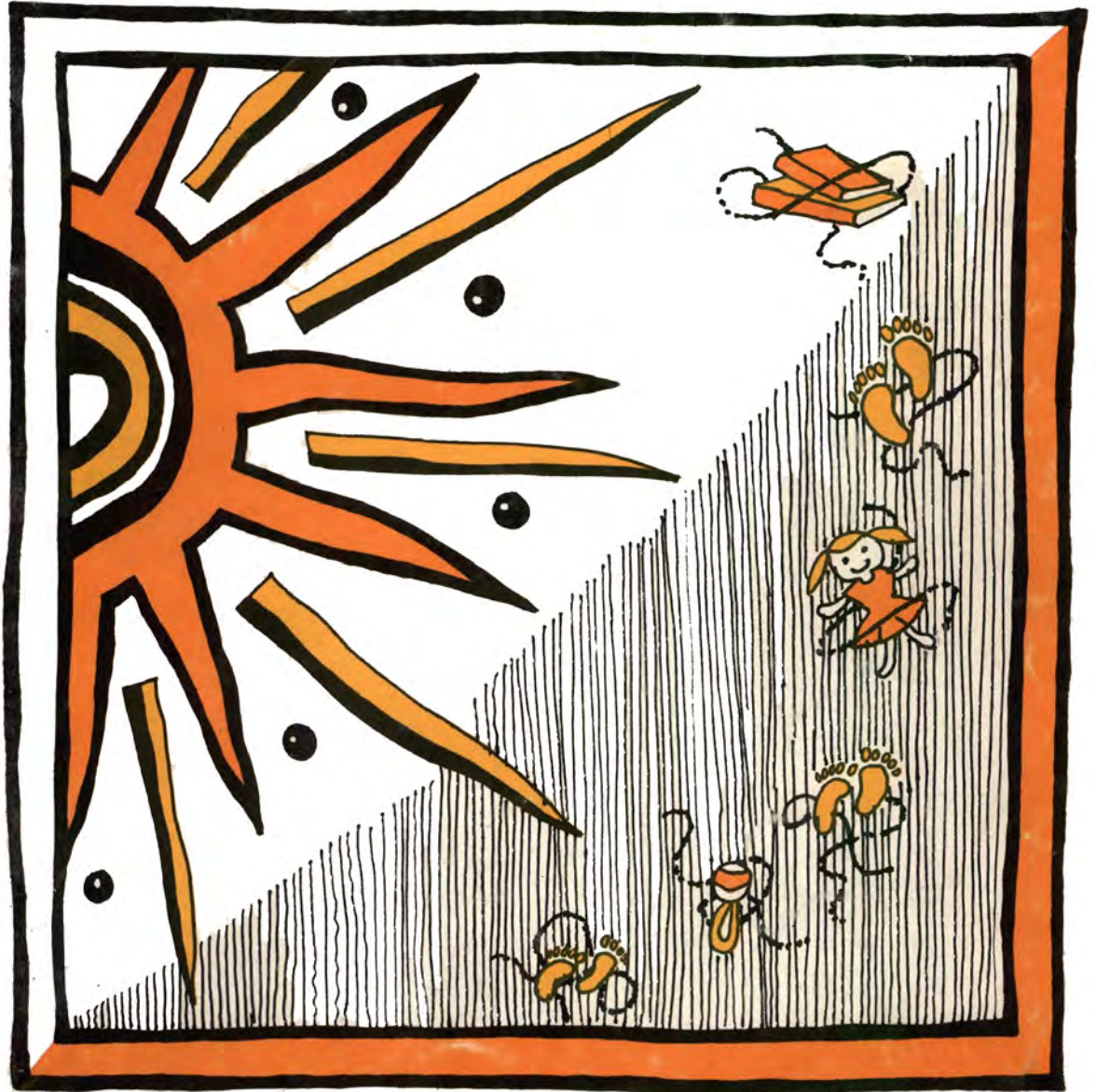
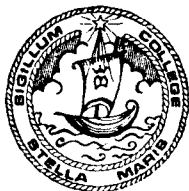


STELLA MARIS COLLEGE



1995~96



Stella Maris College

(Autonomous)

Madras - 600 086

1996

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*Here I come, O Lord,
Here I come just like a child.*

*Just like a child who trusts his father dear
And who delights to feel his presence near,
Just like a child whose mind has not a doubt,
And whose heart is never proud.*

*Just like a child so weak he cannot stand,
But who holds firm and tight his mother's hand,
Just like a child who sings in bright daylight,
Fearing not the long dark night.*

A Leader Speaks



Sr. Mary Rose
Provincial Superior

Pre-novice Mistress - Novice Mistress - Superior
- Sr. Mary Rose has played many parts. Our Madras Province now enjoys her leadership as Provincial Superior. On our alumnae list, she was a student and teacher in the Department of Fine Arts. As a person she is simple, approachable, fun-loving, creative – she comes from a musical background and is herself a gifted musician. College magazine asked her to share her reflections on the theme of the child and . . .

I am but a child
Don't you see my tender face,
my unskilled soft hands?
Don't you see my sparkling eyes,
dancing with joy?

I am but a child
Don't you sense my desire to run and play?
Don't you feel me bursting with energy?

I am but a child
I need to ask questions
I need to learn

I am but a child
I have a place in your world
I have a part to play - though

I am but a child
Do not crush me with a load of work
With a load of unintelligent homework
I plead with you my dear Elders
Allow me to blossom
Allow me to enjoy my childhood-for
I am but a child.

Sr. Mary Rose, f.m.m.

Editorial

*What is it to be a child
to be a child now,
to be the keeper of innocence
(when knowledge is burning a hole in the ozone layer)
to be the upholder of dreams
(when reality throws its strangling shadow on survival)
to be the anchor of human destiny
(when the future could be an emission of nuclear waste)?*

Yes. It is courage to be a child.

Infanticide, discrimination, ecological imbalance, sexual abuse, nuclear disasters, malnutrition --- yet, we have the courage to be children. All is in human endurance, in human will, in the power to strive -- and all encapsulated in the miracle seed -- THE CHILD.

We celebrate this being, this tribute to ourselves, perhaps mankind's ultimate reply to the past . . . And the pact is for all time.

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Divya Ramanathan
Ramya Kannan
Nithila Natarajan

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Divya Ramanathan

Stella Maris College (Autonomous), MADRAS 600 086

COLLEGE DAY : March 21, 1996 -- **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**



Our esteemed Chief Guest Dr. R. Natarajan, Director, IIT, Madras, Sr. Mary Rose, Provincial Superior and Chairperson, Governing Body of the College, Dr. Sr. Mary Ann, Secretary of the College, Sr. Christine, Vice-President of the Society of the *fmm*. Stella Maris Convent, Respected members of the Governing Body, Academic Council and Building Committee, dear parents, valued friends and benefactors of the college, dedicated members of the faculty, administrative and supportive staff and dear students.

It is with a sense of awe that I stand before you today, on the eve of our Golden Jubilee year, for, the 49th College Day is an intense moment in the life of an Institution. Almost half a century ago a humble vision mixed with steely determination gradually took shape and has grown to become what you see around you this evening, an Institution dedicated to the cause of Higher Learning, allowing the sweeping winds of change bring fresh creative energy into the process of education. Dr. Sr. Edith Tomory, the first Vice-Principal of the college and the foundress of the department of Fine Arts whom we are privileged to have in our midst is one of those early visionaries.

At the outset I would like to thank Dr. Sr. Merlyn D'Sa, our former Provincial Superior and Chairperson of the Governing Body, Stella Maris College for her constant encouragement and support. I would also like to welcome Sr. Mary Rose, our new Provincial Superior and Chairperson, Governing Body, Stella Maris College. Having been a faculty member of the department of Fine Arts I am sure that your vision and dynamism will lead us onwards. We were also privileged to have on campus the Assistant Generals of the *fmm*, Sr. Cecily Paul and Sr. Maria Ng, in March '96.

The imperceptible growth and transformation wrought by education is best echoed in the words of Rabindranath Tagore "Hidden in the heart of things thou art nourishing seeds into sprouts, buds into blossoms and ripening flowers into fruitfulness".

We are privileged to accompany the young on the craggy path of life that leads to the shores of knowledge and discovery. This noble task of educating the young women is possible because of the dedication, commitment and love of our faculty members, administrative and supportive staff and the management.

To better the working environment and to provide more spacious infrastructural facilities, we have embarked on the construction of this new block. The three-storey building is taking shape and the second floor is nearing completion. Last year, on the college day held on March 18, 1995, the foundation stone for this building was blessed by His Grace the Most Reverend Dr. Arul Das James and the plaque was unveiled by His Excellency Shri R. Venkataraman, former President of India. I take this opportunity to thank our benefactors, well wishers and faculty members for their generous contributions. I am indeed grateful to the Mulla Gulam Ali and Safiya Bai Dharaliwala Trust, Indian Bank, Nalli Chinnaswami Chetty and Sons, MRF Ltd., the Mrs. Madhuram Narayanan Charitable Trust as well as TVS Group and Lexus Exports. In this connection the college also organised a music programme 'Amritha Varshini' by Mr. Ganghei Amren and troupe on December 7, 1995 at the Kamaraj Memorial Hall, which was coordinated by Mrs. Poppy Kannan and Mrs. Ashrafi Bhagat. I am indeed indebted to you parents and friends for your timely help and support.

Living necessarily means evolving and adapting to the changing trends. We are at a crucial moment heralding yet another sea change here at Stella Maris. As we approach the Golden Jubilee of the college, we intend making certain changes in our curriculum. With the successful completion of 10 years of autonomy we hope to adopt the credit system from the academic year 1997-1998. This process of change necessarily involves a great deal of investment in terms of time and energy on the part of the faculty.

Autonomy has been in existence for about two decades and the UGC (SRO), Hyderabad in its endeavour to improve the quality of higher education, under the able guidance of Dr. K. Gunasekaran, organised a series of five workshops for autonomous colleges in the Southern Region. In this connection the committee working on the introduction of credit system in Stella Maris College with Dr. K. Sundari and Mrs. Jacinta Felon as co-ordinators organised a two day workshop in October 1995 on "Networking of Autonomous Colleges" under the direction of the Principal. Incidentally, we were privileged to have Dr. Natarajan as one of the resource persons of this workshop.

The Autonomy Review Commission appointed by the University of Madras conducted its mid-term review (at the end of 8 years) on the functioning of autonomy in October 1995 (the college became autonomous in 1987).

The last few years have seen a mushrooming of institutions of higher education across the length and breadth of the country. In order to ensure acceptable standards in higher education the UGC has set up the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) at Bangalore. With this as its aim NAAC along with Stella Maris College conducted a workshop on "Accreditation in Higher Education" in September 1995 ably co-ordinated by Dr. Sr. Flavia and Dr. (Mrs.) Ramani.

The annual convocation of the College held on February 9, 1996 saw our young graduates stepping out of the portals of Stella Maris College with their well earned degrees.

Dr. Raja J. Chelliah, Chairman, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi, delivered the convocation address.

At this point I would like to present before you our steady and impressive academic record. The overall percentage of passes are: B.A. Degree - 77%, B.Sc - 84%, B.Com. - 96%, PGDCS - 94%, PGDMLT - 81%, M.A. - 82%, M.Sc. - 96%.

The Alumnae of Stella Maris gathered once again in August 1995 to refresh their memories of the College. Those present included graduates from 1950 onwards. Our Alumnae members have carved a niche for themselves in whatever field they have chosen to be involved in. History is repeating itself with many of them seeing their daughters walk down the corridors of Stella Maris. This is due in no small measure to Dr. Sr. Flavia, Dr. Mrs. Meera Paul and Mrs. Poppy Kannan who have spared no efforts in rejuvenating the alumnae.

Permit me now to place on record our deep appreciation of the services of members of the Stella Maris family.

Dr. Mrs. Meera Paul, Prof. and Head, Department of Zoology, is retiring after 39 years of service. Dedication, commitment and loyalty have been the hallmarks of her character. She has been a pillar of unstinting support to the institution. As Vice-Principal from 1990-1993, Dr. Mrs. Paul has generously shared in the responsibility of college administration. To you Mrs. Paul, I can sincerely say that you have shared the best part of your life with Stella Maris and your retirement will definitely leave a void.

Mrs. T. B. Rajalakshmi, faculty member, Department of Physics has served this institution for 32 years. Unassuming and responsible she carried out her duties in a meticulous manner worthy of emulation. As Associate Controller of Examinations she has contributed to the smooth functioning of the examination unit especially during the initial years under autonomy.

Sr. Celine Paul, our Office Superintendent is retiring after 28 years of service. She has been a tower of strength to this institution and her unflinching efforts and dedicated services have been responsible for the smooth functioning of the college office. The empathy and keen interest she has taken in the welfare of the needy and deserving students is noteworthy. Her enthusiastic involvement in all the ventures of the institution continues undimmed down the years.

Three of our supportive staff, Mr. Shanmugam, Mr. Chelliah and Mr. Raghavan also retired this year. I am grateful to them for having served this institution with a loyalty and dedication that is indeed remarkable.

I would like to place on record our regret at the demise of Mrs. Devamani and Mr. Lourduswamy, members of our supportive staff. Their services to the college will be gratefully remembered.

Untiring in their efforts to impart knowledge some of the faculty members have been called upon to organise and be resource persons at various workshops, seminars and refresher courses.

Teaching and Learning are but two facets of the process of education. The faculty of Stella Maris are ever eager to gain knowledge and seek better pathways in higher education. They are constantly looking for avenues of learning and take time from their academic programme to update themselves as well as to do research and publish papers and articles of interest.

Dr. Madhu Dhawan has contributed immensely to Hindi Literature and is presently engaged in compiling a Hindi Dictionary, a project of the Hindi Prachar Sabha. Dr. Geetha Swaminathan has brought out a 'do it yourself' Water Quality Monitoring Kit which can be used to study the potability and pollution in drinking water. The kits have been distributed to 25 schools and enables students to periodically monitor the quality of water in their neighbourhood. Dr. Arputharani Sengupta held an exhibition, 'Dimensions of Solitude' at the Easel Gallery, Madras in March 1996.

Stella Maris has always been host to Faculty and students from various parts of the world wanting to experience the Indian Education System and Culture.

Dr. Mary John was the project co-ordinator for the academic programme in Social Work for a group of students from Ohio State University, USA. Dr. Hemavathi Sekhar attended a six week summer course in Public Policy in Maryland, USA.

Sr. Leony, *fmm*, was called upon to be a computer consultant at the Generalate of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary in Rome in July 1995.

In this context, I would like to mention a project that is just getting off the ground. As a part of the United States Information Agency, (USIA), College and University Affiliation Programme a mutual faculty exchange programme has been approved between Sinclair Community College, Dayton, Ohio and Stella Maris College. This aims at developing material and programmes for literacy education.

Under the auspices of the United Board for Christian Higher Education (UBCHE) several projects have been successfully undertaken by the College. A team comprising of the President, Dr. David Vikner, Vice-President, Dr. Patricia Magdamo and Dr. Thangaraj, Chairman, India Advisory Committee visited the college and reviewed the progress of the projects.

Mention must be made of the ten day FEEL training programme (Facilitating Excellence for Effective Leadership) organised by Stella Maris for Wardens and Deans from various colleges in Tamil Nadu and conducted by Dr. Sunny Tharappan which evoked an appreciative response.

The Writing Centre established by the Department of English in 1995 and co-ordinated by Dr. Sr. Flavia and six senior faculty members of the department continues to help the students aspire to excellence. The programme has been appreciated by the writing assistants and the beneficiaries.

The departments of Sociology, Economics and Psychology have undertaken a study of the Inter relation between cognizable and non-cognizable offences within the jurisdiction of the Thousand Lights Police Station. The project has entered the second phase and the focus now is on the perception of complainants and non-complainants in the community regarding the role of the police and their effectiveness.

An interdisciplinary project entitled "Leather Industry - its impact on the Environment and Health" involving the departments of Economics, Botany, Chemistry and Zoology has been undertaken. Progress has been made through pilot surveys, field visits and collection of primary data from tanneries. The data is at present being processed and analysed.

The students involved in the Environmental Awareness Programme under the supervision of Dr. Geetha Swaminathan and Mrs. Beulah Vijaykumar have undertaken the analysis of soil and water samples at Nemam, Kuthambakkam and Pammal. Exhibitions were held, campus cleaning undertaken and traffic congestion and patterns were also studied.

The Functional Literacy Programme in the villages of Kuthambakkam and Bana Vedu Thottam is ably co-ordinated by Ms. Chandunissa and Ms. Padma and includes income generating activities such as mat weaving and making detergent powder. Self-help groups have also been organised. Training programmes were conducted for teachers of primary schools in these areas. The 130 student volunteers drawn from various disciplines have been enthusiastic in their participation by visiting the villages regularly. We are grateful to the Indian Bank for supporting this programme.

The movement for establishing gender justice is particularly relevant in a women's institution. 'Ujjwala' the Women's Studies Cell of Stella Maris ably co-ordinated by Dr. K.G. Rama and Dr. Ulaganayaki Palani has been active and mention must be made of the meaningful activities and competitions held in connection with the International Women's Day. Our College has also been selected by the UGC to undertake women's studies programmes.

With a concern for facilitating all round development of the students, various programmes are organised in college such as the Women's Entrepreneurship Development Programme co-ordinated by Mrs. Jesurietta Sathian and the Indian Society for Training and Development Programme co-ordinated by Dr. K. Sundari.

The Foundation Course in 'General Knowledge and Current Affairs' for Undergraduate and Post-graduate students of city colleges, sponsored by Indian Bank and guided by Dr. Sr. Mary John and the Faculty of the Department of History was highly appreciated.

The Culture, and Drug Use / Abuse in Asian Settings - Research for Action Project, sponsored by the International Group for Research on Drug Abuse (GRITO) of the International Federation of Catholic Universities (IFCU), undertaken by the college has completed three and a half years of fruitful work. Under the dynamic leadership of Sr. Christine, the committed core team comprising of the faculty of the college Dr. Cecilia Thangarajan, Dr. Mrs. Prema Bhat and Miss Benita Marian, experts from other institutions and a hardworking field team, the project has undertaken several programmes for three target groups - corporation schools, general community and drug addicts. The thrust of the various inputs is prevention of drug abuse and treatment for drug addicts in the community context through community development and participation.

Our congratulations to Dr. Mrs. Felbin Kennedy and Dr. Mrs. Rukmani Sridharan, Department of Mathematics, Dr. Sr. Collen North, Department of Social Work and Dr. Mrs. Prema Bhat, Department of Psychology, on the successful completion of their doctoral programmes.

