



*"There is no exquisite beauty without some strangeness in proportion" - Edgar Allan Poe*

Dear Reader,

In most Indian families, including ours, conversations over meals revolve around politics. Every day, family members turn into aggressive commentators on policies that are as distant to them as the Sun. Luckily, the theatrics do manage to keep the children awake, and consequently we grow up feeling more familiar with senior statesmen and the Indian Penal Code than our neighbours and lunch timings. Indian have an affinity for political commentary unlike any other, thus making politics the brunt of most jokes, articles, books and art forms.

Thus, the real question is: why politics? Of course, the simple answer would be because the trivialisation of political activities is undoubtedly hilarious. However, the real reason why we think politics is so popular among creative artists is its universality. All of us have to deal with pre-election promises and postelection frauds; with voting for the lesser evil and choosing representatives for ourselves, but most importantly, grow up to criticise the government at the dinner table in front of our children and thus make *extremely* significant contributions to the nation.

However, we cannot forget that eventually politics is a make or break question. Let's take ourselves back to the times of dictators. It all started with a democratic process but resulted in totalitarianism and serious civil and human rights violations. One might point out that the probability of these things happening are just about three in hundred, yet, that is probably exactly what the people who voted thought too. So what is the common woman to do after all?

While it is impossible to come up with a singular, generic answer to such a question, we can always keep in mind a simple concept: a leader is a leader only because there is a proletariat to lead. The minute we, as individuals, learn to recognise (with an objective mind) that there is a fault in the leader, we can simply stop supporting her/him. With the rising right-wing movement all across the world, it is essential that we see the importance of not waiting for things to get from bad to worse, for nothing that troubles us is a trivial matter.

In our years at Welham, we have developed the mettle to make a place for ourselves in this world and to stand up for ourselves and the people we love. Having seen the quality of life at Welham, we fear that life will not be as easy outside as it has been inside. Yet, that's all the more reason that our goal here on becomes living up to the title of a Welhamite. We can only hope to come back to school someday and make you proud to be associated with this legacy.

In this issue, we have tried to strike a balance between the politics and the nostalgia that have hit us at this point in time.

For the last time, happy reading!

**Madhul and Nitya**

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## School Captain's Address:

### The Malady of Certainty

At this time of the year, I can't help but ponder over all the minute things that have successfully made a considerable change in my life. It has been exactly a year since Investiture, but it seems as if Time has been unrelenting and forgiving all at once.

For all those who joined school in 2011, we have successfully braved our eighth winter in school. Adolescence here was a battle of sorts: battling our fears, owning our faults and learning from friendships. The certainty of leaving by March 2019 is starting to seem daunting now; I'm filled with dread at the notion of facing the 'big bad world' outside. The celebration of mediocrity is soon going to surround us, but till then retrospection will flood us with memories that will be cherished forever.

There are certain things which are impossible to envision before they actually happen- the same way, I still haven't been able to imagine the day I leave Welham behind permanently.

It is natural to be dissatisfied because of all the aspirations that remain unfulfilled. Nonetheless, you'll hopefully shun such thoughts in parting; a parting that would be made special by the bonds we have shared, the tears we have shed and the secrets we have kept (and will continue to).

I'd always associate the following lines by *Julian Barnes* from *The Sense of an Ending* with my life here at Welham and I'm certain you'll find pieces of your own insecurities in this:

"We thought we were being mature when we were only being safe. We imagined we were being responsible but we were only being cowardly. What we called realism turned out to be a way of avoiding things rather than facing them. Give us enough time and our best-supported decisions will seem wobbly, our certainties whimsical."

This address may sound overtly philosophical but the last eight years have left me confounded about the way we perceive people and things. In the past, you may have been perceived to be individuals you are not and it is natural to feel the need to abide by such impressions, but I encourage you all to ascertain your identities and stand your ground for all that may come your way.

Dear Welhamites,

I wish you all the best in anticipation of your future endeavours. I hope you can dive into this abyss with all your courage and emerge as people who will make positive changes in their own small ways. The magnitude of our time here together will only become apparent many years later, but remember to traverse the path on which few have dared to even set out. *Accept the void* and become it, if necessary.

Signing off,

**Aalekh Dhaliwal**

### *The N&V Board's secrets to keep from the brutal weather*

- ① Show some enthusiasm during assembly (for a change) and clap as hard as you can in order to generate heat.
- ② BE YOUR OWN CHIPOTLE: Become a burrito in your blanket.
- ③ Hunt for spots of sunshine around campus and stay grounded. (pun absolutely intended)
- ④ Let's get pom-pom caps back in vogue.
- ⑤ Get into trouble so you can sit in a room with a heater. (Just kidding!)
- ⑥ Do the 100 layers of clothing challenge.

