

NEWS & VIEWS

"Intellectuals can debate. Idiots just argue."

Dear Reader,

Recently, we witnessed an exhilarating performance by the famous Bharatnatyam exponent, Ms. Leela Samson. But what caught the student's attention more than the dancing, was the presence of Mr. Bhavajan. Hardly twenty-five years of age, Mr. Bhavajan's performance was almost as graceful and spell binding as his Guru's. The admiration for him only doubled when the students were told that he was one of the only few male Bharatanatyam dancers left in the country.

Approximately ten years ago, professional male classical dancers were not much of a novelty as dancing was not considered an appropriate profession for the 'sons'. Today, we talk a lot of the stigmas that are attached to the females of this world but almost always ignore the stigmas that bind the male population. We firmly believe that 'for girls, becoming a woman is an inevitability; for boys, becoming a man is an ambition'-an ambition that society imposes upon them.

It is undisputable that Welhamites must feel privileged for studying in an institution that has facilitated in helping them break free of these stigmas for the past sixty years. Half a century ago, there was a stigma attached to women's education and Welham broke through that. Not only was that the School's biggest achievement, but it also started what can be called call a 'winning streak' that continues to this day.

But victories cannot overshadow the myriad challenges that we need to face in the present society. There have always been and are opinions to express and battles to fight. Stigmas NEED to be shattered, because there is a reason why they are not categorized as 'customs'.

In this issue of the News & Views, we have all the regular features with numerous articles expressing the writers' opinions on North Korea, the recent Cambridge Analytica scandal and a letter from Popularity to Population. There is an analysis on the works of Gabriel Garcia Marquez and a spread on articles by the junior scholars revealing their ability to break through existing stigmas that may strain their lives.

Ladies (& Gentlemen), with this issue of the NV, we urge you to continue with your contest, for when the 'Earth' is your battleground and 'Stigmas' your foes there is no other way.

Regards,

Madhul Sharma & Nitya Jain.

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A Magical Reality

When someone mentions magic and reality, it is natural to imagine them as events which hold no resemblance to one another. Often literature also segregates these themes yet there exists one form of literature which weaves these themes together and it is magic realism.

Magical realism refers to a literary style which incorporates fantastic or magical elements into an otherwise realistic fiction. It explains supernatural events with the same level of normalcy as other realistic occurrences. It is not the same as fantasy because it is set against the backdrop of the real world whereas fantasy literature tends to have an unrealistic setting. It should not be confused with surrealism as surrealism has a lot to do with the power of imagination while the fantasy in magical realism seems very convincing and relatable.

It is often mistaken as the peculiar feature of all Latin American literature. This writing style has been adopted by many Latin American writers including Gabriel Garcia Marquez and Isabel Allende. The term Magical realism was first applied by Cuban novelist Alejo Carpentier who recognized this characteristic in most Latin American literature.

Gabriel Garcia Marquez's style comprises detailed descriptions which are otherwise invisible to the untrained eye. His descriptions lend a magical and supernatural feel to the text while considering the real the situation. His stories are woven around the themes of solitude, which he explores in his book 'Love in the Time of Cholera'; violence which is a common element in his novels like 'Chronicle of a Death Foretold' and 'Leaf Storm'; and the common setting for most of his stories, Macondo, where he strives to capture the general myth than focus on the specific political analysis. Macondo is also the setting of his book 'One Hundred Years of Solitude'.

Though understanding the concept of a reality where magic is considered a natural occurrence is absurd, these stories are extremely detailed in a way that is quite refreshing and a treat to read. To put it in Salman Rushdie's words, "When people use the term magical realism, usually they only mean magic and they don't hear realism, whereas the way in which magical realism actually works is for the magic to be rooted in the real."

-Sulagna Tripathi

Class 11

Roses



A single fresh and dewy white rose to all new Welhamites and teachers. Welcome to Welham!



Gardens full of beautiful, vibrant roses to all the people involved in the organization of the Commemorative Week.



A bouquet of freshly hand-picked roses to the newly appointed Vice-Captains. We wish you a fruitful tenure!



Vases full of fragrant roses to Mr. Parmar for coming back. We missed your presence on campus!



Baskets overflowing with freshly-scented, hand-picked rouge roses to all the Commemorative Week participants. May the best team win!

Raspberries



Cartons full of foul smelling, fungus-infested raspberries to the concerned authorities for 'smell-free' socks.



