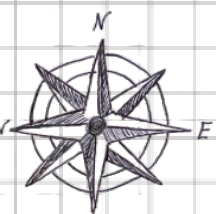


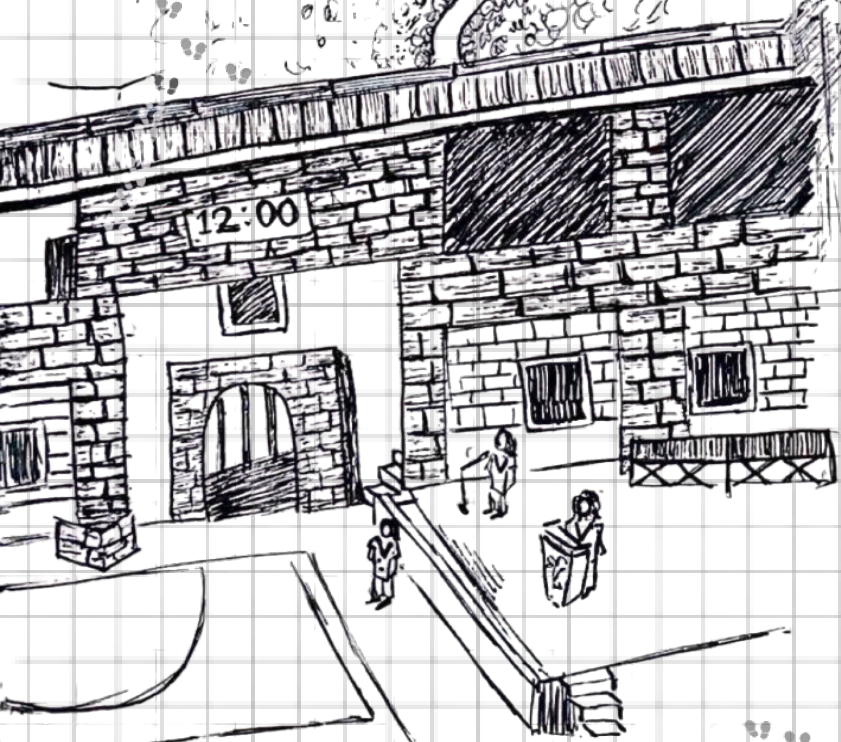
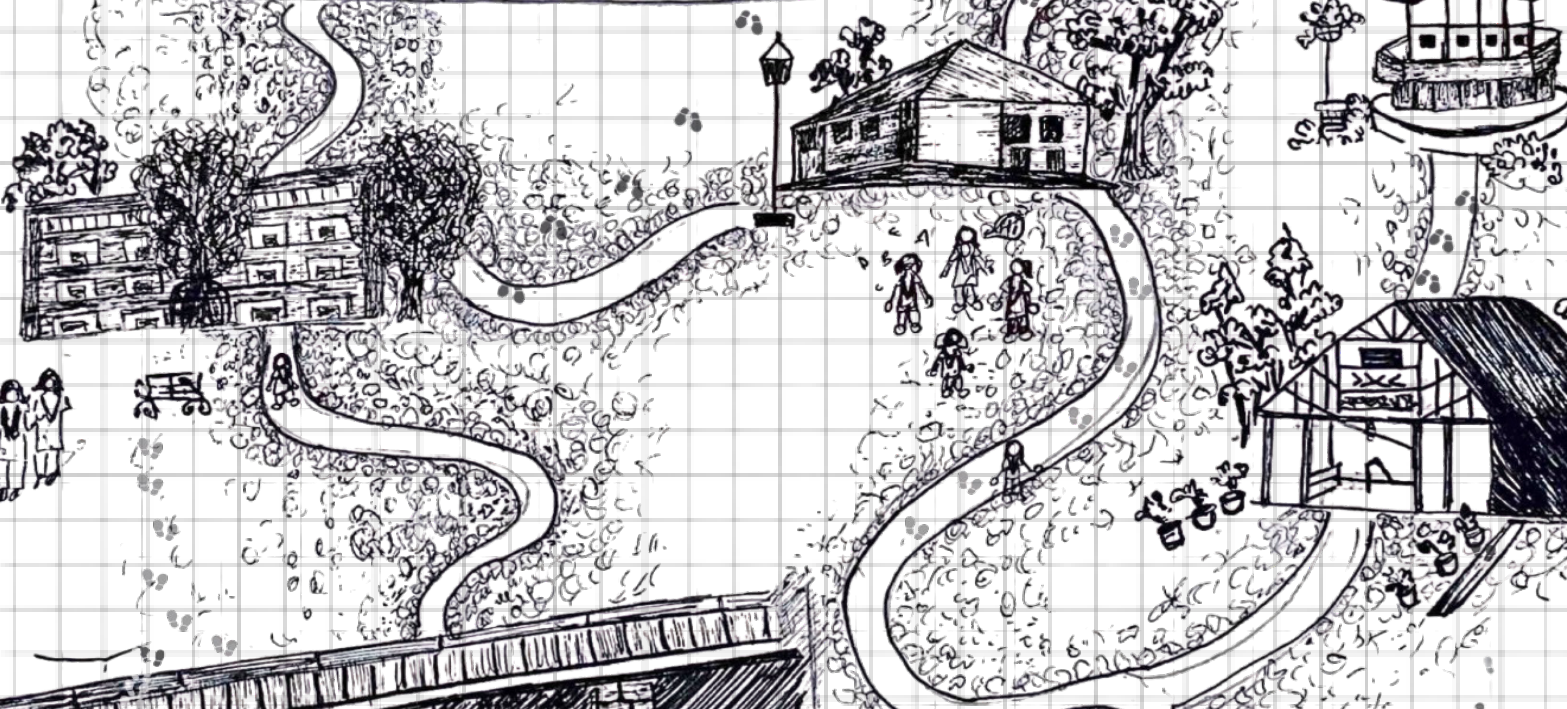


NEWS & VIEWS

ESTD. 1964



Founders' Issue
October 2023





Editorial

*“Far away, our dreams have nothing to do with what we do.
The wind carries the night, and passes on, aimless.”*

- Mahmoud Darwish

Dear Reader,

As summer turns to autumn at Welham, we mark its end with a culmination of the term's busy happenings on this year's Founders' Day. In the brighter half of the year, Welhamites were seen buzzing around constantly on their toes, flitting between debates and MUNs, sporting tournaments and school events in the greatest balancing act of the Kingfisher. Things seemed to have lulled to the perfect climax at the end of October, with the wind blowing through the vines waiting to carry with it the notes of the Orchestra and the resonating monologues of *Arms and the Man*. Being our last Founders' Day, the fairy lights on trees and the smell of orchids in the air strikes a bittersweet note. It feels like the final moments when a bubble expands to its ultimate breadth, and then dissolves itself to merge with the air around it, in a unifying pop of fusion.

