

A large, faint watermark of the Stella Maris College logo is centered on the cover. The logo consists of a circular emblem with a vertical line through the center, topped by a cross, and a stylized figure or symbol within the circle. The background is a dark, textured, reddish-brown color.

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE

2001-2002



Stella Maris College

(Autonomous)

Chennai - 600 086

2001 - 2002

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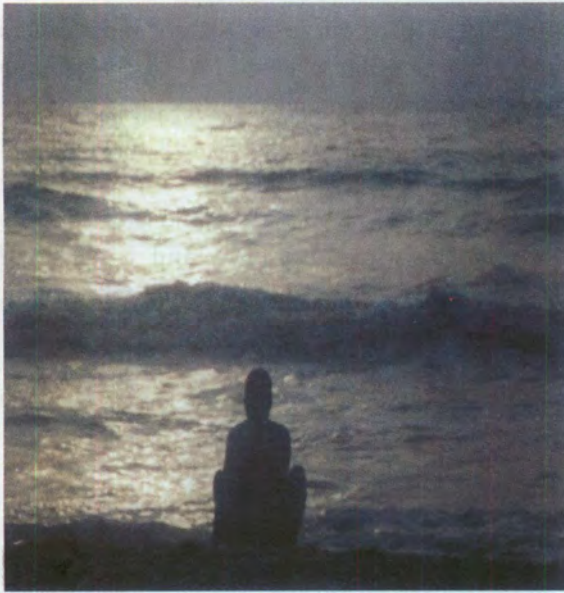
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Que Faire : Reculer ou Avancer?

समय का सदुपयोग
दीपक
कर्ज
नारी
फूलवाली
बालक का भय
विस्तृत होती भारतीय संस्कृति
बुढ़ापे का सहारा
मेरा देश
अगर गान्धीजी जिन्दा होते तो !

Examination Results



editorial

We have been unkind to ourselves these last many months. We have brutalized and we have carnaged. We have managed to find excuses. We have witnessed acts of terror, be it in Afghanistan, New York, Kashmir or Gujarat. And we have attempted to take sides and validate these acts of terror and counter-terror. Scenes of brutal killings, rape, destruction and human suffering have become a part of daily existence. It is during times like these, when hope and belief wear thin, that we remember stories from the past, reactivate courage and fortitude, and find the faith to believe in ourselves and in our neighbours.

Stella Maris College recalls a story of courage and promise in the saga of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary. This year the community witnesses one hundred and twenty

five years of service. That is enough cause for celebration because we are witness to commitment in the cause of equity, motivated by love and compassion. As a college community we hope that the mission that drives the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary will also serve as guiding principle for those of us involved in the process of education. For ultimately education is, as the Brazilian educator Paulo Freire asserted, a progressive practice that “must instil in educators and learners alike the unrestrained taste of freedom. The young should sing, scream, paint their faces, go out into the streets, fill the squares, and demonstrate against lies, deceit, and shamelessness. The young should—while accepting the indispensable limits to freedom, the only way in which their freedom will be real—fight against the abuse of power.”

The challenge lies in secularizing education, in delivering the kind of education that will be consistent with the principles of the Indian constitution. The challenge also lies in revitalizing the spirit of liberal humanism in academics and in teaching the coming generations to be human again.

We hope that the privilege of belonging to the exclusive category of Indian women in higher education, will bestow on us the grace and the

humility to reach out to our sisters and brothers and make possible a beautiful, compassionate world in which we may celebrate the gift of life. A world in which a newborn can take its first breath in the knowledge that s/he is welcome into this world, where the child can take its first steps with confidence and a sense of security and every woman can walk tall without fear of abuse or exploitation.

Photo Credit : Shweta Dhamija, II M.A. Fine Arts

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st francis of assisi

“How great God’s kindness is, Brother Leo,” he often said to me. “What miraculous things surround us! When the sun rises in the morning and brings the day, have you noticed how happily the birds sing, and how our hearts leap within our breasts, and how merrily the stones and waters laugh? And when night falls, how benevolently our sister Fire always comes. Sometimes she climbs up to our lamps and lights our room; sometimes she sits in the fireplace and cooks our food and keeps us warm in winter. And water: what a miracle that is too, Brother Leo! How it flows and gurgles, how it forms streams, rivers and then empties into the ocean—singing! How it washes, rinses, cleanses everything! And when we are thirsty, how refreshing it is as it descends within us and waters our bowels! How well bound together are man’s body and the world, man’s soul and God! When I think of all these miracles, Brother Leo, I don’t want to talk or walk any more; I want to sing and dance.”

All ye works of the Lord, bless the Lord: praise and exalt Him for ever.

O all ye waters that are above the heavens, and all ye powers of the Lord, bless the Lord: praise and exalt him for ever.

O ye sun and moon and ye stars of heaven, bless the Lord: praise and exalt Him for ever.

O ye light and darkness, and ye nights and days, bless the Lord: praise and exalt him for ever.

O every shower and dew, and all ye spirits of God, bless the Lord: praise and exalt Him for ever.



Giotto, St. Francis Preaches to the Birds

O ye fire and heat, and ye cold and warmth, bless the Lord: exalt Him for ever.

O ye dews and falling snow, and ye ice and cold, bless the Lord: praise and exalt Him for ever.

O ye frost and snow, and ye lightnings and clouds, bless the Lord: praise and exalt Him for ever.

O let the earth bless the Lord: let it praise and exalt Him for ever.

O ye mountains and hills, and all things that spring up in the earth, bless the Lord: praise and exalt Him for ever.

*O ye fountains, and ye seas and rivers, whales
and all that move in the waters, bless the Lord:
praise and exalt Him for ever.*

He clapped his hands; his quivering feet swung back and forth of their own accord, beyond his control. He wanted to dance but could not. Never had I seen Francis so happy. The flame which licked and devoured his face had turned to light. He had felt unburdened ever since the celestial Christ had come down upon him, and now his heart dimmed with assurance.

I remained at his side constantly, night and day. One morning as I opened my eyes at dawn I saw him leaning against his stone pillow, smiling.

"Your face is beaming, Father Francis. Did you have a pleasant dream?"

"How can you expect dreams to make me smile, Brother Leo, when you see the blood flowing from me like this? Until now I wept, beat my breast, and cried out my sins to God. But now I understand: God holds a sponge. If I were asked to paint God's loving-kindness, I would depict Him with a sponge in His hand. . . . All sins will be erased, Brother Leo; all sinners will be saved—even Satan himself, Brother Leo; for hell is nothing more than the antechamber of heaven."

"But then —" I began.

But Francis held out his hand and covered my mouth. "Quiet!" he said. "Do not diminish the grandeur of God."

*from God's Pauper:
St Francis of Assisi by Nikos Kazantzakis*

mary of the passion

Foundress of the Congregation of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary



*If it is my work it will perish with me.
But if it is God's work, it will continue.*

Mary of the Passion

January 6, 2002, the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary the world over celebrated the 125th year of their Foundation. More by Divine Providence than coincidence, Mary of the Passion will be declared "Blessed" by the Church on October 20, 2002, a step before her canonisation when she will be named among the saints of the church.

God directs history, but humans fashion it. He uses people exactly as they are with their natural human qualities and capabilities to

advance the course of history in the direction in which he chooses. And so it was with the life, vision and mission of Mary of the Passion.