Truckloads full of rotten raspberries to the authorities for delaying the announcement of Vice-Captains.



Swimming pools full of maggot-infested raspberries to whoever decided to start early morning swimming workouts.









A truckload of the most putrid raspberries fresh from the sewer to the school authorities for making us climb ninety-six steps up and down everyday.



Baskets filled with mashed, rotten raspberries to the monkeys for running away with our fruit during 'juice' break. Eat that!

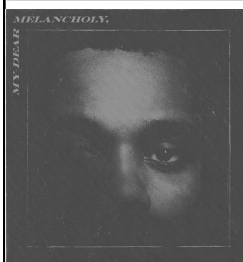
Compiled by– Rishika Singh

-  In retaliation to the Syrian government's apparent chemical attack on civilians, US President Donald Trump along with U.K. and France, launched missiles at Syria and tweeted 'Mission Accomplished' once the bombing was over. The Russian Federation strongly condemned the act.
-  A twelve feet long minaret at the entry gate of the Taj Mahal, known as Darwaza-e-Rauza, collapsed as high speed winds and heavy rain lashed Agra on the evening of the 11th of April.
-  In his hearing at the Capitol Bill to provide answers regarding the revelation of personal information of 87 million to consultancy firm Cambridge Analytica, Facebook CEO, Mark Zuckerberg was grilled about user privacy, data collection and Facebook's business model.
-  Longest reigning British monarch, Queen Elizabeth called US President Donald Trump a 'noisy helicopter' in an interview with famed British filmmaker Sir David Attenborough.
-  Kidambi Srikanth became India's first male badminton player to be placed on top of the world rankings as he replaced Denmark's Viktor Axelsen to become World No. 1.
-  Algeria witnessed its deadliest plane crash since 2014 when a military plane crashed shortly after taking off from the Boufarik air base, between Algiers and the city of Blida in its capital. 257 deaths were reported.

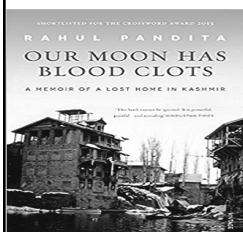
Of The Weeks



Song of the Week: Mine by Bazzi- Though the song debuted in October, 2017, it has gained momentum and is currently one of the most popular songs in the country. As one of 2018's breakout stars, Bazzi has set about taking over the world with his infectious brand of pop music.



Album of the Week: My Dear Melancholy, by The Weeknd- The album debuted in March 2018 and has been an instant success. Famous singles from the album are Call Out My Name, Wasted Times and Privilege.



Book of the Week: Our Moon Has Blood Clots by Rahul Pandita- The book covers the ethnic cleansing of roughly 350,000 Kashmiri Pandits from the Kashmir valley in 1989-90. As you might have guessed from his name, the author is a Kashmiri Pandit.

Teacher of the Week: Mrs. Rita Vasudev for serving us delicious tandoori momos! (and the Canteens of course)

JUNIOR Lambolee

Simply Scribbles

Doodling – everyone does it. Whether it's in the margins of a class assignment or at the back of a textbook, we all get carried away with our daydreams once in a while, and just scribble.

But are doodles really just scribbles? We draw them subconsciously, while thinking of other matters, so on some level they represent what worries us, our thought processes. Psychologists have come up with a rough sketch on how to interpret what bugs our mind through your doodles, some things obvious (if you're drawing hearts everywhere, it's likely you're thinking of romance), and some quite surprising (who knew doodling squares means you're a control freak?).

Other than allowing us to understand our personality better, doodles also are a perfect way to enhance our creativity, bringing out ideas you never thought we could come upon. It's a sort of medium for our subconscious mind to communicate with us, letting us know ourselves a little better. In fact, companies like Dell actually look for employees who doodle, as it indicates better problem solving skills. Making art also reduces stress and activates your brain's reward centre, the prefrontal cortex, which is also activated by the actions of eating chocolate, laughing or dancing.

So the next time your teacher scolds you for scribbling in the margins of your school project, just quote this article – after all, doodles aren't simply scribbles!

Manasvi Jagwayan
Class 8

Disney's Dirty Secret

If you ask people if they have watched Disney movies - the answer will be yes. All of us have seen at least one Disney movie as a kid, and admit it, most of us still do. Disney is known for its classic princesses stories and has built an empire on fiction and fairy tales. These stories are famous for their romantic endings, with the prince always ending up with the princess, the villain always getting defeated, and of course, the clichéd 'Happily Ever After'.