## Democracy is a Dictatorship of the Majority

### FOR

*"Democracy will not function if an individual or minority views and rights are given full voice. Democracy dictates that the majority view will be sovereign in all circumstances."*

The notion 'Tyranny of the Majority' was first coined by the nineteenth century political theorists Alexis De Tocqueville and John Stuart Mill. It is a case in which the majority enforces its will on the minority through democratic processes. Democracy is characterised by the principle that the minority must accept a decision taken by the majority in the processes involved in making political decisions. In a dictatorship, a single man's orders are followed and all other opposition is crushed. Similar is the case with a democracy where not one man's but a majority of men's decision tramples over the interest of the minority groups. Hence, it is justified to call a democracy 'the dictatorship of the majority'. The most obvious victims of this tyranny are the approximately 3.3 million European Union citizens who live in the United Kingdom and most of whom were not allowed to vote on the United Kingdom European Union Referendum. 1.8 million people of Northern Ireland voted to remain a part of the Union but since they barely represent 1.5% of the population, they fell prey to the tyranny of the majority. One of the original concerns about democracy was that the majority might overlook the minority but that is precisely what happened. The minority's rights were again over ruled by the majority's interests when the BJP-ruled state of Maharashtra banned the slaughter of cows, as well as the sale and possession of beef. Kiren Rijiju explained shortly after: "If Maharashtra has a Hindu majority and if they are to make laws conducive to the Hindu faith, let them be."

The reason why tyranny of the majority will always exist in a democracy is because even if the government makes it necessary for important kinds of legislation to have a super majority to be passed, there will still remain that minority which will have to agree with the majority's decision.

Some people like to believe that democracy means Majority's rule and Minority's right and hence, the minorities have a voice. These people seem to be completely oblivious to the fact that the minority's rights can never grant them the right to rule.

**Manaal Mirza**  
**Class 11**

### AGAINST

*"In a democracy, you believe it or not. In a dictatorship, you believe it or else."*

Throughout the history of the political life in human societies, from ancient times until the present day, it would be hard to find a richer, but also more vaguely defined term than democracy. It is generally accepted that democracy is an expression of the content, form and principles of governing by the principle that the minority must accept a decision of the majority. But in every genuine democracy today, majority rule is limited by the supreme law of the constitution. Tyranny by minority over the majority is not practised, but neither is tyranny of the majority against minorities. C.S Lewis said that, "Of all tyrannies, a tyranny sincerely exercised for the good of its victims may be the most oppressive."

Minorities, by virtue of their religion, ethnic background, geographic location, income level or as the 'losers' in elections - are guaranteed basic human rights that no government or majority can remove. In case of a dictatorship of the majority, an individual belonging to a minority group would have no rights as all would be under the control of the majority. However, in a democracy, every individual's rights are protected irrespective of the fact that the individual might belong to a minority group. With the help of these rights, minorities can contribute to the country's democratic institutions. Now let's consider the case of capital punishment in our country; if democracy would have been a dictatorship of the majority, death penalty would have been granted on the majority's will but that clearly isn't the case. It is in the hands of the judiciary and the president who weigh the severity of the crime and dole out punishments to the accused.

On the surface, the principles of majority rule and the protection of individual and minority rights would seem contradictory. In fact, however, these principles are twin pillars holding up the foundation of a democratic government. If we desire a society without discrimination, then we must not discriminate against anyone in the process of building this society. If we desire a society that is democratic, then democracy must become a means as well as an end. Gandhi once said, "I understand democracy as something that gives the weak the same chance as the strong."

**Vaanya Singh**  
**Class 11**



## An Interview with Akshit Batra

*Akshit Batra is the founder and CEO of 'I Can', an organization that conducts real life simulation workshops based on the political, social and corporate scenarios for students all across the country.*

### **Q. What inspired you to start 'I Can'?**

Being a member of the founding team for the DSMUN at school, I have loved the concept of simulation, but realized there were a few limitations to it. I thought that we could make it more comprehensive and relevant for the students. So, I planned 'I Can' while I was in college and launched it with the help of my teammates soon after leaving.

