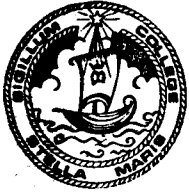




STELLA MARIS

COLLEGE

1994



# **STELLA MARIS COLLEGE**

**(Autonomous)**

**1994**

**March 1995**

**Printed at Gnanodaya Press  
213, Valluvarkottam High Road  
Madras - 600 034**

## CONTENTS

Prayer : Psalm 36	v
Editorial	vii
Editorial Board	viii
<b>Footprints 1993-94</b>	
College Day - Principal's Report 1993-94	1
Not Me, But You - NSS - A Report 1993-94	11
N.S.S. Silver Jubilee Celebrations	13
Teams, Tracks and Trophies - Games Report 1993-94	15
Tough Times Never Last, Tough People Do - NCC Report 1993-94	19
For I Have Promises to Keep - Students Union Report 1993-94	21
Fire in the Hostel - 1993-94	23
<b>As the World Turns</b>	
War - An Exposé	25
Never Take More Than You Can Give	26
The Last Laugh	29
Why Have All the Trees Gone?	31
<b>Astral Apparitions</b>	
The Heavenly Crash	34
Do We Have Neighbours in the Cosmos?	35
<b>Different Strokes</b>	
Reaching Out to Millions	37
Higher Still and Higher!	39
A Flight into Fantasy	42
<b>Economists Forum</b>	
Consumer Consciousness in India	44
GATT - What it is all about?	46
Labour Welfare Measures in India	48
A Clarion Call to Women Entrepreneurs	50
<b>The Scientist Speaks</b>	
The Chemistry of Cosmetics	52
Attention Green Thumbs!	53
Chem Plaza - Unity in Diversity	54

<b>East Meets West</b>	
1993-94 Experience - USA and Europe	56
<b>Collage</b>	
The Cool Face of the River Asked Me for a Kiss	60
<b>Musings</b>	
Dust to Dust	61
It's Always to do with Places	63
<b>Creative Voices - Poetry</b>	
For I Feel	56
Economists and Their Marred Dreams	67
Epitaph	68
The Last Rites	68
Arjuna Uvacha	69
Fear	71
A Requiem for the Lost Indian	71
Dear Mother..... Yours Forever	72
The Pyre - Short Story	76
<b>Echoes (from the past)</b>	
Rewarding Years at Stella Maris	77
Launching into the Media World	79
Stella Maris, My Alma Mater	80
<b>From the Book Worms</b>	
Book Reviews	81
<b>Reflections</b>	
A Comparative Study of the Endings of Jurassic Park	82
Urubangam - A Backward Glance	84
<b>Tamil</b>	
நல்லதொரு குடும்பம்	85
நாட்டு நலப்பணி திட்டம்	86
தேசத்தை எதிர் நோக்கியுள்ள சவால்களும் இளைஞர்களின் பங்கும்	88
<b>French</b>	96
<b>Hindi</b>	99
<b>Examination Results</b>	107

*Lord, your constant love reaches the heavens;  
Your faithfulness extends to the skies.  
Your righteousness is towering like the mountains;  
Your justice is like the depths of the sea  
Men and animals are in your care.  
How precious, O God, is your constant love;  
We find protection under the shadow of your wings.  
We feast on the abundant food you provide;  
You let us drink from the river of your goodness.  
You are the source of all life,  
and because of your light we see the light.*

Psalm 36, Vs. 5-9

## *Editorial*

*“Wild life and the Wild Woman are both endangered species”.*

Looking back over the centuries we have seen how the feminine instinctive nature has been exploited, manipulated and distorted beyond recognition. Old forests and wild life around us have also been subjected to similar depredation.

As modern women, facing the fast approaching twenty first century we are engulfed in the mechanical round of living, often pressurised into compliancy. Anne Sexton poignantly describes this predicament :

*“I stand in the ring  
in the dead city  
and tie on the red shoes.....  
They are not mine.  
They are my mother's  
Her mother's before”.*

The ancient dictum, “Know Thyself” urges every woman to delve deep into her own instinctive psyche and recover her vital self. Preserving our pristine wilderness is relational to a comprehension of our own inner wild nature.

We at Stella Maris have already begun opening the doors of our inner selves. We can claim women entrepreneurs, social workers, mountain trekkers and environmental journalists who are in touch with the “Wild Woman” within. Nurturing strong familial bonds and spiritual values and vitally alive to the challenges of the changing world, our's is an on-going quest that leads us still deeper and deeper into our own knowing.

## Editorial Board

Student Editors	:	Aparna John, II B.A. Eng. Lit. Ramya Kannan, II B.A. Eng. Lit.
Staff Advisers	:	Sharon Ross, Department of English Mridula Jose, Department of English Christina Rajkumar, Department of English Rohini, Department of Fine Arts Margaret Thomas, Department of Fine Arts
Cover Design	:	Karpaga Latha, II M.A. Fine Arts



# STELLA MARIS COLLEGE

(Autonomous)  
MADRAS - 600 086

*College Day : March 18, 1994*

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT : 1993-94 — Dr. (Sr.) Annamma Philip, *fmm*

Our esteemed chief guest this evening Dr G. Ram Reddy, Chairman, University Grants Commission, New Delhi, Dr. (Sr) Mary Ann, Secretary of the College, Esteemed members of the Governing Body and the Academic Council, dear parents, friends and benefactors of the College, members of the faculty, administrative and supportive staff and dear students.

On this our 46th College Day a sense of joy and gratitude pervades the air as we look back on an eventful year rich in its diversity. Life unfolds itself revealing a fascinating variety of shades and images, patterns and perspectives, shapes and dimensions. What is the campus if not the world in miniature and the educational process but a microcosm of the evolution that is life.

At an institution for Higher Education such as Stella Maris, we have the unique privilege of drawing together over 2,400 individuals, combining their efforts towards a common goal, each one unravelling a little of the mystery that is the other. It never ceases to amaze one to watch new patterns emerging and one cannot but bow in reverence and wonder at the immense mystery of the creator, the sole designer of the masterpiece of life.

At the outset I would like to place on record our deep regret at the untimely demise of Rev. Fr. Milton Fernandez and His Grace Rt. Rev. Dr. Casimir Gnanadickam, S. J.

Serene and gentle, Fr. Milton was the chaplain of the Stella Maris Community for the past 33 years - ever since Stella Maris moved into this campus from Mylapore. A faithful and trusted friend of the Institution, he closely followed the progress of Stella Maris and his benevolent presence is solely missed today.

Possessed of a versatile personality the late Archbishop Rt. Rev. Dr. Gnanadickam promoted inter-communal harmony so necessary to our multi-pluralistic set-up.

May I request the members of the audience to stand for a minute in silence to honour their memory.

Stella Maris College is now in the 7th year of Autonomy. As we forge ahead,

a need for greater academic freedom and a stronger focus on flexibility and change in relation to student needs have to be spotlighted. The credit system is perhaps a move in the right direction and steps have been initiated to incorporate it into our academic structure so as to accommodate slow and fast learners at their own pace.

Higher Education has registered remarkable growth in India. However the growing educational problems threaten to undermine the educational advancement that has taken place so far. Unless the educational system is radically restructured it is likely to collapse in the foreseeable future. Besides, there is a mismatch between the supply of and the demand for the educated. Realizing the growing urgency to enhance the employability of university graduates on the one hand and to empower them to seek entrepreneurial independence on the other, the UGC, under the inspired chairmanship of Dr. G. Ram Reddy, has initiated measures that are of vital significance. In this context, the decision of the UGC to introduce vocationalisation of Higher Education at first degree level is highly commendable. We thank you Dr. Reddy and your colleagues at the UGC for taking the first step towards a radical overhauling that our educational system so desperately requires.

Before I present a brief account of the happenings at Stella Maris during the academic year 1993-94, I would like to place on record our deep appreciation of the services of Dr. Ms. Thangamani, Head, Department of Mathematics, who will be retiring after 28 years of service to the institution. She has been a tower of strength and an inspiration to her colleagues and to generations of students with whom she has shared her wealth of knowledge and experience. A profound humility and an unwavering integrity, are the hallmark of her character that we strive to emulate. A pillar of unstinting support to the Institution, her retirement will leave a void that will be difficult to fill. To honour Dr. Thangamani the Dept. of Mathematics is instituting an endowment in her name.

I would also like to express our deep debt of gratitude to one of our supportive staff Mr. Masilamani, who retired this year after 27 years of service.

The members of the faculty shoulder the awesome responsibility of the academic programme and take on themselves the onerous task of shaping the character of our youth. These tasks demand that they expend their time, energy and efforts, which they do with unflagging enthusiasm and sustained devotion.

Our congratulations to Dr. (Mrs.) Arputharani Sengupta, Dr. (Sr) Flavia, FMM and Dr. (Mrs.) Kamala Arvind, who have received their doctorates this year.

The members of the faculty seek to constantly keep abreast of the changing world around us. Exchange programmes are steadily gaining ground and promote

the creation of an International fellowship of teachers. We welcome back to our midst Dr. K. G. Rama after a successful year as a Fulbright Scholar - in - residence at Clarke University, USA. Dr. (Sr) Flavia is at Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, USA under the United Board for Christian Higher Education Visiting Scholars Programme. Dr. Sally Nyquist has spent a fruitful year at Stella Maris as a visiting Fulbright Scholar. The departments of Zoology and Botany have benefitted a great deal from Dr. Nyquist's enthusiastic involvement in their projects.

The achievements of the faculty are too numerous to recount in detail. They participated in international and national conferences and seminars, presented papers and organized seminars, workshops and refresher courses.

I would like to highlight a few of these achievements :

Dr. Radha Paul of the Department of Social Work was awarded the distinguished professor certificate by Colgate University of New York State for her services to the Semester in India Programme.

Dr. Arputharani Sengupta found special mention among women artists of the south by the Lalit Kala Akademi, Madras.

Dr. S. Geetha of the Department of Chemistry received the Best Social Worker Award instituted by the Mani Seethai Magazine and the Vocation Service Award from the Rotary Club of Madras for her devotion to the cause of environmental protection. Dr. Geetha's Home Kit to detect Food Adulteration continues to receive acclaim. She was also a panelist at the Tele Press Conference on Environmental Issues conducted at the USIS on World Earth Day.

Dr. Sundari Krishnamoorthy was a member of the All Women Delegation of the Federation of India Chamber of Commerce (Ladies Wing) that visited Germany and the United States. She organised audio visual presentations at Cedar Crest College, Allentown and Small Business Foundation, Washington. She also participated in the Tele Conference with Washington at the USIS on the "Culture of Entrepreneurship".

Mrs. Lakshmi Venkatasubramaniam was the author of an article on the Human Development Index published in the Asian Journal of Economics and Social Studies.

Dr. Susan Oomen published an article in "Provocation" a book released in 1994.

Dr. Madhu Dhawan published a book on Journalism and a play entitled "Bhool".

Ms. Nalinakshi, Department of Mathematics, authored an article on Salagean - Pasen Type of Generalised Sakaguchi class of functions for a Journal of the Kyungpook National University, Korea.

The faculty of the department of Social Work and several others have served as consultants for staff training project planning, evaluation and research programmes.

Dr. Radha Paul, Mrs. Poppy Kannan and Sr. Christine have contributed a chapter each to the research report on Culture and Drug Abuse.

Dr. Hilda Raja contributed a chapter for a book entitled "India - A people betrayed".

Ms. Cecilia Thangaraj contributed a chapter for the book entitled "Mental Health in India" published by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Bombay.

The various departments of the College have engaged in a multitude of activities organising inter-collegiate and inter-school competitions, seminars, workshops and exhibitions including the annual features such as the Indira Gandhi Memorial Lecture, the Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent Endowment Lecture and the Sr. Juliet Irene Rolling Trophy Inter Collegiate Quiz Contest. I would like to highlight some of the other activities.

The department of History organised an exhibition entitled the "Jewel on the Bay" which focused on the city of Madras. Dr. Chockalingam, the Sheriff of Madras inaugurated the exhibition.

The department of Fine Arts organised its annual exhibition as well as workshops on Trends in Contemporary South Indian Art and Drawing and Design Techniques and Graphic Communication and Metal Work.

The department of Physics organised a two day programme entitled "Potential 94" and held an inter school exhibition and inter collegiate competitions.

The department of Botany with the help of the visiting Fulbright scholar Dr. Sally Nyquist organised a workshop on Experimental Cell Biology for the faculty of city colleges.

Dr. Nyquist also collaborated with the Department of Zoology to organise a workshop for city college teachers on Cell Biology.

The department of Social Work organised blood donation camps, camps for sanitary workers, rural camps to revive youth groups and promote awareness in the area of child care, health and nutrition. Skill training programmes and picnics for street children and disabled children and rehabilitatory measures for juvenile delinquents were also promoted. Our students also participated in the Bicentenary Celebrations of the Institute of Mental Health and patients from this institute and the Schizophrenia Research Foundation were taken on a picnic by them. The students of the department have had practical training in 30 different agencies where they have made significant contributions.

The department of Religious Education under the guidance of Sr. Sundari, continues to impart through classes, retreats, seminars and other programmes, the training and philosophy so necessary to strengthen faith formation.

The department of Value Education with its activities co-ordinated by Sr. Kochu Theresa has encouraged the students to weave strong values into their character thus strengthening their moral fibre. Several training programmes to enable faculty members to equip themselves have also been organized. At a time when society appears to be at crisis ridden cross-roads, the Inter Faith Dialogue Programme organised in collaboration with the Institute for Development Education, Madras, seeks to give it direction and restore harmony.

To enable students to come to terms with themselves and their environment the college continues to offer counselling services. The peer group counselling conducted by Dr. Emma Gonsalves has been of immense help. We are grateful to the assistance of the United Board for Christian Higher Education which has made these and other Leadership Training Programmes possible.

Stella Maris College has done its fair share towards promoting the international youth exchange programme by hosting 28 American students and their Director, Dr. C. K. Pullapally, during their Semester Around the World. Their presence lent colour and vibrancy to the campus. So wholehearted was their participation in our on-campus activities that they performed a fund raiser to help the victims of the earthquake. Aply co-ordinated by Dr. Madhu Dhawan, Dr. Kamala Arvind, and Sr. Florine Monis the entire academic programme was a resounding success.

The growing menace posed by drugs and the consequent threats that the youth in our society face today is a reality that transcends national and geographical boundaries. It behoves us therefore to combat this insidious and evergrowing problem by instituting preventive measures to fully understand and resolve the situation. With this end in mind Stella Maris accepted the offer of the International Federation of Catholic Universities to conduct a Diagnostic study on Culture and Drug Abuse in Madras City.

Under the dynamic leadership of Sr. Christine, the core team comprising of Dr. Radha Paul, Mrs. Poppy Kannan, Sr. Kochu Teresa, Ms. Benita and external experts, completed the first phase of the project in December '93. The research findings were presented at the International Symposium on Cultural Strategies for Intervention and prevention of drug abuse held at Bangkok in January '94. In this connection Sr. Christine also participated in the Scientific Directors meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia, in May '93.

I would like now to mention a few student achievements that are a source of pride and joy to all of us. Five students of Stella Maris, Kanmani, Sudha, Ramitha,

Bhavna and Sowmya, have been selected for the first ever all girls expedition from Tamil Nadu to the Everest Base Camp & Kala Pattar Peak in Nepal. At the Mukerji Memorial National Oratorical competition held at St. Stephen's College, Delhi, Subhadra and Janani won the Best Team Prize and a cash award of Rs. 4000/-. Meenakshi Ramanathan has won several gold, silver and team prizes at various national and state rifle shooting championships. Special mention must be made of her performance at the National Games held at Bombay and her record breaking effort at the ISU state rifle shooting championship.

"Be alive ! Be aware !" was the motto of the Students Union for the Academic Year 1993-94 - rousing the consciousness of the young minds to an acute and vital awareness of the world around them with its myriad possibilities. Annual programmes such as the inter year culturals, the annual Carnival, the celebrations of services such as PTC Day, Workers Day, Teachers Day and others were organised with great gusto and enthusiasm.

The Birthday of Stella Maris College that coincides with India's Independence Day on August 15, was an occasion for rejoicing. Dr. Sr. Edith Tomory, the First Vice-Principal of Stella Maris and the Foundress of the Department of Fine Arts cut the birthday cake after the Independence Day Celebrations. In February '94, a two day leadership seminar entitled 'On the Campus for the World' was organised by the Students Union and was conducted by Fr Felix Koikara. Over 40 student leaders from various city colleges interacted and planned for a United Students Forum in Madras. At an inter collegiate seminar on Women's Issues entitled 'Shakthi', organised by the Students Union, eminent women speakers drawn from various walks of life studied the historical perspectives of women, their role and their empowerment.

SAVE an Acronym for Stella Maris Action for Victims of Earthquake was the immediate response from our students to the natural disaster that struck the nation. Over Rs.30,000/- was raised through contributions from the faculty and students. Sr. Christine accompanied by two students Richa Singh and Sethulakshmi, visited Latur as Ambassadors of goodwill.

The Office bearers of the students union Shoba, Jose, Biny Cherian, Madona, Devasahayam, Sharada, Mary Ann Koruth and Tameen Isaac gave generously of themselves investing their time, energy and talents in the planning and organising of diverse and meaningful activities. The able guidance by the Deans of Student Affairs Sr. Christine, Ms. Jacinta Fenelon and Mrs. Rukmini Srinivasan, was a source of encouragement and support to them.

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 BA degree is 72.3%, B. Sc., 83.2%, B.Com., 91.3%, M.A. 87.5% and M.Sc., 71.4%. In this context, I would like to mention that to meet the growing demand of students we have begun this academic year additional sections in Mathematics and Commerce under the autonomous pattern.

Particular care is taken at Stella Maris of the academically weaker sections of the student body through remedial teaching programmes. The unique programme of a bridge course spanning a year to enable academically weak students to embark on a graduate programme after leaving school has been strengthened and streamlined, and has drawn a group of 20 motivated students this year.

Career oriented projects such as the Women's Entrepreneurial Programme co-ordinated by Mrs. Rukmini Srinivasan and Mrs. Shiny, the ISTD programmes co-ordinated by Dr. Sundari Krishnamoorthy and the IAS preparatory course conducted by the Department of History, continue to enthuse the student participants and direct them towards future options.

Student participation continued to be enthusiastic in the activities organised by various departmental and non-departmental clubs.

The cultural heritage of India was transmitted to yet another generation of Stella Marians through the Spic Macay Chapter.

The annual departmental journals and the college publications including the Stella Times reveal the journalistic and literary skills and the depth of creativity of our students.

A scintillating evening with a rare combination of dance and theatre marked the cultural programme presented by the students at the Music Academy on 28th, 29th of January '94. "Dhivya Dhara" a Bharatanatyam presentation choreographed and set to music by the students brilliantly captured the pulsating life at the confluence of the three great rivers the Ganga, the Jamuna and the Saraswathi - a confluence that symbolised religious and cultural harmony. Special mention must be made of Sushruthi whose musical talents borders on the genius. Urubangam 'The Shattered Thigh' an English adaptation of Bhasa's play directed by Puja Kashyap of II M.A. Literature, was a stark yet intense, emotional theatrical experience. The student participants, with the generous support of Dr. Susan Oomen and Dr. Ramaa Narayanan, performed with confidence and grace.

The NCC Unit has been a feather in the cap of Stella Maris. Built up under the able stewardship of Captain, Ms. Gita Samuel, this flame of leadership has been passed on to Mrs. Felbin Kennedy, since the beginning of this academic year. I would like to place on record our deep appreciation for the commitment and

dynamism shown by Ms. Gita Samuel during her tenure. The high standards and tradition established by her have been sustained by Mrs. Felbin Kennedy, as can be seen in the laurels won by the cadets. I would like to mention a few highlights of the year.

At the Cadofest 1993 held at D. G. Vaishnava College, Stella Maris made a clean sweep of the competition and won the banner for the 6th consecutive year.

At the Cado Utsav 1994, a state level NCC festival held at Loyola College, Stella Maris College won the banner on its debut, as well as the rifle shooting competition.

Our cadets participated in the Vayusenic Camp at Kota Rajasthan and the Madras to Pondicherry cycling expedition. Cdt Anu Rajan represented Tamil Nadu at the Basic Leadership Camp at Delhi while six of the cadets Deepa Alexander, Ansuman Narayanan, Sunitha, Elizabeth James, Bessie Thomas and Sindhu attended the Republic Day Camp at Delhi. Sgt. Sintha was NCC ambassador of India to Canada as part of the youth exchange programme while Cadet Carmelita Mendoza was sent to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, for a short camp.

Flt Cadets Asha Rajdev and Bessy Thomas successfully obtained their International Gliding Licence.

In the arena of sports, Stella Maris College continues to win honours at the National, State and University levels under the guidance of our Physical Directress Mrs. Malathy Kumar. Thirty-one of our players represented the Madras University South division in Basket Ball, Kho-Kho, Cricket, Table Tennis, Hockey and Athletics.

Thirteen of our players donned the state colours for the Basket Ball, Kho-Kho, Hockey, Tenniquoit, Foot Ball and Cricket competitions and tournaments at various centres including Haryana & Delhi.

Besides, the college team won the following Basket Ball tournaments :

The State Level Inter Collegiate Tournament at IIT, Madras.

The CITRA State Level Inter Collegiate Tournament at Stella Maris College, Madras.

The All India State Level Inter Collegiate Tournament at Pondicherry and

The Inter Collegiate Tournament at Ethiraj College.

The National Service Scheme in India celebrated its Silver Jubilee this year and we at Stella Maris echoed 25 years of dedicated and tireless efforts by generations of Stella Marian N. S. S. Volunteers. Under the committed leadership



## COLLEGE DAY



Principal addressing the gathering



Dr. G. Ram Reddy, Chairman, U.G.C., New Delhi  
Presides over College Day

## SPORTS DAY



Mrs. Rajalakshmi Theodore, Regional Deputy Director, Madras,  
Presides over Sports Day



Rhythm in movement — Aerobics



A close finish

of our co-ordinator of the last 18 years. Ms. Prabha Nair, an inspired year of service culminated in a meaningful programme on NSS Day.

The NSS volunteers were involved in organising and in participating in the World Elders Day Celebrations at Stella Maris and the Seminar organised in collaboration with the State Resource Centre on "Education for All" sponsored by the Human Resources and Development Ministry. A few of the other activities that deserve special mention are :

- \* An exhibition on Aids Awareness and a Street Play performance at Pachaiyappa's College on the occasion of the visit of The World Bank Team to Madras in July '93.
- \* A street play performance at Pulianthope Slum on the occasion of International Literacy Day in September '93.
- \* A seminar on ageing at our College in collaboration with Helpage India in September 1993.
- \* A special 10 day camp at Purisai Village, Thiruvannamalai Sambuvarayar district to promote National Integration and Social Harmony.
- \* Besides the volunteers also participated in the Logo March Past of the IX (Ninth) International Athletics Meet and 33rd National Championship Inauguration Celebration at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Madras.

Collaborating with the State Government in its endeavour to achieve cent percent literacy in Tamil Nadu, Stella Maris continues its Functional Literacy Programme sponsored by Indian Bank in the two villages Nemam and Kuthambakkam in Chengai - MGR District. Hundred and four enthusiastic student volunteers drawn from the various U. G. departments were involved in imparting this unique literacy for life programme, the main target group being women. While using the literacy kits from the State Resource Centre, the students also introduced several innovative techniques. Introduction of skill development programmes enabling women to take up self-employment projects has met with resounding success. One significant feature that deserves special mention is the leadership programme for women and youth. Nineteen women and 6 youth volunteers are in the process of drawing up an action plan for eradicating illiteracy in their village. All the three leadership training programmes conducted, one in the village and two at Stella Maris evoked enthusiastic response.

This noble task of educating the illiterate and bringing new hope into their lives was possible because of the enthusiastic perseverance and the unstinting support of Ms. Chandunnisa, Dept. of Economics and Ms. Sahaya Teresa, the programme co-ordinator.

It is my pleasant duty to acknowledge the quiet and efficient service rendered by those who work at the core of administrative and supportive structures to ensure the smooth functioning of the College : the administrative staff ably guided by Sr. Celine Paul, the examination unit under the committed care of Mrs. Felix and the supportive staff under the direction of Sr. Mary Celine.

Having placed a brief report of the multitude of activities and achievements of the college it is now the moment to acknowledge my profound 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 Mrs. Gigie Verghese, the Vice Principals, Deans of Student Affairs, the members of the faculty, and the administrative staff for their total involvement in the happenings of the college and for sharing the awesome responsibility of forming young minds.

Our dear students whose presence we cherish and foster.

The University authorities, the Education Department, the Regional Directorate, the Directorate of Collegiate Education and the University Grants Commission for their guidance and continued support.

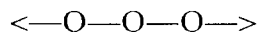
The All India Association for Christian Higher Education, the Xavier Board, the United Board for Christian Higher Education, the Indian Bank, the Stella Maris College Extension Counter of the Indian Overseas Bank and other public and private sector organisations and agencies who have generously funded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

The Pallavan Transport Corporation, the Police Department, the Tamilnadu Electricity Board, the Post and Telegraph department, the Madras Telephones, the Corporation of Madras, AIR and Doordarshan Kendra and other public utility departments for their timely assistance.

Thank you dear parents, friends and benefactors for your generous support and sustained interest in all our endeavours.

May the infinite and all pervading wisdom of the Almighty spur us onward in our search for Truth, quest for Excellence and our determination to create a new and radically different tomorrow.

Thank you and God Bless.



