time you read this article (at least I hope so), the Dehradun cold has truly been tormenting those of us who reported for the academic camp. Even though I feel my fingers numbing as I pen down (rather, type out) this take, I realise that it's nothing compared to the frozen souls of those leaving their home this Graduation Day. I know, I've seen batches in the same state before, but I guess something called maturity has finally caught up to me. Or maybe it's just the fact that I've known these people for such a long time that the metamorphosis feels almost surreal to me. Sure, the Graduation Ceremony holds immense emotional value to the twelfth grade, but it does teach Welhamites a lot about one thing: accepting the inevitability of fate.

Even though acceptance is something that people don't fully try to or want to understand, most of us learn about it in a very experiential way, and often when life starts to feel ethereal. Like star-crossed lovers learning of their fate just as they think life can't get any better for them. True, learning of acceptance this way is unpleasant and even painful, but acceptance as an emotion itself is meant to be quite gut wrenching. At least the universe thinks of it that way.

So the question is, how do you overcome the melancholy that acceptance brings with it? Well, quite ironically, you don't. I once heard a former editor-in-chief of this magazine say in his graduation speech, “Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened.” That is what acceptance is all about—remember the times you laughed, the times when Welham was all that you cared about, the times when you whined about the food, when you realised late nights could never be too late. Just remember what something special to you, means to you. Remembrance is what will keep that emotion alive in you.

At the time when I was searching for a quote to headline my take, I came across the one that you presently see at the top of this page. Why did I choose a quote on a random Irish headstone instead of an established author? Well, it often happens in the world we live in, that the deepest and most dense emotions are felt by common people like you and me. If it strikes a chord within you, then go ahead: embrace the heartache, treasure the memories, laugh in the face of destiny. Brag about the times it can never steal from you, because they're guarded by your conscience and a cavalry of memories that you have about this place.

So, in the end, when you see seventy-five men walk out of the main field with teary eyes, look past the badges and medals on their blazers and try to see the memories and experiences within. Try to see the ten year old boy in them that cried at the Oliphant gate, and will cry once again. The only difference is that the first time they cried because they didn't want to stay. This time, they'll weep because fate has played its cards and they just can't run from it any longer. The only way you can leave a mark on this place is by engraving your legacy in the hearts of your juniors, not on captains' boards or through ink on brown pages.

**-Shreyas Shah
X**

DEFECTORIAL BODY



School Captain - Atharva Agarwal

After finally managing to break the long red streak with a hint of yellow, the newly elected School Captain seems to have enjoyed himself quite a lot during the recent vacation. After finally managing to settle a score with our Edi, the schoolie can now be seen running around with various lists trying to get a hold of one teacher after the other. Yet the Oliphant Board does not doubt his abilities to lead Welham From Strength to Strength and wishes him the best for his tenure. And we sincerely hope that quirky poses are now out of the question for our School Captain.

Sports Captain - Aditya Nitin Kumar

The tussle for this position was an intense one, yet the man who had been wanting it since Grade 4th came out on top. When people think about Aditya they don't think he has been in this institution for 8 years, yet now that the fruits of his labour have finally ripened it is time the Sports Captain can start to be noticed in places other than the main field. The Editorial Board wishes Adi the best for his tenure and hopes that the same events that occurred last time when a Krishnaite was a Sports Captain don't befall him.



Academic Captain - Eshan Agarwal

Once again, with the post of the Academics Captain being reserved for a special achiever, Eshaan's shy nature and academic rigour is not the first time the Oliphant Board has seen this. Being quite similar to last year's academic captain, Eshaan's place in the chosen twelve had been decided a year prior. Though he may enjoy the fruit of his scores, the Board wishes him the best to exceed his predecessor (amidst the athletics season, of course).

Activities Captain - Ashaaz Ansari

Though our Edi was disheartened not getting the post(s) he desired, he reconciled with reality, when a new position was created just for him. In spite of the fierce battle between the two former Oliphant rivals, and a delusional fight for the acad, our Edi could only manage to reach such heights. Even though his trips to Alpha-Q may have given him hope, Ashaaz has to cope with what he has achieved. While he may have failed the legacy of the sword, the Board wishes that he lives up to the hype that was created.