Helen de Chappotin as she was called before she embarked upon her spiritual journey, belonged to the nobility of France, the de Chappotin family, which possessed all the characteristics of their social class; military honour, patriotism, fidelity to the King and country and deep faith in God. It was into such an ambience that Helen was born and was nurtured. She was certainly just one of her kind, exceeding all norms of natural gifts and talents. Highly intelligent, and intensely passionate, a strong personality, sincere, fully human and sensitive, and full of the joy of living. It was these qualities that saw her through the most trying moments of her life, as a person and a Foundress. She was a fearless woman who would dare any risk for a worthwhile cause. Her vision and mission opened up a new way in the Church, not only for herself but for thousands of other women who by their personal vocation would follow this same way, that of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary.

Born on May 21, 1839, Mary of the Passion came to Madurai, India, as a Contemplative of the Order of Marie Reparatrix in 1864. Having experienced in her own way the oppressive situation of the women of this area, she learnt the local language, Tamil and began to work assiduously for women's development addressing issues of literacy, employment and empowerment. However, this was not to be for

long. With an unusual turn of events, Mary of the Passion left the Madurai Mission with a small group of sisters, for Ootacamund in 1874. It was here that the seeds of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary were first sown. A fledgling Congregation was coming into existence. From Ootacamund, Mary of the Passion returned to Rome. On January 6, 1877 the church gave recognition and the Institute of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary was born.

True to her name, she walked the path of suffering, so much a part of human existence. Following in the footsteps of her Master, Jesus, her life gave meaning to her suffering. Like her, many women have followed in her footsteps and even sealed their witness by blood: the seven Martyrs of China in 1900, Sister Maria Assunta, who worked among the lepers in China and fell victim to typhus fever at the age of twenty-eight, Sister Maria Teresalina who was killed in Kashmir in 1947, the sisters who were put to death, among others, at the time of independence in Zaire. These are but a few. There are others who by a life of silent offering ensure the fecundity of the Institute.

Thousands of Sisters, Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, in their own small yet definite way follow the path of Mary of the Passion and live her spirit. They dedicate themselves to the mission of the church in the

fields of Education, Medical and Pastoral work and work directly with the marginalised. The challenge of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary is their availability to mission, their readiness to go everywhere and to everyone, to learn and receive as much as to give.

The Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, 8448 sisters, embracing the whole world, are at present in seventy-six countries and belong to seventy-six different nationalities. They are in all the five continents and wherever possible live in International Communities, engaging in different types of activities, and responding to the calls of the mission. They are united in the same ideal and mission, to bring God's love to all, especially the least and the lowliest.

The utter simplicity of her message to go to the least and to those to whom God's love has not been made manifest gives her a universal appeal, responding as it does to the aspiration of young people who want to be challenged and to all those who passionately desire to construct a new world built on love and truth.

*There is so much to be done in the world,
How I wish I had a thousand lives.*

Mary of the Passion

*Dr. Sr. Colleen North, fmm
Secretary, Stella Maris College*



college day 2002

Report Of The Principal Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, Fmm

Esteemed chief guest of the day, Ms. Sheela Murthy, Managing Attorney of her Law Office at Baltimore, USA, Sr. Mary Rose, Provincial and Chairperson, Governing Body of the College, Dr. Sr. Colleen North, Superior and Secretary of the College, Sr. Sundari, Superior, Stella Maris Convent, Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent, former Principal and Secretary, Members of the Governing Body, Academic Council, valued friends, parents, benefactors of the college, cherished alumnae, dedicated faculty, administrative and supportive staff and dear students,

On this our fifty-fifth College day, it is my privilege to present before you the activities of the college during the academic year 2001–2002.

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

The year 2002 also marks the post-centennial silver jubilee year of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary. The congregation founded by Mary of the Passion, has today a family of 8000 sisters of seventy-six nationalities working in seventy-six countries around the world. A woman ahead of her times, Mary of the Passion was convinced of the power and potential of women and hence worked for their empowerment even as early as 1877. The utter simplicity of her message, 'Happy is the simple soul who lives in the transparency of Truth and Charity', has given her a universal appeal. It responds to the deepest aspirations of today's



Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip & Dr. Sr. Colleen North with the Chief Guest Ms. Sheela Murthy

youth who long for a new world built on love and truth and thus her path still holds an attraction for them. Stella Maris College owes its existence to the vision and dynamism of Mary of the Passion, transmitted through the founding sisters.

As an institution for higher education, we have the unique privilege of drawing together over 3000 individuals. Our dedicated faculty and staff have kindled the spark of knowledge in thousands of young minds. Permit me now to place on record our deep appreciation of the services of four of our faculty members and two of our administrative and supportive staff who are retiring this year.

Dr. Sr. Colleen North, who will be retiring after twenty-six years of service to the institution, has generously shared in the administration of the college as Dean of Student Affairs, Vice-Principal, Head of the Department and currently as Superior and Secretary of the

College. Her commitment to the cause of social work and availability to the students have been the hallmark of her years of dedicated service. It was her initiative that saw the establishment of 'UNNATHI' the Social Work Students Forum. Thank you, Sr. Colleen, for having shared the best part of your life with Stella Maris and we are immensely grateful for all the services rendered and for having shouldered the responsibility as Principal-in-charge at the beginning of this academic year.

Dr. Mridula Jose, Head, Undergraduate Department of English will be retiring after twenty-seven years of service. She has been a dynamic and dedicated teacher well appreciated by her colleagues and students. Serious, yet fun-loving, firm yet gentle, effable Dr. Mridula has served this institution in various capacities as Staff Club Secretary, and more recently, Head of Department. Her enthusiasm has remained undiminished over the years and she remains ever youthful. Dr. Mridula has endeared herself to several generations of students and I am sure that her retirement will leave a void in the college.

Dr. Mrs. Bhagavathy Jayaram, faculty, Department of Mathematics has served this college for twenty-five years. Unassuming and responsible she carried out her duties in a meticulous manner. As Controller of Examinations from June 1999 to December 2000, she contributed to the smooth functioning of the Examination Office. Systematic and dedicated, Mrs. Bhagavathy has given of her very best to the teaching of Mathematics at the Undergraduate and Post graduate levels. This retirement is a well-earned one and we wish

her peace, joy and happiness in the years to come.

Ms. Jean Fernandez, faculty, Department of English, has opted for Voluntary Retirement after twenty years of dedicated service. A voracious reader with a wonderful soprano voice, Ms. Jean has transmitted her love for the English language and literature to several generations of students. Uncompromising in her quest for quality, she demanded the same of her students. Ms Jean is currently pursuing a Ph.D programme and we wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

Mrs. Teresa Madhanraj, retired in August



2001 after thirty years of service. Her patient and calm demeanour was a source of strength to her colleagues in the office. Before the advent of technology in the administrative wing of the college, several generations of students walked out of the portals with Transfer and Conduct Certificates penned in her steady and neat handwriting. Systematic in maintaining records, she has rendered yeoman service to the faculty and students.

Mr. Robert Samuel, Assistant in the Library opted for Voluntary Retirement after twenty-

three years of service in this institution. We thank him for his generous and dedicated service.

It is with deep regret that I announce the untimely demise of Ms. Jensima, a II year student of the Department of Commerce and Ms. Ramya Raghunathan, I year student of the Department of Mathematics.