## *Not me, But you*

### **NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME 1993-94 - A REPORT**

*This year was a memorable one for the National Service Unit of Stella Maris College as it commemorated 25 years of dedicated service to society. Under the dynamic leadership of Ms. Prabha Nair, this unit has grown from strength to strength. It was an action-packed year and the whole-hearted participation of the N. S. S. students deserves to be highly commended. The following is a report on the various activities and achievements for the year 1993-94.*

- 16th July 1993 - An awards function for the outstanding sports men/women organised by the State Co-ordinator, NSS. Thirty volunteers participated in the function at Kalaivanar Arangam.
- 31st July 1993 - An exhibition on Aids Awareness and a Street Play performance organised at Pachaiyappa's College in connection with the visit of the World Bank Team to Madras. Arrangement done on request from The NSS Zonal Centre, Government of India.
- 8th - 11th September 1993 - Leadership Training Programme conducted at Camp Torekala, Avadi. Fifty five NSS volunteers from the first, second and third years participated.
- 14th September 1993 - In connection with International Literacy Day, a Street Play performance was organised at Puliyanthope Slum, a project area of the YMCA Literacy Programme. Fifteen NSS volunteers participated.
- 27th September 1993 - In collaboration with Sri Ramachandra Medical College, a Health Camp for Elders was organised by Helpage India at Maduravoil, Poonamallee. Twenty seven volunteers extended their services.
- 29th September 1993 - A seminar on Ageing was conducted by Helpage India and NSS at Stella Maris College. In the inter collegiate elocution competition organised as part of the seminar, a second year NSS volunteer (Maths) won the second prize.
- 1st October 1993 - World Elders Day celebrations organised by Helpage India at German Hall, Madras. Eighty three NSS

- volunteers were involved in the organisation and execution of the programmes for the day. Nearly thousand elders from various organisations/agencies participated and enjoyed themselves.
- 6th November 1993 - A Street Play performance at the Madras Social Service Society Training Centre, Madras, was the highlight of the Seminar on Non-formal Education conducted by The Xavier Board of Higher Education in India. Nine volunteers participated and the theme was "The Role of Women in Society".
- 6th December 1993 - An exhibition depicting the activities of the NSS was organised at the University of Madras, in connection with the inauguration of the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the NSS.
- 6th December 1993 - Fifteen NSS volunteers participated and helped to organise the seminar on "Education for All" by the State Resource Centre at Stella Maris College. The seminar was sponsored by the Ministry of Human Resources and Development.
- 16th December and 17th December 1993 - In a State Level Orientation Workshop for Media Personnel on Total Literacy Campaign at ICSA, Madras, one NSS representative participated in the deliberations. Twenty one volunteers demonstrated that street plays were a powerful medium to create awareness among the community/society.
- 21st December 1993 - Twenty volunteers were special invitees at the launching of the Silver Jubilee celebrations for the NSS at Kalaivanar Arangam, Madras.
- 30th December 1993 to 8th January 1994 - Special camping programme at Purisai Village, Cheyyar Taluk in Tiruvanamalai-Sambuvarayar District on the theme "National Integration and Social Harmony". Forty one volunteers and one Programme Officer participated in the ten days camping activity. Tree planting, an exhibition on National Integration, health, hygiene etc. competitions for the school children and a village survey were some of the

## N.C.C. DAY



Principal presenting a Memento to the Chief Guest  
Major General V. Mulye



Senior Under Officers and Under Officers with the  
N.C.C. Staff, Guide Dr. Mrs. Felbin

## N.S.S. DAY — Silver Jubilee Celebrations



Young Children add colour to NSS Day



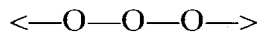
Still young at heart — A lively performance by the Old Aged Home —  
Little Sisters of the Poor, Harrington Road



NSS Volunteers enact a Street Play



- programmes undertaken. A cultural programme highlighting the theme was organised for the surrounding villages at Purisai.
- 25th January 1994 - Visit of the Programme Co-ordinator, NSS, University of Madras, for a sharing session with the campers at college, NSS volunteers exhibited their talents for the benefit of the guests.
- 2nd February 1994 - Six NSS volunteers participated in the Logo March Past of the IX International Athletic Meet and the 33rd National Championship inauguration celebrations at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Madras.
- 17th - 19th February 1994 - A workshop on AIDS Awareness and Prevention was conducted by the Anna Centre for Public Affairs, University of Madras. Two NSS volunteers were deputed for the same.



## **N. S. S. SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS—1993-94**

The National Service Scheme was started on the 24th of September 1969, with the objectives of creating social awareness, bringing about social change and the overall personality development of students through the involvement in projects. The motto of N. S. S. "Not me but you" expresses the idea of selfless service and sharing.

Sir Wilfred Thomson Grenfell said that "the service we render to others is really the rent we pay for our room on this earth". By providing service to others and sharing our love with others we become instruments of social awareness and togetherness. In a country like ours which is full of diversities, the sense of service is very essential. We, the youth of India have to be more aware about our social problems and become the agents of social change in the years to come, to raise India out of the mire of backwardness, superstition, illiterary and communal disharmony.

As Swami Vivekananda said, "I consider that the great national sin is the neglect of the masses and is one of the causes of our downfall". Only when one is aware and able to bring harmony and integration and a sense of sharing to one's

own nation can this sharing and love take on a global perspective. Therefore, "Rest not and be not lulled - and tire not of doing good while you are still young, strong and full of vigour. We are lamps and our burning is what we call 'life'."

The spirit of sharing that has been kept alive by the N. S. S. for the past twenty-five years is acknowledged by our commitment in all the endeavours that we have undertaken.. The N. S. S. Silver Jubilee Celebrations comprised of the following :

- 25th February 1994 - The Silver Jubilee celebrations began with a life saving activity - A blood donation camp organised in order to encourage voluntary blood donation. The team of doctors were from the Tamil Nadu Hospital, Madras.
- 26th February 1994 - Moving towards a better and greener environment - the planting of nearly 200 saplings in the campus, various project areas of the NSS and in different parts of the city was undertaken. Staff and students were also encouraged to avail of this opportunity. The Forest Department, Government of Tamil Nadu supplied 1000 saplings to mark the occasion and a brief function was also held.
- 1st and 2nd March 1994 - Stalls depicting/displaying the workskills of the inmates in different organisations added colour to the silver jubilee celebrations. The stalls put up by the Forest Department and the Commission on Addiction Concerns deserve a special mention.
- 2nd March 1994 - Celebrating 25 years of sharing - The NSS Day Function was witnessed by well wishers, guests, participants and staff from the various organisations, and the staff and students of Stella Maris College. Prizes and Certificates were awarded to NSS volunteers.

<—O—O—O—>

## *TEAMS, TRACKS AND TROPHIES*

### **GAMES REPORT 1993-94**

“A sound mind in a sound body” is an age old precept which dates back to classical times and emphasises the fact that education aims at the all-round development of the individual. When work and play are judiciously combined this ideal is realised. The Games Report for the academic year 1993-94 shows that in Stella Maris, sports play an important role in moulding the character of our students. In all their achievements our athletes have exhibited the true spirit of sportsmanship, bringing laurels to the college.

In the inter-collegiate competitions our teams did well and won three games namely Basket Ball, Table Tennis and Kho-Kho. Four of our college Tennis Team players were selected from the South Division for the Inter-division Tournament.

The following are the players who represented the Madras University South Division in the following major games and athletics :

Basket Ball	-	J Durga Devi III B.Com P Aarthi, III B.Com. J Sashikala, III B.A. History V Lakshmi, II B.A. History L Sumithra, III B.Sc. Maths B Neela, III B.Sc.Maths Rekha, III B.A.Economics A Saritha, III B.A.Economics
Kho-Kho	-	R. Amudha, II B.Sc. Physics M J Helen, II B.Com. A Kemalatha II B.Sc. Physics S Hemalatha, II B.A. History Stella Canute, II B.Com.
Cricket	-	Kamini Bajaj, I M.A.Lit. Vidhya, III B.Sc. Maths Sudha Narayan, II B.A.Economics Sripradha Srinivasan, I B.Sc. Physics Shibani, II B.Com. Zibi Azeez, I B.A.Sociology
Table Tennis	-	Sunitha Ram, II B.Sc. Zoology

- Hockey - T Asha, III B.Com.  
Akila Ruby, I B.A. History
- Athletics - Rekha, II M.A. Lit.  
Marissa, III B.A. Lit.  
Nichola, III B.A. Sociology  
Belinda, II B.A. Lit.  
Helen M J, II B.Com.  
Sunumole, I B.Sc. Chemistry  
T Asha, III B.Com.

Many of our sports champions have the honour of wearing the University Colours every year in several games. This year some of our students represented Madras University for the All India Inter University Tournaments in Major Games.

#### University Representation

- Basket Ball - J Durgadevi, III B.Com.  
L Sumithra, III B.Sc. Maths  
J Sasikala, III B.A. History  
V Lakshmi, II B.A. History  
B Neela, III B.Sc. Maths  
P Aarthy, III B.Com.
- Cricket - Kamini Bajaj, I M.A. Literature  
Zibi Azeez, I B.A. Sociology
- Kho-Kho - M J Helen, II B.Com.  
M Amudha, II B.Sc. Physics  
S Hemalatha, II B.A. History
- Shuttle Badminton - Jyothi Jairam, I B.Sc. Maths
- Table Tennis - Suneetha Ram, II B.Sc. Zoology
- Hockey - T Asha III B.Com.  
V Akila Ruby, I B.A. History
- Cross Country
- Rowing - Maithreyi Bhopal, II B.A. Lit.  
Romola Anand, II B.A. Sociology  
Mithuna Nathan, III B.Sc. Zoology

#### State Representation

- Basket Ball - L Sumitha, III B.Sc. Maths  
J Durga Devi, III B.Com.

		P Aarthy, III B.Com.
		V Lakshmi, II B.A. History
		S Rekha, III B.A. History
		B Suneetha, I B.Com.
Kho-Kho	-	M J Helen, II B.Com.
		M Amudha, II B.Sc. Physics
		S Hemalatha, II B.A. History
Hockey	-	T Asha, III B.Com.
Tennikoit	-	Karpagam S, II B.Sc. Botany
Football	-	Kacy Lamu, II B.A. Literature
Cricket	-	Kamini Bajaj, I M.A. Literature

J Durgadevi III B.Com. and V Lakshmi II B.A. History, were selected to attend the Indian Coaching Camp in Basket Ball held at Delhi in January 1994.

Some of our students represented Tamil Nadu State for the Women National Tournaments held at Hariyana :

Kho-Kho	-	R Amudha, II B.Sc. Physics
		M J Helen, II B.Com.
Hockey	-	T. Asha, III B.Com.

Students evinced great interest in inter-year sport activities.

Hats off to the students secretary Marissa Paris III B.A. Literature and Malini III B.A. History, of the Sports Committee of Stella Maris, for their hard work and co-operation.

### **Open Tournaments**

The Basket Ball team participated in several open tournaments :

1. State level - Citra Basket Ball Tournament conducted by Stella Maris College - WINNERS.
2. All India Inter-collegiate Invitational Tournament conducted by Pondicherry Engineering College - WINNERS.
3. Sports-Fest, Inter-collegiate Tournament conducted by IIT, Madras - WINNERS.
4. State level Inter-collegiate Tournament conducted by T. Nagar Sports Club - WINNERS.

5. State level Inter-collegiate Tournament conducted by Hindustan Engineering College, Padur, Madras - WINNERS.
6. Ethiraj Memorial Tournament, conducted by Ethiraj College - WINNERS.
7. Kokila Rajah All India - Inter-collegiate Tournament conducted by IIT, Madras - runners up.
8. State level Inter-collegiate Tournament conducted by CMC, Vellore - runners up.

The following students were adjudged the best players/all rounders for the above mentioned basket ball tournaments :

L Sumithra, III B.Sc. Maths

J Durga Devi, III B.Com.

P Aarthi, III B.Com.

J Sashikala, III B.A.History

V Lakshmi II B.A. History

The Basket Ball Team was awarded a cash prize of Rs.3000/- by the Director of Hindustan Engineering College.

#### **Table Tennis**

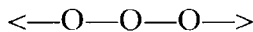
Inter-collegiate Sports Fest Inter-collegiate Tournament conducted by IIT, Madras - runners up.

#### **Cricket**

The College Cricket Team participated in several open tournaments.

In the Inter-collegiate tournament conducted by the Cosmo Sports Club in honour of the Chief Minister's birthday, Zibi Azeez I B.A. Sociology and Sripradha Srinivasan I B.Sc. Physics were adjudged the best batswomen.

The achievements of our students in games and sports during the academic year 1993-94 deserve special commendation. They have won many laurels and have participated in the true spirit of sportsmanship.



*Tough Times Never Last,  
Tough People Do...*

**N. C. C. UNIT REPORT 1993-94**

The National Cadet Corps instituted in 1948 aims at channelising the enormous potential of the youth of our country into constructive fields. Various challenging and adventurous activities which call for mental and physical toughness are offered to the cadets. The training imparted to the cadets during the three years in the N. C. C. moulds them into disciplined, self-reliant and resourceful citizens who can lead the country to glorious heights.

The N. C. C. Unit of Stella Maris College has always had an excellent performance chart to its credit. The academic year 1993-94 has witnessed various outstanding achievements by our cadets who have notched several records this year.

One of the highlights of this year was Sgt. Sintha's (III B.A. History) participation in the Indo-Canada Youth Exchange Programme from 11th July 1993 to 10th January 1994. She took part in several community development projects in Ontario. This was an enriching experience for her.

In May 1993 three air cadets and one naval cadet attended the CATC held in Kanchipuram. This was followed by an All India Trekking Camp attended by four cadets on the 14th May 1993. The National Integration Camp from the 15th to the 27th May 1993 was attended by fifteen cadets.

In the annual training camp held at Kendriya Vidyalaya, nine cadets were selected for the RD contingent and three participated in the BLC categories such as firing, signals, first aid etc. Two cadets attended the BLC Inter-group competitions at Trichy from the 26th July to the 6th August 1993.

The annual inaugural camp held at Theosophical Society Scout Camping Centre was a unique event because fresh recruits from the first year were initiated into the various activities of the N. C. C. and a formal orientation was given to them.

The cycling expedition from Madras to Pondicherry from the 9th to the 13th August 1993 was attended by seven cadets and proved to be both an exciting and exhausting trip.

On the 15th August 1993, twenty nine cadets proudly presented the Guard of Honour to the Chief Guest at the Independence Day Celebrations held at Stella Maris College.

The CATC at Pallavaram, the Pre-BLC in Trichy and the Inter-group RDC Competition at Tambaram were all part of the action-packed programme for the year 1993.

Ann Rajan emerged as the Best Cadet of the TN, P and A Directorate. The prestigious All India Vayu Sainik Camp held in October was attended by two Air Cadets and the National Integration Camp at Mysore was attended by three cadets.

“Cadofest 1993” witnessed a record breaking achievement when the cadets of Stella Maris emerged as the Banner Winners for the sixth consecutive year.

January 1994 brought in its wake yet another spell of exciting activities as cadets participated in the Pre-RDC Camp and the RDC (Delhi). Cdt. Sindhu, Cdt. Bessy Thomas, L/Cpl. Ansuman N, L/Cpl. Deepa A, Cdt. Elizabeth J and Cdt. Sunita R were the proud participants.

In the inter-company competitions held in college the Bravo company emerged victorious.

Cadet Carmelita Mendoza went on an adventure to the Andamans where she attended the National Integration Camp.

In the State level Inter-collegiate N. C. C. competitions “Cadet Utsav” hosted by Loyola College, Stella Maris was the proud winner of the banner.

N. C. C. Day in Stella Maris College was celebrated on the 3rd March 1994. It was presided over by Major General V. Mulye, the Chief Guest who took the salute. The ceremonial drill, cultural show and spectacular display of section attack were the highlights of the programme.

During the month of March several cadets appeared for the ‘B’ certificate and ‘C’ certificate examination.

All in all, 1993-94 has been an eventful and successful year for the N. C. C. cadets of Stella Maris College who embarked on challenging adventures and emerged the jubilant champions in several of their endeavours. Can it be otherwise with a dynamic, persevering, patient task-master Dr. Mrs. Felbin Kennedy as our N. C. C. Staff-guide at the helm of the N. C. C. training programme at Stella Maris.







**SANJIVANI** — Stella Maris students release an audio cassette



**Dr. K. J. Yesudas** releases the audio cassette



**Rangoli competition** — Interyears



**CHIRAAG** — Inter Year Competitions

## STUDENTS' UNION 1993-94



*Standing L to R* : Biny Cherian, Vice President; Tameen Isaac, Cultural Sec., Sciences; Mary Ann Koruth, Cultural Sec., Arts; Shoba Jose, President; Sharada Balakrishnan, General Sec.; Madona Devasahayam, Treasurer. *Seated L to R* : Sr. Christine, Dean; Mrs. Jacintha Fenelon, Dean; Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, Principal; Mrs. Gigie Varghese, Vice Principal; Mrs. Rukmini Srinivasan, Dean.



Students Union Motto



Leadership training for students by Fr. Felix Koikara

## ***“FOR I HAVE PROMISES TO KEEP.....”***

### **STUDENTS UNION - 1993-1994 - A REPORT**

One of the strengths of Stella Maris College has always been its Students' Union - a strong co-operative body of student representatives who function in consonance with the ideals of the college. The year 1993-94 had such a strong body of energetic young women who dedicated themselves to work for the welfare of the students and the college. They were led by the President Shoba Jose. The Vice-President was Biny Cherian, General Secretary - Sharada Balakrishnan, Treasurer - Madona Devasahayam, Cultural Secretary for Arts - Mary Ann Koruth and the Cultural Secretary for Sciences - Tameen Isaac.

They envisaged the following objectives :

- i. To encourage complete participation in all activities.
- ii. To inculcate a sense of pride and duty in being a woman and to speak out against injustice.
- iii. To create an awareness of social realities and develop a sense of responsibility towards the less privileged through exposure and community service.
- iv. To promote patriotism and commitment, to preserve the Indian Cultural heritage.
- v. To instil a sense of civic duty towards society.

In keeping with their objectives they planned and successfully executed a number of activities including seminars, talks, guest lectures and inter and intra collegiate events and programmes.

The Union commenced its activities with a welcome to the first years on 1st July. The next memorable date was 15th August. It was a double celebration of both the birthday of Stella Maris and Independence Day. Ms. Christian was the Chief Guest and Sister Edith, the first Vice-Principal of Stella Maris cut the birthday cake and inaugurated the festivities for the day.

Stella Maris on 6th September was gay with balloons, ribbons and festoons to celebrate a unique day - FRIENDSHIP DAY. It did not however stop with a flamboyant celebration in the campus, but in one of the largest ever fund-raising programmes Stella opened its arms out to the rest of India.

The earthquake that rocked Maharashtra on 1st October sent shock waves all over India. The Students' Union organised a fund-raising programme - SAVE

(Stella Maris Action Committee for Victims of the Earthquake) in an effort to do everything within their capacity towards providing relief to the many affected. The total money collected was a sum of Rs.30,000 which two student representatives (Richa Singh and Sethulakshmi) and the Dean of Students Sr. Christine handed over directly to the authorities in Maharashtra.

From geographical tremors to little constitutional ones. The Union came up with something really interesting and challenging - the Mock Parliament which was held on 21st February. The opposition and ruling parties which consisted of students from all the years thrashed out many problems including the Education Policy, New Economic Policy and compulsive hysterectomy for mentally deficient women among other national and international issues.

Once again the spirit of friendship reigned supreme when the whole college got together to contribute financially for Arya, a first year Mathematics student who had to undergo a heart surgery. There's always a crowd for a good cause in Stella.

Of course the major event of the year was the Inter-years with an exotic title - CHIRAAG, the flame that set the fire of enthusiasm burning in Stella Maris. The events were held on the 8th, 10th and 11th of October. As expected there was a large number of participants with the introduction of a few new events like Sanskriti, Myriad and Caricature. There was neck to neck competition with the 1st years putting up a spirited fight. The 3rd years were the overall winners. The P. G.'s astounded everybody by their fantastic performance which gave them the II position. The III place went to the 2nd years who were followed by the 1st years. On the whole Chiraag 1993 was a highly successful event and it served to fulfil the ideals of the Students' Union.

Taking up another sensitive issue, the Students' Union demonstrated that within every woman was a latent potential for achievement, in the women's issue seminar on the 1st and 2nd of March - "Shakti". Eminent personalities from different walks of life like Ms. Lalitha (co-author of "Women in India"), Mr. David Appaswamy, Mr. Hariharan, Mrs. Ramani (Civil Lawyer, High Court, Madras), Mrs. Mythili Sivaraman (Social worker), Ms. K. G. Rama (Department of Social Work, Stella Maris College) were speakers at the seminar. The two day seminar covered various topics from "the historical perspective of the women's movement in India", to the "present status of women in media, law" and finally the "empowerment of women." Panel discussions and group discussions were also included. The seminar concluded with a group discussion on concrete proposals for gender justice.

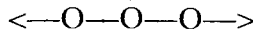
With a view to bring together on a common platform, the various student leaders of the different colleges in the city, the Students' Union organised a seminar

“Leadership on the Campus for the World” on the 22nd and 23rd of February. Thirty students from the various city colleges were oriented by Fr. Felix, DBM, Ennore, on important issues such as goals and values of higher education, campus culture, leadership qualities, team work and behaviour in groups. As a result of the seminar, a unanimous decision was taken by the participants to form a student forum in order to voice student opinions, settle disputes amicably and enable the entire student body to work together as a team.

The 4th of March was Carnival Day. The theme was “Khyber Pass” and the college was buzzing with activities that included food stalls, merry go round rides, bullock cart rides and a fancy dress competition in addition to the numerous competitions that offered attractive prizes. It was an equally solemn year and certificates were distributed to class representatives, treasurers, union friends and to students.

The year 1993-94 was therefore an eventful year for Stella Maris, thanks to the efforts of an enterprising Students’ Union and the promises that they kept.

*Ramya Kannan*  
II B.A. English Lit.



## **FIRE IN THE HOSTEL**

Living with your best friends can be a combination of hell and never-never-land. Can you imagine no strict mothers to call you in from play for your 7.00 supper, an endless slumber party, sitting up all night gossiping with your friends without having to steal out of a window or jump a gate? Aren't we one massive family of foolishness and fun?

But then hostel life isn't only about laughter and song. It's more about learning - learning to live, to hold on to dreams and friends. It's about searching for those true friends and finding them. It's about having someone to talk to when you're down and blue. It's about sharing .....and parting.

A glimpse of hostel life can be caught at the annual Hostel Day, where the hostelites invite friends and family to join them for an entertaining evening. Between us we have floor-shows, i.e. goofy talent competitions between the floors and hostels, and a late night dinner at the beach for the winners.

Hostel life ceases to be hostel life after a while. The old stories of Oliver Twist and “no more porridge” aren't as terrifyingly true as in the book. Everybody

finds a friend and everybody, finds a corner. You discover secret hideouts that aren't as scary as the first time you saw it. Hostel becomes home. Your roommates become your siblings with whom you squabble, arm wrestle and share your deepest secrets. The wardens become parental - the ones you have to answer to when you make a faux-pas. They make the rules and we break them - that's the fun of it, they say.

Truthfully, though, it isn't all midnight feasts and frolic. There's a lot else we have to learn to live with, like two hours of compulsory study, washing clothes and very occasional visits to the outside world. It takes a lot of getting used to - a lot of adjusting. But it's worth it. Leaving hostel at the end of three years must be a lot like leaving your family when you're leaving behind the people who taught you what living is all about, the people with whom you woke up, with whom you brushed your teeth and ate your meals, the people who know you at your best and your worst.

There is a fire in the hostel. There is bursting freedom in each of us. We came to the hostel for our independence and freedom and in many ways we found it. May be not in rules, high walls or watchmen, but in growing and caring and dreaming together - one family. This is the sun and we are its fiery wings. Keep burning.

FIRE in the hostel, Run, Run, Run  
Run for your freedom, Run for the Sun.

*Zareen Isaac*  
II B.A. English Lit.



# WAR - AN EXPOSÉ

— *A Personal view point*

This year's D-Day celebrations had a unique event, apart from the U. S. president flying to France, it also went into the records that a civilian died due to the hullabaloo ignited. There could not have been a better finish for the commemoration. Keeping the status quo in mind, one might rather settle for a newspaper that informed you of "prohibited book releases" and "evanescent plagues" than haunting bloody senseless deaths and frontier fights.

The shock waves left by epoch makers of wars and battles, are still reverberating in the minds of war veterans and disabled asylum confined victims. The casus belli suggested by the government is obviously convincing and imposing, eventually succeeding in sending innocent "kids" who went into the war as "boys and came out as men" as Alan Alda said. Some times one could faintly decipher the red soil, red dust escaping from polished silver-coated medals of honour. Sinking easily into a couch by the hearth and talking about war, believe me is easy, but muck and sludge smeared faces sitting on machines, carrying machines, working for machines and being proud of working for one is mere pseudo-bliss. Death is acceptable, the least we all do is childish challenge it and sheepishly lose. Au contraire a death which makes you experience a savage end and dying as a "soldier without a cause" doesn't make you a "JAMES DEAN" or an "EISENHOWER", you simply become a routine anonymous "unsung so called hero".

Polio struck teenagers walked into vast spaces, confronted by invisible guns and enemies. Scenes of war and images of oozing blood and pus in vibrant colours made Rembrandt and Goya different heroes. Spielberg made it big in the Academy, than numerous unidentified, unnamed carcasses who are now mentioned posthumously. Vietnam and Haiti need not become landmarks of history. Nagasaki and Nurembourg can be forgotten. It is time the world stopped treating life like a missile shot up in the air to serve "oily purposes". Day in and day out monuments are erected and posthumous reverences awarded for "red badges of courage", than for edifices of love and harmony. Will Taj Mahal remain as the sole memorial of love and devotion ?

War is cruel, it kills, it gives no definite reason, don't concern your need, and very cunningly deceives you with laurels and absurd concepts of "native soil" and patriotism. To all those whose youth is squandered away in camps with bayonets, there are more pleasurable ways to achieve and become a hero. Nobody holds the sepulchre or an authorization to possess land and nations, who owns what, and why, for whom? None of the ends can justify the means. Patriotism is a superfluous

accentuation of unity. When there is blatant killing and obvious menace around the corner, the plot seems to thicken minute by minute when governments start intervening and colliding. If war didn't exist, there could be no necessity for a concept called "Peace".

Nobody can afford to be so much an optimist to see war as a situation, a phenomenon knotting unity amidst people. Each time inevitably the dark pall of Yama looms large and holds out the torch to expose reality. War emanates as a matter of the mind, from the perverse mind of a democrat or a dictator against the lives of innocent men. If there is something the world needs, it is not another war. Probably it is time to start praying for time - a time for peace. As the Byrds sing in Turn Turn Turn'-

*"A Time for Peace I swear is not too late".*

*Aparna John*

II B. A. English Lit.

<—O—O—O—>

## **"NEVER TAKE MORE THAN YOU CAN GIVE"**

I was enjoying a delicious Black Forest Cake (not to forget the vanilla topping) at a nearby Hot Breads joint the other day when I chanced to notice their rather cruel way of eliminating little insects that might have otherwise probably disturbed the ambience of this posh joint. The torture machine they use attracts insects with its bright lights and having lured them thus, savagely does away with them by electrocution. Yes, we do need hygiene, but does this justify the electrocution? I mused. And the evening set me thinking on the rather casual attitude to life that prevails on the planet.

Anyone who reads the daily newspaper or watches T. V. news has heard that the world appears to be teetering on the brink of an ecological catastrophe. Most people have heard about whales, condors, Bengal tigers, ivory poaching, whooping cranes and minks. Conservationists have fought long and hard to save a variety of animals from auricks to alligators. But who cares about tiny insects? Environmentalists have lobbied against the harpooning of whales, crude procedures at leather tanneries, and the mindless cruelty in saving rhino horns or elephant tusks. But do you remember anyone having said anything about insects?

It is true that very few people are concerned about insects. We tend to forget that insects are an integral part of the intricate food chain and that they aid greatly



in cross-pollination in plants. Because they are ubiquitous, we take insects for granted. They are often so small in size that we hardly ever consider them animate and living. For many people, relating to an extinct dinosaur is far easier than relating to an insect. Most people find them boring and irritating. But there is more to the family of insects than this. A single tree in the tropical forests of Peru is said to house nearly 10,000 species of insects. Without the best combination of these tiny insects, our options for survival are going to be limited, observes entomologist Pater Raven. It is for this simple reason of human survival (if not anything else) that the insects must merit more attention and respect.