### **Q. What was the biggest challenge that you faced while setting it up?**

We have faced a whole lot of challenges, but the greatest was to get the right people. Even though many people wish to work with us, everyone is not exactly what we need. On one hand, we want really brilliant people coming in, but when many such people come together, a clash of egos ensues. To get a great team on paper and to make them work together as a team in reality, are two very different things.

### **Q. What advice would you give to students who plan to pursue an Indian Undergraduate Programme?**

If you are in India, you must take responsibility for yourself. Your professors and parents cannot take the onus for you—everything depends on you. You have to develop your personality and take need to go beyond the classroom and find good education for yourself. Right now, you just have to wake up and reach school for good education. However, in college you will need to hunt for the right things, spend extra time on building yourself and invest time, effort, and money to get a good education. You may even need to be aggressive for self-enhancement and connect with the right people. Don't waste time in the mediocre undergraduate 'rut'.

### **Q. What is your advice to future entrepreneurs?**

I would give one advice: there are always a hundred reasons for your venture to fail but one reason for it to succeed, and that is only if you do not give up and learn to have faith in yourself. Numerous problems will come your way but only your determination will take you through. Speaking from personal experience, I have learnt that there will always be forces working against you, but you must not allow them to pull you down. Moreover, fifty years from now you might not wish to have any regrets over not giving that one last push.

### **Q. What do you try to achieve through every conference?**

We hope to achieve exponential growth in all spheres of the conference. Our aim is to make this an unforgettable experience which stays with all the students for a lifetime. We wish to create a major impact on the minds of children which will further help build a better society and world altogether.

### **Mystery Solved:**

**You said that you are a 'stand-up comedian' but how do you live up to this claim in other schools?**

(Laughs) Well, I usually poke fun at South Delhi people in most Delhi schools. I also think that there is something about everyone to make jokes about.



## When Grown Ups Fight

*On how the inability of the US Government to agree on a deal regarding the wall has led to the virtual 'shutdown' of the country.*

Usually people end up building walls due to grudges and arguments (i.e. Berlin Wall), but now, for the first time, the world has witnessed a peculiar case where a wall has led to serious antipathies.

Donald Trump has been advocating, the now infamous, wall since 2016. However, after being unable to convince the Senate to grant him the funds Trump's administration enacted a partial government shutdown at midnight on December 22, 2018.



This shutdown led to the closing down of numerous sectors of the American Administration: financing for about a quarter of federal programmes – including the departments of State, Justice, Agriculture and Transportation—had expired and would not be renewed until a deal was finalized between the Government and the Opposition; the deal where Trump gets a grant of 5.7 billion dollars for the construction of the wall.

More than 420,000 'essential' federal employees worked without wages till the time the dispute is resolved. Moreover, 380,000 employees were 'furloughed', meaning they were put on temporary leave. The 380,000 furloughed employees included nearly all of NASA and Housing and Urban Development and 41,000 from the Commerce Department. However, the agencies which were working were also facing problems: more than 10% of the TSA employees had started to call in sick and the rates were steadily increasing. One of the biggest reasons for this is that many employees, who rely on cheque-to-cheque payments for their livelihood, resorted to taking other jobs in order to make ends meet.

This was the longest shutdown the United States has ever faced, the brunt of which has been borne by the civilians. One group of people who were most affected by the shutdown were the homeless as the shutdown has directly affected Non-Profit Organisations. Low-income workers were plagued by worry about their rent as the Department of Housing and Urban Development, which was closed, could not make payments to landlords. Additionally, masses of contractors were out of work and, unlike federal employees working without pay, they have no hopes of recovering the missed salaries.

In spite of the Government having temporarily re-opened for three weeks, Trump still refuses to budge from his rigid stance. He has categorically stated that if he is not given the allowance for the wall, he will shut the Government again. This serves to illustrate how he is willing to harm more than a million people in order to satisfy his whims and fancies.

Incidentally, the 35 day shutdown incurred a loss of 6 billion dollars to the state coffers.

Moreover, with the shutdown looming in the American political scenario, the chances of Trump being re-elected in 2020 are considerably reduced as the stalemate only serves to highlight Trump's obstinate nature and his inability to handle politics in a mature way. Keeping in mind the current predicament, one thing becomes clear: As one US government Official said to Trump, "If [he] want[s] to open the government, [he] must abandon the wall." For, if he continues to 'sit' adamantly on 'the wall' then the administration should certainly expect 'a great fall.'

**Anmol Kejriwal**  
**Class 11**



### Rise Or Raze

The idea of immortality has intrigued us, humans ever since our existence. From trying to find the Philosopher's Stone, to transplanting organs, there is no stone that humans have left unturned to attain their desire to avoid death. Now, in 2018, researchers have finally been able to find a cure for 'death', which is expected to be formalized completely by 2050. The only problem, it seems is the possibility that it might do the exact opposite.