It is now my proud privilege to announce that the college has introduced the M.Sc. degree programme in Information Technology under the autonomous mode from this academic year. The Department of Commerce has grown in strength with the addition of another section and they have also included a new vocational course in Office Management and Secretarial Practices sponsored by the UGC. The college also looks forward to the introduction of M.A. International Studies and M.Sc. Bioinformatics, from the next academic year. At this point I would like to state that Stella Maris College has been instrumental in instituting these courses at the University of Madras.

Our faculty keep abreast with the latest developments in their area of interest and research by participating in, and being resource persons at Conferences, Seminars and Workshops at the International, National and State levels.

In keeping with its policy of faculty development, the college offered three of its faculty members the opportunity of undergoing short programs of study in Universities abroad.

Dr. Ms. Ordetta Mendoza attended a Summer Programme on 'Principles & Applications of Bioinformatics' at the



Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA in June 2001.

I had the privilege of attending courses on Franciscan Studies and Spirituality and Justice at St. Bonaventure University, Buffalo and Boston College, USA in June – July 2001.

Dr. Geetha Swaminathan is currently in the US and will be visiting several colleges and Universities including Purdue & Montana Tech to enhance her present understanding of the functioning of various laboratory instruments.

'Visioning Conference for Educating Women for Leadership & Governance in the twenty-first Century', an International Conference supported by the UBCHEA was organised by Miriam College, at Manila, Philippines in November 2001. Dr. Evelyn Chandrasekharan and Sr. Mercy, the Vice-Principals, and Ms. Joan of II B.A. Economics attended the conference.

Dr. Patricia Gabriel of the Department of History attended a seminar in July 2001 at Singapore on 'Special Leadership & Communication' organized by the Haggai Institute.

All these faculty development programmes would not have been possible without the



support of the UBCHEA, and the college gratefully acknowledges this support.

Under the UGC's IX Plan twenty-one faculty members were deputed for faculty development programme leading to a Doctoral degree. Nine of them were deputed for a period of two years and twelve for a period of one year.

This year six of our faculty received their doctoral degrees - Dr. Usha Krishnan, Department of Botany, Dr. Ms. Mercy Soruparani, and Dr. Savithri Sankaran, Department of Mathematics, Dr. Rukmani Srinivasan, Dr. Jesurietta Sathian, Department of Chemistry and Dr. Benita Marian, Department of social work.

Stella Maris College on behalf of the Academic Staff College, University of Madras, organised a Refresher Course in 'IT as a Tool for Teaching', in November – December 2001. Forty faculty from various colleges participated in this programme. Dr. Ms. Ordetta Mendoza helped in the co-ordination of the programme.

A three day Central Regional Training Program on Detection and Prevention of Food Adulteration, catalysed and supported by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, was organised and co-ordinated by Dr. Geetha Swaminathan and Ms. Mary George, Department of Chemistry. Forty participants from NGOs and educational institutions from all over Central India benefited from this workshop.

Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, fmm, Dr. Rukmani Srinivasan and Dr. Ordetta Mendoza presented a paper on 'Higher Education in the Third Millennium- Future Trends' at the first National

Conference of Universities & Colleges accredited by the NAAC held at Chennai in October 2001.

Dr. Mridula Jose presented a paper 'Return of the Repressed' at the International Conference on Understanding Australia, organised by the Madras University.

At the International Conference organised by the Department of Sociology, University of Madras on 'Development Paradigm, Social Transformation and Gender Performance in Asia', Dr. Sundari Krishnamurthy presented a paper on 'Empowerment of Women through Information Communication Technology'; Dr. Sujata Ramanathan presented a paper on 'Globalisation, Eco-feminism and New Social Movements' while Dr. Neeraja Rao presented a paper on 'Globalisation: Gender and Food Security in India'.

Dr. Geetha Sridharan, presented a paper on 'Summing up of the Colleges, Universities and Centres of Excellence in the matters of Curriculum, Changes and other Structural Innovations' at the National Symposium on Teaching of Economics, while Dr. Millie Nihila presented papers at the Annamalai University, St. Joseph's College, Trichy, Madras University and the Madras Institute of Development Studies.

It would be appropriate to mention here that the faculty of the Departments of Hindi, French and Tamil have worked together to compile and release the first edition of the Multi-Lingual Lexicon, a project supported by the UBCHEA.

Several of the faculty have also contributed short articles and reviews in the newspapers and other journals and magazines.

The contributions made by our dynamic faculty has been acknowledged by various institutions and associations - Dr. Madhu Dhawan, Head of Department of Hindi, the author of several novels, was awarded the Hindi Sahitya Sammellan Prayag for her contribution to Hindi Literature.

Dr. Kamala Vishwanathan has also contributed to the development of Hindi by translating four novels of Sivasankari, the well-known Tamil novelist.

Dr. Geetha Swaminathan, Department of Chemistry has been listed in the International Who's Who Awardee 2001, VIII edition, published by the American Biographical Institute for significant contribution to the society and career achievement.

Mr. Arockia Samy, a member of our supportive staff was named the Best Gestetner Copy Printer for the year 2001 for his care and maintenance of the machine. He also received a cash award from Gestetner India Limited.

Stella Maris has not confined its activities to the state and national level only. We have also played host to several visiting faculty from abroad.

Teams of educationists visited Stella Maris College from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Australia, Middlesex University, UK as well as Assumption University, Bangkok, Thailand. They appreciated the college and its functioning and are eager to establish linkage programmes with us in the near future.

Dr. Megan McKenna, Professor, a noted storyteller, an internationally known author, a retreat leader and spiritual director was invited

by the College to conduct a three day programme on 'Spirituality and Justice'. Dr. McKenna interacted with the faculty and students during the day and the general public in the evenings.

In our endeavour to evolve with the times and set our sights on definite goals for the future of the institution, the college is looking forward to attain Deemed University status in the near future. In this connection Dr. Rajasekharan Pillai, Director NAAC was invited to deliver a lecture to the faculty on preparing for 'Deemed to be University' status.

The College also organised a workshop on 'Counselling' in December 2001 with Dr. Mrs. Nadine Peterson and Mr. Robert Peterson, Counselling Psychologists from Our Lady of the Lake University, Texas, USA as resource persons.

The college benefited from the expertise of Dr. Joseph Correa, Professor of Business Management, Robert Morris College, Pittsburgh, USA who conducted a workshop on 'Teaching Methodology' for the junior faculty as well as a workshop on 'Grants Development and Management' for the Alumnae.

Dr. A. Raman, Faculty of Rural Management, University of Sydney, Australia conducted a workshop on 'Writing Research Projects and Grants Proposals' for a group of twenty-five faculty members.

In connection with its Golden Jubilee celebrations, the Department of Mathematics organised a two-day state level conference on 'Challenges in Research & Teaching of Mathematics for College Teachers'. During this conference, Sr. Mary Rose, fmm, Provincial Superior, released the home page of the website designed by the department. The annual



Dr. Thangamani Endowment Lecture delivered this year by Dr. Ms. Geetha Srinivas on 'A New Tool in Approximation Theory' was a part of the celebrations.

The Students Cell of the Indian Society of Training and Development has strived to offer a bird's eye view into business and industry and the staff advisor and office bearers have assiduously tried to achieve this throughout the year. Several sessions were organised with leading luminaries of the business world as resource persons and the students were offered valuable insights into the working of modern industry.

