



STELLA MARIS

C O L L E G E

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# *Stella Maris College*

(Autonomous)

*Tradition*

*Yesterday - in - Today*

*Today - in - Tomorrow*

1993

**February 1994**

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## God's Grandeur

*The world is charged with the grandeur of God.*

*It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;  
It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil  
Crushed. Why do men then now not reckon his rod?  
Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;*

*And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;  
And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the soil  
Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.*

*And for all this, nature is never spent;*

*There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;  
And though the last lights off the black West went*

*Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs —  
Because the Holy Ghost over the bent*

*World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings*

— G. M. Hopkins

# Editorial

*Semester upon semester rolls away—each in its own secret rhythm. The creation hunts for the creator; dream gropes for dreamer. When the two are one...*

We have been familiar for a long time with the philosophy of the University; we are prepared now for the philosophy of Autonomy. The former is an abstraction, the latter, a concrete realization of it. The horizon between philosophy and practice, between dream and dreamer, creation and creator—where is it? Searching, as always demands some acknowledgment; neither can disclaim responsibility for the other. We do like to pretend however that each is absolute, each is independent.

We have yet to find the perfect concordance between life and education. From the voices of the past comes a message: we are what we plan to be. But are we ever what we study to be? The art of life is picked up surreptitiously in strange places, tutored by unacknowledged teachers, and certified by time. Many of us fail the test simply for want of the final sincerity to ourselves.

*In such quickenings of the mind, in the short span of a few pages, in the brevity of an academic year, we present what is essentially an endless process.*

## Editorial Board

- Student Editors : Tulsi P.C, III B.Sc. Physics  
Meenakshi Doctor III B.A. Litt.  
R. Mini II M.A. Litt.
- Staff Advisors : Meera Balachandran - Dept. of English  
Padma Prasad - Dept. of English
- Cover Design : R. S. Geetha - II M.A. Fine Arts.



# Stella Maris College

(AUTONOMOUS)  
MADRAS 600 086

College Day : March 13, 1993

## Principal's Report

Our respected guest of honour this evening, Smt. Margaret Alva, Honourable Minister of State, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Government of India, Dr. Sr. Merlyn D'sa, Provincial and President of our Governing Body, Dr. Sr. Mary Ann, Secretary of the college, esteemed members of the Governing Body, respected academicians and colleagues, dear parents, friends and benefactors of the college, members of the faculty, administrative and supportive staff and cherished students:

The events of the past year that hasten to become a part of the annals of the history of Stella Maris have carved indelible impressions, of our search for truth, our quest for excellence, our struggle for radical transformation.

While our achievements are indicators of the tremendous potential that lies within, our setbacks, failures and restlessness spur us onward, towards new horizons, new dawns streaked with rays of hope.

It is said, the youth of a nation are the trustees of posterity. Therefore, it behoves us, as educators of young minds to assist in the formation of individuals, to train them for a creative, enlightened and responsible exercise of their freedom. One of the greatest strengths of Catholic Higher Education is, that it rests upon an implicit philosophy or theology of the human person, as an entity viewed in totality, a judicious blend of the mind and the spirit.

In an age where higher education generally is threatened with impersonality, the educational process at Stella Maris aspires to form the whole person, to enable, not merely the minds of the students to be sharpened and expanded, but to assist them to possess enlightened freedom, ennobling values and creative responsibility. This task would have been an onerous one to shoulder, but for the vivacity of our students, the unstinting commitment of our faculty and the unwavering support of the management, administrative and supportive staff.

On this our 45th College Day, while we take just pride in our accomplishments, we remain grateful for the benevolence of the Almighty and seek His bountiful blessings on all our endeavours, secure in the knowledge that it is not possible for civilisation to flow backwards while there is youth in this world.

SMC-1

At the end of five years of Autonomy, the Inspection Commission on the Functioning of the Autonomous Colleges under the University of Madras, visited the college in April 1992 and commended the excellent functioning of the college and acknowledged the faculty and student appreciation of the spirit of freedom that has brought with it positive winds of change to the academic world. On the recommendations of the commission the autonomous status has been extended to the college for a further period of five years. The Quinquennial Inspection Committee from the University of Madras also visited the college in September 1992.

In this context, I would like to draw your attention to the fact, that despite the multitude of extra-curricular activities, the intense involvement in projects and curricular programmes, our academic record has been consistent and commendable. The overall percentage of passes for B.A. degree is 79%, B.Com. - 98%, B.Sc. - 84%, M.A.- 79% and M.Sc. - 85%.

Before I embark on a brief account of the happenings at Stella Maris, during the academic year 1992-93, I would like to place on record our deep sense of gratitude and appreciation to three of our senior faculty members and four members of our administrative and supportive staff who have been cherished members of the Stella Maris family and who will be retiring this year.

Mrs. Pramila Ethiraj of the Department of Economics has contributed richly to the growth of the department over the 34 years she has been in service.

Dr. Mrs. Mythili Raman of the Department of Sanskrit has endeared herself to one and all with the wealth of her knowledge, her religiosity and her serenity during her 27 years of service.

Mrs. Sushila Felix has been a faculty member of the Department of Chemistry for the past 30 years. The calm and meticulous manner with which she discharges her responsibilities has been an asset to the department. These qualities serve her admirably in her present role as Controller of Examinations.

Sr. Rose, bursar of the college for the past 25 years has served the faculty and the students with unflagging enthusiasm. Her efficient tenacity, her calm demeanour and her indomitable will have been a source of inspiration to all of us.

To three of our supportive staff, Mrs. Ponnamma, Mrs. Francina and Mrs. Saroja we would like to express our deep debt of gratitude and appreciation. Loyalty and hard work have been the hallmark of their devoted service of this campus which they consider their own.

We wish all of them a fulfilling and contented retirement and may the bonds of friendship forged with Stella Maris remain true and strong.

I wish to express my gratitude to Mrs. Jayalakshmi who so ably and sincerely administered the examination unit of the college in her capacity as Controller of Examinations in the first five years of Autonomy. I wish her happy years of fruitful endeavour.

The members of the Faculty are the moving spirit behind any Stella Maris venture. Constantly on the move, they keep pace with developments in their field of specialisation, giving generously of their time and efforts to the students. The faculty also serve actively as consultants and office bearers of government and non-government organisations. They are actively engaged in research, organisation of seminars and conferences at National and International levels and are called upon to be resource persons and serve on academic bodies of Universities and other Institutions.

I would like to extend my congratulations to Dr. Ms. Vijaya Parthasarathy, Head, Dept. of Botany, Dr. Mrs. Ramani, Head, Dept. of Economics, Dr. Ms. Jatinder Singh and Dr. Mrs. Ramaa Narayanan, Dept. of Fine Arts and Dr. Ms. Geetha, Dept. of Chemistry who have received their doctorates this year. Sr. Flavia, fmm, and Mrs. Margaret Clarence, of the Dept. of English, Mrs. Kamala Arvind, Dept. of History, Mrs. Ulaganayaki, Dept. of Tamil and Mrs. Arputharani Sengupta, Dept. of Fine Arts have submitted their doctoral theses. Several of our faculty have registered for their research programmes.

As the world is shrinking we are extending arms across the seas and the universality of the teaching experience is seen in various exchange programmes. Stella Maris College hosted visits from several Fulbright Scholars who served for a while on our faculty. Dr. Karen Subramaniam, Associate Professor, School of Social Work, University of California, Los Angeles is currently serving on the faculty of the Social Work Dept. and Dr. Betty Bernard, on the faculty of the English Dept. Dr. Cathleen Feeley, Fulbright professor gave a few guest lectures to the students of the Dept. of English. Ms. K.G. Rama, Senior Lecturer in the Dept of Social Work has been invited by the Clarke University, USA under their Fulbright Scholar - in - residence programme to teach at their department of International Development. Mrs. Chitra Krishnan has returned after a successful one year sojourn at the Sorbonne University in Paris where she had gone on a UGC sponsored French Government scholarship.

The achievements of various members of the faculty are too innumerable to report in detail; therefore I will content myself with highlighting a few details.

Dr. Mrs. Madhu Dhawan, prolific writer that she is, has two major publications to her credit this year which have received commendable reviews. She was also instrumental in the formation of the Anubhuthi Club which brings to the fore the creative literary talents of students.

Dr. Mrs. Ramaa Narayanan held an exhibition of water colour and ink painting at the Chola Art gallery in December 1992. Dr. S. Geetha has received tremendous appreciation for the Home Kit she devised to detect Food Adulteration. It was even the subject of discussion on the floors of both the Houses of Parliament. Intense interest in her work continues to be generated in the media, particularly in the Southern states.

Dr. Ms. Vijaya Parthasarathy co-convened a National level training in Phytochemistry organised by the Krishnamurthy Institute of Algology at Loyola College in December 1992. A manual on Futurology intended for CBSE students has been published by a committee of experts under my chairmanship and with Mrs. Rukmani Srinivasan, Department of Chemistry as co-ordinator.

Mindful of the Chinese proverb that says "all the flowers of the future are in the seeds of today", the management and the faculty have spared no efforts in moulding the young entrusted to their care. Humbly aware of the awesome task before us several value and growth oriented programmes were launched on campus, besides offering Value Education courses in the curriculum. Retreats and other campus ministry programmes have offered the students a deepening of their faith-experience in the Transcendent. In a multi pluralistic set-up when the crisis brought on by the degeneration of the moral fabric of the Indian society is deepening, a positive note was struck by the Inter-Faith Dialogue programme initiated at Stella Maris College in collaboration with the Institute for Development Education, Madras. Ably co-ordinated by Sr. Sundari and Sr. Teresa several of these programmes have enabled the students to discover their innate potential and to experience the vibrant forces within.

To cope with the ever increasing pressures of the rapidly changing world of today, the college offers professional counselling services to students. The team comprising of Dr. Emma Gonsalves assisted by a group of faculty members has been a boon to the student community. The Peer Group sessions and Leadership Training Programmes have contributed towards generating a healthy atmosphere on campus. Thanks to the financial support extended by the United Board for Christian Higher Education, these programmes have been made possible.

Programmes that cater to the growing needs of the students specially to prepare them for their future careers are conducted regularly at Stella Maris. Special mention must be made of the Women's Entrepreneurial Development Programme co-ordinated by Mrs. Rukmani Srinivasan, the ISTD programme co-ordinated by Dr. Mrs. Sundari Krishnamurthy and the IAS preparatory course conducted by the Department of History.

It is not sufficient to supply information in the classroom. It is also essential to create a spirit of inquiry. The college library is a haven where the pursuit of knowledge may be carried on in a modern, well equipped and

## COLLEGE DAY



Principal addressing the gathering

Chief Guest,  
Hon'ble Mrs. Margaret Alva,  
in conversation with  
Sr. Edith Tomory, f.m.m.



Guard of Honour - NCC Unit



## CONVOCATION DAY



Chief Guest  
Mr. Sankara Subbaiyan,  
I.A.S. inaugurates

Graduates assembled  
in solemnity



## SPORTS DAY



Mrs. Saravana Perumal  
◀ gives away the Trophy to Marissa Paris,  
Captain of the Athletic Team

Crossing human hurdles



efficiently-run environment. This is borne out by the fact that it was adjudged the Best Library in Madras by the Mylapore Academy.

Students' activities are manifold in their diversity. They enthusiastically undertook field trips and participated wholeheartedly in curricular projects. To expose students to social realities, several departments organised camps in rural areas as part of their curricular programmes. This exposure to the rural reality has been an indelible learning experience. The Inter-Disciplinary Orientation, the Social Awareness Programme and Value Education have evoked an enthusiastic student response and contributed towards the creation of well rounded personalities and well balanced minds.

In the arena of academic brilliance two students whose achievements require special mention are Srividhya Rajagopalan of the Department of Economics and C. Kalpana of the Department of Physics. Srividhya took the Stanford-Binet IQ test early this year and emerged with the result of 194, way above the genius line of 140. This places her among the top 12 people in the world. Having several scholastic achievements to her credit Stella Maris is proud of her accomplishments and wishes her a bright and exciting future.

C. Kalpana has won laurels for the College at the National level. In the All India Essay Competition conducted by the Department of Atomic Energy on the role of Nuclear Power Generation in India, Kalpana was chosen out of 1500 prospective candidates to present her paper at the Baba Atomic Research Centre where, of the 15 candidates, she emerged with top honours winning the first prize and a cash award of Rs. 5,000. An achievement that also merits mention here is that of Ms. Deepa Ramanathan, Department of Economics who received the All India Achievers Awards 1993 at its conference held in Bangalore. Deepa was also awarded the Gem of India Award for excellence in Bharathnatyam by Dr. Arjun Singh, Minister for Human Resource Development at New Delhi. She was also conferred the title of 'Natyamani' by the Tamil Nadu Welfare Board in recognition of her excellence in Bharathnatyam.

I would now like to highlight some of the special activities and programmes of individual departments. The History Department compiled an audio-visual package for presentation to higher secondary students explaining the scope and prospects of pursuing a career with history as their major subject. Prepared in both English and Tamil this package received an overwhelmingly enthusiastic response. To familiarise Japan to the college community the department also presented an aesthetically pleasing and informative exhibition entitled "Sakura" held over two days.

The Economics Department organised the A.D Shroff Elocution Competition, the Dr. St. Helen Vincent Edowment Lecture which was delivered by Dr. V. Palanichamy, IAS, Commissioner for Collegiate Education, Madras. The Department also organised the Human Resource Development Seminar.

The Fine Arts Department organised several creative workshops and seminars. Special mention must be made of the Linoleum Block Printing workshop organised in January, the poster generation workshop and the workshop on Advertising Design in February 1993. The creative efforts of the students of the department were displayed during their annual art exhibition. Inaugurated by Mr. Achuthan Kudallur, an eminent artist, the exhibition highlighted the diverse media and techniques used in artistic-creative endeavours.

The English department conducted workshops and seminars that were well appreciated. Special mention must be made of the Bicentenary Birth Anniversary celebration of P.B. Shelley held on October 21st, 1992 the script of which has been accepted by the UGC Education programme. A two day seminar on New Literatures in English was held in February 1993 and evoked an enthusiastic response.

The Department of Chemistry organised the annual inter-collegiate quiz competition for the award of the Sr. Juliet Irene rolling trophy.

The Departments of Botany and Zoology organised a two day seminar entitled "Sustain Life". The seminar with its lectures, visuals and project presentation by the students was both revealing and informative. The Department of Zoology also organised an Inter-school exhibition on 'Environment and Health' in August 1992. The enthusiastic participation of 11 schools and their contagious vitality made it a pleasurable experience.

The Social Work Department has reached out in fields such as health services in slums, community awareness programmes on AIDS, and environment, health and hygiene. The students participated in a 5 day rural camp at Thiruverkadu village conducted under the auspices of the Feminist Association for Social Action. A household survey, an exhibition on Women's issues and several awareness programmes were among the numerous activities organised during their stay. A follow-up programme and a regular schedule have already been drawn up. The students of the Department of Social Work, as part of their field work received placements in various organisations to experience on-the-spot training under supervised guidance.

A group of talented students under the able direction of Mr. Santhan P. Alexander and co-ordinated by Mrs. Bernadine Joseph of the English Department staged a comedy thriller "A Tomb with a View". Written by Norman Robbins this two-hour highly entertaining play with distinct macabre overtones held the audience in thrall. The highly commendable reviews made this amateur theatrical venture a doubly resounding success.

The literary skills of the students were revealed in the numerous departmental and student publications during the year. The articles, poems, stories and illustrations in the Literary Journal of the English Department,



'Khilthi Kalyan' of the Hindi Department, 'Ankur' of the Economics Department, the 'Udaya' and 'Stella Times' by the students reveal a creativity that is matchless in its originality and skill.

'The Spirit of Youth in search of Truth' was the motto of the students' union. An abundance of youthful spirit was revealed in the variety of programmes organised and in the exuberant participation of the student body. Competition on campus and outside never lacked participants or spectators. Special programmes to celebrate Workers' day, PTC Day, Teachers' Day, Union Day were efficiently organised. Special mention must also be made of 'YUVBHAVANA' the Inter-year competitions which was marked by friendly rivalry, tremendous participation and display of skills that left one wondering. The seminar on 'Human Rights' organised by the Union brought to the fore a topical subject that is particularly relevant in today's world where Human Rights violations are the order of the day.

The office bearers of the union carried out their duties with enthusiastic dedication and youthful charm and they were aided in this by the able guidance and willing support offered by the Deans of Student Affairs, Sr. Christine, Dr. Mrs. Madhu Dhawan and Mrs. Jacinta Fenelon.

Student participation was not limited to the union organised programmes. The Peace Rally held in February evoked an enthusiastic response for promoting the cause of communal harmony and national unity. Our students once again brought alive the 'Human Christmas Tree' and participated with characteristic verve in the pageant. Another innovative artistic experience which our students depicted was the tracing of the history and the development of the computer through the medium of Bharathnatyam. Directed by Mr. David Thomas and produced on the occasion of the 19th National Conference of the Computer Society of India, the programme was highly appreciated and lauded for its aesthetic quality. Concern for the hearing impaired took concrete shape when 10 of our students, 7 of whom were NCC cadets, escorted a group of deaf and dumb youth on a trek to the Anaimudi hills enabling them to discover and enjoy nature in its pristine form.

The various departmental and non-departmental clubs functioned smoothly organising well attended programmes on a regular basis throughout the year. Special mention must be made of the Enviro Club which in collaboration with the parent club of the University of Madras organised many inter-collegiate workshops on Water Quality Management and Assessment and Projects on Pollution in the Cooum river and drinking water in Madras.

The Spic-Macay Chapter continued to open the minds of the students to imbibe and appreciate aspects of India's multifaceted cultural heritage.

The Silver Jubilee celebrations of the All India Association for Christian Higher Education for the southern region, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra

Pradesh was held at Stella Maris College in January 1993. During the celebrations eminent educationists including our former principal, Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent were presented awards in recognition of their yeoman service to the cause of Higher Education.

Considered the scourge of the society of today, no disease has evoked so much concern as AIDS. Facts mixed with fiction have been devoured by a susceptible population. To dispel these ignorant notions, yet to increase an awareness of the deadly potential of the disease the NSS unit of the University of Madras has been indentified by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Youth Affairs to conduct "Universities Talk AIDS". A weeklong programme was organised to reach every student on campus in 13 colleges in Tamil Nadu including our own. The week culminated in a state level function organised at Stella Maris College to observe World AIDS Day on December 1st 1992. The talks held in this connection as well as the programmes organised by the NSS unit of our college served their purpose, namely to make the student population and the community at large more aware of the disease and dispel clouds of obscurantism and ignorance. As a follow-up, the department of Zoology organised AIDS awareness programmes in various schools.

Drug abuse has long been the focus of international concern. The International Federation of Catholic Universities has selected Stella Maris as one of the Asian Centres to participate in an International Research - Action Project on Culture and Drug Abuse in Asian Settings. Launched in June 1992 with Sr. Christine its director and Mrs. Poppy Kannan, the research co-ordinator and Ms. Benita, the research assistant, the project involves an in-depth research into the various dimensions of the drug issue with particular emphasis on the cultural aspects and an action programme to be launched in collaboration with other related organisations in Madras city. It is hoped that the project with the guidance of the core group consisting of faculty members and experts in various related fields will have an impact on the society.

Illiteracy is the vast unconquered expanse that needs to be targeted by those who care. Due to the untiring efforts of the National Literacy Mission, about 180 districts in India have seen a ferment of social change in the form of the Total Literacy campaign. As a result of this campaign, around the year 2000 AD the country would witness for the first time a total environment stabilising around 120 million children in the formal system. By the end of 1993 there will be around 60 million neo-literates who would be pursuing post literacy activities. In this context it gives me great pleasure to state that Stella Maris College with 55 of our motivated student volunteers, under the dedicated guidance of two faculty members, Ms. Chandunissa, Department of Economics and Dr. Ms. Geetha, Department of Chemistry and the able supervision of Ms. Teresa, has launched the Functional Literacy Programme as part of the MANAR project supported by the UGC, in 2 villages Nemam

and Kuthambakkam in Chengai-MGR district. The literacy kits from the State Resource Centre and the financial assistance received from the Indian Bank have gone a long way to take a positive step towards eradicating illiteracy, which includes health care, population education and economic development activities. The enthusiastic response of the villagers has been an encouraging experience.

A Functional English Course for 110 PTC conductors and drivers was conducted by the Department of English. The course proved to be so popular that at the request of the PTC crew it was extended into the second semester. A 15 day session entitled "The Quality of Life" was conducted at the end of the course and certificates were awarded to successful participants.

Remedial teaching programmes are conducted by several departments to cater to the academically needy students of the college. A bridge course, an unique one of its kind, has been introduced in the college with a faculty member appointed for the purpose to motivate and train a small and select group of students who lack the confidence and the skills required to embark on a graduate course after their school leaving examinations.

The National Service Scheme with its 343 student volunteers has successfully undertaken 23 projects in and around Madras city, with Ms. Prabha Nair a dedicated and untiring co-ordinator at its helm. Some of the highlights of their activities that need to be mentioned are the International Literacy Day celebrations held at Thirukazhikundram and Thiruporur in Chengai-MGR district and the 10 day special camping programme at Vallam, Chengai-MGR district, that covered 7 villages to create awareness, motivate and enlist learners for the total literacy programme. The volunteers lent their services to and helped organise various functions such as the World Elders' Day held under the auspices of Helpage, India, the Functional Literacy for street and institutionalised children organised by the Department of Social Defence at Asha Nivas and the Special Olympics India - Tamil Nadu Meet organised by the Rotary Club at the YMCA grounds and a 12 day Regional Workshop for the preparation of graded post literacy materials on Women and Children organised by the UNICEF and the National Board of Adult Education at the Madras School of Social Work. The street play group of the NSS performed laudably at national and state-level workshops to promote greater awareness in the community of the prevailing social conditions. The International Womens' Day celebrations held under the auspices of the Commission on Addiction concerns, during which the NSS volunteers performed street plays at slums and other public places on themes ranging from addiction to abuse of women, has come in for a great deal of appreciation. The volunteers of the NSS and the co-ordinator deserve a special word of appreciation for their commendable dedication and commitment to the cause of the neglected and needy.

The Stella Maris College NCC unit has won many laurels and this is due in no small part to the dedicated commitment of the NCC officer Captain Gita Samuel, who has instilled a strong sense of discipline and responsibility in her cadets. The cadets participated in various camps, took part in treks and competitions and more often than not emerged victorious. For the fifth year in succession our unit was awarded the Banner at CADOFEST conducted by the D. G. Vaishnav College.

At the Republic Day camp held at New Delhi, Sgt. Subadhra, Dept. of Chemistry secured an All India second ranking. Sgts. Nicola, Florina and Aarthi and Lance Corporal Sintha also attended the camp. Sgts. Nicola and Sintha participated in the Rajpath March on January 26th, 1993. Captain Margaret Mary was adjudged second in the All India First Aid and Home Nursing Competition while Corporals Radha, Akila and Rohini represented the Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry directorate in first aid, home nursing, firing and signals competition. Senior Under Officer Nrithya Govindarajan was selected for the Indo-Canadian Youth Exchange Programme and spent 3 months in Alberta. Nine of our students took part in the ceremony when the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium was inaugurated by the Prime Minister, of which five were NCC cadets.

Sports has inculcated in the students a spirit of sportsmanship, created a competitive team spirit and contributed to the physical well being of the student community. Under the stewardship of our physical directress Mrs. Malathy Kumar we have earned many laurels. Mention must be made of the participation in inter-collegiate tournaments in which our Basketball team often emerged victorious, winning the Buck Memorial Inter-Collegiate Basket Ball Tournament, the State level Citra Basket Ball Tournament, and the Kokila Raja tournament amongst others. Several of our students donned the University colours in games such as basket ball, cricket, hockey, table tennis, kho-kho and lawn tennis. Our students also represented Tamil Nadu in Cricket, Basket Ball, Tennikoit, Hockey and Rowing. S. Karpagam, Dept. of Botany won the national individual championship for the year 1992. The Sports Day celebrated in December was marked by enthusiastic participation and revealed skill and prowess.

Ujjwala, the Women's Forum of Stella Maris College continues its dedicated service to further the cause of the Indian Women. The highlight of this year's activities was the publication of a compilation of articles by the staff and students on women related themes. It was fitting that the publication was released at the celebrations held in connection with International Women's Day.

I also take this opportunity to acknowledge those who unobtrusively shoulder the administrative duties under the guidance of Sr. Celine and facilitate the efficient working of the college. The examination unit deserves

mention for the smooth conduct of examinations and the timely publication of results.

Mention must also be made of the service rendered by the supportive staff under the direction of Sr. Annamma Luka who toil tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the smooth functioning of the college.

Having placed before you a report of the activities, though not comprehensive, of the past year, I would like to reiterate my deep sense of gratitude to:

- Dr. Sr. Merlyn D'Sa, Provincial and President of our Governing Body, Dr Sr. Mary Ann, Secretary of the college, Dr. Sr. Mary John, and Dr. Mrs. Meera Paul, our Vice- Principals, the Deans of Students Affairs, the members of the faculty and the administrative and supportive staff for their deep commitment and sharing of responsibilities in the administrative and the teaching-learning process.

- Our dear students who with their youthful exuberance add to the vitality of life on campus.

- The University authorities, the Education Department, the Regional Directorate, the Directorate of Collegiate Education and the University Grants Commission for their co-operation, advice and help extended so willingly and generously.

- The All India Association of Christian Higher Education, the Xavier Board, the United Board for Christian Higher Education, The Indian Bank, the Stella Maris College Extension Counter of the Indian Overseas Bank and other private and public sector organisations and agencies who have generously funded our student welfare programmes and projects.

- The Pallavan Transport Corporation, the Police Department, the Madras Electricity Board, the P & T Department, the Madras Telephones, the Corporation of Madras, AIR and Doordarshan Kendra and other public utility departments for the timely service rendered by them.

- Thank you dear parents, friends and benefactors for your continued support and sustained interest in all the happenings of the college.