Nowadays, newspapers are full of news about disasters like famine, droughts, scarcity and even the extinction of several species. The reason for all this is overpopulation of humans. Now with the already accelerating numbers of Homo-sapiens, if we were to erase their death altogether, then it's obvious that our resources will be quickly depleted. Moreover, only elites might be able to afford such treatments which might include cyborgism or living in virtual worlds. The underprivileged will only be tormented with the lack of resources and a heavy increase in the prices of the remaining resources since only the affluent will be able to bear the cost. Moreover, this technology might eventually result in an early death for the entire humanity or perhaps may even lead to an apocalypse.

Thus, today I leave you with a question: by discovering these new methods, are we really augmenting the probability of having increased lifespans, or are we inviting early death?

**Shubhika Khanna and Vidushi Mohan**

**Class 8**

### Life In Welham

What is to be said about this magical place,  
Where each day is filled with merry doings,  
Stupid jokes and little fights  
Cribbing over wrongs and rights.

When you come here for the first time,  
It's not as sweet and simple as fresh lime.

It's a new journey, a new start,  
Don't worry, just live everyday part by part.

When you finally are happy,  
You'll have fights, you'll cry  
But it'll all be a part of it,  
Maybe your face will be wet with tears but  
Your heart will remain dry.

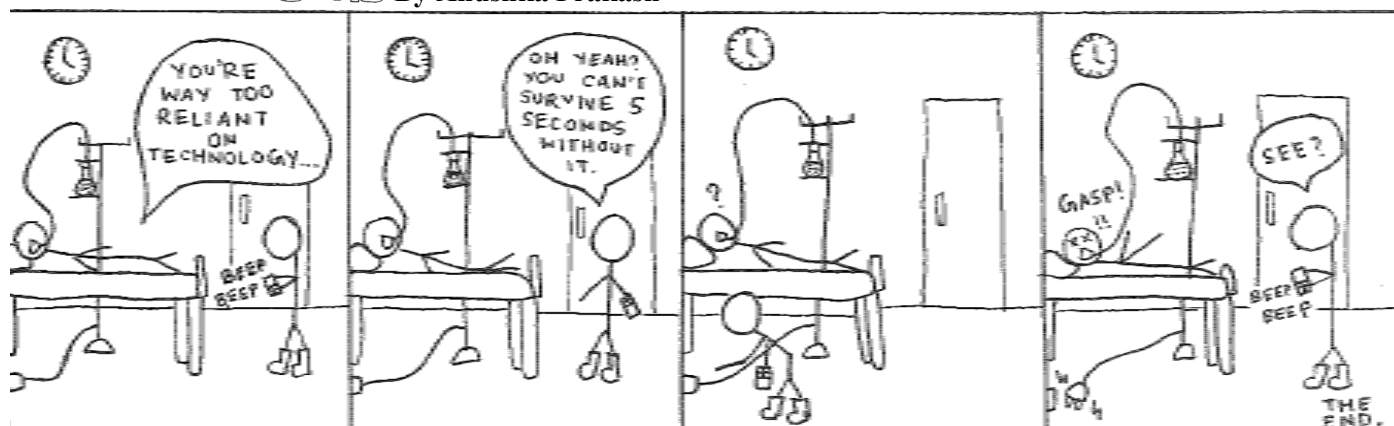
Dry with love and not wet with hate,  
Live to the fullest before it's too late  
Because one day you'll realize,  
You had already spent the best years

Of your life in Welham,  
Laughing and crying,  
Living and dying.

**Avika Lohia**

**Class 7**

### YELLOW GUMBOOTS By Anushka Prakash



## History of Brexit

The United Kingdom has a long and complicated history with the European Union which resulted in the 'Brexit' vote in the House of Commons on 15th January, 2019. This proved disastrous for Theresa May, the current Prime Minister of the UK as 202 officials voted in favour of the proposed Brexit deal and a whopping majority of 432 rejected it.

Amidst all this chaos, one wonders, "How did this idea of Brexit originate?" Many attribute this concept



to Dominic Cummings, a British political advisor and strategist, who was the campaign director of 'Vote Leave', the official campaign for leaving the European Union in the United Kingdom European Union membership referendum, 2016. While this is true, Brexit is not an entirely new concept.