However, the original stories are quite different. In fact, some of them are downright tragic.

In the old version of 'The Little Mermaid', the prince never truly finds out Ariel's origins. He never even marries her! In the original story, Ariel successfully exchanges her voice for legs but she doesn't get used to the ache in her legs fast enough, also having agreed to a time limit of three days to woo the prince. Crippled and dumb, Ariel can do nothing but watch wistfully as the prince gets married to some other woman. And then, as was part of the deal, on the third day she is turned into sea foam. Today, people generally think of Ariel as an example of following your true heart's desire, but back then, she was probably just a way to tell children 'Don't do foolish things in love; don't disobey your parents.' Bit of a killjoy, isn't it?

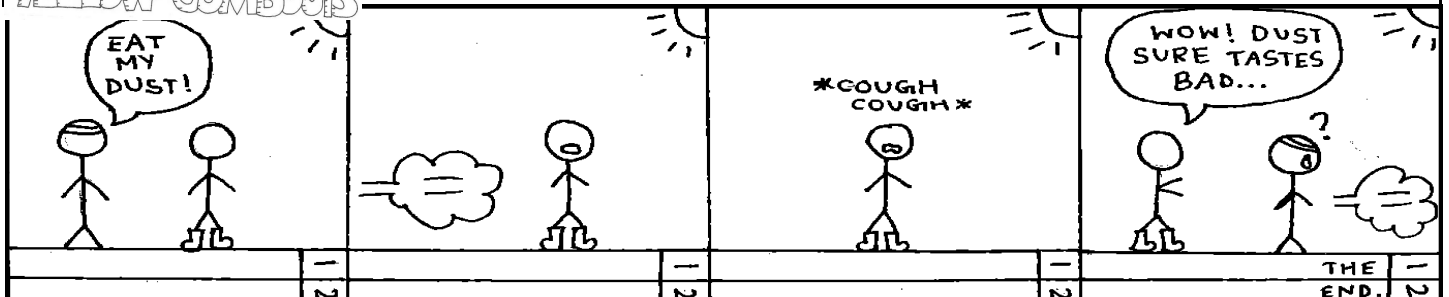


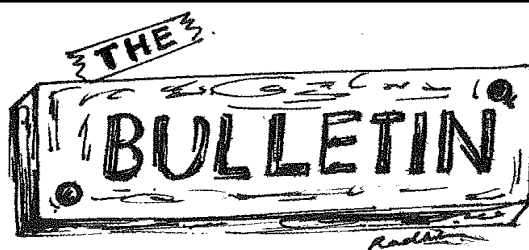
Now, to ruin your childhood even more, I'll tell you the gruesome, true story of Cinderella. The evil stepmother in this version was even more cruel and greedy than in the Disney adaptation, going as far as ordering her own daughters to cut off their toes, just because the glass slipper wasn't fitting. Either Cinderella's shoes were microscopic or Anastasia and Drisella had elephantine feet, because the shoe still didn't fit. Cinderella did marry her Prince Charming in the end, but that's not the end of it! Apparently, Miss 'Have Courage And Be Kind' was not really bursting with goodness. When she ascended the throne, the stepmother was banished from the kingdom and the stepsisters were blinded as punishment – their eyes were literally pecked out by the pigeons! Gory, but at least it was creative.

To those of us who wanted to be princesses as children, well; let's just be glad it didn't come true.

-Vidushi Mohan
Class 8

YELLOW GUMBOOTS





7th-8th April: 13 teams participated at the regional round of the World Scholar's Cup held at Unison World School. All the teams qualified for the Global Round to be held in Kuala Lumpur this June .

11th -13th April: The Chess team participated in a workshop under Mr. Amit Sharma at The Doon School. It was an enriching session during which the players learnt various new techniques.

11th-15th April: A four day Bharatanatyam workshop by Padma Shri Leela Samson was held in school. The students also witnessed a spectacular performance by Ms. Samson and her disciples on 13th April, 2018.

12th-16th April: Two teams of eleven girls each participated in a Hockey Tournament at St. Agnes School. The girls qualified for the final round.

12th-13th April: A team of four girls- Hansika Nath, Mrigya Kumar and Eshanya Agarwal and Aditi Singh participated in the Junior English Debate Invitational Tournament held at The Doon School.