As another eventful year draws to a close, we must set our eyes on the New Age that is to emerge. We need to develop the sense of the cosmic whole as envisaged by Rev. Bede Griffiths, in his New Vision of Reality. A new understanding of our environment therefore will put an end to this age of the exploitation of nature. Beauty always arises from this harmony with nature.

In the present challenging times we need to overcome discord and establish universal harmony. In this context, I would like to quote Jawaharlal Nehru— A strong wind arising somewhere creates a cyclone in one place and

an anti cyclone in another. So, if harmony is to be achieved by the individual it has to be supported by some kind of social harmony throughout the world.

It is when the truth of the Transcendent order of reality is rejected that we become exposed to the hostile forces of the subtle world. It is then that the perennial philosophy, the traditional wisdom found in all great religions of the world offers a means of solace and recovery. A cosmic universal religion, with essential values of each religion preserved in a living relationship with the other religious traditions of the world needs to emerge. This is a task for the coming centuries, as the present world order breaks down and a new world order arises from the ashes of the old.

The aspirations of our youth, their hope for a harmonious world order will be presented in the cultural programme that you will witness this evening.

In our search for truth , in our determination to be artisans of this new world order, may the Wisdom of the Almighty grant us the courage and the vision to tread unknown paths, to forge ahead undaunted.

Thank you and God bless.

\* \* \* \* \*

## SHRADHANJALI



Rev. Fr. Milton Fernandez

Born 10-3-1920

Ordained Priest 19-10-1947

Eternal Rest 22-4-1993

*April 22 1993 - day that has been indelibly imprinted in the annals of Stella Maris, a day which marked the sudden and unexpected demise of Rev Fr Milton Fernandez. It is difficult to believe that the gentle, serene, dignified and loving presence of Fr. Milton is no longer visibly with us.*

Father Milton has been associated with the College from its very beginnings. 1947, the year our college was founded was also the year in which Father Milton was ordained priest. From 1960 onwards, when Stella Maris was shifted from Mylapore to this present campus, Father Milton has been our faithful, devoted chaplain. His deep faith, piety, devotion and love enriched all the religious services in our chapel. The solemnity of every occasion acquired an inspiring sanctity, with his great talent for singing. Ever ready to be of service, he was always a model of regularity and discipline.

A man who endeared himself to one and all with his simplicity and large-heartedness, Father Milton has become an integral part of Stella Maris College. The latest addition to the Campus Buildings, St. Francis Hall (1986) was blessed by him. He was also a man who was greatly committed to the cause of the poor — a scholarship for deserving and needy students instituted by him bears testimony to this. From 1978, Father Milton, shared the responsibility of being our chaplain with Fr. Kurien Thomas. It has been a long chaplainship of thirty three years - a time when his gentle, kind and fatherly support has become a source of great strength.

**“DEATH IS NOT THE EXTINGUISHING OF THE LIGHT, IT IS  
PUTTING OUT THE LAMP BECAUSE THE DAWN HAS COME.”**

*May the eternal dawn in Father Milton's life shed its radiance and hope as he continues to intercede for us.*

— Sr. Annamma Philip, f.m.m.

\* \* \* \* \*



*Like the dew on the mountain,  
Like the foam on the river,  
Like the bubble on the fountain,  
Thou art gone, and forever!*

Warm, exuberant, friendly and fun loving, Alison Mascarenhas showed her quiet strength in battling the disease that took her away from us. We miss her. We pray for the repose of her soul.

*A. Reshma I M.A. Litt.*  
(on behalf of B.A. Litt. Students - 1990-93)



# Students' Union - 1992-93 : A Report

It gives me great pleasure to present a report on the activities organised by the Students' Union this year. Our team assumed charge on March 20th 1992 and we were given our badges of office.

Our first activity together was the Farewell party for our seniors. We organised a programme called 'Glimpses' - a short flashback into the major events of the academic year 1991-92. With the farewells we concluded the activities for the year 1991-92. The students' union office bearers were oriented at the Don Bosco Youth Animation Centre, Ennore on the 3rd, 4th & 5th of June '92 by the Deans. The Deans had organised for us innovative and extremely helpful exercises on communication skills, team work, leadership qualities and decision making. They also briefed us on the objectives of our College and Students Union and also the duty and level of responsibility of the SU Office bearers. It was during this 3-day period that we formulated our motto for the year, and laid down the objectives that we would strive to achieve. This 3-day session was of immense help to us. We not only got to know each other better but also ourselves, and most important of all, each of us understood the team we had to work with. Each of us, equally enthusiastic and determined, looked forward to the reopening of our college.

Soon, it was time to meet new faces, the first year students and welcome them into this abode of unity and success. We proposed an orientation for the First Years on the 26th, 29th and 30th of June. We also had an orientation programme for the Second Years on the 6th of July and for the Third Years on the 7th of July. We discussed the objectives and general functioning of the Students Union. It was the first time that any union has oriented the entire student body.

July 1st 1992 was a red letter day for the Union. The Students Union motto for the year 1992-93 'THE SPIRIT OF YOUTH IN SEARCH OF TRUTH' was presented. The objectives for the year were also presented on the same day:

1. To develop a deeper awareness and sensitivity towards the overwhelming problems prevalent in society today.
2. To work towards reaching out to the less privileged and improving their condition.
3. To discover the talents latent in the student body and to channelize their potential.

In keeping with these objectives we organised an 'AWARENESS WEEK' from the 13th to the 20th of July. The Awareness Week commenced with the entire student body pledging their commitment towards the betterment of society,

the less privileged in particular. A 'Self Awareness Personality Test' was conducted. Badges with the words 'I'M A STELLA MARIAN' inscribed on them were sold at a nominal rate. We also organised a quiz based on Stella Maris to widen students' knowledge of their own college. The significance of FAMILY IN SOCIETY was highlighted in a wonderful message delivered by Dr. Mrs. Radha Paul. We also screened a movie "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" to highlight the same. Dr. Suniti Solomon, Head of the Department of Microbiology, Madras Medical College gave us an educative talk on 'Aids-the killer disease' and opened our eyes to realities. The grand finale of the Awareness Week was the inter-departmental competitions. Different departments organised different programmes to create awareness. There was a flurry of activity in the college and students were very enthusiastic and competitive. The college looked colourful with a number of charts and balloons put around the campus conveying different messages to the students.

The Botany Department emerged as the overall winner. Besides competitive spirit, the hidden talents of the students materialised thus making the 'Awareness Week' a successful and entertaining one. The message was conveyed perfectly with each department contributing its valuable share in creating a definite awareness of themselves and their surroundings.

PTC Day was celebrated this year on the 22nd of July. PTC Day, as we all know, is celebrated every year in appreciation of their 'Special' services rendered to us. Mr. Sharma, Chairman of the Pallavan Transport Corporation presided over the function.

The 28th, 29th and the 30th of July '92 were very special days for the Union Office bearers, class-reps, club presidents, representatives of the NSS, NCC and Games and the Deans. The orientation programme consisted of innovative exercises and games relating to leadership qualities, communication skills, team work, decision making, and conflict solving. On the whole the sessions were well received and fruitful.

The college celebrated Friendship Day on the 7th of August. We sold friendship bows as a symbol of love and everlasting friendship. The first Student Council Meeting was held on 19th August 92 for the year 1992-93. Apart from the usual presenting of reports this meeting also had a detailed discussion on the major activity for the I Semester - the Inter Years.

Teachers' Day was celebrated on the 5th of September 1992. Students took this opportunity to express their appreciation of their teachers and present them with a small gift each. This was followed by tea and entertainment.

The most exciting event of the Ist Semester - 'Inter Years' was held over a period of three full days on the 17th, 18th and 19th September. Inter Years 1992 was titled 'Yuvabhavana' - meaning 'Expressions of Youth.'

This year had a total of 26 events which were classified into major and minor events depending upon the number of participants, and consequently

upon the amount of effort required in terms of practice, with major events consisting of group-events, and minor events consisting of important and individual events. This year saw the introduction of events like variety entertainment, thermocole designing, mock interviews, fairy tale theatre and embroidery. The overall winners were the Third Years closely followed by the Second Years. The participation cup went to the post graduates. Thus over this period of 3 days, our college witnessed packed halls and a meritorious display of talent and fellowship. The response from the staff and student body was overwhelming thus making Yuvabhavana a success.

The first General Body Meeting for the academic year 1992-93 was held on the 19th of October 1992. The meeting was open to students only. The students were free to voice their opinions and give suggestions. However the attendance was not as strong as we hoped it would be. Only 28 students attended the meeting.

Workers' Day was celebrated on the 2nd, December 1992 with a prayer, speeches and distribution of gifts to the workers. This was followed by a good breakfast and as entertainment, a Tamil Movie was screened for them.

"Wherever there is a human being, I see God-given rights inherent in that being, whatever may be the sex or complexion" said William Lloyd Garrison before the Women's Rights Convention, New York. The Students Union Seminar was held on the 16th of December 1992 on the concept of Human Rights. It was titled 'In Need of Human Recognition'. Expert speakers were invited to present papers on a variety of sub-topics. The aspects covered were violation by State, people *vs* people and women's rights. Badges and certificates were distributed to all participants.

Motivating the non-departmental Clubs into greater levels of activity was taken as one of our objectives. Marmalade 1993, the 'club show of the year' held on the 12th of January was organised not only to encourage these clubs but also to tap the hidden talents of the club members.

Udaya, the Stella newspaper was revived after a lapse of several years. It gives us current information pertaining to college activities.

The Second Student Council Meeting was held on the 19th January 1993. The agenda for the meeting was a detailed discussion on the new election procedure and discussion on the Union Carnival.

This year we introduced a change in the procedure for the nominations and elections of the Student Union Office bearers, the ultimate aim being to instil a sense of responsibility amongst the students and to ensure that their leaders are elected by them and not by others. The election procedure commenced on the 4th of February 1993 and was completed on the 18th of February 1993. Nominations for all posts were completed on one day and elections for 2 posts were held simultaneously. We introduced the secret ballot system wherein each student had the freedom and right to exercise her franchise. However only a discouraging 60% of the total student body exercised this right.

In aid of the less privileged students of our College, we introduced a 'Student Aid Fund' - SAF. Each class had to raise funds within the college to contribute towards this fund. For this project we got immense support from the students and from the class representatives in particular. Food stalls were put up, greeting cards and book marks were sold and games were organised. We collected a total of Rs. 5,804.85 paise. This money was utilised for the following purposes : we purchased a pair of sports shoes for one of our star players and text books for some students. We also utilized this money to pay students who render their services in the college library. Further, we sponsored the education of 2 students from the sciences and 2 students from the humanities through this fund.

I would like to end by thanking Sr. Principal, the Vice Principals, the Deans, staff and students for having not only supported but also encouraged us in all our endeavours. A special 'Thank you' to Sr. Christine, Mrs. Jacintha Fenelon and Dr. Mrs. Madhu Dhavan, our Deans who have been our friends, philosophers and guides throughout this year.

*Sumangla, III B.Com.*  
Union Secretary

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## NCC — Another Year of Achievement

Over the years, the NCC unit of Stella Maris has always done the college proud under the dynamic leadership of Miss Gita Samuel. 1992-'93 has brought in its quota of achievements to add to those of the years gone by.

An almost annual feature of the NCC's activities is the Youth Exchange Programme between India and Canada. This year Sergeant Under Officer Nrithya was the proud representative of India in Canada between July '92 and January '93. She participated in various development projects abroad and in India, and found this a most enriching experience.

Considering the year's NCC programme under three major periods of time, the first period between May '92 and August '92 had three major activities. On the 10th of May, two cadets Sarasvani and Indu attended the All India Trekking Camp. An inaugural camp held in the Adyar Theosophical Society on the 18th and 19th July put fresh recruits through a formal orientation to various NCC activities. During the Independence Day Celebrations on the 15th August, a guard of honour was given to the chief guest, the novelist Ms. Indumathi, by the Stella Maris cadets, with three representatives from each of the Army, Navy and Air Forces taking the salute. The Social Service aspect of the NCC unit was in evidence at the Blood Donation Camp on the 23rd August, when eight Stella Maris Cadets volunteered to donate blood.



Student Union '92-'93 — Standing L to R: Aarthi, Cultural Sec., Arts; Sumangala, Gen. Sec., Samantha, President; Ranjana, Vice-President; Sophie, Treasurer; Kalpana, Cultural Secy., Sciences.  
 Seated L to R: Sr. Mary John, Vice Principal; Mrs. Jacintha Fenelon, Dean; Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, Principal; Dr. Madhu Dhawan, Dean; Dr. Sr. Christine, Dean.



The College Basketball Team: Seated L to R: Sashirekha, Capt. Durga Devi, Sumithra and P. Arathi with Vice-Principal, Principal and Mrs. Malathy, P.D. in the centre. Standing L to R: K. Arathi, Brily L. Thomas, Rekha, Lavanya, Saritha, Lakshmi Prashanthi, Lakshmi and Neela.





## N.C.C. DAY

Commodore Ravi R. Nair gives away the Cadofest Cultural Trophy to UO Kulashree

## N.S.S.

N.S.S. Volunteers enact a street play for Commission on Addiction Concerns



## COLLEGE PLAY

Scenes from "A Tomb with a View"

◀ Startling Discovery

The family lawyer reads the Will



Between September and December '92 the activities of the NCC gathered momentum. The first ten days of September were spent at Trichy by Corporals B. Akila, Mary Margaret, Radha and R. Rohini, attending the final selection camp for BLC's. At the ATC camp at Wallajahpet, held between 24th September and 10th October, Sergeant Under Officer Indu was adjudged the best shot and parade Commander. Twenty four Stella Maris cadets attended this camp, while six more were there at the Pre-Republic Day Camp at Dindigul between 28th-September and 8th October. At the same time as the Dindigul camp, four other cadets represented the college at Trichy for the Intensive Launch camp for BLC's. A trekking expedition to Anaimudi for the hearing impaired attended by seven cadets between the 1st and 6th October was a novel experience. The Basic Leadership Camp at Delhi between 12th and 23rd October saw four Stella Maris Cadets representing Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Andamans directorate. Corporal Mary Margaret was adjudged All India second in the First Aid and Home Nursing course. At the nineteen-day Republic Day Launch Camp between 13th and 31st December at the Air Force Station, Tambaram, six Stella Maris cadets were participants.

The New Year 1993 brought on the festive third round of NCC activities, with five cadets representing the college at the whole month long Republic Day Camp at Delhi in January. They were Sergeants S. Subhadra, S. Aarti, Florina Benoit, Nicola Jacob and Corporal Sintha. Sgt. Subhadra emerged as the All India Second Best Cadet. The Inaugural Ceremony at the Nehru Stadium on the 18th January was attended by five cadets. At the Inter company competitions conducted on the 23rd January, the Alpha Company bagged the Best Company Award. Back in Madras, at the CADOFEST held in D G Vaishnav College, between 7th and 10th January, Stella Maris won the banner for the fifth consecutive year.

Stella Maris College NCC Unit celebrated its NCC day on the 12th January, with a colourful display of its culture, training and discipline. Commodore Ravi R. Nair, Deputy Director General, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Andamans Directorate, the Chief Guest took the salute for the Ceremonial Drill.

The NCC's capacity for control and discipline was in ample evidence at the Peace March organised for all schools and colleges on the 23rd February. The March was flagged off from Stella Maris College, and the NCC cadets took efficient charge of the entire student body.

All courses end with examinations; four cadets of the College Unit took the 'C' certificate examinations on the 8th of March and nineteen appeared for the 'B' certificate examination on the 2nd of April.

The NCC unit of 1992-93 wishes to place on record their deep gratitude to their leader, Miss Gita Samuel, whose presence, inspiration and support have taken the unit through several milestones of achievement.

*NCC Unit*

# From the Sports Field

Stella Maris College is justly proud of her achievements in games and sports during the academic year, 1992-93. Many students brought home laurels and all have played the game in the right spirit. I deeply appreciate their efforts and I am very glad that the authorities of our institution have encouraged their participation in several ways. In addition to the major games we have included Yoga and Karate for students.

Team players were provided shirts. In the inter-collegiate tournaments our teams did well as usual and won four games namely Basketball, Cricket, Table-tennis and Kho-Kho and were runners-up in Handball. Three of the college tennis team players were selected from south division for Inter-division tournament. We won the runners-up trophy in Group Championship among the South division colleges of Madras University.

Our players represented the Madras University South Division in the following major games and athletics as detailed below:

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| <b>Basketball</b>   | - J. Durgadevi II B.Com<br>- P. Aarthi II B.Com<br>- J. Sashikala II B.A History<br>- V. Lakshmi I B.A History<br>- L. Sumithra II B.Sc Maths<br>- B. Neela II B.Sc Maths<br>- Rekha II B.A. Economics<br>- A. Savitha II B.A. Economics |
| <b>Kho-Kho</b>      | - Thulasi Rani III B.A. History<br>- Amudha R. I B.Sc Physics<br>- Helen M.J. I B.Com<br>- A. Hemalatha I B.Sc Physics<br>- S. Kemalatha I B.A. History<br>- Stella Canute I B.Com   |
| <b>Cricket</b>      | - Jaishree M. III B.Com<br>- Vimal K. Sripathy III Litt<br>- Kamini Bajaj III B.A. Litt<br>- Shuba III B.A. Sociology<br>- Sharon III B.A. Sociology<br>- Sheela I B.Sc. Maths   |
| <b>Table-tennis</b> | - C. Bhuvaneswari III B.Sc Zoology<br>- K. Chitralkha III B.Sc Zoology<br>- Sunitha Ram I B.Sc Zoology   |



- Hockey**
- T. Asha II B.Com
  - Anitha I B.A. Economics
  - Rekha I M.A. Literature
- Tennis**
- Sumangala III B.Com
- Athletics**
- Marissa II B.A. Literature
  - Nichola II B.A. Sociology
  - Belinda I B.A. Literature
  - Helen M.J. I B.Com

Many Stella Marians have the honour of wearing the University colours every year in several games. This year some of our students represented Madras University for All India Inter-University tournaments in the major games conducted.

The university players were:

- Basketball**
- J. Durgadevi II B.Com
  - L. Sumithra II B.Sc Maths
  - J. Sashikala II B.A. History
  - P. Aarthi II B.Com
  - V. Lakshmi I B.A. History
- Cricket**
- Jaishree M III B.Com
- Hockey**
- T. Asha II B.Com
- Table Tennis**
- C. Bhuvaneswari III B.Sc Zoology
- Kho-Kho**
- Thulasirani S. III B.A. History
  - Amudha R. I B.Sc Physics
  - Helen M.J. I B.Com
- Tennis**
- Sudha N. I B.A Economics
  - Shibani I B.Com

T. Asha has represented the University in both Hockey and Cross country.

Stella Marians also represented Tamil Nadu in Cricket, Basketball, Kho-kho and Tennikoit.

The state players from Stella Maris were

- Cricket**
- Jaishree M. III B.Com
  - Vimal K. Sripathy III B.A. Literature
- Basketball**
- J. Durgadevi II B.Com
  - L. Sumithra II B.Sc Maths
  - P. Aarthi II B.Com
  - V. Lakshmi I B.A. History

<b>Kho-Kho</b>	Thulasirani III B.A. History Helen M.J. I B.Com Hemalatha A. I. B.Sc Physics Kemalatha S. I B.A. History R. Amudha I B.Sc Physics
<b>Tennikoit</b>	S. Karpagam I B.Sc Botany
<b>Hockey</b>	T. Asha III B.Com Anitha I B.A. Economics
<b>Rowing</b>	Savithri Chandra II B.A. Fine Arts

Apart from the above activities the Stella Maris tennis team participated in several open tournaments. In Basketball the team bagged the winners trophy in the state level inter-collegiate Citra Basketball Tournament conducted by our college, in the inter-collegiate sports fest tournament conducted by IIT Madras and in the Scudder Memorial Open tournament conducted by Christian Medical College, Vellore. They secured the runners-up trophy in the state level inter-collegiate tournament and the runners up position in the Ethiraj Memorial Cricket Tournament conducted by Ethiraj College.

Stella Maris won the Kokila Rajah All India Inter-Collegiate Basketball Tournament conducted by I.I.T. Madras. L. Sumithra II B.Sc Maths was adjudged the most valuable player and P. Aarthi II B.Com was selected as the best All Rounder. Our college was also the runner-up in Feasto All India Collegiate Basketball Tournament conducted by Feasto Club, Calicut. P. Aarthi and J. Durgadevi won the Best Player award. Stella Maris was also winner in the Buck Memorial Tournament conducted by YMCA College of Physical Education, Madras and the open Tournament conducted by Hindustan College of Engineering, Padur.

The Stella Maris table-tennis team secured the gold medal at the sports festival conducted by I.I.T. Madras and also secured the second place in the Swamiji state level tournament conducted by Saradha College, Salem.

In Tennikoit S. Karpagam of I B.Sc Botany won the National individual championship for the year 1992.

All in all, it has been one more year of challenge, achievement and victory for the college with the genuine spirit of sportsmanship evident at all times.

*Mrs. Malathi*  
Physical Directress

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# A Diary of NSS Events

1992 - 1993

## The NSS - Looking forward

"Take up one idea, make that one idea your life, think of it dream of it, live on that idea. Let the brain, the muscles, the nerves, every part of your body be full of that idea and just leave every other idea alone. This is the way to success".

- Swami Vivekananda

And this is the way of the NSS.

## Special Programmes and Achievements:

- 16th - 19th July '92 - A Leadership Training Programme with emphasis on Personality Development was conducted at Camp Tonekela, Avadi. Forty five NSS volunteers participated.
- 18th August '92 - An Inter Collegiate Oratorical competition was organised in connection with the celebrations for Sadhbavana Day.
- 1st October '92 - World Elders Day was celebrated by Help Age India for more than five hundred aged people. Forty NSS volunteers extended their services for the entire programme.
- 19th November '92 - Twenty one NSS volunteers participated in a Training Programme connected with the 'Universities Talk Aids' campaign.
- 23rd - 30th Nov. '92 - An Aids Awareness Week was organised in college aimed at declaring the College as an Aids Aware College. Orientations, Aids Games, a Rally, Blood Donation Camp, questionnaires and an exhibition were the highlights of the week.
- 30th November - 1st Dec. '92 - An Exhibition on Aids was conducted in the College premises. The Aids Research Foundation in India collaborated in organising the same.
- 1st December '92 - World Aids Day - a formal function marked the day for the entire student community.

A valedictory function, jointly organised by the NSS, University of Madras, World Health

Organisation was held at Stella Maris College. About seven hundred participants from different colleges and organisations attended the function.

28th Dec'92  
- 7th Jan ' 93

- A ten day Special camping programme was held at Vallam, Chengai-MGR district with 'Youth for Mass Literacy' as the theme. Forty NSS volunteers and one programme officer participated.

8th - 9th  
February ' 93

- The Special Olympics India Tamil Nadu Meet 1993 was organised by the Rotary Club of Madras East and South West at the YMCA grounds. A group of 67 NSS volunteers rendered their services for the benefit of Mentally Retarded Citizens.

11th February ' 93

- At a workshop on 'Women in the Unorganised Sector' conducted by the social work forum, D. G. Vaishnav College, Madras, the NSS volunteers won prizes for slogan writing, sketching, rangoli, poster making and skit competition at an inter-collegiate level. Twenty seven volunteers participated in the events.

8th March ' 93

- NSS Day celebrated, saluting the spirit of service. Well wishers, invited guests and participants from various institutions graced the occasion. Certificates and prizes were awarded to the NSS volunteers.

Street Play Performances by the NSS cultural group were much in demand and also greatly appreciated by many. A number of performances during the year enabled the group to create awareness regarding social issues and literacy. A glimpse into some of the performances:

6th August 92

- Project Co-ordinators from all over India, involved in the Literary Programme witnessed a group of thirty volunteers perform at Asha Nivas.

8th September 92

- International Literacy Day was celebrated through the performances of the group at Thiruporur and Thirukazhukundram Blocks, Chengai-Anna District.

26th October 92

- In a programme by the Director of Social Defence the group performed for those involved with street and institutionalised children at Asha Nivas.

11th January 93

- Fuel Conservation week programme organised by the Indian Oil Corporation, saw the group performing at Museum Theatre.

5th February 93

- The India Literacy Mission and India Bible Society conducted a workshop for project co-ordinators of literacy projects. The street play group gave an excellent performance at the Gunekul Theosophical College, Madras.

8th March 93

- International Women's Day gave the group a very unique opportunity of performing in two slums and two other public places on the same day. The entire programme was organised by the Commission on Addiction Concern, Madras. The performances were well received by the general public.

We are aware that all these efforts and achievements are but a drop in the ocean - but the ocean needs the drop.

*Prabha Nair*  
NSS Co-ordinator

\* \* \* \* \*

## "Hostelitis"

From the Freshie socials to the farewell party, the hostelites of Stella Maris College, had a wonderful time throughout 1992-'93. Being a resident student, gives you that special touch of familiarity and belonging, and college then becomes your second home! Once the homesickness and initial adjustment is over, nothing compares to being a hostelite - take a veteran's word for it.

The Freshie social started the year off with a reliving of the Mughal era, as the seniors welcomed the freshies to the theme of "Diwan-e-Khas". The freshies returned the gesture through "Lamhe", where we celebrated our moments together.

The highlight of the year, thanks to our very innovative hostel representatives - Kudos to our ex-seniors - was "The Floor-shows." The ground floors, middle floors and the top floors of both hostels competed against each other in a series of hilariously enjoyable competitions. We scoured the campus, in the process of beating each other in the Queen of Sheba and the Treasure Hunt. Our night-life in hostel struck a new high with a bonfire around which we sang and danced to the medleys that came out of a delightful session of Antakshari. We presented action songs which took us back to Kindergarten as 19-year old "women!" mimicked the ducks and cows that are so much a part of Old Mac Donald's farm!

The East met the West in Arabian dances, Indian and western medleys, where fusion of a unique kind came off the stage. The Fancy Dress was a scream as little babies bawled into the O.A.T. and Humpty Dumpty stole our hearts.

Finally, the creative and literary talents of each floor were brought out in the "Rag-mags". They described every aspect of the hostel from the rush for bath-rooms, more formally termed as the Battle of Waterloo, to side-splitting limericks and cartoons which touched upon food, outing deadlines, study hour (or shall we call it curfew?) and other aspects of hostel life!!