Every year in March, a batch of seventy-odd young people leave the gates of Welham to join the real world. From being the senior-most in Welham to being a minor part in the big bad daunting world, we find and lose ourselves while trying to find our identity yet again. As we prepare to break open the bubble – our minds still, understandably, remain wrapped around the smaller day-to-day affairs of our school-lives. Orioles and Bulbuls are worried about the Sporting Spirit, some dancer in a distant corner is anxious that she may miss a step and some dramatist is wondering if she calls Nicola “Nikua” again. Common App, UCAS and SAT can wait, for Welham has its 66th Founders' Day and we are ready to give it all we have. Our plans can get as big as we want, but always our minds will move towards the innocent pressing pictures. This may also be the Welham effect– that every member of this large extended family treats every event as the most major one in our lives. Perhaps, the innocence of celebration is exactly what makes each Founders' Day so special.

While we celebrate our little victories and excellence in our community, a larger tension, however, continues to build up in another part of our world. Hope slowly evaporates into dust for the Palestinian people who seek self-determination against the occupation of their homeland, and the Israelis who suffer at the hands of fundamentalist violence. In these times of turmoil, despite the everyday engagements of a Welhamite, it becomes our responsibility to recognize that the essence of our education lies not just in personal triumphs, but in the understanding that our compassion must extend beyond our campus, into the larger world. To this aim, this issue of the *News & Views* creates a platform which bridges these concerns for a Welhamite. With articles on topics ranging from the eternal laptop predicament and lamenting over one's own name, to existential angst and global affairs, we urge you to use the luxury of expression. This Founders' Day, let us embrace the simple joys of our lives while also embracing our roles as global citizens, striving to realise our dreams and also stand in solidarity with those whose dreams are yet to find a voice.



**In solidarity and action,
Yatika Singh and Avika Mantri
Editors-in-Chief**

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The Illusion of Inclusion

Mindy is a woman of Indian-origins. She is an actor and an Emmy Award-winning star of the show 'The Mindy Project'. Mindy is the representation that South Asians first received on mainstream Western television. She describes her life using American romantic comedies and popular media of the nineties, and her aversion to other Indian people. With her simultaneous self-hate and self-ambassadorship, Mindy is a token.

Tokenism, in its simplest definition, is superficial representation. In recent years, television and media have received constant criticism and flak for their limited and stereotypical representation of minorities among predominantly white Christian characters. As a result, tokenism was born, and minorities became secondary characters in Western media to add a dash of color to an otherwise monochrome cast.

The characters mainly hail from under-represented communities and regrettably perpetuate predominant stereotypes rather than dismantling them. While the characters are portrayed to be from a certain community, nothing truly characteristic of that community is portrayed. Some of the finest examples of tokenism are probably Dionne from *Clueless* (whose role as a Black character is restricted to sassy one-liners) and Korean-American Lane Kim from *Gilmore Girls*, who is portrayed as the typically frustrated-with-the-boundations-of-her-life Asian girl with a typecast strict tiger mom. Both characters problematically reinforce stereotypes surrounding their communities with negligible depth and dimension beyond their clichéd Western conceptions, usually playing second fiddle to the main actors.

AVERAGE MEDIA-HOUSE



"Did you get the memo that we care about DIVERSITY now?"

The discourse around bad representation, or tokenism, begs the question: what comprises good representation? The answer is not as complex as one would imagine. Representation is the accurate portrayal of an under-represented community with a correct depiction of their culture and tradition. Movies and shows like *Black Panther* and *Orange is the New Black* empower the minority communities by not misrepresenting Black and Latin culture or making racial stereotypes the focal point of their existence, and instead portraying their diverse culture and imbuing it into the essence of the show. Everything from the storyline to the costume design keeps in mind, empathetic and accurate depiction. In an era making increasingly loud calls for equity, the frequently made argument of change being a gradual phenomenon or that one should be happy with whatever lowest hanging fruits one gets, falls flat on its face when we take a stand where we refuse to let our culture be the punchline.

Tvisha Mahajan
Class 11



- 🎓 Name the Iranian Human Rights Activist who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2023.
- 🎓 Which major company's DVD subscription came to an end this year?
- 🎓 India won its first equestrian gold in 41 years at the Asian Games in which event?
- 🎓 Name the venue for the 2023 G20 New Delhi summit.
- 🎓 Which country became the first in the world to fully legalise recreational psychedelic substances in 2023?
- 🎓 Who was named the Time magazine "Person of the Year" for 2023?

The Abyss Within: Navigating Existential Angst and the Moral Paradox

"Everything has been figured out, except how to live."

- Jean-Paul Sartre

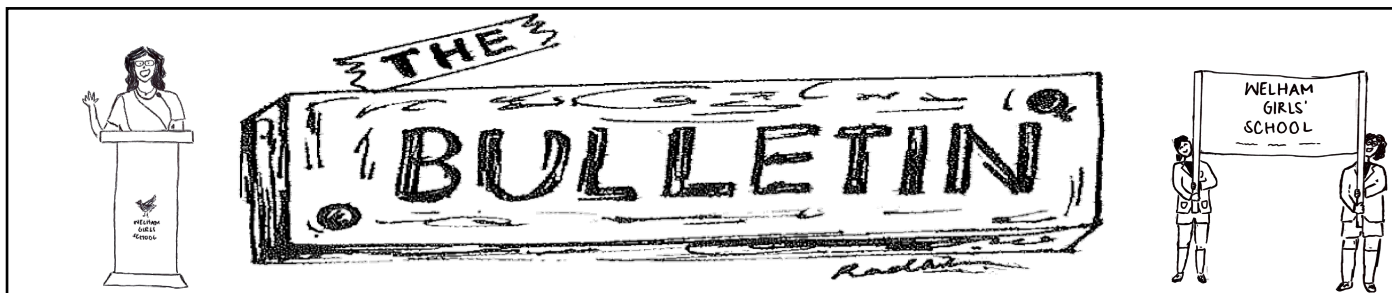
Existentialism, a prominent philosophical movement of the 20th century, delves into questions of existence, human freedom, the absurdity of life, and morality in a world devoid of innate purpose. It argues that our aim in life cannot be defined by external forces—like God or predominant morals— but by individuals. Sartre, a prominent existentialist, in his influential work “Being and Nothingness,” says, “Man is condemned to be free because once thrown into the world, he is responsible for everything he does.” Existential Angst is the “profound unease and apprehension that accompanies human existence,” which emerges from the awareness of mortality, the ambiguity of human existence, and the void of inherent significance in life. The awareness of one's freedom becomes a responsibility that leads to feelings of anguish as one must navigate through the void without the comfort of pre-established morals.