13th April: A workshop on Table Manners and Etiquettes was held for the Pre SC class to educate them on the conduct to be followed during meals.

The News & Views would like to congratulate Guneev Sachdeva for qualifying for the National Round of the Young Chef Competition hosted by the Indian Institute of Hotel Management. She was one of the two North Indians selected from the zone. All the best for the results!

The Mortal Eternity

People think I have a thousand friends,
How many of them will last till the end?
How many will worry when I cry?
How many will never say goodbye?
Amidst the chaos, I feel alone
Out of place and lonely in every bone
They say they love me, they say they care
But I think I know they won't be there
When solitude gets the best of me.
All friendships for namesake become history,
Where do I stand? What is my position?
I don't want to be a pile of imposition.
Hugs and kisses shared, seven hundred contacts
10 years down the line, how many will stay intact?
You cry on my shoulder for every sorrow
But who do I rely on, for my thunderous tomorrows?
Do you promise to be there through thick and thin
When cold sweats of fear take over my skin?
We tag ourselves as friends forever yet
It takes no more than a moment for these ties to sever.
Will you hold my hand when I go astray?
Will you cry on the coffin in which I lie?

-Anjali Agarwal
Class 9

WHAT'S IN

WHAT'S OUT

☛ SAS	☛ MCGSMUN
☛ Random tests	☛ Test Weeks
☛ Tang	☛ Tea
☛ Flappy birds	☛ Hoopoes
☛ 4-hour sleep	☛ Beauty naps
☛ Music & Dance	☛ Singing & dancing
☛ Treks	☛ Socials
☛ Freaky Friday	☛ God's Plan
☛ JEDI	☛ Darth Vader
☛ Summer Tracksuits	☛ Fleece Jackets
☛ Parliamentary style	☛ Oxford style

The News & Views would like to congratulate the Delphic and its Editorial Board for an amazing March issue. Kudos!



From Popularity To Population

Dear Population,

I earnestly hope that this letter finds you in the pink of health, well as pink as you can be with all the negativity projected towards your growth.

I urge you to not take the criticisms that are thrown your way to heart for it is an indispensable part of human psychology to accuse everything and everyone around them for the circumstances that are consequences of their own actions. Lower mortality rates, better immunization programmes and superior health care facilities are all conditions that they have created for themselves yet Population Explosion, a natural consequence of these actions, is lambasted.

Well Sir, this letter has not been written to censure growth but to congratulate you on your success and to express my immense gratitude to you. We share a deeply rooted bond that is directly proportional: you grow, I grow. The more you expand the higher is the number of people that I have under my control; especially in this day and age, when due to your expansion there are 7.6 billion minds working to connect the world together, thus paving a path for me to expand my boundaries. Thanks to you, I now control almost every aspect of the 7.6 billion individuals' lives: from what one eats and drinks to what one watches and wears as opposed to the 2 billion people I had under my influence not even a hundred years ago.

However, taking into consideration the limited resources of the earth, I would not mind if you slowed down your pace *a little*. Just a thought...!







I end my letter reiterating my gratitude to you.

Yours gratefully,

Popularity

-Anmol Kejriwal
Class 11

SPOTTED

-  A letter and a thousand chocolates for a certain Editor-in-Chief.
-  Richi Singh spending hours in the Computer Lab for 'research' purposes.
-  Mrs. Ojha in the Pre-SC Political Science class. (?)
-  Chutney in the curd.
-  Shubhika and Vidushi sitting clueless through all Ed-Board meetings.
-  Not Spotted: Nandini Gupta sauntering around campus.
-  Not Spotted pt. 2: Anmol Kejriwal using her brain.



Aishani— Guys, Pinehills is in which country?
Himachal Pradeshistan?



Nitya: The petrol in the diesel is over.



Nitya: The Middle-East is in Europe.



Nitya: What colour does a smurf turn when you choke it?
Stuti Rai has been dethroned.



Avantika: My headache is hurting.
Deadly.



Anmol: On Christmas, I do Pooja in the Church.
Voice of secular India.



Samiksha: What about the Puma *wala* lion?
Rishika: That's like saying *ishq wala* love.
Enough said.



BIRD BRAIN



THE POWER OF THE PRINTED WORD

“The printing press is the greatest weapon in the armory of the modern commander.” -T.E Lawrence

In the 1440s, It was the German goldsmith Johannes Gutenberg who invented the printing press .Earlier European texts were usually printed using a common method known as xylography which was a form of woodblock printing. Owing to Gutenberg s efforts there was a steady transition from xylography to typography. After having invented this movable type of printing press, Gutenberg decided to produce 180 copies of the bible which commonly known as the Gutenberg bible is one of the most valuable books in the world.