Opportunities have been given to students to work with the less privileged, the socially marginalised and the aged. In our effort to bring our students face to face with the realities of life, several programmes and ongoing projects were organised this year. The students of the Department of Social Work organised signature campaigns against the horrifying Erawadi incident and the proliferation of the shrimp industry in Tamil Nadu.

The college has embarked on a collaborative venture with the International Partnership for Service Learning and has been invited to be a part of the Distinguished Partner Program for the development of service learning in India. Dr. Florence McCarthy, Vice President for Asia, visited the college in February this year to review the working of the project.

The Functional Literacy Programme has an enrolment of 150 student volunteers and is co-ordinated by a team of faculty with Sr. Mercy, Vice Principal, at the helm. The area of work is Padappai, a village on the outskirts of Chennai.

Emphasis is laid on Adult Education, health and hygiene, skills development and awareness programmes on environment conservation. In addition to the weekly visits, the students also participated in a three-day camp. A medical camp was also organised in collaboration with the Hindu Mission Hospital, Tambaram.

Mention must be made of the Sangamam, the Extension Project of the College situated at Kasimedu in Royapuram and the fine work done by the team coordinated by Dr. Mrs. Prema Bhat ably assisted by Ms. Jayanthi. The centre has successfully organised youth groups, savings groups and children's groups apart from running two transit schools. The UNICEF adjudged the transit schools the best for the second year in succession.

Stella Maris has always placed emphasis on Value Education and faith formation. The Campus Ministry has contributed to a year of spiritual renewal and revival on the campus. Retreats were conducted in both English and Tamil and a special Growth Retreat was organised for students who desired a deeper spiritual experience.

This year has been an exciting and rewarding one especially for the student body who have organised seminars and intercollegiate cultural programmes with enthusiasm and vigour, which have been both stimulating and enriching experience.

The English department organised a commemorative seminar on R.K. Narayan, which included a dramatisation and panel discussion by students.

The Department of Fine Arts has made an impact on the Art Scene in Chennai. The staff



and students exhibited paintings and sculptures at the Art Mela organised by the Lalit Kala Academy. Three bronze sculptures of Rajny Krishnan have been selected for the Salon Lyonnaise de Beaux Arts exhibition at Lyon, France. Another exhibition by the III yr. UG and I and II yr PG students of the department was held at the Lalit Kala Academy in Feb 2002.

The Economics department conducted two seminars, 'WTO – Impact on Indian Economy' and 'Impact of Privatisation on Indian Economy' and the Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent Endowment Lecture as well as the AD Shroff elocution competition.

The History department organised a seminar on 'International Studies: Relevance and Career Prospects', the Indira Gandhi Endowment lecture and the Sindhu Memorial Intercollegiate Dance Competition, while the Department of chemistry conducted the Inter-collegiate quiz for the Sr. Juliet Irene Rolling trophy.

The Department of Social Work has been recognised as the nodal centre in India for the promotion of Participatory Development by the Association of Social Workers in India and the Society for Participatory Research (PRIA). Mrs. Poppy Kannan, has compiled data for the study titled 'Rural Women's Participation in Community Development' sponsored by the institute of Development Studies, Sussex, UK.

The campus was buzzing with activity with the many Departmental festivals. We had the Intercollegiate History festival: BC to AD 2002, Ecocentric of the Economics Department, COMBAT 2002 of the Commerce department, MATH ZOOM 2001 of the Mathematics department, Zenith 2002 of the Physics department, Reactions 2002 of the Chemistry

department, CATHEXIS of the Zoology department, Phytprobe 2002 of the Botany department, and Wizit 2001 of the department of Computer Science.

Co-curricular activities are an integral part of a student's life at Stella Maris. This year too, our NCC Cadets have won laurels for the college. Ft. Cdt. Elizabeth Varghese participated in the Republic Day Parade 2002 at New Delhi and has been selected for the youth exchange programme.

At the state level intercollegiate competition Cado- Utsav, the SMC contingent was the overall winner. At the All India Tal Sainik Camp in New Delhi, Cdts. Dainy Emmanuel, N. Chandra and Jasline Francis represented Stella Maris where Cdt. Jasline Francis broke the record in firing. Flt. Cdt. Zita Hammond was adjudged the second best glider pilot at the Vayu Sainik Camp. Navel cadet Tanushree Nayar was the best cadet at the Naval Selection Camp. Cpl. Uma Maheshwari was selected for the National Integration Camp held at Leh in August 2001. Our cadets have also attended several other camps and many more activities and won prizes under the able guidance of Ms. Dolly Thomas.

Our students have excelled in the arena of sports and games as well. The Games Activities include Aerobics, Yoga, Karate and training for Red Cross and First Aid. The students have taken part in several state and national level tournaments.

R. Hemavathy of I B.A. History was selected for the State Basket Ball Team, Bairavi Mani, II BCA was part of the State Cricket Team and Seema II BCA represented the State in Billiards and Snooker. Our students have been chosen to



represent the Madras University Teams in Basket Ball, Cricket, Table Tennis Shuttle Badminton, Lawn Tennis, Swimming, Kho kho and Athletics. Preetha of III B.A. Economics was part of the team that bagged the trophy at the All India Inter University Tournament in Table Tennis. Mrs. Malathy, the Physical Directress and Ms. Varalakshmi have been responsible for the success achieved on the sports field.

The NSS unit of the college has a student enrolment of 265 volunteers who were deputed to work in twenty different centres, including those for the physically challenged, homes for senior citizens and deprived children. The volunteers with dedication and sincerity organised several competitions and programmes at the collegiate and intercollegiate level. Special mention must be made of the students who participated in the Republic Day celebrations cultural programme held at the Marina Beach, the World Blood Donation Day where 40 of our volunteers donated blood and the Blood donation camp held in the college premises where 114 students donated blood. 50 student volunteers attended the ten-day special training camp held at Padappai, which was beneficial to the community. The services of the NSS volunteers are commendable and I wish to thank Ms. Prabhavathy Nair and her team of senior students who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes.

The Students Union office bearers, Nasra Roy, Ashitra Aloysius, Pratyusha Gupta, Anna Thomas, Divya Rolla and Surabi. V, with their youthful energy and drive worked by their motto "BE THE ONE WHO DID". They organised AIDS Awareness programmes, raised funds for a childrens hospital during Christmas, organised

a seminar 'Avishkar', which included workshops on Tai-chi, terracotta jewellery, folkdance and candle making. Friendship Day was significant as a sum of Rs. 17,500 was raised for the Student Aid Fund. The climax was the College Play 'The Blithe Spirit' directed by Mr. Yog Japee and co-ordinated by Dr. Susan Oommen. The play, which was managed entirely by the students, was thoroughly enjoyed by the appreciative audience and received commendable critical acclaim. Melange 2002, the intercollegiate festival was a resounding success with over 15 colleges participating.

Stella Maris was also part of the team of colleges, which came together, and raised funds to educate less privileged children through the programme – March 2 Shiksha. Our students were the overall winners at the Cultural competition held at Madras Christian College, Women's Christian College and GSS Jain College and first runners up at Anna Adarsh College, Ethiraj College and M.O.P Vaishnav college.

The staff and students organised a unique fete to raise funds for the poor and to spread the spirit of joy and giving at Christmas time. The fete was a grand success and a sum of Rs. 82,000 was raised.