But it is asking too much, I guess, of human kind. How are we to take care of these tiny insects when we can hardly take care of ourselves ? The sanctity of life is violated everyday around the globe, for the world we live in hardly respects human life. Human life is today available for the asking (of guns, bombs and what not). In a world where children die for a drop of water, when rivers of blood flow in full spate, it must come as no surprise that people should care any less about insects. The crux of the problem boils down to the total lack of respect for life itself. This is the tragedy of the situation because “we cannot have an ecological movement designed to prevent violence against nature unless the principle of non-violence becomes central to the ethos of human culture” (Mahatma Gandhi). And the ethos of human culture that prevails today is no more than a cult of insensitive and selfish men and women. One morning in 2000 A.D. if we are told that there are hormones in our bacon or that our toast contains pesticide residues - what then will we have for breakfast ? It may well be this concern for a hundred percent non-toxic edible breakfast (rather than any genuine concern for the planet) that might make the earth and all its inhabitants an object of human respect. This self-centeredness is very much the case with many today. To be “environment friendly” is “in” and to be associated with green issues is more a matter of being trendy than committed to the cause. For, the very same Hot Breads had printed posters for, and promoted the musical “Olive” (staged recently at the Music Academy, Madras) - which aimed to sensitize people about the environment with particular focus on the sea turtle’s facing extinction. Shouldn’t this green concern extend to lower forms of life as well ?

Being green is more than talking green or sponsoring green causes. Being green is essentially a commitment to respect the life forms around us - be they our neighbours or ants crawling up the walls of our houses. It is absolutely true to argue that the world will not be saved just because you or I sensitize ourselves to the life forms around us, but neither will the world be saved unless we make such choices, unless we consider a more humane option to live and let live, before we bring our brooms down on the first spider we spot, unless we raise our voices to

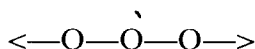
complain the next time we see the insect—electrocuting devices at popular joints. As actress and Blue Cross activist Amala points out.

*“If you kill a small being which is the lowest of all souls, you harden your soul a little bit and this goes on. It could start with frog legs, then go on to snake skin and mink and then human beings. Insensitivity hardens the soul ; we must fight this” (The Week, September 18, 1994).*

But this is not only a question of sensitivity, it is also a question of rights, for life is a paper, science has not (and will never) learn to recycle. When it is not in our power to give or replace life, what right do we have to take away lives (and so cruelly)? If we could, we can continue this terrorism, but since we cannot, we must pause to reconsider these lines from Elton John’s song, “The Circle of Life”-

“From the day we arrive on the planet,  
And blinking step into the sun,  
There’s more to be seen,  
Than can ever be seen,  
More to do, than can ever be done.  
Some say eat or be eaten,  
Some say live and let live,  
But all I’ll agree is that  
YOU SHOULD NEVER TAKE  
MORE THAN YOU CAN GIVE  
IN THE CIRCLE OF LIFE”

*Anupama Sekhar*  
II B. A. English Lit.



## THE LAST LAUGH

*Nature* : "Age cannot wither her nor  
Custom stale her infinite variety".

The known is finite, the unknown infinite ; intellectually we stand infinite on an inlet in the midst of an illimitable ocean of inexplicability. Our business in every generation is to reclaim a little more land. — *T. H. Huxley (1887)*

All living things on our planet are constructed of organic molecules in which carbon atoms play a very important role. But there was a time before life, when the Earth was barren, desolate, orbiting away in an obscure part of a huge galaxy. How then, did life begin, how did it evolve so much as to produce something so complex as the human brain, able to question its own beginnings ?

The raw material of life is practically everywhere, perhaps, given enough time, evolution of life is a cosmic inevitability. Given certain conditions (like for example, possessing a sufficiently stable sun) life can evolve in any of the millions of planets in our galaxy. Conversely, in the absence of such conditions, life may never evolve in them at all.

The probability that all conditions conducive to this process of evolution in a single planet would probably be incalculable. We are moved to remark on this fantastic interplay of coincidences that has made Earth habitable, and evolution possible. Indeed what a stroke of fortune it is that Earth is so perfectly suited to life. We must remember however that the environment did not change itself to suit us, we changed ourselves to suit the environment. Those who could not, simply perished.

The mechanism of evolution through natural selection is a great discovery associated with the names of Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace. Hundred years ago, they stressed that nature is prolific, that many more animals and plants are born than can survive and the environment selects those varieties which are by accident better suited to survival.

Darwin wrote in

"The Origin of Species": "Man does not actually produce variability; he only unintentionally exposes organic beings to new conditions of life and then Nature acts on the organisations and causes variability..... He thus adapts animals and plants for his own benefit or pleasure..... he may do it unconsciously by preserving the individuals most useful to him at the time..... More individuals are born than can survive..... The slightest advantage in one being, of any age or during any reason, over those with which it comes into competition or better adaptation in however slight a degree to the surrounding physical conditions, will turn the balance".

He goes on to say :

“Probably all the organic beings which have ever lived on this earth have descended from some one primordial form into which life was first breathed.... whilst this planet has gone cycling on according to the fixed law of gravity, from so simple a beginning endless forms most beautiful and most wonderful have been and are being evolved”.

When this theory was first published, many were scandalized. The ideas of evolution and natural selection questioned the presence of God, shook the foundations of conventional religion and faith. But many like the famous T. H. Huxley exclaimed on reading ‘The Origin of the Species’ “How extremely stupid not to have thought of that”! Darwin’s discovery came at a crucial time, a time when mankind was ready for the next step on the road to intellectual development. Man was ready to step out of the bounds of religion which had become suffocating. Man was ready to question, to understand, to reason. A logical and necessary part of this intellectual development was for man to analyze his conditions of living. The focus of interest was Society.

One of the most famous of these men, who sought to rationally explain Society was Herbert Spencer. He was greatly influenced by Darwin and his entire scheme of knowledge rested upon this theory that “evolution” was the key concept for the understanding of the world as a whole and of man’s place within it. He proposed what Sumner called “Social Darwinism”, an idea that perhaps scandalized the “civilized” world more than that of natural selection.

He based this idea on two principles that of survival of the fittest and of the principle of non-interference. He said that the process of conflict and survival are natural. He believed, every organism has a tendency to over-reproduce and that Nature is endowed with certain specific qualities to get rid of this excess. It is the order that the weakest be eliminated so that the strongest can survive. This takes place through the process of natural selection.

Applying this to Society, he said that the process of nature was being interfered with. As Rousseau so aptly put it : “Man is born free but everywhere he is in chains”. He was totally against unnecessary governmental assistance i.e. he deemed anything beyond maintaining basic law and order and defence to be unnecessary and superfluous. Not only that, but dangerous too for it was trifling with nature. He said that nothing should be done to alleviate the suffering of the poor or the handicapped or the otherwise unfortunate for they were not fit to survive. It is nature’s law that they perish. By helping them, we enable them to transmit genetically the same traits like deformity and illness thus increasing the pressure on the rest of humanity. The question of morals does not arise when survival itself is questioned. To do him justice, he did say that individuals could be philanthropists but not, a body representative of the entire population i.e. the State. This when

applied to the economic system, he prophesized, would flourish if based on the concept of private profit and governmental non-interference.

Spencer's theory and ideas offended every human sentiment. Here was a man telling people not to help the less fortunate, asking them to revert to primitive conditions of open conflict for survival when centuries of civilisation had refined them into treating all living things equally (and kindly). But Spencer also seems to be right. Uncannily so.

Man has methodically set out to make life comfortable on Earth. Ten thousand years ago there were no dairy cows or large ears of corn. When he domesticated the ancestors of these, he made sure that certain varieties we consider desirable, were reproduced. This is the process of artificial selection. If humans are capable of making new varieties of plants and animals must not nature do so also ? And if we but briefly glimpse at matters today, we find evidence of this truth. There is gross over population as more and more survive due to human manipulation. The burden is more than nature can bear. There is global warming, a hole in the ozone layer and the balance of the entire delicate ecological system is threatened. But Nature is still upto her old tricks for what we find suddenly is the evolution of the HIV virus and all too soon the AIDS epidemic is upon us. Nature has found a way to break our immunity system, so carefully evolved to preserve us against her other dangerous charms. It seems that Nature still has the last word in this world of survival. Spencer's fears seem to be justified. He believed firmly that once you begin to interfere with the order of nature, there is no knowing what will happen, for given the complexity of causes operating in society, human actions are likely to result in consequences that cannot be anticipated.

*Aarathi R.*

II B.A. Sociology

<—O—O—O—>

## **WHY HAVE ALL THE TREES GONE ?**

“Why have all the trees gone ?” - Something to ponder over. Many have attempted to answer this question ; and the answers are varied and many.

The lives of more than one billion people in the developing countries, primarily the rural and the urban poor, are disrupted by periodic flooding, fuel wood scarcity, soil and water degradation and reduced agricultural productivity - all caused in whole or in part by deforestation.

One fourth of the population live in poverty and in poor health, the result of malnutrition and chronic deprivation. This suffering and wasted potential is one

of the great tragedies of modern times. The tragedy is that, it is the poor rural people themselves who are the primary agents of destruction as they clear woods and forest areas for agricultural land, fuel wood and other necessities. Lacking other means to meet their needs for daily survival they steadily erode the capacity of environment to support them.

Patches of the Amazon, Central Africa and the Himalayan foot hills have taken on the moonscape look of Northern Africa and West Asia. The world's poorest people are being forced by circumstances beyond their control to destroy their future.

The issue goes far beyond millions of hectares of lost trees. When the third world reaches the end of its trees, it may also reach a far more calamitous dead end to further development. Sub-Saharan Africa is a dramatic example; famine and spreading desert are cutting nature to the bone. Millions of smoking home fires have laid waste to the jungle. In Nepal also, trees have been increasingly uprooted. The top soil is washed out of denuded valleys to disappear forever downriver. Many forests have disappeared. In India the problem is such that six thousand million tons of top soil is lost each year.

The irony is that "Countries that would go to war if someone tried to move their borders back a meter are losing millions of tons of top soil a year due to erosion", observed George Ladec of America's Natural Resource Defence Council.

A decrease in plant cover leads to a change in climate - specifically a decrease in rainfall - which in turn leads to a further depletion of plant cover. Well, how do forests affect the rain once it falls? The forest canopy first breaks the fall of rain as it comes down, then ensures its more gentle penetration into the ground, reduces soil erosion and improves the underground water table. This regulatory effect of the forest on the water cycle is vital in preventing flash floods and a continual flow of water into streams and rivers. In the absence of this regulation, our rivers would flood in the monsoon and go dry in summer. Shortage of water supply in summer is a major crisis that all of us face.

Once vegetation cover is reduced it becomes more and more difficult to re-establish it and the vicious cycle continues. Serious attempts were made to investigate the nature of the influence of forest cover on rainfall and on the basis of observations in smaller regions in India, it was revealed that there was, indeed, an increase in rainfall with the recovery of forest. The vast destruction brought by rapid forest removal to the long term economical base of the country including the priceless biological heritage should be a greater deterrent to forest removal than that we now know about possible climatic change. It has been said that forests preceded civilization and deserts followed them. Let us hope that our present civilization, with its much greater scientific awareness of the consequences of its actions will be an exception to this rule.

Both, in developed and developing countries, trees have been cut down to make pulp, paper, fibres like viscose rayon, for use as building materials and also for making furniture for family comfort. Although this has been the trend in the past decades of this century, earnest attempts have been made by many countries to reverse this trend of deforestation. In our own country, biogas and kerosene in rural and semi-urban areas and LPG in urban areas have replaced wood as cooking fuel and there are paper mills and viscose rayon factories using biogas instead of precious forest wood. PVC and other plastics are now increasingly used for building materials and furniture. While these measures have arrested the trend of deforestation, simultaneous efforts have been taken for cost effective beneficial afforestation.

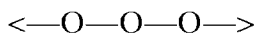
The vicious spiral of too many people depending on too few trees can sometimes be slowed down or even, reversed. Europe and North America have larger and more productive wood reserves than a century ago. Scientists, there, are continually devising better forest-management techniques and new kinds of "miracle" trees.

Supertrees grow 6 meters a year, prevent erosion and can stop the spread of forest fires. These trees can be used not only for firewood and paper but for foliage as well. Such species that sound like a forester's dream do exist. As the woodlands keep decreasing, forester's have turned to these trees as the vital hope for producing forests for the future.

Supertrees grow only in the tropics and are mostly legumes. The most adaptable is the drought resistant leucaena. The hundred odd varieties of leucaena range from 20 metre giants to 4½ metre varieties that make excellent ridges against erosion. Vegetables thrive when planted between rows of leucaena and its foliage is rich in protein. The trees grow again in 2 to 4 years instead of ten. Similarly the fast growing gmelina trees in northern Brazil yield fuel and paper pulp. The sap of Amazon's copaihera can be used as a substitute for diesel fuel.

With proper care and nurturing, forestry experts say that trees like leucaena and gmelina can help solve the problem of disappearing forests. A combination of steps aimed at arresting deforestation and promoting beneficial afforestation, will not give rise to the question "Why have all the trees gone?" and the children of future generations will have a greener world to live in.

*Srividhya Madhumani*  
I B.Sc. Botany



## THE HEAVENLY CRASH

On 16th July 1994, astronomers all over the world turned their telescopes towards Jupiter to witness the greatest astronomical event of the century - the head-on collision of a comet with the giant planet Jupiter.

Jupiter is the largest planet in the solar system, so large that even a small telescope will show it as a disc. It appears as a yellowish white disc with brown and reddish shades of colour which are eye-catching. There are light and dark cloud bands and belts surrounding it roughly parallel to each other, occasionally broken by irregular patches. Jupiter is made up of liquid hydrogen. The study of Jupiter shows a great red spot which has been in existence for more than three centuries. There are jet-like plumes of vapour clouds emanating and fanning out from several specific spots on Jupiter showing possibilities of igneous activities which were recorded by Pioneer 10 and 11 and also by two voyages.

It has been noticed that many regular short period comets which have elliptical orbits have their aphelion around Jupiter's orbit. There are 40 such comets and they are stated to belong to Jupiter's family and are known as Jovian comets. It was one such comet which recently collided with the planet.

The first of the 21 fragments of comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 hit the far side of the giant planet shortly after 4.00 p.m. on Saturday, the 16th July with a force of perhaps a million hydrogen bombs and a vast fireball became visible 12 minutes after the largest fragment hit it. The immediate effect of the collision was a cloud of hot gas of nearly 1600 km. in space, leaving a dark scar on the planet. The first of the observations of this spectacular event was made by a Spanish observatory which announced the presence of a plume of gas billowing up from the edge of Jupiter. Scientists Carolina and Eugene Shoemaker (husband and wife) along with David Levy amateur astronomer first spotted this comet and hence named it Shoemaker-Levy in 1993. They noticed something unusual about this comet. It comprised of 21 fragments which were the remnants of a single celestial object that had been torn apart by Jupiter's gravity. These fragments appeared like a string of pearls when viewed through the telescope and they were predicted to crash into the massive planet between July 16th and July 22nd.

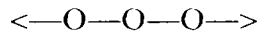
Some expert scientists are wondering whether Shoemaker-Levy was really a comet or an asteroid, which was misidentified as a comet. Comets are a mixture of ice, rock and dust along with substances like carbon monoxide, that evaporate easily to form a halo and a tail. The chemical composition of the discharge of this collision was expected to be water and oxygen, but to the amazement of many astronomers, ammonia, hydrogen sulphide and sulphur gas were observed. Since



no water seems to have been stirred up, the explosions are presumed to have taken place in the sulphide layer of Jupiter.

The spots that were made by the collision of Shoemaker-Levy on Jupiter is expected to vanish soon but scientists expect a de-stability in that part of the atmosphere of Jupiter which was most affected. It may become a smaller version of the great red spot. This comet crash which brought about many depressions on the surface of Jupiter including the dark splotch, half the size of earth, has made astronomers rethink their idea of Jupiter. It is infact the most violent event recorded in the history of the solar system which is likely to bring about several major discoveries in astronomy. The advancement of science has made computations of the precise time and magnitude of collision possible and very accurate predictions were made. Computer simulations brought before the eye, pictures of what the collision would actually look like - even though it took place on the far side of Jupiter.

*Ramya S*  
III B.Sc. Maths



## **DO WE HAVE NEIGHBOURS IN THE COSMOS?**

Christmas Eve of 1980 - two middle-aged women and a small boy, driving along a lonely Texas road, spot something strange in the sky - a brilliant, diamond shaped object with flames leaping from the underside. As the apparition traversed the sky more than 20 helicopters attempt to surround it. Suddenly, the vision merges into the darkness.

Over the next few hours, Betty Cash, Vickie Landrum (57) and Colby (7), developed sun burn-like blisters, nausea and diarrhoea. Betty Cash was the worst affected because she had exposed herself the most to the object's heat. She was hospitalized for two weeks and treated for burns. Much later Colby related the terrifying experience to the doctor.

Investigators were unable to trace the craft or the helicopters. Other witnesses also reported seeing the dazzling light and helicopters. Local military bases vehemently denied having such aircrafts in that region on that night. The US Government disclaimed ownership of the glowing apparition. Betty Cash, Vickie Landrum and her grandson were left with only their lingering injuries and an unexplained story.....

The "Cash Landrum" incident is typical of mysterious aerial sightings. The term used to describe such a phenomenon is UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT coined by an Air Force Officer in 1951.

The record of unexplained flying objects reaches back to the dawn of written history. U. F. O. like sightings in ancient and medieval texts are fascinatingly similar to modern day U. F. O. reports. An old Chinese tale mentions "far-off land of flying carts". The Drona Parva, a sanskrit text, describes fights among Gods in flying machines called Vimanas. The most impressive U. F. O. stories are found in the Bible where Prophet Elijah ascended into the sky on a "chariot of fire". U. F. O. logists even claim that the Star of Bethlehem was, in fact, a U.F. O. phenomenon.

A careful study of the art and artefacts of various cultures down the ages reveals representations of spaceships and cosmic travellers who descended to earth in primitive times.

The big screen only magnifies our ambivalence about U. F. O.s - "It came from Outer Space" (1953) - a movie with benign aliens, "War of the Worlds" - where Martians deal destruction, "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" where Killer Craft is transformed into a spangled carousel with musical little beings, "E.T.", with his affectionate nature is juxtaposed against the meanness of some humans calling into question just who the real aliens are.

More tangible proof has been obtained when phantom images appeared on both ground-based and aircraft radars. Experienced operators are able to interpret them, but more than a few observers have been baffled by some returns that have crossed their screens.

Several explanations have been offered to explain the U. F. O. phenomenon. Renowned Swiss psychologist, Karl Jung, theorized that all people can tap into what he termed "The collective unconscious" which contains informations derived from the experiences of the human race as a whole. It is represented by universal symbols called archetypes which are spontaneously evoked in dreams or visions causing strong emotional and imaginative response. One such image was the Mandala, a disc shaped symbol that signified totality. Jung suggested that flying saucers may not be real objects but rather Mandalas visualized in the sky by people yearning for harmony.

For more than 20 years (1948-1969), the US Air Force was charged with investigating U. F. O. reports. During most of that period, a task force code named Project Blue Book led the investigations. Of more than 1000 supposed U. F. O. photographs analysed by computers, 605 were proved to be frauds and several others, misinterpretations of other phenomena. Only 40 withstood the computer scrutiny to remain unexplained objects.

Several other U. F. O. witnesses have discovered that they were fooled by Mother Nature. Celestial bodies such as comets, meteors and planets are easily misidentified. The earth's constantly changing atmosphere can produce distortions of these objects. These and other natural occurrences such as rare cloud formations and mysterious types of lighting have all been mistaken for U. F. O.s at one time or another.

But, till today, the issue remains unresolved. Do we have neighbours in the cosmos? Or is their existence no more than a mirror of our fantasies? Perhaps, in the infancy of our species, we are like children in the dark. We peer into the blackness, fearing it, yet seeking within it, some reassurance that we are not alone. We cling to the notion that somewhere in the void, are beings.....may be wiser, better creatures who can share with us secrets that will save us from ourselves. We need to believe ....

*(Information condensed from the series "Mysteries of the Unknown" - Editors of Time-Life Books)*

Compiled by - *Mariam C. Mathew*  
*Archana V. Kumar*  
II B.Sc. Botany



## **REACHING OUT TO MILLIONS**

The best Social Worker Award was awarded to Dr. Ms. S. Geetha for taking science to society and promoting consumer awareness and environmental awareness among the public.

For the preservation of public health from the dangers of food adulteration a simple Home Kit was devised and demonstrated by Dr. Ms. S. Geetha at gatherings of housewives, villagers, consumer activists, students, public health officials and the general public, in the states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh. The Home Kit has come to the rescue of any person without any scientific training who is interested in preserving the health of the family, and has formed the basis of a massive consumer movement, for the prevention of adulteration. The kit has been periodically modified and simplified by Dr. Ms. S. Geetha as the result of continuous interaction with the people.

The kit was also brought to the attention of the people's representatives in both the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha. Thus the message of "Our Safe Health



is in our hands” has become a successful movement due to the sustained efforts of Dr. Geetha.

In accordance with the maxim “Think globally and act locally” Dr. Geetha also started the Kasturba Nagar Residents Welfare Association in 1988 and has involved the general public in the maintenance of their own neighbourhood by way of clean roads, efficient disposal of garbage, effective street lighting and smoother traffic flow. Tree plantation was also undertaken in the neighbourhood.

Dr. Geetha was a panelist from India in the International Telepress Conference on the environment (22.04.93) addressed by the world renowned conservationist Dr. David Brower conducted by the USIS, Madras. The problems faced in the Indian context and the possible solutions were highlighted by Dr. Geetha and discussed at this electronic dialogue.

In her capacity as Secretary of the ENVIRO Club, University of Madras, Dr. Geetha is in close contact with the student population motivating the youth, by exposing them to environmental realities.

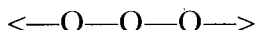
A massive campaign to clean up the rivers Adyar and Cooum is being formulated. Continuous monitoring of the waterways as well as ground water samples in the neighbourhood is being done and the people in the neighbourhood are being educated about the need for stopping further pollution of the rivers.

As a member of the District Environmental Committee constituted by the Collector of Madras and as a member of the committee for Environmental

Educational Trainees formed by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Dr. Geetha is actively helping the authorities in formulating better environmental policies.

In recognition of the efforts of Dr. Geetha for the social upliftment of the people she was awarded the Best Social Worker Award.

*A Stella Marian*



## **HIGHER STILL AND HIGHER!**

From the endless hours of classes, long winding assignments and the continuous cycle of examinations, we, a daring group of six young women decided to do the ultimate by taking the escape route, far away from maddening civilisation, deep into the abysmal depths of nature. Yes, we set out on an adventure mission to the base camp of Mount Everest and an assault of Kalapathar Peak.

The Madras Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports (MIMAS) organised this 37 days expedition to Everest Base Camp and Kalapathar Peak (18,1928), Nepal. Our team included six girls from our college, one from Meenakshi College, one from Tamil Nadu Hospital, one from Krishnamachari Yogamandhiram and eight others belonging to MIMAS, including the leader and the technical adviser. Our trip was scheduled from 28th April to 3rd June 1994.

Our group reached Kathmandu via Patna, Rakaul and Priaganj. From Kathmandu we reached a little village called Jiri, by bus, which was the last point by road for the entire Solu Khumbu region of Nepal. We started our trek on 4th May 1994 from Jiri. The beginning of the expedition was very tiring and gave us a taste of things to come. We had to climb a steep ascent of 1200 metres at a gradient of 60 degrees after which the trail descended deep down through dense forests where we reached a small village called Shivalaya situated on the banks of a small river.

After the first day, our routine was set. We trekked for 5 to 6 hours a day and usually finished by noon and settled in our camp for the rest of the day. The trail had lots of ascents and descents. On some days the ascent took 4 to 5 hours while on other days the trail was full of descents.

On our third day of the trek we reached a lovely village called Kenja which was situated on the banks of the river Likhu Khola. It was from this village that

we sighted the first snow covered peak, the Numbur Peak (22,657 feet). At first we could not believe our eyes. It looked like something out of a fairy tale.

On the fourth day, we reached our camp, Sati where there was a defunct monastery. We had the rare opportunity of visiting the place and seeing 500 year old Buddhist scriptures etc. The next day, we crossed the Lamjura Pass(11,600 feet). At the height of 11,000 feet the whole scenery changed and the area was moist mountain forest filled with colourful rhododendrons, huge maple and birch trees. The scenery was just breath-taking.

After crossing the Lamjura Pass we descended into a valley and reached a beautiful little village called Junbesi, nestling there. Here again we had another rare opportunity - we witnessed a Sherpa wedding.

On our seventh day of the trek we reached the Trakshindo Pass (9265 feet) where the famous Trakshindo monastery is situated. At the pass we witnessed a Lama's (Buddhist Monk) funeral . After the pass, the trail descended steeply down to another village called Manidingma from where we had a spectacular view of some snow covered peaks. The next day we trekked from Manidingma to Charikhola, crossing the famous Dadh Kosi river en route. At this point, the eastern trail ended and it turned north. The trek to Kharikhola was arduous and after crossing the village we had another steep climb of 1000 metres to reach Prupsa, our camp for that day. The path was very steep and we had to cross dangerous landslide area.

On our tenth day of the trek we reached Lukla (7144 feet) which had an air strip and telephone facility. On the twelfth day we entered the Sagarmatha National Park, Jorsale, from where the trail climbed steeply to Namche Bazaar (11,300 feet), the administrative centre for the Khumbu region, which has about hundred houses and a bank. On our way to Namche, while climbing the steep rocky path, we encountered a row of snow covered peaks, one of which was Mount Everest. We could not believe our eyes. The world's highest peak, which hitherto we had only read of was there in front of our eyes!! It was a great moment for all of us, and one we will cherish all our lives.

After Namche we took the direct trail to Thyangboche where the famous Thyangboche Monastery is situated. From Namche the trail descended steeply to the Dudh Kosi where we crossed the river on a suspension bridge. From there it climbed steeply upto Thyangbolle, via Dhunki Thangkha, where one could see numerous water driven prayer wheels. At Thyangboche (12,697 feet) we visited the monastery and continued our trek where the trail descended gradually through firs, birch trees and rhododendrons to Debuche. Debuche was a wonderful place filled with hundreds of birds. Nepal has more than 700 species of birds and many were found in this area.

The next day we crossed the snowline at 14,300 feet and reached Pheriche (14,650 feet) a small village on the banks of the river Dudh Kosi. This place was very windy and cold and fog and mist set in by 2.00 p.m. resulting in zero visibility. The temperature here was around 0 degree celsius to 5 degrees celsius. The next morning the whole area was filled with snow, much to the delight of our group. For some of us, it was the first time we were seeing snow. We could see a lot of peaks including the sprawling Ama Dahlam and Thamseiku.

Our next point was Lobuje (16,175 feet). The trek was very difficult and tiring because we were on a complete ascent and kept gaining height with every step. The monsoon had set in early and there was heavy snowfall with visibility as low as 2 feet. Some of our group members developed AMS - Acute Mountain Sickness. But all of us braved the bad weather and made it to Lobuje. But due to the unprecedented bad weather the whole area was covered with 3 inches snow which made walking very difficult for us. In spite of all this and the insufficient equipment we made it upto 16,900 feet i.e. about an hour away from the Everest Base Camp and half an hour away from the Kalapathar Peak. From that point we could see only snow covered peaks all around us. We spotted Mount Everest, Mount Nuptse, Mount Lhotse, Mount Kalapathar, Mount Pumori etc.