The paradox of morality within existentialism arises from the tension between our inborn desire for 'moral guidance' and 'the absence of moral principles' in the universe, in a world without moral authority and subjective values. Nietzsche, a precursor of existentialism, argued the need for 'superior individuals' who create their own values, asserting the death of God and the collapse of traditional religious foundations for morality. Albert Camus, in his essay 'The Myth of Sisyphus', recognised the human desire for meaning in a meaningless world and concluded that the absurdity of existence must be confronted with a spirit of rebellion, embracing the art of living as an act of defiance against the absurdity of the universe.

Existentialism invites us to confront the questions of existence with courage and urges us to embrace our freedom to make meaningful choices. The paradox challenges us to be responsible for our own values, forcing an authentic exploration of the self. It calls us to engage with the complexities of existence and to find purpose and morality within the depths of our consciousness.

Ananya Ratan
Class 12

WHAT'S IN	WHAT'S OUT	SPOTTED
Anti Pre-SC Gangs	Fan Clubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ashoka University emerging as Welham 2.0. IT Department being the new Sharma Bhavan. <i>(Sorry Siraj Sir and Vikas Sir, we love you too.)</i> SCs who have never gone for sports walking into the field to watch Naisha VS. Ankita. <i>(The sports department could never.)</i> Vedanshi unable to spell business after claiming that she deserves the Commerce Topper Award. <i>(you have no “business” being so delusional.)</i> Rechristening of Bela ma’am as Bella ma’am <i>(Welham...It changes everyone.)</i> The Oriole Seniors exerting great influence on the green exit signs in school. <i>(Results of locking)</i> Ms. Mamta Govil and Ms. Chavi Gupta on a walking rendezvous during march-past. <i>(#Bullie-Hoopoe Solidarity.)</i> Mr. Dora and Ms. Sukanya sharing a rubber band. <i>(One would actually suffice.)</i> Ms. Ojha extending classes school-wide for one more day so that she could finish her Pol. Sci. project presentations. <i>(Exploitation of “political” power.)</i>
Seniors in the Mess	Divyanjali <i>(literally)</i>	
Rocky Randhawa	Barbie	
Fighting for Bearer ji	Fighting for food	
Sweaters	Comfort	
e-Gods	e-Source	
Orchestra	Silence	
Baba Sir	Joshua Sir	
Staff Baccha Party	Captain Body	
Schedule for Varija	Schedule for the school	



2nd-3rd August: Ten students participated in the Inter-School Tennis Tournament held at Mussoorie International School, bagging several awards and titles.

3rd-5th August: A delegation of 12 students participated in the WELMUN hosted at Welham Boys' School. The delegates won accolades in their respective committees!

8th August: Twelve students of Class 10 hosted a postcard on 'Redefining Power' and it proved to be a resounding success!

12th August: Meenal and Samriddhi performed their 'Arangetram', under the guidance of their Guru Ms. Satyapriya Iyer giving a stupendous performance!

14th August: The Incredible India Quiz, organised by WGS and WBS was successfully hosted. The first edition of 'Tusk & Feather' was also launched.

17th-19th August: A delegation of 14 students participated in DSMUN hosted by The Doon School. The delegates won awards in their respective committees.

17th-19th August: The Lawn Tennis team participated in the CISCE Regional Tennis Championship. They won top spots in all U-14, U-17 and U-19 categories.

17th-21st August: Six AIII students attended a Round Square Conference held at the Sunbeam School, Lahartara, Varanasi.

21st August: Idhika Goel participated in the CISCE Regional Shooting Competition. She won a silver medal in the Pistol category.

23rd-25th August: Three Pre SC students participated in the Col. Frank Von Goldstein Memorial Debate organised by YPS Patiala and qualified till the quarter final round.

25th-27th August: Aatree Maheshwari won a silver medal at the 3rd West Zone Karate Championship.

27th August: The Karate Team participated in the 12th Interschool State Karate Championship. They returned with a total of 39 medals across all categories!

1st-2nd September: Fifteen students participated in the FALCON-1 Badminton tournament held at Vantage Hall. They won 21 medals and 3 trophies in total!

2nd-4th September: WGS organised the 5th Diamond Jubilee Basketball Tournament. Welham blues came 2nd in the tournament!

4th-6th September: Keya Aggarwal attended the annual Society of Glass Technology Conference held at Murray Edward College, Cambridge University.

6th September: A team of 12 students won the 1st position in the Geeta Path Pratiyogita organised by Kasiga School, Dehradun.

23rd-24th September: Eighteen students participated in the State Athletic Championship held at Maharana Pratap Sports College, Dehradun and received a total of 8 medals.

28th-30th September: WGS co-hosted the 10th edition of the Nanhi Chhaan National Essay Contest with Welham Boys' School and The Doon School.

1st-2nd October: Vaanya Thapliyal secured the 2nd position in both Open and U-16 categories for the S.E Coffey Inter School Tennis Tournament.

4th October: Thirteen SC students participated in the CCLP programme hosted by the World Leading Schools' Association. WGS was awarded the prestigious School of the Year Award while all the students bagged the highest of honours.

9th-10th October: Our school organised its first ever symposium for World Mental Health Day. 104 students from 16 international schools participated.

8th-15th October: Eight SCs participated in the Round Square International Conference 2023 held in Nairobi, Kenya.

JUNIOR Samboree

Folklore and Urban Legends Never Die

I remember, once, during our mid-autumn festival, my mother cautioned me by saying, “Don’t point at the moon, otherwise you will find your ears cut.” I laughed like crazy at what I thought was a ridiculous superstition. I sneakily pointed to the moon (for rebellious purposes, of course) and lo and behold: the next morning I woke up with two fresh cuts on each ear.



After that chilling experience, I developed begrudging respect for, and measured scepticism of urban legends and superstitions. The more logical part of me is not willing to listen to anything unscientific, yet the child in me still feels the need to make someone cross my legs twice to keep my height growing. It has always been difficult to outrun urban legends: from 3 A.M. horror stories to debunking challenges, it is all a plethora of spooky affairs. Open your YouTube trending page and you will find at least three videos on the same topic. In fact, I have a confession: when I was about seven, I watched every single ‘3 A.M. Challenge’ video just to get the living daylights spooked out of me.

Now that I’m older though, I have this awful fascination with gore and the supernatural — they excite me to the core despite the fact that sleep escapes me for days after. Some of the most horrifying folk tales and urban legends that emerge from my memory as I write this include the 8-feet-tall Japanese demoness Hachishakusama, who stalks young children for days — possibly even months — to steal them away from their families on dark nights and feast on their flesh; or the Mexican banshee La Llorona who, upon being abandoned by her husband, drowned her children in a river in a fit of despair. Regaining awareness of what she had done, she drowned herself in the same river to a tragic end. According to lore, you should watch out if you are spending the night prowling around rivers... you might run into La Llorona’s wailing spirit!