Annual events that have become a part of the Stella Maris tradition have been organised. The Dr. J. Thangamani Endowment lecture was delivered by Prof. Krishnaswamy Alladi on "Rogers - Ramanujam Partitions" in August 1995. The Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent Endowment lecture was delivered by Dr. C. T. Kurien on "Women and Work" in September 1995. The Sr. Juliet Irene Intercollegiate Quiz was conducted by the department of Chemistry in February 1996.

Star gazing is not a pastime in Stella Maris but rather reality with the students of the department of Mathematics observing the constellations under the guidance of Mrs. Nalinakshi, Dr. Felbin Kennedy and Ms. Uma Mani. Besides, three faculty members of the Department of Mathematics, Sr. Leony, Dr. Mrs. Felbin Kennedy and Ms. Uma Mani undertook a scientific study, sponsored by the AIACHE of tracing the path of planetary spectacle of the year - the Total Solar eclipse - at Calcutta. The department also conducted a seminar on Astronomy.

The department of Economics organised an inter-departmental workshop for postgraduate students on 'Economic Reforms'.

The 'Broken Lyre', a seminar and visual presentation by the department of English to commemorate the Bicentenary of the poet John Keats was organised in January 1996. A dance performance 'Interpretation of Lamia' and a tableau 'Eve of St. Agnes' enthralled the spell bound audience.

COLLEGE DAY



The Chief Guest Dr. Natarajan with Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, *f.m.m.*,
Sr. Mary Rose, *f.m.m.*, Provincial Superior, Sr. Mary Ann, *f.m.m.*,
Dr. Sr. Flavia, *f.m.m.*, Dr. Mrs. Meena Swamy and Student Union Leaders.



'SHAKTI'



Visit of the Assistant Generals — Sr. Maria Ng, *f.m.m.* and Sr. Cecily Paul, *f.m.m.*

CONVOCATION 1995



Arrival of the Chief Guest Dr. Raja Chelliah with the Principal

The department of Physics conducted a two day programme 'Perceptions- 96' covering a variety of activities such as paper presentations, quiz and debate. The department of Zoology in collaboration with the Animal Welfare Board, Madras branch conducted a one-day seminar on the theme 'Beauty without Cruelty'. A two day seminar 'Crisis in Paradise' was also organised by the department that highlighted the conservation of our environment. The Dr. Salim Ali Centenary celebration created an awareness among school children on the importance of birds in the ecosystem. Tributes were also paid to Dr. Salim Ali by Dr. Cherian of the Zoological Survey of India.

The department of Commerce conducted a three day workshop on 'Basic Issues in Establishing a Business Unit' and two one-day seminars on 'Stock Market - Analysis and Share Price - Movements' and on 'Legal Aspects of Registration of a Small Scale Industry'.

The department of Botany conducted a two day workshop, sponsored by AIACHE, for faculty members from various city colleges. This workshop on Histochemistry, Biochemistry and Photomicrography enabled the participants to have a 'hands on experience' and they were particularly happy with the demonstration at MCC of the Multipurpose Microscope, the only one of its kind in South India.

The department of French had the opportunity of treating 120 participants of the International Conference on 'Francophonie and Literature' held in December '95 at the University of Madras, to a cultural evening at Stella Maris that was highly appreciated.

The Department of Religion and Value Education inculcates in students sound values and strengthens their formation through several meaningful programmes co-ordinated by Sr. Kochutresa and Sr. Sundari.

The Social Awareness Programme (SAP), and the Inter Disciplinary Orientations (IDO), continue to make steady progress. The one-year Preparatory Course helps the academically weak students to take up an undergraduate programme. The Functional English Course for PTC bus conductors continues to evoke an enthusiastic response.

Introduction of Vocational Course at the first degree level provides a job oriented educational programme by offering 'hands on the job' training for the students. The vocational courses offered by the College are Food Science and Quality Control, Functional Hindi and Functional English. The overwhelming enthusiasm shown by the students taking these courses is due to the shared responsibility of Dr. Mrs. Yeshoda Doraiswamy, Dr. Madhu Dhawan, Dr. Padma Seshadri and Mrs. Sharada Bhanu.

The poet Iqbal exhorts 'Go beyond intellect - it is merely a beacon and not a destination'. So too at Stella Maris where academic pursuits are but a means to hone the various faculties at the disposal of the students and bring to fruition their creative talents.

On the sports field our students received many laurels. Under the direction of our Physical Directress, Mrs. Malathi Kumar new sports were included in the choices offered to the students. The college basket ball team bagged the winners trophy at the State Level Inter-collegiate tournaments conducted at Madras, Batlagundu, Padur and Pondicherry. A remarkable victory was won at Namakkal in the state level open tournament.

In other Inter-collegiate tournaments our team members were winners in Tennis and runners-up in Hockey, Handball and Chess. The college team represented the Madras University South Division in basketball, cricket, table-tennis, hockey, shuttle badminton, tennis, chess and athletics and donned the University colours for basketball, cricket, table-tennis, shuttle badminton, athletics, lawn tennis, hockey and base ball.

The general student body too evinced a great interest in major games and sports and inter-year competitions. The high point of the year's sporting activities was the sports day held on February 7, 1996 in the presence of Mrs. and Mr. Ramesh Krishnan, our guests of honour.

The cadets of the NCC wing of Stella Maris College had an action-packed year. In May 1995, Sgt. Uma Sankari joined a mountaineering expedition to Uttarkashi while SUO Padma Priya and Cpls. Abirami and Patricia trekked the Nilgiris.

The National Integration Camps at Amaravathi, Satara and the All India Sikkim Trek Camps were attended by our cadets. Several of our cadets also attended training camps in Tambaram, Tiruchi and Kanchipuram. At various intercollegiate competitions our cadets participated and won trophies including the winners trophy for cross-fire at the state level firing competition held at Loyola College, the cultural shield and General Knowledge and General Service Knowledge trophy at the Sainik Dawath '96 held by New College and the 'Cado Utsav '96' at a state level NCC meet organised by Loyola College.

Cadet Mohana Rupa qualified to participate in the Basic Leadership Camp at New Delhi. The Republic Day camp at New Delhi was attended by three of our cadets Cdt. Anuradha Menon, Naval Cdt. Taranum Nadaph and Flt. Cdt. Hariet Edwards. I am proud to say that four of our air cadets have completed their solos.

The NCC day held in February '96 was the crowning glory of a full year of activities and, the climax was a splendid performance by the newly organised music band of our NCC wing. Dr. Felbin Kennedy, NCC Officer-in-charge instills in her cadets discipline and a sense of responsibility.

The NSS unit under the able co-ordination of Ms. Prabhavathy Nair, started its activities with 236 students enrolled as volunteers. A total of fifteen project areas were chosen as placements for rendering services to various sections of society.

Broadly classified under Educational and Guidance Services, the projects include normal and special schools for children, the handicapped, the visually and hearing impaired,

orphanages and institutions for street children. The activities include scribing sessions for the blind students during their examinations and scribing on request has now become a regular feature of the NSS.

Special programmes during the year included participation in National Savings and AIDS Awareness Programmes, Blood Donation Camps, involvement in programmes such as World Elders day and the Inaugural function of the South Zone Cultural Festival, South Asian Federation Games, Polio Vaccination campaigns and special camping programmes.

The NSS Day was celebrated in February 1996 and enabled the volunteers to extend their hospitality to all those who helped them render fruitful service. A powerful street play entitled "Pachai Mannu" was performed by a group "Mauna Kural". The performance was well appreciated and the message of awareness regarding female infanticide was effectively conveyed.

In their eagerness to take Indian culture across the oceans our students do not lag behind. Ms. Mitcy Fernando of I B.Sc. Physics visited Taiwan under the auspices of the World Vision Youth Ambassador Programme. She was also a special invitee to the 'U.S.A. - Chapel Dedication Function' at Monrovia, U.S.A.

Ms. Nithila Natarajan of I M.A. Economics visited the International Culture Centre in France organised by the Lions Club in July 1995. Ms. Bhuvanewari of III B.A. Economics gave dance recitals in the U.S.A., France and Indonesia. Ms. Mary Archana Edwards acted in a play organised by the Madras Players in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The students union under the guidance of Deans of Students Affairs, Dr. Sr. Colleen North, Dr. Mrs. Ramaa Narayanan and Mrs. Beulah Vijaykumar, have spent a creative and fulfilling year. The office bearers of the students union, Aarti Singh, Ray Simon, Deepa John, Zareen Isaac, Miriam Mathew and Sheena Joy, have taken special efforts to ensure that every tradition was celebrated in a unique and meaningful manner inspired by their motto 'Believe, Begin and Blaze On'. The 14 clubs on campus met periodically and conducted their activities with enthusiasm.

The Stella Maris unit of the SPIC Macay Madras Chapter hosted two concerts in October 1995 and February 1996. Our students participated in various competitions conducted in the city and won several trophies which are too numerous to enumerate. The Inter year competitions, 'Odyssey', signifying a voyage of discovery, was held in September '95 and served to promote the aesthetic talents and organisation skills among students. The two day student seminar 'Khoj' organised in February 1996 focused on various facets of India and sought to divine the depths of our motherland. The august panel of speakers not only gave a glimpse of India but also an objective insight into the controversial issues both political and social that are current and topical.

The annual feature of a college play took on a new dimension this year with the students directing and organising the entire programme. 'The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man in the Moon Marigolds' by Paul Zindel directed by Zarin Isaac and presented at the Museum Theatre on March 4 and 5, 1996 received critical acclaim. The Union Day celebrated on March 2, 1996 brought a fun-filled yet meaningful end to a year of activities.

While our students excel in the arena of sports and games, NCC and NSS their interest and proficiency in other extra-curricular activities continue unabated.

Maria Sangeetha Sanjevi of III B.A. History won the SAARC Quiz conducted by the All India Radio in which there were participants from 9 other cities of India. Ms. Preetha Srinivasan of Fine Arts is an active member of the Street Theatre group 'Mauna Kural' and participated in the National Workshop on Women and Theatre 'Kulavai' in February 1996.

The II year postgraduate students of the department of Fine Arts held an exhibition at the Values Art Gallery, Madras. The department also organised workshops conducted by professionals in jewellery design, life drawing and leather work.

The II M.A. students of the department of Social Work showed keen interest in the skill training programmes organised for them. They attended a 9 day residential programme on street theatre conducted by Fr. Sauri of 'Nesakkaram' and also won the second place at the street play competition organised by the Indian University Federation for Women. The I M.A. students of the department underwent a training programme in Puppetry conducted by Mr. Amal. The students of the department also assisted the government in the Nation wide Polio Immunisation Programme as well as participated in 'Arivoli Iyakkam' by conducting a survey on illiteracy and child labour organised by the Corporation of Madras.

The annual publications of the College Magazine, "Khilte Kalyan" the Hindi Magazine, "Akbaar" the Hindi Journal, "Ankur" the Journal of the Economics Department as well as three issues of the "Stella Times" were published this year. The students thus displayed their remarkable journalistic and creative talents.

The multifarious activities and events on our campus in the past year would not have been possible without the unstinting support of our faculty members, administrative and supportive staff to whom I owe a debt of gratitude.

Guided by Sr. Celine Paul, the committed team of administrative staff facilitate the smooth working of the college office. The quiet and meticulous manner in which Sr. Ann Mathew handles the financial affairs of the college deserves a special word of appreciation. A special feature this year was a training programme for the administrative staff on Personality Development and Management Skills.

To Dr. Geetha Swaminathan, Controller of Examinations, Mrs. Sushila Felix and the staff of the Examination Office goes the credit of the efficient conduct of examinations and

Rich Harvests and Ripe Grain : A Tribute to our Retiring Staff

Sr. Celine Paul

'Life is a special gift from God and one should show one's love to God by helping others', says Sr. Celine Paul, our Office Superintendent, who has been ably managing one of the toughest jobs in the college --- handling the Pay and Accounts Office since 1968.

Generous, outgoing, helpful and dynamic, Sr. Celine Paul has rendered valuable help and guidance, on several occasions, to students, faculty, the non-teaching and supportive staff.

Working quietly behind the scenes, she is the epitome of responsibility and care. Faithful to her duty she carried out her tasks with great sincerity. We will always remember her with gratitude and we pray to God that He may bless her with good health, peace and happiness.



Dr. Mrs. Meera Paul

An extremely approachable person, an efficient head, an eloquent speaker and a very good teacher - all rolled into one - that and more is Dr. Meera Paul. Colleagues and students, both past and present are indebted to her for the sound values she imparted in all that she said and did.

Dr. Mrs. Meera Paul, Head of the Department of Zoology, has been on the faculty since 1957 and is synonymous with the department. She has spent the major part of life serving the college.

Dr. Meera Paul has served on various committees in Stella Maris and was Vice-Principal from 1989-'92. She was instrumental in raising funds for large endowments in her department and is an active member of the Alumnae. The endowment funds established in the name of Dr. Mrs. Meera Paul speak volumes of the love, gratitude and respect of her students and friends who contributed generously.

What is really striking about Mrs. Paul is that she is very unassuming. With gratitude, we wish the teacher abundant peace, contentment and good health in her retired life.

Mrs. Rajalakshmi

A rare combination of firmness and flexibility, dignity and simplicity. Mrs. Rajalakshmi of the Department of Physics is a systematic, meticulous, efficient and clear-headed person. Considered a walking encyclopedia of Practical Physics, she is adored by her students, and respected by her colleagues as a teacher of teachers.

Mrs. Rajalakshmi joined Stella Maris College in 1966 and her contribution to the department and college, since then, has been invaluable. She has assisted as Associate Controller of Examination after the college became autonomous.

A lucid and patient teacher, Mrs. Rajalakshmi's quiet dedication to her profession has endeared her to many. We wish her happiness and contentment in the years ahead.



Mr. Shanmugam

Mr. Shanmugam who joined the institution in 1966 has served the Dept. of Chemistry and the Examination Valuation Centre. A meticulous and committed worker he had the ability to face problems with courage and fortitude.

Mr. Chelliah

Punctual and cheerful, Mr. Chelliah has served the Library, the Main Block and the Botany Dept. since 1970. Quiet and unassuming he was always willing to work and enjoyed a very good rapport with his colleagues, staff and students.



Mr. Raghavan

Since 1973 Mr. Raghavan has served the Dept. of Physics and has proved to be an obliging and dependable person. Simple and God-fearing, Mr. Raghavan will be remembered for his keen sense of responsibility and duty.

Shraddhanjali

Sr. Sylvestra

Sr. Sylvestra of the Department of Fine Arts is remembered fondly to this day. She was a simple but very charming and endearing person. Her face was always lit with a smile and her lips were always in prayer. An Austrian by birth, India held a special significance for her and she identified herself with our country till her death in April 1996.

She was very orderly and meticulous in her work. Her paintings were crafted with great dexterity and exquisite detail. Her painting of the Madonna, that adorns the staff room presently, retains its glow to this day. Her skill in calligraphy was known to those to whom she wrote. Even lengthy letters retained an overall sense of design and harmony. Her inner person was harmonious and she possessed a kind of heightened piety. Her warm humanity was particularly evident in a truly Franciscan love of animals. She would go without food herself rather than see animals starve.



Her meticulous craftsmanship, skill in calligraphy and deep faith conjure up a picture of the medieval monk - only those men walked through Cloisters in the distant past and are mere handed down images for us. But Sr. Sylvestra was a very vivacious and spontaneous person who worked with students in the recent past.

Even her absence is a powerful presence.

*Faculty Members,
Dept. of Fine Arts.*

Biny Cherian



Her understanding smile and approachability are what she is remembered for. Biny Cherian who met with a tragic end at the Ferozabad train accident was known for her infectious enthusiasm. A student of the Department of Mathematics at Stella Maris College from 1991 to 1994 and a hostelite, Biny was the Vice-President of the Students' Union.

She cheerfully and generously shared her time and talent and always found that extra moment to reach out a helping hand. Her faith in God and respect for elders and friends endeared her to faculty and fellow students.

Biny, we miss you,

Bereaved Friends

வருந்துகிறோம்

நி. த. சிந்தாமணி, இளம் பருவத்திலேயே இக்கல்லூரியில், பணியில் சேர்ந்து, ஏறக்குறைய இருபத்துநான்கு ஆண்டுகளாக, ஆசிரியர் அல்லாத பணியாளராகப் பணியாற்றியுள்ளார். சற்றே நிதானமாகப் பணியாற்றினாலும், அமைதியாகத் தன் கடமையைச் செய்தவர். 7-3-'96 இல் சாலை விபத்தில், உயிர் துறந்தது மிகவும் வருந்தத்தக்கது. அன்னாரின் குடும்பத்திற்கு எமது ஆழ்ந்த அனுதாபங்களைத் தெரிவித்துக் கொள்வதுடன், அவர் ஆன்மா சாந்தியடைய இறைவனைப் பிரார்த்திக்கிறோம்.



நி. த. திருவள்ளி, நுண்கலைத் துறையில், சகோதரி சில்வெஸ்ட்ரா அவர்கள், விரிவுரையாளராக இருந்த காலத்திலேயே ஊழியராகச் சேர்ந்தவர். இறைநம்பிக்கை மிக்கவராய் .. பாசமிகு அன்னையாய் .. தோழமைப் பண்புடையவராய் .. அமைதியின் உருவமாய் விளங்கியவர். இருபத்தைந்து ஆண்டுகள் பணியாற்றியவர். இறுதியில், புற்று நோயுடன் போராடி 31-12-1995 இல் உயிர் நீத்தார். அன்னார் குடும்பத்திற்கு எமது ஆழ்ந்த அனுதாபங்களைத் தெரிவித்துக் கொள்வதுடன், அவருடைய ஆன்மா சாந்தியடைய இறைவனைப் பிரார்த்திக்கிறோம்.

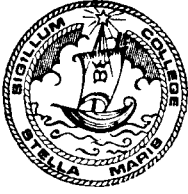
the timely publication of results. Mention must also be made of the services rendered by the supportive staff who under the direction of Sr. Mary Celine toil tirelessly behind the scene.

It is now my pleasant duty to pause a while and thank the Almighty for gifting us with wonderful members who form the Stella Marian Family. I wish to express my thanks to:

- Sr. Mary Rose, *fmm*, Provincial Superior and Chairperson of the Governing Body,
- Dr. Sr. Mary Ann, *fmm*, Secretary of the College,
- Dr. Sr. Flavia, *fmm*, and Dr. Meena N. Swamy, the Vice-Principals,
- The University of Madras, the Education Department, the Regional Directorate, the Commissionerate of Collegiate Education, the University Grants Commission, New Delhi and the UGC (SRO), Hyderabad, for their co-operation and help extended at all times.
- The International Federation of Catholic Universities, the All India Association for Christian Higher Education, the Xavier Board, the United Board for Christian Higher Education, the Indian Bank, the Indian Overseas Bank, Stella Maris College Extension Counter, and other organisations and agencies who have all generously funded our student welfare programmes and projects and those who have instituted scholarships for deserving and needy students.
- The Transport department : P.T.C. and D.A.T.C., the Police Department, the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board, the P & T Department, the Madras Telephones, the Corporation of Madras, AIR and Doordarshan Kendra and other public utility departments for the timely services rendered.
- Thank you dear parents, friends and benefactors for your continued support and sustained interest in all the activities of the college.