The ancient rivalry between the years came through as each year put up entertaining items, where amateur singers, dancers and actresses shone in all their glory!

The Christmas mass and celebrations, sent us home bursting with fun and spirit. An outing to the zoo, sounded drab, even to us at first; but we made a wonderland out of Vandalur, trooping up and down the zoo celebrating the joys of wildlife, whichever way you look at it!

Hostel Week and Hostel Day come as landmarks every year. The hostelites threw themselves into football matches, repetitive of an earlier basket-ball match, played by girls who did not know the difference. The athletic events were one of a kind. For example, the hurdles were replaced by buckets of water. The 100-metre dash had an innovation. You weren't just bound to win, you were also bound to your partner!

The week culminated in Hostel Day, when each floor put up spoofs, folk dances and the like, to an audience of guardians and families who were merely getting a glimpse into the fun of living together.

As each year ends, the blues set in, and many a third-year can be caught with tears in her eyes. The farewell we gave our seniors conveyed how very much we would miss them. Through "A Hawaiian Rhapsody" we bid goodbye to a wonderful bunch of seniors and a superb year!

*Mary Ann Koruth*  
III B.A. Economics

\* \* \* \* \*

#### ALL HAVE

The teacher spent some time explaining the calendar to her small pupils.  
"Which month has twenty eight days?" - She asked, when she felt the class had understood.  
A small boy shot up his hand; "they all have, teacher".

*Babitha Xavier, I B.S.c. Maths*

# We recall as we bid adieu...

## Faithful Stewardship

Beneath the quiet smile is a tough spirit. A stickler for perfection, Sister Rose, bursar of the college for the past 25 years, has always avoided the limelight, while abounding in good deeds in private. Keeping stock of finances is no pleasant task, but Sr. Rose has vested even this post with grace and finesse, by her gentle and firm stand against late submission of bills or imperfect documentation. Her soft answer turns away anger - no raising of voice in annoyance or displeasure. In her scrutiny of official correspondence, she takes utmost care, with her meticulous eye for detail.

Yet this strict financial controller radiates warmth and goodwill. She has always been generous with her personal time, being the first to visit the sick or bereaved families of staff and students alike, whether at home or in hospital. Worthy of emulation in her faithful stewardship, Sister Rose carries with her the warm greetings and good wishes of all those who have come into contact with her.

*Mrs. Meera Paul*  
Head, Dept. of Zoology



## Economist with a difference...

Mrs. Premila Ethiraj has been associated with the college since 1959, when she joined the faculty of the Economics Department. Since then there has been no looking back. The pursuit of her postgraduate degree and M. Phil research in the midst of her duties as a lecturer, has never interfered with her commitment as a teacher. She has often taken special effort to understand the problems and inhibitions of students in a motherly way.

Outside class-hours, Mrs. Ethiraj is relaxed and pleasant, maintaining a personal rapport with most other staff members on campus. She has personal enquiries to make of all of them - her communication network is amazing. Well-known to her colleagues in the department as a thrifty economist, she has never been economical with her time and energy in solving their problems. In human relationships, hers is the Economics that does not count the cost... It is difficult to think of the department without her.

*Mrs. S. Ramani*  
Head, Dept. of Economics



## Scholarship without Sophistry

Softspoken and unassuming for all her erudite scholarship, Mrs. Mythili Raman has been with the Department of Languages as Sanskrit professor for almost three decades. Her lectures on Hindu philosophy for the Value Education Course and for foreign students revealed a thorough understanding and interpretation of Sanskrit texts such as the Upanishads and the Bhagavat Gita. But in the peace and tranquility of her bearing and conduct, she is the greater exponent of Hinduism in practice.

Conscientious in the discharge of her academic and other duties, Mrs. Raman exemplifies the teaching of the Gita in her total detachment from the fruit of action. Extremely knowledgeable in classical music and dance, her guidance has proved invaluable in organising cultural programmes for College Day functions. Her choice of Sanskrit texts for the unique dance-ballet 'Sangamam' bears ample testimony to her connoisseur's taste in such matters. With her characteristic lack of pedantry and show, she has won the love and admiration of students and colleagues alike. May her retirement be as tranquil as her days in college.

*Mrs. Saroja Krishnamurthy*  
Faculty, Dept. of Sanskrit



## Scientist all the way... in letter and spirit

*The scientific temper goes hand in hand with a sense of equanimity and poise in Mrs. Susheila Felix. In her three decades of service in the Chemistry Department, she has fascinated generations of students with her practical demonstrations of Volumetric and Gravimetric Analysis. "A pleasure to watch", is every student's spontaneous reaction, as the degree of accuracy would invariably touch precision point in her titrations.*

*A perfectionist by nature, Mrs. Felix carried her habit of correctness and accuracy into every area of her college life, and would aspire for and attain the same degree of commitment from fellow staff and students. She is meticulous and methodical in managing her home as well. Age has hardly touched her and the understandable reluctance of the college to bid her goodbye is seen in her appointment as Controller of Examinations, which she has so graciously chosen to accept. But in the Chemistry Department, her irreplaceable presence will be sorely missed.*

*Mrs. Yashoda Doraiswami*  
Faculty, Chemistry Dept.



## Social Challenges

### Whither Education?

*If education involves the process of listening, reacting, responding and clarifying issues or ideas, the following 'Point-Counterpoint' on Education is intended to be a pointer to such a process. Learning then can be a mental adventure...*

#### POINT

We listened with rapt attention as my friend held forth on the objectives of present-day education:

विद्या नाम नरस्य रूपमधिकं प्रवेष्टुं गुप्तं एतं  
विद्या भोगकरी यथा: सुखकरी विद्या गुरुणा गुरुः॥

'Education is beauty's most splendid form. It is a bottomless treasure chest which yields the sparkling gems of knowledge, bringing fame and happiness in its wake, since it is the universal teacher.'

Contrast that with a more modern verse which goes:

*Education may be the best teacher  
But what makes me burn  
Is that the teacher teaches only  
What I do not care to learn.*

The obvious difference in the sentiments expressed above perfectly illustrates the change in attitude towards education and its values from an older civilisation to our time. This variance in attitude between then and now, both in means and in ends, is what gives rise to the question that haunts those who direct the course of education : "Should education be aimed at achieving humanitarian or materialistic ends?".

Undoubtedly higher education today seems geared to achieving only materialistic ends. Every student is hastily inducted into the rat race where ideally there is no difference between what one *has* to do and what one *wants* to do. What one has to do of course, is mint money. It is quite commonly accepted that you study to get a job to make money to live in a consumer heaven. Not to better understand human vagaries and thus learn tolerance and compassion. However, this is one of the best kept secrets in the world !

Significantly perhaps, the more 'advanced' countries have almost completely divested themselves of the pretence of despising this spiritual malaise. Less advanced countries claim moral superiority on account of possessing all the familial values the others have lost; yet are their societies any happier in their economic malaise ? Taken together this state of affairs is a powerful indicator of two opposing forces moulding society. Quite simply, the same human society that worships Mammon retains a strong puritanical streak that seeks to deny its own cupidity.

There is a very real threat, the humanitarian educationists would have us believe, that this materialistic attitude would "undermine the principles of education". Does the state of education today warrant a claim to lofty principles? T. S. Eliot once said, "Where is the wisdom that we have lost in our knowledge?" Nowadays we are losing knowledge to information. Education's 'Principles' lose all validity when applied to modern reality. A prime example of the frailty of educated morality is the emergence in India of anti-secularist politics. It is thus presumptuous to assume that humanitarianistic morality taught at college affects a student more than that prevailing in his or her environment.

Materialism is a necessary evil and must be accepted as such. True, all the money in the world cannot buy you happiness, but it can buy you the kind of misery you prefer! Plus as icing on the cake, material contentment restricts anti-social activity like nothing else, thus achieving a humanitarian end through monetary means.

There is a story of a man who wanted to hammer a nail into a wall. It would not go in though, for the simple reason that he was holding its head to the wall and pounding away at its point. Disgusted, he threw the nail away, saying it was obviously meant to go into another kind of wall!

A wall cannot and should not be changed to accommodate a nail. Similarly society cannot alter itself for education. The man merely had to turn the nail

around, just as educationists will have to reverse their vaunted principles to fit modern trends.”

### COUNTER POINT

The applause was spontaneous. My friend’s eloquence simply swept me off my feet! It was perfect rhetoric with all the brilliance and satire of a Shavian dramatic preface. But - was there not also the Shavian tendency for overstatement?

I stopped to ponder over the actual implications of her considered acceptance of materialistic ends for education. Was she saying something new? Is corruption in moral standards only a modern day phenomenon? Was not materialism a powerful factor in the political tussle between church and state since the time of Queen Elizabeth I or earlier Henry VIII in the very era of European Renaissance? And furthermore, who really denied the proper place of materialism in human life? Did not even Christ say ‘Render unto Caesar the things that be Caesar’s? Though ‘Man does not live by bread alone,’ when the occasion demanded, He broke the two loaves and five fishes to feed the five thousand before continuing the sermon and ministry. The several basketfuls left over are ample indication that divinity is not exactly opposed to the notion of luxury and abundance - the proverbial ‘good measure pressed down’.

It does not take long to understand that materialism and spirituality are not mutually exclusive; for made of flesh as we are, we cannot live on love and fresh air alone, in the same way that being partly spirit we cannot swallow thirty pieces of silver and live happily ever after. The fact that there’s a spiritual vacuum that spurts off a series of crimes in affluent societies is itself proof to show that a mere consumer heaven can act as a buffer against anarchy only for a short while. Value based education certainly may not produce immediate tangible material results; it does not claim to change the ethical standards of a student population overnight; neither is it geared towards stereotyping minds into a moral framework. Rather it makes one pause to think things out individually for oneself amidst the busy scramble for scraps of knowledge, information, degrees and diplomas - How well it is done is a different issue.

History is replete with examples of people whose search for truth pursued even at the cost of material gains has borne fruit ultimately, even a generation later - that is how education works in its long term goals of eliminating philistinism and reinstating culture in every epoch. Above all my friend’s speech taught me to avoid one of the great snares of modern education: to do “the right deed for the wrong reason” - the grand temptation that the Saint of Canterbury himself had to guard against! Reversing the screw and wall analogy, may we not say that the sturdy wall of true education with its goal of ultimate truth cannot be easily battered and brought down by society’s materialistic screws one way or another?

*Meena Ramachandran*  
II B.A. Economics & Editor

## Humanity - The 9.45 Connection

*The clock commands.  
Dutifully she obliges.  
Wears that plastic smile  
Just keeps her heart aside.  
A hand powders,  
Yet another demonstrates  
Diction, poise, accent.  
I can almost see  
The warmth  
Creep out of the backdoor,  
And then -  
The spotlights on her.  
But she -  
She hasn't got much to offer,  
Just the mundane routine -  
Militants. Terrorists. Naxalites.  
20 killed. 30 homeless.  
100 injured.  
And  
Grey - haired fathers nod mechanically.  
"Nothing new" (they say)  
And kind-hearted Mothers  
"Who is going to do something about this?"  
(They add)  
All the 900 odd seconds they -  
Like her -*

*Just keep their hearts aside.  
Another plastic smile, sweet goodbyes,  
The father's rock-chair rocks again  
With sleep.  
She is almost his lullaby !  
Mothers can now watch soaps,  
And our friend -  
Washes away the powder.....  
Brushes away the pain....  
Grabs the Green Notes.....  
Catches the last bus home.  
You ask me -  
"What's wrong?"  
Why I waste poetry  
On newsreaders?  
On news listeners?  
Well ! if you have the time  
To just read between the lines,  
You will see what's wrong.  
It's about the hearts  
(We've kept aside).  
It's just about the warmth  
(That's crept behind).  
It's just about humanity  
That's gone out of our lives...*

*Anupama Sekhar  
I B.A. Litt.*

# A Step Toward Self-Help

The decade of the nineties is witnessing a shift towards promotion of private enterprise, a shift towards integrating India with the global economy. In a developing economy - an economy which is gradually becoming more and more liberalized - there is bound to be an acceleration of growth particularly in the industrial and financial sectors. Success in this direction calls for more and more information and awareness on the aspects of starting one's industry.

What is Woman's Entrepreneur Enterprise? "An Enterprise owned and administered by a woman entrepreneur, having a minimum financial interest of 51% share capital and giving atleast 50% of the employment generated in the enterprise to women". (National level standing committee - 30th August, 1988.)

Any new thought process takes its first and continuing root in education and youth. Stella Maris College was a pioneer institution in conceiving the idea of a certificate course in 'women's entrepreneurship' in collaboration with Indian Bank. The course is designed to have two components - one of theory (10 days of 2 hrs. after classes) and the other of project work. The theory classes also incorporate a trip to industries managed by women entrepreneurs. The course is aimed at defining a new possible career and an opportunity to be one's own boss. The first course was conducted in 1989.

The 1992-93 course consisted of students selected on a first-come first-served basis. The projects submitted this year included software development, electroplating, advertising agency, LDPE Blown Film and Bags, Brackish water Prawn Farm, Retreading Tyres, Making of flaps for vehicles with tyres, Ball point pens, Printing and Binding, Packing, Gems and Jewellery and Pickle making.

Generally speaking it was observed through a survey that:

Women Entrepreneurs are low achievers to start with but pick up in due course.

Women Entrepreneurs manage their enterprises independently.

Their products are not necessarily feminine.

Women Entrepreneurs face operational problems with men.

They get full support from their family.

Majority of them are from a well-to-do or a middle class family.

Most often, they are not aware of the schemes available to them.

Nevertheless the hard reality that we have to face is that women who would dare to be entrepreneurs are very few. To change this seems to be our immediate task. We plan to establish contact with all those who have done the course so far to see if anyone has ventured out. The voyage is risky, even for the most adventurous; but women are strong in most unexpected ways - some enterprise must soon take shape.

*Rukmani Srinivasan*  
Faculty, Dept. of Chemistry

\* \* \* \* \*

## Casuistry

*He hides behind logic  
And goes on....*

*When life's mess takes  
A new turn  
The mind makes  
Again, unequivocal,  
All that now shakes  
Its desires.  
Grave is the fact  
That once he  
Gets used to the act  
Of change,  
He loses all tact  
Of handling the mess.*

*Then the mind brings in logic.*

*It's logic that  
Has kept him intact.  
If not, would he not  
Constantly dream  
Of the Eden  
He once belonged to?*

*Puja Kashyap*  
II M.A. Literature

## Absolution

*A grimy serpent  
winds its slothful way  
darkened by the sins of men  
who throng to shed their filth.  
The waters run  
to scour them clean,  
the souls dyed black in crime.  
A drop of grease  
leaves back a stain  
but the Ganga washes sin.  
The merchant hurries home  
to hoard, God's share  
in the 'hundi' cast.  
The 'tula' groans  
under his weight; his sins  
do drag him down. But  
soon the gold swings him up -  
God's treasure chest is full.  
The man in slumber  
soon is lost,  
and his conscience sleeps with him.*

*Jayashree Krishnakumar*  
II M.A. Literature

Courtesy: Project Work: Creative Writing, 1993

## How Feminist Can We Get ?

It started with Eve, they said. No, it was Adam. For were it not for Adam's rib, Man, the master of woman would only have been a fictional boast! And yet he is tempted, enslaved, driven to despair and constantly threatened by the '*femme fatale*'. And it is man who has made endless the debate on woman's issues.

But on second thoughts, are woman's issues created by the man or the woman? One sees the significance of the Charter of Woman's Rights. Yet one wonders. The feminist desires equality with men - equal rights, opportunities..... But stop! one woman equal to another? How does one bridge the gap between the educated privileged class of woman and the illiterate rural class? Doesn't charity begin at home?

Again, are there specific woman's issues that concern the whole of humanity? If every issue is seen in terms of the agent and the victim and not in terms of gender distinction, then what happens? The range of the so called woman's issues has a tantalising quality. In Czechoslovakia, it may be the rise in the price of potatoes and elsewhere it may be the right to abort one's baby... it may be the lower wages paid to the female construction worker abroad as she is assumed to have a "statistically" larger life span than her male counterpart. And water is a human issue. Why should it be only women carrying the pots on their head to fill them with water that the man uses! It may simply be a question of who wears the pants. It may even be the moustache - as one eminent radical feminist insisted on wearing one at an international conference on feminism! Here too, why should the woman be like the man in thinking? Why should she conform to the patriarchal stereo-type? Why can't she be a woman? Higgins, are you listening? And what is woman? The other, the second sex (second to none ), the helpmate of man! Is she only womb or body? Her anatomy is her destiny. Nature has assigned to her the caring roles of mother, wife and daughter. At each stage, in her life she is looked after by the man. And the protest is this. No one need to look after me. I can look after myself. Granted. But one can never be assured of this in a world of violence - perpetrated on woman, even if it is just the 'violence of the male gaze'!

Contemporary culture cannot be perpetrated on inequalities of gender and sex. Man and woman are made for each other, not one, for the other. The mutuality symbolised in the Ardhanareeswara image must be extended to life. Also feminists should study woman's relationship to another of her kind to strengthen her personhood. Creation depends on the preservation of the individual identities in peaceful co-existence.

Dr. Seetha Srinivasan  
Head, Dept. of English

## Fulbright Scholar on Campus

In December 1992, the English Department of Stella Maris College had the pleasure of a visit from Dr. Kathleen Feeley, a Fulbright scholar from the Notre Dame College of Maryland, USA. Sr. Kathleen Feeley took classes for the literature undergraduates for the paper on 'Women's Writing' through an entire semester. She also assisted with course work on creative writing for the postgraduates.

For a more comprehensive approach to the paper, Sr. Kathleen made us look outside the syllabus to examine works of other authors whose points of view were pertinent to the issues raised by women's writing. With the aid of short stories, poems and excerpts from speeches, she illustrated and elaborated upon the points we had arrived at. In the process, there would be much debating and heated discussion in class.

Sr. Kathleen presented issues such as racism and discrimination in a new light. Her handling of writers such as Alice Walker aided with excerpts from the various 'Southern' American writers including Eudora Welty gave us new insights and added depth to our perception of these issues.

The class was also encouraged to apply an Indian perspective to most of the ideas that came up during the various discussions - to consider them with respect to an Indian social background, to compare them with Indian literary parallels. Sr. Kathleen actively participated in such discussions which eventually led to cultural exchanges entering the discussions.

We profited greatly from these discussions as they provided a wholistic dimension to the Women's Writing paper. The writers and the milieu that inspired them came alive to us.

Sr. Kathleen Feeley, President of the College of Notre Dame, Maryland, declared outstanding Woman Educator in Maryland, was not the intimidating figure we had assumed one of her calling and scholarship would be. We were filled with respect and liking for this charming lady who encouraged us to be proud of our identity as women.

*Reshma & Ranjana Poduval*  
I M.A. Literature

\* \* \* \* \*

### DOWRY

Jewels  
around her neck  
form an ornament and  
a noose. She moves to the altar  
of death.

*Jayashree Krishnakumar*  
M.A. Literature



## RESPONSES

To a poem (Creative Writing Class) ➤



◀ To a Computer (AIESEC Meeting)

To a Paper Reading (New Literatures: Seminar) ... Visiting Fulbright Prof. Sr. Feeley ➤



◀ To 'New Literatures' Exhibition ...  
Visiting Fulbright Prof. Betty Bernhard

## *Our Retired Workers*



Mrs. Ponnamma



Mrs. Saroja



Mrs. Francina

*... a ploughman said, Speak to us of work. And he answered, saying:*

*You work that you may keep pace with the earth and the soul of the earth.*

*For to be idle is to become a stranger unto the seasons, and to step out of life's procession that marches in majesty and proud submission towards the infinite ...*

— Kahlil Gibran

*Your work was love made visible*

# Chauvinism in the English Language

A recent incident reminded me of the selectivity of perception among us humans. I had gone with my father to his friend's office. The friend is a prominent businessman and greeted us pleasantly. He then pressed the intercom and asked his girl to bring in some coffee. The coffee came in due course but the 'girl' never put in an appearance. Perhaps this had something to do with the fact that Miss. Leon, his secretary was 45 years old. I wondered if the man realized how chauvinistic, let alone ridiculous, he sounded. Obviously not. This is not an individual impediment. We are so conditioned in imitating others that we don't think twice before reproducing terms without caring about their meaning. As a result our language becomes littered with dirty words that like dead fish, emanate a stink and spoil our vocabulary.

The dirty words are not necessarily obscene in the ordinary sense. But they are extremely insulting to women in the sense that they derogate and depreciate her role, her function and her status. Take for example the word 'hen'. When the husband is subserviant, he is hen-pecked but what if the roles were reversed would the woman be 'Rooster-pecked'?. Similarly words such as 'whore' 'body' 'animal' are all manipulated to describe women. There are numerous other such epithets and stereo types that reinforce conscious and unconscious chauvinism.

According to Sidney J. Harris, author of 'A Guide to Dirty Words', the main reason for this is that the English language has been structured almost only by men as most of the women were uneducated till the 19th century or so. This is why the English language which is so generous with its barbaric terms, irreverences, impudences, insinuations and potent perversions to describe women seems to find little in men to condemn. In his book Harris states that there are few equivalents for such words as 'bag' 'bat' 'witch' 'chippy' 'cow' 'floozy' 'hussy' 'mol' 'quail' 'slut' 'pig' 'tart' 'tramp' 'Nollop' 'chick' 'dish' 'doll' 'fluff' 'hag' 'hoyden' 'wench' 'filly' 'hen' 'ball' and 'chain' 'battle-axe' 'harpy' 'oldmaid' 'shrew' and quite a few others that ought to be outlawed.

We women ourselves are so socialized to such adjectives that we hardly turn a hair on hearing them or using them ourselves. This does nothing to help the situation. We are no longer what we were - an uneducated, helpless, useless sex object condemned for the very weakness that men wrote poetry about. Isn't it time we took a firm stand?

It is not only English that resorts to sex-typing. In French, for example, the gender becomes automatically masculine if men and women are together. As in English, we say 'Man has come a long way' 'Man has achieved' 'Man is a complex organism' etc. Is it our fate to be always clubbed under the masculine gender?

Language was evolved to ease communication. Though originally supposed to be static like a radio or television transmission which are also communication devices, our inflections and perceptions seem to give it a life of its own. This can either destroy good communication showing a distorted sense of justice and values, or reveal a highly evolved sense of right and wrong and even an aesthetic or poetic splendour.

So the next time I met my father's friend, I asked him if he called his male P.A. his 'boy'?

R. Aarthi  
I B.A. Sociology

\* \* \* \* \*

## Alumni Encounter



### Lawyer with grace and style

*Lawyer wife to a lawyer husband, Hema Sampath primarily handles Civil Appellate cases in the Madras High Court. She completed her undergraduation in Social Science in 1968, and went on to take her Law Degree, coming out first in the Presidency.*

*Hema has nostalgic memories of college life, in spite of the strict rules and regulations during the days of Mother Carla Rosa. Her most outstanding memory is of Mother Teresa's visit to the college; each student was witness to the Mother's radiant presence, as she held hands with everyone of them. During the retreat that followed for the entire college, "there was a holiness that pervaded the atmosphere," says Hema. She remembers too that the tennis star, Krishnan used to coach the girls for tennis.*

*"We were more than parented" remarks Hema, "but college was still fun, and Mills and Boons did survive, with a good number of Malaysian students around".*

\* \* \* \* \*

### AFTER YOU

One day a priest met a known anticlerical unexpectedly in a narrow foot-way.

"I don't make room for fools" said the latter.

"I always do", replied the priest and stepped aside.

Babitha Xavier, I B.Sc. Maths

# The Call of the Mountains

City life - Ah! a life so hustled and harassed! One often wonders if there ever could be a break to pull oneself away from this monotony and do something unique, unusual and exhilarating. That's when one calls 'quits' to this illusory domain, that's the right stroke of time to pack one's ruck-sack and make a move. Back on the original dirt tracks comes a feeling that one so explicitly defines as wanderlust. There is rhythm in one's movement and a song in the heart that brings one close to nature.

When the NCC cadets of Stella Maris College were offered a chance to go on a trek to the highest peak in South India, believe me, it was a 'Godsend' - a chance of a lifetime. Our main endeavour was to assist a few hearing-impaired girls of the Little Flower Convent on their trek up the hills. We left on the night of the 1st of October for Coimbatore. Having reached Kovai on 2nd morning, we took a bus whose destination was Munnar, our base camp. After a rather tiring journey, we reached Munnar at round two in the afternoon. By that time, we had built up a good rapport with the 'Little Flowers' and soon we were the best of friends! After lunch, we went down to the local market for an acclimatization walk. The locals were a friendly lot and it seemed that they already knew about our mission (thanks to the good media coverage!)

Anaimudi is at a majestic height of 8841 feet. It required sheer endurance, especially because this is the first time we were on a trek, with little basic knowledge. We reached the first check point where we met our guides from the forest department who were to take us to the peak. Making way through the wilderness was 'cake-walk' to them as we watched with horror and admiration the speed with which they took off. The scenery was a vast expanse of immeasurable green with cascading falls that resembled streaks of silver. We halted at most places to take deep breathfuls of the rich mountain air. We clicked photographs of all that beautiful landscape spread before us.

The Little Flowers took care of themselves and even helped us at places where we just could not move any further. The most bitter part of our experience was the nightmarish journey through 'Leech Country'. Leeches - those slimy thread-like creatures made their way into our shoes. There was total commotion and tension and all of us screamed our hearts out in terror and fear. It seemed a never-ending climb as we crossed streams and waterfalls and ranges of mountains. The last part was a real challenge as we made each careful step through loose stones and slippery wet soil. At 1.45 in the afternoon, we finally reached our destination. It was a great feeling and an important moment. We forgot our aching legs and were full of smiles, for, we had done it! We hoisted the national flag and gazed at it with adulation and pride.