The European Economic Committee (EEC) was formed in 1957 to encourage economic cooperation among the European nations after the Second World War. The UK became its member in 1973. Two years after joining the EEC, the UK held a referendum on the question of whether the UK should stay in the European Community (Common Market). A

majority of 67 percent voted in favour of staying.

In 1984, the EEC-UK relationship became extremely strained. Margaret Thatcher, the then British PM, pushed for reduction in British payments to the EEC since the UK—although it was the third poorest nation in the EEC—was contributing more than many of the other nations because of its lack of farms as compared to those countries. The rebate negotiated by Thatcher still stands to this day.

The following decade didn't look quite promising for the country as the pound was forced to withdraw from the Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM) due to a huge collapse in its value which went beyond the lower limit set by the ERM. This decision almost pushed the ERM over the edge and the EEC was compelled to hold crisis talks to keep the system from falling apart. This tumultuous time was followed by the Maastricht Treaty in 1993 which led to the formation of the European Union. The EEC was integrated into the EU as the Economic Committee.

A few years later, the Tony Blair government, which was Pro-EU, worked towards rebuilding ties with the rest of Europe. This was made difficult by the outbreak of the 'mad cow' disease, which resulted in a ban on British beef in the EU till 1999.

David Cameron became the first British PM to veto an EU treaty for the financial security of the nation in 2011. He also promised that if the Conservatives came to power in the future, they would conduct a referendum on whether the UK should stay in the Union. Those in favour of leaving the EU won the referendum by a slim majority of 51.9 percent.

On March 29, 2017 Theresa May signed the order invoking Article 50, which states that the country will have to leave the EU within two years of signing the order, and putting Brexit in motion. The UK is now supposed to leave the EU by 29 March, 2019.

**Sulagna Tripathi**  
**Class 11**

### WHAT'S IN

### WHAT'S OUT

☛ Koffee With Karan

☛ Pizza Toasties

☛ Wire rings

☛ Pagli Welhamkhana

☛ Junior Gossip

☛ Birdbrains

☛ Working season

☛ Batch of 2020

☛ Golden Day

☛ Splitsvilla

☛ Corn Toast

☛ Silver rings

☛ Pagal Gymkhana

☛ Senior Gossip

☛ Human brains

☛ Scoping season

☛ Batch of 2019

☛ Holidays





### *Musafir*

*Born on December 27, 1797 Mirza Ghalib is hailed as one of the most successful Urdu poets and has contributed significantly to the Urdu repertoire.*

Ghalib Sahib,

Your words haunt my sleepy heart - I fall back on them during trying times. As I run my eyes over the tragic lines, I realize that they capture the pathos of my love. You weave my emotions into thoughtfully inscribed words which will stay with me forever. These words do not disappoint me.

When you reveal your thoughts, "The prison of life and the bondage of grief are one and the same," I begin to understand that the conception of those who deem that their days have been a dream, is not wrong at all. Sahib, you keep me sane for you give me comfort when you preach that making choices is often not under our control and that escaping reality is not a bad decision.

You say that I must be hopeful and pray consistently: I follow your beliefs and orders. I am hopeful because you remind me that "love and war are not too different from each other" and I pray because sometimes being hopeful doesn't seem enough. I find peace in the silence of places which are hard to find. I am not alone in those places because your words and my thoughts keep me company. They never disappoint.

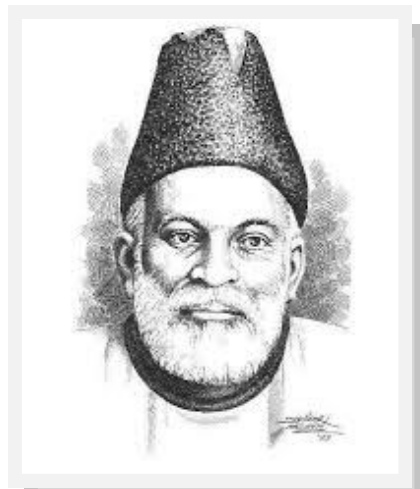
I hope that your words remain with other wanderers as they do with me. I take the kiss of your thoughts upon my brow. I know that a time will come when, with elation, I will greet myself after arriving at the doorstep of love once again. Until then, I am glad that words exist. They unconditionally hold all that my heart cannot. Sahib, I can never thank you enough for helping me hold on to my breath when all I felt was a quaint numbness. You made me believe that our immortal souls carry poetry which may never be understood by all.

Yours admiringly,  
A lone traveller.