As we stand on the threshold of the 10th year of autonomy, the words of Isaac Newton come to my mind "I do not know what I may appear to the world but to myself I seem to have been only like a boy playing on the seashore diverting myself in, now and then finding a smoother pebble or a prettier shell than ordinary, while the great ocean of truth lay all undiscovered before me". If this spirit of humility laced with enquiry and a sense of awe can be inculcated in the young entrusted to our care then Stella Maris will indeed be the guiding star of the young minds who can set the world ablaze. Thank you and God Bless.

Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, fmm.
Principal.



Approaching 50

Stella Maris College like all her present students was born free. She shares her beginnings with the birth of the Indian nation and this is more than a happy coincidence. Stella Maris has blended her aspirations with those of the nation and its growth and development have synchronised with hers. The present autonomous status of Stella Maris College and her constant readiness to innovate in every field of higher education reveal that the spirit of freedom is evidenced in the independent line she has always chosen to take.

It was in July 1949 that the college shifted to a three-storey building on Palace Road. Visiting the college then, Dr. A. L. Mudaliar, the scholarly Vice-chancellor of Madras University said, "It was a pleasure to visit the college which has made magnificent progress in the short space of a couple of years. I am particularly struck with the care taken to provide the amenities to the students which are about the best I have seen in the University area. I wish the institution every success." He also hailed the college's open air theatre as a most significant blessing in a tropical country and prophesied that Stella Maris is destined to play a notable part in the promotion of women's education in this part of India.

As the college triumphantly approaches her Golden Jubilee she can look back with a sense of achievement and renewal to her origins. The college has expanded in space and unfolded in time. From three medium sized halls in 1947, Stella Maris College now occupies a spacious campus of 22 acres; from a total strength of 32 students, the college has moved to a strength of 2300; from a small number of faculty it now has a large body of 119 members who work efficiently and are committed to the task of higher education of women. A fledgeling college has become an institution of eminence where teaching and learning take place in 12 disciplines at different levels ranging from the undergraduate to the doctoral.

In 1960 the college shifted to its present campus. In the words of Mother Proincias :

Stella Maris College solved her own space problem in the modern way . . . by launching out from her old orbit in Mylapore to the new skies of 'The Cloisters'. The venture like any other flight into space was a daring one . . . Stella Maris with all her equipment and over 800 students aboard made a happy landing at Cathedral Road for its re-opening in 1960.

In course of time several new buildings - the chapel, the convent, the hostels, the library and Nava Nirmana block came to be constructed. Currently a four-storey building is under construction to meet the ever increasing need for space and efficient administration of

the college. The new building will include the administrative offices, computer centre as well as some class rooms.

The architectural growth of Stella Maris was matched by an equally impressive academic development. The courses of study in the First year of its establishment were only (besides Part I English and Part II Language) History and Economics at the Intermediate level. The very next year these two courses were upgraded to B.A. degree level.

1955-56 saw the introduction of the Pre-University and from 1957 onwards three-year degree courses in History, Social Sciences, Economics, Indian Music, Western Music, History of Fine Arts, English, Mathematics, Zoology, Physics and Chemistry were gradually added. The post-graduate courses in English, Economics, Fine Arts, Social Work and Mathematics were a later addition in response to students' need.

In 1970 the academic programme was recognised. The Western Music, Indian Music, and Public Relation courses were discontinued. The department of Social Sciences was replaced by the Department of Sociology. Yet another major change was the shedding of the Pre-University course. The college then had 10 undergraduate departments and 5 post-graduate departments. In response to the great demand for education in Commerce, a B.Com. course was added. Owing to the the increasing number of applicants additional sections in B.Com. and Mathematics have been created.

The launching of Autonomy in 1987 was a historic event. After prolonged discussion and elaborate planning, autonomy was introduced and the college reaped the rewards in the form of a new academic freedom giving rise to a wide scope for innovations in course planning, testing and evaluation. Even as the Golden Jubilee Year 1996-97 is approaching, Stella Maris College is in the birth pangs of the Credit System which will be another significant landmark in its academic history.

Eminent principals totally committed to the noble task of the education of women have toiled year after year. Together with the equally dedicated faculty and supportive staff, they worked towards high standards in academics and an all-round formation of the youth.

Here one fondly remembers Mother Klemens' dynamism and vision and the quiet strength of Mother Sylvester who together saw the dawn of Stella Maris College. Then in 1948, Mother Lilian with her truly American spontaneity and remarkable leadership qualities became the first principal; she was admired by one and all for her knowledge and humanity. Mother Proincias, the next principal, with her characteristic Irish humour and dynamism worked with a pioneering zeal. Mother Carla Rosa, an Italian by birth, a Ph.D. in Economics, a great scholar and leader of eminence was a principal old timers remember with great awe and affection. Mother Joseph Micheal during her short spell contributed her mite in consolidating the growth of the college in the early years. Sr. Irene Mathias, the first Indian principal ably administered the college during a crucial ten year period. She was followed by

Sr. Helen Vincent who in a long spell of twelve years guided the growth of the institution and supplied the leadership and discipline that got Stella Maris the premier position it enjoys today. As one principal succeeded another, there was harmonious growth and smooth transfer possible only because they shared a common goal and a common vision. One of the early stalwarts Mother Edith Tomory in her nineties now, continues to follow with interest the progress of the college. Retired religious and lay staff members glow with pride on seeing the rapid growth and expansion of Stella Maris.

But the real wealth of the college has always been its lively young students from various parts of India and abroad. Each generation outshines the previous one in talents, creativity and enthusiasm. For them the college provides a whirl of student activities such as NCC, NSS, Games, Functional Literacy, Clubs besides the programmes organised by the Deans of Students and the Students' Union. Stella Maris from its inception has believed that book learning goes hand in hand with a sound philosophy of life. In accordance with this, Value Education or Catholic Doctrine or Scripture has always been an integral part of the curriculum.

For the Hostelites, since the time of the unforgettable wardens - Mother Ursula (English) and Mother Adriana (Spanish), the two hostels, St. Joseph's and Our Lady's have been a home where fun, frolic and serious study co-exist.

In all her developments Stella Maris has kept in mind the objective of preparing young women to continually search for truth and grow into mature and responsible women ready to face challenges at home and in society. What Dr. A. L. Mudaliar foresaw in 1948-49 has now become a reality.

Finally, a word on the Alumnae. Stella Maris alumnae today forms a vast network spanning the five continents linking the college's past and present. They occupy key positions in India and abroad contributing richly as teachers, lawyers, doctors, entrepreneurs, administrators and executives enriching both domestic and public life.

And now, at the beginning of her 50th year of growth and consolidation, Stella Maris stands poised at the turn of the century, herself ready for further challenge, greater innovation and higher achievements.

Stella Maris shine on our lives forever . . .
Until our lives are radiant with thy light.

Dr. Sr. Flavia, f.m.m.
Vice-Principal
and
Dr. Sr. Mary John, f.m.m.
Head, Dept. of History.

The Solar Eclipse



The Diamond Ring
as photographed by
Sr. Leony, *f.m.m.*,
Dept. of
Mathematics



Ms. Uma Mani and Dr. Felbin Kennedy at Diamond Harbour, Calcutta



A student speaker at the Seminar - PERCEPTIONS '96

SEMINAR ON JOHN KEATS

The Department of English



Dr. Seetha Srinivasan, Dr. P. Rajani, Dr. Sr. Flavia, Dr. Maria Couto (Chief Guest), Mr. Jaspar Utley and Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip



Students enacting 'Lamia' and 'Eve of St. Agnes'.



The Broken Lyre

Keats had turned two hundred and as celebration we had to organise a seminar! The Literature Department was a beehive of activity, the buzz work bring Oh! Keats! (WOW!) Oh! Keats! (indifferent) and Oh! Keats! (Who?). On some of us in the organizing committee “the melancholy fit” fell “sudden from heaven” and joy bid adieu.

The romanticism of Keatsian poetry escaped us as we grappled with the more pressing problems of sponsorship and money. Running around as one person after another turned us down we were “frightened with most hateful thoughts”. But the British Council shone like a “Bright Star” and all was well.

All of a sudden a flurry of activity began a week before the programme “the voice of busy common sense” had sounded through our benumbed minds and the spirit of competition took over. The M.A.s with “Lamia” and the third years with “Eve of St. Agnes” were all set to change dramatic history.

“Fanatics have their dreams” and ours seemed to be the successful staging of “The Broken Lyre”. Right upto the evening before the programme the participants and the organizers were trying to “drown the wakeful anguish” of their souls. As the 11th of January, 1996 dawned we were too busy to bother with thoughts of anything. As the prayer and introduction went on sensation returned and giant butterflies leapt in our stomachs. As Dr. Maria Couto delivered the key note, uniting sophistication and spontaneity, we were transported with her to Hampstead Heath, where even Keats’ nightingale could not have had a more attentive audience. (Now all responses were Oh! Keats !) (Wow!)

Darkness engulfed the stage and a glimmer of gold was seen as Anitha Santhanam of the Post-graduates presented herself as Lamia, “a gordian shape of dazzling hue”. As she writhed in her tumultuous dance the audience seemed awe struck. Anagha’s voice, the shadow play and excellent acting made Lamia come alive. “Heard melodies are sweet but those unheard are sweeter” or so we comforted ourselves, and even the audio problem did not detract us too much from the performance.

Then came the academic part of the seminar and the shifting-in-chairs trying-to-be-comfortable phase began. Hoping against hope that nobody fell asleep (the video camera was zooming through the audience) the papers began to be read.

In these post-structural days literary criticism has almost displaced poetic creativity per se. But the muse of criticism if she exists, was never equipped to compete with Melpomene (the muse of tragedy) and Erato (the muse of romantic poetry) before a student audience. What chance did the seminar papers have sandwiched between “Lamia” and “Eve of St. Agnes”?! However we did our best linking East and West, Keats and Karnad,

propounding feminist defences of “Lamia”, and finding the grotesque (!) in Keats and through it all Dr. Rajani’s comments, and his inimitable style, livened the proceedings.

Then came the magnum opus of the third years - the ‘Eve of St. Agnes’. Reams of paper - grey and brown, paints, plastic, wood, all combined to create exquisite sets, the brain child of Amina and her group of volunteers. The centre of attraction was the stained glass window (who could have dreamt cellophane paper could throw warm “gules” on Madeline’s breast?!) The detailed sets were the fitting background to the mesmeric voice of Zareen Isaac. Dhanaluxmi was the dashing Porphyro and Tamara vulnerable and gentle Madeline. All was high romance and it was lucky only those who worked behind the scenes knew that “the delicates” Porphyro heaped with “glowing hand” were really paper-wrapped onions and stones - Romance and Realism!! The music that never played, the lights that would not function as extensions of one’s limbs and the treacherous mike were all forgotten in the ardent revelry of success.

Snake-woman, metamorphosis, passionate love, parental opposition followed by untimely death sounds familiar of course. These are the hoary cliches of Indian films and now there was a comparison between the style of Keats and of our film makers. The clips from “Heer Ranja” drew loud guffaws.

To discover why similar themes evoked laughter in one instance and awestruck interest in the other, our panel gathered. The film makers absense versus the presence of the organisers of the two plays unfairly tilted the balance in favour of Keats! The panel consisting of a student of Loyola College, an exchange student from Princeton U.S.A. and assorted student commentators were involved in an eager discussion to resolve the difference between pop and high art.

Keats was also honoured with a small book display and poster competition. The II years produced Keats’ ‘sylvan historian’ - the Grecian Urn” no less but the prize went to the first M.A.s venture into sculpture, the life mask of Keats.

The programme was captured for posterity by two sets of video cameras and we could say of “The Broken Lyre”:

“When old age shall this generation waste,
Thou shalt remain,” on video tape of course.

Sangeetha
(III B.A. Literature)

Perceptions '96

What is Physics? What does 'Perceptions' mean? According to Blaise Pascal, the eminent French Philosopher and Physicist, Man is but a mean point between the infinity and the infinitesimal. This is exactly what Physics is all about and what the Physicists are upto. The Physicists though, with knowledge comparable only to the infinitesimal, strive to grasp the infinity. The perceptions are many and varied but curiosity demands that the inquiring mind expands its vistas of knowledge. So it follows that the ability to perceive is the stepping stone to bring out the scientist in you. We at Stella Maris went ahead with the preparations of "Perceptions '96" with the firm belief that where there is no perception, we perish; not only do we perish, but Physics itself perishes. Thus Perceptions '96 was inaugurated with the view to giving the students an opportunity to think and share their perceptions on Physics.

The two day programme held on the first and second of February 1996, commenced with the inaugural address by Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip. Dr. T. R. Govindarajan, the chief guest, enlightened us on "The Revolutionary Changes in Physics", and Mrs. Gigie Varghese, Head of the Department of Physics, gave an overview of the two day programme. Students from the first and second year Physics presented papers on Nuclear Physics and Bio-Physics respectively. The papers on Nuclear Physics were judged by Dr. Subramaniam, of Presidency College, Mrs. Bharathi Ramanan and Mrs. Rajini Rabindranath of Stella Maris College, while those on Bio-Physics were judged by Dr. Gautham, Department of Bio-Physics, A. C. Technology, Mrs. Gigie Varghese and Mrs. Rajalakshmi of Stella Maris College. The following day began with the paper presentation by the third year students of Physics on Communications, judged by Mr. Kumar Sathian, of M.C.C., Mrs. Catherine Prema and Ms Neeraja of Stella Maris College. The Paper Presentations encompassed everything from the conventional concepts about the evolution of life inextricably intertwined with the study of Biology to the contemporary atomic world relating to quarks, nuclear fusion elementality of matter leading to a quantum jump into the future world of satellite communications. As opposed to the traditional approach to Physics the sessions though not exhaustive, evinced the fact that fields as diverse as cellular biology and satellite communication can be conveniently brought under the broad classification of Physics by discovering the hidden analogies that unite them. Taking Physics in a lighter vein, the afternoon session "Impulses" had events like quiz, dumb charades, what's the good word and twenty questions. During the afternoon session of the second day a written quiz "Eureka" and debate "Projectiles" were conducted, encouraging students from various colleges to participate.

The two day session gave a whole new dimension to our understanding of Physics, making us realise at the same time the knowledge we had gained was but a veritable drop in the ocean of Physics, as Isaac Newton says "I feel like a child playing on the seashore picking up a fancy pebble, while the entire ocean of knowledge lies undiscovered before me."

*S. Sowmya (II B.Sc. Physics and
Sunethra Ramanan (II B.Sc. Physics)*

With the Moon Before the Sun

On 20th October 1995 the three of us packed ourselves into the Eclipse Holiday Special that left Madras Central at 10.00 a.m. In our luggage there could be found, apart from reading material on the impending Solar Eclipse, small amateur cameras and binoculars. We were excited about the celestial marvel we would be personal witnesses to within the next 100 hours. It had been our dream, having been students and teachers of Astronomy, to watch Nature's greatest show with our own eyes and not through films and newspaper clippings. Our earlier experience, of an over-night observation of the sky was lying flat on the terrace of our college building with our students watching the small 'maids' dance slowly from one to the other end of the canopy, could only reveal to us one edge of the veil of what was ahead but not the totality of the grandeur of the Heavenly Spectacle we were going to be graced with. The day passed, night strolled on and the next day came and went, with us, lost in discussions of what was ahead.

Two days were spent collecting information and deciding on a plan of action regarding our destination and the means to reach it. Then the D-day dawned. We spent the previous night in fear of whether we would miss out on the opportunity of a life time due to some unforeseen transportation problems or inclement weather conditions. Every now and then, we kept ringing up the taxi driver we hired. Getting tired of our calls he was at our doorstep an hour earlier and at 3.45 a.m., unable to contain our anxiety, we set out towards the Planetarium. In the taxi, mixed thoughts and emotions surged within us. How would we conduct ourselves during those 2 minutes of ecstasy? Should we be on our heels or knees Binoculars cameras Should we be watching the Sun the Moon the people nature, the temperature the birds How could we concentrate on the umpteen number of observations we had planned to do The driver announced it was more than a minute since the taxi had stopped. Even the prospect of having to pay Rs.200/- for a 5 km drive (others had even demanded Rs.350/-) could not dampen our spirits. The mood of the Moon Dance in front of the Sun lifted us above the material plane in no time.

We joined the team at Birla Planetarium and raced towards Diamond Harbour (a 90 minute drive from Calcutta) to capture the sunrise. The seashore was awash with people who had gathered to witness the event (some of whom had even spent the night on the sandy shores). The beautiful mild red hue of the sky coupled with the blue green Bay of Bengal and the silvery Hoogli river, was a spectacular sight. Soon the sun arose out of the eastern horizon like a gorgeous warrior clad in its mighty and red hot beams. We were thankful to the Lord for the clear sky, for the clouds could otherwise have stolen the show from us. Fears of permanent retinal damage forced us to look to the light through the protective filters only filters that could only contain the intensity of the sun's beams but not our curiosity, our reverence or our sense of awe. We settled ourselves on the terrace of a two storeyed building.

A large number of small teams of curious observers, researchers and students were slowly gathering. After a preliminary test of the instruments, we were ready not as spectators of a play or of some imaginary work, but something more, witnesses of an event which was natural, original and whose copyright belonged only to the Heavens.

It was 7.32 a.m. just as predicted, there was no delay at all. The moon's shadow (not the moon itself) marched into the mighty path of the Sun. We tried to jot down the perceptible changes in temperature as we viewed the crescent Sun through the filters. By 8.48 a.m. a good 5 or 6°C drop in the temperature was observed. The sky turned dark and a shiver ran down our spines, not out of fear but out of awe. We were peering into the diamond ring at the eastern (lower) end of the Sun directly. The diamond became smaller and smaller until there was no need for filters. It was a direct face to face confrontation with reality. The corona along with the prominence at the western (upper) and eastern (lower) end was spectacular. Incredible as it may sound we saw the planets Mercury (at app 15°W) and Venus (at 17°E) at 8.49 a.m. It was a wonderful sight to behold. No words could express nor any camera capture the beauty, the majesty, the delicacy and the magnificent colour of it all. We were thrilled, we would be failing if we do not report the reactions around us... people cried out in joy and exultation, some screamed, others uttered prayers of praise, some chanted slokas, and some even went down on their knees acknowledging and enjoying the presence of a great incomprehensible power in all its splendour. **Truly this is the work of the Almighty.**

There was darkness around us for a few seconds and we could feel and hear the confused noise of the birds and animals, a feeling of uneasiness - a scream distinctly different from the usual. It was also reported that there were marked tidal changes in the River Hoogli. Even before we could realise the passing of a minute we were watching the grand finale of the event - the magnificent incomparable Diamond Ring. This was a moment, when everything was forgotten the people, the job at hand, even ourselves. We didn't even blink our eyes. Then the ring disappeared as the diamond grew larger and larger, its rays reaching out to us in a beautiful spectra. A deep silence engulfed our being; a silence so full it was louder than the loudest sound.