Cauvery House Captain - Chitraansh Choudhary

After aiming to follow his brother's footsteps, Chitraansh seems to have gone a step ahead and continue the family dreams of leading the eagle. Of course, the votes weren't all that helpful, but Chitraansh luckily had support from a secret well-wisher. As someone not seen frequently in the limelight, Chitraansh should utilize this opportunity wisely, especially with the high standards set by his predecessors. The Oliphant Board only wishes him success this year and hopes that he will not follow his brother's footsteps in every regard.

Cauvery House Prefect - Krishnam Chawla

When the term started, Mr. Chawla was rarely spotted with his own batchmates. Instead, one could find him in a particular 10thie's room with a glow on his face that didn't seem to come from any of the lights. The school should hope to see him more on the flute, unless of course some teachers disagree. Having returned from a 3 month sabbatical, we only hope that the weight of his aspirations doesn't push him down. The Oliphant Board only wishes to see him on the sports field, despite rather events.



Ganga House Captain - Rohan Tulsyan

Who would have thought that an attempt to match a certain batchmate in squash would lead Rohan here? With impressive achievements to his name, there is no better person to lead Ganga from his batch. While he may be disappointed over his past rewards, he has settled for one tie instead of the other. We hope that more of Nike time is spent in his house rather than on shopping sprees. Nevertheless the Editorial Board wishes him the best, as he repents for the image created over the past year.

Ganga House Prefect - Manik Singh

With his position in the chosen 12 being confirmed days prior to the election, Manik was relatively calm and composed compared to the other prefects here. However, his aspirations for hockey seem to have been put to an abrupt halt due to an uncalled for injury. However, he seems to still have the option of the football season. With the Mile-an-hour undoubtedly being the highlight of his school life so far, The Oliphant Board wishes Manik the very best for his tenure and hopes that unpredictable injuries don't hinder him.





Jamuna House Captain - Aryan Mehrotra

Even though he got the post he wanted initially, Aryan was quite disappointed after the close fight for the Sports Captain. The battle with one of his closest friends ended up being so intense that the sorrow after the elections continued for his batchmates for a day or two. Nevertheless, having one of the strongest fail safes one could have as the house captain (unlike someone else ;), The Oliphant is sure that Nehru, as he is fondly called, will lead his house to a redemption arc that will surely compensate for the golden crest.

Jamuna House Prefect - Virvijai Singh Aswal

It is fair to say that Virvijai's ventures in his juniors' rooms finally paid off for him. Never leaving an opportunity to lay emphasis on his army background, his juniors' support managed to make up for his disinterest in politics. However, Kandhari draws nearer and The Oliphant hopes that Virvijai will be seen on the sports field more than the Shikhar ground floor. Winning the post by a few centimetres (quite literally), we wish him the very best for his tenure as hsp_j and hope that he will finally treat us to a party ;).



Krishna House Captain - Kabeer Shobhit Vaish

There isn't much to say about Kabeer and his post other than they were meant to be. That much was clear much before the elections. Though only the captaincy of his house is clear, we hope Kabeer has a good time living with his brother (though the entire Krishna 12th is likely to inhabit the room). The news of his election reached well beyond the walls of the school to another part of the city, and has got him quite the brownie points. Nevertheless, The Oliphant wishes him strength and luck for the marching season.

Krishna House Prefect - Jaap Sardana

Throughout the past year, Jaap was confident that his green team would surely bring him success, unlike the previous Krishnaite candidates. Even though he had to accept the position he desired the least, our (band) leader is rarely seen leading in any field, succumbing to his predecessor. Jaap has faced tough luck in many situations before, failing to get his desired posts and missed opportunities to excel. Needless to say, with a great team of prefects, and a perfect housemaster by his side, the Editorial Board wishes him great fortune ahead.



Rising Intellegentsia

Ram Mandir: A Political Façade?

The construction of Ram Mandir is currently one of the most debated and controversial topics in Indian politics. From obtaining land rights from the Supreme Court to inviting specific individuals to the inauguration, it has sparked intense discussions and emotions among people from various walks of life. However, while more than 90% of the Indian population, and other Non-resident Indians are celebrating the fruit of their struggles, and their devotion to Hinduism reaching new peaks, some argue that the construction of Ram Mandir is purely a political stunt. A symbol of religious harmony and national pride, it has influenced the life of many of us, and showcased the prowess and development of our nation.