The descent to the camp was comparatively easier. The daze of victory made our hearts light. We set out at nine a.m. the next morning for the Eravikulam wild life sanctuary and Rajamalai hills. The weather was chilly and absolutely

lovely. It was raining all the time and it felt great getting wet! It was a Sunday and a lot of families had come to the hills for the weekend. We had to turn back since visibility was very poor. We spotted two or three Nilgiri Tahrs - a rare species of wild mountain goats. We saw the sprawling tea plantation of the Tata and the Kannan Devan.

Three days had gone so swiftly that we hardly ever noticed it. We even forgot the day, date and time. October 5th was the last day of our trek. We trekked to Devikulam for about 5 to 6 kms, saw some really lovely and massive trees. Nature's majesty and profusion stunned us. We saw a giant-sized squirrel, chestnut coloured with a reddish brown thick tail that was hanging down like a piece of fur. Numerous beautiful birds added to the colour of the forest. We finally reached a main road where we had tea at a small stall. We took a bus back to the base camp. After lunch, it was time to move, time to bid adieu to this beautiful place. We changed two buses and reached Coimbatore by 8 p.m. and boarded the Cheran Express which brought us back to Madras the next morning.

Looking back, our minds are filled with dreams, our eyes and hearts recapture visions of the rich green mountains, the murmur of the placid streams, the moss-covered boulders, the vast beds of tiny, wild and colourful flowers, the spray of mist, the ghostly clouds, the pealing of myriad temple and church bells in unison. All these together have made Munnar what it is - a feeling splashed straight out of an artist's canvas and a poet's euphoric sense of imagination.

S. Sowmya  
II B.A.Litt.

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## Alumni Encounter

### Creative thinking in practice



*Rekha Shetty is the young dynamic President of Maxworth Green Harvest, a Corporate Horticulture Project which aims at setting up 500 supermarket outlets all over the country. She points out that this would provide 'Earn-while-you-Learn' opportunities for students. Rekha holds a B.A. degree in Social Sciences and completed postgraduation in Social Work in 1973. She points out that the orientation in Sociology and Social work at the College has made social concerns the chief motivating factor in all the projects organised by her during her career.*

*Rekha was Vice-President (Marketing) at Apollo Hospitals before taking up her present position. A strong advocate of positive and creative thinking, Rekha's advice to the student is "Invest in learning and be in touch with everything that is current."*

*The extra-curricular activities at Stella, Rekha says, sharpened her interest in Journalism, Management, Social action and Debating. She remembers learning up her speech on 'Love is an illusion', although she would heartily deny the proposition now!*

## A Japanese Experience

Sakura, a cultural extravaganza on Japan was organised by the III B.A. History students at Stella Maris College on the 11th and 12th of February 1993. The focus was on Japan as a modern nation retaining her indigenous cultural identity, after having achieved scientific, technological and economic superiority in the world in the twentieth century.

Inaugurated by the Principal Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip this exhibition, so aptly named after the prominent floral specimen of Japan- the Cherry Blossom (Sakura), reflected various aspects of Japanese life and culture.

The different spheres of Japan that found expression in this impressive display included Japanese Art, sports with special emphasis on Sumo wrestling, an eye-catching presentation of the strides taken by Japan in the field of Science, Technology and Agriculture. There was an exhaustive presentation of the destruction wrought on Tokyo, Hiroshima and Nagasaki in the course of the second world war. Japan's remarkable recovery from that catastrophe was given equal weightage.

Major highlights of the exhibition were a Karate demonstration, a live rendering of a Japanese dance form with girls dressed in the traditional Kimono, and the famed tea ceremony. A video presentation of Japanese Advertising, a mouth-watering array of Japanese cuisine and finally a slide show on Japan, added glamour and authenticity to the show.

This exhibition was received with overwhelming enthusiasm by visitors, the faculty and the student community. The feedback proved that the exhibition had been both an educational and entertaining experience for many. Above all the cultural extravaganza proved that class-room knowledge of history could be given an arresting and spectacular visual form.

*Anita Goswami*  
B.A. History



## An Epistle from the Dark Continent....

*If an exhibition can bring alive the history and culture of the land of the Rising Sun, here's how a letter can throw light on one of the states of the dark continent. Sujatha Michael Pelletier who took her postgraduate degree in literature and completed her M.Phil from Stella Maris in 1990; writes from Kaduna in Africa:*

Kaduna lies slightly North-left-of-centre within the boundaries of current Nigeria. It is surrounded by historic cities such as Zaria and Kano and Katsina, seats of traditional power structures, where Emirs still hold titles and durbars. To the south is the federal capital territory of Abuja, the future capital of Nigeria, now an empty new fabricated city much like such capitals the world over- Brasilia or Chandigarh, to name two. Sometime, we are told, the government will move out of the rolling bustle and overflowing commerce and madness of Lagos, into the yawning avenues of Abuja. Where Tuglaq moves, there magically is the capital...

Kaduna's bland characterlessness is akin to Abuja's although it is a century or so older and retains its somewhat tawdry British flavour in the form of a club or two and a central hall. Amidst this 'fabricatedness' one would be hard put to find a native Kadunite. The bored expatriate community here could therefore hold with perfect impunity a public spectacle of a "beauty contest" for a "Miss Kaduna" with the condition that all the competitors for the title were to be in drag!

In as much as there is some flavour to the town, it could be said to be Northern and Muslim. The North-South divide is as marked here as in India, although here, it is also a Muslim-Christian divide, complicated further by intertribal turmoils in the south... Nigerians are very ceremonious though wherever they're from....

Another place of some interest lies deep in Yorubaland, north-east of Ibadan, a town called Oshogbo. In it was born Independent Nigeria's modern art movement, midwived by an Austrian named Susanne Wenger in the 1950s. In a Shanthiniketan Cholamandal mode, she gathered together the brightest and youngest, showed them paint, beads, cement (anything basically they could lay their hands on) and made them produce works of art centred around the worship of the river-goddess Osun (pronounced Oshun) whose cult she single-handedly revived.

The movement still flourishes today, and 80 year old Wenger is still alive and well in Oshogbo.... I call the Oshogbo style the Bug-eyed school of Art, because there are always figures, well, with bug-eyes and one artist's output is indistinguishable from another's! As for the myth of "the sacred groves of Oshogbo", the tourist's pilgrimage to it seems more entangled with the economics of survival than I expected. That's always the case though, isn't it? Build-up and deflation: the dynamics that rule the world...?



# Can Classical Dance Serve the Computer Age?

Last August the Stella Marian Classical Dance troupe received an unusual request: to translate an English play 'The Mechanical Mind' (about the evolution of computers) into dance language. It had to be performed as a dance drama on the occasion of the annual meeting of the Computer Society of India at Madras in September. The dancers looked at each other in disbelief, wondering if it would be possible. All the same they took it up as a challenge.

They sat down with the script - "Of all man's inventions, the computer is probably the most enigmatic ..." It was not encouraging. It wasn't going to be easy to substitute computer terms with gestures effectively. Fortunately there were narrators reading out the dialogues as the dancers conveyed the essence of these, through gestures.

The dancers first standardised the gestures for oft-repeated words like "computer", "data", "information" etc. Having done this, they proceeded with the actual choreography.

The first scene, which was a market place was easy to depict-some of them became vendors and others buyers. Now came the part of interpreting the conversations overheard about computers - "the latest password" in the market-place. Then began the actual story of computers set in the ancient world of abacus and scrolls of scholars and scribes; the scene depicted was the great library at Alexandria. Some of the dancers took the role of scholars at work in the library.

In the next scene, depicting the fire in Alexandria, - two dancers entered, symbolising devouring flames, which they portrayed with violent hand movements; they destroyed every bit of information and life there. From here depicting the Renaissance was an easy flow. Slow movements to the sweet music of the violin and the soft rhythm of the mridangam captured the evolution of knowledge, with dancers taking the roles of the great inventors. The story of Jacquard and his loom was presented. The revolutionizing power of electricity, portrayed in the "electric dance" brought in a fast "jathi" (sequence of pure dance steps)...

A feeling of joyous exuberance came through in the scene where the dancers portrayed a typical village which the computers had penetrated. The meeting of the old and the new was brought out in the conversation between a human girl and a robot. (Though the girl's role had many takers the robot's part needed persuasion ! Obvious that Stella Marians are no robotised creatures, see?). The dance drama ended on a positive note that computers can never replace the human mind.

The scenes were put together with great care so as to maintain the tempo in depicting the swift progress of man's mind. The joy of achievement was reflected in the crescendo of movements and patterns of the culminating thillana in which all the dancers joined together. The pace and rhythm of this piece brought alive the richness and grace of human life and of all forms of life on this Mother Earth - the splendour of it all conveyed with exhilaration.

Priya Dixit  
(Dancer - Choreographer)  
III B.Com.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Alumni Encounter



### Missionary of Indian Culture abroad...

Mrs. Uma Ganesan nee Uma Sekhar (B.A. History, 1969), Secretary of the Cleveland Cultural Alliance (CCA), Cleveland, Ohio turns her annual home-coming into a successful talent scouting mission for her shows abroad.

The C.C.A's target audience is not only the home-culture-starved Indian community in America, but also the American public. "They should be made aware of the rich cultural heritage of India, and its sophisticated performing arts techniques", says Uma. This year, the CCA has co-ordinated the North American dance-tour of the Madras-based Bharat Kalanjali troupe.

Uma vividly remembers the invigorating discussions following the lectures of Miss Stella, the H.O.D. "She made history come alive", says Uma. Her face brightens up with the memory of the Stella Maris production of the play "Henry" in her time, which drew much applause. "Then as now to be a Stella Marian was a matter of prestige and honour" maintains Uma.

\* \* \* \* \*

### GOD KNOWS

A university student received a question during examinations that he could not possibly answer. He copied the question in his paper and gave his reply. "God knows; I don't. Merry Christmas".

When the results were given, after the Christmas break he got his paper back with this note: "God gets 100%, you get zero. Happy NEW YEAR".

Babitha Xavier  
I B.Sc., Maths

## Short Story

### Visit India '93

"Bela ! You naughty girl ! Mummy turns a little away, and off you are at your tricks again !"

Let me explain myself : I am Bela. I am ten years old, though a lot many people have placed my years a day not more than five. I have been called innocent and naive. And precisely too, for how much more mature can a child be? My mom works for the Indian embassy. What kind of job, pray? Oh, shuffling cards.

And here quietly behind her back, I invade those peacefully innocent and meticulous sheets of printed matter.... official documents ! There is nothing more pleasurable, I tell you, than trifling with what is officially somebody else's. Halt ! Do I see a pair of blue eyes staring at me from out of those sheets? Sure. It is the photograph of a woman. Shall we read her name?

Suzanne Harper.

Age : Twenty-six.

Nationality : Herz....(?)

Place of interest: Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary.

(Mudumalai has a lot of birds, no? A lot of elephants eh? Animals with a load of fat!)

Shift. There is a Ms. Mildred here. A Crest there. A... a... what, hoho here. Whew! These names are sometimes crazy. Huge yellowy curls of Ms. Suzanne hang around her as she talks to my mom. Those blue eyes strain to listen. She lurches forward. She speaks so quietly that I can't follow her (Back home our neighbours are terribly noisy). Where is this woman's focus? There is a lamplight behind my mummy. It's a hazy light. A hazy focus perhaps since she does not really meet my mother's eye. Her eyes seem to move off-trail above those clouds. (Don't tell me there is something mystical about the Europeans. I would laugh)

... What is this Mr. Mathur bustling in for? Mom silences him. And rightly so. Wait man, wait. This is a woman's queue.

... What is that big man doing?. Fielding something and uncomfortably too. Big, he is. So big that I cannot reach up his very shoes!

Is he sturdy? Very He is not at home.

My mon looks a picture with her short hair and that heavy organza she is carrying on her person... Orders go on. Back to your seat, Suzanne! Mr. Mathur walks in nervously. Has he lost something? His passport? Oh. no! Mummy consoles him. The rest are bored.

Meanwhile, let's catch up to our game behind mom's back. Shall we mismatch places, ages, destinations? There is nothing more intriguing than swapping names, eyecolour and hair. Here goes our list :

Nationality : Hugh !

That big man and dark? No! He is fair now. He has blue eyes and yellow curls.

He is twenty-two whereas Ms. Suzanne is a real old grandmom now !

Gosh ! I don't have my sketches any more. Help! Anybody's got a crayon?

Mummy darts a glance in my direction. I will pretend to be my demure self, right?

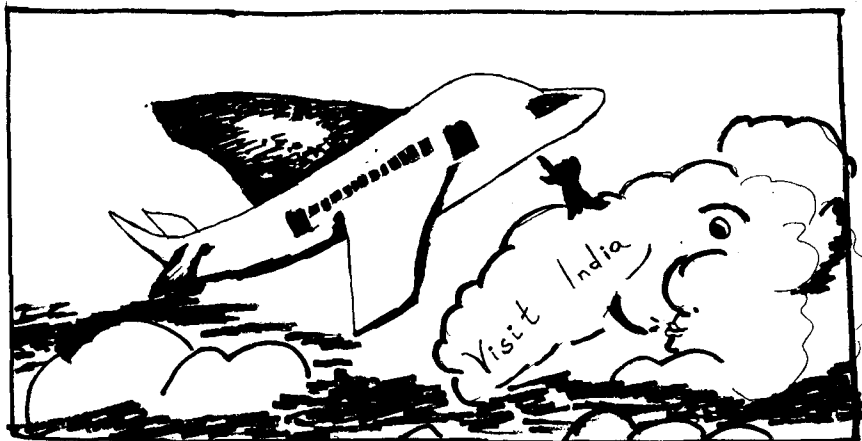
That Australian aunty is saying something to our Indian neighbour-uncle. Do I hear the word right? A Bandit? Oh, a pandit you would say. There's Diyadidi, Panditji's daughter. How big is our didi ! In bridal wear ! Mom is smiling at them too. Panditji looks encouraged. What is it? Something about a phoren son-in-law.

I have finished my work. I hide my crayons. Now I will sneak away. [There is a howl and a shout from inside. I hear mummy's voice. "Bela ! You naughty, oh you—!(a bad word! I am angry !) whoever will..... ". "Perhaps you could have been careful, Mrs. Bhargav"... a quiet voice intrudes. "I am sorry. Oh, I am...." ]

I am pardoned ! I go off scot-free ! Okay, we are going out through where we came in the entrance. Hmm, There are a few placards. In case you want to read them. There's 'Visit India '93' written on them in gorgeous colours. Fine... in Orange, Green and White !!!

P. S.: Spare the rod and forgive the child (!)

Deepa S  
I M.A. Literature



# *Biological Predi(li)ctions*

Hack-saws

feed on green trees.

The earth lays bars her ribs.

Blocks called flats are laid. We call this

PROGRESS — *Jayashree Krishnakumar, M.A. Literature*

## Sustain Life

Verdant meadows, sparkling gushing streams, fresh clean air, luxuriant forests, animals roaming freely in the wilds -

Dry barren lands, rivers choked with silt and sewage, air saturated, with obnoxious odours and irritants and mighty animals at the mercy of man-

The stark contrast between the two pictures is more than obvious and the reason for the scenario changing so drastically is none but Man. In his zeal and ambition to conquer the world he has destroyed his own home.

Man measures his progress in terms of industrialization. As a result of his unsustainable life style, fossil fuels have been burnt with abandon, chemicals harmful to the atmosphere have proliferated, poisons have been dumped on land and in water bodies and natural resources, such as forests have been ravaged and exploited to the point of near extinction. These have resulted in problems like the Greenhouse effect, deforestation, soil erosion, water and air pollution and extermination of a variety of flora and fauna. The planet earth is gasping for fresh air and water and it is time, some measures were taken to resolve the environmental crisis and to sustain life.

In this connection, the Departments of Botany and Zoology of Stella Maris College, Madras, organised a seminar called "SUSTAIN LIFE" under the able guidance of the Principal Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip. This seminar primarily aimed at creating an awareness on environmental issues and identifying

possible solutions to them. Several eminent personalities were invited to present their papers. The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Vasanthraj David, Director, Coromandel Indag. Dr. Lawrence Surendra, an eminent Environmental Economist, spoke on "Diversity in Nature & Culture". Dr. Sultan Ismail of the Dept. of Zoology, New College, spoke at length on how vermiculture could be used to increase soil fertility. The renowned environmentalist, Dr. P. Dayanandan gave a speech entitled "Are you ready to heal the Earth?" Some of the other distinguished personalities who spoke were Dr. Livingstone, FIPPAT, Dr. M. Papakumari, Additional Professor of Psychiatry, Madras Medical College, Dr. K.V. Thiruvengadam, Retd. Professor of Medicine, Madras Medical College and Rev. Father Cecil Saldhana of St. Joseph's College, Bangalore. An action plan to minimise environmental degradation was also presented. It proposed the implementation of stringent measures for effluent treatment, the use of electrostatic precipitators to reduce emission levels of exhaust gases from vehicles and factories and afforestation. The students of the Departments of Botany and Zoology, Stella Maris College, presented papers, on the various projects they had executed. A cultural programme was also organised to highlight the ill effects of mismanagement of environmental resources. The valedictory address was delivered by Padmashri Dr. Kameswaran, Director, Malar Group of Hospitals.

We have attempted to create an awareness towards environmental problems through this seminar. It is time people realised the gravity of the situation and acted immediately. The threats to the earth's life systems and environmental security are like a cancer spreading quietly and pervasively through the body of our society which, by the time its effects become acute, will be too late to cure. We can choose to deny the problems, but as Sara Parkin, spokesperson for the U.K. Green Party observes: "Our numbness, our silence, our lack of outrage, could mean we end up the only species to have minutely monitored our own extinction. What a measly epitaph that would make: "They saw it coming but they hadn't the wit to stop it happening".

*Sowmya Nagarajan*  
B.Sc. Zoology

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#### **PLANT A TREE**

A young married woman was telling her friend of her first quarrel with her husband, and how, after settling their differences, the couple had planted a tree in remembrance.

"I wish we had done that", whispered another woman to her husband, "By this time we would have a forest and would be rich".

**Babitha Xavier**  
I B.Sc. Maths

# The Feathered Orchestra: Listeners' Choice

The world of birds has fascinated me from my childhood. Their domination in the air, their resplendent plumage, and above all their melodious music have left a permanent impact on my mind. Birds show similarities with human behaviour in their careful choice of nesting sites, in the intricacy of their nest construction and in their perfect sense of family duties and responsibilities. Their communication is perhaps more fine-tuned than that of human beings, as their chirping, cackling, hooting and melodious call notes are all coded messages. The males have special songs for the mating season, not unlike the Renaissance lover who serenaded at the window of his lady love with a song to awaken his beloved.

Sex differences in birds are seen in size and colouration. In general, the males are brightly coloured. The behaviour of males vary from species to species. They are showy and flamboyant in their feather display. At mating seasons, they dance, leap, jump or run to attract their partners. The male birds are more vocal and have a repertoire of attractive songs and call notes for their female counterparts who lack their talent.

Are you a music lover? Walk through the woods in the morning hours of spring or sit in your garden to watch the birds. As the feathered Romeos burst forth in varying tunes and rhythm, the musical rhapsody will provide you a veritable feast to the ear. The vocalists in this feathered orchestra are the babblers, barbets, bulbuls, crows, crow-pheasants, orioles, koels, magpie, robins, mynas, thrushes and others. The brain fever birds influenced by the lunar rhythm begin their music festival on moonlit nights. The music rises in crescendo from andante to allegretto. During the twilight hours, the night herons flap their wings and pipe out the 'Quaark' sound distinctly.

Song birds can distinguish notes from a few Hertz to about 10,000 Hertz. Yapp (1970) states that the ear of birds can respond to sounds of shorter duration than can be appreciated by the ear of mammals. Complications of sound produced by birds arise from the complexity of their syringeal muscles. Songs may be classified though no hard lines can be drawn. The Drongo bird is a poor musician, as the noise he produces has loud overtones, with no relationship between the frequencies of sound. The crow-pheasant with its 'booth-booth' sound produces either a single note or a few notes of low musical quality. In the Koel, whose notes are of a higher musical quality, the frequency and duration of the sound are both high. The dove's cooing has frequent triple notes.

The song-sparrow and the bunting have a ten-note repertoire; they produce noticeable variations of these notes in the first performance, which

get reduced in the successive performances. The skylark is amazing in the sheer continuity and speed of its song, which render the phrases indistinguishable. No doubt it impressed the poet Shelley: his rapturous ode celebrates its 'harmonious madness', its 'shrill delight'.

*"... from thy presence showers a rain of melody."*

The Robin is capable of complex sound variation in its song. The sound spectrograph shows high sound frequencies and slurring. Though the robin can sing from one note to another distinctly, it can also slide up and down the scale with intervening half-notes. This is called 'Portamento' - a rare kind of bird music. The poet Blake's admiration for this musician is reflected in his utterance:

*" A Robin redbreast in a cage  
Puts all heaven in a rage."*

Among the group of birds classified as melodious, the whistling thrush can mimic the human voice. The nightingale sings in crescendo with a narrow range of sharp variation showing regular harmony in music. John Keats who immortalised its music in his ode did not meet his Indian cousin, the Shama which far surpasses all other birds in the musical quality of his song. The Shama can sing in octave variation; it can double its sound frequency and raise the pitch by one octave. The duration of the note is long, while maintaining volume and clarity of sound till the end. This shy bird inhabits the interior hill forests of Kerala, and is recognised by ornithologists by its fine song, much before spotting it.

The male birds begin their activities in the predawn (myna, koel, robin etc.) with full-throated songs as a prelude. This is followed at the break of day with a keynote address of a special song to their would-be brides. The early hours of the morning are believed to have less air-turbulence. This helps the sound of music to travel fast with clarity for the female to recognise its male species, his whereabouts, his territory and so on. The listening female is attracted towards the most melodious and strong vocalist. The females are not the best vocalists in the avian kingdom.

The weaver bird is polygamous. He is an excellent architect, and constructs a number of nests side by side in his defended estate. A good vocalist, his joyous chirping draws four to five females who supervise the interior of the hanging nests and selects one of them for laying eggs. The waterproof and compartmentalised nest of a weaver bird is an engineering feat, for it ensures safety and durability even in stormy weather. When nests are approved by the females this architect becomes a good husband to three or four wives.

The exception to the male dominated music kingdom among the fauna is the bustard quail. The female quail gives a drumming call note, possesses better colouration during the breeding season and performs dance and courtship display



in front of the male. Mating follows after the courtship is over. When the full complement of eggs are laid, the female leaves the male alone giving him the responsibility of incubating the eggs and rearing the young ones. The female quail is vagrant and androgynous. It portrays similar courtship behaviour in front of another male quail during the same breeding season.

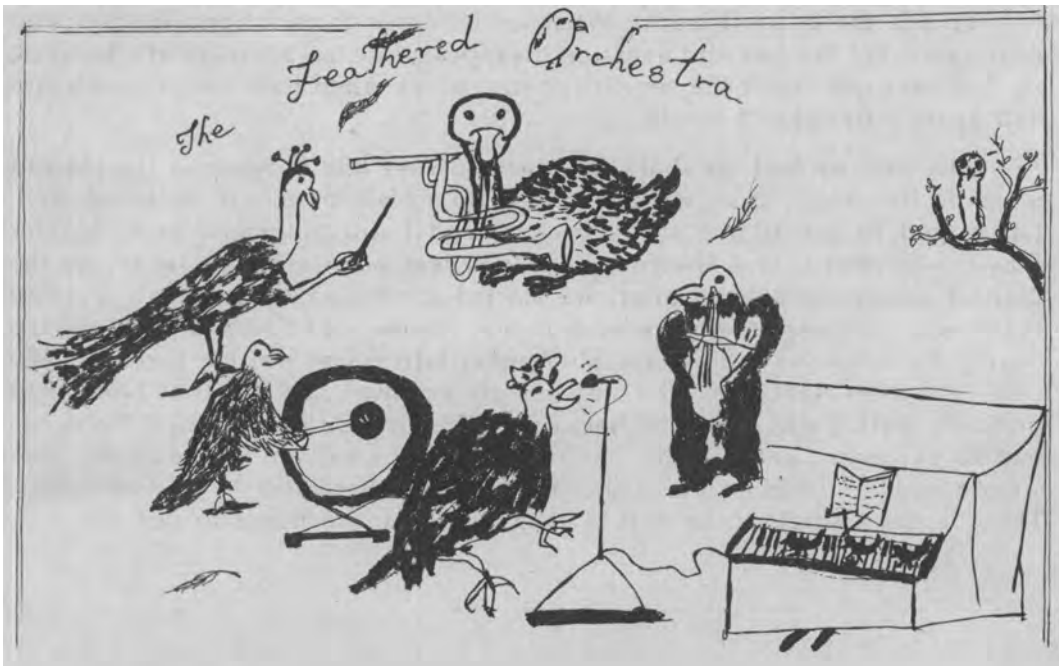
Thus in the avian kingdom, music and dance are interwoven into their graceful life style. The least man can do is to protect the habitat of these birds, by not encroaching into their territory. John Milton in 'Paradise Lost' bemoans the destruction caused to nature by the sin of man.

*" . . . . . Earth felt the wound,  
And Nature from her seat, sighing through all her works  
Gave signs of woe, that all was lost."*

What more can one say than to act now and save the charming world of birds, so that our children can see the great fashion show of nature, and hear the natural symphony of orchestral composition which our feathered friends can offer them, at no cost at all !

*Hannah John*  
Faculty, Dept of Zoology

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## Looking Back

*Kamala Parasuram nee Ganesan (B.Sc.1960) of Kappa Electricals, runs a Charitable Trust for rendering assistance to the poor and needy. She recalls :*

...The scare was the practical class. I was frightened of the dissections of the various specimens - frog, Calotes, scorpion, centipede and, of course, the rat. The seventh cranial nerve of the frog was the bane of my life. I had it for the finals for the first year, the second year and for the third year too, which was held in the W.C.C. lab. The negatives outlining the course of the nerve rarely traced the course. They would all be haphazard and would float. And I would manage to nip the nerve while chipping the bone. That was sheer agony, and I prayed as I had never prayed before that I would never be confronted with the seventh cranial nerve again. Providence, though devious, was kind, and the seventh cranial nerve stood me in good stead for the third year practicals. The negatives stayed in place and the nerve was not nipped. I was astonished, and even more so, when the examiners walked up to my table and said, " More or less the best".