We were brought to ourselves by words of concern and caution once the eclipse was over. Once again everything was so ordinary. A rather amateur try but our tiny cameras did capture a glimpse of the majesty of the Corona and the Diamond Ring of the Sun at a distance of 150,000,000 kms. People looking at them later said that it was fascinating but for us it was but a poor shadow of the magnificent reality on 24th Oct. which lay glimmering in our very depths. In nature the drama was over - but it lingers on in our minds and hearts - a moment to cherish for a life time - the very thought of which is overwhelming.

*Sr. Leony Mary, fmm,
Dr. Felbin C. Kennedy,
Ms. Uma Mani,
(Department of Mathematics.)*

G. K. and Current Affairs 1994-'95

The GK and Current Affairs Club gives adequate training for students preparing for various competitive exams (UPSC, TNPSC, Staff Selection, Banking and other examinations). The course aims at motivating, counselling and training young aspirants to get into the services as persons of integrity, ability and motivation for selfless service. Students are given well-prepared reading material as well as special training in group discussions, interview techniques and in answering objective type test. They are also given access to a special library designed for extensive reading.

SOCIAL AWARENESS PROGRAMME

The academic year saw the III year History students make a small mutation in their Social Awareness Programme which made a big change. The conventional visit to an under-privileged village, the vague study about it with nothing much concrete on the mind to do and the drab final report - well, all this was dispensed with. Instead, the students were encouraged by Mrs. Patricia to visit the Museum weekly and mark time there, giving a helping hand to dust, clean and spruce up the highly regarded Museum. We even helped add to the collection of artefacts with some stone-age implements picked up at the prehistoric archaeological site at Tiruvallur while on a field visit there. We could even test some of the pickings of our historical knowledge at the Museum in an empirical way! We also had a knowledgeable study of a temple at Aminjikai enquiring from its neighbourhood and interviewing the temple authorities.

In September, a grand tour of North India was arranged by Dr. Mrs. Kamala and Dr. Mrs. Patricia which included places like Shabarmathi Ashram (Ahmedabad), the City and Lake Palace (Udaipur), the Chittaurgarh Fort and the magnificent Dilwara Temple (Mount Abu). They stand for the glories of the past. As students of history, we enjoyed the great wealth of historical detail. We felt proud to be Indians and were filled with a sense of joy.

The last piece of this report might read as a kind of feminist footnote! It was the seminar held by the III years "The Awakening" focussing, on the plight of the urban woman in India. The papers presented dwelt on the factors and influences which work on the city woman and mould her. The Chief Guest Dr. Sr. Mary John, Head of the department, lit the traditional lamp.

Maria Sangeetha Sanjeevi
III B.A. History

Five & Raring to Go - ISTD

The Indian Society for Training and Development (ISTD) was established in 1970 as a non-profit society aimed at spearheading the Human Resources Development Movement in India. Managed by a National Council with a President at the apex level, ISTD operates through 32 chapters in several cities, each headed by a Chariman. The society is affiliated to the International Federation of Training and Development Organisation (IFTDO) and Asian Regional Training and Development Organisation (ARTDO), Manila.

The Student Cell of Madras Chapter at Stella Maris College, Madras started its activities for the 1995 - 96 on 25th August, 1995. Welcoming the gathering, Dr. K. Sundari Krishnamoorthy, Faculty Advisor and Managing Committee Member said that the cell had geared up for its fifth year functioning with a new team of office bearers - Zibi Azeez (III B.A. Sociology), Shilpa R. (II B.A. Sociology) and Shalini D. (I Additional Maths) as President, Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. With the collaborative support of ABT-AOTS DOSOKAI, Madras Chapter, Japanese classes were successfully conducted at the college premises.

A Calendar of activities was drawn up at the beginning of the year and this was communicated to the student members at frequent intervals. Books and reports were maintained, and at the annual valedictory function, these books were displayed.

The highlights of the activities for the year 1995-96 were the 3 visits which were made available to the student members - visits to Apollo Cancer Hospital, Elite School of Optometry and Officers Training Academy. Sowmya of the I year opined that she would love to return to the Officers Training Academy as a Lady Cadet. There were also 3 Video Presentations - the first was on Total Quality Management titled "Journey to Excellence", the second was on Interviewing Skills titled "The Encounter" and the third was on Unilever Limited. Besides these, there were presentations on Marketing, Finance (including a Panel Discussion on Finance), Stress Management, Interview and Group Discussion. These programmes helped the students realise that an exposure to varied fields is essential to lead a life, the dimensions being global.

Despite their busy schedules, Mr. Jagannadha Rao, Ms. Rupa Ranganathan, Mr. V. Nivarthii, Dr. K. P. Misra, Ms. Anuradha Orza, Lakshmi, Mr. Sivaramakrishnan, Dr. Vaidyalingam, Col. Kapoor, Commandant Dhingra, Col. Natrajan and Lt. Jaspreett Kaur, took time off to talk to us, share a video with us or conduct a workshop for us. Each year, the student members experience something new. "Yet all experience is an arch wherethro' gleams that untravelled world, whose margin fades for ever and for ever when I move".

*Shilpa Ranganathan (II B.A. Sociology)
Secretary, Student Cell of ISTD*

Teaching and Learning

“Thoroughly to teach another is the best way to learn for yourself”.

-Tryon Edwards

Writing Centre Reports . . .

This Academic year saw the **Writing Centre** enter its Second year. Inspired by it's success in the first year, the Writing Centre diversified and expanded its activities to help five departments of the college. The first year U.G. students of History, Literature, Fine Arts, Sociology and Economics were helped in the preparation of their assignments by writing assistants from III U.G. and P.G. classes. At the Valedictory function of the centre, presided over by Dr. Saraswathy, Dept. of English, University of Madras. Dr. Sr. Flavia, the Co-ordinator of the Writing Centre, announced the good news of a valuable collection of books for the Writing Centre library and the arrival of a computer and printer purchased, thanks to the financial support given by the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia (New York, USA).

Writing assistants shared their ideas, experiences and suggestions regarding the working of the Writing Centre at the valedictory function.

Some Reactions . . .

When I was first chosen as a **Writing Centre** student guide, I was apprehensive. I was not sure if I could handle the responsibility of being in charge of somebody else's assignment in addition to my own, But I was willing to try nevertheless. The first department I helped was Sociology. I was fortunate to get two very hardworking wards who made the whole exercise not only easy but enjoyable as well. From then on, it was quite easy. The process of helping became, in many ways, a process of learning as well. There were times when I had to look up spellings in a dictionary or check items of grammar in the Wren and Martin. At the end of the year when I look back, I find that I have not only the experience of having taught and helped someone but also the fun and pleasure of meeting new people and making friends.

- * Very rewarding to teach someone else.
- * Good to interact with students from other departments.
- * My ward worked so hard it was an inspiration for me.
- * I understood that one should not expect so much from students.

III Year, Writing Assistants

ISTD



Inauguration of the First Business Japanese Course by ISTD Student Cell 1995-'96

EDP



The Valedictory Function of the Entrepreneurship Development Programme.

The Writing Centre



Ms. Jean Fernandez



Ms. Sheila Mathai

Dr. Seetha Srinivasan, Dr. Saraswathy (Chief Guest), Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip and Dr. Sr. Flavia (Co-ordinator) at the Valedictory Function.



Dr. Margaret Clarence



Ms. Sharada Bhanu



Ms. Christina Rajkumar



Writing Assistants receiving their certificates from the Chief Guest.



Mass Literacy

Staff & Students of the Mass Literacy Programme at Koothambakkam village



The Inauguration of the General Knowledge and Current Affairs Club —
Dr. Sr. Mary John, Dr. Ms. Sudha Rattan (Chief Guest), Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip and
Mr. Gopalakrishnan



CRISIS IN PARADISE

Department of Zoology



The Exhibition on Environment Pollution

Dr. Balakrishna Murthy, Director, FIPPAT, Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, Dr. P. Govindarajulu, Registrar, University of Madras (Chief Guest) and Dr. Meera Paul, Head of the Department.



Dr. Sultan Ahmad Ismail interacting with the students.



Crisis in Paradise

Every decade has its unique characteristics. We have had decades of great technological discoveries and exciting scientific advancements. Many of them have improved our lives, but at the same time they have rendered the edifice of civilization astonishingly complex and elaborate. One has got into a way of thinking whereby the earth is a mere collection of “resources” having an intrinsic value no larger than their usefulness at that moment. It is assumed that the earth is so vast and nature so powerful that nothing we do can have any major or lasting effect on the normal functioning of the natural systems. We have not yet fully realised that nature is not immune to our presence and that we can actually change the entire make-up of the earth in a drastic fundamental way.

With the scientific revolution, we have organised our knowledge into smaller and smaller segments and assume that the connections of these separate compartments are not really important. In our fascination with the subdivisions of nature, we forget to see it in its totality.

Hence we have entered a decade of genuine ecological crisis - a crisis in our paradise, created by God for our use and enjoyment. The earth was a paradise in complete balance, now the fate of the earth itself is in balance and we are forced to contend with the fact that our civilization is now capable of destroying itself.

Ecology is the study of balance in nature and an understanding of how the various parts of nature interact in patterns, tend towards balance and persist over time. The earth cannot be treated in isolation from human civilization, for we too are a part of the whole. Looking at the earth therefore means looking at ourselves. Very often we allow our aspirations and desires to precede our obligations and commitments. This imbalance within us is reflected in the imbalance in nature. The global crisis seems to be nothing but an outer manifestation of an inner crisis.

The world’s ecological balance depends on our ability to restore a balance within ourselves as individuals. By re-examining our relationship with nature, we can re-learn our values. By practising these values, we can hope to preserve ecological balance.

The question we have to ask ourselves now is: Are we confronting the burgeoning problems of over population, urbanisation, fuming industrialisation and a rapidly declining, quality of environment and life? If our answer is ‘YES’, no wonder our cities are miniature hells. Creating an awareness of these issues was the focal point of the two-day seminar and exhibition organised by the Department of Zoology of Stella Maris College in January 1996. For, in the words of Mahatma Gandhi, “We must be the change we wish to see in the world”.

*III Years
Zoology Dept.*

EDP Report 1996

Unemployment has become the major problem for the educated youth. Self-employment can be a solution for this. To learn the skills and mechanisms for being self employed youth, a training in entrepreneurship is absolutely essential. The Chemistry department has taken up the EDP for Stella Maris students under the guidance of Mrs. Rukmani Srinivasan.

The Indian Bank has been sponsoring this programme for the past 8 years. Mrs. Usha Ravindran and Ms. Alice Mathew in the past have been giving their co-operation and support to make this programme a success. The students are exposed to the skills through 10 sessions of input i.e. lectures to “see” and “learn”. They are also made to come into contact with woman entrepreneurs who have been successful in their ventures. The students are expected to submit a project report and the best project gets a cash award.



This year the vocational students have been trained in this programme. They will be submitting their projects shortly.

We are happy to say that four of our students of the EDP programme have started their units. The students feel that the programme is quite useful inspite of the fact that they may not be able to start any project soon after they leave the college. Some students are helping their partners in the business ventures. They enjoy the lectures and the industrial trip.

The Past in the Now – Alumnae - SMC

**We are what You were
We will be what You are**

We are proud to say that the rather tenuous and erratic existence of the erstwhile OSA has now been replaced by an order that is more concrete, dynamic and palpably alive. A tremendous need had been felt for quite sometime that we should have an active and enthusiastic OSA - a body that would not just have nostalgic meetings but would forge a truly decisive link between the past, present and future. To this end, a committee - Public Relations and Alumnae Group - was formed in Sept '94 and its efforts met with grand success in August '95 which saw a major get-together of the Alumnae of SMC.

Members of the Committee:

- * Overall co-ordinator : Dr. Sr. Flavia
- * Co-ordinator, Public Relations : Mrs. Poppy Kannan
- * Co-ordinator, Alumnae Committee : Dr. Mrs. Meera Paul

A staff representative from each dept was also part of the committee and together with guidance and support from Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, the reorganising of the Association started off on a fresh note, certainly its another beginning but its a beginning with confidence for we foresee a leading role for the OSA in the future.

Newly elected Office-bearers:

Mrs. Thara Mohan Rao
- Secretary

Mrs. Sivakambika -
Joint Secretary

Mrs. Sethalakshmi -
Additional Secretary

Miss Marie Cabral -
Editor



Women in the Media

It was in the early 1980s that the Hindustan Times created a history of sorts in the Indian media by appointing Prabha Dutt as the newspaper's first woman Chief Reporter, for its New Delhi edition. As far as the mainline daily newspapers in India were concerned, this was a woman's first foray into a domain hitherto considered 'man's job'.

That was an era when women reporters were just being accepted in India. Till then women were by and large relegated to the News Room, to sub copy written by others. After all the second sex could not be expected to go out into the big bad world and chase news stories. Whenever they got bored of subbing copy, there was the huge world of art and culture to write lyrical and creative pieces for which all the newspapers have special readership.



In the 1970s, a trickle of women reporters had started coming in, particularly in cities like New Delhi, Bombay and even Bangalore. But their overprotective Chief Reporters thought it fit to give them soft beats like women and children's affairs, art and culture and human interest stories. At the risk of being branded prejudiced and a feminist, I would say that women reporters in those days did, and they continue to do even now, handle such subjects with a skill and a sensitivity, which perhaps came in because they looked at these subjects *seriously* and did not dismiss them "in two paras" as most male reporters tended to do in those days.

Of course these days such subjects get a much better handling from both male and female journalists, because they are now recognised to be nationally important and socially relevant and so have moved out of the inside pages to the front pages of newspapers. And of course every reporter wants to see her/his byline on the front page! Development journalism is the tag given to socially relevant stories and Usha Rai of The Indian Express has carved a special niche for herself in this area. Bachi Karkaria of The Times of India has compelled attention to her articles by her writing on HIV/AIDS and other related issues.

But one unfortunate fall out of a woman reporter's interest in socially relevant/human interest stories is that very often an attempt is made to confine her to only this area. This happened to me, and I revolted, as I know other women journalists have done. Just because we are women, it does not mean that our professional concerns or interests do not go beyond women and child related issues.

Coming to columnists, there are a number of women columnists who have become very popular over the years. Taveleen Singh, who has written a book on Kashmir (Kashmir: a

tragedy of errors) is a columnist who evokes a lot of reader response on whatever issue she writes on. You may not agree with her, but her strong views and forthright manner of expression provoke you to respond.

Be it the desk or field reporting, women journalists have come of age in the Indian media and in the electronic media, tend to do much better than men! The magazine sections of most newspapers are invariably headed by women these days, and in this section they tend to outnumber men almost all the time.

Painfully slowly but surely quite a number of reporting sections or news bureaus in the country are being headed by women and they have performed as well, if not better than male Chief Reporters or Bureau Chiefs. As far as writing skills are concerned, they seem to have an added advantage, specially when you compare the younger brigade of journalists.

For the last 10 years or so, I have been noticing in the reporting room of the Express, that of the journalism trainees we take in, whenever talent, interest and dedication are spotted, (which is rarely enough!) these are invariably found in a young woman than a young man.

But this is at the entry level. After having entered the profession, the career advancement for women journalists tends to be more tardy, and for obvious reasons too. Somewhere down the line, they get added responsibilities on the home front. Whereas a son can graduate to a husband and later father with not too much of a trauma vis-a-vis his work at the office, the same is not true of a woman, not only in journalism, but any other profession.

That 'Working women do not have wives' (the title of a book) is a universally recognised and accepted fact, so women journalists with family responsibilities have to struggle much harder than men in this, as in all other professions. Many a bright woman journalist has had to sacrifice a career in the interest of the family. And when it comes to promotions, there is still that wee bit of prejudice in choosing a woman over a man, and if their levels of brightness, skills and dedication are the same, more often than not the man will end up with the promotion.

Another problem women who have families face in the profession is their inability to move out from their areas and move on to a place like New Delhi, where most of the top posts are available. In this race a woman suffers a heavy loss.

By and large women in the media have done rather well not only in their own professional goals, but also in shattering barriers and making way for the entry of a much larger number of women in the profession today. Though at the lower level, and to a certain extent, at the middle level, women have done well in the media, if we take mainstream daily newspapers, the sad fact remains that not a single woman has made it to the topmost level to occupy the chair of the Editor.. or the No.1 post. These days designations have been upgraded to titles like Editor-in-Chief, Managing Editor, etc.

Of course there have been a couple of women who have made it to the Resident Editor's Chair. This is the topmost post for the various editions of a newspaper which is published from multiple centres. The name which immediately comes to mind is that of Coomi Kapoor, who is the Resident Editor of the New Delhi edition of the Express.

Women in the Indian media have come of age; have graduated beyond doing the art and culture stuff or concentrating on 'soft' stories; they have and are doing hard news beats like politics, crime, health, environment, education, communications, science and technology, etc. Granted in a pyramid structure there is not too much space at the top for anybody, male or female. But I see no reason why in a couple of years we should not see woman editor in one of the bigger dailies, because there is an adequate number of competent and dedicated women journalists available in the country today.

The author is currently working as the Chief of Bureau in the Indian Express, Madras.

*Rasheeda Bhagat, Alumnae
(Dept. of English, 1970-75)*

Multiculturalism

It is part of the privilege of being around in the late twentieth-century that travel has become a vital component of people's lives. Borders are being continually crossed, boundaries breached. We spend different phases of our childhood and adult lives in different countries and continents. Even within larger geographical borders and borders of race, there is a lot of movement and multicultural seeding of various ethnic groups, castes and so on.

Is multiculturalism enough in itself to produce stories? While on the one hand it can be romanticized as offering an enriched and multifaceted approach to life, free of the prejudices of nationalism and regionalism, it can also cause severe identity crises and a certain rootlessness. One culture may weigh more heavily on the individual than the other: conflicts may arise; along with the weariness of being permanent immigrant, exile or nomad. The most unsettling fact for the exile is coming to terms with the loss of a world that has moulded him or her. One is forever trying to find new certainties and new beliefs.