The return trip to Lukla was uneventful and we made it in three days. At Lukla due to bad weather, we had to wait for four days before we were flown back to civilisation.

During the entire expedition, every step presented us with visions of stunning scenic beauty. The trek not only increased our self confidence, but also enriched us spiritually. We owe a debt of gratitude to our Honourable Chief Minister whose support and encouragement made this trip possible.

The participants from our college were :

Sudha Narayanan	-	III B. A. Economics
Bhavana Krishnamurthy	-	III B. A. literature
Sowmya S	-	III B. A. Literature
Kanmani K	-	III B.Sc. Physics
Ramitha Mohan	-	II B. A. History
Swarna S	-	III B.Sc. Chemistry

*Swarna S.*  
III B.Sc. Chemistry

<—O—O—O—>

## A FLIGHT INTO FANTASY

I was exuberant with joy to learn that I was detailed to attend the National Integration Camp 1994 at Andamans. A dream come true for any NCC Cadet. Cadets from all over India gathered at Madras for the final leg of the journey to Port Blair. Being from Madras, I was lucky, and had only the final hop to Port Blair. Moreover, Lady Luck was smiling on us. The girl Cadets were to fly by IAF planes. The very thought of flying was exciting.

On 31st January 1994 two AVROs of the IAF manned by excellent pilots, lifted off from Tambaram Air field with the girl Cadets. The smooth take-off and the excitement of flying over vast stretches of ocean was quite an experience. For three and half hours we were airborne, enjoying every minute of it. After the breath-taking journey the touch-down was perfect.

The Islands, 306 in all, were an exquisite sight to behold. The pristine glory of the forest, the azure seas fringed with golden beaches and the virgin-white coral reefs blend and merge into a tapestry woven into perfection - a paradise on earth.

Once, we landed, we were on our way to the camp site at Prothrapur. It was not a conventional NCC Camp. Our barracks were good, there was plenty of water, the food was good and the surroundings were clean and well maintained, so a lot of our home-sickness just wore off. Making friends was no problem as the group was fun-loving and it was most enjoyable to be in one another's company.

Right from the second day onwards we began sight-seeing. The famous Cellular Jail was the first place of historical and cultural prominence that we visited. The jail built by the British consisted of seven wings (of which only three remain). It housed more than 650 prisoners at a time and was guarded by just one sentry. The jail museum exhibited the garments, utensils and other items used by the prisoners.

Next we visited, the Naval Marine Museum - "Samudrika", where we had a glimpse of the history of the Islands, besides viewing various types of corals, fish and handicrafts from the islands.

Visiting the Chatham Saw Mills was something different. Established in 1883, by the British and being the biggest of its kind in Asia, it depicts the Islands' rapid growth and development.

Half an hour by steamer from Port Blair brought us to Ross Island, capital of the Andamans during the British rule. The Island is uninhabited and in ruins which are held together by tentacle-like roots of trees. But one could occasionally glimpse a few spotted deer darting around.



For the rest of the camp our time was spent visiting the Anthropological Museum which vividly brought out the customs and traditions of the local tribes. The unusual utensils, bizarre jewellery and lethal weapons displayed in the museum bore the stamp mark of the tribal groups - the Andamanese, Nicobarese, Shompens, Onges, Jarawars and Sentinelese.

The Forest Museum and Mini Zoo gave us an opportunity to view some of the endemic species of plants and animals and the Aquarium exhibited some of the Almighty's most colourful and fascinating creations. A visit to a port is incomplete without an enjoyable time on its shores. The pleasant morning at Wandoo Beach with its aquamarine waters and gently swaying palms was memorable. Later we visited the only floating dock in the Indian Navy. It specialized in repainting ships and then docking them into the sea.

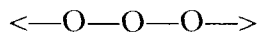
The most exciting visit was to the 2 Mahar Regiment where we were given a demonstration of Platoon attack which brought out the special nature of the operation with reference to the terrain in that part of the country.

The most novel and highly educative aspect of the whole camp, came in the form of a demonstration on board the INS Kumbhir. We were shown how ocean targets are bombarded by L. M. G.s from helicopters and airplanes, and from the ship itself.

As the saying goes "All good things come to an end", and so too our NIC. We, the cadets from all over India represented diverse traditions, different religions, various beliefs and yet unitedly we presented a cultural bonanza depicting them all in the form of a Bharath Dharshan. The Chief Guest for the evening was Fortress Commander, Vice-Admiral P. G. Das. Mrs. Nalini Das gave away the prizes to the winners of the various competitions held during the camp. The final event of the camp was the bright camp fire.

Sweet memories of the camp still linger and we wish that there are more of its kind in future, where we could get together and meet cadets from all over India. This was indeed a memorable and educative experience for any NCC Cadet as it helped in exchanging views, feelings and ideas besides learning a lot about the culture and people of the Island.

*Cadet Carmelita Mendoza*  
III B.Com.



## CONSUMER CONSCIOUSNESS IN INDIA

The dictum '*Caveat Emptor*' (buyer beware) befits the Indian consumer. Though economists speak of the consumer being a king in a competitive society, he seems to be at the mercy of the manufacturers and traders.

The Consumer Education and Research Centre at Ahmedabad undertook a survey which revealed that the low priced Palmolein was used to adulterate the high priced Groundnut Oil. Similarly Vanaspati was adulterated with beef tallow. Consumers were estimated to suffer a loss of more than 2000 crores on account of underweight of goods alone. Adulteration is rampant in foodgrains, tea, edible oil, cement and even in life saving drugs.

With the products becoming increasingly complex and hazardous, there is a need for the consumer to become more enlightened. John F Kennedy asserted that the consumer had four rights - the right to be informed, the right to safety, the right to choose and the right to be heard. Likewise the consumer advocates emphasize the following rights :

- i. The right to be adequately informed about the more important aspects of the product.
- ii. The right to be protected against questionable products and marketing practices.
- iii. The right to influence products and marketing practices in a direction that will enhance the quality of life.

Thus, consumerism can be defined as an organised movement consisting of the concerned citizens and the Government to enhance the rights and power of the consumer and to protect the consumer from business frauds.

Business firms now find themselves the target of a growing consumer movement. At present, they have come to accept the new consumer rights in principle. Several companies have set up a consumer affairs department to help formulate policies and deal with the grievances of their consumers. Quality Control is gaining more importance. Product Managers are emphasizing the safety aspect of their product by providing safe packaging and informative labelling, thereby substantiating their advertising claims.

The Consumer Movement in India is gradually picking up by concentrating on dissemination of information and proper implementation of the Consumer Protection Act (1986). The most salient feature of this Act is that cases should be decided within 90 days, as far as possible.

There is no dearth of consumer protection laws in our country. We have enactments such as Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, Drugs Control Act, The Essential Commodities Act, Drugs and Magic Remedies Objectionable Advertisement Act, Drugs and Cosmetics Act, Standards of Weights and Measures Act, Indian Standards Institution Certification Marks Act, (The Indian Standards Institution has been renamed as the Bureau of Indian Standards), Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act and so on. But how far these acts have been strictly adhered to or the quality control measures been pursued still remains to be answered.

In the UK and the US, the Consumer Movement has taken deep roots. March 15 is observed as "World Consumers Day" because it was on this day in 1962 that the then US President, Mr. Kennedy appealed to the US Congress to stamp its approval on a "Consumer Bill of Rights". The UK strengthened measures through the Fair Trading Act, 1973.

In India, the shortage of finance, absence of true competition and lack of an organised movement on a national scale have stalled any worthwhile progress. However the recent policy of liberalization and privatisation and the recent examples of decontrolling the Cement Industry and allowing private Airlines to compete provide ample evidence as to how competition can help consumers. The Dunkel Draft will no doubt result in a spurt in prices of drugs in particular, but Indian Companies will be forced to take to Research and Development to come out with product innovation and not limitation.

Several organisations such as The Consumer Guidance Society of India (Bombay), Consumer Education and Research Centre (Ahmedabad), Consumer Action Forum (Calcutta), Karnataka Consumer Service Society (Bangalore) and Consumer Action Group (Madras) have been set up to cater to the protection of consumer interests.

In unity lies strength, and the consumer movement provides ample evidence of this consumer association. The grievance cells and redressal forums have done much to solve cases related to breach of contract by builders, compensation payment to accident victims and victims of irregular and faulty phone service etc. Discussion about including the services rendered by statutory and local bodies and professionals like doctors, lawyers etc. within the purview of the Consumer Protection Act continues and was given the top most priority among topics discussed at the workshop organised by the Federation of Consumer Organisation of Tamil Nadu (FEDCOT) and the Consumer Coordination Council, Delhi held on November 27, 1994 at Madras. Though Consumer Courts have done a commendable job, there is more to be done in the form of creating an awareness among consumers about their rights.

Unfortunately, consumerism is mistaken to be an elitest movement meant for the urban population. The consumer movement needs to penetrate into the semi-urban and rural areas. The corporate concern for society's well being has given rise to the societal approach to the modern marketing concept. But what is required is that the consumer needs to be educated and be well-informed about the products and services. On his part, the consumer needs to be more vigilant and willing to participate in the consumer movement actively, to remain and retain his position as a king.

*Mythreyi Natrajan*  
II M. A. Economics



## **GATT - WHAT IT IS ALL ABOUT?**

History was created when India signed the Final Act of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade on April 15, 1994 at Marrakesh in Morocco. India was not alone in signing this act. Over a 100 countries affirmed their faith in GATT. There has been some controversy, mostly political, regarding the government's action in going along with the act. Prominent opposition leaders have criticized the government for compromising the country's sovereignty and causing harm to Indian farmers and entrepreneurs. But by looking into the historical nature of GATT it is possible to make an objective assessment in the context of the latest economic directions that India has taken.

### **The History of GATT**

In 1944, the Bretton Woods Conference that eventually led to the establishment of the IMF and the World Bank proposed an institutional framework for the gradual reduction of tariffs all round the world ; tariffs that in the pre-World War II phase had come about due to protectionism resulting in the Great Depression of the 1930's. The GATT framed rules that would enable contracting countries to reduce tariffs through multilateral trade negotiations called MTNs. By the early 80's the general level of tariffs in the US fell to 4.9%, in Japan to 5.4% and in European countries to 6%. In 1986, the contracting countries of GATT met in Uruguay to launch the 8th round of tariff reductions in trade and to deal with novel forms of protectionism that had emerged in the 1970s. The Uruguay round dealt with agriculture, services, trade, patent protection, etc. In December 1993, the contracting countries agreed to the final draft of Arthur Dunkel's proposal. In Morocco, they simply formalised the approvals. As a result, a multilateral trading

organisation WTO will come into existence to effect the last few remaining tariff and non-tariff barrier (NYB) removals for a freer trading regime.

### **The World Trade Organisation and Developing Countries**

The main advantage of WTO for India and other developing countries is that it provides an independent platform for negotiating better deals through negotiation and consensus. If a decision on any trade matter cannot be made by consensus, the matter will be put to vote. Each country has one vote and the developing countries constitute the largest number among the contracting countries. Hence they could outvote the developed world. Thus the forum of WTO will end the unchallenged power enjoyed so far by the developed world to dictate terms. It will also end collusion of a minority of countries to have protected trade amongst themselves to the exclusion of others. In any such common understanding, there has to be an attitude of give and take and at the same time, the government has the duty to safeguard the interests of its citizens and ensure that the agreement does not affect the basic needs of life.

### **GATT and India**

As far as India is concerned, three items, namely farmers privileges, drug prices and patent rights have come in for attention. Farmers privileges, i.e. the right to use the seeds from the crop for a subsequent crop and for exchange within the village community are totally protected, contrary to propaganda by some vested interests. Further, experts like Dr. M. S. Swaminathan have pointed out that India has a comparative advantage because some of the top plant breeders in the world are Indian.

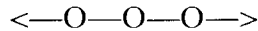
As regards drug prices, WHO has listed 250 essential drugs of which only 10 are covered by patents. For every drug that is on patent there are and will be many equivalent drugs which are off-patent. Some drug prices will certainly increase, but a vigilant government can use compulsory licensing, the drug prices control order, and the non-commercial public use clause to ensure fair prices.

Regarding patents, India will have to fall in line with the rest of the world and enact a patent law which recognizes product patents on all goods as against the current process patents prevalent here. In fairness to critics, this is a clause which can affect a lot of indigenous efforts.

However, the choice is between isolationism and go-it-alone policy versus acceptance of a general order. Given the enormous benefits of multilateral consensual agreements as against the imperialistic domination and protectionism of powerful industrialized countries, the choice is clear. No country today can hope to live in isolation. This is the dawn of globalisation, internationalisation, information highways and the technological revolution bringing the whole world together. The

cold war environment no longer prevails. There are opportunities galore and developing countries should grab them. India's strength lies in its human and natural resources, she should harness them and march ahead.

*Nitila Natrajan*  
III B.A. Economics



## **LABOUR WELFARE MEASURES IN INDIA**

Labour welfare is indispensable owing to the fact that industrial progress depends on a satisfied labour force. In this connection the importance of labour welfare measures was accepted as early as 1931, when the Royal Commission on Labour stated that the benefits which go under this nomenclature are of great importance to the worker though he is unable to secure them by himself. The schemes of labour welfare may be regarded as a "wise investment" which should and usually does bring a profitable return in the form of greater efficiency.

Twenty years later the Planning Commission also realised the importance of labour welfare and stated that the worker should at least have adequate nutrition and suitable housing and working conditions.

The term "Labour Welfare" may include the minimum standard of hygiene and safety laid down in general labour legislation - such aspects of working life as social insurance schemes, measures for the protection of women and young workers, limited hours of work and vacations, the day-to-day problems of the workers and the social relationships at the place of work.

Welfare benefits are both intra-mural and extra-mural. The former consists of occupational facilities such as toilets, drinking water, uniforms etc. The latter consists of social insurance, maternity benefits, travel and recreational facilities etc.

At all the International Forums for Labour, Labour Welfare has been a matter for extensive discussion. The 30th International Labour Conference held in 1949, the Second Asian Regional Conferences held in Ceylon in 1950, the Factories Act 1948, the Mines Act 1952 and the Plantation Labour Act 1951 have made provisions for the worker's welfare in the relevant sections. The welfare activities envisaged under the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1947, the Mica Mines Welfare Fund Act 1948 and the Iron Ore Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act 1961 are also worth mentioning in this context.



**SHAKTI — A seminar on Women's issues**



**Students Union Day**



## A TRIBUTE TO AN OLD STALWART

**Dr. Ms. J. THANGAMANI** has been synonymous with the Mathematics Department for the past twenty-nine years. In 1958 she joined the staff of Alagappa College for Women - Karaikudi, and in 1959, the faculty of Seethalakshmi Ramaswami College - Trichy. The year 1965 marked her entry into Stella Maris College.

Ms. Thangamani has been an excellent teacher and her dedication and commitment to the cause of higher education deserve a special mention. Through her teaching and her example she has communicated to her students, things much beyond

the confines of a text book. She has moulded and taught a number of teachers and professors. We would like to place on record that almost the entire faculty of the Mathematics Department were once the students of Ms. Thangamani.

As head of the department, Ms. Thangamani has been extremely dynamic and efficient, a rare combination of academic excellence and administrative proficiency, she has been a pillar of strength and support to the college. Ms. Thangamani has served on several Committees and Boards of Studies of the University of Madras and other autonomous colleges. She has also made a significant contribution to the field of Mathematics.

All of us in the department have felt like one big family under the able stewardship of Ms. Thangamani. We admire her for her simple living and high thinking. She is a perfectionist to the core. Her strong sense of justice and fair play, her unassuming nature and her firm and assertive manner are some of the admirable qualities that she possesses. She is a champion of academic excellence and makes no compromise on that score.

Ms. Thangamani is loved and respected by all her students and friends. The overwhelming response and generous contributions received from her past students towards the establishment of an endowment in her name, speaks volumes for the love, respect and gratitude that her students have for her. She is indeed a teacher par excellence.

We take this opportunity to wish her a very long, happy, healthy and fulfilling retired life.

*The faculty of the Mathematics Department*

### Our Retired Worker

God is there where the tiller is tilling the hard ground and where the path-maker is breaking stones. He is with them in sun and in shower, and His garment is covered with dust. Put off thy holy mantle and even like Him come down on the dusty soil !... Meet Him and stand by Him in toil, in sweat of thy brow.

*Gitanjali — Tagore*



S. Masilamani



According to Section 47 of the Labour Welfare Act, adequate and suitable shelters, rest rooms or lunch rooms with provisions for drinking water should be provided in every factory where more than 150 workers are employed.

Section 11 to 20 deal with the health of workers, while provisions for the safety of workers are made from Section 21 to 40 of the Act. These are the statutory measures for labour welfare.

The motives and purposes promoting the adoption of welfare measures have varied from time to time and place to place, and range from altruistic, paternalistic and utilitarian ones to ethical ones.

The ethical approach to labour welfare, however, requires treating workers as human beings who are entitled as a matter of right, to certain 'basic amenities in order to lead a decent life. Here, welfare work ceases to be a means and becomes an end in itself.

Promotion of labour welfare is basically a responsibility of the State, and as such the State itself has to decide the appropriate agencies and methods of promoting labour welfare.

Even where employers like TISCO, DEM, Mafatlals, JKS, Hindustan Lever, Godrej, Larsen & Toubro etc. and many others in private and public sectors, finance welfare services, it is difficult to say who meets the ultimate costs.

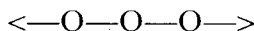
The main labour welfare activities of the Government of India relate to the establishment of welfare funds, housing and workers' education. There are four statutory welfare funds for the workers, in coal mines, mica mines, iron ore and limestone and dolomite mines. The activities of these welfare funds are primarily in the spheres of housing, health, recreation and education.

A study of the actual welfare work undertaken in Indian industries will show that welfare work in the work premises has made remarkable progress atleast in the case of big employers and large undertakings.

In conclusion, Labour Welfare has tremendous potentialities for fostering good industrial relations. We must use scientific procedures for labour welfare and organisation. Welfare measures not only benefit workers but also help in building cordial relations for the promotion of productive effort in the interest of both management and workers. Provision of these benefits no doubt cost money but these prove to be good investments in the long run.

*Elizabeth L.*

III B.A. Economics



## A CLARION CALL TO WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

The Chemistry Department of Stella Maris College in collaboration with the Indian Bank successfully organised and launched a stimulating ten day programme on Entrepreneur Development. The introductory session “Entrepreneurship a career - Promotional Institutions and their Role” proved to be very interesting as evidenced by the enthusiastic participation of a large section of the student body. The main thrust of Mr. Rayan Jon’s talk was directed at Women entrepreneurs, a unique feature of this session.



A successful career in entrepreneurship requires the necessary spade work. The session on “Achievement Motivation Training” was extremely enriching in that it aroused the interest of the students and did much to instil in them this spirit of motivation.

“Entrepreneurship and Environment Scanning” was yet another avenue that was explored in depth. The students were duly impressed with the vast fund of information made accessible to them through the exhaustive coverage by Dr. Balasubramaniam from the Indian Bank Staff Training College.

Every successful entrepreneurship venture has to necessarily observe certain procedures and formalities for its smooth functioning. Mr. Vaidheeswaran's session on Procedure, Formalities for Income Tax, Sales Tax, Excise Duty etc. proved to be of vital importance as it offered valuable insights into these areas.

Mr. Asirvatham (ITCOT) conducted a session on "Market Research, Survey tools for Market Survey" which provided us with information on existing trends, market strategies etc. The session on "Product Selection and Potential for Industries in Tamil Nadu" was a real eye-opener. Conducted by Mr. Velmurugan, Tamil Nadu Industrial Consultancy and Guidance Bureau, this session enabled us to assess the potential available to us at our "door step".

The "Formation of a Project Report" and "Financial, Technical and Commercial Feasibility of the Project" were two other sessions that were both interesting and enlightening. This was followed by a talk on "Aspects of Small Scale Industries and it's Realities" which took us into yet another area of entrepreneurship.

Women entrepreneurs then came forward to share their experiences. This first hand account of the ups and downs they had encountered in their entrepreneurial ventures proved to be both enriching and encouraging to those of us who had such futuristic visions of a career in entrepreneurship. The concluding session was conducted by Mrs. Alica Mathew from the Indian Bank. Her focus was on Quality Orientedness and the need for hundred percent self-equipment.

The participants in this programme had the rare opportunity of visiting Guindy where they had a first hand exposure to the industrial setting and work environment. Mr. Gopalakrishnan presided over the valedictory function which brought this programme to a close. Besides providing the students with a good orientation, the two day programme did much to stimulate interest and prepare those budding entrepreneurs for a successful career in the future.

*Bhuvanewari*  
III B.A. Sociology



## THE CHEMISTRY OF COSMETICS

*"A thing of beauty is a joy forever : Its loveliness increases ; it will never pass into nothingness" — Keats - "Endymion"*

From time immemorial men and women have been in pursuit of ways and means of beautifying themselves. On delving into the past one finds that cosmetics had its beginnings with the Egyptian civilization. In fact, it reached its zenith during the times of Cleopatra. Egyptian women revelled in the embellishment of their eyes; the painting of the eyelashes and eyelids and eyebrows with Kohl (a combination of galena and antimony sulphide) was common.

The Greeks also had an equal share in the Chemistry of Cosmetics. Venus is said to have been the first user of aromatics. And Helen of Troy would not have been a celebrity but for the secret cosmetic gifted to her by her lover Paris.

The Romans enhanced their complexion by whitening their face with white lead and chalk and highlighting their cheeks with a sort of rouge called "fucus". The flawless complexion of the Arabian women can be attributed to "batikha" a complexion powder made from powdered marble, rice and borax.

Cosmetics are not mere beautification products. They are intended to cleanse, protect, avoid skin troubles and conceal blemishes. For instance, cold cream freshens and cleanses the skin besides keeping it healthy.

The Chemistry of natural perfumes is intriguing. The fragrance of fresh flowers emanates from minute traces of essential oils in the petals, sometimes in the free state as in rose and lavender and in the form of a glucoside which is decomposed in the presence of an enzyme as in jasmine and tuberose. Industrial Chemistry converts these natural odoriferous materials into perfumes through the process of distillation. Weak alcohols are employed as solvents for the oils.

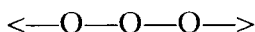
Have you ever stopped to consider the components that make up the face powder you use every day ? Light Kaolin, zinc oxide and titanium oxide help conceal facial blemishes while talc which is chemically hydrated magnesium silicate gives it the quality of adhesiveness. There is readily available in the market a wide range of shades to suit different complexions.

Considerable importance is given to the care and beautification of the lips. Lipstick is considered to be the proto type of all decorative cosmetics. It is a dispersion of pigment in an oil-wax gel. Castor oil is a major ingredient. Lipsticks are used to colour, camouflage and protect the lips from cold, dryness and ultra violet light.

The cosmetics used in eye make-up must be carefully and gently applied for the desired effect. The basic component of most eye make-up is the oil and wax base. It has often been said that the eyes are the windows of the soul, so a skilful and artistic application of eye make-up can do much to enhance one's looks.

All through the ages poets have eulogised the natural beauty of women. Now, thanks to the science of cosmetics, nature is recreated and transformed into something lovelier, which can make a Cleopatra of every woman.

*Sharada Sivaraman*  
III B.Sc. Chemistry



## **ATTENTION GREEN THUMBS!**

It is often said that "Life's best things come in small packages". How very true it is of the now popular botanical phenomenon - the Bonsai.

The sight of the mature but miniature-sized tree growing in a small pot - fruits, flowers *et al* has a special fascination. But what is this Bonsai that has so fascinated the world ? A Bonsai is a tree encouraged to conform in all aspects with ordinary trees except for its miniature size. Besides its aesthetic appeal it has also proven to be the ideal in-house plant, since Bonsai can have a spell of indoors for four to five days at a time.

It is but natural therefore that these trees demand a lot of attention. Bonsai trees, need periodic pruning, misting, proper ventilation and meticulous tending to, apart from the generally useful "green-thumb".

Here are a few tips for a Bonsai enthusiast. The trunk is a vital part to consider in selecting a tree as this will determine the shape and appearance of the Bonsai. One can make a choice of the straight, curved or slightly curved trunks.

Though the tree is the main consideration, the container is also vital. It must be suitable to the plant and most importantly must be provided with adequate drainage facilities. It must be in character with the whole composition - neither too wide, high, garish nor too ornate for the tree. Just as the right frame can enhance the picture, so too, the right container can set off the beauty of the Bonsai to perfection.

The shorter the plant, the greater the charm and the value. So pruning is essential, though there aren't any set rules for pruning; care must be taken to cut

off all excess growth allowing only a few necessary branches to establish character. Branches that are malformed and those that defile the beauty of the tree must be removed in time.

What is most interesting about Bonsai is that the tree can be shaped to its final design much as a sculpture can be perfected or any piece of art worked upon. Delicate use of copper wiring wound around the branches can regulate the growth. However any pressure, slight or unwarranted as it may be can injure the tree and break its delicate structure.

Other important factors that determine the continued growth and survival of these pigmy plants are proper drainage and nutrition. Bonsai plants cannot withstand drought even for a few days. Generally in spring and summer they need water every day preferably in the morning. The soil must not be allowed to become bone dry. Though Bonsai plants do flourish in fresh air over exposure will kill them. Nutrients must be supplied regularly in dosages that are neither too small nor too large both of which are detrimental to plant growth.

Last but not the least - the plants must be maintained at waist level so that it is easy to tend them. Besides no one wants to be saddled with Bonsai that are no longer petite.

Good luck enthusiasts ! Happy Bonsai-ing !

*Vaishali A. Shah & Archana V. Kumar*  
II B.Sc. Botany

<—O—O—O—>

## **CHEM PLAZA - UNITY IN DIVERSITY**

Hello ! I am K. potassium of the Alkali Family, and I have been around for a long, long time. All of a sudden, the whole world is talking about getting back to one's familial roots and I thought I would introduce my family and neighbours.

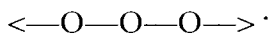
We stay in Periodic Apartment promoted by the chemist, originally inspired by Mendeler builders. We are light families co-existing in perfect harmony despite our idiosyncrasies and reactive abilities. The builder decided to place us in different zones, according to each of our temperaments and electronic configurations.

I belong to a family of extroverts. May be, we are programmed that way, just as you human beings have exclusive genetic traits, we have atomic numbers. Our neighbours, Beryllium and others stay in the vertical row of flats. The youngest

member in our family, Lithium has a soft corner for our neighbour Magnesium and tries his best to imitate him. We lived in mutual harmony for several years until one fine day to compete with our complex, another modern plaza was constructed. It had additional ground area, and consisted of two basements. The top one being occupied by the "Lanthanides" and the one below them by the 'Actinides'. These freshers formed an inseparable group. A few more new-comers are expected to fill in the flats between 89 and 104. Out of the 18 rooms of flats, one is occupied by an anti-social, indifferent set of zealots, "The noble gases". The 17th row of our flats is occupied by the salt producers, all of them having their respective family traits.

Though we all occupy different vertical zones, we strictly adhere to the principle of "Living in perfect harmony", and will continue to do so. Be it a human world or an arcade of acids, the way to a happy life is by rising above our differences and arriving at a mutual understanding of one another.