This is the lesson I learnt. What we loathe is thrown upon us over and over again, till the fear and aversion disappear. Life has its ways of educating us. I always remember the seventh cranial nerve when I am confronted again and again with what I would rather avoid.

One day, we had the shark for practicals. We had to separate the placoid scales in the skin. I think we had to heat up a piece of skin in some solution. I managed to get all the scales broken, and I did not know how. Mother Edwin said that it was the first time that somebody wasn't able to get the placoid scales right. Soon after, we started a revision of practicals. Placoid scales was too simple to be revised, except for me, and I had to go to the lab during the lunch hour. Sure enough, Mother Edwin was waiting there to make sure I got them right. I was the only one present then, and this time I managed perfectly well. I was struck by her sense of dedication to her work. Everyone had to get every detail right. Nothing was too small or unimportant. This simple message from a sincere and dedicated teacher came in loud and clear. There is not a single thing that is insignificant or worthless in our life..

\* \* \* \* \*

## A Letter from Cleveland

*Vidyodaya Sundaram, a student of the Zoology Department (1984-87)  
writes from Cleveland :*

... Regarding my work as a Ph.D. student I guess I finally can see some light in the long tunnel. This could mean another year or year and a half but at least I have a definite time frame for completing my degree. I am working on a common genetic disease called Neurofibromatosis. This is the second most common genetically inherited disease among human beings. The gene involved in this disease was cloned 3 years ago and our lab has antibodies against this. My job is to verify the activity and the presence of this protein among naturally occurring tumors among human patients. This has its own inherent problems because the source material (ie. Tumor from patients) is very rare to obtain. Even though the Cleveland Clinic Foundation is a center for such patients, I have been facing problems regarding the size of tumours and the frequencies of obtaining such tumours from the patients ... (with) the added difficulty of dealing with top notch surgeons ....Going through this program builds character and maturity more than just obtaining a degree. So even though at times it has been frustrating, there are times when my days have been brightened by good results...

\* \* \* \* \*

### Alumni Encounter



#### Rediscovering Primitive Magic...

*Claribel D. Ezekiel is a scholar of a rare kind. Her unique area of research for Ph.D. - the Ethnobotany of the Irula tribe of Tamil Nadu - gives her the opportunity for encounters of an extraordinary nature. The Irulas, Claribel explains, are called the snake people, brewing their own herbal remedies for snake-bites. Claribel makes extensive field trips to their places of stay on hill tops or slopes. They prepare a wide variety of indigenous medicine, and speak a slangy dialect of Tamil. It is obvious that the botanist is crossing into the domain of the anthropologist as well.*

*Though mainly academically oriented during her student days at Stella, (B.Sc. Botany, 1985-88) Claribel remembers the keen sense of enjoyment felt over extra-curricular activities, and interyear competitions bearing fancy names such as "Youthopia", "Lightening" etc. The night stay in college organised by the student union, the bonfire, the open air festivities, the Botany club activities- 'how could one forget them'? asks the young Ethnobotanist.*

## Short Story

### A Brief Interlude

He stood in the middle of the brightly-lit, glaring white room, staring at the shrivelled, huddled form, lying motionless on the bed - she had been, just two years back, the vibrant young girl he had loved and married.....

"Reema was beautiful. By beautiful, I don't mean one of those synthetic, glitzy, toothpaste-ad-type young misses of modern times, who have come to be regarded as the epitome of perfect feminine form. Reema was beautiful, as a person. Oh! I don't mean to say that she was a plain Jane, by any means.

On the contrary, a pair of sparkling, bright eyes and an expression of unusual intelligence endowed her otherwise unremarkable face with a rare charm and attractiveness. She was witty, generous, impetuous and energetic. She was just twenty-two.

I met her for the first time, one clear, sunny day early in spring, at the University Bookshop, where I had placed an order for a shipment of reference books. She was browsing through the fiction section, where I turned a corner and was literally speaking, simply bowled over! Half an hour of chatting over a cup of tea revealed several points of common interest and a friendship was on its way! There was no looking back. Reema finished her M.Sc. in Biochemistry in two months, was snapped up by a leading pharmaceutical company for a research position and by the end of the year was married to me! Reema found both marriage and her new job challenging, as well as exhilarating and was very happy in our tiny new house. Our life went on in a smooth, happy routine. The brief idyll was over in just eight months. When the blow came, it was devastating.

Reema had been feeling unusually exhausted and feverish for the past few days. She had lost her irrepressible vitality and even as little as a common cold seemed to weigh down on her for days on end. We put it down to overwork and sheer exhaustion. Reema took leave from her job and we were both able to spend a pleasant week in my parent's farmhouse in the countryside. After returning home, I resumed work feeling refreshed and invigorated by the brief interlude. Reema only looked paler, if not more exhausted. Two weeks of rest still saw Reema running high temperature, losing weight rapidly and becoming weak to the point of collapse. Repeated visits to the doctor resulted in a battery of tests and check-up. The tension increased.

And then, the blow fell! Reema had tested positive for the HIV virus. She was suffering from a case of full-blown AIDS! The culprit could only be a blood transfusion received eight years ago, when she was just a child during an appendicitis operation!

...Reema passed away an hour ago. Has it only been so long? It seems like an eternity. My only consolation is that she died with a peaceful smile on her lips and her hand firmly clasped in mine.

It's all over. Or is it? You see, just a month ago, I found out that Reema has left me with a legacy - a souvenir of the brief interlude of happiness we had together. I have an appointment with Dr. M - chief specialist on AIDS at the G.H. tomorrow at 10 a.m...."

*Jyotsna Raghunathan*  
III B.Sc. Zoology

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## Alumni Encounter



### Art and Science shake hands ...

*Dr. Shiranee Pereira, scientist at CIBA (Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture) was one of the bright stars of the Zoology Department during her undergraduation from 1981 to 83. Qualifying for the Agricultural Research Services (ARS - equivalent to the IAS) she was inducted as a scientist in the Indian Council for Agricultural Research for its Fisheries Science Project. Her other interests include freelance textile designing. "Present day students seem brusque and business like and don't quite have the same old sense of wholehearted fun. Could it be the pressure of academics?" she wonders.*

*"Three years of superfun" is Shiranee's summing up of her Stella days. Shiranee remembers the stiff competition for Best Club of the year, and how the Zoology Club of which she was president lost by a single point to the Litt. Club. "Mrs. Paul is marvellous for keeping in touch with generations of old students", adds the scientist.*

\* \* \* \* \*

### HOSPITAL

A place for health and loving care  
When you are feeling ill,  
They wake you up at dead of night  
To give a sleeping pill

*Jayashree Krishnakumar, M.A. Literature*

## *The Literary Scenario*

### New Horizons : A Seminar on New Literatures in English

Long after the sun has set on the British Empire, the mother country continues to influence in several ways life in her former domains. In a bid to redefine historical ties, the erstwhile British Colonies have even organised themselves to form a Commonwealth group of nations. Undoubtedly the greatest legacy left to us by British Colonists in political, economic and sheer aesthetic terms is the English language. Its impact on the literature of the colonies was already irreversible at the time of their liberation. Considering our own case, 'Indian Writing in English' has for long resisted the attempts of regionalists to quell its growing importance. Fortunately healthy trends have emerged: the vernacular literatures are thriving and English has gained complete acceptance.

Earlier the literature of the commonwealth nations was loosely referred to as 'Commonwealth Literature' 'Third World Writing'. Lately, however, both these terms have come into disfavour with both scholars and critics - the former because it smacked of the colonial past and the latter, because it was too obviously political in its focus. An epithet was required to describe a kind of literature that expresses native idiom in a foreign tongue, a literature that translates experiences drawn from a storehouse of tradition and culture into a relatively modern expression. 'New Literatures in English' is currently the most acceptable term. In order to facilitate the exchange of ideas and original

contributions to the field, the English Department of Stella Maris College hosted a two-day seminar on 'New Literatures in English' on the 9th and 10th of February, 1993.

After the traditional lighting of the lamp by the Principal Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, Dr. Anand Kumar Raju, Reader and Head of the Department, ICE, University of Madras, delivered the keynote address. He gave a comprehensive introduction to "Commonwealth Literature" and the various modes of expression that constitute it. The papers presented by the students highlighted various metaphors found in Commonwealth Literature, particularly in New Zealand poetry, the Indian novel and in African writing.

The keynote address for the second day was delivered by Ms. Marina T. Budhos, freelance Editor, Eugene Lang College New School for Social Research. Eminently qualified by both her background (her father being a writer) and her educational standing, she offered interesting and original insights into post-colonial literature. It is interesting to note that both the papers for the day were on West Indian Writing on George Lamming and Derek Walcott.

This Seminar on New Literatures in English was, as everyone conceded, one with a difference. The focus did not rest on just paper presentations. The Poetry reading sessions and dramatisations of interviews with prominent writers (presented in shadow play) were novel attempts at bringing the audience a genuine flavour of the topics under discussion. There were selections from Australian, New Zealand, African and Indian Poetry contributing to a lively recitation session. Excerpts from published interviews with Les Murray (Australian Writer), Margaret Atwood (Canadian), Chinua Achebe (African) and Ngugi Wa Thiango (African) were dramatised by our students.

The seminar also sought to focus on the rich cultural reserves of the representative countries. The highlights of the show were the two dramatic presentations, 'Daughters of Copper Woman' by the III years and the Yakshagana sequence by the P.G.s. "Daughters of Copper Woman" by Canadian writer Anne Cameron is the re-telling of a Red Indian myth describing the origin of the human race. It is significant to note that this is the year of Indigenous People. The myth is about a 'matriarchal matrilineal society' in Northern America from which "all the people of the world" have originated. The lighting, the stark sets and costumes, enhanced the visual impact while the hypnotic chants in native Indian idiom held the audience mesmerised. It proved a very original presentation, and unconventional. Just as compelling and innovative was the stylised "Yakshagana", the traditional street theatre of Karnataka. It was a classic example of the imaginative use of stage space and conventions to present folk art. Excerpts from Karnad, Tagore and Tendulkar were presented in Yakshagana form. The audience were swept off their feet, the curtain coming down to the sound of thunderous applause.

An exhibition was open for three days and featured scenes from Africa, Australia, New Zealand and Canada. Most of the exhibits (including complicated ones like the African hut and the Australian jail house) were painstakingly made by the students. The visitors' response was heart-warming.

The seminar and the weeks of preparation that went into it were instrumental in developing a remarkably healthy rapport between the undergraduate and the postgraduate students as also between the students and the faculty. The literature students came into an awareness of the fine line that divides the regional or the national from the universal - in art as in life.

*Indira Priyadarshini*  
III B.A. Literature

\* \* \* \* \*

## A. K. Ramanujan - A student pays tribute

One of the finest examples of what V.S. Naipaul dubs the 'Indian unwillingness to see' is A.K. Ramanujan. To very many people he remains the man who wrote the poem on the river - the poem with irregular lines, uncomfortable colloquiality and for a student reared on a staple diet of Shelley, Tennyson, Wordsworth and Byron, alarmingly incomprehensible.

While P. Lal was an incurable romantic, and Ezekiel turned the full force of his satire on the contemporary Indian scene, Ramanujan's themes took in the famous river Vaigai, the Nam atrocities, Mylai and the like - among other characters such as mothers, fathers, uncles, aunts, relations, along with life in the States, more specifically in Chicago. He experimented with words, flouted conventions, tried his hand at what Pritish Nandy calls 'hysterical free verse' and finally adapted an equally arresting form to suit the content. The majority of anthologies, however, still acknowledged his existence by cursorily including 'A River' as a concession; and students whose love of poems is restricted to those that rhyme 'June' with 'moon', are likely to be baffled, repelled, provoked, all at the same time. An objectivity born of a multicultural background and a keen eye for the ironic mark his poetry - and the seeming haphazard arrangement of the lines slowly grows into reason and purpose on a closer look.

*Watch your step. Sight may strike you  
blind in unexpected places.*



This was precisely what happened to a class of fifty odd students when the long, short, and irregular lines represented no longer the whims of an eccentric poet whom we were inclined to brush aside, but became a river, now roaring over the cataracts, now rushing over the bathing steps and now, trickling woefully into the gasping, shifting sands. The trick was repeated again and again - the lines neatly arranged to form a sandwich with a bite taken out of it by a wife - in a poem that uses words with terse economy to present a vignette of daily life; or a croquembouche of wicker baskets built of words sitting atop each other in "A poem on particulars."

Two decades later A. K. Ramanujan had finally found a place in the sparse libraries of the young. He spoke of everyday matters, of relationships, of beauty and hardship in an ironic distanced tone - and the students could finally 'relate' to him. He spoke of Chicago and Zen - both very much still in the minds of the youth - wing of the intelligentsia - and pulled the same structure- of -the-poem-trick again - as seen in the last stanza -

*Watch your step, watch it, I say,  
especially at the first high  
threshold,*

*and the sudden low  
one near the end  
of the flight  
of stairs,*

*and watch  
for the last  
step that's never there.*

Ramanujan struck an almost forgotten chord in the slumbering Indian consciousness. Trilingual and multicultural but essentially an Indian, even in Chicago, his poems reflect his background, his ethos and his world. He communicates cleanly, efficiently and thoroughly, using shrewd word pictures and meaningful structure; he does not dodge behind ambiguities or retreat into sullen orthodoxy. A candid poet of the people, a 'good citizen' with a family as troublesome as the one next door, Ramanujan nailed the lid on the coffin of dreamy, abstracted and vapid poesy. Images that crystallize human emotion, and stark reality are juxtaposed with those of haiku-like beauty -

*The rains tack and sew  
with broken threads the rags  
of the tree-tasselled light.*

Ramanujan is not a poet one reads and puts away. The inherent truth and 'daily-ness' of his poetry, even in the most personal of memory poems, is what almost everyone in the Indian context today has felt at one time or

another. The cynicism, the wry humour, the flash of intuitive sympathy, the mute protest against felt injustice-all these elements make him at once homespun and distanced. Ramanujan's is the voice of the educated Indian at home in the American system; but his Indian upbringing is not any the further away or denied, in spite of, or due to that. Ramanujan's legacy is a rich and significant one- that will live, as those of great poets, not in the dry, papery world of books, but in the hearts of men. The poet himself expressed this most beautifully in a poem -

*I am not yet  
may never be  
my future  
dependent  
on several people  
people  
yet  
to come.*

*Bhavna Krishnamurthy*  
II B.A. Literature

\* \* \* \* \*

## A Letter from Oxford

*Geetha Subramanyam, a Rhodes scholar who completed her B.A. literature in 1989, writes from Oxford:*

...Research work in Oxford is both intimidating and challenging; intimidating - because of the sheer brilliance of some of the tutors and professors; challenging - because of the spirit of motivation and academic atmosphere. My focus is on D. H. Lawrence, in particular *Women in Love*.

... I miss the various exhibitions and cultural events which are so much a part of the department and the college. Although we have a few special days in St. Catherine's there is not the coming together, in spirit, of the entire college.

Summer is the one season when tutorials, essays and lectures cease to be the prime concern of one's life. Lying on the lawns with a novel and coke, playing tennis late into the evening, going punting with friends, strawberries and cream... Some tutors even have their classes out in the open.

There is a lot of academic pressure in Oxford. The way of teaching, even thinking, is markedly different from our system in India. Reading of criticism is encouraged *only* in so far as it stimulates one's original response to the

primary text. Lectures aim only at broadly defining the age and the authors and some works. Almost all one's study is done on one's own - in the library reading, in one's room thinking. 'What do I feel ?' is the question one seeks to answer when writing an essay, in response to an author or text...

\* \* \* \* \*

## Alumni Encounter



### Untainted by Success, Undaunted By Trial...

*To those who have known Mahema Devadoss for long, she is a rare phenomenon — a living testimony to the power and resilience of the human spirit. After post-graduation Mahema went to the USA as Director of Asia House in Oberlin College, Ohio for two years, holding charge of Asian Cultural Programs. On her return to India, a terrible car accident brought her active career to a grinding halt, but with her indomitable courage and persistence, from her wheel-chair, she has been teaching conversational English to European students, and has even resumed her drawing and sketching.*

*Mahema, B.A.(1960), M.A.(1970), muses on her days in college:*

*More than three decades ago, when I was doing my B.A. Fine Arts in Stella Maris, the college was located in Santhome, very next door. So it was a hop, skip and a jump to college and no waiting at sweaty bus stops. Half sarees and double plaits were very much in vogue in colleges then and the transition from school to college was made fairly easily.*

*There were just two others in my class and we were one happy family presided over by Sr. Edith and Sr. Greta. Our 'sisters' were then called 'Mothers' and they really mothered us. We learnt a lot from Sr. Edith's slide-illustrated lectures about the history of art through the ages, in her inimitable style. Sr. Greta would patiently instil in us the principles of harmony and of rhythm from the practical point of view. We made our own canvases under her watchful eye with 'gaadaa' cloth and 'kanji' water applied thickly over each waiting 'canvas' which was then dried under the scorching sun.*

*These were the years that Stella Maris launched a building fund campaign, and we as students, participated whole heartedly in it. There were various benefit performances and an annual Fancy Fete in the college premises. This was the one time that the gates of Stella Maris were thrown wide open to capacity crowds and an event that the local smart alics and the male student population of Madras city, awaited with baited breath. Once inside the hallowed precincts they could converse with the girls without being frowned at.*

When I went back to Stella Maris to do my M.A. after ten years, the ambience had changed... Half sarees had given way to the more practical salwar kameez. 'Mothers' were now called 'Sisters' and the ponderous habits of the nuns had given way to lighter outfits. The college was now in the new buildings and it was a joy to stroll around in the spacious campus and study or have lunch under the spreading rain trees. The Fine Arts Department had blossomed and had its own block ('B'block).

This time, I decided to specialise in English Literature. The Department was then headed by Sr. Sheila who taught us the Literature of the Elizabethan and Modern ages... I can still hear her soft, clear voice unravelling the intricacies of Chaucerian English or helping us appreciate the beauty of Hopkins' poetry. Memorable too were Mrs. Seetha's Shakespeare classes, Mrs. Francis' lectures on Browning... In fact, every lecturer did an excellent job of her subject and we would look forward to each hour with eager anticipation.

These are just a few nuggets from my treasure chest of Stella Maris memories. One could go on and on....

\* \* \* \* \*

## Alumni Encounter



### Literary Flair - No obstacle to commercial enterprise....

While there are ex-Stella Marian Literature undergraduates of an earlier decade, who have become IAS officers (Jayashree Balachander and Bamathi, to quote just two), we have among the 80-s generation, Literature students going on to business and commercial fields. Padmaja Neelakantan, immediate predecessor of Tulsi Badrinath went on to do her C.A., as Tulsi herself, belonging to the last batch of non-autonomous Literature undergraduates (1985-88), did her MBA from Athens, Ohio University. She is at present Asst. Manager in the Standard Chartered Bank.

Tulsi, who is a Bharata Natyam dancer as well, recalls the play-reading session that her class put up - excerpts from 'A Midsummer Nights' Dream', with no settings or costume. Such presentations with the renderings of songs from Shakespeare brought literature alive, encouraging the student to read, analyse and interpret literature on her own. 'A grounding in literature could go a long way in preserving one's balance and aesthetic sense amidst the busy world of commerce and business enterprise', says this young bank-official, who made the conscious choice to come back to her motherland.

# Revelation at Midnight

Do you hear  
the song of the mosquito choir,  
the tinkle of an Indian ghost's ankle bells,  
the mournful requiem to the self-immolation of Day,  
yet another day that has burnt itself to black cinders?

Do you hear, mingled with it,  
the gurgle of strangulated hope,  
the villainous laughter of triumphant despair,  
the whispered undertones of unatoned guilt,  
the plaintive moans of pain  
under the load of labour left undone,  
and a thousand other cries  
of the perhaps anguished, perhaps joyous,  
but the certainly honest soul?

Do you hear, after the catharsis,  
the snore of peaceful resolution?

Do you hear  
the cries of the newborn Day,  
the phoenix emerging from its parent's ashes?

From now on,  
until this one's suicide  
you don't hear.

Who speaks ill of Night,  
the brightest hours of the day?

R. Veena  
I M.A. Literature



## And then it rained.....

*Moments of meditation*

*Silence of prayer*

*Waiting for the..... happening*

*Time alone creeps past -*

*The still indication - the*

*Unrecaptureable loss.....*

*And then suddenly*

*Not a drizzle but a torrent*

*of words*

*Speechless I started*

*And then it rained....*

Sashirekha  
II M.A. Literature

# Can Creative Writing Be Taught ?

Nearly five years after it was proposed in the academic council meeting of Stella Maris College, the Creative Writing course was finally underway as a full-fledged paper. Creative Writing is offered to the Final year M.A. students of Literature, as an 'optional' paper.

For our first assignment, we had to develop a scene or a story from a given piece. It produced a lot of interesting results in that, it showed how one single piece could lend itself to so many varied interpretations. The themes included a wide range - glorification of friendship, bank robbery, infanticide, a melodramatic 'blood for blood' narrative. Though our first output was immature and had a lot of rough edges, we were mighty proud of our first truly original work.

We then moved on to writing short stories, with a bit of theory on the side. The pattern we followed in class was this: we would submit our work to our guide, she would read it and form her opinions. She would then bring it to class and ask us to critically evaluate others' pieces. Now this took a lot of time getting used to, as no one really wanted to find fault with another's piece. But we were slowly encouraged to develop our critical faculties and come out boldly into the open. And this, I feel, is a remarkable achievement of the class work that we have done - not just to come out with our convictions but also to be open to criticism from others - both of which are necessary attributes of a Creative Writer.

**The Fulbright Way:** Sr. Feeley took nearly eighteen classes on poetry and its metrical nuances. Her lectures went a long way in educating us about the technicalities involved in foreign forms of Poetry - Haikus, Cinquains, Sonnets etc. She would illustrate from the student examples which she had brought from the U.S. and we in turn, were encouraged to write and put our pieces on the board. She would then demonstrate the 'pruning' process by replacing weak verbs, hackneyed expressions and clichéd phrases with a more original and sensitive vocabulary. We saw this transition at work:

*A Prosaic Piece*        :- *Mother Love*  
She is my dear friend  
always there when I need her  
to listen to me.

*Poetry*                        :- *Love*  
A million things lovely  
things outside call to me, but  
I shall wash your clothes.

We went on to explore the nuances of rhythm in 'Blank Verse' and the 'Sonnet' and we couldn't believe that after a while, we were actually writing sonnets. It was an enormously fulfilling experience.

Dr. Betty Bernhard, a contemporary theatre expert from Pomona College, Clairmont, California, achieved a milestone by making us write, direct and act in our own plays. Betty had taught us that lack of money need not restrain one from putting up a good play. "All you need is yourself!" So without any costumes or props, we proceeded to stage a play highlighting social issues affecting women- child prostitution, arranged marriages, dowry-deaths, infanticide, generation gap, rape, etc. and the six of us played all the parts in different scenes. Along the way, we adopted a few theatre techniques like mime, chorus and reading of newspaper clippings. This venture really boosted our confidence and morale.

We had exciting vigorous exercises: two girls speaking simultaneously, so that we were made to see, how the audience attention is diverted - to the soft or loud one, to the one in front or the one at the back. Betty's usual request:- "Can I borrow you for a moment?", had each and everyone involved; even the quietest and most reserved, shy girl was drawn out of her shell. We also got to know the effective use of stage space by learning the divisions on stage.

up right	up centre	up left
down right	down centre	down left

Further, she created in us a deep awareness of the dignity of being a woman, by her lectures on Feminist theatre. The street theatre troupe, Chennai Kalaikulu performed for us.

What was really wonderful about the course was that at no point of time were dogmatic rules or rigid theoretical principles shoved down our throats

Theory was highlighted through practice, and pieces were judged on their own parametres. Trials and tribulations came our way, but we took them in our stride and made the best use of the time we had. After having been Up, Down and All Around, we had arrived — Creative Writing has come to stay.

*S. Srividhya*  
II M.A. Literature

\* \* \* \* \*

Friend: They tell me your son in college is quite an author. Does he write for money ?

Parent: In every letter.

*Christina Menezes, I. B.Com.*

## Busmen Learn English

The Pallavan Transport Corporation and the students of Stella Maris have always had much to do with each other. College specials arranged by the PTC have been a boon to many a student traversing long distances to and from college. Thus it was with great enthusiasm that the Functional English Speaking Course for the PTC drivers and conductors was taken up. The second year post-graduate (Literature) students took classes thrice a week between 2.30 and 4.00 pm. On an average the class strength was around twelve students and there were nine such groups with two teachers assigned to each group.

The main objective of the course was to enable the PTC drivers and conductors to converse in English. In everyday life a need was felt by the drivers and conductors to familiarise themselves with the English language. Meeting people from various cosmopolitan cities made it necessary for them to break the language barrier, otherwise felt to be a major hurdle.

Course work of different types was prepared for the PTC classes. English comprehension and class discussions formed a major part of the teaching material and effort was made to select topics pertaining to their interest. Politics, Sports, familiar situations like attending an interview, applying for a job, conversing with a passenger and courtesy formed the topic for a comprehension passage. Small excerpts from plays also formed a part of their course study. Students were encouraged to act out their role and thus shed their inhibitions. Reading aloud with the correct pronunciation was stressed upon. Everyday, a certain number of new words were introduced and the home task was to make sentences with these words. This method enabled them to improve their vocabulary. Topics were often given and students were asked to speak on them and corrections were made as and when they spoke. The initial shyness and diffidence soon wore off and a rapport was established between each teacher and her batch of students.

The major hurdle was the interference of the mother tongue. Very often students translated Tamil usages into English. With repeated exercises and continuous conversation in English, this handicap was overcome to an extent. Class quizzes were sometimes organised in spelling and sentence forming to make the class interesting. Periodical tests gave an idea as to the progress made and also provided the students an incentive to perform better.

The initial three month course was extended to a six month one as the course was found to be useful. At the end of the course certificates were awarded to all candidates.