Men and Women have written about their feelings of acceptance and / or rejection in cultures not their own. Women writers have been particularly well-equipped to examine in their novels and short stories the cross-cultural marriage and what it entails. For example, in **The Dilemma of a Ghost**, by Ama Ata Aidoo (Ghana), a Ghanaian brings an African - American wife to his village. Bessie Head's short story "Woman from America" outlines with curiosity and sympathy the experiences of an African - American woman who goes to live in a South African Village. Karen King - Aribisala's **Our wife and other Stories** examines with humor and understanding the alien wife's problems of adjustment in an African setting. Mariama Ba's **Scarlet Song** looks at the failure of a marriage between a European wife and a

Senegalese husband. Charlotte Bruner, the American critic has written about the cross-cultural marriage as a literary motif.

Multicultural writing offers different perspectives for the writer. Sometimes, the “Sufferer” is the “Chronicler” at other times, the author distances herself and writes from within one culture, looking out at the immigrant and his or her efforts at integration. There is a constant interplay of the insider/outsider perspectives. The Chinese-American experience in Amy Tan’s **The Joyluck Club** also highlights cultural loyalties of mothers and cultural alienation of daughters.

In handling issues related to displacement the multicultural writer presents a variety of positive and negative metaphors. Rather than seeing oneself as being confined to the narrow spaces between cultures, the interstices, the crevices, a writer like Amy Tan sees herself as being at a vantage point from where she could look in many directions.

The multicultural writer sees reality on different levels for although the “reality” one has grown up with is vastly different from the “reality” in one’s adopted country, theirs is no less a reality for the people one is living amongst. The sensitive artist tries to present this “reality” without encasing it in glass, in a way that does not offend and does not trivialize or sensationalize. It is also the responsibility of the artist to refrain from passing judgement even unconsciously.

Through the new ethnicity, we speak a common language the world over, the language of the cross-cultural immigrant. This language enables us to understand one another, whether we are from Africa, Australia, Asia, Europe, Latin America or the United States, and helps us to identify with each other’s situations.

*Dr. Kanchana Ugbabe, Alumnae
Dept. of English (1967-69)*

Meet the Author



Kanchana Ugbabe (nee Chidambaram), fiction writer, critic and senior lecturer in English lives and works in Jos, Nigeria with her husband and three children. She is married to Dr. Aako Ugbabe, a Nigerian nuclear physicist and engineer.

Kanchana completed her B.A (Literature) in Stella Maris in 1967 and M.A. (Literature) in 1969. She received the Grigg memorial medal and the Dr. T. M. Nair gold medal for a first class degree in M.A and for being the best female student of the Madras University (1969). She went on to do a Ph.D. in English at the Flinders University of South Australia, Adelaide Australia. Kanchana, has given visiting lectures on Women’s writing and multicultural writing at several American Universities. She has lived in Edinburgh and has presented papers at international conferences in Nigeria, U.S.A. and Israel. As a fiction writer she participated in the International Writing Programme of the University of Iowa in 1993. Her short stories have been read over the air on BBC World Service programmes. She has also published widely in the areas of Women’s Writing and childhood literature.

Reflections of a Great Grand Mother

Hearing the first bells heralding the joyous occasion of the Golden Jubilee celebration of my Alma Mater my heart throbs with joy, and I am awakened from a deep slumber being a 'Stella Marian' of yester-years. I always take pride in being called a Stella Marian even now in my advanced years. Memories of the past, my student life in the college, when it first functioned at Mylapore near my residence flash before my eyes at this distant time. I stand indebted to the pioneers like Mother Lilian, Mother Edith, Mother Carla Rosa, Mother Louis Terese, Mother Sylvestra and Mother David – all missionaries of different nationalities. It was their foresight and untiring effort which resulted in the opening of a college for girls in the city of Madras which during that time had very few colleges exclusively for women. Even at its inception, the college was housed in an airy, sprawling campus.



As for my connection with the college, I am proud to say that I joined the college in the year 1951 being a mother of three girls, all of whom were studying in reputed schools. With the encouragement of my late husband who was an educationist I joined the intermediate class and successfully completed it. Family pressures prevented me from continuing my college education. After a lapse of three years I rejoined the college, which had since moved to an even more spacious campus on Palace Road.

My elder daughter (now Sr. Celia, *fmm.*) had also finished her schooling and to the astonishment of many both my daughter and I joined B.A. Economics. Thus mother and daughter sat in the same lecture hall (of course, daughter in front and mother at the back seat) much to the amusement of many. I very much wanted to remain incognito since some of the lecturers were younger to me and I did not wish to embarrass them.

Even at this distant date, I cherish sweet memories of my Alma Mater. The selfless, whole-hearted enthusiasm shown by every lecturer to inculcate culture, morality and discipline in the minds of the students has left an indelible mark in every Stella Marian. Though I was a generation away from the other students, I did enjoy every moment of my college days, thanks to my professors (both religious and lay) who showed great regard for my age. I recall vividly the Tamil language class of dear Mrs. Chandra Parthasarathy. She was much younger to me and if by chance her eyes fell on me, she would at once shyly turn away as if she had not noticed me. While talking to me she would use words like 'வாங்கோ, போங்கோ' respectfully. My appreciation of Tamil literature especially the 'Thirukkural' is due to her interesting lectures. If I missed the 5 minutes test and 10 minutes test in the Indian History class, Mother Edith would excuse me saying, "O, a mother student needs to attend to

her children.” However, it was not so with Mother Carla Rosa, a strict disciplinarian with whom I could never escape the monthly test. And what of my experience at the English class - pin drop silence would prevail when Mother Louis Terese entered the hall. She would make the class lively with her jokes. She would also encourage healthy discussions on religion, philosophy, science and politics but would bring the discussion to a close before it crossed the bounds. Mother Loyola, another English teacher of cherished memories made one shudder with her thunderous voice and at the next moment filled the classroom with laughter with her American jokes. Mother Lilian’s morning assembly was a favourite with students and they loathed to miss it.

Stella Maris college has retained its tradition of distinctiveness and now as a great grandmother when I see groups of smart lively young girls come out of the college, I am thankful to the Lord who inspired the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary to start this college in Madras (Chennai).

Stella Maris shine on our lives forever is my song of gratitude to my Alma Mater.

*Mrs. Mariapragasam, M.A., B.T., Alumnae
Dept. of Economics (1951-54)*



Survivor

The wounds sting
as salt tears mingle to form venom,
The heart twists,
 insane
The soul still
 paralysed
 helpless
In the wobbling catamaran
Loneliness amongst millions of ripples
No sight of faith
 cool fresh water,
 fever in the mind. . .
 Memories of death,
 extinction of Humankind

The burning body shivers
silent screams
 envelop the air,
A scarlet sky stained with blood laughs,
 A grey sun peeks,
 sighs,
 then cries

The impaired hand stretches
 To touch the horizon,
 the nothingness,
 the blood,
the only remains.

Ami Jangla
I B.A. Literature

Unity in Diversity*

Across the blues appears darkness
Heavy showers; a possibility
Behind locked doors they wait
Too scared to move.

In wholesome torrents
the waters flood
pushing into lanes and streets
They; too scared to see.

A sudden break of thunder
spills the children on the street
Dancing in oblivion - the rains; a blessing
They; are scared to believe.

Free spirits; diverse though united in form
Let creativity sail on restive water
Of colours, brown and white;
 yellow and black
They saw it - tiny paper boats asail.

Soon the sun shone bright
The water was gone
Behold they lay the colours bright
And they opened the windows to let in the
 light.

Shiny Philip
III B.A. Literature

* Prize at the Writing Centre Competition in
Creative Writing

Farewell, my child

Nine months, nine days and nine hours of pregnancy
Only to abandon and cast you away in infancy,
Streaming tears of pain sadden a broken heart
With the knowledge that we must part;
You are the dream, a child of love
Blessed creation of one up above.

I cannot give you the life you deserve
So, I send you to those who can your happiness preserve;
Your coming brought me recurring pains
With flowing red upon the sheets in stains
Slap! you breathed. . . with a protesting cry,
Joy brought the solitary drop to my eye.

Then they took you away from me
And gave you to your new family
A faceless face, a nameless name
Tears of deep sorrow and shame.

I never saw your innocent face
Now we are separated by time and space.

I wish you well on your journey through life
May it be happy, fruitful and free from strife;
The papers have been signed and filed,
Farewell to thee, my child.

Ranjini S.
II B.A. Literature

Reality or Illusion

History classes are my favourite
I spoke of the unity of the Indian subcontinent
In class today
scored full marks
And bowed to a round of thundering applause.
My speech moved them, I heard someone say,
And why not?
It was my pet topic:
How we have stood by each other
Despite all.
Oh! You should have heard my speech
The great bond of oneness
That holds us firm,
That's what I stressed upon.

"I'm Indian and I'm proud of it"
I concluded.
(Noticed Reshma smirk in the last bench
Muslims hate the Hindus,
It's true!).

All through the day accolades poured in,
Pardon was impressed it seems
By my concept of the one-Indian-soul we share,

(He's not too bad -
But we avoid him nevertheless
what can a Madrasi have in common after all
with a Sikkimese speaking broken English?)

The bell went
I ran to catch the first bus home
Someone on the way
collecting money for Kashmiri refugees,
I pretend not to notice,
And simply run.

(How does a nameless, unknown face
in a refugee camp at Kashmir
convey me, I don't understand!)

I'm late, the bus is full,
there is just one seat left
I ran
But apply brakes on my feet in time.

(Rather stand than sit,
Rumour has it that Ranju is a harijan
Hai Ram! An untouchable next to me
No way!)

I stand all the way home,
It was not too bad you know,
The day's events kept coming back -
The speech; Mother India, gooseflesh
Applause.

The spirit of India fills me again,
We are all one, I know it in my heart;
I laugh at those who don't believe me -
"How can it not be?", I ask.

*Anupama Sekhar
III B.A. Literature*

(Worthy entry in the Writing Centre competition in Creative Writing)

LA VIE AU CCMF 1995

Une expérience de vie en commun, durant quatre semaines, avec 37 amis venus de 21 pays différents, le Centre Culturel Mixte de la Francophonie organisé par les Lions Clubs de France en juillet 1995 à la Baule est vraiment quelque chose d'inoubliable.

Un jour typique commençait avec un cours de Français où l'on étudiait des textes, des poèmes et même des chansons qui était à propos de notre thème "la mer", L'après-midi il y avait des sorties organisés pour la découverte de la région, parfois à pied, parfois en vélo et parfois en car. Ainsi a-t-on découvert le pays de la Loire avec ses beaux châteaux et la Bretagne. (On a également goûté la cuisine de la région). Après les conférences du soir, chacun à son tour présentait son pays. Pour les autres, c'était un voyage magnifique à travers le monde, une découverte des cultures, un échange d'idées.



Parmi les visites inoubliables était celle du Futuroscope à Poitiers. On y a assisté à 11 spectacles de cinéma pendant la journée à la fin de laquelle on a été fasciné par le spectacle son et lumière autour d'un lac artificiel. Un bal populaire et des feux d'artifices: c'était le 14 juillet, la fête nationale. Le but de la visite en calèche et en bateau de la Brière était de se mettre en dialogue avec la nature. D'autres endroits intéressants: l'Océarium au Croisic, les Marais-Salanta, le port à Saint-Nazaire, la fête Bretonne au parc des Druides, les ramparts de Guérande et bien sûr plusieurs fois la plage à la Baule, la plus belle plage d'Europe.

Ces beaux moments passés ensemble, ce rêve vécu l'un avec l'autre, ceux-ci ont aidé à la formation de fortes amitiés entre nous jeunes gens. Cela nous a montré que c'était possible de vivre dans un monde sans haine ni discrimination, sans différence ni guerre, plein d'amour et d'amitiés...

*Nitila Natarajan
I M.A. Economics*

UN ENFANT A PARIS

C'était un enfant à Paris
Je l'ai vu du café
Avec son visage et air tristes
Marchant le long des pavés.
C'était un enfant triste à Paris
Je me rappelle ce jour en Mai,
Le printemps dans l'air
La tristesse au milieu de la gaieté.

C'était un enfant blanc-noir à Paris
Qui vide les poubelles du Marais
Pour manger une tranche de pain,
Et nous, avec des gâteaux et du thé.
C'était un enfant seul à Paris
Comment pourrais-tu le laisser
A se promener sur les pavés
Avec son âme blessée

*écrit par Ranjini Sathianarayanan
II B.A. Literature*

प्यार की कसौटी

राजू को सर्जन की ड्रेस में देखकर नीरा का रोम-रोम पुलकित हो गया। उसे वह दिन याद आ गया जब मरणासन्न पड़ी रजनी के पास वह खेल रहा था। उस समय वह कुल आठ महीने का होगा। अबोध बालक क्या जानता था कि जन्म देने वाली माँ आज के इस मधुर पल को हमारे लिए छोड़कर चली जायेगी। आज यदि रजनी होती तो शायद मंजिल ही कुछ और होती।

नीरा के मानसपटल पर चलचित्र की भांति स्मृतियाँ उमरने लगीं।

पिता हाईकोर्ट के जज थे। उनका तबादला कलकत्ते हुआ था। वे तीन बहनें थीं जिनकी देखभाल के लिए माँ ने विशेष रूप से रजनी को रख लिया था। उन्हें भाई के न होने का एहसास सदा खलता रहता। रजनी अपने बच्चे को बहुत साफ - सुथरा रखती थी। उसे लेकर जब वह घर आती तो सब उसे दुलारती पुचकारती और खेलती थी उन्हें लगता जैसे उनके खालीपन की भरपाई हो गई हो। वह उनके सारे गम भुला देता। विशेष रूप से माँ राजू का बहुत ख्याल करती थी। दिन ऐसे ही बीतते गए।

एक दिन रजनी बुझी-बुझी-सी लग रही थी। पूछने पर पता चला कि उसे कैंसर हो गया है। माता पिता ने डाक्टरों से इलाज करवाना चाहा किन्तु कैंसर अन्तिम स्थिति पर था। अतः इलाज नामुमकिन था।

दिन पर दिन रजनी कमजोर होती गई। और अब माँ उससे काम भी नहीं करवाती थी। लेकिन रोज राजू को लेकर वह आया करती थी। माँ की ममता राजू के प्रति गहरी होती चली गई।

रजनी ने थोड़े दिन ही काम किया था पर उनका उसके साथ ऐसा मानवीय रिश्ता स्थापित हो गया था। और एक दिन जब वह नहीं आयी तो उन्हें ६ बड़ी घबराहट हुई उनसे रहा ही न गया। वे सब उसे देखने दौड़े।

खोली में जाकर देखा तो आँखें भर आयीं थीं। दृश्य कुछ ऐसा था कि वे अपने आँसू रोक ही नहीं पा रहे थे। रजनी मर चुकी थी उसके मृत शरीर के पास राजू हँसता खेलता हुआ लेटा था। माँ ने रजनी के अंतिम क्रियाकर्म का प्रबंध किया और राजू को घर ले आये थे। तीनों बहनों ने उसे छोटा भाई स्वीकार कर लिया। अब भाई के न होने का एहसास ही न रहा। धीरे धीरे वह बड़ा हो गया और स्कूल जाने लगा। जब वह स्कूल से आता तो तीनों को उसे पढ़ाने में बड़ा मजा आता। राजू मेधावी छात्र निकला और वह आज अमरिका में सर्जन हो गया है।

माँ की ममता और व्यवहार तथा उनके स्नेह ने आज उसे सफलता की चोटी पर खड़ा कर दिया है। यह सोचकर उन्हें हर पल गर्व की अनुभूति होती है।

Puja Kudesia

95/HS/60

प्रकृति - शक्ति

यह जानते हुए कि
हम प्रकृति से प्रकृति हम से नहीं
हम नष्ट किए जा रहे हैं इसके
हवे भवे सौन्दर्य को
मंगा किए जा रहे हैं
पहाड़ों को
दूषित किए जा रहे हैं
कल कल करती शीतल धाराओं को
हत्या किए जा रहे हैं
इसके कम्य गोद में कुलौचे
भरते जीव-जन्तुओं को
केवल अपने स्वार्थ को पूरा किए जा रहे हैं
प्रकृति दंड देती है यों कहे आबिबकाव
वह बदला ले ही लेती है
चाहे वह हो भूकंप
झाड़ या आँधी-तूफान
ये प्रमाणित करती है हम प्रकृति से हैं
प्रकृति हम से नहीं
यदि यूँ होता रहा प्रहाव
सम्हाव, आहाव
तो प्रकृति वह जाएगी सिमट के मात्र चित्रों में।

Reena Kumari
(II. B.Sc. Physics)

चाह

दिसम्बर की शाम धुंध ओढ़े पूरे शहर में पसर गई। सन्नाटे से भरी सड़के ठिठुरने लगीं। बिजली के खंभे उसकी ठिठुरन को दूर करने का असफल परन्तु भरसक प्रयास करने लगे। इसी दृश्य को अपने कमरे की खिड़की से निहारती हुई एक कोमल, प्यारी-सी छोटी-सी बच्ची-गुड्डी खड़ी थी। यह दृश्य गुड्डी के लिए कुछ नया नहीं था। लेकिन वह रोज इसी तरह अपने अनाथाश्रम की खिड़की से इस आशा के साथ देखती कि शायद आज बिजली के खंभे धुंध को चीर कर सड़क की ठिठुरन को दूर कर सकेंगे। इसी आशा को लिए वह खिड़की से निहारती - निहारती पास लगी खाट पर सो जाती।

सात साल पहले जब वह इस अनाथाश्रम में लाई गई थी तब वह एकदम नन्ही-सी थी। तब से आजतक आश्रम ही उसकी दुनिया है। नादान चेहरा, घुंघरले बाल, मुँह पर एक मीठी मुस्कान नींद में भी गुड्डी एकदम परी दीख पड़ती है।

हर दिन अपने विचारों को समेटे एक आस लिए सपनों में खो जाती है। एक सुन्दर-सा सपना। सपने में एक सुन्दर-सी लोरी सुनाई पड़ती है। लोरी गाने वाली शायद उसकी माँ है जिसका रूप धुंधला है। इस धुंधलेपन को मिटाने की कोशिश में वह उतनी ही असफल है जितने ये बिजली के खंभे ठिठुरन को दूर करने में। सपने में लोरी सुनते-सुनते उसकी आँखें अक्सर खुल जाती हैं और किसी अज्ञात कल्पना में वह खो जाती है और खिड़की के पास खड़ी होकर देखने लगती है आशा भरी निगाहों से कि काश धुंध हट जाए और रोशनी दीखे, काश उसको भी एक परिवार मिले, एक माँ का प्यार मिले।