For thousands of years, urban legends and folklore have lived in the minds of mankind, not just as a source of entertainment but a precious relic of our history, and a symbol of the human power of storytelling. They may be strange and scary, but nonetheless every alleged ghost-sighting or grisly murder mystery that pops-up on our phones continues to make us clench our stomachs with a morbid fascination.

Aadya Bajaj
Class 7

YELLOW GUMBOOTS



The Chunni Thief

It must be duly noted that without a chunni, our lives as Welhamites would be rather bland and colourless. In the absence of that cobalt blue, our black and white uniforms are rather dull. From remembering to iron it every night to fixing it every time it sprouts wings and attempts to fly off our shoulders (the truest kingfisher, perhaps)— it has become an integral part of our lives now. Alas, as bread goes with butter, every valuable item has been subject to larceny. The concept of 'Chunni-wacking' is proof of its indispensable value in our Welham lifestyle.



As a member of the 'I Have Managed to Lose My Chunni for The Billionth Time' clan, or perhaps even the President of the club at this point, I assure you that sooner or later, you will find your chunni tucked into a dark corner of your dormitory so don't worry about it. This intricately folded cloth dipped in melted sapphire is the very essence of one's Welham spirit. As I now sit down to proof-read this article for the final time, I look around me and spot a perfectly ironed chunni sitting quietly, abandoned, on my neighbour's bed in my dormitory. Well, hello you— my next target!

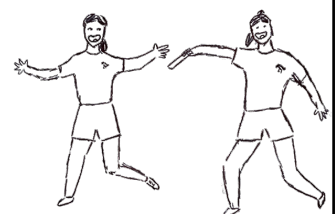


Aashvi Sanjay Gupta
Class 8

Amidst all the absurdity that is part of the normal reality of Welham, it sometimes becomes impossible to separate the real from the unreal. In this column, we challenge you to spot the incidents that happened, among those that never did (yet).



- ❖ Anushka Aggrawal.
Annushka Agarwal.
Anoushka Agarwal.
- ❖ Vaanya Thapliyal thought she scored 80 on 80. She was actually just reading the maximum marks.
Ms. Ojha mildly fangirling over Rocky Randhawa.
A kid took a fire extinguisher to extinguish the love they had for Rukmani after she asked her for an excuse chit. (*What did you think the fire evacuation drill was about?*)
- ❖ Ms. Vibha Kapoor and Avika Mantri dancing on "What Jhumka?" on stage to commemorate their collective 'rizz'.
Not one Oriole SC making their way to the Bird Brain Column.
A3s calling Bela ma'am broski. (*Frat buddies by zero period, teacher-student by day.*)
- ❖ Divyanjali being called everything from Vidya Laxmi to Patanjali except Divyanjali during the RSIC. (*What's in a name?*)
Ahana is actually Maya.
Tvisha Mahajan racing Mayo Boys (*after years of severe workout during tennis*).
- ❖ Ms. Vibha Kapoor, Ms. Rajshree Ojha and Ms. Kusum Dandona asking Manya Nagpal if she went for her 'nariyal pani time'.
N&V Editorial Board members having friends outside the Ed-Board.
There are more O. Lit. teachers than O. Lit. students.
- ❖ Dr. Tanushree Verma nicknaming her students duster, stabber, mop and broom.
Captains plotting a dandi(ya) march instead of march past in the morning to commemorate Navaratri.
A kid buying everything they own from wish.com because Khwaish means wish.



Shanti

This is an ode to Mrs. Shanti Verma, my principal, my guide and inspiration for life. To put it simply, she shaped me as a human being.

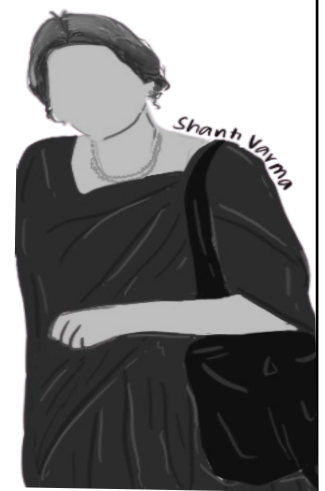
1995 (Pre-SCs) – I was playing Olivia in Shakespeare's Twelfth Night. It was a joint production with a popular boys' school in Dehradun. We were a few months into it when I started facing issues with some of the boys involved in the production. They did not care much for me because I may have laughed at one boy's pronunciation, being the prissy Welhamite that I was. But more than that they had mistaken my awkward teenage self for a snobbish girl who did not want to engage with them. In return, they all turned on me. Interestingly, we were a cast of three girls and 12 boys. I should've questioned this ratio back then, but I guess we are, after all, a sum of our society where such a ratio in most fields was a norm. (There you have it - managed to slide in some 'feminism' while I'm at it.)

Every day, I became increasingly more nervous at the thought of going to rehearsals in the evenings. I loved theater and yet, the feeling of walking through that campus made me detest my decision of ever joining the play. One evening whilst eating dinner in their dining hall, I began to notice how a multitude of boys were making crude gestures at me. I decided to turn in the other direction, but that was futile. My nervousness turned to rage, I marched out, my appetite now lost. The immaturity of the boys felt a lot like harassment and in that instant, I understood that the best thing to do was to approach Mrs. Verma and nobody but her.

As I sat across her desk the next morning, we spoke of many things, and yet I wasn't able to articulate what I really felt. I told her I wanted her help; I wanted the boys to be put in their place and she needed to do that for me. She listened patiently. She even offered me tea, but eventually she said she could not do this on my behalf, and I had to do this for myself. She could arrange a meeting with the headmaster of the boys' school but I would have to go by myself and make this complaint. I thought it was absurd. What if he called those boys, the same group of boys that disliked me and told them that I had complained.

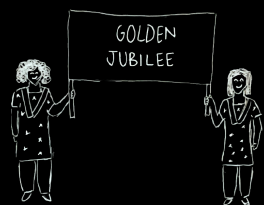
But Shanti, as we called her outside of school, taught me to speak up against all odds. I did. I went into the headmaster's office and told him about the boys he was raising. I remained unpopular, I think, but walking into that school everyday unafraid with my head held high felt pretty damn good.

This is the part where one conventionally writes the moral of the story. I say that there are moments, conversations and people that shape us. This was one such moment with one of my favorite people.



Nitya Mehra
Batch of 1995

News & Views extends a warm and enthusiastic welcome to all old staff and students to the 66th Founders' Day celebration! We hope you reminisce, rejoice, and revel in the timeless bonds that tie us to our beloved institution. We are honoured to have you amongst us!





Ms. Renu Basu '75

Ms. Basu is a Sales and Marketing professional with over 30 years of experience in Customer Management, Communication, CRM and Loyalty. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and a Degree in Law from Mumbai University as well as a Diploma in Marketing Management from Jammalal Bajaj Institute of Management Studies. She has also completed a General Management Programme from Michigan Business School. She currently presides as Director on the boards of multiple organisations such as Roots Corporation Limited and Tata Value Homes. She is also a member of the Board of Governors at Welham Girls' School.