The Alumnae Association of Stella Maris has been steadily increasing its membership. There have been several events organised as well as newsletters that enable its members to keep abreast of the happenings at the college and among Stella Marians scattered around the globe. I had the opportunity of interacting with several of our Alumnae at the meetings organised in San Francisco, Atlanta, Toronto, Boston and Baltimore during the summer of



2001. The meetings were co-ordinated by Dr. Ms. Ordetta Mendoza.

A special mention must be made of one of our distinguished alumnae, Mrs. Saroja Vaidyanathan, who received the Padma Shri Award this year. She studied Music at Stella Maris College, during 1954-55.

Having placed before you a report of the activities of the past year I would like to reiterate my deep sense of gratitude to:

Sr. Mary Rose, Provincial and chairperson of the governing body.

Dr. Sr. Colleen North, Secretary of the College,

Dr. Mrs. Evelyn Chandrasekharan, and Sr. Mercy, Vice-Principals,

Dr. Savithri Sankaran, Controller of Examinations,

Dr. Geetha Sridharan and Dr. Rukmani Srinivasan, Academic Deans,

Mrs. Lakshmi Venkatasubramaniam, Mrs. Zonita Mason and Mrs. Suganthi Lark, Deans of Student Affairs,

Sr. Christine Anthony, Co-ordinator for the Evening College,

Esteemed members of the faculty,

Sr. Florine Monis, Mrs. Felcy Romeo, Sr. Ann Mathew, and the administrative staff,

Sr. Hilda, and the supportive staff

The Hostel Wardens, Sr. Jemma and Sr. Regina

Our dynamic, young students whose presence we cherish,

The University authorities, the Directorate of Collegiate Education, the Regional Directorate, and the UGC for their co-operation and support.

A special word of thanks also to all our benefactors who have instituted scholarships.

We also thank all the international, national and local agencies and organisations and public utility departments and services for their continued support and timely assistance.

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

As yet another year successfully enters the annals of the history of Stella Maris I would like to leave you with this thought. In the present challenging times, we need to overcome discord and establish universal harmony. The perennial philosophy, the traditional wisdom found in all great religions of the world offers a means of solace and peace. A cosmic universal philosophy, retaining the essential values of each religion, preserved in a living relationship with other spiritual traditions of the world needs to emerge. This is a task for the coming decades and my earnest desire is that we become instruments in creating a new world order in which all people can live in peace and harmony.

Thank you and God Bless!

in appreciation

In every arrival there is a leave-taking; in every re-union, there is a separation; in everyone's growing-up, there is a growing old; in every smile there is a tear; and in every success there is a loss. All living is dying, and all celebration is sorrow too.

It has always been the tradition of Stella Maris College to hold her faculty and staff in high esteem. We take pride in honouring three of our faculty, Dr. Sr. Collen North, Dr. Mrs. Mridula Jose and Dr. Mrs. Bhagavathy Jayaraman, who have made their mark in this institution and who retire at the end of this academic year. We also take pleasure in felicitating two of our supportive staff, Mrs. Teresa Madhanraj and Mr Robert Samuel, who also retire this year.

Dr. Sr. Colleen North is Secretary of the College and belongs to the post-graduate Department of Social Work. She retires this academic year after a long span of twenty-six years of service at Stella Maris College. Her association with the college began when she enrolled as a student of the pre-University course followed by B.A. Economics. Later she did her Masters in Social Work during the tenure of Dr. Sr. Thecla, the foundress of the Social Work department. Sr. Colleen has held several important and responsible positions in the college, and she has always added dignity and grace to every post she held. She has been the Head of the Department of Social Work, Dean of Student Affairs, Vice-Principal, Secretary, Superior of the convent and also Principal-in-charge.

Social Service is Sr Colleen's abiding passion. For her, service to others is not a mere profession; it is her very breath and existence. She has reached out to large sections of students in the college by way of counselling and by taking care of the growth and development of needy students. Sister has truly been a source of inspiration to the college. We wish her a full life that she may pursue her passion for social service with even greater zest and commitment.

Dr. Mridula Jose, Undergraduate Head of the Department of English retires after a long span of twenty-seven years of service at Stella Maris College. Prior to this, she had worked as a lecturer in C.Kandaswami Naidu College for Women, Cuddalore, and Carmel College, Margao. She has received special training to monitor the English level of prospective immigrants and conduct English Certificate Examinations. She has also been trained to impart technical writing skills.

While being a dedicated and committed teacher, Dr. Mridula Jose also found time to present literary papers at various workshops, seminars and conferences at the regional and national level. The wealth of her knowledge in the field of English language and literature has earned her the deep respect of generations of students as well as that of her peers. We wish her a happy and active retired life in keeping with her exuberant personality.

Dr. Bhagavathy Jayaraman, a pillar of strength of the Department of Mathematics, has rendered twenty-five years of service to Stella



Maris College. She had previously worked at Holy Cross College, Nagercoil for ten years. She is an academican whose scholarship in Real Analysis, Operations Research, Linear Programming and Optimization Techniques is impressive. She is a fellow of the Forum d'Analystes, which is a prestigious international body of pure mathematicians.

Dr. Bhagavathy Jayaraman is very organized, systematic, and meticulous in her work. It is precisely these qualities that have enabled her to shoulder well the responsibility of Controller of Examinations in the college for two years. An excellent and effective teacher, she is adept in combining firmness with kindness and leaves behind a legacy of excellence for her colleagues and students to emulate. We wish her grace in retirement.

Mrs. Teresa Madhanraj, one of our Administrative Office staff, retired after thirty years of untiring service in our college. She is known and respected for her dedication and loyalty. She has always extended her help and support whenever necessary. An unassuming and approachable person, Mrs. Teresa enjoyed



Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip with (L to R) Mr. Robert Samuel, Mrs. Teresa Madhanraj, Dr. Mridula Jose, Dr. Sr. Colleen North & Dr. Bhagavathy Jayaraman.

good rapport with both faculty and students and her presence will truly be missed.

Mr Robert Samuel, one of our supportive staff, retires this year after twenty-three years of service in the College Library. He has been a quiet and sincere worker doing his duties with utmost care and dedication. His untiring service to the college is greatly appreciated.

The Stella Maris family wishes God's abundant blessings of love, peace and joy on all the retiring staff. We thank them for being pillars of strength and support to the institution.

IN MEMORIAM



Jensima S was a devoted daughter to her parents and a firm believer in God. She was friendly and ever willing to lend a helping hand. She touched the lives of her friends and classmates in a special way. She was warm and gentle, loving and kind. Her participation in Campus Ministry was an enriching experience that helped her to grow and share her talents.

Jensima will be fondly remembered as a good friend, a loving daughter, and a sincere student who lived her life for the glory of God.



Ramya Raghunathan was a lively, talented and intelligent student of I B.Sc. Mathematics (additional section). She proved her excellence in drawing and has several portraits to her credit. She was a district level chess player as well.

So dynamic and poised was she that nobody suspected she was ailing. Owing to her health condition she went on medical leave, never to return.

Though her stay in Stella Maris was short, fond memories of Ramya remain etched in the hearts of everybody who knew her.

Students brought home laurels after having participated in games with great enthusiasm and vigour, in a spirit of healthy competition. The general opinion is that they have made promising progress all round in all the games. In the Inter Collegiate tournaments, our teams were the winners in Basket Ball, Lawn Tennis, Shuttle Badminton and Table Tennis. Several of our students have represented Madras University South Division in the following major games and athletics.