M. Mallika Menon
(II B.Sc. Zoology)

पंछी

उड़ रहे हैं पंछी
नील गगन में
दूब-दूब,
आदलों को छूक
लौट आते हैं
प्रशन्नता से भवपूव,
उड़ना है मुझे भी
इन पंछियों की तरह
उड़ते जाना है
ज्ञानार्जन के लिए
कहीं दूब-दूब।

Km Moushani Ghosh
95/EL/26

பாறை

உளியாலே ஓயாமல் அடித்துப்
பார்த்தேன்
வெடி ஒன்று வைத்து விட்டு அகன்று
நின்றேன்
பயன் ஏதும் இல்லையென்று
திரும்பிச் சென்றேன்
சில காலம் கழித்து அவ்வழியில்
வருகையில்

சிறுமலரோடு செடி ஒன்று அதில்
கண்டேன்
பாடம் கற்றேன், கடிந்து உரைத்தால்
நிகழாச் செயல்கள் எல்லாம், கனிந்து
உரைத்தால் நிகழும் என்று
உணர்ந்து கொண்டேன்

வி. காங்கல்
இளங்கலை கணிதம் கூடுதல் பிரிவு
இரண்டாம் ஆண்டு

சத்தமில்லாமல் ஓர் சாதனை

இலட்சியமே வாழ்க்கை என்ற குறிக்கோள் கொண்ட செல்வி ஆரியா, ஒரு வித்தியாசமான மாணாக்கி! இளம் அறிவியல் கணிதத் துறையில் சேர்ந்து முதல் பருவத்தில் முந்தி நின்றவள், சோதனையாக இதயநோயையும் தாங்க வேண்டிய தாயிற்று. அறுவை சிகிச்சைக்குப் பின், கல்லூரி செல்ல இயலவில்லை. ஆனாலும், கருமமே கண்ணாகக் கொண்டவர் — மெய் வருத்தம் பாரார், பசிநோக்கார், கண் துள்கார் என்றபடி, இடும்பைக்கே இடும்பை விளைவித்துப் போராடி, இரண்டாம் ஆண்டில் 'சிறந்த மாணவி'க்கான பரிசைப் பெற்றாள். மூன்றாம் ஆண்டில், 'கல்லூரி ஆண்டு விழா'வில் 'சிறப்புப் பரிசு'ம் பெற்றாள். அவளைப் பேட்டி கண்டபோது, அவள் கூறியதைக் கேட்க, 'இப்படியும் ஒரு பெண்ணா?' என்ற வியப்பே எஞ்சி நின்றது. "உறுதி கொண்ட நெஞ்சுடன், எதுவும் முடியாத நிலையிலும் மூன்றாம் ஆண்டு, கல்லூரிக்குச் செல்லாமலே உற்ற தோழிகள் உதவியாலும், முதல்வர், துணை முதல்வர்கள், துறை ஆசிரியர்கள், துறைத் தலைவர் என்ற அனைவரின் ஆசியாலும், கணிதத்தில் தணியாத மோகம் கொண்டு செயல்பட்டபோது என் நோயையும் மறந்து செயல்பட்டேன்" என்றார். மற்றவர்களுக்குச் சொல்ல விரும்புவது. "துன்பம் கண்டு துவளாதே, துணிவுடன் குறிக்கோள் ஒன்றையே நினைவில் கொண்டு செயல்படு" என்பதே. எதிர்காலத் திட்டம் பற்றிக் கேட்டபோது, PGDCA படிக்க வேண்டும் என்ற தன் விருப்பத்தைத் தெரிவித்தாள்.



இம்மாணாக்கியைப் பார்க்கும்போது, "உறுதி கொண்ட நெஞ்சினாள் வா வா வா" என்று பாடத் தோன்றுகிறது.

மாணாக்கியர்

“நினைவில் இனிக்கும் நிலைக்கும் பயணம்”

வேல்டு விஷன்' என்னும் சமூக சேவை நிறுவனத்தின் உதவியால் 2-வது வகுப்பிலிருந்து +2 வரை சர்ச் பார்க் கான்வென்டிஸ் படித்துவந்தேன். இந்த 'வேல்டு விஷன்' நிறுவனம் முதல் முறையாக நாட்டுக்கு ஒரு மாணவரைத் தேர்ந்தெடுத்து நற்பண்புகளைப் பரப்புவதற்காக ஆசிரியநாடுகளுக்கு அனுப்பி வைத்தார்கள். இந்தியாவைப் பொருத்த வரையில், அந்த அமைப்பில் 50,000 மாணவர்கள் இருந்தாலும் தேர்வு என்கிற முறையில் என்னை “யூத் அம்பாஸிடர் ஆஃப் இந்தியா” வாகத் தேர்ந்தெடுத்தார்கள். இந்தச் செய்தியை அறிந்தவுடன் நானும், என் குடும்பத்தினரும் பெருமகிழ்ச்சி அடைந்தோம்.

'தைவான் நாட்டு வேல்டு விஷன்' அழைப்பை ஏற்று 1995 ஜூன் 25ஆம் நாள் சென்னை மாநகரிலிருந்து விமானம் மூலம் சிங்கப்பூர் வழியாகத் தைவான் நாட்டை அடைந்தேன். என்னைப் போன்று உலகில் உள்ள 49 நாடுகளிலிருந்து, மாணவர்கள் பிரதிநிதிகளாக வந்திருந்தார்கள். தைவான் நாட்டில் 30 நாட்களில் 50 நாட்டினையுடைய யூத் அம்பாஸிடர்களாகிய நாங்கள் சகோதர சகோதரிகளாக அவரவர் நாட்டின் கலாசாரத்தை, பண்பைப் பகிர்ந்து கொண்டோம். தைவான் நாட்டு ஜனாதிபதி, திரு. லீ தங் உறலிவ அவர்களின் முன்னால் என்னைப் பேச அழைத்த பொழுது,

“நாட்டால் - இந்தியன்

இனத்தால் - திராவிடன்

மொழியால் - தமிழன்” என்கின்ற உணர்வோடு உரையாற்றினேன். அன்று, நான் பயின்ற பள்ளியையும் எனக்குக் கற்பித்த ஆசிரியையர்களையும் நினைவு கூர்ந்தேன். தைவான் நாட்டில், எழில்மிகு கலையம்சம் கொண்ட கோபுரங்களைப் பார்த்து வியந்து போனோம். தைவான் நாட்டில் உள்ள பள்ளிகள், கல்லூரிகளில் உள்ள மாணவமணிகளோடு அளவளாவினோம். தைவான் நாட்டு வானொலி மற்றும் தொலைக்காட்சி நிலையங்களில் நாங்கள் உரையாடுகின்ற வாய்ப்பைப் பெற்றோம்.

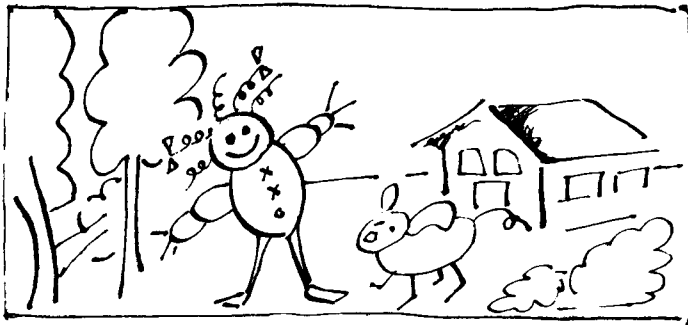
நாங்கள் அனைவரும் இதன் பின் ஹாங்காங், தாய்லாந்து, இந்தோனேசியா, சிங்கப்பூர், பிலிப்பைன்ஸ், கொரியா சென்றுவிட்டுத் திரும்பவும் தைவான் வந்தோம். பின்னால் தைவான் நாட்டில் நடைபெற்ற ஒரு கூட்டத்தில் 50 நாட்டு மாணவர் மத்தியில் என்னைத் தேர்ந்தெடுத்து தாய்லாந்து கவுன்சில் கூட்டத்தில் பேசுகின்ற வாய்ப்பைத் தந்தார்கள். தாய்லாந்து நாட்டில் ஒரு வாரம் தங்கியிருந்த பொழுது பல இடங்களைச் சுற்றிக் காண்பித்தார்கள். ஒரு நாள் தாய்லாந்தில் நடைபெற்ற கூட்டத்தில் பல நாடுகளிலிருந்து வந்துள்ள 'வேல்டு

விஷன்' நிர்வாகிகள், தொழிலதிபர்கள், பொதுநல சேவை நிறுவனத்தின் முன்னோடிகள், பேராசிரியர்கள் கலந்து கொண்டார்கள். அவர்கள் மத்தியில் இந்தியாவிலுள்ள 'வேர்ட்டு விஷன்' அமைப்பைப் பற்றித் தெளிவாக எடுத்துச்சொல்லுகின்ற வாய்ப்பைப் பெற்றேன். அதன் பலனாக, வாஷிங்டன் செல்லுகின்ற ஒரு வாய்ப்பை உருவாக்கித் தந்தார்கள். என் வாழ்நாளில் மறக்க முடியாத பெருமையைத் தேடித்தந்த எல்லோருக்கும் என் நன்றியைத் தெரிவித்துக்கொண்டு இந்தியா திரும்பினேன். 1995-ம் ஆண்டு அக்டோபர் 25-ம் நாள் அமெரிக்கா வேர்ட்டு விஷன் ஜனாதிபதி திரு. இராபர்ட் சைப்பின் அழைப்பை ஏற்று சியாட்டில் (வாஷிங்டன்) சென்றேன். நவம்பர் 2-ம் தேதி நடைபெற்ற கூட்டத்தில் கலந்து கொண்டு உரையாற்றினேன். 17 நாட்கள் நான் அமெரிக்காவில் தங்கியிருந்தேன். வாஷிங்டனில் உள்ள பல முக்கிய இடங்களை எனக்குச் சுற்றிக் காண்பித்தார்கள். மீண்டும் மனநிறைவோடு இந்தியா திரும்பினேன்.

தமிழகத்தில் பிறந்து வளர்ந்து நான் பல நாடுகளுக்குச் சென்று வந்த எனக்கு, எல்லாச் செலவுகளையும் ஏற்று எனக்கும் பள்ளிக்கும் பெருமையைத் தேடித் தந்த 'வேர்ட்டு விஷன் ஆஃப் இந்தியா' விற்கு என் சார்பாகவும் என் குடும்பத்தினரின் சார்பாகவும் மனமார்ந்த நன்றியைத் தெரிவித்துக் கொள்கிறேன்.

ஸ்டெல்லா மாரிஸ் கல்லூரியில் எனக்கு இடம் கிடைத்தாலும் 3 மாத காலமாக பல நாடுகளுக்கு நான் சென்று வந்ததாலும், கல்லூரி முதல்வர் அவர்கள் பெருந்தன்மையோடு என்னை ஏற்றுக்கொண்டு கல்லூரியில் படிப்ப தற்கான அனுமதியைத் தந்தார்கள். அவர்களுக்கும் என் நன்றியைத் தெரிவித்துக் கொள்கிறேன்.

மிட்ஸி ஃபெர்னான்டோ
இரண்டாமாண்டு இயற்பியல் துறை



சுட்டும் விழிச்சுடர்தான்...

அறியாமை இருளகல
அவதரித்த ஆன்மாவே!
நெறியாக வழிதியும்
நின்றொழுக வேண்டாவா!

தெய்வமே தொழத்தக்க
தெய்வீகம் உனக்குள்ளே
நெய்தீபம் போல் நெஞ்சில்
நின்றொரிய வேண்டாவா!

கையளவு கற்றதிலே
காலளவு கற்பிக்கும்
கடனறிந்து கொண்டுதினம்
கற்றறிய வேண்டாவா!

வழிகாட்டும் விழியாக
விழிபேசும் மொழியாக
ஒளிதீபம் நீயாக
வலியறிய வேண்டாவா!

விதையே நீயாகி
விதைகளுக்குள் விதைக்கின்ற
வித்தையினை நீயறிந்து
வினைசெய்ய வேண்டாவா!

நீயறிந்து கொண்டதனை
நேர்படவே அறிவிக்கும்
நேர்த்தியினை நீயறிந்து
நேர்படவும் வேண்டாவா!

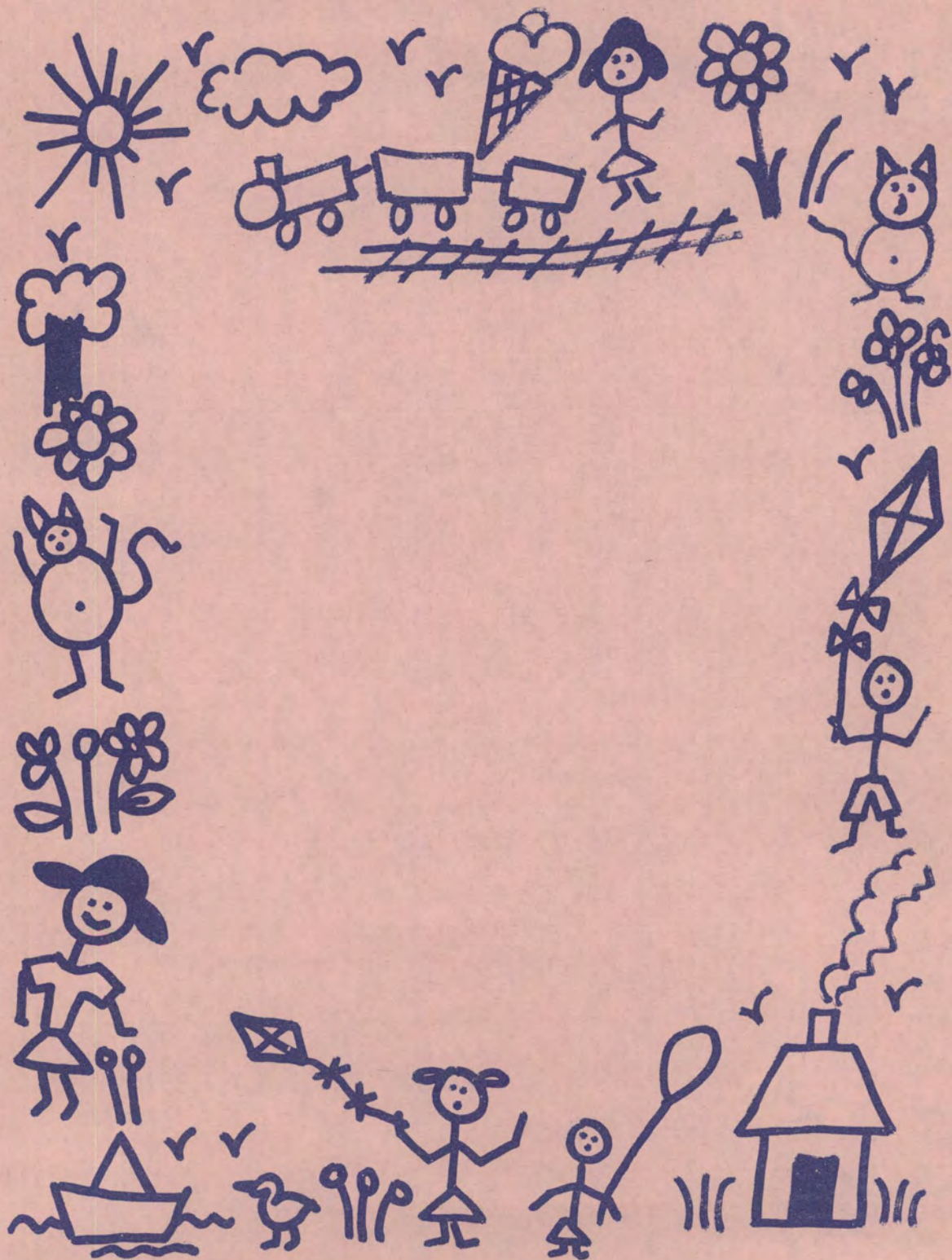
மாணவனே நீயாகி
மாணவனே ஆசானாய்
மனப்பாடம் செய்தே நீ
மாண்புறவும் வேண்டாவா!

வீணே பொழுதோட்டி
வெறுங்கதைகள் பேசிதினம்
நீயே இருக்கின்ற
நிலைமாற வேண்டாவா!

சாகாத இலக்கியத்தின்
சரித்திரமாய் எந்நாளும்
ஆசானே நீ நின்று
அருள்புரிய வேண்டாவா!

ஆதாரம் நீயாகி
அவதாரம் தானாகி
தீயோரும் தொழுகின்ற
திருவாக வேண்டாவா!

— இ. சா. பாவீன் சுல்தானா



Q: What is it to you to be a child?

Answer:

- Being a child means you don't need to worry - Age 40
- A child is someone who is very happy, very free - Age 35
- A child? A child is the symbol of hope and joy - Age 22
- To be a child means you can spill your milk and food
and get away with it. - Age 18
- A child is someone who is safe from any fear or pain - Age 14
- Children are happiness. Happiness is in children - Age 70
- To be a child means you have a whole life of happiness
ahead of you - Age 45
- To be a child means you have to obey your parents - Age 13
- A child is one who has to finish her homework on time
and study - Age 12
- A child is the one that can eat icecream when he wants - Age 11
- To me, being a child means being able to do all
that you want to without any restrictions - Age 21
- I think the sole purpose of a child's life is to be
happy and spread happiness - Age 16
- Childhood is to enjoy and play - Age 15
- To be a child is to be able to smile all the time - Age 27
- When you are a child, you don't let the world get to you.
That is the meaning of being a child - Age 29
- A child is the eternal symbol of innocence and hope
But for long? With cases of child abuse coming to
the fore. It's scary to be a child anymore - Age 25
- Children are perpetual optimists - Age 52
- Child? To be a child means to be happy - no matter
what. To smile - no matter what. To be a child
means to live life cheerfully and most completely.
To be a child is to be alive and awake to the
beauty of life. - Age 23

Children and Art

How do you get a child who is traumatized and hence unable to speak, to express his or herself? Sign language and careful gestures could help, but time has revealed that Art succeeds where everything else may not.

From time immemorial, Art has been the easiest and most creative way to express oneself. "Art comes from within you, from within the soul" - this is one philosophy of Art. There are many theories, philosophies and ideologies regarding 'Art'. The bottom line however is that Art is the best medium to express one's thoughts, moods, ideas or feelings.

Children and Art have always gone hand in hand.

Have you ever heard of a child who didn't like to draw, or scribble? Be it stick figures on paper or squiggles on a wall, Art has been a part of everyone's childhood.