*"Hathon ki lakiron pe mat ja ai Ghalib, Naseeb un ke bhi hote hain jin ke hath nahin hote."*

**Tanisha Gupta**

**Class 11**



## Roses



Fresh and dewy white roses to all the outgoing SCs. We wish you luck in all your endeavours!



Gardens full of beautiful, vibrant pink roses to Mrs. Ojha for letting the O. Lit Pre-SCs bask in the warmth of her heater.



A bouquet of freshly hand-picked roses to each Welhamite wishing them a joyful term.



Vases full of fragrant red roses to the SCs for dazzling the school with their gorgeous sarees last term.



Baskets overflowing with freshly-scented, hand-picked rouge roses to all the newly appointed officials and captains. May you have a fruitful tenure!

## Raspberries



Cartons full of foul smelling, fungus-infested raspberries to the Indian media for widespread coverage ONLY on Indian politicians' anti-Modi campaigns.



Truckloads full of rotten raspberries to the weather gods for such merciless torture. Please spare us!



Swimming pools full of maggot-infested raspberries to whoever made the calendar for such a short winter vacation.



A truckload of the most putrid raspberries fresh from the sewer to Mrs. Neera Kapoor for not even giving one free class to the Pre SCs and SCs the entire year!



## The Epiphany between Existence and Essence

*“The world is, of course, nothing but our conception of it.” — Anton Chekhov*

While different schools of philosophical thought are unlikely to enter into our daily agonizing over questions both mundane and profound, theories of existentialism could offer some insight.



Existentialist philosophy sprung up in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The central claim of Existentialism is that ‘existence precedes essence’. This very statement, difficult as it is to parse, introduces complexity and ambiguity to our sense of self and being, raising questions such as—who we are, where we are, and how we are who we think we are.

Essence refers to the idea that all things have their own predefined set of characteristics. For example, the essence of a chair would be four legs and a comfortable seat. There could, however, also be a chair with three legs and an uncomfortable seat. So, the actual details or characteristics of both the chairs make up its actual and tangible existence. Unlike chairs, however

humans do not have a precise, predefined pattern to fit into.

All of us live within societal norms and discipline. The very fact that most young people go to school or are, at least, expected to go to school in this day and age suggests that humans are being actively moulded and being made into entities that are socially acceptable. Wood is used to make a chair, and similarly, humans too are modelled into individuals who are expected to fit in.

It can be argued that it is the choices we made in life that truly define an individual’s personality and seldom is there need for a set of characteristics to provide enough reason for our existence. For instance, a parent can give a child advice but the final decision regarding that advice lies in the hands of the latter. This thread of thought has been taken from Jean Paul-Sartre, a rather reluctant recipient of the 1964 Nobel Prize in Literature.

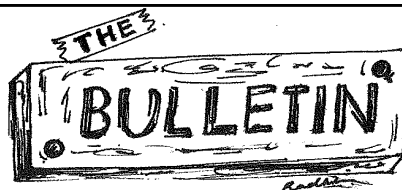
While carrying out our routine duties we remain oblivious to many things around us and must remember that every individual has different perceptions of the world. One can make one’s life meaningful by performing varied actions alternating between good and bad.

Certainly, the legislature of each nation imposes some necessary restraints that draw a clear distinction between anarchism and a way of sensible living. Yet these are quintessential in all institutions and organizations and are designed to ensure that no one has the unlimited freedom or license to destroy or cause havoc.

The ideal would be if we are able to question our existence and create meaning out of our own lives by following a set of ideals and values which we may adopt and perceive as our own. In keeping with this Socratic call for living a mindful life, we need to question every small action that we implement mindlessly. We need to introspect to confirm whether we are simply doing something because our friends are doing it or to fulfil a pre-determined conception regarding what we as young women or men should do?

Today as we search for answers and raise philosophical enquiries, everything seems worthy of a logical explanation. However, in our quest for self-knowledge and self-discovery, plenty remains unexamined.

**Sairaa Bains**  
**Class 11**



**6th October** - Three students participated and secured the 4th Position in the Summer Valley Quiz.

**13th - 17th October** - The Regional Athletic meet was held at Allahabad. Seven athletes from our school were selected to represent the CISCE at the national level in Pune.

**19th-22nd October** - Ten students participated in the Indian Public Schools' Conference Shooting Tournament held at Daly College, Indore. In the pistol event, the students won four Silver Medals which included one individual medal and three team medals.

**20th- 23rd October** - The School Basketball team participated in the U-17 IPSC Basketball tournament held at Daly College, Indore.