*Supriya M.*  
III B.Sc. Chemistry



*We had the experience but missed the meaning,  
And approach to the meaning restores the experience  
In a different form, beyond any meaning  
We can assign to happiness.*

*The Dry Salvages - T. S. Eliot*

## **1993-94 EXPERIENCE - USA & EUROPE**

The "Visiting Scholars Programme" sponsored by the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia afforded me the rich experience of teaching at Franklin & Marshall College. The College is located in Lancaster, one of America's most attractive small cities of the North East State of Pennsylvania. Committed to liberal education at the undergraduate level, F & M College believes that "freedom of the intellect is a crucial foundation for modern life". Lancaster itself is popularly known as the Amish Dutch Country, a favourite with tourists. The 500 acre campus filled with elm, oak and cherry blossom trees provides an excellent educational environment. The course I offered, entitled 'The Study of Fiction', during the Fall Semester brought me in touch with 25 freshmen while I had 34 upperclassmen for a course on Indian Contemporary Women Fiction Writers in the Spring Semester. Student-participation in discussions during these classes was



highly praiseworthy. At F & M, the Writing Centre attached to the English Department serves students who wished to produce assignments and term papers of good standard. The idea of the Writing Centre caught my attention and I saw the feasibility of one for students of Stella Maris who need to improve their writing skills. My stay at F & M College certainly brought me closer to the American Youth and the Western Culture. Facilities available by way of spacious and well-stocked libraries, film-developing labs, fully equipped studios for radio and television productions, two theatres etc., draw students from 44 States and 46 countries to F & M College. The faculty with diverse backgrounds provide students with a truly global perspective.

116, Navin Street, my residence (provided by UBCHEA) 5 blocks away from F & M, afforded me a good 10 metres walk everyday and in the severe winter

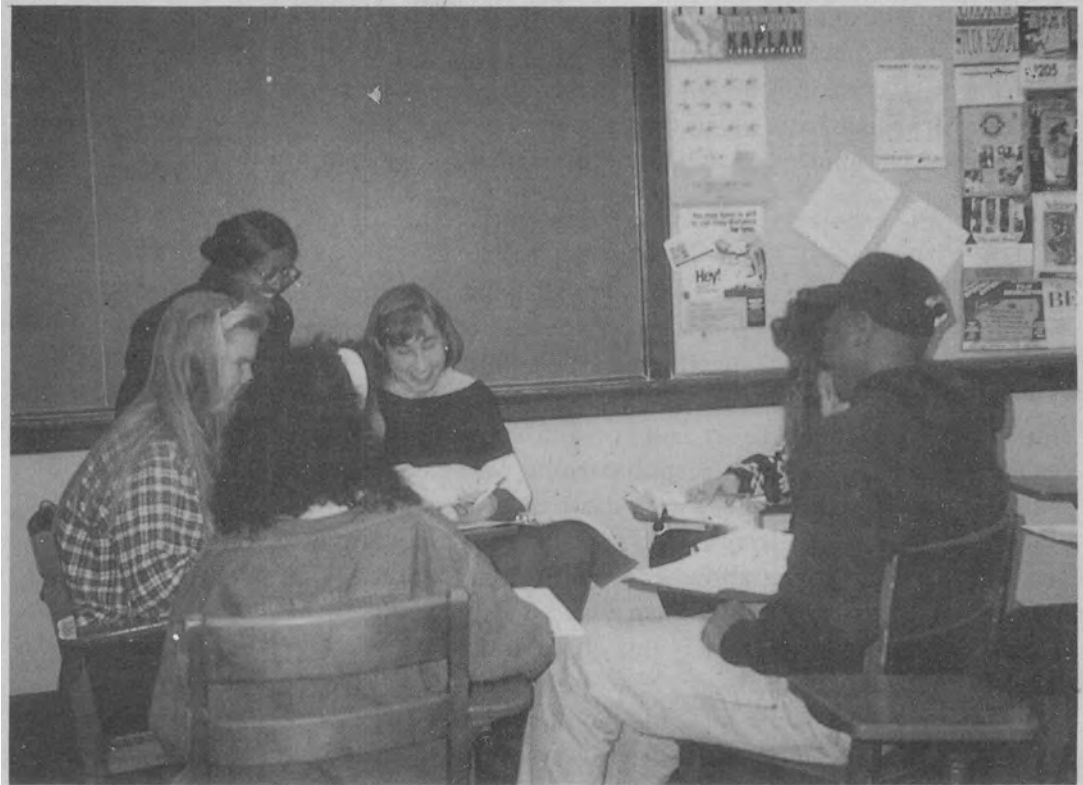


I graduated to balancing on ice and snow protecting myself from falls on treacherous sleet and ice. A network of friends, American and non-American, helped me to keep my wits even in “the coldest winter in 30 years”. These admirable friends also enlightened me more about their culture. I never realised I could be a reasonably good cook. Shopping at GIANT and other malls was indeed a delightful outing.

Thus the encounter with the western culture (My travels took me to Canada, England, France and Rome besides the North Eastern and Southern States of America such as Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Washington DC, North Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia and Florida) gave fresh insights into a culture of freedom and openness, of organisational efficiency and order; of civil sense and courtesy; as well as a culture of secularity and anonymity. My wide travels by air, Antrack (train) and Greyhound (bus) and car and social encounters within America and outside revealed certain imperceptible truths. What struck me most is the thoughtful facilities offered to wheelchair users, the disabled, children and the aged in public places like museums, airports, railway stations, bus stations etc. No wonder, men and women aged 70 and above as well as young mothers with babies venture out to visit museums, cathedrals, Disneyland and places of educational and religious interests. I also observed the organisational efficiency aided by public co-operation such that queues are observed true to the saying they also profit who stand/sit and wait. Another remarkable factor is the openness and free atmosphere everywhere, be it in classrooms or in family circles. In an interview with the journalist of *Intelligencer Journal*, a Lancaster local daily, I made the following statement :

“What I have been disappointed about in America is that, though this is a Christian country and there is so much freedom, where people could speak about religion very freely and discuss it at will, to my horror, I find that religion and marriage are the last things you can discuss with anybody here unless the other person initiates the discussion. People have told me not to ask whether someone is married or has any children unless they volunteer the information. In India we overdo that kind of thing, perhaps to the horror of many foreigners. Even people on a train will ask if you are married, and if so, how many children do you have.”

“And one more thing which is very different from India is that here you go by appointments. If I want to meet you, I have to phone you up and ask you. In India, it is not so. We visit families anytime and there is more social contacts, communication and friendship. Here, of course, if you strike up a friendship, it’s good, but people don’t relate so freely. People are so busy, so very busy. And your climate - everything - keeps you indoors or within your circle. Your doors are never open, whereas our doors are always open. Anybody can walk in at any time.”



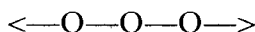
The greatness of Indian culture is its inwardness. Precious insights have been distilled through the techniques of meditation, yoga and the artistic and soul-stirring methods of worship which are truly our gift to the world. What we lack are the habits of intellectual freedom, civility, civic sense and the dignity of labour. The right combination of the values of East and West remains to be achieved.

The greatest blessing of my stay in USA and my sojourns in Canada and Europe was the opportunity to meet several of the revered teachers of Stella Maris College - Sr. Basil (Sr. Elizabeth, Ann, USA ), Sr. David (Canada), Sr. Magdelene (Sr. Patricia Kingham, Rome), Sr. Sylvana (Sr. Evelyn Delicata, Rome), Sr. Ursula (England), Sr. Louise Terese (Canada), Sr. Edbert (Sr. Mildred, England), Sr. John Houghton (England), and the two former Principals - Mother Carla Rosa (Sr. Luigia Victoria Alini, Rome) and Sr. Irene Mathias (France) and also Dr. (Ms.) Eileen Riordan (USA) and Mrs. Miriam, (USA) who cherish happy memories of their days at Stella. Besides these missionaries like Sr. Angela Hurley (England), Sr. Teresa Xavier (Sr. Teresa Goorman, England) and others who were delighted to see me after many years. Their interest in SMC is incredible.

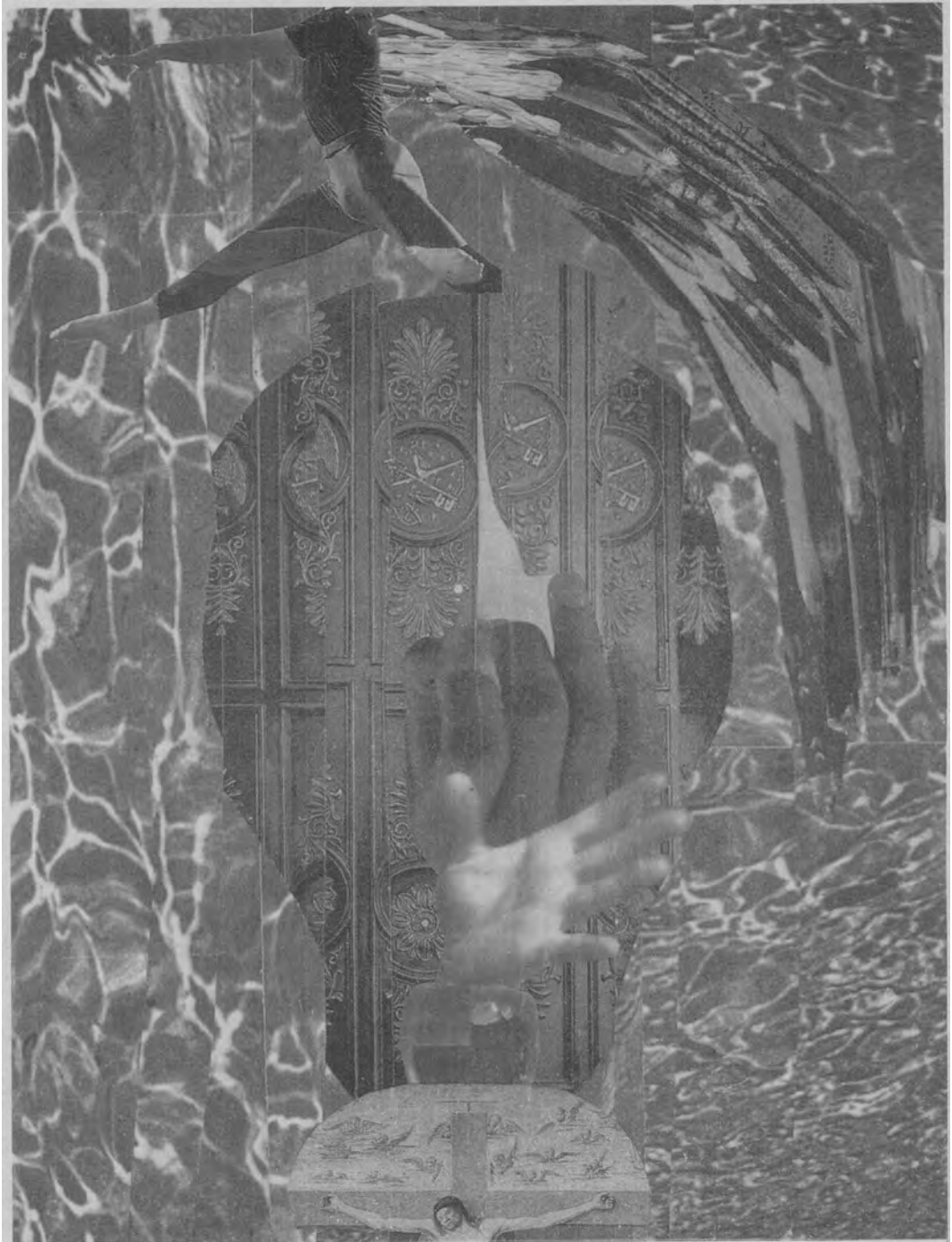
The highlights of my literary pilgrimage in the USA were the International Flannery O'Connor Conference at Georgia University, Milledgeville, GA and visits to the Library of Congress (the largest library in USA and the world) in Washington DC, and the houses of famous novelists Jane Austen and Dickens ; my visits to Shakespeare's Stratford-upon-Avon and the Oxford University all in England, and the Keats-Shelley memorial in Rome. The peak experience of my religious pilgrimage was my trip to Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine (France). Visits to our Foundress' birth place in France, the city of Assisi which immortalizes St. Francis, the saint of modern times, the National Shrine of our Lady in Washington DC (the biggest Catholic Church in America) and the architectural beauty and historical importance of many other famous Cathedrals in Canada, England, France and Rome made an indelible impression on me.

I loved my year away, but I am glad to be back home. I am trying to revitalise my life here at Stella with the new insights I have gained. To HIM be all glory and honour.

*Dr. Sr. Flavia, FMM*



*Dr. Sr. Flavia, f.m.m., Undergraduate Head, Department of English, took up the office of Vice-Principal in July 1994. A progressive thinker, original and innovative in outlook, she has done much to rejuvenate academic life on the campus. The institution of the Writing Centre to enable students to improve and master sound writing skills is one such venture initiated by her. We wish her all the best in her future endeavours.*



“The cool face of the river asked me for a kiss”

*Amina Ahmed*  
II B. A. English Lit.

## DUST TO DUST

I was just thinking.....

I could lie on the grass and look at the sky. My vision would be limited to a globe. The grass around my ears seemed to grow around me; into my ears; my nostrils; out of my mouth; around my wrists; the grass whispered "the sky is rushing at you; but, do not fear, you are of the earth". The sky was rushing at me swirling, spreading, all pervading. I could smell the earth, taste the earth; I could feel this life, feel now of time's progress; 'Dust to dust, dust to dust.', chanted my mind. Oh, how I longed to be one of the earth, and cease to exist as a human severed from the dust of my beginning.

As I wander through my concrete jungles I search for the sky and its expansive freedom. But the sky seemed, lost, limited; hidden behind the spheres of industrial progress and littered with the wires of communication and power. I put my ear to the gravelled earth and brooks and hidden springs. But the ground seems mute only echoing the scurrying and racing of times' rodents - the race for time and survival have reduced us to creatures of blood lust. I scan a crowded highway where the speed kings race. I laugh loudly, where are these people going? Held in their foolish illusions of great progress and breakthrough, they race towards destinations of promise. Do they realise that they are in reality only spinning in their orbits of decay and degeneration? Where are the birds? the beasts? the beauty of being? Gone. Scared away by blaring horns and beings clamouring for more, for bigger, for faster.

I wonder where and why we began seeing ourselves as separate from the earth we live in, the sky above us, the birds, beasts and trees once around us now exiled to pockets of preserved, conserved land. This was once the Garden of Eden, where men and Gods walked with birds and beasts. The tall trees were the rulers. Gods of the expansive skies. The earth was the womb of man's beginning. The sea was the blood of man. The sun's light was his vision. The trees were his limbs. Man's hair was of the rustling leaves of grass, yet flowed like the ceaseless stream. Man was the child of Gaia. Men and women thrived on the love of Being. This was man's God-given dominion; men and women were children in their edenic homes.

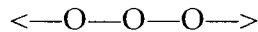
Somewhere along life's journey and evolution towards perfection, convenience, possession and a greater knowledge and understanding of life, we discarded our oneness with the earth. At milestones we leave behind more of our understanding of ourselves, of the earth, that the books, the experience of blackboard learning can ever teach us.

I once met a man of the ancient, everliving hills. He watched life, as it once was, pass by him. He spoke of tradition and the struggle to keep his identity. But he spoke of the function of life that is essential to every man. To love and treasure this earth as it is, unchanged, unhampered, unperturbed. He understood the essential truth that all men would rather ignore. You cannot possess the earth and call it yours. But live on the earth as children born of the same dust that covers the earth. The man belonged to a tribe that lived in dignity and strength, but with the advent of industrialisation they were scattered and forced to find urban employment to survive. Yet he has found his space in time and possesses a sense of belonging, that very few of us possess in this world of mixed values. He belongs to the jungles on the mountains, for the mountains are of untold age and the jungles breathe of timelessness. This to him is his life and he lives on as a guide. He speaks of the hills, his life and how the mountains, jungles, birds and beasts are his brothers.

One must remember that if one rape's the earth of beauty and life, the sin of raping one's mother, Gaia, will come back to reduce one to the dust of one's beginnings. This earth is man's dominion. But the degeneration and the decay he causes will be his nemesis. There will be a time when man will not preside over his dominion, he will be raped of his right to create and destroy. Death will preside over his dominion.

“Dust to dust”, “Dust to dust”, breathes Gaia.

*Dhanalakshmi K*  
II B. A. English Lit.



## IT'S ALWAYS TO DO WITH PLACES

*Despair among the library racks. Someone got lost there once. Someone else is playing hide and seek. These are the psychic sites on campus. Liminal spaces that vault you out of the mundane.*

*Classrooms perform a different function. Less solitary, these are strategic grounds. Knowledge is power, and power like money, gains value in currency, knowledge is speculation. An irruption that happens in the interstices between teacher and student, student and student, through chinks that have to be manoeuvred into existence. And to flout is also to flirt. Not to seek to overthrow. Neither as in romance, but in the context of stimulation.*

*Corridors are essentially superfluous spaces. That is their charm. In the world outside, when a man says 'Madam' to a woman, more often than not, it is a term of mockery, not respect. Experience renders one masculine, and sometimes - walking down a corridor - one inhabits two worlds simultaneously. The one on the inside, where we've managed almost entirely to do without men, except through a curious kind of reversal, in the canteen. And outside, where they wait. Every greeting one student makes to another is a ritual motif, stroking to life the myth of solidarity, corridors of lambent power.*

*On the grounds, you take a deep, long breath of wallflower, anonymity and let Change seep into you. You are just a vessel in the daily sacrifice of Time as it weeps copiously into the Present. Apparently, a measure of continuity is required to even recognise change. If so, it helps to qualify this homesickness that draws you back to the same places, again and again.*

*The 'specials' are a world in transit. J-class passengers hurtling between destinations. Culture analysts equate the instinct for flight in animals with the human instinct for reflection. Thinking on one's feet. Not armchair revolution or spontaneous uprisings, but the politics of the Inflectional.*

Soudhamini  
II M.A. English Lit.

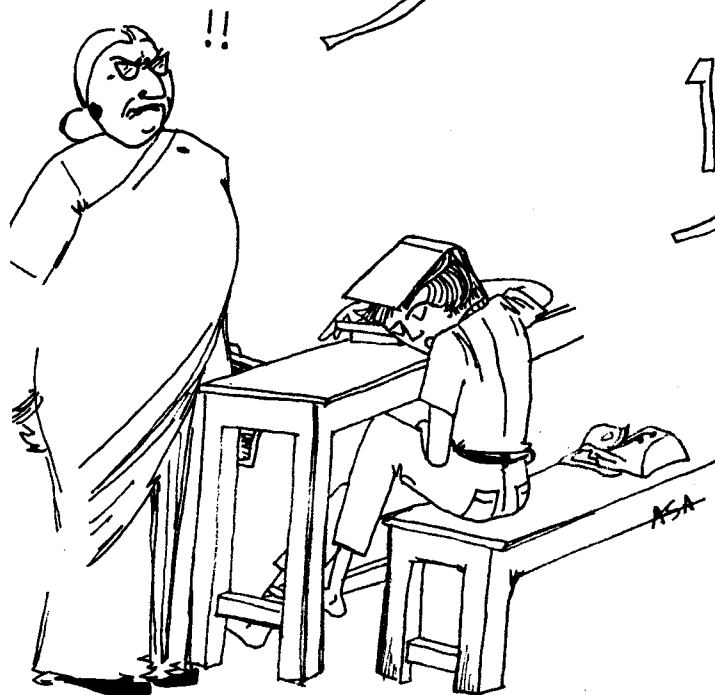


# THE LIGHTER

## SIDE OF

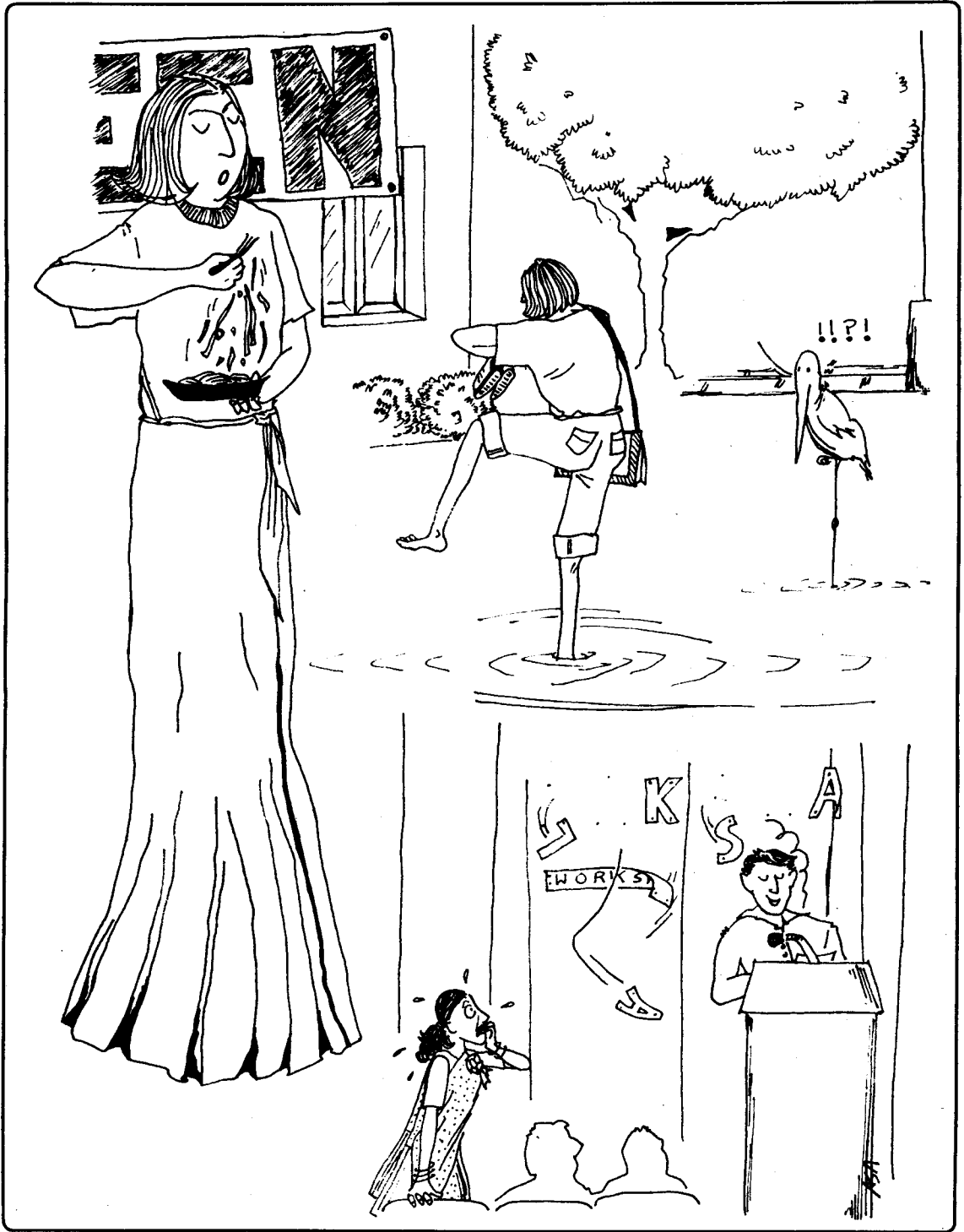
### 1993 -

### 94..



AMINA AHMED  
II B.A. ENG. LIT.





## FOR I FEEL

*Introspection reveals a dearth of dreams.*

*In me, I am alone, not lonely.*

*I watch a fact seep into my receptor*

*And shatter, into screaming dualities*

*Where are the thoughts of lucidity that reflected, expressed, felt ?*

*I am not numb, for I feel the sores in my being.*

*My being fighting the confines of incomprehensions, bleeds, Who am I ?*

*I am friend, I am lover, I am child, I am sister.*

*I've been used, I've been abused,*

*I've been forgotten like a footprint on the sand,*

*I've been inspiration like a fleeting desert rain,*

*I've been hunted like a thief in the night,*

*But I was then, I will be later, and I am now; I exist*

*They watch me and smile,*

*Expressive. Oh, yes.*

*My emotion is my colour and I flaunt it like the scars on my skin.*

*I am a conglomerate of traditions, cultures and experiences that touch me.*

*We love in seemingly timeless fits,*

*Only to recover from a momentary trance,*

*It leaves you spent, undesirous and echoing, within.*

*Yet wise like the deep, dark seas.*

*I walk through the jungle,*

*unbridled life, engulfed the void within me,*

*My Priorities merged,*

*My Desires sundanced,*

*My Anger dissipated,*

*Memories drifted down an orphaned stream, definitely.*

*My being rose, like the proud summer moon;*

*Important, complete inspired.*

*A smile played within me, without me, but, was me.*

*I slept in the arms of a pervading peace.  
I woke to find forever still by my side.  
Childish fancy, blossoms, I believe  
Into a miracle, sometimes.*

*Be still and know that he is God.  
Hear me, I am woman, I have spoken,  
For I feel.*

*Dhanaluxmi Kandappan  
II B.A. English Lit.*

## **ECONOMISTS AND THEIR MARRED DREAMS**

*Economists the world over are on their knees,  
Praying that money should grow on trees.  
Cut the trees and curb inflation.  
That would truly be a matter for jubilation.*

*Population explosion is a problem all right,  
Giving economists many a sleepless night.  
The Theory of Malthus, if it held good  
Would solve the problem as it stood.*

*As for infrastructural bottlenecks,  
They create havoc, convert plans to wrecks.  
It isn't just a question of transportation,  
But power, water supply and information.*

*The Dunkel proposal calls for critical perusal  
Sending economists minds spinning like a carousel.  
Intellectual property so far latent,  
Has overnight been transformed into a patent.*

*Inflation, Population, Bottlenecks and Patents do seem  
To be blotching completely the economist's dream;  
Making the concept of a global economy appear  
Totally impossible in the future near.*

*Nitila Natrajan  
III B.A. Economics*

## EPITAPH

(A Statement on Modern Education)

*i read an epitaph  
the other day -  
of a boy  
(someday me ?)  
Who had died  
(a suicide ?)  
and it said  
the cause of death -  
a digit missed  
(and admissions too)  
numerals forgotten  
(likewise dreams)  
some numbers lost  
(with it a life)  
i read an epitaph  
the other day-  
and concluded  
only marksheets speak  
in times like ours  
they make a man  
- because that's what a man  
lives for these days  
and for that very thing  
he dies -*

*Anupama Sekhar*  
II B.A. English Lit.

## THE LAST RITES

*Sons and daughters came  
From distant lands and places  
To pay their last respects  
To their only father  
Now among the world of the dead.  
Many others came  
To pay tribute to the man  
An ironical smile on their faces.  
Property, land, bank balance  
It's all that matters.  
Sons fight for land  
Daughters busy with jewels  
Training their children to shed tears.  
Land and property divided  
Sons and daughters leave  
The house locked  
Leaving behind  
All humanness.*

*Shiny Philip*  
II B.A. English Lit.