Children and Art are synonymous.

Looking at young children today, I remember my own fascination for colour - if I wasn't trying to eat my crayons I'd be busy scribbling away with them. Right from Nursery School, Art Class was the best part of a day in school. Things are no different now.

Art is not only creative, it is also therapeutic. Nowadays trained Art therapists can tell you much about a person from their drawings about their personalities, their moods, their unexpressed feelings. There are no limits in this field, and no end to the discoveries one can make.

But the most important aspect of Art is that it is enjoyable. For those who have talent, the colours and forms flow with ease on to the paper; for others it is merely a simple source of relaxation and enjoyment. The possibilities are endless, and setting down norms is limiting one's creative expression.

Unfortunately, as one grows up one becomes influenced by what is 'done', and what is not. However, children feel no such inhibitions. If they feel an elephant should be red or green in colour, so be it. There does not have to be a reason for everything. You cannot, should not limit a child and indeed it really is interesting to see how a child's mind works. But it should also be kept in mind that there comes a time for some amount of training in Art. Children progress from drawing a blue camel to a brown one as they are encouraged to observe, and learn from their observations. Art, Visuals are employed to build up and develop their knowledge.

Absolute concentration reigns in an Art Class - well, most of the time anyway. Pencils are sharpened, colours are brought out, and creativity commences. Sometimes a theme is

given - At the seaside, At the Zoo, etc., etc., and it really is fascinating to see the images unfold. - The child's mind is brought to life on paper.

As research for my article I recently visited Bambino School, Adyar and asked some 9 and 10 year olds to draw whatever makes them happy - and I was presented with pictures of Christmas, festivals and holidays, picnics, and of sealife with dolphins frolicking merrily. A glance revealed that all the colours used were vivid - bright and happy.

The choice of colours is another subconscious trait I find in children - while an adult uses dramatic colours like black, reds etc., a child's painting invariably reflects happiness - usage of lots of warm, bright and carefree colours. Very rarely does one find dark tones in a child's drawing - and finding them is an indication of some turmoil in the child's life or mind. The fact that what they see and experience around them is reflected in what they draw is also a significant point. Reflecting upon my observations now I remember recognizing stages in Art development. In the preschooler Art was in the form of squiggles and scribbles, which led to more rounded forms and circles, then the representation of stick figures and faces and finally, reflections of their environments, their observations. Gradually, however, this leads to stereotype.

This eventual development to stereotypical representations is easily explained by a theory narrated to me by Mrs. Sangeetha Prasad, a trained Art therapist (an old student of Stella Maris Dept. of Fine Arts) who has eleven years of experience behind her. She clearly explained the connection children have with Art. - We all know that the left side of the brain deals with time, organisation, Maths etc., and that the right side of the brain houses the emotional centres and deals with the abstract etc. Well, theory has it that the functions of the 'right brain' are more predominant in children, hence their easy expression of emotions - crying etc. Thus also their being more 'in tune' with Art. They are less inhibited by the rules and regulations set by the left brain, until later. That's why children find it easier to draw and to subconsciously express themselves in Art. By adolescence, however, organisation is developed and stereotype sets in, for the children become more inhibited by order and by what becomes regulations. Hence the affinity of young children to Art...

*Divya Ramanathan.
II B.A. Fine Arts.*



Happiness -- in the eyes of a child

In an age and time when happiness seems to have disappeared altogether, the little ones around us remind us that it is not so. Children teach us again that happiness is not a goal to be reached but a mode of travelling.

Happiness is when I know I'm happy. Happiness is when I smile. And when I laugh. It is also when amma smiles and laughs. And when grandma hugs me. This is happiness.

Maya, III Std.

I'm happy when I go to school because I have friends. I'm happy playing "Fire on the Mountain, Run, Run, Run ...". I'm also happy when we play 'Hide and Seek'. I'm happy when we play.

Vineetha, IV Std.

Happy? I'm happy when there is no homework, no test and when my teacher is absent. I am happy when I finish my homework or come first in the exam. But I am happier when there is no test at all.

Punitha, VI Std.

I'm very happy when my cousins come to see me. When they come we go to the beach and eat icecreams. All of us scream and shout until we can eat atleast 3 cups of vanilla icecream each. I am very happy when I eat icecream.

Anamika, V Std.

I'm happy when I see Mickey Mouse on T.V. I like Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck. I even have Mickey shoes and Donald pencil box. I'm very, very happy when I see Mickey. But I will be more happy when I meet Mickey at Disneyland in U.S.A.

Monica, IV Std.

Happy? When I dance, I'm happy. I learn Bharatnatyam. Dancing makes me very happy. I feel thrilled.

Geetha, V Std.

I'm happy when I can eat a whole packet of wafers - chocolate wafers. I'm happy when I can play with my baby brother. I'm happy when we go to the beach or park. I'm happy when I get a 'good' in my notebook from my teacher.

Krithika, III Std.

The Stuff of Memories

One only needs to say that she is a hostelite to evoke public sympathy, for living in a hostel is considered to be synonymous with homesickness, lack of privacy, food that can never measure up to the standard of the hallowed “home”, and above all, having to ignore the misfortune of encountering grumpy glares behind grimly held tooth brushes before one has fortified oneself with a glass of much needed coffee. Woe betide the girl who thinks that her worldly possessions are to be solely used by her. “Give but expect no return” is the hostel policy that is the firm belief of every hostelite worth her salt. Food, clothes, cosmetics, stationery and confidences that begin with “Don’t tell a soul” are all shared. The hostelites are a bunch of people for whom optimism and imagination are most essential. Excuses are invented in the blink of an eye to avoid the consequences of inspired misdemeanours. The deep sorrow of not being the recipient of letters or other means of correspondence from home is cast aside with a stoic “I’m, sure I’ll get some news tomorrow”.



Anyone who wishes to see a re-enactment of history on the scale of the California Gold Rush should view the hostelites respond to the summons of “food”. Girls who pride themselves on their poise and grooming are reduced to a jostling mass of gaping mouths and grabbing hands. A hostelite is defined by her friends as a person with a bottomless pit for a stomach. The hostelite blithely passes all the blame on to the food dished out in the mess.

But then again a girl who has been a hostelite during the course of her studies has accumulated a treasure chest of experiences and memories : memories of sitting in a large crowded hall and watching a cricket match or a movie that draws sighs and laughter from all alike, memories of a glance from a friend across the room and enjoying the moment of silent communication, memories of singing Christmas carols and experiencing the radiant feeling of joy and belonging, memories of a wistful smile that followed the sharing of a cherished dream, memories of sneaking into a darkened room draped in white sheet to frighten a sleeping friend memories which will resurface years later at an old girls' reunion. For the life of a hostelite consists of a little unhappiness, a fair amount of compromise, but above all, many moments of undiluted happiness.

Sunisha Tharappan
I B.A (Lit.)
Our Lady's Hostel



Dr. Sr. Flavia, *fmm*, Visiting Scholar 1993; Dr. Patricia L. Magdamo, Vice President, United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia; Fr. Rosario; and M. A. Thangaraj, Chairman of the India Advisory Committee at the Farewell Party for Dr. Magdamo

Treks, Cadets and Achilles : NCC Report

1995 was an action packed year for the cadets of Stella Maris N.C.C. Company.

Our NCC activities started well before the commencement of the academic year with Sgt. Uma Shankari Ratnam joining a mountaineering expedition to Uttarkashi in May' 95. In the same month SUO Padmapriya, Cpl. Abirami and Cpl. Patricia attended the All India NCC Girls Trekking expedition in the Nilgiris. Ten of our cadets attended the CATC camp held at the Madras Christian College, Tambaram; while five of the cadets were part of the contingent, the other five belonged to the BLC contingent representing Madras Group A's banner-winning contingent at the Inter Group competitions held at Trichi and Kancheepuram.

Cdt. Mohana Rupa was State 1st in First Aid and Home Nursing, Cdt. Mabel C. Thomas was State 1st in Firing.

The freshies were enrolled on 1st July, 1995 and were initiated into the NCC activities at the annual inaugural camp held for 2 days at the Besant Camping Site, Theosophical Society, Besant Nagar, organised by the NCC Unit of SMC. Alpha and Delta Companies bagged most of the prizes in the competitions held at the Inaugural Camp.

This unit also organised various social service activities throughout the year which are listed below :

- i) Donations of old clothes, books, stationery articles, etc. to EXPA.
- ii) A blood donation camp at our college with the help of Lion's Club, Alandur, Adambakkam at which 88 units of blood were donated.
- iii) Preservation of the Archaeological Site at Athirampakkam in collaboration with the History Department of Stella Maris and the authorities of the Government Museum, Madras.
- iv) A variety entertainment show at the convent of Little Sisters of the Poor, Chetpet.
- v) An educative AIDS Awareness Seminar conducted by Dr. Jaya Sridhar from CAN.
- vi) Donations to Missionaries of Charity, Ennore.
- vii) Community Lunch for the children of Shelter Home at Aminjikai.

Cdt. Mohana Rupa of SMC represented the TNPA Directorate at the Basic Leadership Camp at Delhi. She was a part of the State FA and HN team.

Cdt. Mary Margret, Cdt. Caroline, Cdt. Chiria Pushpam, Cdt. Shoba J. attended the BLC Camp at Amaravathi, Maharashtra - The National Integration Camp at Satara, Maharashtra. was attended by Sgt. Vigila, Cdt. Vaishnavi, Cdt. Sumeena, Cdt. Josephine. While the All India Trek at Sikkim was attended by Cdt. Veronica, S., Cdt. Mary Margret, Cdt. Caroline, Cdt. Deepa, Cdt. Pallavi, P.

We lifted the winners' trophy at CROSS FIRE, an Inter-Collegiate State Level Firing competition conducted by Loyola College. Sgt. C. P. Fabina Kavitha was awarded the Best Shot Firer Trophy at the competition.

Our unit swept the shields for Drill, First Aid, Home Nursing, Firing, National Integration show at Cadofest '95 hosted by the D. G. Vaishnav College, Cdt. Lakshmi of the I year was adjudged the Best Cadet.

Three of our cadets attended the RDC at Delhi this January - Cdt. Anuradha Menon, Naval Cdt. Taranum Nadaph and Flight Cdt. Harriet Edwards.

Our cadets performed meritoriously at SAINIK DAWATH - '96 hosted by New College, Madras winning the Cultural Shield and the GK, GSK Trophies. Cdt. Meghna Apparao was adjudged the Best Cadet of the competition.

Our hard work throughout the year finally bore fruit on 3rd February, 1996 a red letter day in our annals as we proudly held the trophy of CADO UTSAV '96, a State level NCC Meet organised by the Loyola NCC Unit. We lifted the Cultural Trophy and the newly instituted Achilles 8' Trophy in the same competition.

The Inter Company Competitions, conducted among the 4 companies to encourage the spirit of healthy competition, were held on 12th and 14th of February. Delta Company emerged the clear winners this year.

15 cadets wrote the 'B' Certificate Exam in February 1994.

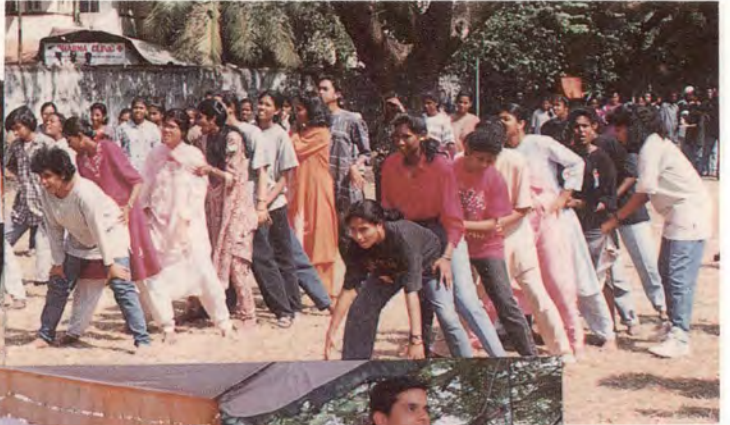
17 cadets wrote the 'C' Certificate Exam in March 1994.

We swung into preparation for our NCC Day and all our efforts culminated in the NCC Day Celebrations. Another chapter in the history of our NCC Company is coming to an end and we are looking forward to a new beginning in the next academic year.

*S.U.O. Gloria Fernandez
III B.A. Literature
S.U.O. P. Padmapriya
III B.A. History*



On the Trail of Gold



The Chief Guest Mr. Ramesh Krishnan and Mrs. Krishnan with the Principal, the Vice-Principals and the Physical Directress Mrs. E. Malathy.



On The Trail of Gold : Games Report

It has been a year of achievements in the field of games and sports. The students participated with a truly sportive spirit and brought home many laurels. This year was special as yoga and karate were introduced.

At the Inter-Collegiate tournaments, our college teams did well, as usual, and won in Basketball and Tennis and were Runners-up in Hockey, Hand Ball and Chess. Our teams could not take part in Table Tennis and Shuttle Badminton, since the players had to participate in the State Championships. Our team members represented South Division and Madras University for Inter Division and Inter University Tournaments.

Some of our college team players represented the Madras University South Division in the following major games and athletics :

Basket Ball	B. Sunitha	III	B.Com
	S. Priya	III	B.Sc. Mathematics
	L. Josephine Ramya	II	B.Sc. Mathematics
	M. Muthamizh	I	B.Com.
	M. Sheeba Pramola	I	B.Com.
	S. Ramya	I	B.Com
	Junette	I	B.A. Fine Arts
Cricket	Zibi Azeez	III	B.A. Sociology
	Sripradha	III	B.Sc. Physics
Table Tennis	Nithya S.	I	B.Sc. Botany
Hockey	V. Akila Ruby	III	B.A. History
	Karthiyayini	I	B.Sc. Physics
Shuttle Badminton	Jyothi Jairam	III	B.Sc. Mathematics
	Nisha Giri	I	B.Sc. Physics
	Sripradha S.	III	B.Sc. Physics
Tennis	Sunandha Thambuswamy	I	B.A. Literature
	Shobana M.	II	B.Sc. Zoology

Athletics	R. Sunumole	III	B.Sc. Botany
	V. Nandhini	I	B.Com
	Sumalya Sundaram	I	B.A. Literature

Every year, many of our students have the honour of wearing the University colours in several games. Some of them represented Madras University this year and they participated in the All India Inter-University Tournaments in various games.

Basket Ball	B. Sunitha	III	B.Com.
	L. Josephine Ramya	II	B.Sc. Mathematics
	M. Muthamizh	I	B.Com.
	M. Sheeba Pramola	I	B.Com.
Cricket	Zibi Azeez	III	B.A. Sociology
Table Tennis	S. Nithya	I	B.Sc. Botany
Shuttle Badminton	Jyothi Jairam	III	B.Sc. Mathematics
	Nisha Giri	I	B.Sc. Physics
Athletics	Sumalya Sundaram	I	B.A. Literature
Cross Country Race	R. Sunumole	III	B.Sc. Botany
Lawn Tennis	Sunandha Thambuswamy	I	B.A. Literature
Hockey	Karthiyayini	I	B.Sc. Physics
Base Ball	Vandana & Ramaa	III	B.Com.

Some of our college teams participated in the open tournaments at both District and State level and brought laurels.

Our College Basketball Team bagged the Winners' Trophy at the State level Inter-collegiate Tournaments conducted by :

1. IIT, Madras
2. Batlagundu Sports Club
3. Cosmos Club, Madras
4. Hindustan Engineering College, Padur
5. Pondicherry Engineering College, Pondicherry
6. YMCA College of Physical Education, Madras
7. Vaishnav College, Madras.

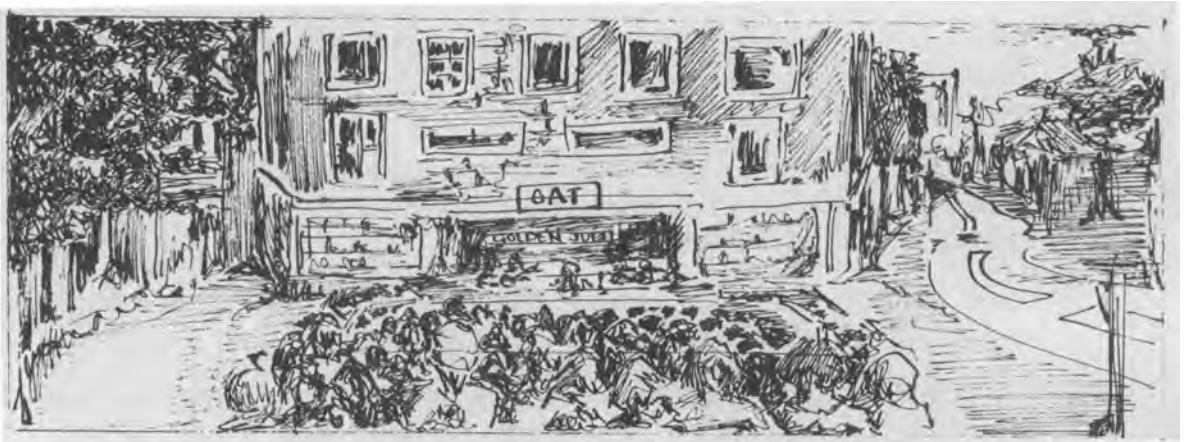
They were victorious at the State Level Open Tournaments conducted by the Namakkal Club at Namakkal. M. Muthamizh of I B.Com. was declared the best player of the Tournament. The team received a cash award of Rs.3,000/-. The same team bagged the winners' Silver Trophy at the State Level Basket Ball Tournament conducted by the Kamaraj College, Tuticorin. Our hearty congratulations to the players of the Basket Ball team headed by B. Sunitha, III B.Com. The other players are : S. Priya, III B.Sc. Mathematics, L. Josephine Ramya, II B.Sc. Mathematics, M. Muthamizh, I B.Com., M. Sheeba Pramola, I B.Com., S. Ramya, I B.Com., Junette, I B.A. Fine Arts and Jasmine, I B.A. Sociology

Jyothi Jairam of III B. Sc. Mathematics and Nisha Giri of I B.Sc. Physics bagged the Winners' Trophy at the Shuttle Tournament and Nithya of I B.Sc. Botany got the runner-up at the Table Tennis Tournament conducted by Cosmos Club, Madras. Our College won the overall championship at the above Tournament. V. Roopa of I B.Com. represented Tamil Nadu in the National Championship in Tennikoit at Trivandrum and she was placed third.

The dedication, guidance and support of our Physical Directress contribute greatly to the success of our teams.

We hope to keep the banner flying high through the years to come.