The historical context of Ram Mandir plays a major role in the Ram Mandir dispute, which many opposition members are hinting at. The Babri Masjid-Ram Janmabhoomi dispute dates back to the 16th century when Mughal emperor Babur built a mosque at the site believed to be the birthplace of Lord Ram. This dispute has been a bone of contention between Hindus and Muslims for centuries. The political aspect of this issue gained prominence in the 1980s when the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) launched a campaign for the construction of a Ram temple at the site. While at Welham, consolidation of votes happens on a group-by-group basis, where candidates often target the majority of the population, influenced by devotion to an entity (In this case; their house), this campaign was largely seen as a strategy to consolidate Hindu votes and gain political mileage.

Critics argue that the ruling government, which is associated with the VHP, has used the Ram Mandir issue as a political tool to further its agenda. They claim that the party has exploited religious sentiments for electoral gains. They point to the fact that the demand for the construction of Ram Mandir gained momentum during election campaigns and was often used as a rallying point to garner support from the majority of the Hindu community.

On the other hand, proponents of the Ram Mandir argue that it is a matter of faith and religious sentiment.

They believe that the construction of the temple is a long-standing demand of the Hindu community and should be fulfilled. They argue that the issue is not just about politics, but also about the preservation of cultural heritage and religious freedom. They assert that the construction of Ram Mandir will serve as a symbol of national unity and pride. Another perspective to consider is the legal aspect of the Ram Mandir issue. The Supreme Court of India, in a landmark judgement in 2019, ruled in favour of the construction of a Ram temple at the disputed site. The court acknowledged the historical and religious significance of the site while also taking into account the sentiments of all parties involved. This judgement was widely seen as an attempt to bring closure to the long-standing dispute and promote communal harmony.

In conclusion, the construction of Ram Mandir is undoubtedly a complex and multifaceted issue. It has boosted the country's tourism industry, and as a result the economy. Ultimately, the success of this endeavour lies in fostering harmony and understanding among different communities, rather than perpetuating division and animosity.

-Divij Gupta
X



LITERARY AFFAIRS

THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS

Part 3/7 : LUST

The consequences of indulging with even a single of the seven deadly sins have led to the downfall of many. Yet, these sins continue to plague our society to this date. These seven affairs with each of the seven sins is an effort to help us realise the disastrous conclusions one's life meets after falling victim to the corrupting influence of 'the seven deadly sins'.

Anyone who met him could grasp the essence of his character just by looking at the urge in his eyes and the desperation on his face, especially when he smirked ever so slightly. Those who knew him for a long time however, were well aware of the man he was underneath. Stability for him was like a daisy in a field of dahlias. There wasn't a woman in his workplace who felt safe or comfortable near him, for they despised the way he looked at their bodies with a wide grin on his face, as if the purpose of their existence was the fulfilment of his desires and fantasies. Any woman who caught his lustful gaze became apprehensive of even sitting alone with him in the same room.

As a getaway from this indifference at work, he would quite often visit night clubs, where he believed people were a lot less judgemental. The partner that he would invite home one day wouldn't be the same the next evening. Such was the instability in his lifestyle as he failed to gain control over his arousal. Soon, his reputation found its way to seep into the conversations between people at the clubs which, to his misfortune, led to much unwanted attention. Naturally, he began to meet increasingly more women at clubs, much to his delight, but only time could tell of the horrors that would grab him by the throat to pull him down. His lust was what would lead him from being one of the brightest minds

in the corporate world, to a trap from which he could not escape.

During one of his usual evenings at a nightclub, he was eyeing for a woman to spend the night with. He looked across the bar counter and saw perhaps the prettiest woman he had ever seen, but as is the case with any sinner, his desires got ahead of him and got him into a trap he could not get out of, unlike his corporate ventures. The lady swooped her arm across his face and put a handkerchief to his nose just when he was escorting her to his car in the parking lot. When he regained consciousness, he saw that he had been brought to a warehouse. The same woman who nabbed him in the parking lot stood before him, only this time, her face looked somewhat different. It was then that he knew who she was— the same woman he stared at and touched inappropriately in his office a week ago. Death had come for him, and took him from his corporeal self as the woman removed the chair beneath his feet. In the end it was only death that could quench his desire. Once and for all.