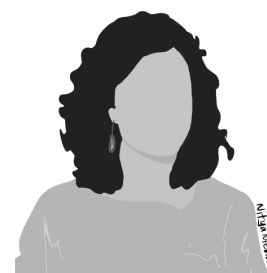


Dr. Shruti Lakhanpal '83

Dr. Lakhanpal is currently a senior consultant at the Metro Group of Hospitals, Delhi NCR with over 25 years of experience in Dermatology. She received her MBBS and MD from Maulana Azad Medical College and SR from AIIMS, Delhi. She is the founder of Metro Acne Clinic, a one-of-its-kind clinic in Delhi NCR dedicated to the prevention and treatment of skin acne & scars. Dr. Lakhanpal has received the Gold Medal in Dermatology from Delhi University and Dr. K K Kandhari Award in 1997 for the best Resident in Dermatology.

Ms. Nitya Mehra '95

Ms. Mehra is a film director and screenwriter who has made an indelible mark in the film industry. A fellow alumna of Welham Girls', she studied English Literature at the University of Delhi. Beyond the undergraduate level, she pursued Film Production and Direction at New York University. She has worked under a range of stalwarts, the likes of which include Mira Nair, Ang Lee and Farhan Akhtar. Her major projects include *Baar Baar Dekho*, *Unpaused* and *Prime Video's Made in Heaven*, all of which are testament to her creative genius.

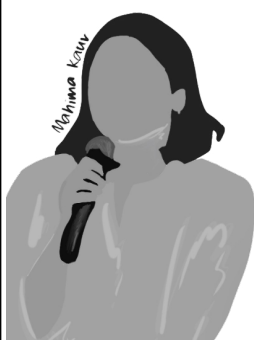
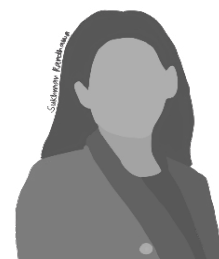


Ms. Shruti Kapur Malhotra '96

Ms. Malhotra is the founder and Editor-in-Chief of the lifestyle magazine, *Platform*. She graduated with Honours in English Literature from Jesus & Mary College, Delhi after which she received a degree in Film Production and Creative Writing at New York University. She has also worked at India Today, where she dabbled in Video Production and Content Writing. After two years of working at the news desk, she pursued Creative Writing at Middlesex University, London. Upon her return to India 18 years ago, she started the *Platform* bookazine celebrating art, film, design, music, fashion and culture. *Platform* is India's pioneering independent contemporary arts and culture magazine.

Ms. Sukhman Randhawa '99

Ms. Randhawa is currently leading partnerships and development financing for the United Nations Resident Coordinator's office in India. She studied English Literature at St. Stephen's College, Delhi, and then went on to pursue an MBA from the University of Cambridge. Her role at the UN focuses on creating strategic partnerships for the UN system in India, diversifying stakeholders and driving development towards the 2030 SDG Agenda. She has also worked for the former Prime Minister's office, drafting policies in education.



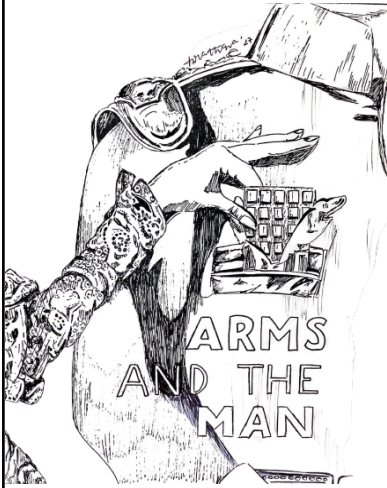
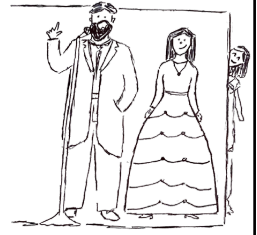
Ms. Mahima Kaul '01

Ms. Kaul is the Director of Public Policy for *Bumble* for the Asia-Pacific region. Her work includes talking to regulators, academicians, and NGOs working in the sphere of online safety, particularly for building a safe cybersphere for women. She has also been Twitter India's Head of Public Policy and the new media initiative at the Observer Research Foundation. After completing her education at Welham Girls' School, she pursued her Bachelor's degree in History & Political Science from St. Stephen's College and went on to receive a Master's degree in Communication Policy at the University of Westminster. Ms. Mahima continues to be involved in various initiatives and fellowships related to digital inclusion and information society.

Arms and the Man: An Invitation to Listen to the Heart

In a bid to explore the nexus between classical literature and contemporary reality, the 66th Founders' Day Drama Production brings to life George Bernard Shaw's *Arms and The Man*, after weeks of rigorous practices, improvisation and rehearsals.

Set in the time of the Serbo-Bulgarian War, the romantic comedy explores the absurdities of love and the glorification of war through the medium of a (rather obnoxious) family from the upper echelons of society, and the pandemonium that ensues with the arrival of a Swiss soldier in their lives. As actors, we often questioned ourselves on the relevance of a 19th century play in the present day. At the face of it, the central theme appears to be that of anti-war sentiment and the critique of the ridiculous extravagance of the so-called high society. While these ideas still remain relevant today, our takeaway from the plot was something larger than what it seemed at its face value.



In a world that has become too utilitarian and 'functional' to the point of apathy, the play epitomizes the idea that not every decision has to be rational or guided by intellect and logic. Though Raina falling in love with Bluntschli, or Sergius with Louka, were not the ideal scenarios the characters had envisioned for themselves, they were a manifestation of the fact that meticulous planning is often, if not always, disrupted by the seemingly bottomless pit that can become the doorway to a better, happier life.

The affirmation of breaking away from the restrictions of logic and good sense in the face of a deeper intuitive feeling may come across as an overly optimistic one. However, it is one which resonates with a tiny, miniscule (not really so) part of the average fatigued Welhamite, when they miss that one day of march-past for a glorious hour of sleep, or devour the pile of warm french fries even though they can feel an upset stomach coming from a mile away. Our interpretation of the play emphasizes a simple truth: that the 'practical' option may not not always be the best one. As we step into a reality where love and logic seem to exist in dichotomy, Shaw's *Arms and the Man* reminds us of the spontaneity of listening to the heart and the beauty that lies in it.

Paridhi Saboo and Vanshi Agrawal
Class 11

Smriti: Yatika, what do you want to study in college?

Yatika: Public Policy.

Smriti: So, after college you want to become a public speaker?

I think you should stop all speaking, public and private.

Sukhmeet (in all seriousness): Guys, did you know Mr. S.K. Sharma was trained by Jesse Owens?