Basket ball

R. Hemavathy, I B.A. (History)
Irene Rachael, III B.Com.
Judith Sweety, III B.Com.
I. Suganthi Anbu, II B.Com.
Krithika, I B.Sc. (Physics)
S. Subashini, II B.Com.
M. Vaijyanthi, II B.Com.
Melinda Mathew, II B.Com.
Nithya Narayanan, II B.C.A.
Jyotsna John, III B.C.A.

Cricket

Bairavi Mani, II B.C.A.
Althea, III B.Com.
B. Arpitta Preetha, II B.A. (History)

Shuttle Badminton

B. Preethi, III B.Sc. (Physics)
Rashmi, I B.Com.

Lawn Tennis

Meera, III B.A. (Literature)
Harita, III B.C.A.
Seema, I. B.A. (Fine Arts)
Poornima, I B.A. (Fine Arts)

Table Tennis

Preetha, III B.A. (Economics)
S. Nirupama, I B.Com.
Krithika, I B.Com.

Volley Ball

Priyanka, I B.Com.
Krithika, I B.Sc. (Maths)

Kho-Kho

Pasca Mary, I B.A. (History)

Athletics

Martia, I B.A. (Sociology)

Some of our students represented Madras University and participated in the All India Inter University Tournaments in the following games.

Basket Ball

R. Hemavathy, I B.A. (History)
I. Suganthi Anbu, I B.Com

Cricket

Bairavi Mani, II B.C.A.

Tennis

Preetha, III B.A. (Economics)
(The Team bagged the Winners Trophy in the All India Inter University Tournament)

Shuttle Badminton

B. Preethi, III B.Sc. (Physics)
(The team entered the All India Inter University Tournament)

Swimming

Lisa Aruliah, I B.C.A.

Some of our players were selected for Tamil Nadu State for different teams.

Basket Ball

R. Hemavathy, I B.A. (History)

Cricket

Bairavi Mani, II B.C.A.

Billiards and Snooker

Seema, II B.C.A.

This year too the College Basket Ball Team participated in several State and All India Inter Collegiate Tournaments. They secured the III place in the All India Inter Collegiate Tournaments held at IIT, Madras, VVV College, Virudhunagar, and Fourth Place in the

Tournament conducted by Sri Raghavendra Club, Chennai. Suganthi Anbu and Irene Rachael were adjudged the best players in several tournaments.

The Shuttle Team bagged the runners up Trophy in the Bhatt Memorial Inter Collegiate Tournament conducted by SDNB Vaishnav College.

Karunya Devi, III B.A. Sociology has won a cash award for Long Distance (Marathon Race) at the CPCL Athletic Meet.

The Athletes and sports women of Stella Maris look forward to yet another year of achievements and laurels in 2002-2003.



ncc report

The National Cadet Corps is an established avenue for channeling the physical resources of the youth of our land. Ever since its establishment in the year 1984, the Stella Maris NCC Company has always been one of the most active units of the NCC. This year too our cadets have come out with superb performances and kept the flag of Stella Maris flying high.

The year began before the commencement of the academic year with eleven cadets attending a very fun-filled and exciting All India Trekking Expedition to Ooty. The first Combined Annual Training Camp was also held before the commencement of the academic year in which twelve of our cadets participated. The Stella Maris NCC company emerged the overall winners. The cadets won the first place in Solo song, Group song and the second place in contingent drill and Group dance. Out of the many competitors for Best cadet, five cadets were selected for the next camp, out of which four cadets were selected from Stella Maris NCC Company. Cdt. Sowmya Nandakumar, Cdt. T. Priya, Cdt. Pramila Toppo & Cdt. Sophia Oliver placed first, second, third & fourth respectively. Cdt. Sophia Oliver also placed first in the firing competition and second in the Individual drill competition. Cdt. Diany Emmanuel bagged the second place in the firing competition.

Cdt. Arul Thava Mary was the sole representative from our college for the Independence Day sports Camp at Pune, in July and she won many laurels for us.

The freshmen were enrolled in July 2001 and were initiated into the NCC activities at the

Annual Inaugural Camp held for two days July 27 & 28, 2001 at the Besant Camping site, Theosophical Society, Besant Nagar, organized by the NCC unit of Stella Maris College. The camp was a two day continuous workshop consisting of Quiz, Line area, Flag area and a host of cultural activities like Solo Song, Solo Dance, Group Song, Group Dance and a variety Entertainment show. It was an exposure for our first year cadets to get a taste of camp life and also to bring out the enthusiasm in them as they worked along with their second and third years. The Stella Maris NCC Company thus began. Our chief guest was Lt. Col. Mohan Mathew, the commanding officer of 1(TN) Girls Battalion. He judged our flag area and line area along with Ms. Deepa Alexander (All India Best Cadet, YEP Canada return-1994). We are thankful to our Principal and Management for supporting us in conducting this camp.

Four of our Navy cadets attended their preliminary Naval Selection Camp. Petty Officer Tanushree Nair emerged as the Best Cadet. Four of our Air wing cadets namely Ft.Cdt. Elizabeth



Verghese, Ft.Cdt. Zita, Ft.Cdt. S. Lakshmi and Ft.Cdt. Kahekshan were selected for the Vayu Sainik Inter-group Competitions in August. Ft.Cdt. Zita was adjudged the second best glider pilot.

Three cadets were selected for the State level Thal Sainik Inter Group Competitions held in August. Cdt. Jasline Francis represented our group in First Aid and Home Nursing. Cdt. Diany Emmanuel represented our group in the firing and map reading competitions and Cdt. Chandra was a reserve in firing.

Cpl. Uma Maheshwari attended a National Integration Camp held at Leh, Kargil from August 20 to September 10. The cadets attended two days of parasailing (adventure sports activities) at Mahabalipuram. Five army cadets representing Madras-A were selected for the Republic Day Inter-Group competitions held at Trichy. Cdt. Priya T. and Cdt. Pramila Toppo also represented the group in the Best Cadet events and Cdt. Pramila was adjudged the second Best Cadet. Four of our Air Wing cadets and one of our naval cadets also attended the same camp. Ft.Cdt. Elizabeth, Ft.Cdt. Anne and Cdt. Tanushree Nair represented Madras-B in the BC events. Cdt. Diany Emmanuel, Cdt. N. Chandra and Cdt. Jasline Francis were selected to represent the Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry & Andaman directorate

in the All India Thal Sainik Camp held at Delhi in the month of October. Cdt. Jasline was a nominee for firing and she broke the record in firing by getting a grouping of 5cm. Cdt. Chandra represented the directorate in snap shooting and Cdt. Diany in firing.

Cdt. Aishwarya Devi and Cdt. Philomina attended an Army Attachment Camp held in October at the Officers Training Academy. The cadets participated in an anti-tobacco rally conducted by the N.C.C unit. Cdt. Pramila Toppo attended the Basic Para Course held at Agra over the month of November. During the same month, Cpl. Arul Thava Mary and Cdt. Priya T. attended the All India Rock Climbing Camp in Neyyar Dam, Kerala. Cdt. Elizabeth Verghese was selected to be a part of the Republic Day Contingent 2002 to Delhi. She has also been selected as Youth Ambassador as part of the Youth Exchange Program.