**27th-28th October** - Welham Girls' hosted a two-day simulation conference 'I CAN' wherein the students experienced work of the corporate world, political parties, corporate social responsibilities and media houses.

**27th- 28th October** - The School Athletics team participated in the North Zone Districts Championship held at Rashtriya Indian Military College.

**27th-30th October** - The School Basketball team participated in All India Invitational Basketball tournament held at La Martinière Boys School, Kolkata. They returned with the Runners-Up Trophy.

**29th-30th October** - Eight students from our school participated in the 'Joi de Vivre' competition held at Chickar International School, Bareilly. They participated in the group and solo singing, creative writing, street play and the FM radio advertisement. They stood 1st overall.

**1st-3rd November** - Four students represented Welham Girls' School at the Sanawar Literary Fest held at Lawrence School, Sanawar. Mihika Mohan and Keya Aggarwal secured the 3rd Position in story-telling.

**2nd-3rd November** - Over two hundred students from 16 schools all over India participated in fifteen competitions conducted during the IPSC Visual Arts Festival hosted at Welham Girls' School. Welham Girls' was declared the Overall Winner of the Festival with Scindia Kanya Vidyalaya and The Emerald Heights International School as the 1st and 2nd Runners Up respectively.

**2nd-3rd November** - Three students participated in The Doon School Chuckerbutty Debates. Nitya Jain was adjudged the Best Speaker in two rounds and Srishti Bansal was awarded the Most Promising Speaker in one round.

**3rd November** - Five girls participated in the Doon Business Quiz held at the Doon Business School. They secured the 3rd Position.

**12th November** - Four teams from the school, each comprising two players, participated in the Two-Player Basketball Shooting Competition. Deetiya Shah and Anaisa Seth secured the 1st position.

**12th-14th November** - Fifteen athletes participated in the IPSC Athletics tournament held at Punjab Public School, Nabha. They secured the second place overall.

**15th-17th November** - Three students participated in the 22nd National Shooting Championships -Rifle Event. Khushi Moda qualified for The Kumar Surendra Singh Championship.

**17th-19th November** - The School Basketball team won in the Dehradun Council Schools . Association Basketball Tournament held at The Aryan School.

**25th November** - Eleven girls from Welham Girls' attended the Dehradun Literary Festival known as the 'Valley of Words' which was held at the Madhuban Hotel.

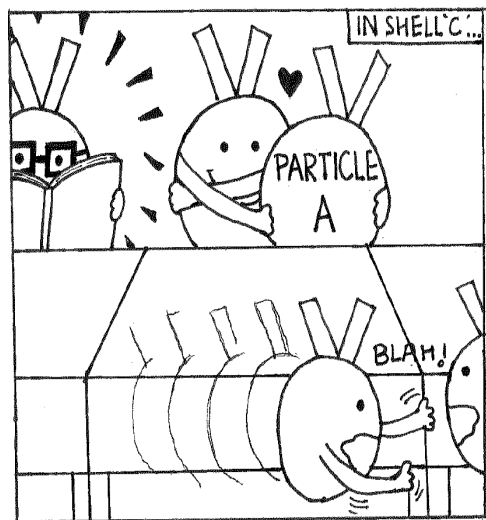
**26th-29th November** - Five girls represented Uttarakhand state in the 22nd National Shooting Championship's Pistol event held in Trivandrum, Kerala. Ritagya Singh and Smriti Aggarwal qualified for the Indian team trials. Gitika Karwa and Anshika Kamboj qualified for The Kumar Surendra Singh Championship.

## The Alternate Universe

The best place to study the behaviour of subatomic particles and other weird phenomena that scientists claim to be true is a class. The denizens of a class are subatomic particles in a human form. The best time to observe them is soon after the assembly.

The neutrinos are most active at this time and they buzz in and out of the class. Massless, they permeate through the walls and make it in time just for the attendance and whizz past to the outer shell again. They have important business to do. The universe stays in balance because of their unimpeded movement. On an average a neutrino whizzes in and out of the class 102349.97 times in the entire span of the zero period. These trips are not futile. There are hugs to be delivered to the A and B shells. Water bottles are to be filled (what a good deed!). Some “lists” to be constructed. A few neutrinos are apprentices and whiz along the experts with amazing dedication.

Then there are hadrons, the most stable. They have been observed to remain rooted to their orbit. They



write and read enthusiastically and also open the flaps of their desk now and then. Their attention span perplexes the neutrinos for a fleeting second but soon after they continue to hurtle in and out. Hadrons seek permission to leave the inner shell and the neutrinos exclaim that this single act alone is responsible for the increasing entropy of the universe. They scoff, smirk and whiz past smoothly.