*Jayashree Krishnakumar & Shalini Rao*  
M.A. Literature



## Role of Nuclear Power Generation in India\*

*"I have no doubt that just as we were affected by the advent of steam and electric power, the advent of atomic power in the next ten, fifteen or twenty years, will make a vast difference to the running of all our factories".*

— Jawaharlal Nehru



When India became independent we chose atomic energy as a springboard for entering into modern technology and did not look to metallurgy like the Soviet Union, nor did we decide to be self sufficient in electricity through the conventional routes of coal powered and hydro electric stations because Atomic Energy was so much in the air and the development automatically involved many other kinds of technological development like special kinds of steel and other materials and also electronics above all.

India has had a scientific and perhaps even an atomic tradition seen in the Visheshika theory and also in J.C. Bose's time when the study of basic fundamental physical phenomena was well established. Dr. Homi Bhabha too in March 1944, before

\* Prize Winning Essay at BARC, Bombay

Hiroshima and Nagasaki said 'when nuclear energy has been successfully applied for power production, in say a couple of decades from now, India will not have to look abroad for its experts, but will find them ready at hand'.

These are the basic roots upon which nuclear power generation in India originally began to take shape.

At the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan, the per capita electricity consumption in India was estimated to be about 230 kwh. in comparison with about 10,000 kwh. in U.S.A. 5000 kwh. in Europe and world average of about 2100 kwh. Therefore, it is obvious that in our country all forms of commercially viable sources of electricity generation should be exploited to give better quality of life to our population and increase production in agriculture, manufacturing and mineral resources sectors. A modest per capita electricity consumption of atleast 1000 - 1500 kwh. should be targetted for achievement by the year 2020 A.D. which requires a total installed capacity of about 3,00,000 to 4,50,000 Mwe. The present installed capacity in the country is about 64,000 Mwe with 28.6% constituting hydel, 69% thermal and 2.4% nuclear. The available options for the proposed increase are hydro thermal (coal, lignite and gas) nuclear and non-conventional sources.

An all-too obvious question with which we are confronted is 'how long can our resources sustain the growing demand?'. The rural people have had to depend on non-commercial fuel such as firewood and cattle dung which has led to severe deforestation and shortage of organic manure. Even if wood is to be replaced by coal, coke, kerosene and gas, we are faced with a number of problems.

The coal reserves in India are around 180 billion tonnes, 75% of which is unevenly distributed in the eastern region. This leads to problems of transportation from mine to thermal power stations. Moreover coal has a high ash content and its burning releases large amounts of carbon-di-oxide hazardous to environment, causing green house effect and acid rain. There are also difficulties and limitations in mining very large quantities especially since this non-renewable fuel has also to be conserved for future generations.

Oil is generally used only as an auxillary fuel but in recent years due to unreliable supply of electricity from the grid, considerable amounts of oil are also being used in industries. This aberration has to be definitely avoided to preserve oil reserves.

Hydro-electric projects have long gestation periods and a number of difficulties are posed by terrain which call for construction of complex civil engineering structures. Inter state disputes on sharing water also hamper growth in this area.

Natural gas on the other hand, though temporarily useful cannot be looked upon as an option on a long term basis.

Though some regard solar energy as an ideal solution, it can be used to heat or light a room but it cannot solve our industrial problems - for it cannot supply power for an industry like ours growing rapidly at the rate of 1 to 2%.

Definitely wind, tidal and even solar sources have potentials that have to be harnessed. But in our present state-of-the art-development of these technologies, further research has to be put in before this is possible.

While considering the energy scene in India, it is seen that coal and hydel power will continue to play a major role for some time but as the population is steadily increasing and the international prices of fossil fuels are rising steeply, we have to look for a suitable alternative. This alternative is provided by nuclear power generation which has a very valuable role to complement generation of electricity especially in regions located away from coal mines for balanced power development.

Dr. Homi Bhaba, several years back chalked out the nuclear power programme for India. The first phase started with setting up of thermal nuclear reactors, producing power from natural uranium. In the second phase, Plutonium produced from the reactors is to be used in Fast Breeder Reactors (FBRs) to convert depleted Uranium into more Plutonium and also to convert Thorium into Uranium-233. The final phase involves breeder reactors based on Thorium cycle producing more Uranium-233, than they burn.

The initial planners had to take into consideration that India is a country that has a spectrum from bullock carts to jet planes and that users operating sophisticated things must also be sophisticated. In the early stages, meticulous attention was paid to the front end of science and technology related to Atomic Energy like early establishment of the Atomic Minerals and Electronic divisions; this was essential since the country started at almost zero level in industry. There were two or three routes taken, the CSIR route, the Atomic Energy route and a little later, the Public Sector route. Our approach was a success because we made sure of a large infrastructure at one place, required to meet all our needs. Strong metallurgy, electronics and physics groups were started and the whole superstructure began to grow.

In the present day, Uranium reserves in India are placed at about 70,000 Te of  $U_3O_8$  and Thorium reserves are over 3,60,000 Te. The former can be used in Thermal Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWR) and will enable power generation of 15,000 Mwe. and will also yield plutonium - 239, a fissionable fuel for fuelling the second stage wherein Thorium is used as a blanket material and about 3,50,000 Mwe power can be generated. Uranium-233 is also formed in this stage. In the third stage of the programme, there is the possibility of utilizing the large reserves of Thorium for generation of electricity.

The energy potential here is three to four times more than that of coal reserves. Realisation of potential through Thorium involves development of technologies in frontier areas of nuclear science and engineering.

At present 17% of the world's electricity is met through nuclear power. France generates more than 75% of electricity through nuclear power, Belgium 60.8%, Korean Republic 50.2%, Hungary 49.8%, U.S.A. 19.1% etc. Though India's electricity demands are met only 3% by nuclear power, in the long term when the technology of fast breeder reactor matures and utilisation of Thorium for power generation is realised, nuclear power will increase its contribution to the energy scene of the country.

In the future, it is essential that Nuclear Power contributes 30,000 Mwe. by 2020 A.D.

#### **The Indian Nuclear Power Programme**

<b>Station</b>	<b>Reactor Type</b>	<b>Gross Capacity (MWe)</b>	<b>Year of Criticality</b>
<b>Units in Operation</b>			
1. TAPS-1 and 2	BWR	2 X 160	1969
2. RAPS-1	PHWR	220	1972
3. RAPS-2	PHWR	220	1980
4. MAPS-1	PHWR	235	1983
5. MAPS-2	PHWR	255	1985
6. NARORA-1	PHWR	235	1989

The latest constructions are PHWR of 235 Mwe. in Narora-2, Kakrapar 1 and 2. At RAPS 3 and 4 and Kaiya 1 and 2, PHWR of 2 x 235 Mwe are under construction and expected to reach criticality by 1995.

#### **Units Planned**

1. KAIGA PHWR	4 X 235
2. TARAPUR PHWR	2 X 500
3. RAPP PHWR	4 X 500
4. Kundankulam	VVER            2 x 1000 PHWR's            6 x 500

This shows that the nuclear scene in India is fast gaining momentum. Through the recent construction of Narora-2, we gained a lot of experience. Even after Narora-1, several systems had to be improved. Public and private sectors helped in problems with turbine stand by power supplies, fuel handling, etc. Seismicity of the region was solved by a seismic design. Thus a scientific approach was taken to solve various problems. India is the only developing country which demonstrated capability in designing and constructing PHWR. Major components such as fuel tubes, uranium coolant channels, uranium pellets as fuel and heavy water are produced in the country itself.

The Narora station taken to commercial operation will contribute 440 Mwe. to the Northern grid. Addition of power will be shared by places of Northern electricity region.

In the words of Dr. P.K. Iyengar, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission, 'In India in the last year all seven operating nuclear power reactor units were functioning satisfactorily ....'

But some feel that although India made an early start with nuclear power, its growth rate has been below expectations. This is due to our objective of creating an entirely self reliant nuclear industry. Except the first nuclear power station which used enriched uranium the subsequent stations employ natural uranium as fuel and heavy water as moderator.

In our country, our commitment to harness Nuclear Energy for economic development is deep rooted. The operating nuclear power stations at Tarapur, Rajasthan and Madras supply power to the local electricity grids at rates of 40 to 48 paise/unit which is very economical.

### **Ecological Concerns**

But as always with the usage of nuclear power, ecological concerns have generally been expressed with regard to safe operation.

*To quote Albert Einstein -*

'The discovery of nuclear chain reaction need not bring about the destruction of mankind any more than the discovery of matches'.

In India the major concerns are :

(i) utilization of cooling water - the fear of losing large quantities of water is baseless since for example, in the proposed location - Nagarjunasagar site, the loss of water from the cooling towers would be 10 to 12 million gallons/day while the lake itself experiences an average loss of about 400 to 600 million gallons due to surface evaporation.

(ii) The land requirement for a nuclear based power station is only 1/3rd to 1/5th of that needed for a comparable coal based power plant. Moreover trees have to be removed only where the buildings are to come. In surrounding areas, tree plantation is encouraged.

(iii) **RADIATION** : The design of a nuclear reactor is such that under normal operating conditions, the discharge of radioactive materials from the station to the environment is well within the authorised limits set for this purpose.

RAPS and MAPS where PHWRs are operating - the authorised limit recommended by the International Commission for Radiation Protection is 300 micro sieverts at a distance of 1.6 km from the plant. In actual practice, the doses are estimated to be only 110 and 90 micro sieverts per year.

Moreover to ensure safety service, the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board has been set up. Hence ecologically nuclear power is benign.

In a recent report of the Commission on Energy set up by the International Chamber of Commerce it was found that nuclear energy globally has a growing role in electricity generation. Continuation of this development is important for diversification of energy sources. It is obvious that nuclear energy has proved its competitiveness and during normal operation, demonstrated its advantages in limiting overall environmental pollution. Commercial Nuclear Energy has an outstanding safety record (the Chernobyl accident has not affected the appraisal). The ICC emphasises that nuclear energy should be retained as a major source of electricity generation.

In India in the word of Dr. M. R. Srinivasan, Chairman of AEC in 1988, 'It is no exaggeration to state that nuclear energy offers timely opportunity of high energy availability simultaneously preserving our ecological endowment during the years to come'.

... We are now standing on tiptoe, ready to open the doors of a golden age. The powers of the atom unleashed by science are too startling, too intoxicating and at the same time too useful as human tools for any of us to wish to abandon the astonishing new technology. But we have to master it to make the maximum use of it.....

Having analysed the role of Nuclear Power generation in India, it is clear that its role is imperative in complementing generation of electricity in our country. Its potential should be assessed not only based on the uranium reserves but also the thorium reserves. Some developed countries have slowed down in nuclear power generation because of their self sufficiency to meet their electricity needs. But India being a developing country, our demand for electricity is growing at a rapid pace and the options are not many. Until nuclear fusion, solar energy and superconductivity can revolutionize the energy scene at a future point of time, it is clear that nuclear energy (being environmentally benign) is our best choice to ensure satisfactory power generation in India.

*C. Kalpana*  
B.Sc. (Physics)

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## Alumni Encounter

### Learning is an endless process...



*The name Kalpana seems a propitious one, so far as the Physics department of Stella Maris is concerned. Perhaps one needs 'Kalpana' or imagination to formulate theories and laws that govern the physical universe, as they often strike the common man as outrageous or ridiculous on first utterance!*

*Kalpana Sankar, married to an IAS officer and settled in Coimbatore, completed her B.Sc. Physics from Stella Maris 1984. Engaged at the moment in research on Nuclear Physics, she was a participant in the All India Conference on Nuclear Physics in Tirunelveli, besides presenting a paper for a symposium on Atomic Energy at the Baba Atomic Research Centre, Bombay.*

*Kalpana makes particular mention of the inculcation of moral values apart from book-learning in Stella Maris. She believes that however casually it may be taken at that age, it subtly moulds character and helps in the evolution of a striking personality which spells success everywhere. As Kalpana the physicist recalls her college days, we note her thoughts turning metaphysical... ..*

### The Alchemy of Love

*Chemistry student, (1965-68) lover of literature, contemporary of Dr. Annamma Philip - that's Chandra Vijayaraghavan. Chief chemist in the Drugs division of the King Institute, Guindy. Chandra is at present pursuing her doctorate in Microbiology, (an inter-faculty research programme).*

*Chandra remembers the dedication of the Stella Maris faculty to the cause of women's education, which they believed, could give the Indian woman self-respect and self-reliance. Academics was never a burden. "Sr. Juliet Irene, Mrs. Yashoda and Mrs. Felix taught us to love chemistry", says she; and there was never the pressure of a job-oriented course on their young minds. "How do I get to you?", was Sr. Juliet Irene's lament, when it came to naming dicarbonic acids. A response, characteristic of those days would be, "Just leave us alone for a week, sister," and it would all come right. "The absence of parental pressure was a boon too. Learning took place naturally," says this chemist who believes in the alchemy of love.*



## *Fine Arts, Theatre and Audio Visual ...*

### Of Patterns, Designs and Well-Wrought Urns

The Department of Fine Arts conducted its annual show in January 1993. The trend in the recent years had been to put up a theme-oriented exhibition. The 1993 exhibition however was different. The art works on display were those that had been executed as classwork assignments and projects. While ensuring variety, it spelt out the practical course content in the B.A. & M.A. Degree courses. It was a happy coming together of different media, techniques, themes and above all the students of the department through their works.

The viewer was greeted at each step by an oil painting. Some of the canvases were large and paraded bold forms. The individual seemed to be on a great search for self-expression.

The staircase-cum-gallery led one to the main exhibition hall where the undergraduate art works were on display. Bright colours of stained glass designs shone from their place while the carefully crafted mosaic designs attracted the viewer to take a closer look. The precision and hard edge of geometry came to the fore in many border designs. That Egypt, Greece and other civilisations are still fountainheads of inspiration was more than obvious.

The watercolour works welcomed the sun right on the shores of the Bay of Bengal. The persisting blue, the light (heat?) giving sun, the boats and all else that make up a beach were recorded. The still life representations were



refreshing, portraying fruits, vegetables and flowers in an articulate manner. The different technical approaches resulted in various interpretations. Neo-Impressionist techniques had obviously been an important pre-occupation.

The sketches probed ordinary life to reveal the quiet beauty that resides in our pots and pans, baskets and bottles.

The graphic works of the post graduates included class exercises on texture, colours and shapes and their permutations and combinations. Alluring package design for perfumes, accordion folders with thought-provoking literature and related publishing designs were displayed.

The Textile design section had a considerable number of sarees with stunning block and stencil printed designs. The serigraphic works demonstrated the various techniques that were experimented with. They suggested designs that could be draped on walls or mailed as greeting cards.

The photography section had some albums to be scrutinised. The camera had scanned nostalgic interiors of the human psyche in one of the albums. In another the probing eye had wandered across the many markets of the city. The tricks that darkroom techniques were capable of generating and the countless possibilities that they promised were amply demonstrated.

The show was inaugurated by eminent painter Achuthan Kudallur, who executed a painting in his dashing manner of splashing bright colours.

N. Alamelu  
Faculty, Fine Arts Dept.

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## In Search of Harmony

*"From harmony, from heavenly harmony  
This universal frame began:  
From harmony to harmony  
Through all the compass of the notes it ran  
The diapason closing full in Man - "*

In his ode "Song for Saint Cecilia's Day" John Dryden conveys the old Pythagoras doctrine that creation was begun and carried out through the power of harmony. Order or harmony was considered to be the creative regulative principle of the universe reaching its zenith in the creation of man. Viewed against this concept it is indeed ironic that man who is himself the embodiment

of harmony should be the principal cause for its very destruction. In this twentieth century where terror and violence are the order of the day, the terms peace and harmony gain worldwide significance. In our own country, harmony seems to be there only in the homogeneity of terrorist activities. Man can however harness it back to its heavenly origins with the great powers God has vested in him.

Stella Maris chose "Peace and Harmony" as its theme for its college day celebrations (1992-93). All the programmes presented were planned carefully against this background. An imaginative adaptation of myth and folklore, as also of old and new trends in music and dance could be seen in the different items presented - Indian choral music, Western music, Indian dance ballet, Tamil play, Western dance and folk dance. There was no dearth of harmony amongst the enthusiastic participants.

After the prayer song and the distribution of Prizes, Mrs. Margaret Alva, Honourable Union Minister of State addressed the gathering. Starting with nostalgic memories of her college days in similar missionary institutions, the Minister's speech was an impassioned plea for courageous, purposeful action on the part of educated women rather than tame conformity to outmoded ways of thinking and living under the guise of tradition or even discipline. The academic honours won in college were not an end in themselves, but rather a starting point to achievement outside the portals of the college. The impact on the audience was evident in the pindrop silence.

The cultural programme commenced with two numbers by the Indian Choral Music group. The colourfully dressed girls rendered the Tamil and Telugu lyrics set to music, blending various chords, producing an effect of melody and harmony. The much-awaited dance-ballet which came next reflected the students' talent in choreography. The ballet entitled 'Sangamam' presented the confluence of the three rivers - Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswathi - the sangamam at Prayag. Dr. R. Vedavalli, noted Carnatic musician and her daughter Sushruthi, a student of the college, composed the music, which blended perfectly with the theme of the dance. The apt choice of the different ragas used to depict each river (the text drawn from original Sanskrit sources) not only created but also enhanced the moods or temperaments of the three rivers - the serene yet playful Ganga, the bubbly and mischievous Yamuna and the mystical Saraswathi. These three rivers represent the three aspects of the human body - Yamuna, the physical, Ganga, the spiritual and Saraswathi the psychic. The union of these rivers shows that man can be an integrated homogeneous being only when his physical, spiritual and psychic aspects are in harmony with one another. The change of pace and style of movement of the seasoned dancers who represented the three rivers and their final confluence proved a visual delight.

# COLLEGE DAY — CULTURAL PROGRAMME



Indian  
Choral  
Music

Gujarathi  
Folk  
Dance



Western  
Music  
Choir

Sangamam  
Dance  
Ballet







SMC Dancers in *The Mechanical Mind*



Fine Arts Exhibition:  
Achuthan Kudallur demonstrates



Zoology Dept: Dog Show on the Campus



Seminar on New Literatures in English -  
Exhibition



Audio Visuals at English Seminar:  
*Hayavadhana* in Yakshagana style

The Tamil play 'Navabharatham' written by the Chemistry undergraduate, Meera Krishnan was unusual both in its conception and presentation. The moral significance of the theme was conveyed through the down-to-earth characters, who symbolised human vices, such as fraud, corruption, murder and burglary. The play revolved around Mother India's cry for peace. Essentially serious, the play had its comic-satiric twists. Mother India appeared with a wound on her head and a broken arm, which symbolically emphasised the defiling of her surface by evil men. Even so, she reaffirms faith in her children.

The western dance number was a harmonious blend of different dance steps, styles and their accompanying music. The rustic vibrance of Gujarati folk dance was captured in the Garba - a beautiful cascade of prancing movements set to lilting music. It was but appropriate that the evening should end as it began with choral music to the soft euphony of the western music choir. The response of the audience revealed an awareness of the twin purpose of art - to teach and to delight.

Hamsini Swaminathan  
II B.A. Literature

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### Alumni Encounter

#### Art as a way of Life...



*Sharan Appa Rao is the proud owner of the city's prestigious art house 'The Gallery' of Contemporary Indian Art. Sharan feels her undergraduation in Fine Arts (1983) was certainly a stepping stone to her career, and is particularly appreciative of the papers on Applied Art. She recommends a crafts section to the Fine Arts Course and a greater collaboration with other art schools of the country; these, she feels, should be built into the curriculum.*

*Sharan did her Museum Internship at the Smithsonian in Washington, and has recently held two successful Art shows in London and New York. There were celebrities, political heads and even royalty among visitors to the shows, but she was greatly thrilled to hear the voice of an old Stella Marian (settled in the USA) who rang her up on reading the review of her exhibition! "Back home in Madras, Sharan comments on local art patronage: "There is no common man clientele for art works in Madras, as in some other Indian cities... It remains an elitist preoccupation."*

## A View of the Tombs

The curtain opened to a hushed audience as Deepti Mathews (stage manager) rang the third bell. The villainous Septimus Tomb looked malevolently down from his portrait. Two long wolf howls sounded. An eerie silence prevailed. Enter Shoba Jose, as that cunning crook, Hamilton Penworthy, unworthy solicitor of the infamous Tomb family. "To you Septimus Tomb", he declaimed, proposing an ironic toast to the 'dear departed' head of the Tomb family...

To work on the college play was the aspiration of the twenty odd girls who attended the auditions in early January. But work had begun several weeks in advance. Aarti Chadda and I were hot in pursuit of a play that would contain the elusive combination of a large number (if not all) of female characters, and yet be a saleable, entertaining venture. These conditions were paramount because we wanted as few girls as possible to charade as boys. Secondly, the play had to be successful by aesthetic and financial norms.

These are heavy burdens to place on a director who found himself in the midst of ten girls, few of whom had worked in theatre before. But Santhan P. Alexander (Alex), our director managed - and managed wonderfully well. The play 'A Tomb with a View', though it did fulfill the two conditions prescribed, posed a new problem. The characters were all caricatures - a prospect paradoxically simple and difficult. While a caricature would be easy for a mature stage artist, it was not easy for us greenhorns.

To a great extent, Alex solved the problem by discussing each character individually with the person concerned. He consciously encouraged us to think like a character in various situations. Once these details were filled in, flat characters ballooned and each of us slid into our roles.

A most educative aspect of this experience was undoubtedly understanding stage dynamics. The director constantly drew our attention to the reality of the objects on stage, ranging from an armchair to a door. The space slowly became home and the invisible fourth wall of the stage was built. An important aspect of stage dynamics is 'blocking' - the process of taking positions advantageous to a character with least disadvantage to the others.

Although I spoke of the fourth wall of the stage, the audience is a factor that can never be forgotten. This becomes especially important in a comedy. An actor must delay his next dialogue by a few seconds, if needed, to let the laughter subside. A sense of timing, with regard to both stage movement and dialogue becomes essential, particularly in the case of a play like 'A Tomb with a View' which was also a suspense play. Another important aspect of the actor-audience relationship is voice perfection. If the audience cannot hear you, they may as well have not seen the play. For developing good voice perfection, breathing

exercises are very necessary. In fact, exercises and theatre games were useful to us, both as relief and initiation.

An essential part of the actor on stage is his costume. Costumes, like shoes, have to be broken in. Uncomfortable costumes are out - remember they are the clothes your character wears in daily life. Ill-fitting skirts and too-tight shoes had to be discarded. We started using our costumes during a couple of rehearsals before the actual presentation. At the same time, we also began experimenting with make-up, which is another important aspect of the visual impact of drama.

As the play progressed, we realised that theatre is a fine-tuned craft that required the perfect collaboration of several factors - playwright, actor, audience, stage space, sets, lighting — all under the director's watchful eye. The experience of play-acting made us more than aware of the delicate balance between art and life. 'All the world's a stage' - true perhaps, but all the stage isn't quite the world, but ever so slightly different.

Anita Mani  
III B.A. Literature

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## Alumni Encounter



### Mathematician turned musician....

*Young up-and-coming Classical Carnatic vocalist Sangeetha Shivakumar looks back on her Stella days (1987-90) when she did her B.Sc in Mathematics; she was among the first batch of undergraduate students when Stella went autonomous. Sangeetha went on to complete her PG diploma in Advance Systems Management at NIIT.*

*As President of the Music Club of Stella Maris, she, along with Secretary Poorna Siva (a concert violinist) organised a two day intercollegiate festival of music, bringing into the college campus, celebrities like the late D.K. Jayaraman and young stars such as Sanjay Subramaniam and Sudha Raghunathan. Sangeetha recalls that her mathematics faculty members, though supportive of her musical talent, maintained strict academic standards and would not tolerate substandard performance in tests. According to her, music and mathematics are interrelated disciplines; "What are the ragas but numerous permutations and combinations of the seven swaras and their aspects? What is swara kalpana if not quick mathematical computation of combinations within the beat of the thala?" asks this musical mathematician.*

## Days at the Movies

Ever since films began, the experience of watching films has been one of cinema's enduring themes. The almost primitive silent film "Bioskope" from Germany showed with mingled humour and wonder, the spectator's magical attraction to what Plato would condemn as a second shadow of reality. More than half a century later, one of the most complex and intellectually sophisticated filmmakers of today, Jean-Luc Godard makes a character in his film "Masculin-Feminin" say, "We often went to the movies. The screen lit up and we trembled...."

In India, cinema is real, ubiquitous, unavoidable. We have taken one western technological innovation and grown it in home soil with incredible, almost frightening success. An early '50's Hindi film comes to mind. The hero starving and out of work, flips his last one rupee coin to decide which of his two hungers he should appease. His eyes light up when the coin falls to the ground as, picking it up, he makes his way to the theater.

This is what is frightening about the unmistakable presence of cinema in our lives. We draw our visual and verbal vocabulary, our patterns of thought and perception as much from the succession of images on the screen as from what they represent. We are, in a sense in a state of subjugation when we watch these films - the objects and instruments of someone's power over our imaginations. And when this power is insensitively wielded, the consequences, as in the case of Indian commercial cinema (or even Hollywood) are a gradual wearing down of the imagination, a desensitising.

However, this power of the image, that makes us suspend our everyday judgements, can also have an opposite effect. Francois Truffaut speaking of Ingmar Bergman's film "Cries and Whispers" says: "It had all the elements of failure including the sight of the slow torture of a woman dying of cancer - everything the public refuses to look at. But the film's formal perfection, especially the use of red in the decor of the house, constituted the element of exaltation - I would even say, the element of pleasure - so that the public immediately sensed that it was watching a masterpiece. And it made up its mind to look at it with an artistic complicity and admiration that compensated for the trauma of Harriet Anderson's cries..."

This explains, partly, the commercial success of filmmakers who are also critically acclaimed - Ingmar Bergman, Alfred Hitchcock, Satyajit Ray and others - this shifting of the viewer's attention equally to *how* what is seen, is seen. "Art" cinema is a lot more than choosing "unpleasant" subjects. It is also an intelligent and sensitive use of the rhetoric of cinematic communication. The viewer views not only a 'story' but also the underlying way of seeing the filmmaker's vision. Both these contribute to the aesthetic enjoyment of a film.