## ARJUNA UVACHA (1)

*When jaws drop open with a clang,  
a metallic jungle of teeth,  
one can, perhaps, glimpse the world,  
but more likely  
one must join the queue  
for a taste  
of the Lord's digestive juices (2)*

*My Lord  
I know these men  
and yet I smile  
when you crunch them,  
the supreme masochists  
who scramble to go through you, all over again.  
I have my ticket too.  
When I show you the well (3)  
you only smile  
for you know the laws of light.*

*Both my arms are paralysed.  
I don't know my left from my right.  
There was a time  
When I could shoot with both (4)  
and yet I knew one from the other.  
But now, in your mouth and out your bowels,  
many times,  
I don't know.  
I have forgotten your lessons, my lord.  
I have graduated  
and forgotten the fundamentals.  
I must walk over fire.  
Is fire a test or a punishment ?  
Will I come out chaste or chastened*

*or never at all ?*

*There is a whirl of  
smouldering corpses, (5)*

*shattered thighs, (6)*

*lies, (7)*

*blood spattered hair. (8)*

*You have not digested them as you promised.*

*Nor have you assimilated me.*

*And yet I must feed you my flesh,*

*a price for this frail dove (9)*

*that I want to save.*

*Oh, but there is no dove, you said.*

*So, why do my shoulders ache, my Lord ?*

*Those jaws are still open.*

*Veena*

II M.A. English Lit.

---

1. Arjuna uvacha - Arjuna said
2. Bhagavad Gita - Ch.I
3. The fable of the rabbit and the lion.
4. Arjuna was called 'Savyasaachi' - ambidextrous
5. The burning of the Khandavaprastha forest.
6. Duryodhana's thigh was shattered by Bheema in single combat.
7. Yudhishtira's lie caused Drona's death.
8. Draupadi is said to have anointed her hair with Duhsasana's blood.
9. The story of King Sibi and the dove.

## FEAR

*makes  
frenzied leaping heart  
innards  
twisting, writhing, wrung  
tight, tight  
to dry cold numbness  
senses  
wormlike, coiling in,*

*burrowing for warm oblivion.  
Two feet within the ground  
the squirrel ties curled,  
safe as a foetus  
in the blanket of comforting earth.  
While fear  
clutches  
me.*

*Vaishnavi Shekar  
II B.A. English Lit.*

## A REQUIEM FOR THE LOST INDIAN

*Warriors fought  
fought in senseless wars and  
battles  
battles that foolishly crowned  
a Nation's history  
History - a pride and a myth  
Myth of heroism and splendour  
Splendour spoken even today  
Today, too a family could mourn  
Mourning for lost sons and fathers  
Fathers who discovered and drove ...  
drove away "natives" sojourning  
Sojourning in a bloody red soil,*

*Soil strewn with quails from an  
ironic frenzy  
frenzy, puissance for earth  
EARTH - That is not your's nor mine  
"Mine" - a word that every one can  
say  
"Say" - a naked lie  
Lie engulfing a "minority reality"  
Reality of "minority existed"  
Existence ?.....  
let us continue,  
Turn,  
Turn,  
Turn ....*

*Aparna John  
II B.A. English Lit.*

## DEAR MOTHER... Yours Forever

Ashwini ?

Amma, .

*How are you ?*

*I beseech the Lord everyday*

*To give you a long life*

*But then, amma*

*My life is becoming more*

*and more a torment*

*My spirit is reckless and*

*I feel strong tentacles*

*gnawing me ....*

*Wish you were here to soothe*

*My limbs and spread balm on my bruised body*

*I do not like to, but I suppose I must -*

*I must ask you ?*

*How is that sissy - that spineless man -*

*- your husband ?*

*and that garrulous, vinegar-tongued*

*Acid belching mother of his ?*

*But mind you*

*Mere courtesy makes me ask of them.*

*The murderers - I would have never*

*can never and will never love them.*

*I remind myself, dearest amma*

*not to be jealous,*

*Everytime you are closeted-in*

*With that man - willingly or unwillingly !*

*I dread it - with all my heart.*

*I can never forgive that man*

*Nor that mother of his - never !*

*Those rough hands that bruised my tender skin,*

*When the seminal fluid was yet to dry*

*Those conniving, brutal hands*

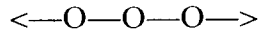


*That fed me grains of rice  
While all I longed for was your comforting, inviting, warm bosom.  
But - now  
A manacled non-entity  
In a timeless sphere  
With mere memories to savour  
Memories of the days  
When your body enveloped mine  
    Protecting and caring  
When all your immense love seeped through  
    And drenched me with profound happiness  
So I cuddled up cosily  
In thy womb  
Feeling along with you,  
Eating from you,  
As you carefully shied away from any suffering  
Just to protect me.  
And I longed to come out -  
To see you, your infinitely loving face  
To revel in the boundless pleasure  
of being a part of the living you -  
To proclaim to all the world  
    That I have a wonderful mother...  
For I did not know  
then -  
    That the world was a "big bad place"  
And I foolishly thought that all the world  
was like you.  
So I came out of you  
Without a cry (did they not tell you, amma ?)  
For I felt I was supremely blessed  
To see you - atleast ...  
And then I saw those pitiless faces  
And felt the rough hands  
Of those wretches ;*

*Then I was scared  
For the first time - I was scared  
I wanted to sink back into you,  
Get absorbed and assimilated  
Into that close comforting home of mine  
The strong - walled prison of love.  
Inaccessible to those murderers -  
I waited for you to rise from your stupor  
Thinking that you would  
Protect me from those butchers,  
You did-rise but  
You did not look on "them" with  
Glances that would raze them down  
And scorch them - no  
You did not take me unto your bosom  
You did not send those away - who wanted my life.  
You who always wished to see me smile  
Now cried  
You shed tears of love  
Separation, of helplessness and of yearning on me.  
And they stung me like a hundred bees and wasps  
Yet I cherished them - Yes I did  
Those tear drops on me -  
My one legacy  
As they threw me hot from thy loins  
Straight into the cold grave.  
I could not understand it ...  
Do not think me impertinent  
(For you taught me not to be dishonest,  
impertinent, wicked, cruel)  
But I am truly bewildered as to why  
you who bore me fast and bore me long  
you who took me to the heights of pleasure  
With all your love  
you who bore me bodily*

*suddenly refused to bear any longer*  
*- no longer -*  
*- delivered me into their wicked hands*  
*and let me die ?*  
*Why, my loving amma*  
*Why ?*  
*Was it only because*  
*I was born Ashwini*  
*And not Ashwin*  
*Was it simply*  
*Because I*  
*was born*  
*A GIRL ?*

*Ramya K*  
II B.A. English Lit.



*There is, it seems to us,*  
*At best, only a limited value*  
*In the knowledge derived from experience.*  
*The knowledge imposes a pattern, and falsifies,*  
*For the pattern is new in every moment*  
*And every moment is a new and shocking*  
*Valuation of all we have been. We are only undeceived*  
*Of that which, deceiving, could no longer harm.*

*East Coker - T. S. Eliot*

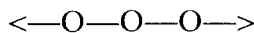
## THE PYRE

Viewed from the cold clearness of early day the crematorium seemed harshly real. Great piles of ash and wood lay on the stony grassless ground. Looking at the pyre this morning she found nothing unusual. A large heap of grey ashes and burnt wood, the acrid smell still faint in the air. It appeared as it was; the cold cradle of a death reduced to crumbling cinders in the bleak half-light of the morning. One could not believe the engulfing monster it had been the night before.

Standing under the great flames in the darkening twilight she had felt small as the fire consumed everything with a ferocious rapidity. She had felt it to be a living thing, an entity of its own - impersonal, detached in its unconcerned consumption of her father. She had stared then at the fire with loathing and fear. Yet what was there to fear in these delicate grey ashes ? They resembled in no way the red-headed monster of yesterday that had appeared like a hungry beast; unsatisfied with her father its flames had seemed to leap out wanting more. Then the fire was laughing at her, reaching out its hand in playful malice, and she had stepped back just in time. But it had tried nevertheless to catch her, the pyre shifting as the wood burned and the cinders fell, moving perhaps in slow reaches towards her. The sonorous chanting that filtered from beyond only helped to make the fire more terrifyingly powerful, praising the fire's engulfment of her father's body; encouraging its voracious greed as it sought to satisfy itself by taking her.

But with the daylight she felt foolish as she looked at the cinders of the pyre, cursing her mind for its tricks. As she stepped forward boldly to the pyre and ran her fingers through the reality of the cold dead ashes she smiled wryly at the wild terrors of the night before. Who would believe, she thought as she closed her eyes and felt the crumbling feathery touch of ash against skin, that this was the live monster of last night? She opened her eyes as she felt the ash shifting about her, slapping her shoulder in waves. She opened her eyes in time to look up at the coming wave of grey, towering momentarily above her. Then grey ash covered black head with a small, soft, sigh of content.

*Vaishnavi S*  
II B.A. English Lit.



## REWARDING YEARS AT STELLA MARIS

The year 1995 marks a turning point in my life. Having successfully completed a year long internship programme in Environmental Journalism from August 1993 to August 1994 with the Centre for Environment Education's News and Feature Service, (CEE-NFS) I have been appointed as Project Assistant, CEE-NFS. Established in August 1984 as a Centre of Excellence, the Centre for Environment Education is an autonomous national institution at Ahmedabad which is supported by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India. Aiming at creating environmental awareness among children, youth decision-makers and the general community, the Centre is a co-operating organisation of the IUCN (World Conservation Union) Commission on Education and Communication, Switzerland.



During my internship programme, I received training in writing and editing articles, wildlife features and news items as well as in the first hand reporting of events dealing with conservation and development issues. My features and news items such as "Vanishing Bengal Florican", "Nilgiri Tahr", "Computers and Conservation" have been well-received and popular with newspapers and magazines like Canara Times, Maharashtra **Herald**, The Hint Weekly, Children's World and Business India. My photographs on **the Marine National Park**, Jamnagar, Gujarat, which appeared in national newspapers like "The Hindu" have formed part of the documentation for CEE-NFS National Task Force Report on the Marine Park, Gujarat.

I have provided research assistance for three major projects undertaken by CEE-NFS :

- i. A 22-minute film on Narayan Sarovar Sanctuary in Kachch, Gujarat titled "Sanctuary at Stake", produced by CEE in collaboration with DECU (Development and Education Communication Unit) of ISRO, Ahmedabad which is intended for national telecast.
- ii. A presentation aid consisting of a set of 32 four colour transparencies on India's Environment Action Programme, prepared for the Environment Ministry and presented by the Environment Secretary at Brussels in July 1994 contains an exposition on the Indian approach to the problem of sustainable development.

- iii. The National Task Force Report on the Marine National Park in the Gulf of Kachch, Gujarat which was sponsored by the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, New Delhi and presented at the National Conservation Congress of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), India in November 1994.

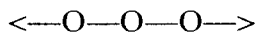
I am currently working on the Centre's Protected Area Initiative which involves a variety of responsibilities that include organising a major seminar in April 1995, research and assistance in the preparation of project reports.

The time has come for me as an ex-student of the B.A. English Department, Stella Maris College (1990-93) to ruminate nostalgically over the three rewarding and fulfilling years of academic study - the period which has been greatly instrumental in chiselling and influencing my career decisions of the recent past.

The course content offered by the Department of English appealed to me owing to its range and complexity. Deciding to explore the long journey (could I say metaphysical !) ranging from fiction and drama, to prose and poetry, I plunged into the realm of literary genres, hoping that the "journey" with particular reference to "Commonwealth Literature" would broaden my perspective and understanding of the subject. At one level, I always wished to relate literature with an understanding of the self, (as demonstrated in the papers "History of Ideas" and "Poetry") by trying to perceive the inextricable nexus between man and nature. At a more fundamental level, I decided to use the linguistic component as a tool to sharpen my written and oral skills. The latter has been particularly useful at this stage of my career and on hindsight, I can only be grateful to the faculty who steadfastly motivated, encouraged and backed me during seminar presentations where creativity and originality of thought were accorded top priority.

It was William Wordsworth, the great Romantic poet who highlighted the role of Nature as facilitator in the process of man's introspection and self-analysis, while contemporary American poets like Robert Frost and Walt Whitman believe that Man and Nature were actively involved in the drama of existence. Wanting to probe into this significant facet of their thought process, I decided to enter the field of communication and play a small role, on my part to articulate problems associated with environmental degradation that threaten us globally.

*Minu Seshasayee*



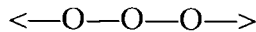
## LAUNCHING INTO THE MEDIA WORLD

There was a time when Television's prime shows were "Krishidarshan", "Oliyum Oliyum" and the "DD News". Since then a lot has changed - especially the attitude towards TV software production.

Today as a Director/Producer of short video features for "People Plus" - telecast in UK and Europe - I get to do work which earlier required atleast five years of experience. Since my job is to capture the interesting and the unusual in Indian art, culture, people and lifestyles, my work is never routine. Infact nothing related to Television is routine anymore. With Satellite TV becoming a household concept, TV is changing rapidly in both form and content. The medium is now open to ideas, inventions and professionals. Young inexperienced people are being offered immense opportunities to train, learn and produce TV programs. The, trick lies in availing of the opportunities that are knocking on our doors.

This is where I feel Stella Maris has helped me tremendously. Stella taught me to constantly experiment with the tried and the untried. As a B.Sc. Mathematics student (1989-1992) I was the typical OE (a term that I have, incidentally, never encountered after Stella). I never ran short of choices - there was always so much happening on campus. From basketballl matches, seminars, dandiya during intervals to screaming myself hoarse during interyears - Stella was an exercise in growing up. I remember the constant effort of both the faculty and the Students Union to involve as many students as possible - to give everyone the platform to identify and develop their talents and their confidence. It is this platform which has been my launching pad into the media world. In short, Stella has taught me the value of education and the ability to apply this learning to participate in and enjoy diverse experiences.

*Rakhi Varma*



## STELLA MARIS, MY ALMA MATER



*Presently, a freelance writer associated with the leading newspapers of the country, like The Hindu, Indian Express, Times of India, Economic Times Hindustan Times) and magazines like Femina, Society, Week. At the moment, based in Bangkok, and writing for various publications there.*

The creative juices, the poetic impulses, the critical faculty, the capacity to observe, imbibe, express - they all began for me at Stella Maris, during my five years of 'Literature' there. Today, when I, in the course of my career, watch theatre, review cinema, study art, write on food, enjoy sports, interview celebrities, and enjoy the nuances of a million different things, in different parts of the globe, I know the seed for it all was laid, many years ago, when I was involved in the million different activities of my Alma Mater. How can I forget them - the "Udaya" magazine, where I won my first short story competition, the Poetry Workshop, where I learnt not to be ashamed of my clumsy and complex cacophonies in verse, the Literature Club, where I, as Secretary, begged and bullied celebrities to address us, the pioneering cricket-sessions when I ignored broken body and bruised head, to prove that women were 'equal' to the game, the infamous Fete, when the lights failed but my heart didn't fail, the theatre-productions when I acted as chief prop, and ever so many other things. How can I forget the lively lecture-sessions at class, when we remained loudly awake or lazily asleep, while Sr. Shiela O'Neill, Sr. Flavia, Ms. Dasan, Ms. Seetha, Ms. Francis, Ms. Lavanya Raja, Ms. Mary Bhaskaran and others tried valiantly to make us literate, and literary? How we tried to emulate Eliot, memorise Milton, shake the mystery off Shakespeare! And then, came those painful and pitiable Board-exams, when we realised that there was more to Literature than just purple poetry.

I've realised that there's more to Literature than the world, or I, ever dreamed of. And the learning process still continues. Today, whether I'm in Delhi, Coimbatore, Bangkok or London, I think of Madras as my home, and Stella Maris as the 'base' from where it all started. It is a base with very strong foundations, and I must thank my Alma Mater for helping me to find and form my 'roots', especially as the "shoots" are spread everywhere.

*Lekha J. Shankar (nee Menon)  
B.A. & M.A. Lit. (1970-75)*



## ***Book Reviews***

**White Betty and Tom Sullivan. *The Leading Lady Dinah's Story*. U.S.A : Bantam Books, 1991.**

'The Leading Lady' is the heartwarming story of a real star: a guide dog named Dinah. The book is the outcome of the combined writing talents of Emmy Award winning actress Betty White and performer, songwriter and bestselling author Tom Sullivan.

This immensely interesting and readable book begins with a brief prologue and goes on to present Dinah's story in the unusual division of Act 1, Act 2 and Act 3 rather than the typical Part 1, Part 2 etc. Each Act consists of a few chapters, each of which is alternately written by Betty and Tom Sullivan with the final chapter written by both and entitled 'Together'.

For nine years this beautiful golden retriever was Tom's best friend, his right arm and his eyes. A guide dog of world-class standard, Dinah gave Tom, who has been blind since birth, his first real taste of independence, leading him safely through crowded airports, city traffic, strange hotels and constage performances.

'The Leading Lady' is the absorbing story of how the supercanine came into Tom's life, the hard work and frustration man and dog endured to become a team ; and the many adventures that cemented the bond between them. The narrative also tells us in a touching manner the story of how an aging Dinah became a full fledged member of Betty White's family when Tom had to make the difficult decision to begin work with a new dog.

Written in a simple, fluid and humorous style, 'The Leading Lady' captures the essence of Dinah herself, a dog who made a positive impact and difference in every life she touched.

*Hamsini Swaminathan* — III B.A. English Lit.

**Archer, Jeffrey. *Twelve Red Herrings*. London : Harper Collins, 1994.**

Yet another masterpiece from Archer that plunges readers twelve times into impeccably paced plots that arrest them in the first paragraph and then keep them turning pages. Each of the twelve stories is swift and uniquely different from the last. For the first time in a Jeffrey Archer collection we are offered four alternative endings to the final story indicating the variety of directions in which a great storyteller can lead you down the wrong path.

The novel, owing to the brevity and well-knit plot construction of the stories proves to be very entertaining from the first page to the last. Archer reveals a keen understanding of his characters and their reactions to situations and crises that they are placed in and manage to wriggle out of ultimately.

*Maithreyi Bhoopal* — III B.A. English Lit.

## A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE ENDINGS OF JURASSIC PARK

What makes a book a good read ? The characters, the theme, the imaginative ability of the author as he weaves both fact and fiction to create his tale ; but most important of all, the fact that the book is the basis for a motion picture that has reached millions and has had an impact so astounding that it has become a box-office hit. Such a work is JURASSIC PARK.

It is very difficult for any author to dream up a story and even more difficult for him to turn that story into print. Michael Crichton has not only immortalised his literary genius in his book, but with the assistance of one of America's greatest directors, Steven Spielberg, he has immortalised it in the form of a movie.

Even before the movie reached the theatres, the name Jurassic Park was on the lips of every young school-going American who had been taught about those magnificent extinct creatures, the dinosaurs. People all over the world eagerly awaited the arrival of the film in their respective countries, and when it finally made its way to India, there were queues lined up before the theatres as everyone anticipated their opportunity to see what the entire world was raving about.

Personally, I viewed the movie before going to the book and the most startling difference I found between the two versions was the finale. Though it is understandable that Spielberg had to change the ending to meet the requirements of the public, one can have a completely different experience if one reads the book.

The film presents us with the usual happily-ever-after ending that attracts the public. Everyone is safe as they fly away from the island, the sad creator, Dr. Hammond, glancing back at his creation while our hero, Dr. Alan Grant finally learns to appreciate children. The ending is an open one as no one knows what has happened to the dinosaurs that inhabit the island, creating the perfect situation to build up a sequel to the first production.

On the other hand, the novel offers its reader a different perspective. The conclusion laid down by the author is more realistic. The island is destroyed by the government of Costa Rica and the three surviving scientists are held permanently in the country while the children are sent back to their parents in the United States. The sad end that befalls Dr. Hammond, the creator or as is befitting, the re-creator of the dinosaurs, is both just and deserved. He deigned to tamper with a force he knew nothing about; something bigger and beyond his comprehension. He decided to meddle with Nature and Nature did what anyone of us would do if our existence was

threatened ; it retaliated, orchestrating the assassination of the creator at the hands of that which he created.

A tremendous amount of research must have gone into the book as it deals with a subject that was only in its experimental stages when the book was published - "cloning". By extracting the blood from mosquitoes trapped for centuries in tree sap, also known as amber, scientists were able to find the DNA structure of the dinosaurs. Unfortunately the process was so complicated and they were unable to figure out entire molecular strings, so they did the only thing they could ; they filled in the gaps with a DNA string taken from a still existing creature that closely resembled that of the dinosaur. To further protect the planet, the scientists created only female dinosaurs so that they would be able to control the breeding.

What they did not realise is that in certain conditions, the African frog from which they borrowed DNA can change its sex. That is exactly what the dinosaur did; they began breeding in the wilderness, while the scientists of Jurassic Park remained in complete ignorance. It is most frightening to read of the circumstances in the book, and terrifying to watch the effects in the movie.

Jurassic Park will hopefully serve as a warning for all ambitious scientists. It is true that only after many attempts and experimentation can something be perfected, but they should draw the line at something like this, where they have no knowledge of the repercussions. Dinosaurs are not our friends nor are they suitable to keep as pets. They are creatures that terrorised the Earth billions of years ago. If we create a real Jurassic Park on this planet there's no telling what will happen to the human race.

In his acknowledgements, the author warns readers that his is a work of fiction wherein there may be umpteen errors. It is the idea and writing ability of Michael Crichton that has produced this piece of literary excellence, but it must be remembered that we are not far from the day when this piece of fiction may turn into a reality and become man's worst nightmare come true.

*Ranjini S.*  
I B.A. English Lit.



## URUBANGAM - A BACKWARD GLANCE

“Urubangam” an adaptation of Bhasa’s “The Shattered Thigh” which was performed at the Music Academy on the 28th and 29th of January 1994, was a student production of Stella Maris College, directed by Puja Kashyap.

The entire cast and crew watched Peter Brook’s production, as an inspirational exercise in order to understand the conceptual framework within which they were working. “Urubangam” had a specific vision, as it attempted to portray the universality of the Mahabharatha and relate it to the present day.

The Sutradar did much to establish an easy rapport with the audience at the very outset, and thus provided a conducive atmosphere for the unfolding of the central theme of the play - the concept of Karma or destiny which operates in the lives of every individual.

This concept of Karma was delinked from the historical and mythical trappings of the Mahabharatha. However, the political framework of the Kurushetra provided the necessary background and context for the portrayal of the clash of individual destinies. The costumes were an imaginative combination of the traditional and the modern. The traditional pyjamas were easily recognisable while the costumes resembling the garb worn by practitioners of the martial arts suggested a modern scenario of violence and destruction. This was a significant deviation from the colourful, flamboyant costumes generally worn by characters in historical plays and helped break down the barriers of time. Time was perceived of as “duree” where the past fused with the present.

The unconventional deployment of stage props invited the audience to participate imaginatively in the production. The gradual uncovering of the layers of sets, as curtains were raised, one after another, became a figurative uncovering of the play’s central theme and also made for greater and greater availability of stage space for the characters. It was a play of shifting perspectives where the general movement and focus were from the microcosm to the macrocosm.

The acting and direction of the play can best be described as an experiential performance. The performers enjoyed the freedom of interpreting their roles and this in turn enabled them to identify more readily with the characters they had to play. All this contributed to the making of “Urubangam” and became an organic part of the vision.

*Anita Mani*  
B.A.English Lit.

## நல்லதொரு குடும்பம்

உயிர்க் காதல் என்பது  
உள்ளத்தில் உள்ளது ! என்ற  
உயரிய தத்துவத்தை  
உலகில் அழகுபடச் சொல்லியது  
குடும்பம் !

உண்மையை விதைத்து  
அறத்தை அறுவடை செய்து  
அவனியில் அழகுப் படைப்பாய் விளங்குவது  
குடும்பம் !

நானொரு பாதி ! நீயொருபாதி என  
ஆணும் பெண்ணும் இணைந்து நடந்து  
இன்பம் காண்பது ! அன்புக்  
குடும்பம் !

கருணைபொழியும் அன்னை  
கண்டிப்பு காட்டும் தந்தை  
அறிவுறுத்தும் ஆசான்  
சேவை செய்யும் நண்பன் இவர்கள்  
குடும்பத்தின் குணக்குன்றுகள் !

ஒன்றே செய் ! நன்றே செய் ! இதை  
இன்றே செய் ! என்ற மயக்கமில்லா  
இன்னிசையை இன்பத்தோடு இசைப்பது  
குடும்பம் !

வண்ண வண்ண மலர்கள்  
மாண்புடன் மலர்ந்து  
இதமாய்க் காட்சித் தருவது  
குடும்பம் !

இன்னார் இனியார் என்றே பாராது  
எல்லோரையும் தம்முள் அடக்கி மகிழ்வது  
குடும்பம் !

காலைக் கருக்கலில் வேலைக்குச் செல்பவர்கள்  
ஓலைக்குடிசையில் ஒண்டிக்கிடந்தாலும்  
பண்புசால் பாசத்தைப் பகிர்ந்தளிப்பது  
குடும்பம் !

நல்லொதொரு குடும்பம் ! இது ஒரு  
பல்கலைக் கழகம்

டாக்டர் உலகநாயகி பழனி  
தமிழ்த்துறை  
ஸ்டெல்லா மாரிஸ் கல்லூரி

<—O—O—O—>

## நாட்டு நலப்பணித் திட்டம்

நாட்டு நலப் பணித் திட்டம்  
நாளான கொள்கைகள் - பெற்று  
நலமான நன்மைகள் பெற்று - அதனை  
நாங்கள் ஏற்று நன்றாய் அதனை  
நல்கிடுவோம்.

தன்னார்வத் தொண்டர்கள்  
தன்னிலைப் பெற்று - தம்  
தனித்துவத்தால் என்றும்  
தடைக்கற்களை தகர்த்து - எல்லைக் கற்களாய் நினைத்து  
தழைத்திடுவோம்.

உன்னத குறிக்கோள்கள் - எங்கள்  
உள்ளத்தில் உயர்ந்து  
ஊன்றுகோலாய் எங்கள்  
உயர்ந்த கோளாய் ஏற்று என்றும்  
உழைத்திடுவோம்.

பண்பட்ட எங்கள் நெஞ்சில்  
பதம் பார்த்து - இதய

பதம் பார்த்து - எங்கள் வெற்றுப்  
பாதையை வெற்றிப்  
பாதையாய் மாற்றிய நாட்டு நலப்  
பணிக்கு பணிநிதிடுவோம்.

சங்கங்கள் அமைத்து - எங்களை  
சங்கமமாக்கிய - சேவைச்  
சங்கத்திற்கு - எங்கள்  
சந்ததியும் - இச் சன்னிதியை  
சந்திக்கச் செய்வோம்.

முன்னுரையாய் திகழ்ந்து எங்களுக்கு  
முகம் முகமாய்  
முகாம்கள் அமைத்து - முகாமின்  
முடிவுரையில் எங்களை  
முழு மனிதர்களாக்கும்  
முற்சங்கத்திற்கு பணிபுரிய  
முற்படுவோம்.

வெற்றிப் பாதையில் சென்று  
வெண் பனி போல் இருந்தவெண் கல மாணாக்கர்களை  
வெள்ளி மாணாக்கர்களாக மாற்றி இன்று  
வெள்ளி விழா - தொட்டு - திரும்பி  
வென்று சாகசங்கள் புரிந்து  
வெற்றிக்கு என்றும் தடையாய் இருக்கும் தடைகளை  
வென்றிடுவோம்.