The Inter-Company Competitions were conducted among the four companies, Alpha, Bravo, Charlie and Delta, on 14 and 15 of December 2001. The various competitions contested by the companies in the run for Best company included Contingent Drill, Individual Drill, Cross-Country, Signals, First Aid, Home Nursing, Map Reading, Best Cadet event, Best TSC cadet and GK & GSK. Delta Company emerged the overall winners and walked away with the trophy for the Best Company of the year 2001-2002.

Our college lifted the overall banner at 'Cadotsav 2002', an Inter-collegiate State level competition conducted by Loyola College. Cdt. Under-officer Shrividhya P. was adjudged the 3 year Best cadet and won the Achilles trophy. In



the 1 year Best Cadet events, Cdt. Averil King, Cdt. Sujatha and Cdt. Lynn Mary Jacob were placed first, second, third respectively. We also won flag area, signals, first aid, firing, quiz, GK & GSK and cultural banner. We came an overall third in the contingent drill competition. At 'Cadofest 2002', another Inter-collegiate competition hosted by D G Vaishnav College, Cdt. B. Poornima won the second place in the Best Cadet competition.

Around fifteen second year cadets and twelve third year cadets appeared for the 'B' Certificate and 'C' certificate examinations respectively. We then swung into preparation for our NCC Day. Our efforts have borne fruit.

The NCC unit of Stella Maris looks forward to yet another year of challenges and achievements.

The total strength enrolled for the academic year 2001-2002 was 265 students. The placements numbering twenty included institutions for the physically challenged persons, regular schools, homes for senior citizens and deprived children.

Special programmes undertaken during the year include –

- Competitions organised for Gandhi Jayanthi at the inter collegiate level on request from the Joint Director, Collegiate Education.
- 'Talent 2001' – the third district level competition for physically challenged persons was conducted by the Trinity Welfare Trust in association with the NSS unit. Participants numbering 320 from nineteen institutions took part with great enthusiasm at Stella Maris College.
- A free eye check up was organised by Bausch and Lomb in the college campus for staff, students and workers.
- Sales by the Sarvodaya Sangh organised by the NSS units to promote Khadi and Village industries have become an annual event. SIPA Craft Links had its pre Christmas sale of hand made articles. The sale was a success.
- As part of the colleges under the APAC (Aids Prevention and Control Programme) VHS Programme, five NSS volunteers underwent a ten days Street Theatre training conducted by 'Koothu pattarai' at VHS. Thereafter, these volunteers formed part of the forty member group from ten colleges and performed in various colleges to raise AIDS awareness.
- World AIDS Day was observed by spreading awareness about AIDS and displaying our solidarity with those affected by HIV. It was coordinated at the inter collegiate level by the Tamilnadu State AIDS Control Society and held at Loyola College. Fifty NSS volunteers and the Street Theatre group participated in this state level programme.
- At the college level the NSS helped to coordinate a programme for World AIDS Day with the Students' Union. Dr. Suniti Solomon of YRG Care was the chief speaker on this occasion and the highlight was a street theatre performance by 40 students from the APAC programme.
- 'Clean Marina' – an event for cleaning the second largest beach in the world was organised by EXNORA. Forty NSS volunteers participated in this motivational programme for the public.
- Pulse Polio – a booth was set up at Shanthi Bhavan, Stella Maris College Welfare Centre, for the first time by the Corporation of Chennai. Twenty volunteers administered the polio drops as well as joined hands with the Corporation staff in a door to door campaign.
- A Mass Blood Donation Camp was organised on October 1, World Blood Donation Day, by the Tamilnadu State AIDS Control Society, the Corporation of Chennai

and the NSS University of Madras, at the Nehru Stadium. A record five thousand students donated blood on that day. Forty NSS volunteers of Stella Maris also contributed by donating blood and serving as volunteers at this event.

The annual blood donation day in the college was conducted in collaboration with the Madras Voluntary Blood Bank and the Government General Hospital. One hundred

and fourteen students and one staff member donated blood.

The year's activities culminated in the NSS Day Programme organised on March 13, 2002. Participants from the various institutions where NSS volunteers render their services, were invited and the theme of the day's programme was National Integration. The Chief Guest was Thiru Garimela Subramaniam, a journalist from The Hindu.

the students' union

The Students' Union

The Union activities for 2001-2002 were inspired by the motto, "Be the one who did." They were designed with certain specific objectives:

- To instill in the students a sense of awareness about the self and the environment
- To encourage greater participation of every student
- To motivate students to maximize on opportunities while capturing the true spirit of college life
- To keep channels of communication open within the college community

The first major activity taken up was the Campus Clean up Launch on July 4, 2001. Dr Sultan Ismail spoke about recycling waste and the feasibility of vermicompost pits. New garbage bins for organic and inorganic waste were placed on campus. The Union celebrated Friendship Day on August 6, by putting up food stalls and raising a sum of Rs. 17,500 which went towards the Student Aid Fund.

Through the year, special assemblies were held to honour and felicitate various people on and off campus, like teachers, workers, and the MTC who make it possible for the college to function smoothly. The first ever Inter Departmental Culturals were held on August 23 and 24, to enhance student participation. The students responded with great enthusiasm. A special assembly was held on September 19, to



The Students Union (L to R) Anna, Divya, Surabi, Nasra, Ashitra, Pratyusha with the Principal, Vice Principals and the Deans of Students Affairs.

express our horror and shock over the terrorist attacks on September 11, and pledge our commitment to end terrorism. The biggest event of the year, the Inter-Year competitions, was held on October 4, 5, and 6. The third years emerged the overall winners.

On the occasion of World Aids Day, the Union and the NSS organized an open-air assembly where the Chief Guest was Dr Suniti Solomon, a pioneer in Aids research and awareness in India.

In keeping with the spirit of Christmas, students put up food stalls, set up jukeboxes and organised games. The total collection was Rs. 82,000. The money was distributed to Stanley Medical College, General Hospital, Adyar Cancer Institute, and a school at Vippedu in Kancheepuram district, to enable them to bring Christmas cheer to the children who were with them.

The Inter collegiate culturals, "Melange" held on January 11, 2002, brought together 15 city colleges on our campus. Ethiraj College was the overall winner. The Union Seminar, held on January 18, was titled "Avishkar". The focus was on Indian culture, heritage and crafts. All through the year the various clubs were involved in activities on campus.

The highlight of the year was the College Play "Blithe Spirit", directed by Yog Japee, and staged at the Museum Theatre on January 14 and 15. The students handled the entire production. They received tremendous critical acclaim

Stella Maris College continued to win laurels in several inter-collegiate culturals. We were the winners in the culturals hosted by Women's Christian College, Madras Christian College, and GSS Jain College. We were the runners up in the culturals hosted by M.O.P Vaishnav and Ethiraj College. The college also won second place in the All India dance competitions, Western and Eastern, held at the IIT. Our students participated in and won several prizes for Essay writing, Quiz, Debate, Oratorical

contests, and Poster making, conducted by various institutions.

On March 2, students of Stella Maris along with six other city colleges came together to organize a fund raising event called March 2 Shiksha for the purpose of educating underprivileged children.

The concluding event which was the culmination of the year's activities was Union Day celebrated on March 11.