It is to cultivate such an aesthetic sense through exposure to serious cinema that film societies have developed the world over. The Museum of Modern Art in New York and the Cinematheques in France recognised the need to develop the taste for and appreciation of more imaginative cinema, considering it is such a powerful medium. The results showed in no more than a decade. The French new wave directors grew up on Cinematheque films. And Satyajit Ray himself acknowledged how important such exposure was to his work as a filmmaker.

The idea of the film society that screens films not available on the commercial distribution network is not new to India either. The film society is an integral part of cultural life in Kerala and West Bengal, which also partly explains why these states have produced the best filmmakers in India - Ray, Ritwick Ghatak, Mrinal Sen, Adoor Gopalakrishnan, G. Aravindan, John Abrahams, to name the better known.

Madras too has its share of film societies - about ten prominent ones. However, none of these have aimed at the conscious cultivation of interest in serious cinema among the youth. This, in a nutshell, is what the Campus Film Society has been trying to do, since 1992. Founder Ajit Hari, a Pune Film Institute graduate says: "Good films are like the arts, a beautiful thing and should be a part of a student's life. That's why I have spent the past one year collecting members to make my dream a reality."

Over three hundred members from various city colleges will testify to that. The two Sunday afternoons are looked forward to each month, as much for the films as for the heated discussions that follow—newcomers as vocal as veterans, students battling it out with teachers, on issues that often range far beyond the film itself.

Stella Maris has so far contributed some thirty members to this force, but these members are enthusiastic converts. Struck at once by how *different* and how much *real* even a Czech film is, than what we get to see on the commercial circuit, they have, as it were, made their choice. In view of the increasing interest in careers in Mass Communications, an organisation like the Campus Film Society provides valuable exposure to the greatest works in the cinematic medium. The Film Appreciation Course that the society hopes to conduct within Stella Maris will be a further step in this direction.

Here's hoping a decade or so sees a few of us in the world of serious cinema and those who aren't, in the spectator's seat, furthering the cause.

Latika Neelakantan  
III B.A. Literature

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## Short Story

### The Shooting Star

*'Thy love is mine alone  
Thy heart I have taken by stealth'*

The soulful notes emerged from the ancient gramophone with the characteristic sonorousness of the film music of yester-years.

The dimly lit room where Gulab sat on the huge armchair was filled with this painful sweetness. With eyes half-closed and a keen frown of concentration alternating with a momentary hint of a smile, Gulab basked in the fond memories of those fame-and-fortune days — days of proud youth, of numerous casual affairs and box office hits, the glamorous beautiful days that would never be.

Her reverie ended with the song. On the high ceiling Gulab watched the ancient fan move in creaky reaky rotations. 'So much like my life' she muttered. Another day had ended, uneventful, wasted. After all, what could a wrinkled old woman in her huge bungalow in the suburbs expect? So what if she had been the reigning beauty queen in her times, the heart-throb of the millions, the heroine whose face had launched a couple of hundred films, the star of Melodrama, the unforgettable Gulab Devi. Who cared? It was all over now. For decades there had been no letters from young men who pledged their love in blood, no more mobbing crowds, no more frenzied hours of make up, lights and shooting. Nothing remained but a deadening numbness.

The room was now lit by the faint orange glow of the setting sun reflected against the stained glass panels. Six-thirty, time for an early dinner. On the table the old maid had already laid the broth and the medicines. Gulab knew that the next day would be different. They had fixed the appointment weeks in advance, those people from the film division, who would make a film on her. Gulab could almost see it come alive on screen. They might call it 'The life and times of Gulab' or 'A star looks back'; yes, that would be better.

In the cold winter night Gulab tossed and turned on the bed. Sleep had long since deserted her and now even the pills did not work. Only a numb drowsiness remained. "What would it be to face the lights again? Was she scared?", she asked herself. No, not after all those years. But then, she had been young and may be a little vain. "What if those people asked her about Naren, the broken marriage and the children", she sighed deeply.

Gulab turned around to see the huge blow-up on the bed room wall, a woman of twenty. Those special smiles she reserved for magazine covers. Who was this doe-eyed woman, rose complexioned with that charming smile on her slightly pouted lips, on whose forehead the curly locks fell carelessly, seductively?

Springing suddenly from the bed, she dragged her arthritic feet to the huge mirror. The bright yellow lights reflected the truth unsympathetically. It magnified every wrinkle on her face, bags under her eyes, the painful hollowness of her cheeks, the wispy grey hair that fell about her shoulders. All her dreams, those beautiful years, her beauty had slipped out of her manicured fingers, minute by minute, hour by hour, until nothing remained in the hollow of her hand. Not that she had not known, she had perhaps found it more comfortable to pretend that she did not.

Gulab covered her face instinctively with utter disgust. "What would they say if they saw it, those millions, who had called her the legend?" The next minute she grabbed a bottle of cream from the array of imported cosmetics and dabbed it on her face with vengeance and then patched the wrinkles on her cheeks with pink concoctions. With trembling hands, she lined her eyes with thick lines of kohl as was most typical of her and painted her lips cherry red. Examining the creases on her neck, she clasped the heavy blue stone jewellery around and draping her most expensive gold benares, turned to the mirror.

She gazed for a while stupidly at her ghastly image, the result of her stupendous efforts, to resurrect the past, before the film in her moist eyes blurred everything around.

Gulab sank on the bed with a painful tear rolling down her painted cheeks. She removed the jewellery patiently, piece by piece and then the layers of make up. That night she curled her arms around the pillow and slept like a child, after years.

Weeks later, Gulab smiled from the front covers of leading magazines and from the television screen to the masses. It was not the impish smile of a seductive young girl but the graceful, wrinkled smile of a woman in whose eyes the stars still shone brighter than ever.

*Asha Susan Thomas*  
M.A. Literature

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Courtesy: Project Work, Creative Writing, 1993

## *Business Speculations*

### Of Bulls and Bears

Most of us would have, in all probability, read avidly about the great stock scam of 1992 in all the leading newspapers, journals and magazines. At the same time, many of us would have been in quite a spin, trying to understand what the whole problem was all about.

The stock market, or in general the capital market has always been an area of convoluted arrangements, coded language (bulls, bears havala, badla! etc.) and seems to have its own rhythm, peace and dynamism.

What exactly is a stock exchange? In simple language, it is a market place where purchases and sale of shares and securities take place on behalf of the investing public, through members of the stock exchange.

A share broker is a person who helps to bring the buyer and seller together in respect of a transaction for a particular share. He is a member of the Stock Exchange.

If you visit the Trading Floor of any Stock Exchange, you will find people, who are members of the Exchange or their authorised assistants, shouting prices and names of companies. What they do is called a DUAL ACTION. Sellers of a particular share have to compete with others to make the best or lowest offer. Similarly buyers of shares have to compete with one another. The fair price is determined between the lowest seller and the highest buyer. All transactions are reported immediately and appear in the official list of the exchange and leading newspapers.

Perhaps it would also be relevant to explain the nature of the business of the stock markets. Investing in the stock market is not mindless speculation as many surmise. It is an art with its roots in science making it predictable and accurate.

Basically, to invest, an investor must make two kinds of analysis in the Stock Market - fundamental analysis and technical analysis.

Fundamental analysis involves a Micro level and Macro level study of the environment. After having studied the trend of the economy, the fundamental analyst must then pick up the industry that is doing well, given the entire scenario. From this the investor must pick that firm(s) that is doing well, given the macro level prospects.

The investor is thus able to invest in companies which have a good future. Here again, a detailed study of the company's balance sheet, prospectus etc. will give the investor an idea about the profitability and thus the returns that he can expect on his investment in that company.

There is also another kind of investor, the technical analyst, who studies the daily price quotations of select shares, using sophisticated statistical tools. Based on his charts, bar diagram and other technical indicators he is able to predict with a great deal of accuracy, *when to buy* and *when to sell*. All his analysis is based only on the price of shares.

The price of a share can be defined as the sum total of the fears, hopes, expectations and beliefs of millions of investors all over the country. It is based on the demand-supply nexus and contains a wealth of information hidden in it. Every price change is significant and has great value for the technical analyst, because "the price reflects unknown fundamentals".

The price discounts the market (ie) the price will indicate days in advance the effect of some news regarding the shares, as yet unknown. Eg. just before a company announces a Bonus or Rights issue, prices will dip. The announcements always come, after the market has already reacted! This gives the technical analyst a lead over other investors.

Thus as can be seen, market behaviour is quite predictable and this can be done with amazing accuracy. The concept of technical analysis is relatively new in India and has only now begun to gain momentum.

Thus one hopes that the impression of the Stock Exchange being a gamblers' den stands corrected. If the investor is wise and educated and has the ability to hold his own in the market, keeps in touch constantly through newspapers and deals with an honest and reliable broker, there is no reason for him to take an uncalculated risk and lose his money. He must always remember that while fortune favours the brave, a fool and his money are soon parted! A sure fine recipe for success !

# Mushroom Cultivation — A Boon to Farmers

In India agriculture is the most important sector from the standpoint of relative share in national income. It contributes to about 40% of national income. More than three fourths of the total population lives in the rural areas. The importance of agriculture also arises from the role it plays in India's trade. Export of raw materials and manufactured goods like jute, cloth, sugar etc. contribute to about 70% of India's exports. The volume as well as the value of India's exports has been steadily increasing in recent years. Agriculture supplies essential raw materials used in production. Indirectly it provides employment to a large number of persons in trade and transport.

However, agricultural production in India is said to be among the lowest in the world. The major causes for this are the use of primitive techniques of production and inadequate irrigation facilities. Due to all these problems, poverty spreads faster in rural areas. These rural folk lack the minimum income to procure the nutritional level of food. The remedy to this problem is to raise the income of the people by engaging them in work like building of houses, dams, laying of roads etc. But such activities can be carried on only if sufficient finance is available. Moreover such work cannot be carried on during the rainy season.

During the off season in agriculture and when there is no alternative work available, the surplus labour can be utilised for productive activities which can be carried out without much investment. An activity like Mushroom cultivation for example can augment their per capita income to a higher level and raise their standard of living.

Mushrooms provide our village folk, especially children with nutritive food. It has a high protein, vitamin and mineral content which can be obtained at little cost and these contents are not destroyed by cooking, canning, drying and freezing.

By incurring an expenditure of Rs. 6,100/- in the production of a kind of mushroom known as *Agaricus Bisporous* in an area of 200 sq. meter we can get a total yield of about 1600 kg. that would fetch a minimum of Rs. 16,000/-; with a net return of Rs. 9,900/- just within a short period of two to three months. The only expense incurred will be on trays or polythene bags, pesticides and the mushroom seeds known as spawn. The main advantage in mushroom cultivation is that it can be grown during the off season when farmers do not have any work on fields. This helps reduce seasonal employment to a great extent. Disguised unemployment can also be wiped out as such members in the farming families can cultivate mushroom in any one room in the house itself, using resources like straw and manure already available with them. If mushroom cultivation is carried out systematically and successfully it is sure to be a boon to the suffering agriculturists.

Apart from augmenting income in the rural sector, it is also a self employment scheme implemented all over India. Mushroom institutes have been set up with special research cells to co-ordinate their activities. Young educated unemployed youth frustrated after a vain search for jobs have found a new field and today there are many such youngsters who have successfully set up mushroom centres. This new, unexplored source has attracted even the old to start their own business.

The youth in rural areas, have been very successful in this field due to the fact that they market their products to Madras as the demand is growing day by day. Women have also taken this up as a part time job and are running it very successfully. They outbeat men in the field of marketing their products. Thus, mushroom cultivation can be a lucrative business and an answer to the problems of unemployment and poverty.

Leontheen Roberts & Cyrilla Fernandez  
III B.A. Economics

Courtesy — Ankur 1993

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## Alumni Encounter

### Executive on the rise.....



*Rajeshwari Venkateswaran, of the second batch of B.Com students 1986-89, was also the College Union President. Right now, she and her classmates are making their presence felt in the world of management. "Students from SMC are automatically assumed to be of a certain standard in management circles", says Raji an executive at Proctor & Gamble, Bombay.*

*'Theohar' - a week-long campus festival celebrating India gave her an opportunity for leadership, in terms of organizing skills and managing public relations. Raji's face glows with excitement as she recalls that glorious scene when the entire campus grounds vibrated to the music of 'Ek do theen', and colourfully dressed girls swayed and danced in gay abandon. "It was a lovely and breath taking visual experience, and reflected a spirit of community celebration," says she. As President she learnt how "to handle multiple priorities gracefully"; most of all, as she laughingly admits, how to delegate responsibility, which is a fine art.*

\* \* \* \* \*

### ADVERTISING

A manufacturer said he was going to cut down on his advertising to save money. To which his salesman replied "you might as well stop your watch to save time.

Christina Menezes, I B.Com.

# AIESEC: An interview

Have you heard of the AIESEC organisation?

*President Pradeep, a post-graduate Commerce student and Muffadal, an Economics undergraduate both from the Loyola College are here to share their AIESEC experience with us. Their quiet unruffled manner is a reflection of the low-profile image that AIESEC keeps.*

Tulsi : Could you tell us when and how AIESEC was started?

Pradeep : AIESEC is the French acronym for International Association for students in Economics and Management. It was started in 1948 after World War II, to promote international relations, social and economic awareness and facilitate a link between student and public sectors.

Meenakshi : What is the organisation basically about?

Pradeep : It is a non-profit, entirely student run organisation. Funding and support come from the corporate sector as well as from organisations like UNESCO, ILO and ICC. The organisation in Madras holds General Body meetings every Saturday afternoon at Loyola College to review the work done and plan ahead.

Tulsi : What are the eligibility criteria for a student to join AIESEC?

Pradeep : Any student may become an AIESEC member for any duration of time. Once selected, the person can opt to work for one of the various departments in the organisation, namely Human Resource Development, Finance, External Relations, Exchange, Marketing and Global Theme programmes.

Meenakshi : Are there any conditions or requirements?

Pradeep : Yes, attendance is important. We have meetings every Saturday and members are expected to attend. If one is absent for more than two meetings in a row, he or she may be asked to leave.

Tulsi : What are the main Global AIESEC programmes?

Pradeep: AIESEC spreads its branches to over 78 countries consisting of 60,000 students. We have two main Global programmes. One being a Global Theme that promotes sustainable developments all over the world. Sustainable developments are achieved by initiating education towards international and cultural understanding as well as creating entrepreneurship and corporate responsibility in society. In addition, AIESEC also conducts seminars that discuss issues like "Liberalised India in a Global Economy"



- Meenakshi : Could you tell us a little about AIESEC in Madras?
- Pradeep : AIESEC in Madras is an active organisation which has organised various projects. Career Fare was initiated to show students what their career in a particular company may be like and what the future in that company might hold for them. In addition to this programme, AIESEC has also arranged talks in fields like advertising and hotel management.
- Muffadal : The Rural Development programme starts by providing short term relief to an economically backward area. AIESEC provides the village with milk products, medicine, clothes, sugar etc. We identify the true potential of the village before beginning a long term development which includes literacy.
- Paper Drive is an interesting project that seeks to bring about an awareness of recycling of waste paper. A lot of waste paper from the corporate sector is salvaged, bound into note books and given to the poor and needy.
- Tulsi : Isn't it something like the NSS programmes?
- Muffadal : Yes, in a way. But the orientation is different. Often we function as liaison people. We establish the link between a corporate organisation and village and help start the work. Gradually we withdraw.
- Tulsi : Whom do you consult or who gives you guidelines for these programmes?
- Pradeep : AIESEC has a board of advisors on the national and local level, who guide and encourage our members. We have eminent people like Ratan Tata, Adi Godrej, Jagdish Parekh, N. Shankar and N. Murali.
- Meenakshi : What has AIESEC done for you personally?
- Pradeep : It has given me a certain confidence and it has thrown personal objectives into new perspectives. It has created within me a mutual respect for cultures and has also created international awareness.
- Muffadal : Before I joined AIESEC, I was very self centred. I did not concern myself with social problems. But AIESEC has made me think of society's needs and of contributing towards it. It has made me socially responsible.
- Meenakshi : Is AIESEC a launching pad for students to go abroad through your exchange programme?

Muffadal : AIESEC gives you an international exposure, but does not serve as a launching pad for students to emigrate abroad. Most of the students come back to India. There was only one case where a student went to work in Japan and at the end of his stay, he was absorbed by Hitachi.

Tulsi : You claim that AIESEC promotes cultural awareness. How exactly?

Muffadal : There is plenty of scope for cultural exchanges at AIESEC. Every exchange student attempts to put up a cultural programme and share various cultural aspects with us including demonstration of his or her country's cuisine. We are amazed to see how similar world cultures can be.

*The interview left us wondering if we had missed out on something, by not being part of the active, dynamic, international experience of AIESEC. The experience is reiterated in the following article by a Stella Marian AIESEC member.*

\* \* \* \* \*

## AIESEC and Me - A Reflection

After having been a part of AIESEC for a whole year, I've finally had a chance to reflect on some questions which I have probably, subconsciously, chosen to evade so far. People tell me I've changed in the past year. Has this change been for better or worse? How has my active involvement with AIESEC affected my college life? What were my aspirations when I joined AIESEC and have they been matched by reality?

About the same time last year, I was looking for a practical grounding to supplement the theoretical foundations of college. AIESEC gave me the perfect opportunity to tap the potential, I believed, existed in me. I soon got into a groove of sorts and felt myself moving from strength to strength within the organisation. But there were always fleeting thoughts that made me pause for a self-introspection. One such factor was the fact that I found myself too involved with the activities of the organisation. If anything ever got the complete fidelity of my thoughts and actions, it was AIESEC. It was here that I actually came to realize the true meanings of words like initiative, responsibility and awareness. However, the flip-side of this was that I was getting weaned away from quite a few of my friends who looked at me strangely whenever I lapsed into AIESEC jargon with a fellow AIESECer. My

attachment to this completely student-run, yet thoroughly professional organisation, came to dominate my thoughts and feelings to a large extent. It is a heady feeling to realize that one has over 60,000 friends in 78 countries, each of whom believes in exactly the same philosophy and are working towards the same goal, ie. "Peace and Fulfilment of Mankind's Potential". A spirit like this cannot be explained; it can only be experienced.

AIESEC has helped me broaden my perspective. It has taught us to care for our fellow human beings who are less fortunate than us. However, from a specific point of view, learning how to relate practice to theory has become much easier, and it has become possible for me to orient my work towards a specific target. For the first time, I am accountable for my actions to 60 other people, whose stakes in the work are just as high as mine. I have gained confidence in my ability to succeed, even when there is no clearly defined formula for success. The result of any work is no longer just an end in itself, but also a means to achieve an end which coincides with the ends of a lot of other people.

Sunita Sarathy  
III B.A. Economics

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## Alumni Encounter



### Balancing priorities graciously...

*Sowmya Raghavan IRAS, (1972) had a six-year long studentship at Stella through her pre-university, undergraduation and postgraduation in Economics. Widely travelled within India and abroad, she continues her service in the Indian Railways, as Financial Advisor for MRTS (Mass Rapid Transit System).*

*After twenty five years, Sowmya recalls the text of class-room lectures: Mrs. Ganga's Statistics lectures, Mrs. Chellam's Economics classes, and Mrs. Seetha's 'Paradise Lost' explication. The inflexible academic routine of three tests per week, though burdensome then, proved a boon to her as these information packed test-capsules gave her sufficient training to take the Services examination.*

*Women, Sowmya believes, have a natural resilience that can cope with domestic and official pressures gracefully. "With the right adjustment of priorities and confidence in one's own job-potential, women can survive the stiffest competition and achieve targets in any field", says she. Feminist? Yes, but practical too, as financial advisors have to be !*

## சிறகடிக்கும் சுதந்திர பறவைகள்

ஸ்டெல்லா மாரிஸ் விளையாட்டு மைதானத்தில் இருக்கும் ஒரு மரக்கிளையில் காசும் ஒன்று தனது சிறகு காற்றாடிக் கயிற்றில் சிக்கிக் கொண்டதால் தலைகீழாகத் தொங்கிக்கொண்டிருந்தது. ச.ச.ச. என்று சுதந்திரத்தை இழந்த அந்தக் காகத்தின் மேல் அனுதாபப்பட்டனர், என்னுயிர் ஸ்டெல்லா மாரிஸ் காரிகைகள். ஏன்? அந்தக் கோரக்காட்சியில் அவர்களைக் கவர்ந்தது எது? சுதந்திரத்தை இழந்த அந்தப் பறவையோடு தங்களை ஒப்புமைப்படுத்துகிறார்களா? ஏன்? இளைஞர்களே உங்கள் வாழ்வின் ளந்தெந்த வளைவு நெளிவுகளில் சுதந்திரத்தைத் தேடிக் கொண்டிருக்கிறீர்கள்? இந்தச் சுதந்திரம் வேண்டுமெனில் உனது முயற்சி என்ன?

'தான் நினைத்ததை முடிப்பதுவே சுதந்திரம், தங்களைக் கட்டுப்படுத்த யாருக்கும் உரிமையில்லை' இவை இளைஞர்களின் மனத்தில் இருக்கக்கூடாத எண்ணங்கள். எதையும் பேசலாம், எழுதலாம், வாசிக்கலாம், செய்யலாம், என்பவைகளே எழுத்துறிமை, பேச்சுரிமை என்பவைகளுக்கு விளக்கவுரைகளாகி விட்டதால் சுதந்திரம் அரைக்கம்பத்திலேயே நிற்கிறது. "நாம் சுதந்திரம் பெற்றுவிட்டோம்" என்று கூறுபவனின் உள்ளமோ சிறையிடப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. தனக்கே அடிமைப்பட்டுக் கிடப்பவர் சுதந்திரம் பற்றிப் பேசலாமா? எழுத்தாளர்கள் காகிதத்தில் நிரப்பிவைக்கும் சுதந்திர நினைவுகள் ஆகஸ்டு முடிவதற்குள் அஸ்தமனமாகி விடுகின்றன. தன்னை அறியாதவன், தன் உள்மன இயல்பைத் தெரியாதவன் பிறரை, உலகைப் புரிந்து கொள்ளமுடியாது. சில கதைகளினாலோ, காட்சிகளினாலோ உணர்ச்சி வசப்படுகிற நீ, ஒரு புரட்சிவீரனாக, வீராங்கணையாக எதையும் உடனை சாதித்துவிட வேண்டுமென்ற ஒரு கோபமான வேகத்தில் எழுகிறாய். விளைவு சாலை ஊர்திகள் சாம்பலாக்கப்படல்; கல்லூரிகள் கதவடைக்கப்படல்; உன் முற்போக்குத்தனம் முழுமை பெறாமலேயே, புள்ளி என்னும் நாமம் பெறுகிறது.

'கட்டுப்பாடுகளை உடைத்துவிட்டு ஒருவன் அனுபவிக்கும் சுதந்திரம் சுகம் தருவதில்லை; சுகமாகவும் இருப்பதில்லை'

'நீ சொல்லி நான் கேட்கணுமா?' இளைஞனே உன் பிடிவாதம் உனக்குப் பிடித்திருக்கலாம். ஆனால் உன் இளம் பருவகால அகராதியிலிருந்து இதை அகற்றி விடுவாயானால் உன்னை உலகுக்குப் பிடித்திருக்கும்.

புரட்சியை புனிதப்படுத்து, தன்னலத்தைத் தகர்த்துவிடு; மனிதமாண்பை உயர்த்திவிடு. பின் இதயமுள்ள ஒவ்வொருவனுக்கும் நீ மரியாதைக்குரிய புரட்சிவீரன். நவநாகரிகம் என்ற பெயரால் இளமையை, திறமையைப் பாழாக்காதே. உனக்குள்ளே இருக்கும் சுதந்திர சொர்க்கத்தை இனம் கண்டுகொள். ஏழு சுரங்களில் ஏகப்பட்ட இராகங்கள். சுதந்திரம் இருக்கும் போது உன் சிந்தையைப் பயன் படுத்தி சரித்திரம் படைக்கலாமமே! எல்லோரையும் அன்பு செய்யும் ஜீவசக்தி உன் நெஞ்சுக்குள்ளே சுதந்திரமாய் கிடக்கிறதே, அன்புக்காக ஏங்கும் உள்ளங்கள் இன்னும் இவ்வுலகில் இருப்பதேன்?

எத்தனை வகைகளில் பிறரால் உன் சுதந்திரம் பறிக்கப்பட்டாலும் உனது மனசாட்சியின் சுந்திரத்தை யாராலும் பறிக்கமுடியாது.

உன் இதயம் சுதந்திரமாய் அன்பு செய்து வாழ்ந்தால் மற்ற சுதந்திரங்களெல்லாம் உனக்குச் சொந்தமாகும்.

# ஊனமுற்ற தோழிக்கு ஒரு கடிதம்

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சென்னை - 28  
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எனதன்புத் தோழி,

நான் இங்கு நல்ல உடல்நலமும், மனபலமும் பெற்று, நன்றாக இருக்கிறேன். நீ அங்கு நலமா? விபத்தால் ஒரு கால் இழந்த நீ, வாழ்வில் நம்பிக்கையின்றி இருப்பதாக உன் அம்மா எனக்கு எழுதி இருந்தார்கள். வாணி, அதுபற்றி எனக்கு நிறைய வருத்தம்.

வாணி என்ற உன் பெயரில்தான் என்னே இனிமை! வாணி வாழி. கல்லூரிக்குச் செல்ல உன்னை நான் அன்புடன் அழைக்கிறேன். கசடறக் கற்று, நம் அறியாமை நீங்க, கல்லூரியின் மணியோசை நம்மை அழைக்கின்றது. வா. விரைந்து வா. முதலில் கையளவு கற்போம். பின்பு உலகளவு கற்போம். அறியாமைப் பிணி நீங்கிடவும், அறிவுப்பசி பறந்தோடிடவும் பொன்னான காலத்தைக் கண் எனப் போற்றி, விரைவில் வா என்னுடன், ஏகிடுவோம் கல்லூரிக்கே!