This invention led to printing shops being opened in and around Europe and this is where began the journey of what we call “literature written in the form of books.”

In fact the power of the printed word is also revealed in recent times, since great progress has been made to allow the mapping of the development of the book trade. This involves tracking down and cataloguing all those books from the 14th century that still survive and are housed in libraries across the world. Very few records of this early book trade exist. But these sturdy books, printed on cloth paper, have outlived most other artifacts of their era. Each reveal a story of their own through decoration, stamps, annotations, bindings, prices etc. So each book tells its tale through the history it carries within its pages.

However, today a number of bookshops on the edges of towns are slowly disappearing making us wonder whether the printed pages will hold more of an artisanal or aesthetical value in the near future. Along with censorship and fear of harsh criticism there are very few who are able to speak their minds. Today Pseudonyms are considered better than real names much like the female poets during the Victorian Era.

Regardless of the technological advancements sweeping the land and with only very few who understand the strength and influence of the printed word, it must always be remembered that writers hold the greatest power in their hands for words have the potential to change thought processes and turn a solitary act into a shared vision.

-Sairaa Bains

Class 11

‘This Is Your Digital Life’

What would you do if your personal data- your likes, dislikes, date of birth, public profile, city of residence etc- were shared with a political consulting firm that combined data mining, brokerage and analysis for strategic communication to bring another Donald Trump to power? Well, you’ll probably be livid. Newsflash- if you’re one of the unlucky 87 million of 2 billion Facebook users, you’re probably facing this very dilemma right this minute.

Breach of privacy is not uncommon on social networking sites, though Facebook seems to take the prize for maximum violation. Cambridge Analytica, the political firm that Mark Zuckerberg signed an agreement with, is said to have accessed more data than agreed upon in the contract signed between the two companies, yet the blame seems to fall up- on Zuckerberg for allowing such use in the first place, especially without user permission. Also, his honest, though gall- ing, statement that he “doesn’t know” how many other companies may also be playing Analytica’s game, can also be attributed to the sudden surge of mistrust towards the hitherto respected CEO.

Zuckerberg defended Facebook as a “positive force in the world” in his Congress addressal, also admitting to the “big mistake” he made as a CEO by not taking seriously the social network’s great responsibility to its users.

Though Zuckerberg has promised sweeping reforms such as preventing other companies from accessing Facebook users’ data without informing them, removing developers’ access to data if the user has not used the app in three months, reducing the data given to an app to a user’s name, profile photo and email address- we cannot put aside the fact that in light of these events, privacy is slowly turning into an “illusion” as described by Erin Quinn, an Australian victim of the scandal. The truth is that on the internet-data given is data gone.

-Tanisha Tekriwal

Class 12





These questions have been chosen from amongst the others that were dropped into a box which was placed at the Ghanta Ghar.

Q: Why is an electrical outlet called an outlet when you plug things into it? Shouldn't it be called an inlet?

Dear Morocco-turned-Einstein,*

You, my dear, come across as someone who is rather deceived by appearances. Instead of concentrating on the nomenclature of holes that donate electricity, I would rather you focus on this jam-packed term loaded with back-to-back events.

As for your answer- just like your brain provides an outlet for stupidity the same way these electrical outlets provide a passage for the movement of electrons.

For further queries please consult Mr. Parmar but do not pester the physics department too much or you will experience a homely abode within the hole itself: to put it simple, the physics department is generous with their shock-giving machine. After all no one is as patient as your dear Aunt.

**Morocco refers to the first suitor of Portia in The Merchant Of Venice.*

Q:How come you press harder on a remote control when you know the battery is dead?

Dear Too-smart-for-your-own-good,

First of all, I would like to extend my heartiest congratulations to you for your keen observation! Very few are able to attain such a spectacular level of focus.

People resort to all kinds of questionable and frenzied actions in their moments of despair, my dear. Perhaps those who cannot deal with a dysfunctional battery press harder on the remote in the hope of its revival. I hope you have no such proclivities?

My advice to you, however, is to make use of your observation skills in more productive activities so that your busy Aunt isn't burdened with too many trivial and ineffectual queries.

Yours truly,

Aunt Agatha.

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