வையத்துள் வாழ்வாங்கு  
வாழ்ந்து வாழையடி வாழையாக  
வாழ்ந்து வரும்  
வளமான சங்கத்தை நன்றாய்  
வளர்த்திடுவோம்

ஜே. ஞானபுஷ்பம்  
மூன்றாம் ஆண்டு கணிதம்  
நாட்டு நலப் பணித்திட்டம்  
ஸ்டெல்லா மாடீஸ் கல்லூரி

## தேசத்தை எதிர்நோக்கியுள்ள சவால்களும் இளைஞர்களின் பங்கும்

அக்னி குஞ்சொன்று கண்டேன் - அதை

ஆங்கொரு காட்டிலோர் பொந்திடை வைத்தேன்:

வெந்து தணிந்தது காடு : - தடில்

விரத்திற் குஞ்சொன்று மூப்பென்று முண்டோ ?

இங்கு அக்னிப் பொறி அவனியைச் சுட்டெரிக்கும் காட்டுத் தீ. ஏனெனில் அக்னிப் பொறியின் பிறப்பிடம் இளைஞனின் உள்ளம். சவால்களை சமாளிக்கும், எதிர் நீச்சல் போடத் துணியும் இளைய தலைமுறையினரின் இதயம். சுட்டெரிக்கும் 'வெந்தணலின்', 'வெஞ்சினத்தின்' உருவகமான இன்றைய இளைஞன், 'தேசத்தை' சவால்களை சமாளிக்கும் சக்தி படைத்தவனா? அல்லது 'தேசத்தை எதிர் நோக்கியுள்ள பெரும் சவாலா?', எனது சிந்தனையில் உதிர்ந்து வீழ்ந்த மணிகளை மணித்துளிகளில் கோர்க்க முயற்சிக்கின்றேன்.

சுதந்திர பாரதம் அரை நூற்றாண்டாகியும், தனது விடுதலையின் மேன்மையை உணரவேயில்லை. அதனால் தான் கல்லாமையும், இல்லாமையும், வறுமையும், பேதைமையும், சாதி வெறியும், சமயப் பூசலும், இட, வகுப்புப் பிரிவினைகளும் நாட்டினைக் கூறு போட்டுக் கொண்டிருக்கின்றன, வளரும் பாரதத்தை நோக்கியுள்ள எண்ணற்ற கேள்விக் குறிகளான சவால்களையும் அவற்றை சீரிய நோக்குடன் சிந்தனைத் தெளிவுடன், நேரிய உள்ளத்துடன் திறம் பட சமாளித்து ஆச்சரியக்குறிகளாக ஆக்கிட வந்திடும் இளைஞர்களின் பணியினையும் மூன்று நோக்குகளில் காண விழைகின்றேன். அவை : அரசியல், சமுதாய, பொருளாதார நோக்காகும்.

**பாரதத்தை எதிர்நோக்கும் அரசியல் பொருளாதார சவால்கள்**

'காட் - டங்கல்' ஒப்பந்தம்: டங்கல் திட்ட பரிந்துரைகளை பரிசீலித்த முன்னாள் உச்சநீதிமன்ற நீதிபதிகள் 'டி. ஏ. தேசாய், வி. ஆர் கிருஷ்ணய்யர், சின்னப்ப ரெட்டி' ஆகியோரது கருத்துக்களாவன : சந்தைக்கு இணக்கமான பொருளாதாரம், தாராளமயமாக்கல், உலக பொருளாதாரத்துடன், இந்தியப் பொருளாதாரத்தை இணைத்தல், பெருமளவு அன்னிய முதலீட்டுடன் கூடிய தனியார் மயமாக்கல் ஆகியவை இந்திய அரசியல் சட்ட விதிகள் 14, 19, 21ன் கீழான அடிப்படை உரிமைகள் ஆகியவற்றிற்கு எதிரானவை ஆகும்'. இப்படி இந்திய பொருளாதார வளர்ச்சிக்கென்று கையெழுத்து இடப்பட்டுள்ள இந்த ஒப்பந்தம் பலவகையில் வளரும் பாரதத்தை பாதிக்கிறது. குறிப்பாக விவசாயத் துறையும்,



மருத்துவத் துறையும் மிகவும் பாதிக்கப்படுகிறது. இதனால் மிகவும் பாதிக்கப்படும் குடிமக்கள், கடினப்பட்டு உழைத்தும், உணவின் றி உறங்கச் செல்லும் ஏழை வர்க்கத்தினர், அன்றாடக் கூலிகளான நடுத்தர மக்கள் இந்தியாவில் பெரும்பாலான சதவீதத்தினர் இவர்களே.

இப்படி வல்லரசுகளான அமெரிக்காவும், பிரான்சும் வளர்ந்து வரும் ஏழை நாடுகளான இந்தியா போன்றவற்றின் மீது திணிக்கின்ற இத்திட்டங்கள், சுதந்திர சூழலைப் பறித்து, அடிமை மோகத்திற்கு அறைகூவல் விடுவதன்றோ?

ஆம். காட்- டங்கல் ஒப்பந்தம் மூலம் பெறும் வளர்ச்சிகளைக் காட்டிலும், பாரதம் இங்கு அடிமைப்படுத்தப்படுகிறது. இது இன்றைய பாரதத்தை நோக்கியுள்ள பெரும் சவாலாகும்.

### ‘உனக்குச் சவால்’ - ஊழல்

இந்தியக் குடிமகன் ஒவ்வொருவனுக்கும் பல தரப்பட்ட நிலையில் ‘ஊழல்’ சவால் விட்டுக் கொண்டிருக்கிறது. ‘போபார்ஸ்’ ஊழல் போல நாடு பல அறியச் செய்து, பதவியழக்கச் செய்து மக்களிடம் மதிப்புப் பெற்ற ஊழல், செய்திகளும் உண்டு. பங்கு தரகர் ஹர்ஷத் மேத்தாவை ஆறு ஆயிரம் கோடி செல்வத்திற்கு அதிபதியாய் ஆக்கிய ஊழல்களும் உண்டு. எந்தத் துறையில் இல்லை இந்த ஊழல். கல்வி, கலை, விஞ்ஞானம், விளையாட்டு என்று எத்துறையிலும் புற்றுநோய் போல புகுந்து, நமது மாண்பை அழித்து, இழிநிலைக்கு தள்ளி விடுகின்றது இவ்வூழல் செய்திகள்.

அரசியல் தலைவர்களைக் காட்டிலும் அரசு அதிகாரிகள் ‘ஊழலற்ற அரசு’ அமைக்க தலைப்பட்டனர் போலும் ; அதனால் தான் தேர்தல் தலைமையதிகாரி சேஷன், முதல்வர் சரத்பவாரை எதிர்த்த மகாராஷ்டிர முனிசிபல் கமிஷனர் கைநார், திகார் ஜெயில் சீர்த்திருத்தம் - என்று அதிரடி நடவடிக்கைகளால் பேசும் கிரண்பேடி, இவர்கள் அனைவரும் இன்றைய தலைப்புச் செய்திகளின் ஹீரோ, ஹீரோயினி ஆகிவிட்டார்கள். ஆனால் அதே பத்திரிகைகளே இவர்கள் செய்யும் ஊழல் செயல்களையும் கோடிட்டுக் காட்டுகின்றன.

ஒரு பத்திரிகை கூறுகிறது : ‘பெரும்பாலோர் ஊழல் அமைப்பினுள் கிடைத்தவரை இலாபம் என்றே சுருட்ட பார்க்கிறார்கள். மொத்தத்தில் ஊழல் என்பது இயல்பான ஒன்று என்று இந்தியக் குடிமகன் மனதில் பதிந்துவிட்டது’. ஊழலற்ற இந்தியச் சமுதாயம் படைத்தல் - பெரும் சவால் !

**கம்ப்யூட்டர் : கனவுகளை நனவாக்குமா? / கலைத்துவிடுமா?**

கணிதப் பொறி மனித வாழ்க்கையை ஆக்கிரமிப்பு செய்யத் தொடங்கி விட்டது. அடுக்கு மாடி அலுவலகங்களும் அறுவை சிகிச்சை அறைகளும் ஏன்

(மரத்தடி) ஜோதிடம் கூட கணிதப் பொறியினால் தானே இயங்குகின்றன. இன்றைய நாளில் கணிதப் பொறி பயன்படுத்தப்படாத துறையினைக் காண்பது அரிது.

கணிதப் பொறியின் வரவு, ஏழை (வளரும்) நாடான இந்தியாவில் ஒரு புறம் கனவுகளை நனவாக்குகிறது எனின், மறுபுறம் கனவுகளை, வாழ்க்கைக் கனவுகளைச் சிதறடிப்பதாய் உள்ளது. 'கனவுகளை நனவாக்கும் - கம்ப்யூட்டர்' நமக்குப் பரிச்சயம். 'இரண்டாவது வகை எவ்வாறெனில், வேலையில்லாத திண்டாட்டம் தான் : இந்தியா போன்ற மக்கள் தொகை மிக அதிகமான நாடுகளில் கணிதப் பொறி மூலம் வேலை வாய்ப்புப் பெறுவோர் பலராயினும் அதன் மூலம் வேலை இழப்போர் இன்னும் பலர். உற்பத்திப் பெருக்கம் இல்லாத நிலையில் வேலை பறிக்கப்படுவது அவசியமாகிறது. ஏனெனில் ஒரு கணிதப்பொறி சுமாராய் இருபத்தைந்து நபர்களின் பணியினைச் செய்கிறது. ஏற்கனவே மக்கள் தொகைப் பெருக்கமும், வேலை வாய்ப்புத் திண்டாட்டமும் போட்டி போட்டு முன்னேறிக் கொண்டிருக்க கணிதப் பொறியின் வரவு இன்னுமொரு சவாலாக இருக்கின்றது.

கம்ப்யூட்டர் யுகம் பற்றிக் குறிப்பிடும் போது கம்ப்யூட்டர் பயிற்சிகள் (Computer Courses) பற்றிக் கூறுவதும் இன்றியமையாததாகிறது. இப்பொழுதெல்லாம் வேலை வாய்ப்புப் பயிற்சி என்றாலே கம்ப்யூட்டர் பயிற்சிகள் மட்டும் தான் மிகுந்த செல்வாக்கையும், மதிப்பையும் பெறுகிறது.

கம்ப்யூட்டர் பயிற்சிகளில், எந்தப் பயிற்சிக்கு 'ஆயிரங்கள் அதிகமோ' (விலை) அதுவே மக்களின் நம்பிக்கையைப் பெறுகிறது. இது தற்போது வேகமாக பரவி வரும் ஒரு கருத்து ; தவறான கணிப்பு. இந்த தவறான கருத்தினால் இன்று பல்வேறு தனியார் நிறுவனங்கள், மிகத் தாராளமாக, மிகுந்த மதிப்புடன் மக்களைக் கொள்ளையடிக்கின்றனர். இது மக்களின் அறியாமையா, மூடநம்பிக்கையா, அல்லது உண்மையிலேயே ஆயிரங்களில் தான் வாய்ப்புகளும் அதிகமோ? சிந்திக்க வேண்டிய ஒன்று ; சவால் தான்.

**சமுதாய நோக்கில் தேசத்தை நோக்கும் சவால்கள் : சாதி, சமயப் பிரிவு**

**சாதி சண்டைப் போச்சோ - உங்கள்**

**சமய சண்டைப் போச்சோ**

என்று அயலவன் நம்மை கேலி செய்வது போன்று பாரதி அன்று பாடிச் சென்றது இன்றும் உண்மையாகி விட்டது. தற்போது இந்நிலைமை மிகவும் மோசமாகி விட்டது. அதனால் தான் கட்சிகள் கூட பாரதிய ஜனதா கட்சி, பகுஜன் சமாஜ் கட்சி, பாட்டாளி மக்கள் கட்சி என்று இந்துக்களுக்கு என்றும், வன்னியச் சாதியினருக்கு என்றும் தொடங்கப்பட்டு, அமோக ஆதரவுடன் வளர்ந்து வருகிறது. ஆயிரக்கணக்கான ஆண்டுகட்குப் பின்னர் இப்போது தான், முஸ்லீம் மக்களின்

வழிபாட்டு இடத்தில் இந்துச் சகோதரர்களின் இறைவன் பிறந்தான், அந்த இடம் தான் எனக்கு வேண்டும்... எனும் வன்முறையைத் தூண்டும் தீயசக்திகள் பிறப்பெடுத்துள்ளன. இந்த மதச் சார்பற்ற நாட்டில் கொடியேற்றமோ, ஊர்வலமோ இன்று பலிகளாய் அப்பாவி இந்தியரின் உயிர்களைக் கொள்ளாமல் போவதில்லை.

எடுத்துக்காட்டாக ஜாதி அடிப்படையில் தான் சினிமா சென்ஸார் நடக்கிறது. தங்கள் ஜாதிக்காரர்களாக பார்த்து, அழைத்து வந்து சென்சார் நடக்கிறது. தங்கள் ஜாதிக்காரர்களாக பார்த்து, அழைத்து வந்து சென்சார் செய்வதால் தவறுகள் ஏற்படுகிறது. இப்படித்தான் சாதி இன்று எதில் இல்லை. முன்பெல்லாம் இல்லாத அளவிற்கு இப்போது சாதிப் பிரச்சனை தலை தூக்கியுள்ளது. சாதி சமய சவால்களை சமாளிப்பது எப்படி?

விவேகானந்தர் கூறுகிறார் : நாம் நம் தேசத்துக்கு இழைத்த மிகப் பெரும் குற்றம், நமது உடன் சகோதரர்களுக்கு கல்வியறிவைத் தராததுதான். இது நமது தேசத்துக்கு செய்யும் துரோகம் என்கிறார்.

'அனைவருக்கும் கல்வி' - உண்மையில் ஒவ்வொரு இந்தியனையும் அடைந்தால் பெரும் மாற்றங்கள் ஏற்பட வாய்ப்புண்டு. கல்வியறிவின்மை நமது சுதந்தர பாரதத்தில் அறுபது சதவிகிதத்திற்கும் மேல் என உணர்வது எத்துணை அவலத்துக்குரியது.

**கண்ணுடையோர் என்போர் கற்றோர் - முகத்து இரண்டு  
புண்ணுடையோர் கல்லா தவர்.**

வள்ளுவர் வாக்கு வாழ்வாக்கப் படவேண்டியது.

பெண்ணடிமையும் இங்கு, இன்று வைக்கப்படும் சவால். பெண் சிசு வதை . பெண் கல்வி மறுப்பு, இளம் வயது திருமணம், வரதட்சணைக் கொடுமை, இறுதியில் படுக்கையறைப் பதுமைகளாய். எத்துணை இழிநிலை வாழ்வுக்கு பெண் தள்ளப்பட்டிருக்கிறாள். புலவன் பாடுகிறான்.

**பதவியின் சிறைகளில் பாரத மாதா பரிதவிக்கிறாள்  
சுதந்தர தேவி சுயநலப் புலிகளின் துணி துவைக்கிறாள்**

பெண்ணுக்கு என்று விடுதலை அன்றன்றோ பாரத அன்னையின் விலங்கு விடுபடும். சுதந்தர பாரதத்தில் பாரத மாதா விடும் சவாலோ இது !

**இயற்கை, செயற்கை அழிவுகள் :** மகாத்மா காந்தி பிறந்த பொன்னான பூமியில் இன்று கொள்ளை நோயால், அதுவும் என்றோ கட்டுப்படுத்தப்பட்டதாக கூறும் 'பிளேக்' நோயால் மக்கள் மரணிப்பது இயற்கையின் அழிவா, (அல்லது) நமது கவனக்குறைவா?

மஹாராஷ்டிரத்தில் இரவோடு இரவாக பூமியதிர்ச்சியில் நூற்றுக் கணக்கோர் இறக்கவில்லையா? அன்று பிழைத்தவர்களில் 90 % பேர் இன்று மனநோயால் பீடிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளதாக செய்தி. பம்பாயில் மக்கள் நெருக்கமிக்க பகுதியில் குண்டு வெடிப்பினால் உயிர்களை பலிவாங்கியவர்களும் இந்த நாட்டினுள் தானே வாழ்கின்றனர்.

இந்த அழிவுகளும் நமக்கு சவால்கள் தான்.

**திரைப்படம் :** பொழுது போக்காக வந்த திரைப்படங்கள் இன்றைய நாளில் நமது பொழுதினை வீணாக்குபவையாய் உள்ளன. ஆபாச காட்சிகளாய் , இரட்டை அர்த்த வசனங்களாய், வன்முறையை தூண்டுபவையாய் வரும் இத் திரைப்படங்கள் பார்ப்போரை திசை திருப்புவதாய், மதிப்பீடுகள் அற்ற மக்களாக மாற்றுவதாய் உள்ளது. இப்படி, பொதுவாக திரைப்படங்கள் இன்றைய நாளின் சாபக்கேடாய் அமைகின்றன.

சமுதாய நோக்கில், தேசத்தை நோக்கிடும் சவால்கள் எண்ணற்றவை. எத்துணையோ வகையில் நாம் முன்னேறியிருந்தாலும், வானத்தின் எல்லையைத் தொட்டு நின்றாலும், ஆயிரம் சாதனைப் படைத்து இருந்தாலும் 'மனித நேயம்', மறந்தவர்களாய் நாம் வாழும் போது வாழ்வின் மதிப்பீடுகள் அழிந்து போகின்றன. வாழ்வின் வசந்தங்கள் அல்ல ; ஆனால் மதிப்பீடுகள் நமக்கு எப்போதுமே சவால் தான்.

**சவால்களை எதிர்நோக்குவதில் இளைஞர்களின் பங்கு**

விதை வீரியமுள்ளதுதான் - ஆனால்

புதைக்கப்பட விட்டால் புண்ணியமில்லை

'உன்னையே அறிந்து கொள்' உண்மைதான். ஆனால்

உணராவிட்டால் இளமையில்லை.

சமுதாயத்தையே புரட்டி எடுக்கும்

பருந்துப் பார்வையும், சிங்க நோக்கும்

சிந்தனைத் தெளிவும், சீரிய செயல்பாடுமுள்ள

வீரிய விதைகள் இளைய நெஞ்சங்கள் !

நாற்றமெடுக்கும் சமுதாயத்தையே - பசும்

நாற்றங்காலாத மாற்றும் பணிக்குப் புதைக்கப்பட

நாட்டமுள்ள இளைய நெஞ்சங்கள் !

தன்னை உணர்ந்து கொண்ட இளமைதான், தரணிக் காக்க தெள்ளிய சிந்தனையும், செயல்பாடும் கொண்டு விளங்க முடியும். தேசத்தை எதிர்நோக்கும் சவால்களின் முக்கியத்துவத்தை அறிந்திடும் இளைஞனின் செயல்பாடு இப்படியும் அமையலாம் !

காட் - டங்கல் ஒப்பந்தமோ, கணிதப்பொறியோ மற்றும் எதுவானாலும் சரி, அடிப்படையில் இங்கு தேவையானது, மக்களிடம் உள்ள விழிப்புணர்வு. மக்கள் இவற்றின் ஆபத்தை, முகமையாய் உணர்ந்து கொள்ள வேண்டும்.

விவேகானந்தர் கூறுகிறார் : உணர்ச்சியுள்ள 200 இளைஞர்களை என்னிடம் தாருங்கள். இந்தியாவையே மாற்றித் தருகிறேன் என்றவர் இளைஞர்களிடம், 'நீங்கள் மக்களுக்கு செய்யவேண்டியது அவர்கள், தாங்கள் இழந்து போன தனித்துவத்தை உணர்ந்துக் கொள்ள செய்வதே. அவர்களுக்கு நல்ல, சரியான கருத்துக்களை நோக்கிக் காட்டுங்கள். விழிப்புணர்வு ஊட்டுங்கள். அவர்களே தங்கள் வாழ்வின் மீட்சியை கண்டு கொள்வார்கள்' என்கிறார்.

ஆம். இன்றைய பாரத விடுதலைக்கு, சவால்களுக்கு சவால் விட தேவையானது, அடிப்படையானது 'விழிப்புணர்வு'. அதுவும் உடனடியாக தேவைப்படுவது. மக்களின் விழிப்புணர்வு கண்டிப்பாக சவால்களுக்கு சவுக்கடி தரமுடியும்.

அடுத்தது கல்வியறிவு : கல்வியறிவு கண் திறந்து பார்க்கச் செய்யும். கல்வி விழிப்புணர்வுக் கொள்ளச் செய்யும். 'அனைவருக்கும் கல்வி', 'அறிவொளி இயக்கம்' என்று எத்துணைத்திட்டங்கள் தீட்டினாலும், தன்னலமற்ற தன்னார்வத் தொண்டர்களாய் இளைஞர்கள் வராவிட்டால் அவை அனைத்தும் பயனற்றதாகிவிடும். கற்ற ஒருவன் கல்லாத ஒருவனுக்கு - குறைந்த பட்சம் ஒருவருக்கு மட்டுமாவது கற்றுக் கொடுக்க முன்வந்தால் இந்தியாவில் அனைவரும் கல்வி கற்றுக் கொள்வர். அவற்றிக்கு மேலாக இளைஞர்கள் புதுமையால், படைப்புணர்வாய் சிந்திக்கும் திறன் மிக்கவர்கள். அவர்களது திறமைகளும். சிந்தனையும் நாட்டின் பல்வேறு தேவைகளுக்கு பயன்படும். உதாரணமாக விழிப்புணர்வூட்டும் பணியில், கலைநிகழ்ச்சிகள் நடத்தல், பல்வேறு வித்தியாசமான எளிதில் மக்களைச் சென்றடையும் அணுகு முறைகளை மேற்கொள்ளுதல் போன்றவற்றை இளைஞர்கள் செய்யலாம்.

மதிப்பீடுகளற்ற வாழ்வு வெறுமையானது. அது இலட்சியமற்ற வாழ்வு போன்றது. வாழ்வின் மதிப்பீடுகளை ஒவ்வொருவரும் மதித்து வாழ்ந்தால், ஊழல், லஞ்சம்.... என்கிற பெரும் பேய்களை வேரறுத்து விடலாம். இன்றைய சமுதாயத்தில் உண்மைக்கும் நேர்மைக்கும் மதிப்பு இல்லாததால் தான், 'மனித நேயம்' மறக்கப் பட்டுவிட்டது. இளைஞர்கள் மானுட வாழ்வின் மதிப்பீடுகளை மதிப்பவர்கள் : அவர்கள் வாழ்ந்து காட்டட்டும் ; நாளைய சமுதாயம் மாறிவிடும்.

வேலை வாய்ப்புத் திண்டாட்டம், இளைஞர்களின் 'சுய வேலை வாய்ப்பு' முயற்சியால் மறைந்து விடும். இன்றைய நாட்களில், மக்களின் ஆசை வளர வளர அவர்கள் வேலை செய்யும் எண்ணம் குறைந்துவிட்டது. மேசை, நாற்காலி, மின்விசிறி - வேலையைத் தான் மக்கள் நாடிச் செல்கிறார்கள் ; மதிப்பிற்குரியது என்று எண்ணுகிறார்கள். ஆனால் இந்த எண்ணம் அகற்றப்பட வேண்டும். 'செய்யும் தொழிலே தெய்வம் - கொண்ட திறமை தான் நமக்கு செல்வம்' என்று எண்ணுதல். இளைஞர்கள் இதற்கு துணிவுடன் முன்வர வேண்டும். சுய வேலைப்பணியில் ஈடுபட்டு பிறருக்கும் வேலை வாய்ப்புத் தருபவர்களாய் அமைய வேண்டும். பின்னர் மக்கள் தொகைப் பெருக்கமும் ஒரு சமையாய் இராது, பொருளாதார வளர்ச்சியில் தனது பெரும் பங்கை தந்திடும்.

பம்பாய் குண்டு வெடிப்பும், வன்முறைக் கலவரங்களும், சமூக விரோதக் கும்பலால் ஏற்படும் தீமைகள், இளைஞர்களே இதில் பெரும் பங்கு வகிக்கிறார்கள் என்பது வேதனைக்குரிய உண்மை. ஆக்க சக்தியை இளைஞர்கள், அரசியல் இலாபத்திற்காக அடகு வைக்கும் நிலைமையை மாற்ற வேண்டும். இளமை ஆற்றல்; இளமை சக்தி; இளமை புதுமை; என்பதை உணரும் இளைஞர்கள் அதை நன்முறையில் பயன்படுத்த முன்வர வேண்டும்.

பல இயற்கை அழிவுக்கு காரணம் கவனக்குறைவும், சுற்றுச் சூழல் மாசுப்படுத்தலும்; சுற்றுச் சூழல் மாசு படுத்தலை இளைஞர்கள் எதிர்க்க வேண்டும். சுற்றுச் சூழல் தூய்மைப் பணியில் தங்களை ஈடுபடுத்திக் கொள்ள வேண்டும்.

சினிமா, மது, போதை என்னும் கொடிய பேய்களின் ஆக்ரமிப்புக்கு தங்களை அடிமையாக்கக் கூடாது. இளைஞர்களின் எதிர்காலமே இந்தியாவின் எதிர்காலம் என்று உணர வேண்டும்.

இந்தியாவை எதிர்நோக்கியுள்ள இன்னுமொரு மிகப்பெரும் சவால் எய்ட்ஸ் நோய். ஒலிம்பிக் பந்தயத்தில் முண்ணணி வகிக்காவிட்டாலும், எய்ட்ஸ் நோய் பரவும் மக்கள் எண்ணிக்கையில் இந்தியா இன்னும் சில ஆண்டுகளில் முன்னணியில் வந்து விடும் என்று புள்ளியியல் வல்லுநர்கள் கூறுகின்றனர். நாளை இந்நியாவை 'எய்ட்ஸ்' என்றும் விஷப் பேயிடமிருந்து காக்க வேண்டியது இளைஞர்களின் தவிர்க்க முடியாத கடமையாகும்.

ஒருவனுக்கு ஒருத்தி என்னும் நமது மந்திரத்தை அவர்கள் கடைப்பிடித்தாலே எய்ட்ஸ் நோயிலிருந்து தந்திரமாக வெளிவரலாம்.

கலாச்சாரச் சீரழிவே எய்ட்ஸ் நோயின் வேகமான இப்பரவுதலுக்குக் காரணமாகும். மேலை நாட்டு கலாச்சாரத்தின் மேன்மையை நாம் கற்றுக் கொண்டால் போதும். நாகரீக உலகில் நமது பண்டைய பண்பாட்டு மாண்பைத் துறக்க வேண்டும் என்பது அவசியமில்லை.

முடிவுரை :-

எழுந்திரு இளைஞனே !  
வானத்தில்  
கூடு கட்ட வேண்டிய நீ  
பள்ளத்தாக்கில்  
பதுங்காதே !  
லட்சிய வாழ்வின்றி  
லட்சியத் தீவுகளாய்  
சிதறி விடாதே !