விண்மீன்கள் வானில் சுடர்விட்டு கண்சிமிட்டுவதை நீயும் நானும் அறிவோம். நிலாவும் சுடர்விட்டு ஒளிர்கின்றது! நிலாச் சோறு சாப்பிடாத குழந்தை இத்தரணியில் உண்டோ? நிலா ஒளி இல்லாத நாள் 'அமாவாசை'யாம். ஊனமுற்ற நிலவு அமாவாசை என்ற பெயரைத்தாங்கி வானில் உலா வருகின்றது. அமாவாசை நிலவுக்கு ஈடாக தம் உடல் உறுப்புகள் சில குறைபட்டதால், அப்படிக் குறைபட்டோரே ஊனமுற்றோம்! 'மாதிராய்ப் பிறப்பதற்கே நல்ல மாதவம் செய்திடல் வேண்டுமம்மா' என்ற கூற்றை நினைத்துப் பார்.

உள்ளத்தால் ஊனமுற்றாரே மாந்தரில் கயவர். உள்ளத்தால் ஊனமுறாது, உடலால் மட்டும் ஊனமுற்றோர் ஆண்டவன் அருளோடு, மற்ற மனிதரின் கருணையால் பாதுகாக்கப் படவேண்டியவர்கள். உடலால் நிறைவடைந்து உள்ளத்தால் குறைபட்டோரைவிட, உள்ளத்தால் நிறைவடைந்து உடலால் மட்டும் குறைபட்ட உன்போன்றோர் பாராட்டப்படுதல் உறுதி. அன்புத்தோழி! தயக்கம் கொள்ளாதே மனம் உடைந்துவிடாதே.

முற்கால மங்கையர் முறம் கொண்டு புலியை விரட்டினர் இத்தமிழ்நாட்டில், செந்தமிழ்ப் பாவாய், அந்தப் பாரம்பரிய வீரமும் தீரமும் உன் மனத்திலிருந்து கிளம்பும் ஒவ்வொரு செயலிலும் மிளிக்கின்றதே! உடல் உறுப்பு ஒன்றே ஒன்று மட்டும் உனக்கு ஊறு விளைவித்தாலும், பிறருக்கு நேரும் ஊறு பல நீக்கும் உன் போன்றோர் சாகசம்தான் என்னே! எனவே, தொடரட்டும் உன் அயரா முயற்சி! என்றும் உனக்கே என்போன்றோரின் புகழ்ச்சி!

பலர் புகழோடு பிறந்து புகழோடு வாழ்ந்து புகழோடு இறப்பது அரிது. அதேபோல் உன் போன்றோர் இகழ்ச்சியோடு வாழ்ந்து இகழ்ச்சியோடு இறப்பது இவ்வுலகில் கூடவே கூடாது. வாழ்வு என்ற வண்டிச் சக்கரம் ஏற்றமும் இறக்கமும், ஏழ்மையும் செழுமையும், இன்பமும் துன்பமும், பெருமையும் சிறுமையும் தாங்கி சுழன்று வருவது கண்கூடு. அதேபோல், அவனால், அந்த ஆண்டவனால் அமைக்கப்பட்ட ஓர் அணு, உன்னிடம் குறைவதால் அன்றோ நீ ஊனம் என்ற உறுசொல்லால் உந்தப்படுகிராய். உனது மன வலிமையும், மோகனப்புன்னகையும், செயல்முறை நளினமும், ஊனமுற்ற பலரையும் விஞ்சும் அன்றோ! எனவே கலங்காதே! மனம் தளராது!

நாளும் வேளையும் நல்லாண்டினை உருவாக்குவது போல், நீயும் நானும் நந்நாட்டினை உருவாக்குவோம். நாட்டில் வீட்டில் நல்லறம் பேணுவோம். தொடுவானில் தோன்றும் வானவில் போன்று, இந்நாட்டின் பெருமையைப் பறைசாற்ற, நீயும் நானும் அயராது உழைப்போம். நம் வீட்டிலும் நாட்டிலும் பேருக்கும் புகழுக்கும் ஊனமில்லை என்பதை செயலாக்குவோம். திறம்பட வாழ்வோம்.

இப்படிக்கு  
உனதன்புத் தோழி,  
ஆ. குளோரி.

முகவரி  
செல்வி. பெ. வாணி,  
10, கோவில் தெரு,  
சென்னை 600 014.

## எண்ணத்தின் வழியே, எல்லாம் உளவே

எண்ணமதில் வீழ்ந்திட்டால் எழுந்திடுதல் அரிதாம்  
ஏற்றமதைப் பெறுவோர்க்கும், அவர் எண்ணமே உயர்விழுதாம்.  
உளம்விரும்பும் வெற்றியின்பால் உள்ளஉரம் இல்லையென்றால்,  
உள்ளபடி உயர்வுமில்லை உண்மையிதை உணர்ந்திடுவாய்.

வலுவழிந்த தோல்விமனம், வருவிக்கும் தோல்விதனை;  
வியனாலகம் வியந்துரைக்கும் விபரமொன்று அறிந்துடுவாய்!  
ஏணிெயன நீ உயர்வாய் எல்லாம் எண்ணத்தின்விளைவே,  
எண்ணத்தின் வழியே, எல்லாம் உளவே.

ஓங்காத சிந்தனையால் ஊறுபட்டுப் போவாய்  
ஓடாத பந்தயத்தில் தோற்றவனே ஆவாய்  
ஆண்டிடும் முன்னரே தோன்றிடும் பயத்தால்  
அந்தோ! ஆயிரமாயிரம் கோழைகள் வீழ்ந்தார்.

சிந்தனைப் பெரிதானால் சிறந்தவை நடந்தேரும்  
சிந்தனை சிறியதானால் சிந்தித்தோன் நிலைதாமும்  
எண்ணத்தால் முடியுமென்று எண்ணியதை முடித்திடுவார் - தம்  
எண்ணத்தின் வழியே, எல்லாம் உளவே.

L. Tresa Rose  
IIIrd B.A. Lit.

## புரியாத கேள்வி... கிடைக்காத பதில்

அ. ரீட்டாமேரி  
வரலாற்று பிரிவு  
(முன்றாம் ஆண்டு)

அவனைப் போல் நான் இருக்கிறேன்  
என்று சொல்வதைவிட  
என்னைப் போலவே நான் இருப்பேன்  
என்று நீ சொல்லும்போதுதான்  
உலக அலைவரிசையில் மனிதனாய் காட்சியளிக்கின்றாய்

மலையின் உச்சிக்குச் சென்று  
சிகரத்தைத் தொட்டு பிடிப்பதாக  
கனவுக்கு உன்னைக் காணிக்கையாக்காமல்  
கல்லறைகள் மீது சிந்திக் கிடக்கும்  
கண்ணீர் துளிகளைக் கரைசேர்க்கும் துடுப்பாய் மாறிடு

சில்லறைகளை நீ சிந்தி விடுவதால்  
சீமன்களாகி விடமாட்டார்கள் இந்நாட்டு ஏழைகள்  
இன்று கிடைத்ததே போதும் என்றெண்ணென்றும் இவர்கள்  
உன்னை விட உயர்வான சாம்ராஜ்ய மீல்லா ராஜாக்கள்தாம்

சிலைகளுக்காக சிராய்ப்புகளை ஏற்படுத்தும்  
சல்லடைகளைச் சங்கிலிகளாக மாறச்செய்தது  
யார் குற்றம்? நீயா? நானா? இல்லை...  
மனிதன் பிறப்பதே குற்றம் என்று  
பிரசாரம் செய்வதை விட  
பிறந்துவிட்ட மனிதனில் ஒருவனுக்காகவாவது  
பிள்ளையார் சுழி போடப் பழகிடு

உனக்காகவே நீ சில கேள்விக்குறிகளை எழுப்பினால்தான்  
உலகத்திற்கான பதில் உடனடியே கிடைக்கும்  
புரியாத கேள்விகளும், கிடைக்காத பதில்களும்  
அமாவாசை இருளில் கரைந்திடட்டும்  
புதிய பெளர்ணமி புலர்ந்திடட்டும்.

## இது தான் வாழ்க்கை

திருமதி. உலகநாயகிபழனி  
தமிழ்த்துறை.

பண்பாட்டை விதையாக்கி  
பாசத்தை பயிராக்கி  
ஒற்றுமையை உரமாக்கி  
ஒழுக்கத்தை வேராக்கி

சான்றோர் தம் சிந்தையை நீராக்கி  
சாந்தத்தை அறுவடையாக்கி  
சமாதானத்தில் ஒன்றாக்கி  
உருவாக்குவதே வாழ்க்கை

இதுவே! நித்திய வாழ்க்கை  
இதுவே! சத்திய வாழ்க்கை  
இதுவே! அழியா வாழ்க்கை  
இதுவே! அற்புத வாழ்க்கை

வள்ளுவனின் வாய்மொழியில்  
கம்பனின் கவிதைகளில்  
பாரதியின் பாடல்களில்  
பாவேந்தனின் பார்வையில்

மனம்தனை அடக்கி  
மார்க்கம் தனைப் பெற்று  
மங்கா புகழுடன்  
மானத்துடன் வாழ்வதுவே வாழ்க்கை!

அன்பிலே அரும்பிய உலகம் தனில்! நாமும்  
அன்பிலே அடங்கி  
ஆணவத்தை நீக்கி  
ஆளுமையுடன் வாழ்வதுவே வாழ்க்கை!

இதுவே! நித்திய வாழ்க்கை  
இதுவே! சத்திய வாழ்க்கை  
இதுவே! அழியா வாழ்க்கை  
இதுவே! அற்புத வாழ்க்கை

சோதனைகள், சிக்கல்கள், அபாயங்கள்  
எவை வந்தபோதும் 'எளிமையாய்'  
வெல்லுவதே வெற்றி' யிகு வாழ்க்கை  
இதுதான் வாழ்க்கை! இதுவேதான் வாழ்க்கை!



## नवांकुर जिन्दादिल

“पागल...पागल...पागल।” गली के बच्चों ने गोपाल को देखकर शोर मचाया। गोपाल बीस साल का नौजवान था। देखने में भला-चंगा था और रेलवे में चपरासी का नाम करता था।

गोपाल का एक जुड़वाँ भाई था; राकेश। दोनों में बड़ा प्यार था। गोपाल जब दस बरस का था तब मौत के निर्दयी हाथों ने राकेश को गोपाल से छीन लिया। परन्तु राकेश की मौत पर गोपाल उदास नहीं था। उसने अपने भाई के शव को प्रणाम करते हुए कहा - ‘धन्यवाद मेरे प्रभु।’ सुननेवाले अचरज में पड़ गए।

राकेश की मृत्यु के बाद गोपाल खूब मेहनत करने लगा और कक्षा में अब्बल आया। उसके दोस्त हैरान रह गए। पन्द्रह साल की उम्र में उसके सिर से पिता का साया उठ गया। गोपाल आगे की पढ़ाई नहीं कर सका। काफी दौड़-धूप के उपरांत उसे रेलवे में चपरासी की नौकरी मिल गई। नौकरी मिलने पर गोपाल ने कहा - “‘धन्यवाद मेरे प्रभु’”।

गोपाल की माँ हैरान रह गई। जो डॉक्टर बनना चाहता था वह आज चपरासी बनकर खुश हो रहा है।

जब गोपाल अपनी पहली कमाई ले घर आ रहा था तब उसका बटुआ चोरी हो गया। उसने माँ को खबर दी और कहा - ‘धन्यवाद मेरे प्रभु’। माँ को बहुत क्रोध आया और वह जोर-जोर से उसे पीटने लगी तथा चिल्ला - चिल्ला कर उसे ‘पागल...पागल’ पुकारने लगी। आस-पड़ोस ने गोपाल की राम कहानी सुनी तब उन्होंने उसे ‘पागल’ कहना शुरू कर दिया।

गोपाल की शादी हो गई तब उसकी पत्नी सुषमा ने उससे पूछा कि लोग उसे पागल क्यों पुकारते हैं? गोपाल ने उत्तर दिया - ‘आदमी का जब जन्म होता है वह रोता हुआ आता है, ताउम्र वह हर पल किसी न किसी बात पर रोता ही रहता है। मैं रोना नहीं चाहता। अपनी छोटी-सी जिन्दगी खुशी - खुशी जीना चाहता हूँ। जब मेरे भाई की मृत्यु हुई तो मैंने अपनी लघुता स्वीकारते हुए ईश्वर को धन्यवाद दिया। यह सोचकर कि भाई मरा तो क्या हुआ भगवान ने मुझे माता - पिता तो दिए हैं। जब पिता की मृत्यु हुई तो मैं यह सोचकर संतुष्ट था कि मेरी माँ तो जीवित हैं। जब मुझे चपरासी की नौकरी मिली तब मैंने यह सोचकर संतोष कर लिए कि बेकारी-बेरोजगारी की पीड़ा तो सहनी नहीं पड़ी। जब मेरी पहली कमाई चोरी हो गई तो मैंने सोचा जान तो नहीं गई। जिन्दा रहूँगा तो फिर कमा लूँगा। मुझे माफ कर दो सुषमा ! तुम्हें एक पागल से शादी करनी पड़ी।

सुषमा ने मुस्कराते हुए कहा - “मुझे गर्व है कि मैंने एक जिन्दादिल आदमी से शादी की है। दुनिया पागल है जिसे जीवन का सत्य समझ नहीं आता है। जो सनातन सत्य को पढ़कर भी समझ नहीं पाती। मुझे तुम पर नाज़ है। ‘धन्यवाद मेरे प्रभु’।

संतोष बजाज

I B.Com.



## उलझन

“अरे किरण (बड़ी बहू)! क्या हो गया है, अभी तक फूल, तुलसी, दूध और शहद नहीं पहुँचा?” माताजी की एक कड़कती आवाज़ मद्रास बम्बई हाईवे पर बने दुर्गनुमा फार्महाऊस के तीन - तले वाले बंगले के कोने - कोने में गूँजने लगी। बंगला जितना ही बाहर से दर्शनीय था उतना ही अन्दर से खूबसूरत एवं विचित्र भी। होगा भी क्यों नहीं परिवार जो बड़ा था। सात बेटे थे जिनमें से चार की शादी हो चुकी थी। पिताजी अक्सर काम के सिलसिले में बाहर जाते थे और उनके पीछे उनके सात बेटे ही कारोबार संभालते थे। वे सारे पढ़े-लिखे और सुसंस्कृत थे परन्तु माँ के कठोर अनुशासन से सब बन्धे थे।

तीन दिन के लिए ऋचा वहाँ आई थी। घर के सदस्यों की विशेषताओं को देख वह पहले ही मुग्ध थी। सबसे अनोखी बात उसे यह लगी कि घर में नौकरों को मिलाकर तीस सदस्य थे और तीसों रिमोट कंट्रोल की भांति माताजी की आवाज़ से नियंत्रित थे।

माताजी भगवान की दिन-रात पूजा करती थी। हर रोज़ घर में भगवान का भोग बनता था। घर के सदस्य हट्टे कट्टे और मोटे थे। खाना - पीना सब माँ की देख-रेख में ही बनता था। मजाल हो कि कोई खाने में अरुचि दिखाए।

इसके पहले कि घर के सदस्यों का यह हाल देख ऋचा कुछ सोच पाती माताजी की कड़कती हुई आवाज़ सुनाई दी। “किसने नल खोल रखा है।” ऋचा पलटी और उसने देखा कि नल बन्द हो गया था। इतना प्रभावशाली व्यक्तित्व देखकर वह दाँतों तले उँगली दबा कर रह गई। तीन घंटों तक पूजा चलती रही। ऋचा ने देखा कि एक एक करके सब प्रसाद ले कर नाश्ते की मेज़ की ओर बढ़े। नाश्ता खाकर सब अपने कामों पर चले गए। ऋचा ने सोचा कि अब तो माताजी जरूर आराम करेंगी। परन्तु नहीं, रसोईघर की ओर से माताजी की आवाज़ सुनाई पड़ी “किरण, दाल मक्खनी और गोभी आलू बनवा दे। अरे सुनीता (दूसरी बहू) सारे घर के बिस्तरों की चादरें बदल कर

धुलवाओ । लक्ष्मी (नौकरानी) जल्दी से सफाई खत्म कर । यहाँ पोंछा फिर से मार ।” इस तरह सबको आदेश देकर माताजी बाहर लॉन पर चली गई । ऋचा भी उनके पीछे-पीछे मंत्रमुग्ध - सी चल पड़ी ।

माताजी दिल की जितनी अच्छी थी, उतनी ही संकुचित दृष्टिकोण की थी । अन्धविश्वास के विश्वासों तले दबी हुई थी । उन्होंने घर में कई नियम पाले हुए थे । यदि किसी ने छींक मार दी हो तो बाहर जाने वाला बैठकर एक ग्लास पानी पीकर ही जा सकता था । कोई भी मंगलवार के दिन घर में दूसरे शहर से नहीं आ सकता था । सातवें और नौवें दिन कोई भी घर से बाहर नहीं जा सकता था । राहू काल तो हर काम में देखा जाता था । कोई भी बिना हाथ धोए कपड़े बर्तन या अन्य सामान को हाथ नहीं लगा सकता था । सब जानते थे कि यह गलत है परन्तु माताजी की आज्ञा टालने की हिम्मत किसी में नहीं थी । ऋचा ने यह भी देखा कि घर के सब सदस्य चाहे इच्छा के विरुद्ध ही माँ की आज्ञा का पालन करते थे, परन्तु उनसे चिढ़ते नहीं थे । माँ के प्रति उन सब के मन में एक विश्वास, अपनापन और स्नेह था ।

लोग सोचते थे कि एक बार बेटों की शादी हो जाएगी तो घर का वातावरण भी बदल जाएगा परन्तु हुआ इसके बिलकुल विपरीत । चार बहुरैं भी जो वातावरण को बदलना चाहती थी, माताजी के सम्पर्क में आकर खुद ही बदल गई । माताजी मोटी होने के कारण ज्यादा चल फिर नहीं सकती थीं परन्तु उनकी आवाज़ में सबके हाथ-पैर चलाने की शक्ति थी । कहते हैं कि लोग रविवार को अपने हफ्ते भर की थकान मिटाने के लिए आराम करते हैं । पर अफसोस, इस घर में तो उल्टा ही नियम है । हर रविवार को हवन होता था और दूसरे दिनों की तुलना में रविवार ही ज्यादा थकानेवाला दिन होता था ।

छोटी बहू प्रीती ने ऋचा को बताया कि एक बार माताजी ने अपनी एक कीमती साड़ी उसे इस्त्री करने के लिए दी । जब इस्त्री करने लगी तो उन्होंने पूछा “हाथ धोए थे?” नियमानुसार उसे हाथ धोकर ही साड़ी को छूना था क्योंकि उन्हें मन्दिर पहनकर जानी थी । अभी उसने साड़ी के पास प्रेस गर्म होने के लिए रखी थी । वह उसी तरह छोड़ हाथ धोने चली गई । आकर देखा तो साड़ी जली हुई पड़ी थी । किन्तु माताजी ने नियम नहीं बदले ।

इसी तरह एक बार वे यात्रा पर गई थीं । जगह-जगह का पानी पीने से वे बिमार पड़ गई । दुर्भाग्यवश वह मंगलवार के दिन अपने घर पहुँची । बिमारी के बावजूद घर में प्रवेश ना कर सकने के कारण उस दिन उन्हें बहुत असुविधा हुई । पर इससे वह विचलित नहीं हुई ।

माताजी की इन आदतों और गतिविधियों को देखकर ऋचा आकर्षित हुए बिना न रह सकी । उसके मन में फिर भी एक सन्देह उठा । सन्देह दूर करने के लिए उसने एक-एक कर सब सदस्यों से

पूछा - “आप माताजी का विरोध क्यों नहीं करते।” उनकी एक ही बात उसके हृदय को छू गई। उसने पाया कि सब माताजी से अत्यधिक प्रेम करते थे क्योंकि उनके कठोर व्यक्तित्व के पीछे एक कोमल हृदय धड़कता था। वह हर एक व्यक्ति का ख्याल रखती थी। उनकी सुख - सुविधाओं को महत्व देती थी। सबके साथ बराबर का व्यवहार करती थी। ऋचा ने कहा “वाह माताजी! आपका भी जवाब नहीं। आपने साबित कर दिया है कि आप बदलेंगी नहीं।” उत्तर में उन्होंने कहा - “जो मनुष्य जरा - सा दुख देखकर बदल जाए या धन देखकर फिसल जाए क्या वह मनुष्य कहलाने योग्य है? मनुष्य तो वह कहलाता है जो हर परीक्षा में अड़िग खड़ा रहे।” ऋचा बड़ी उलझन में पड़ गई। जहाँ माताजी का प्रभावशाली व्यक्तित्व उसे छू गया था वही यह विचार भी उठने लगा। आज के ज़माने में क्या ऐसे रहा जा सकता है ....?

पूजा धवन

II B.A. FINE ARTS

## मंदिर में ईश्वर है क्या ....?

किसी गाँव में एक पुजारी रहता था। वह कभी - कभी भाषण भी दिया करता था। एक बार उसने कहा, “भाईयो! एक ज्ञानी के समक्ष जाति-पाति के भेदभाव का कोई सवाल नहीं होता।” दूर खड़े हरिजन ने सुना। भाषण खत्म होते ही वह दौड़कर पुजारी के पास गया और पूछा - “हे स्वामी! अगर ऐसा हो तो हमारे मन्दिर में प्रवेश करने से आपको कोई आपत्ति तो नहीं होगी न? कोई रोक टोक तो नहीं लगाई जाएगी ... न...?”

हरिजन की बात सुनकर पुजारी ने कहा - मेरा ही कहना काफी है क्या ...? ईश्वर की अनुमति भी तो लेनी है। उनसे पूछकर मैं बताऊँगा।” रोज वह हरिजन उससे पूछता, ‘क्या आपने ईश्वर से पूछा?’ उसे एक यही जवाब मिलता, ‘मैंने कई बार पूछा तो है, मगर अभी तक कोई उत्तर नहीं मिला है।’

एक दिन उस हरिजन ने आकर कहा - “पुजारी जी! ईश्वर ने मुझे उत्तर दे दिया है।”

पुजारी दुविधा में पड़ गया। काँपते हुए उसने पूछा-“ईश्वर ने क्या कहा है?”

“ईश्वर ने कहा है कि हे बेटे! मैं ईश्वर हूँ, मुझे ही ये लोग मंदिर के अंदर जाने नहीं देते हैं, फिर तुम क्यों इसके अंदर जाने की आशा रखते हो?”

कु. शुभा एन. आर

II B.A. HISTORY

## आज का एकलव्य

बरसों पहले था वह शिक्षा से वंचित,  
चार वर्ण की कुंठा में मंधित,  
अर्जुन से हौड़ ले हुआ वह दंडित,  
हाथ के अंगूठें को किया खंडित,  
गुरुभक्त की निष्ठा हुई अनादृत,  
अपकीर्ति के भय से हुआ द्रोण चिंतित,  
गुरुवर ने एक वर से किया उसे सम्मानित,  
“कलयुग के श्रेष्ठ वर्ण में होगा तू जनित,  
तब होगी तेरी इच्छा सभी साधित,  
गुरु के वचन सुन हुआ वह भ्रमित,  
प्राण तजकर हुआ वह कलयुग में जनित,  
ब्राह्मण कुल में हुआ वह अवतरित,  
पर शिक्षा उसकी आज भी है सीमित,  
जाति के नाम विद्या सभी है आरक्षित,  
आज भी एकलव्य शिक्षा से वंचित ।

कमला विजयकुमार

II B.Sc. Physics

## लघुकथा

### हराम की कमाई

एक दिन भगवान ने धरती की बिगड़ी हुई हालत देखकर दौरा करने का फैसला किया। दौरे के उपरान्त उन्होंने आदेश दिया कि संसार में जितना भी धन है उसमें सच्ची मेहनत से की गई कमाई के धन को छोड़कर बाकी सारी हराम की दौलत कर्पूर की भांति हवा में लीन हो जाए। कुछ ही क्षणों में सारी तिजोरियाँ, सारे बक्से, बैंक लॉकर खाली हो गए। यहाँ तक कि कई गरीबों के थैले भी खाली हो गए। इन सब से भगवान बिलकुल अचंभित नहीं हुए। उनको धक्का तब लगा जब उन्होंने देखा कि स्वर्ग के कोषाध्यक्ष का कोष भी आधा खाली हो गया था।

शाईजी मोल

II B.Sc. Physics

## भूकंप-त्रासदी

संतप्त बुढ़िया  
रही थी कराह 'औ'  
ढूँढ रही थी  
कुछ आसपास ।  
'माँ ! कुछ मदद... ?'  
बीच में अटक गया  
था मेरा स्वर ।  
निष्प्राण लिजलिजी आँखों से  
गीली पलकें उठीं गिरीं  
'भूकंप राहत दल ।'  
वह क्रूर हँसी हँसी  
'ओ... भूकंप राहत दल...'  
उभारने आए हो  
नवजीवन का संदेश  
लाए हो ?  
असें बाद मिलीथी  
नौकरी पुत्र को  
ढह गया  
गया दब सब  
कहते-कहते  
गिर पड़ी  
उठ न पाई  
फिर कभी...।

निर्मला चिदम्बस्

II B.Sc. BOTANY

# Stella Maris College (Autonomous) Madras-86

Examination Results - April 1993

## Undergraduate

Department	Appeared	Passed	% of Passes
<b>B.A.</b>			
History	61	45	73.77
Sociology	49	36	73.47
Economics	63	51	80.95
History of Fine Arts of Drawing and Painting	37	26	70.27
English	54	34	62.96
<b>B.Com.</b>			
Commerce	69	63	91.30
<b>B.Sc.</b>			
Mathematics	56	46	82.14
Physics	51	42	82.35
Chemistry	35	33	94.29
Botany	58	42	72.41
Zoology	65	55	84.62

## Post Graduate

<b>M.A.</b>			
Economics	15	13	86.67
English	20	18	90.00
History of Fine Arts	11	10	90.91
Social Work	23	19	82.61
<b>M.Sc.</b>			
Mathematics	21	15	71.43

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