Upon hearing this news, the N&V Ed-Board attempted to summon Shakespeare to hire him to be their new creative coach.

Gayatri: Ms. Vibha has two mansions.

Amreen: What? Have you been to them??

Gayatri: One is the Nasreen.

We will now need the therapeutic treatment offered at the Nasreen for our mental health.

Shubhangi (with utmost conviction): Denmark is in Germany only, yaar!

This is our RS official at the RSIC... What happened to the I in RSIC? By 'P' we mean the I that stands for intelligence.

Mayna: How many F1 racers can you name?

Jessica: I only know one— PV Sindhu.

I wonder what the formula to your stupidity is.

Manya Nagpal: What is Vaanya Thapliyal's religion?

Pearl: Pahadi.

Vaanya: Wait. I thought I was Hindu?

This is what we talk about when we say Akhand Bharat.

During the India v/s Pakistan cricket match:

Some random AII: When will India do a goal?

When the match is so intense you forget what sport you are watching.

Ms. Shalini Durga: Do you all know about Israel-Hamas?

AIIs: Yes ma'am, hummus! The thing we have with Pita Bread.

That's exactly how victims are eaten up.



**BIRD
BRAIN**

Explanations are not Justifications in Contextualising the Israel-Hamas War

On 7th October, the world watched as mainstream media began its crusade against Palestine, delineated by the slew of disinformation and Western propaganda against the Hamas attack on Israel. With complete neglect for history and its victims, 'objective' journalism has taken the shape of deliberately misleading reporting which conveniently lacks context. It is unfair to say that Israel's history^[1] of brutality and the disproportionate loss of Palestinian lives can justify Hamas' acts of terror. However, the story behind how a militant group became the sole beacon of hope for an oppressed people becomes pivotal to understand the current scenario, in full context.

Hamas' attack commenced its retaliation against the oppression and subjugation of the Palestinians due to Israel's claim on the land. Global discourse on who is to blame is fueled by the bigotry of those who conveniently ignore the atrocities being committed against the Palestinians by the Israeli state, whose current boundaries as a state are, in fact, a crime under international law.^[2]

The dominant narrative today paints Israel as a blameless victim to the militancy of barbaric Palestinians. It is a fact that the violent acts committed by Hamas which destroyed Israeli lives are inexcusable and unjustifiable. At the same time, explanations are not justifications, and the historical injustices and violence inflicted by Israel upon Palestinians before and during the current conflict cannot be neglected. The right to retaliate belongs to Palestine as much as it does to Israel.^[3] The Israel-Palestine conflict is now more than just a fight for land. It is a stage of systemic genocide — an ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people carried out by the state of Israel in the guise of war, while the world watches from seats of privilege. Worse still, if a ground assault is to happen in the Gaza strip, Israel will be dealing with a generation of Palestinians radicalised from birth against its oppressive neighbour, with easy access to arms and millions in number; Palestinians will no longer be the weak destructible enemy which Israel perceives it to be.^[4]

The truth remains that one war crime does not excuse another, and no side can be deemed blameless, least of all Israel, irrespective of the portrayal of it as the victim by the media. The true victims are the millions of casualties, the hostages being used as human shields and bargaining chips, the displaced Israelis and Palestinians, both of whom have suffered for years as persecuted peoples, stuck in the vicious, unending cycle of hate and violence. In a bitter irony, peace, for those in the Holy Land, becomes more distant with each passing day.

Shrestha Dube
Class 10

References:

- [1] Haaretz, May 27, 2020, Adam Raz, "How Israel Tormented Arabs in Its First Decades – and Tried to Cover it Up," Haaretz, January 9, 2021.
 [2] Settlement Expansion in Occupied Palestinian Territory Violates International Law, Must Cease, Many Delegates Tell Security Council | UN Press. 27 Sept. 2023.
 [3] HasanAbi. "How We Got Here... (Israel Palestine War Explained)." YouTube.
 [4] Shah, Sarjan. "Why Israel Has Already Lost the Conflict With Hamas." The Indian Express, 17 Oct. 2023.

The artwork is inspired by Banksy's 'Armoured Dove of Peace' which is one of the nine images painted on the West Bank Wall as a way to criticize the Palestine-Israeli conflict.

GLOBETROTTER

- 🌐 Akshay Kumar was acknowledged for relinquishing his citizenship at the most opportune moment. (*Farsightedness at its peak. Gabbar is back!*)
- 🌐 India painting the town golden with a 100+ medal tally at the Asian Games 2023.
- 🌐 Kim Jon Un travelling to Russia for a much awaited talk with President Vladimir Putin. (*Talk about double trouble.*)
- 🌐 World leaders met in New Delhi for G20 in September to discuss global economic and political concerns while Modi and Meloni had their own tête-à-tête. (*Reports of Meloni separating from her partner came in October.*)
- 🌐 BJP leaders oblivious to all critical concerns of the country in order to devote their full attention to renaming India as Bharat. (*Article 1 of the Constitution has left the chat.*)
- 🌐 US Speaker Kevin McCarthy not realising that it takes 15 votes to be elected as speaker but only 1 vote to be removed. (*Not him also mismanaging a trillion dollar budget and multitasking, slay girl!*)
- 🌐 The Supreme Court of India passed a judgment against the legalisation of same-sex marriage after an anxious wait of nearly 5 months. (*Tadpa tadpa ke maroge...*)



I'm Not A Karen

On a stormy October morning, there came into the world an exuberantly Punjabi child. Unfortunately for her, her father was a man fascinated by American sitcom characters, so much so that he ventured upon naming his own children after them. And that is how I, a 5-foot tall, severely over-dramatic Punjabi teenager or c as Rocky Randhawa would call it, came to be known as Karen Sahdev. *(I humbly request you all not to confuse me with the exchange students here from Downe House.)*

The unpleasant meaning of my name was revealed to me a few innocent years back. My introductions were always accompanied with half-suppressed laughter or sometimes an overwhelmingly embarrassing number of stares, which is why I decided to go up to my cousin in an attempt to understand the misfortune this name had brought upon me.

She responded by pulling up a YouTube video of an old white woman smashing a car window and screeching because she wanted to **“SPEAK TO THE MANAGER”** obnoxiously. I take pride in my mature way of justifying the disdain for my name to others. I earnestly continue to defend my character by claiming that the only thing I am capable of smashing is my own head against the wall (for being named Karen).

My dearest father, who is not ready to take the blame for this adversity, is now a man with a ‘problematic, angry and an entitled’ daughter (in relation to the TikTok-ification of the name). And when I go around whining about my name (which is all the time) to my grandmother, her counsel proves to be truly invaluable. Conveniently, she gives me a sweet smile and says, “You don’t like your name? You can always change it after marriage.”

