என்ற வைரமுத்து இளைஞர்களை நோக்கி அறைகூவல் விடுக்கிறார். ஆம் இலட்சிய இளைஞர்கள் தான் நாளை, அல்ல இன்றைய இந்தியாவின் சிற்பிகள், தூண்கள். சவால்களை சமாளிக்கும் ஆற்றல் உள்ளவர்கள். சமாளிக்க வேண்டியவர்கள். இவர்களது ஆற்றலில் நம்பிக்கை கொண்டு தான் இன்றைய இந்தியா இன்னும் வளர்ச்சிப் பாதையில் வளரும் பாரதமாய் முன்னேறிச் செல்கிறது.

ஜோஸஃபின். அ.  
நாட்டு நலப்பணித்திட்டம்  
ஸ்டெல்லா மாரீஸ் கல்லூரி

<—O—O—O—>

# FRENCH



## ENTRE MOI ET LA FRANCE

En Inde, il ya une tendance aujourd'hui à penser que nous, les Indiens, sommes moins privilégiés que nos contre-parties à l'étranger, et il ya une sorte de complex d'infériorité qui se développe parmi les Indiens. On essaie de nier cette pensée en imitant tout ce que les étrangers font. Moi, j'ai trouvé que ce n'est pas nécessaire à se comporter dans une telle façon pour être "à la mode". Voilà une petite expérience inestimable qui m'a appris une chose simple mais fondamentale.

Comment une fille à treize ans se sentirait elle si elle est choisie pour visiter la France pendant 3 semaines? Exstatique, j'en suis sûre, parceque moi, j'ai eu la chance et l'occasion à m'en profiter. Je m'en souviens très bien - c'était l'année du bicentenaire de la Revolution Française et on a décidé d'organiser un programme d'échange culturelle entre la France et l'Inde. De Madras, 3 écoles étaient choisies. Environ 50 d'élèves des 3 écoles ont écrit un petit examen et ceux qui ont réussi ont eu un interview avec les professeurs de l'Alliance Française, de Madras. 24 étudiants ont été choisis pour ce project. Et voilà, je me trouvais parmi ces 24 étudiants! Les préparatifs ont commencé un mois en avance. Il me fallait rester avec une famille française pendant mon séjour. Alors, j'ai commencé à écrire à ma correspondants, Guénaëlle, et à sa famille et voila était établi fondation amicale entre nous. Nous, les 24 étudiants ont eu un cours en français pour que nous ayons un peu de connaissance de la culture française.

Et finalement, le jour de grand départ est arrivée - ce 19 Mai 1989. Nous sommes arrivés le lendemain à Paris et nous avons vu nos correspondants pour la première fois. De l'aéroport, nous sommes partis avec nos familles à Beauvais, une petite ville près de Paris où nous allions rester; Moi, j'ai eu une famille très, très gentille. Je les ai aimés toute de suite et eux, à leur tour, m'a adoptée comme leur fille Indienne. Ils ont été si gentils qu'ils ont même sacrifié leurs repas normaux pour moi, parce que je suis végétarienne. Après cela, les jours n'étaient que pleins d'amusements et de rencontres intéressants. Chaque jour, il me fallait aller à l'école (collège pellerin) avec ma correspondante et j'ai étudié l'histoires, la géographie et les sciences en français pour la première fois dans ma vie! Les élèves que j'y ai rencontrés ont été curieux de l'Inde. Ils m'ont posé des questions vraiment drôles - Est-ce que l'Inde est un grand pays, est ce qu'il y a beaucoup de magiciens en Inde, est-ce que les rués grouillent de serpents là-bas, est-ce que les Indiens ont des éléphants comme des moyens de transport, et même combien d'éléphants ai-je chez moi!!! Non, je n'exagère pas, c'est vrai. Et ils étaient surpris de savoir que l'Inde est aussi modernisé que les autres pays.

Côté visites bien sûr, nous n'avons laissé aucun lieu inexploré - la Tour Eiffel, Notre Dame, Sacre Coeur, Beaubourg, Rouen, Versailles, Louvre, Dieppe et que voulez-vous! Nous avons visité même un parc d'amusements, Parc Astérix et c'était comme un monde de fées. En plus, le plus petit village en France, les usines de glace et de brosse, deux fermes et aussi un centre nucléaire nous avons visité. Étant les petits "Ambassadeurs" de l'Inde, nous avons eu les rendez-vous avec les autres ambassadeurs de différents pays.

Les 24 étudiants, nous avons organisé une nuit des programmes culturels juste avant notre départ. Les danses Indiennes, et nos chansons leur a plu et ils ont même appris quelques petites chansons Indiennes! En ce qui concerne la cuisine française - c'est quelque chose de très délicieuse. Leur pain, ouf-il faut s'y être habitué, sinon, c'est un peu difficile à savourer! Bien sûr, l'image exotique de la France s'était augmentée quand j'ai goûté les nombreux fromages et les vins.

Le 10 Juin, le jour de départ. Je ne voulais pas rentrer, c'était comme je vivais un de mes rêves. Mais il fallait retourner à la réalité et la visite, c'est fini. Mais les mémoires et les souvenirs, j'y tiendrai toujours.

J'ai trouvé quelque chose pendant cette visite. Pourquoi est-ce qu'on organise des telles échanges? Quel en est le but? Nous tous, nous souffrons des complexes de différentes sortes. On se bat au nom de la religion, du couleur de peau, de l'argent, du pouvoir. Enfin compte, chaque personne, chaque nationalité ne diffère qu'un niveau de la langue, des coutumes, des habitudes, de la manière de vivre, car plus on change, plus on est le même. Mais au fond, nous sommes tous des êtres-humaines avec les mêmes volontés, désirs et sentiments. Il ne nous reste qu'à traverser les murs que nous avons construits nous-mêmes pour nous trouver. Mais d'abord, il faut que nous, nous sachions notre propre coutume et il faut y tenir avant de pouvoir comprendre leur d'un étranger. Si seulement on pouvait aller au-delà des barrières artificielles, le monde serait un paradis.

*Shalini N*  
*II B. Sc. Zoology*

## UNE FOIS POUR TOUTES

Cher Papa,  
Mangeons un morceau de réalité,  
La mascarade est terminée  
Quand l'inévitable est proche ...  
Nos châteaux se coulent

Quand la foi est un mirage  
Et votre identité est ambiguë ...  
Mon émotion semble usée  
Comme le monde.

Avec les mêmes gens et les mêmes mensonges,  
Pas de mascarade pour moi Papa!

*Aparna John*  
*II B.A. Eng. Lit.*

# HINDI

## नसीब

कहाँ-कहाँ ले जाता है  
यह नसीब  
ऊँचे-नीचे पथरीले रास्ते  
दिखलाता है नसीब  
कभी आहत तो  
कभी राहत दिलाता है  
नसीब..... ।

एस.के. प्रीता 93/PH/54

## नारी

नारी....  
यह शब्द है ऐसा  
जीवन रस से भरा हो जैसा ।  
सिर्फ शब्द नहीं,  
यह एक शक्ति है  
जब यह चाहे  
दुनिया बदल सकती है -  
रूप इसके हैं अनेक  
और यह हर साँचे में ढले  
वीणा की सरगम-सी यह बनी  
जब छेड़ दो कोई सुर  
आए मधुर ध्वनि,  
दुख-पीड़ा सह जाए  
जख्म कोई न दिखाए  
सहनशीलता की है मिसाल  
जन-प्रगति की है बुनियाद ।

रुचिका 93/FA/34

## काबू

रामू ने शामू को अपनी कम्पनी में काम दिलाया और समझाया कि तुम्हें बहुत कुछ सीखना है। शामू ने रामू से पूछा - “मुझे क्या-क्या सीखना होगा?”

शामू के प्रश्न पर रामू ने कहा “पहली बात यह है कि तुम्हें अपने पर काबू रखना होगा।” शामू ने सिर हिलाते हुए हानी भरी। रामू ने फिर कहा - “तुम्हें अपने पर काबू रखना होगा।” इस बार शामू चिढ़ गया और जोर से बोला - “ठीक है भाई, अब दूसरी बात बताओ.....?”

रामू ने फिर कहा - “तुम्हें अपने पर काबू रखना होगा।”

शामू क्रुद्ध हो चीख उठा - “..... और ....।” रामू ने सहजता से कहा - “अभी काम पर गए एक दिन भी नहीं हुआ है ....।”

मोनिका मेरी

93/MT/50

## कहानी

### बरसात

दूर कहीं घंटी बज रही है ... इसका एक ही मतलब था - फिर सवेरा हो गया था। ओफ! यह क्या बोझ है जिन्दगी का? ऐसे न जाने कितने दिन बीत चुके थे ... सवेरा, दोपहर और शाम, फिर सवेरा। वही कमरा, वही खिड़की। उसी खिड़की के कारण मैं जिन्दा हूँ ... कहीं दूर से वह रोशनी की एक किरण मेरी अंधेरी जीवन में लाती है। दीवारों के इस जेल में बैठे बैठे दो लंबे वर्ष बीत चुके थे। रोज एक बार मैं खिड़की खोलता और क्या देखता ऊपर घर का रवि काम पर निकल रहा है, मेरा पुराना दोस्त रामू भी दफ्तर जा रहा है ... और मैं ... मैं तो नालायक ठहरा। फिर मैं उस मनहूस दिन की याद करता, जब मेरी परीक्षा के परिणाम निकले और मैं पास भी नहीं हो सका। वह दो साल पहले की बात है ... तब से यह वनवास। सब जीवन में आगे निकल चुके थे मुन्ना कालेज की पढ़ाई कर रहा था, रीमा डाक्टर बन चुकी थी ... और मैं ... मैं तो एक मरुस्थल हूँ। ऐसा मरुस्थल जहाँ पानी नहीं, जहाँ पौधे नहीं, जहाँ सिर्फ रेत के कण हैं ... सब अनुपयोगी मेरी तरह। मैं कुछ नहीं कर सकता ... कुछ नहीं। दो साल बीत चुके हैं; इन दो सालों में मैंने किसी से बातें नहीं की। कभी कभी ऐसा लगता है जैसे मेरी आवाज़ में अप्रयोग के कारण जंग चढ़ गया हो।

मेरे चारों ओर गंदगी ही गंदगी है। यहाँ मकड़े हैं, चिपकलियाँ हैं क्या कुछ नहीं है यहाँ? यह जानवर भी कुछ न कुछ करते हैं, सिर्फ मैं ही एक हूँ जो कुछ नहीं कर पाया। कोई डॉक्टर बन चुका है ... कोई वकील और मैं ... ओह! मैं एक भिखारी भी नहीं बन पाऊँगा। संसार आगे निकल चुका है

और मैं पीछे रह गया हूँ। माँ के उन आँसुओं में ही मेरा जीवन अटका है। लेकिन मैं कैसा बेटा निकला ना रिमा की तरह डॉक्टर, ना अनिल की तरह वकील। ऐसी जिन्दगी से मृत्यु ही बेहतर है। यही सोच कुछ दिनों से मुझे खाती जा रही है। हाँ! आत्महत्या ही मेरी बीमारी का इलाज है ... मौत ही मेरी बेचैनी को चैन में बदल सकता है ... हाँ मौत ... सिर्फ मौत। इन्हीं विचारों में डूबे न जाने मैं कब सो गया। जब उठा तो शाम हो चुकी थी। शायद यह मेरी जिन्दगी की आखरी शाम थी। अब मैं बोझ नहीं बनूँगा। मन की इन्हीं आवाजों के बीच एक और आवाज बोलने लगी; वह मुझे बार बार कायर कह रही है। वह कहती 'कोई भी मर सकता है, क्या तुममे जीने की हिम्मत है?' नहीं। मुझमें यह हिम्मत नहीं...मैं कायर हूँ ... आखिर मरुस्थल में उग भी क्या सकता है। सब मृगतृष्णा है। मौत ही मेरे अर्थहीन जीवन को अर्थ दे सकती है। अब मन में एक बार सबको देखने की इच्छा हुई। माँ, रोमा, दीदी, मुन्ना, प्रिया भाभी, अनिल भैया और मेरा भतीजा राज, अब तो वह पाँच साल का हो चुका होगा।

मैंने धीरे से दरवाजा खोला सब अपने अपने काम में व्यस्त हैं। पास के कमरे में मेरा पांच वर्षीय भतीजा कुछ चित्र बना रहा है। हमारे पड़ोस की बुढ़िया उसके चित्रों को घूर-घूर कर देख रहा है। मैं घबराया। इसी बुढ़िया ने मुझे ताने सुनाये ... इसी ने पहली बार कहा कि मैं नालायक हूँ ... अब वह राज से क्या ...। तभी वह बोली, 'राज बेटा, चित्र तो तुम अच्छे बना लेते हो ... अगर तोड़ी सी मेहनत और करते तो अपने मुन्ना भैया से भी अच्छे चित्रकार बन सकते हो'। राज ने उत्तर दिया 'लेकिन मैं मुन्ना भैया से अच्छा चित्रकार नहीं बनना चाहता!' 'लेकिन क्यों?' पूछी बुढ़िया 'मैं चित्र इसलिए बनाता हूँ कि वह मुझे अच्छा लगता है। इसलिए नहीं कि मैं मुन्ना भैया से अच्छे चित्र बनाऊँ। मेरे चित्र मेरे हैं मुझे पसंद हैं। मेरी तुलना आप किसी से मत कीजिए क्योंकि मैं मैं हूँ ... कोई और राज नहीं बन सकता।' यह कहके वह फिर से चित्र में डूब गया।

मैं चकित रह गया। जो राज जानता है, वह मैं नहीं जानता। मैं मैं हूँ ... रोमा या अनिल नहीं। यही तो जीवन का राज है। जब शक्ति मुझमें है तो बाहरी बातों का क्या महत्व? शायद मैं डाक्टर या वकील नहीं बन सकता, लेकिन मैं कुछ तो कर सकता हूँ ... कुछ तो होगा मुझमें मैं अपनी तुलना दूसरों से क्यों करूँ? मैं अपने लिए जीऊँगा, दूसरों के लिए नहीं। आत्महत्या नहीं, बल्कि आत्मविश्वास की जरूरत है मुझे। मैं जीवन का सामना करूँगा। मैं कमरे से निकला। सब चौंककर मेरी ओर देख रहे थे। "मैं कर दिखाऊँगा, माँ" कहकर मैंने माँ को गले लगाया। माँ रो पड़ी ... ना जाने कब पर मैं भी रो पड़ा। मैं मरुस्थल जरूर हूँ ... लेकिन क्या आप जानते नहीं है ... मरुस्थल में भी कभी बरसात होती है ... वहाँ भी कभी पौधे उगते हैं। खैर! आज मेरे मरुस्थल-रूपी जीवन की बरसात की रात है। शायद कल यहाँ हरी फसल पैदा हो!

अनुपमा शेखर II B.A. Eng. Litt.

## खौफनाक हादसा (संस्मरण)

अपनी एक सहेली का घर दूँदते समय, मैं एक बगीचे से गुजर रही थी। अचानक मेरा ध्यान छोटे से लड़के की ओर आकर्षित हुआ, जो, “दीदी फैकों ना, फैको ना गेंद...” चिल्ला रहा था। थोड़ा पास गयी तो देखा, एक चार-पाँच साल का लड़का अपनी नौ-दस साल की बहन के साथ खेल रहा था। उस दृश्य ने मेरे मन में हजारों पुरानी यादें ताजा कर दीं।

वह खौफनाक घटना जो मैंने मन में दबाए रखी थी, एक बार फिर हरी हो गयी। पत्थर की मूर्ति की तरह मैं उसी जगह सन्न खड़ी रही। गाल आँसुओं से भीग गये। वह गोल मटोल सा छोटा लड़का बिलकुल मेरे छोटे भाई का हमशक्ल था। वह बड़ी-बड़ी आखें, लाल-लाल गाल, छोटी-छोटी उँगलियाँ, सब ने मुझे अपने छोटे भाई रोहित की याद दिलायीं। पाँच वर्ष की उम्र में रोहित भी मुझे वैसे ही “दीदी-दीदी” करके पुकारता था।

रोज शाम को रोहित और मैं घर के सामने वाले बाग में खेलने चले जाते। हमारे कुछ दोस्त भी अक्सर वहाँ आया करते थे। बाग के दूसरी तरफ एक बड़ी सड़क थी जिसपर भारी वाहन चलते थे। माँ ने हमें उस तरह जाने से मना किया था।

एक शाम को सिर्फ मैं और रोहित बाग में गेंद खेल रहे थे। पिछली रात जोरदार बारिश हुई थी और इसी कारण बगीचा अब भी कई जगहों से गीला था। रोहित और मैं सड़क के किनारे खेलने लगे क्योंकि सिर्फ वही जगह थोड़ी सूखी थी।

बगीचे में खेल रहे उन दोनों बच्चों की तरह हम भी मजे उठा रहे थे, जब चकाचक, मैं थोड़ी फिसल गयी और मेरे हाथ से गेंद छूटकर सड़क पर लुढ़क गयी। मैंने उसे रोकने की कोशिश की पर, रोहित गेंद के पीछे-पीछे भागा। सड़क पर तेजी से एक ट्रक आ रहा था, ड्राइवर ने ब्रेक लगाने की कोशिश की, पर सड़क गीली होने के कारण ट्रक पूरी तरह रुक नहीं सका। मेरे आँखों के सामने ट्रक रोहित से टकरा गया। बाद में क्या हुआ मुझे ठीक से याद नहीं क्योंकि मैं बेहोश हो गयी थी।

भगवान की कृपा से मेरा भाई बच गया पर उसे काफी गहरी चोटें आयी। आज तक वह थोड़ा लड़खड़ाते हुए चलता है। न जाने क्यों मैं आज तक अपने आप को उस हादसे का जिम्मेदार मानती हूँ। बगीचे में खेलते उन दोनों बच्चों ने मुझे कहानी याद दिला दी। जैसे ही मैं उन्हें देखकर मुड़ी, की मुझे लड़की की चीख सुनायी दी - बिना सोचे समझे मैं दौड़ कर गयी और भागते लड़के को अपनी बाहों में ले लिया और रोने लग गयी। लड़का और उसकी बहन काफी आश्चर्य से मेरी ओर देखते लगे। असल में हुआ यह था, कि लड़की के पैर पर कीड़ा चढ़ गया था और लड़का उसे भगाने के लिए दौड़ा गया। मेरा वहाँ भाग कर आना वे न समझे - क्या आप समझे ?

नूपुर शंकर

II B.A. Fine Arts

## कहानी

### बरसात

दूर कहीं घंटी बज रही है ... इसका एक ही मतलब था - फिर सवेरा हो गया था। ओफ! यह क्या बोझ है जिन्दगी का? ऐसे न जाने कितने दिन बीत चुके थे ... सवेरा, दोपहर और शाम, फिर सवेरा। वही कमरा, वही खिड़की। उसी खिड़की के कारण मैं जिन्दा हूँ ... कहीं दूर से वह रोशनी की एक किरण मेरी अंधेरी जीवन में लाती है। दीवारों में इस जेल में बैठे बैठे दो लंबे वर्ष बीत चुके थे। रोज़ एक बार मैं खिड़की खोलता और क्या देखता ऊपर घर का रवि काम पर निकल रहा है, मेरा पुराना दोस्त रामू भी दफ़्तर जा रहा है ... और मैं ... मैं तो नालायक ठहरा। फिर मैं उस मनहूस दिन की याद करता, जब मेरी परीक्षा के परिणाम निकले और मैं पास भी नहीं हो सका। वह दो साल पहले की बात है ... तब से यह वनवास। सब जीवन में आगे निकल चुके थे मुन्ना कालेज की पढ़ाई कर रहा था, रीमा डाक्टर बन चुकी थी ... और मैं ... मैं तो एक मरुस्थल हूँ। ऐसा मरुस्थल जहाँ पानी नहीं, जहाँ सिर्फ रेत के कण हैं ... सब अनुपयोगी मेरी तरह। मैं कुछ नहीं कर सकता ... कुछ नहीं। दो साल बीत चुके हैं; इन दो सालों में मैंने किसी से बातें नहीं की। कभी कभी ऐसा लगता है जैसे मेरी आवाज़ में अप्रयोग के कारण जंग चढ़ गया हो।

अब तो वह पांच साल का हो चुका होगा। मैंने धीरे से दरवाज़ा खोला सब अपने अपने काम में व्यस्त हैं। पास के कमरे में मेरा पांच वर्षीय भतीजा कुछ चित्र बना रहा है। हमारे पड़ोस की बुढ़िया उसके चित्रों को घूर-घूर कर देख रहा है। मैं घबराया। इसी बुढ़िया ने मुझे ताने सुनाये इसी ने पहली बार कहा कि मैं नालायक हूँ ... अब वह राज से क्या ... तभी वह बोली, 'राज बेटा चित्र तो तुम अच्छे बना लेते हो ... अगर तोड़ी सी मेहनत और करते तो अपने मुन्ना भैया से भी अच्छे चित्रकार बन सकते हो'। राज ने उत्तर दिया 'लेकिन मैं मुन्ना भैया से अच्छा चित्रकार नहीं बनना चाहता!' 'लेकिन क्यों?' 'मैं चित्र इसलिए बनाता हूँ कि वह मुझे अच्छा लगता है। इसलिए नहीं कि मैं मुन्ना भैया से अच्छे चित्र बनाऊँ। मेरे चित्र मेरे हैं मुझे पसंद हैं। मेरी तुलना आप किसी से मत कीजिए क्योंकि मैं मैं हूँ ... कोई और राज नहीं बन सकता।' यह कहके वह फिर से चित्र में डूब गया।

मैं चकित रह गया। जो राज जानता है, वह मैं नहीं जानता। मैं मैं हूँ ... रोमा या अनिल नहीं। यही तो जीवन का राज है। जब शक्ति मुझमें है तो बाहरी बातों का क्या महत्व? शायद मैं डाक्टर या वकील नहीं बन सकता, लेकिन मैं कुछ तो कर सकता हूँ ... कुछ तो होगा मुझमें मैं अपनी तुलना दूसरों से क्यों करूँ? मैं अपने लिए जीऊँगा दूसरों के लिए नहीं। आत्महत्या नहीं, बल्कि आत्मविश्वास मेरे चारों ओर गंदगी ही गंदगी है। यहाँ मकड़े हैं, चिपकलियाँ हैं क्या कुछ नहीं



है यहाँ। यह जानवर भी कुछ न कुछ करते हैं, सिर्फ मैं ही एक हूँ जो कुछ नहीं कर पाया। कोई डॉक्टर बन चुका है ... कोई वकील और मैं ... ओहा! मैं एक भिखारी भी नहीं बन जाऊँगा। संसार आगे निकल चुका है और मैं पीछे रह गया हूँ। माँ के उन आँसुओं में ही मेरा जीवन अटका है। लेकिन मैं कैसा बेटा निकला ना रीमा की तरह डॉक्टर, ना अनिल की तरह वकील। ऐसी जिन्दगी से मृत्यु ही बेहतर है। यही सोच कुछ दिनों से मुझे खाती जा रही है। हाँ! आत्महत्या ही मेरी बीमारी का इलाज है ... मौत ही मेरी बेचैनी को चैन में बदल सकता है ... हाँ मौत ... सिर्फ मौत। इन्हीं विचारों में डूबे न जाने मैं कब सो गया। जब उठा तो शाम हो चुकी थी। शायद यह मेरी जिन्दगीकी आखरी शाम थी। अब मैं बोझ नहीं बनूँगा। मन की इन्हीं आवाज़ों के बीच एक और आवाज़ बोलने लगी वह मुझे बार बार कायर कह रही कहती है। वह कहता 'कोई भी मर सकता है, क्या तुममे जीने की हिम्मत है?' नहीं। मुझमें यह हिम्मत नहीं ... मैं कायर हूँ ... आखिर मरुस्थल में उग भी क्या सकता है। सब मृगतृष्णा है। मौत ही मेरे अर्थहीन जीवन को अर्थ दे सकती है।

अब मन में एक बार सबको देखने की इच्छा हुई। माँ, रोमा दीदी, मुन्ना, प्रिया भाभी, अनिल भैया और मेरा भतीजा राज की जरूरत है मुझे। मैं जीवन का सामना करूँगा। मैं कमरे से निकला सब चौंककर मेरी ओर देख रहे थे। "मैं कर दिखाऊँगा, माँ" कहकर मैंने माँ को गले लगाया। माँ रो पड़ी ... ना जाने कब मैं भी रो पड़ा। मैं मरुस्थल जरूर हूँ ... लेकिन क्या आप जानते नहीं है ... मरुस्थल में भी कभी बरसात होती है ... वहाँ भी कभी पौधे उगते हैं? खैर! आज मेरे जीवन मरुस्थल की बरसात की रात है। शायद कल यहाँ हरी फसल पैदा हो!

☆☆☆

अनुपमा शेखर  
II B.A. Eng. Lit.

# STELLA MARIS COLLEGE

(Autonomous)

MADRAS - 86

## List of Overall Percentage of Passes

April 1994

Sl.No.	Department	Appeared	Passed	Percentage
<b>UNDER GRADUATE</b>				
1.	History	60	45	75.00
2.	Sociology	57	34	59.65
3.	Economics	61	52	85.25
4.	Fine Arts	39	28	71.79
5.	English	61	45	73.77
6.	Commerce	73	65	89.04
7.	Mathematics	58	43	74.14
8.	Physics	47	37	78.72
9.	Chemistry	35	33	94.29
10.	Botany	55	41	74.55
11.	Zoology	53	40	75.47
<b>POST GRADUATE</b>				
12.	Economics	26	17	65.38
13.	English	33	26	78.79
14.	Fine Arts	8	7	87.50
15.	Social Work	24	19	79.16
16.	Mathematics	26	15	57.69

**Statement about ownership & other particulars about the newspaper Stella Maris College Magazine  
to be published in the first issue every year after the last day of February**

**Form IV - (See Rule 8)**

1. Place of Publication ... 19, Cathedral Road, Madras - 600 086
2. Periodicity of Publication ... Annual
3. Printer's Name ... R. Surianarayanan  
Whether Citizen of India ... Citizen of India  
(if foreigner, state the country of origin) ...  
Address ... 213, Valluvar Kottam High Road,  
Madras - 600 034
4. Publisher's Name ... Dr. Sr. Annamma Phillip, F.M.M., Ph.D  
Whether Citizen of India ... Citizen of India  
(if foreigner, state the country of origin) ...  
Address ... 19, Cathedral Road, Madras - 600 086
5. Editor's Name ... Dr. Sr. Annamma Phillip, F.M.M., Ph.D  
Whether Citizen of India ... Citizen of India  
(if foreigner, state the country of origin) ...  
Address ... 19, Cathedral Road, Madras - 600 086
6. Name and addresses of individuals who own the  
newspaper and partners or shareholders holding  
more than one percent of the total Capital ... Stella Maris College, Madras - 600 086

I, Annamma Phillip, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date : 1.3.95

Signature of Publisher : Sr. Annamma Phillip, F.M.M., Ph.D.

---

Printed by R. Surianarayanan at Gnanodaya Press, 213, Valluvar Kottam High Road, Madras - 600 034  
Published by Dr. Sr. Annamma Phillip at 19, Cathedral Road, Madras - 600 086 Editor : Dr. Sr. Annamma Phillip

**GNANODAYA PRESS**  
Madras - 600 034  
Phone : 826 5750