*B. Sumitha (III B.Com.)
Lavanya (III Bsc. Maths)*



NSS
National Service Scheme
Stella Maris College, Madras - 86
1995 - 96

The NSS units started their activities for the academic year 1995-96 with 136 student volunteers. A total of 15 project areas were chosen for placements in view of services to different categories of people in need of help.

Broadly classified under Educational and Guidance services, the projects include services at schools for normal children, and at special schools for the handicapped, the visually impaired, the hearing impaired and orphanages.

The regular activities undertaken on the basis of three hours a week also include scribing sessions for the blind students during their quarterly, half-yearly and model exams. Scribing on request therefore has become a regular feature of the NSS.

Special programmes during the year included the following :

- Volunteers participating in seminars organised for Sadhbhavana Day, Role of Youth in the prevention of crime, National Savings Scheme and Aids awareness.
- Involvement in the organisation and execution of the programme for World Elder's Day in collaboration with Helpage India. Ninety Volunteers extended their services to about one thousand elders from various agencies.
- Fifty-five volunteers participated in the inaugural function of the South Zone Cultural Festival organised for the first time by the University of Madras. The inaugural choir included singers from our college.
- Blood Donation Camp was conducted in the college to create awareness and emphasise the importance of voluntary blood donation.
- A ten-day Special Camping Programme was organized with the theme "Youth for Sustainable Development" at Keechalam, Chengai MGR District. Forty five volunteers and one Programme Officer were involved in the activities that included field visits, exhibitions, cultural programmes and demonstrations cum health check ups in the villages.

N.S.S.



Celebrating the National Service Scheme

N. S. S. Activities



N.C.C.



The Chief Guest
Commodore Ravindra Nath
at the N.C.C. Day Parade.



The Third Year N.C.C. cadets with the Vice-Principals, the
Principal and Mrs. Felbin Kennedy, N.C.C. Officer.



- The Polio Vaccination Campaign by the Corporation Health authorities all over the city gave sixty NSS volunteers, the privilege of being involved in this worthwhile scheme.
- NSS Day was celebrated in the college and this enabled the volunteers to extend their hospitality to all those who help them to render fruitful service. A Powerful Street Play entitled “Pachai Mannu” was performed by the Mouna Kural group. The performance was well appreciated and the message of awareness regarding female infanticide was effectively conveyed.

Stalls by different institutions displayed articles and the handwork of the blind, deaf, mentally retarded and the less privileged sectors. The staff and students by their purchases helped in contributing towards this worthy cause.



3 ... 2 ... 1 ... 0 ... Energize : Students' Union Report

College reopened on June 14th, 1995 and the students union office bearers welcomed the student body to the new academic year. We had planned our activities based on certain goals and objectives we had in mind :

- to make students aware of the realities around them.
- to create interest in all college activities.
- to help students develop an all-round personality.

Every year, the Students' Union works towards a goal, represented in its motto and logo. Our motto for the year "Believe, Begin, then Blaze on..." was announced on the 19th of June. To believe in ourselves, in those around us - to begin now, to begin today, and to blaze on with this energy forever was the message given to the college.

In order that students would be aware of the activities we had planned for the year, and to ensure total involvement of the entire student body, we organized Interactive Sessions with each of the years. Here we discussed the activities and listened to the students' suggestions.

An orientation was held for one and a half days to initiate the newly-elected student council members. A Career Week was organized in order to motivate students to take up careers related to their field of study. This brought about an enhanced awareness of the opportunities open to them. These informative sessions were held after college hours and carried 19 different professions.

The most awaited event was the Inter-years Odyssey '95 - with a total of 39 events. 'Odyssey 95' enhanced participation and campus spirit. In addition, an activity called informals was conducted.

To create an awareness of world poverty and hunger, we celebrated World Food Day with a Hunger Banquet, where students could get an insight into the different standards of living across the world.

Another tradition in Stella Maris is to design out an annual T-Shirt that represents the spirit of the year. This year the T-Shirt was released to the students on Stella's Birthday.

When we started thinking of Christmas, we knew something had to be different this year. The Christmas spirit had to be felt. We dedicated this Christmas to the Child - 'dream a little dream'. We organized Stella Maris' first Inter-collegiate Western Music Competition in 20 years. We held a fund raiser by inviting the rock band "Juravi" to play for us. Also as a part of the fund raising effort, stalls were held during the break for 3 days. The total amount collected was approximately Rs.28,000/- and was donated to child welfare activities.

The Students' Union Activities





Following college tradition we celebrated Independence Day cum Stella Birthday, Teachers' Day, Workers' Day, Friendship Day and PTC Day.

The Students Union organized its annual seminar 'KHOJ' focussing on the various facets of India. It dealt with the political, social, economical environmental and global condition of India and covered some of the controversial issues relevant to today.

The College Play 'The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man in the Moon Marigolds' by Paul Zindel was directed by Zareen Issac, a student of the college. The play with a budget of Rs.25,000/- was a grand success.

The union celebrated Union Day with the theme "60's and Savages". It is the day that represents the culmination of students' union activities. A formal ceremony was combined with festivity in the NCC grounds.

True to the Union motto "Believe, Begin and Blaze on ..." this year had its dramatic moments and crowning achievements.

Officer bearers of the Students Union, 1995-96 were :

Aarhi Singh, President

Ray Simon, Vice-President

Zareen Isaac, General Secretary

Deepa John, Treasurer

Miriam C. Matthew, Cultural Secretary (Sciences)

Sheena Joy, Cultural Secretary (Arts)



Venture into Magic : Cultural Report

It is through cultural activities that we glimpse the creative and magical dimension to every person. It is a chance to plunge into the unknown, the fantastic, always creating those moments to be forever cherished. Wanting as many people to experience this magic our objective as we ventured on a new cultural trail were :

- i) To increase participation - first on campus and then outside college. To give to each student the chance to add their talent and energy to campus living.

Most of the Students Union Activities, such as Informals, Interyears and the one week long Christmas celebration, when the entire student community worked tirelessly to raise money for deprived children - were aimed at involving maximum student participation.

- ii) To cater to and develop the various talents through the clubs. Three new clubs were introduced - The Art Club, the Folk Dance Club and the Potpourri Club - apart from the already existing 9 clubs. A new club policy was chalked out, the components of which included

- Organising and providing entertainment for one SU activity

- taking up a social cause - the clubs joined forces for our Christmas celebration and organized stalls, entertainment and competitions and together we were able to raise Rs. 28,000 to sponsor Swabodini, an institute for spastic children.

- Conducting a Workshop - not all the clubs were able to fulfill this requirement. However, some clubs organised commendable workshops - the Art Club's 3 day workshop, Dvani's performance cum demonstration, the Current Affairs Club workshop on AIDS awareness. Stella Times - the campus newspaper, has had a dynamic team this year, who have brought out three issues with extensive coverage.

- iii) To provide information about Inter-collegiate culturals and organize the best team Stella Maris has to offer. The clubs provided the platform for the selection and coordination of teams for inter-collegiate culturals. All events involving individual and unlimited participation were posted on the cultural notice board. It was by the consistent work of the clubs and the overwhelming response of the students that Stella Maris was able to make her presence strongly felt on the cultural circuit. We were the overall winners of Shrishti - (Ethiraj College) and Runners up at Fest-Eve - (WCC) and Charisma - JBAS (SIET) among several others.

Our quiz teams have also done exceptionally well this year winning competitions in and outside Madras.

Here we would like to thank Dr. Mrs. Ramaa Narayanan who is truly responsible for encouraging and inspiring us through all our cultural ventures.

Besides our objectives which we were able to achieve to varied extents, the biggest bonus has been to feel the infectious enthusiasm that cultural has evoked this year and the heady feeling of being a Stella Marian outside college.

We wish the new student representatives the very best - for that's what they have here at Stella Maris. Blaze on...

Sheena Joy (III B.A. Fine Arts)
Miriam C. Mathew (III B.Sc. Botany)
Cultural Secretaries

OTHER CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

College Play - A Big Success

The Stella Maris College Play - "The Effect Of Gamma Rays On Man In The Moon Marigolds" - was staged on the Fourth and Fifth of March at the Museum Theatre. A play written by Paul Zindel, it portrays the life of three women - an embittered mother whose girlish dreams have been shattered and her two daughters who struggle for their own unique identities. The play portrays above all a very disturbing yet compassionate view of human struggle and of three women overwhelmed by despair. The play was directed by Zareen Isaac, a third year student of Literature, who needs no introduction. The role of the mother, Beatrice, was brilliantly portrayed by Charmaine Suares and the daughters were played by Miriam C. Mathew and Aarti Singh. The play revolved around these three women and while dealing with serious human issues such as bitterness and frustration, dreams and aspirations, and optimism and fear - the characters also managed to evoke empathetic laughter from the audience. The role of the house guest, Nanny, was portrayed by Sangeetha Reddy whose presence was notably felt through a character that conspicuously has no dialogue at all. The unforgettable moment of unexpected humour came when the character Janice appears on stage explaining her horrendous experiment on a cat with a sense of humour and innocence. "Then I boiled the cat in a sodium hydroxide solution until all the skin pulled right off....!" These lines are not easily forgotten thanks to Milia Santosh.

More than the sense of suffocating stagnation Beatrice conveys, it is the purity of idealism in Tilie that overwhelmed the audience. The conviction and belief in herself and her dreams were moving.

“Perhaps this part of me got lost in a fern that was crushed... until it was coal. And then it was a diamond....as beautiful as the star from which it first came.” -- Tillie

The three women portrayed could not be more different from each other in temperament and appearance. Yet the audience could empathise with every one of their realities, for they were universal.

Zareen Isaac, the director of the play says she was “ecstatic” for having been given the opportunity to direct the play. She noted that the success of the play was ensured by the “perfect casting” of the characters. Zareen had only praise for the cast and back stage crew who were “absolutely spectacular”, and put their “heart and soul” into the play. A mention must be made of Ray Simon, who was indispensable as a production manager. Zareen goes on to say, “the college administration placed a lot of trust in us to put up a good show and allowed us to explore our own horizons with regard to the play.”

The college play was a wonderful expression of team spirit and in its portrayal of human feeling and a specific female condition proved successful in its universal appeal. Bravo!

Vaishnavi, S.

The Season of Christmas

Another year is drawing to a close, and as we do every year, people celebrate Christmas with great pomp and splendour. This year Stella Maris decided to do things a little differently - we decided to dedicate this Christmas to the child.

As years have gone by, Christmas has become more and more commercial. People have lost the true meaning of Christmas. Rev. Sunder Clarke spoke to us about the “manwardness of God”, but how many of us in that audience were really paying attention to what he was saying? I think quite a few, for the message he gave us was exclusively meant for our Stella Marian community which has decided to make a difference in the lives of innocent children who do not have the opportunities of living their childhood to the fullest.

Through various activities and stalls organised over a span of four days, the students’ union successfully raised Rs.28,000. This is no small achievement, but as the reverend said, “The more you have climbed, the more you have to climb.”

The Christmas spirit was further fueled by the innovative dance drama. The drama, featuring scenes of street war, drug addiction, family abuse and the spirit of Christmas - Santa Claus - was not only well coordinated but it drove the message home.

As this year's Christmas was for the child, it was most appropriate that the children of Shanthi Bhavan were included in our festivities.

As 1995 comes to an end, it is time for the individual to take stock of the year that has passed. With the new year, let us begin afresh. Leave the past behind and live up to the ideals that Stella Maris has tried to instill in us. This Christmas, instead of occupying yourself with your needs and desires, reach out and fulfill the dreams of those who have so many which remain unfulfilled.

Ranjini Sathianarayanan

Career Week

“There is a part of me that wants to write, a part that wants to theorize, a part that wants to sculpt, a part that wants to teach....”

Hugh Prather

For those who have been floundering in a sea of doubt, the Career Week organised by the Students' Union was a dream come true. For the first time in Stella Maris, students were given informative talks on various careers, thus enlightening them and broadening their horizons.

When asked what encouraged the concept, the Students' Union claimed it was their motto, “Believe, Begin...Blaze on”, that provided them with the inspiration. The purpose was “motivation and information”. This concept was given full support by the college authorities and individual departments stepped forward with valuable information that helped the Students' Union along.

It was a first attempt on the part of the Students' Union and they must be commended for their efforts. From the student responses it is evident that the first years were the most enthusiastic. For them it was a glimpse of a future for which they could prepare during the next three years. It was an enriching experience to listen to people who had already achieved what we aspire to become. And the best part of it all was that most of them were ex-Stella Marians!

While almost 400 students had registered for the entire week, it appeared that attendance was waning between the first lecture on entrepreneurship on Monday to designing on Thursday. Perhaps the numbers were decreasing towards the end of the week because the careers were not interesting enough. Many careers which are fast gaining ground, like hotel management and catering, were not handled. Furthermore the fact that once one entered the hall, one was forced to sit through all the lectures, did tend to put some of the students off.

There was a lack of time for questions during the interactive session, the most important part of the lecture, which indicated the thirst to know more, but the sessions were meant only to provide an exposure to the various careers available. Interested parties must pursue their careers on their own. It was felt that some of the lecturers, though well qualified, were unable to satisfy student queries and many could not hold the attention of the students during the lectures. This became apparent after the break when many students started becoming distracted and only dynamic speakers could lure them back to the subject at hand.

The Students' Union did take the trouble to put up charts with information on courses available for the various careers in F0-1. This ready information proved useful to those of us who felt there was a lack of data on any of the options available to us. Further information is available at Madras University. The Students' Union, however, was quite pleased with the turnout. They walked into the week with absolutely no expectations, fearing they might be disappointed, but it appears they were pleasantly surprised.

All in all, it was a good effort made by the Students' Union and they were able to reach out to a large part of the college. "We want you to do what you want to do, not what others want you to do," stated Aarthi Singh, President. With this in mind, they focused the entire week on the satisfaction of choosing a job one wants to do, even if the monetary remuneration is low. In the real world this may not be possible, but for those four days, the Students' Union allowed us to let our imagination run wild and gave us a chance to live our fantasies.

Ranjini, S.

[Courtesy: Stella Times]



Inter-Years — Odyssey '95

The First Years

“WE are fresh, we are bright, we are first year dynamite”, rang from every room where the competitions were held. Definitely they were fresh and bright, but ... dynamite they weren't.

The first years did not lack in talent nor in spirit, but they were novices at organisation. Meera, first year Literature, felt that as far as the major events were concerned, no one knew what was going on. But this is a matter of dispute as the first years did win the prizes for best soloist in Light Music and Indian Classical Music, as well as the best actress award in English Dramatics. Of course, they deserve some credit for winning the third place in Western Dance plus the first and second places in the solo performances.

It was the minor events in which the first years hit the jackpot. They occupied most of the first places in events such as History Histrionics, Mock Interview, Myriad, Pic-Dat-Dumb Word, Ek Minute and Young Lawyers, while taking the second places in Adzap and Quiz and the third place in Anthakshari, English Debate and the Rag Mag.

They certainly were a talented lot, bagging the first place in Embroidery, while also snatching with ease, the second place in Distortion and Vegetable Carving and the third place in Pot-Applique.

This abundance of talent exhibited in the Inter-Years was just a curtain raiser. So watch out folks, the first years are definitely a force to reckon with.

The Second Years

Sometimes, being second-best helps more than being the best as we second years learned during these inter-year competitions. Our drawbacks were exposed and we are no longer blind to our pitfalls. We fought hard and though we did not emerge as victors, we were dignified in defeat.

The efforts of the cast and crew of our play, set in World War II France, were rewarded with a first place in English Dramatics. With the stage setting and the dancers, it was no surprise that we walked away with Parampara too.

We also shone in events like English and Hindi Elocution, Fashion Designing, Clay Modelling, Dumb Charades, Ad Designing, Quiz, Myriad and Caricature. Although we came second, History Histrionics was another success. A lot of effort went into the Western Music contest with the innovative backdrop and our theme of the CHILD.

We emerged victorious in Indian Classical Music and won the jackpot with our theme, “Music for music's sake”. We were awarded the second place for the rag mag and

allotted the G Block for our corner. The extraordinary talent inherent in our girls was appreciated in their stage sets and backdrops.

For three days full of fun, excitement, enthusiasm and joy, due credit must go to the students' union for their meticulous organisational skills.

The Third Years

After three fun-filled days of serious competition, the third years walked away with Odyssey' 95 and the cheering shield. They topped the score almost sixty points ahead of the second years.

In Western Dance a fiery, patriotic "Rukh Jao" and a heart rending "Churalia" in Light Music enabled the third years to pave their way to the first place in both events.

Western Music, the event upon which they had placed their jackpot was won by the P.G.'s but the third years did win the awards for best instrumentalist and the second and third prizes for the soloists. The beautifully portrayed "Mother Courage" got them the second place in English Dramatics not to mention the best direction and best backdrop awards. Their portrayal of Andhra Pradesh got them the second place in Parampara.

The P.G's

"Feel the P.G. Power", ran the chorus, and truly the power was something to reckon with. Out of the nine major events, the P.G.'s had a first or a second place in as many as six of them without drawing a blank in any one of them. Considering their limited student resources, this is quite an achievement. No wonder they won the prize for participation.

The P.G. watchword right through Odyssey '95 seems to have been QUALITY. Their performances in some of the events like Indian Classical Dance, Western Music and Tamil Dramatics were acclaimed to be really exceptional by the judges. Of special significance is the fact that both the first and third years lost their jackpots.

They gave the major events their very best shot and in the process seem to have lost out on the minor events. They won places in only nine out of thirty-three events, drawing a blank in the rest. If perhaps they had concentrated more on the minor events, they would have given the second years a run for their money.

The P.G.'s have proved that enthusiasm and spirit of participation is what really counts. Way to go P.G.'s, an exceptional performance despite all odds...

*Moushmi, Jayashree, Namrata Nair,
Aarthi Sanan, Radhika Kanan,
Archana, S, and Shwetha, R.*

Stella Maris College (Autonomous) Madras - 86

List of overall Percentage of Passes

April 1996

1	CLASS	APPEARED	PASSED	% OF PASS
	B.A.			
	History	45	33	73.33
	Sociology	46	29	63.04
	Economics	63	49	77.77
	Fine Arts	38	20	52.63
	English	50	30	60.00
	B.Com.			
	Section A	68	59	86.76
	Section B	69	51	73.91
	B.Sc.			
	Mathematics			
	Section A	48	43	89.58
	Section B	60	38	63.33
	Physics	51	45	88.23
	Chemistry	30	26	86.67
	Botany	42	29	69.04
	Zoology	44	31	70.45
	M.A.			
	Economics	17	14	82.35
	Fine Arts	12	10	83.33
	English	19	15	78.94
	Social Work	18	15	83.33
	M.Sc.			
	Mathematics	27	25	92.59
	P.G.D.C.S.	18	17	94.44

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