Strangely there are some visitors from the parallel universe A and B too. These are strictly business trips. They make a sharp announcement, which is responded to with sighs and squeals except from the hadrons (this perplexes the neutrons yet again). Sometimes they just seek a stapler or something as mundane and are gone.

In the back benches of the class the photons are in a deep and meaningful conversation as a by-product of which they have solved the cryptic mysteries of the universe: the difference between Coke and Pepsi is resolved. The fizz each one of them claims alone is

eternal. As a result, the class looks more illuminated. There is light and the universe heaves a sigh of relief.

**Richa Joshi Pant**



Roshni: Turn a blind ear to what she said.

*Our vision has gone deaf now.*



Aishani: What is niece?

*Eight years of Welham education has been utterly wasted on you.*



Ritagya: I need a waterproof umbrella.

*And we need a rainproof monsoon.*



Diya: UPSC is really tough.



Kashvi: What is UPSC? University of Pennsylvania?

*College research on point.*



Vanshika: Guys what's the refugee crisis?

Manmehk: Oh it's where there's a scarcity of refugees.

*We appear to be having a brain crisis here.*



# BIRD BRAIN

### Words from the Editors

When I was first asked to write down my thoughts in a leaving address, I thought of how wearying it would be to conjure up unworldly wisdom that I could not, much to everyone else's chagrin realise during my time as an Editor and, above all, as a writer for the News and Views. So I suppose a story shall suffice.

When I first knew the publication, I was a most despondently uninteresting person. For those who think that this changed after days and years of working on the black-and-white, grey, and sepia editions of this beloved newsletter, I'm sorry to disappoint. That, sadly, remains; but there's much more that does not.

For one, at age ten I did not know that adolescents somewhere wanted to read the work of adolescents; that slipping into obscurity behind keyboard clicks and ink-crafted lines could be more lasting and oddly permanent than a ramshackle-inspiring-headlight performance behind a podium.

I didn't know that although more often than not we Editors sit as objects of scrutiny waiting for someone, *anyone*, to come up to us and tell us how much our words and dreams have meant to them, recognition

never was the point of this newsletter-or of writing itself.

Though I cannot speak for others, I know I am past wishing that every single person reads every issue we print from cover to cover. To be honest, it is far more rewarding to seek appreciation from even one who is ardent-passionate-absolutely-in-love-with-it. Ayn Rand's words in the foreword of her magnum opus, *The Fountainhead*, capture what I mean most truly:

*"It does not matter that only a few in each generation will grasp and achieve the full reality of man's proper stature—and that the rest will betray it. It is those few that move the world and give life its meaning—and it is those few that I have always sought to address."*

However, what *has* changed in all these long years is that that the person who first walked into deadlines and third-drafts and post-dinner meetings is now walking away from it, wracked by a lingering-unshakeable-exigent nostalgia. That the person who first began her dalliance with writing under the banner of the "News and Views" cannot, now, stop.

**Tanisha Tekriwal**

An elusive thought that makes its way to the mind of almost every SC in school is the paucity of time regarding her stay on this campus. The very thought of venturing into the 'unchartered' waters of the real world is viewed with both anticipation and fear and we are often left wondering if Welham has prepared us to face what awaits us outside these sheltered walls.

There are certain qualities and traits ingrained in us that are so uniquely and typically 'Welham' that we often fail to notice them ourselves till they are pointed out by some onlooker. From using the word 'guts' as an entirely coherent sentence to adding a respectable 'ji' while referring to any guard or gardener, Welham is more a part of us than we perceive it to be. Welham has taught us the strength in standing united in the face of adversities, the beauty in assimilating the uniqueness of every individual, the power in expressing one's opinions and most of all, the importance of standing our

ground and holding on to our views and beliefs.

In a world that is increasingly growing polarised and where expression is seen as a threat by those in power, Mr Trump's constant degradation of media and the killing of Jamal Khashoggi being some examples, it is important to remember that each of us holds the capacity to bring about change through our expression, be it through words or art. Welham has helped each of us identify our strengths and weaknesses and inculcated in us the courage to choose the harder right instead of the easier wrong.

So while we may still have heaps to learn in terms of facing, surviving and adjusting in the world, Welham has surely equipped us with the tools required to bring about a change in the same.

And for that, I will always be grateful to my Alma Mater.

**Rishika Singh**

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