Fellow sinner, the sin of lust has ended this individual's life. This should serve as a lesson to those who let their desires and urges get ahead of them. If you are unable to relate, maybe one of the four remaining sins will help you realise the wrongs in your ways.

**-The Prince of Lust,
Asmodeus**

HUMOUR

EVER WONDER WHY?

- The Edi reported late for camps. (Political, Science extra classes?)
- Aviraj and Krishnam were missing from Science camps? (Too many distractions?)
- Virvijai still has Maths?
- Srinjoy Banerjee has started taking choir practices? (Aspirations much?)
- 10thies are seen with grade 12 books. (syllabus too easy!?)
- Divij Gupta's request for an LOR for Summer School was refused?
- Grade 11 arrived late to the Farewell. (Nothing to bring along??)

Rumour has it

- Rohan Tulsyan loves to have 'cheat' meals.
- Shreyas Shah is not looking forward to MCGSMUN this year.
- The new Prefects have been swimming in troubled waters.
- Aaryansh Agarwal is seen maintaining distance from NU.
- Kelly Sir always takes something when he has to visit a room. (Chiraag Bhargava knows)
- The Locker-checking episode is back. (History shall not repeat itself)

Those Ones

- Reema Ma'am: The fragrance of the answer should always be the same.
- Shreyash Khandelwal: My business runs Mouth-to-Mouth.
- Kunwar Veer to Cauvery House: You guys should study.
- Cauvery 10th to Krishnam Chawla: Do you want to become the Sports Captain?
Krishnam Chawla: Gud Yaarr!!!
- Parth Garg: I have been nominated for the Music Captain.
- Athrv Ahuja & Chiraag Bhargava: We won't design the Innoventure now. (Loyalty over Royalty)

SECTION :I

Separated at Birth

Varanay Khurana	Chitraansh Chaudhary
Phone Calls	Tanveer Singh Sains
Prakhar Lohia	Vivek Gupta
Krishna Aggarwal	Medical Leaves
Arnav Aaditya	Ranvijay (Animal)
Srikant Sir	Terence Fletcher (Whiplash)
Mukul Sir	Borat
Abhiveer Bahadur Singh	Jaap Sardana

WHAT'S IN	WHAT'S OUT
Pranay Singh Dhaka	Rakshit Khurana
..... [Count carefully ;)]	Shashwat Ranjan
Daksh Gupta	Ishaan Motipawale
Going for prep leave on merit	Going for prep leave at will
Kabeer Singh Vaish	Kabeer Shobhit Vaish
Activities Captain	RSP (R.I.P)
Gud Yaarr!!	Pai Gaya Palle!!
Voicenotes	(Breakup) Texts

Through The Keyhole

- Atharva Agarwal: Good morning school, this is your captain speaking (Flight to Singapore taking off).
- Yuvraj Gulati: I am funny. (We agree)
- Aarav Khatri: I want to be Kabir Singh when I grow up.
- Vishrut Khanna: Guys, there's Lavash for dinner (dinner's on me;)
- Shashwat Ranjan: I'm getting nominated anyways, you guys see for yourselves.
- Shuvrojit Deb: I am confident. (What happened to it?)

SNAP OF THE MONTH



Editorial Board

Editor-in-Chief:
Ashaaz Ansari

Senior Editors:
Atharva Agarwal
Jaap Sardana
Tanay Pratap
Divyam Duggal

Editors:
Samarth Agrawal
Divij Gupta
Shreyas Shah

Creative Editors:
Athrv Ahuja
Chiraag Bhargava

Cartoonist:
Harshil Bhatia

Correspondents:
Koustubh Gupta
Ahan Sparsh
Angad Khurana

Teacher-in-Charge:
Mr. Raunaq Datta

IT Team:
Mr. Girish Prasad

Published By: Mrs. Sangeeta Kain, Principal

Welham Boys' School, 5, Circular Road, Dalanwala, Dehradun 248001, Uttarakhand, India

The views in the Magazine are of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Magazine and School. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is strictly prohibited.

Copyright: Oliphant 2024

All Rights Reserved