Editors’ Note: *Karen has golden hair and grey-blue eyes which are of no help in supporting the case she tries to build throughout this article.*



Karen Sahdev
Class 9

Roses

Raspberries

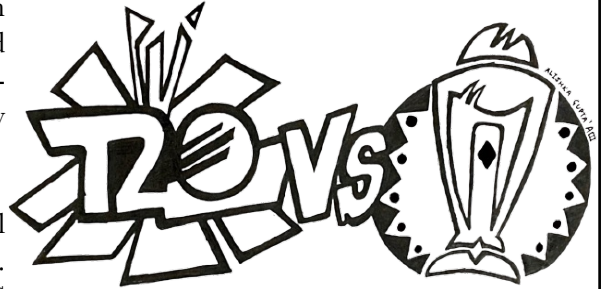
- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Bouquets of yellow fragrant flowers for the staff, sub-staff and students who worked tirelessly for making Sports Day and Founders’ Day 2023 an immense success!  A basket of multi-coloured roses to Ms. Anupma and the mess staff for ensuring that the food-quality graph of our school always remains steep and positive.  A single dignified pink rose to all the student leaders who work day in and day out to make this term a success!  A bundle of white fragrant roses for all the staff and students from WGS and the Bajaj Institute who organise Indian Sign Language classes in assembly.  A glowing, radiant bouquet of yellow roses to the new eco-friendly yellow LED lights installed all over school. Our eyes are blessed and our hearts are at peace.  Fungus-infested roses to the fungus gang for creating a ‘shrooming’ culture in school. <i>(Readers to note that Ms. Sukan-ya thought one of their mushrooms to be a plate of idlis.)</i>  Roses dipped in nitric acid to Art-EVS-HCL gang showing their scientific skills and artistic temperament simultaneously in the Chemistry Lab. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Raspberries inside a Tiffany box to Ms.Vibha Kapoor for being too committed to accept any desirous proposals *cut to the plethora of proposals for student-led initiatives decaying in a corner*  A woolly, furry and scraggly bag of raspberries for those who refuse to believe that school fleeces are a valid part of our uniform. <i>(#fleecerightsmovement)</i>  Ms. Scott for raising home-grown paparazzi by recruiting them as the Founders’ A/V surveillance taskforce.  Decaying, insect-infested raspberries inside a marching drum to Mr. Singh for trying out his failed musical career in the sports field during march -past.  Prickly raspberries full of pins and needles for the negative discourse surrounding valid health concerns.  A rotten, burning raspberry that caught fire on the BBC floor under the sweltering heat that we were made to stand during yet another fire evacuation drill to the school administration.  Putrid trucks of bitter raspberries to Ms. Neena Aggarwal and Ms. Sarika Dubey for not yet starting Social Service. |
|--|---|

D-Day for ODI?

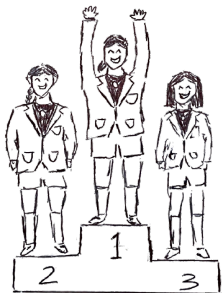
From the historic victory at Wankhede in 2011 to the ODI World Cup returning home this year, the air is abuzz with anticipation, and India has been hailed as the favorite cricket team so far to lift the trophy. However, amid the ongoing World Cup 2023, an increasing number of cricketers are expressing their concerns about the rapid decline in popularity of the 50-over format.

The introduction of One-Day Internationals (ODIs) in the 1970s changed the game, with bowlers vying to dismiss stubborn batsmen, and the same batsmen charging in the late overs to boost their scores. The glamorous entertainment-driven spectacle of the World Cups drew crowds to the game in unimaginable numbers, and cricket began to be seen as a product, with the players as its advertisement. Then came 2008, when the Indian Premier League's extravaganza and splendor essentially revolutionized and commercialized T20 cricket. Thus, the charm of ODIs diminished in a world that was ready for a faster, accelerated form of sports.

Following previous World Cups, the International Cricket Council is banking on WC 2023 to spark the resurgence of ODI cricket. With 5 out of 9 of India's matches scheduled on Sundays, the ICC aims to capitalize to the maximum extent on the revenue generated by increased viewership. Moreover, with all teams playing against each other at least once, the ICC hopes for a reiteration of the nail-biting, action-packed final encounter between England and New Zealand from the 2019 WC, aspiring to rekindle the same old excitement associated with the game.



However, with the quick action of T20s and the unpredictability of test cricket, the monotony of ODIs continues to gradually fall out of touch with the audience of today. Although 50-over cricket builds a bridge between the extremes of Test and T20 cricket, it offers nothing new that the other formats do not. Combine this with the disinterest of viewers in non-competitive matches, and we are left with fewer than 1 crore live viewers for other matches compared to the massive 3.5 crore audience of the India-Pakistan clash in 2023. This crossroads of ODI begs the question: is it up to huge totals, explosive batting, bowling variations, resolute fielding, and competitive clashes to revive ODI cricket, or is it merely up to India and Pakistan to do so?



Anukriti Dhandhanian
Class 11

INTO THE WELHAM VERSE

'Into the Welham Verse', is an alternate universe column where the chunni is not blue anymore, and the tadpole has finally grown into a frog. A universe where all we like and dislike about Welham has changed and the unlikely is the most likely!



- ☛ News & Views Editorial Board as the Sports Stars of WGS.
- ☛ Welhamites wearing t-shirts of bands they know of.
- ☛ Ms. Sukanya wearing *jhadus* on her ears (*political agenda*).
- ☛ You picking the N&V to read the articles and not the humour columns.
- ☛ Welhamites understanding that 'aesthetic' is not an adjective.
- ☛ Ahana as not the divorced child of English Exhibition.
- ☛ Vedanshi Deorah as School Captain.
- ☛ Ms. Seema Sagar golden-listing someone.
- ☛ Ms. Ritika Uniyal being free for a session.
- ☛ The marching band coming on the given time.
- ☛ Seniors giving their tuck to AIIs (Oh, that already happened).

Laptops and Welhamites: A Forbidden Romance

Back in the day, a Welhamite's true love, adoration, dream and soulmate, were alsoo extras, gulabo extras, banoffee pie extras and ice-cream extras. But much to the dismay of the food gods that era of Welham Girls' School has come to a tragic end. Allow me to usher you into the next epoch, one marked (or tainted with, depending on who you are talking to) by Wi-Fi routers, VPN providers and freshly signed chits from Ms. Dandona.

The Nasreen is no longer just the heart of Welham, but also holds pieces of each senior's heart – their beloved laptops. I am no Shakespeare when it comes to tragic romances, but I grant you the discretion to change my name if the heart-felt tale of a Welhamite and her laptop does not bring tears to your eyes.

Pardon my laxity for I cannot pinpoint the exact moment when the bond between a Welhamite and her laptop grew so robust; however, my research leads me to believe that one can trace it back to the period of quarantine, when non-reflective lenses adorned the eyes of every spectacles wearer to hide the true contents of their screen during online classes.



Coming back to school spelled trouble for our star-crossed lovers because it meant the detachment of every student from their other half their laptop. While SCs and Pre SCs did get to spend time with their beloved, all other batches were heartbroken. School Wi-Fi and the fabled and mythical 'Laptop Policy' were truly reminiscent of the tussle between the Capulets and the Montagues. The library e-source was indeed a valiant effort to try to take away the burden on each Welhamite's heart, and even though it did work for some time, no one could fill the gaps in our hearts and souls left by our beloved laptops.

Today, the saga continues. While SCs and Pre SCs are striving for their right to keep their laptops with them and somewhere along the line hopeful AIs protest, every Welhamite equally teeters on the edge of a complete ban. As for the rest of the school, they can only dream. Forgive me if I speak out of place, but a part of me, albeit small, appreciates not having laptops often and understands where the authorities come from. Alas, I am still a student. My heart as well as my participation yearn for my laptop.



The ball right now lies in the court of the school authorities or rather, the Wi-Fi connection lies in their routers. Who will emerge victorious? Will this touching story of a Welhamite and her laptop ever get a satisfactory ending? Stay tuned to find out.

P.S. - I would have updated you via email, but unfortunately, I would not have my laptop to do so.

Aahana Gupta
Class 10

ALBUMS

- ♪ The Rest - boygenius
- ♪ Something To Give Each Other - Troye Sivan
- ♪ Unreal Unearth - Hozier
- ♪ Javelin - Sufjan Stevens
- ♪ The Land is Inhospitable and So Are We - Mitski

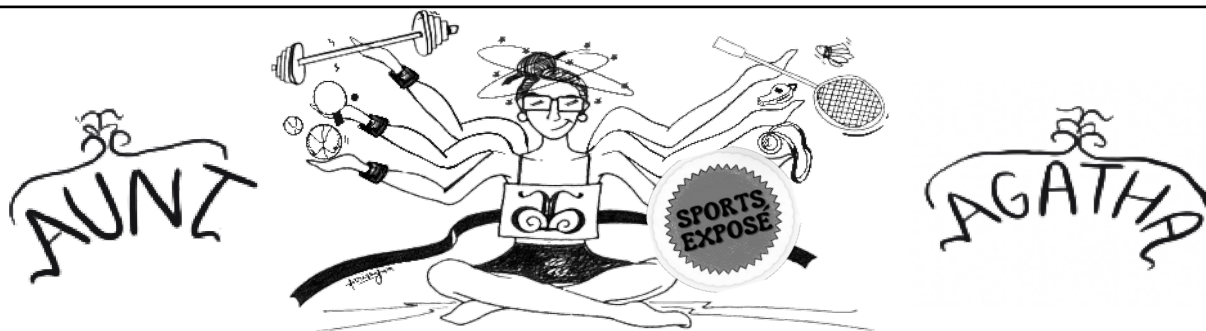
BOOKS

- 📖 Animal Liberation Now by Peter Singer
- 📖 The Years by Annie Ernaux
- 📖 A History of Masculinity by Ivan Jablonka
- 📖 War and Peace by Leo Tolstoy
- 📖 On Fire by Naomi Klein

FILMS & TV SERIES

- 🎬 Our Flag Means Death (2022)
- 🎬 The Angel (2018)
- 🎬 All of Us Strangers (2023)
- 🎬 Priscilla (2023)
- 🎬 Polite Society (2023)





Karate

Waking up before any other sport clearly is not working wonders for your medal tally. A change in surroundings may be fruitful, for I see no light at the end of that 'picturesque' tunnel. The next time you use a kata to win a brawl with the folk dance students, do not forget to bring along your mats— for the fungus might help in ending your enemy.



Swimming

I have heard that chlorine washes away the nasty...yet you are still here. However, I am delighted at the fact that you have finally found a place to call home. The board outside the pool that states 'VALUABLES ARE NOT ALLOWED INSIDE THE POOL' is a true testament to the contents inside. Perhaps to do some charity, you can start by donating some of your medals towards building a new venue for Karate.



Aerobics

Under those ribbons, that makeup and glitter, who are you? I am of the opinion that holding two pom-poms in your hand every time you do a demo does not help your case to distance yourself from the cheerleading tag. However, kudos to you for drowning out the screams of the hockey students with your ever-motivating and overly upbeat music.



Hockey

I worry that if your lot was involved in the freedom struggle, non-violence would have never entered the conversation. I formally request all of you on behalf of all field sports to keep your balls within your boundaries, and your war cries within your vocal chords. However, I would like to conclude by saying your athletic prowess is certainly putting another field sport to shame. (I am looking at you, athi kids!)



Tennis

Perhaps, you should take some inspiration from the homemakers flinging around mosquito rackets since their hard work comes to fruition, quite unlike yours. May you forever revel in the glory of that one spring term when you were hailed as 'the new basketball' due to the influx of fresh and unbeknownst BIIs, for I do not see it returning anytime soon.



Badminton

You must contemplate the wastage of resources (human and otherwise) that you constantly propagate; badminton is the sport that encourages more wastage of shuttles than NASA. It is also imperative that you understand that you must be humble because badminton kids are like tennis' NRI relatives who think they know it better. (Please take your flying cones and fly off with them!)

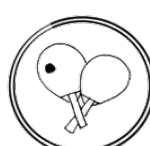


Table Tennis

Life has new surprises in store for you, much like how you managed to get a place for yourself in the N&V because you certainly do not have one on campus. Forgive me if I speak out of line but even the mosquitoes on campus don't shift as much as your sport. Answer truthfully, was your sports venue turned into the conjunctivitis ward, or was the conjunctivitis ward turned into your sports venue?



Basketball

If this is a religion, the entire school leaving your kin is atheist. You are indeed peaking in high school by signing the hand of those who wrote your number on the bathroom stalls. Too much of anything is lethal and your obsession with the ball has clearly crossed the line. I know you think you can control the world because it is round like a ball, but remember so is the zero that you got in your mark-sheets because of sleeping in all your classes.



Athletics

It is your time of the year: Sports Day! Latest developments in your life have finally given you the chance to contribute to the community, in the form of the Ankita v/s Naisha race. But do not fret, because you have the upper hand forever : Athletics is probably the only sport that is the workout to all other sports, and therefore the rest of us can rightfully call you mummies.



The Sportless Community

Your section has arrived (but you haven't arrived... for sports). It does seem like life has new experiences in store for you on Sports Day, such as witnessing the sports field. I pray for you, that you find solace in your excuse chits, and always have a reply ready for whenever you are questioned by your basketball/ athletics batchmates, regarding why you haven't changed.

P.S. - While writing for Shooting, our beloved Aunt left the office early to join a gun-control rally.

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editors-in-chief: arika & yatika
teacher-in-charge: Mr. Bela Pandey ✓

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vanshi, gauri

senior correspondants: twisha,
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