The office bearers of the Students' Union 2001-2002 were:

President	Nasra Roy
Vice President	Ashitra Aloysius
General Secretary	Pratuysha Gupta
Treasurer	Anna Thomas
Cultural Secretary (Arts)	Divya Rolla
Cultural Secretary (Sciences)	Surabi V

The election of the office bearers of the Students/Union 2002-2003 was completed by February 26, 2002.



indian society for training and development

Students Cell, Stella Maris College-A Report

“The world will not care about self esteem. The world will expect you to accomplish something before you feel good about yourself”. Bill Gates.

ISTD aims at providing a peephole into the outside world. The magnitude of what remains unconquered is overwhelming. This can be gained only by listening to the voices of experience, not just theoretical knowledge. A Chinese proverb goes thus, “Learning is like rowing upstream: not to advance is to drop back”. The ISTD Cell at Stella Maris College believes in continuous improvement and development of skills.

Based on this criteria the three broad objectives of ISTD for this academic year were:

- Development of the Self
- Development of Group skills
- Interaction with the world at large

This year the ISTD cell had a membership of 365 student members. The students were divided into fifteen groups of twenty-five members each and a cell leader for each group.

On September 26, 2001 the inauguration ceremony of the Student's Cell of ISTD Stella Maris College was conducted. The inaugural marked the tenth year of the cell at Stella Maris College. The chief guest for the occasion was Mr. T.V. Subba Rao, Vice Chairman, Chennai Chapter of ISTD. He outlined all the strategic methods used by the organization to produce world-class NIPPO Batteries.

Mr. Venkatesh, author of several books on Vaasthu, Feng Shui, and Colour Psychology, spoke to the 271 members present on September 28, 2001 on “Geo-energies”. Mr. Venkatesh has been able to show through research, that the surroundings we live in, affect us and hence we should tune our surrounding to make our life better.

The 287 members of the cell emerged confident speakers after a very interactive session on “The Art of Public Speaking” by Ms. Seetha Lakshmi, the Regional Director of USEFI.

The next two sessions on how to prepare a resume, talk in a group discussion and to face an interview conducted by Mr. Arun Leslie George and Ms. Rupa Krishnan from EID PARRY. These sessions aimed at equipping the student members to face hurdles for facing the future that is, to send resumes for employment or for further studies.

Mr. Arun Leslie George conducted a group discussion on the ‘Measures to combat terrorism’. A mock interview was also conducted where Ms. Rupa interviewed the members and Mr. Arun observed both the interviewer and the candidates and gave us his inputs. These sessions were conducted December 10 and 14, and 250 members benefited from these sessions.

The year 2002 began with Dr. K.P. Mishra, Director, Medical Education & Senior Consultant and Cardiologist at the Apollo Hospitals addressing 223 students on the “Joy of Work.”



He said, in order to achieve happiness one may follow the paths of knowledge, sacrifice, contemplation or work. Enjoying one's work is the only and surest way to attain a state of happiness.

A full day conference was conducted on February 9, 2002. The day began with a session on Yoga and Concentration by Mr. Subramaniam, founder of Yogalayam. We learnt practically through the asanas that yogic practices have therapeutic, preventive and curative values.

The three important functions of any organization Marketing, Finance and Personnel Management followed the sessions on Yoga. Since students ultimately hope to work in an organization experts were invited from the Murugappa group, which had been awarded by a Swiss based international organization, the IMD award for best-run family business.

Mr. Nalin Khanna (Deputy Manager – Marketing at EID PARRY), Dr. Sanjeev Jha (Business Head - Retail of the Cholamandalam General Insurance Company Ltd. and Mr. Padmakumar (Deputy General Manager, Head of HR & TQM, Sugar & Biochemicals Division EID PARRY) conducted these sessions. The conference ended with a sharing of experiences

by Mr. Rama Babu, President & CEO, EID PARRY, Sugar, Bio Products & Chemicals Divisions. Mr. Rama Babu is also a Director on the Board of EID PARRY.

This was a fitting finale for the year's activities for it brought home to the students the very appealing idea that an organization, which was born and grew up in our own Chennai pattinam could become a world class organization. 'Born local, become world class' was a dream offered to us.

The valedictory of the ISTD Student cell was held on the March 14, 2002. Sister Colleen North, Secretary of our college, presided over the function. Mr. Shekar Arora from Ashok Leyland and Chairman, Chennai Chapter of ISTD was our Chief Guest and spoke on the intricacies of the media world. This was followed by the distribution of certificates and 275 students earned credits through their participation.

ISTD has indeed taught us to face the challenges of life with confidence.

The ISTD Student Cell office bearers:

Ramya Subramaniam	(President)
Ashita Shah	(Secretary)
L. Devi	(Treasurer)



the art exhibition

Vivid, vitriolic, fantastic, playful, insightful, realistic- the images flashed by while going through the works on display at the Lalit Kala Akademi, Chennai. The art exhibition was held between February 2 and 8, 2002 and showcased the efforts of the Third year undergraduate and First and Second Year postgraduate students of the Department of Fine Arts, Stella Maris College.

The students had given a free rein to their imagination in conceptualising their ideas, yet the control and discipline required of a true



Mr. Bhaskaran inaugurates the art exhibition at the Lalit Kala Academy

professional was in evidence. There was an expressive passion, an unerring emotion that entranced viewers and encompassed all humanity in its folds. More than a hundred works were on display and catered to the cliché-different strokes for different folks. The sheer

range was amazing and the styles were as varied as the minds that had created them. The dominant refrain of the exhibition was definitely expressionistic with accents of realism and abstraction. The misconception that young minds are incapable of a depth of feeling had been proven wrong, and one was pleasantly surprised to find vivid expressions, full of vitality.

A number of abstract and semi-abstract works vied for attention alongside the more traditional figurative images. Anna Mathew's realistic figures for instance seemed to be lit up from within creating a distinctive ambience while Diya Mathew abstracted her figures to lend an Indian atmosphere to her works. Thus the portrayal of figures reveal an interesting blend of ethnicity and modernity, wherein contemporary colours and techniques are combined with a traditional flavour. This traditional flavour finds expression in the sketches by Nithya Ramaswamy where she has rendered temple icons in pen and ink with painstaking detail. Icons are also a part of B.Ramya's repertoire, but there they are symbolically represented. While some students refer thus to their roots others seemed to draw from the spring well of personal experiences. Nancy Raj has illustrated the strength of her technique creating figures that are extremely powerful, as has Komal with her woman in acid yellow who is at once distant and evocative. Samyukta's faces on the other hand are direct and compelling and Sunaina's African beat draws the viewer and delights in terms of texture



and color. The space within which these people seem to exist has also inspired a few students like Veena Charles and Hemavathy V. The former treats her interiors with an exuberance of colours and strokes while the latter has elevated the mundane to the level of the important, like the shirt hung on the window which is at once strange yet startlingly familiar, bringing with it a flood of memories. Similarly another artist Devika K has taken the seemingly humble 'Carrots' and has transformed it into most beautiful patterns and forms.

The world of Fantasy seemed also to have caught the fancy of several students who have successfully explored this realm without sacrificing strength of composition and details of interest. Some of the works border on the bizarre while others are quite restrained in their approach. The surrealistic sculpture by Lekha draws the viewer into this very world of dreams and nightmares. Pratyusha's expressionistic figures too are on the thin line that divides the

real and the unreal. Completely abstract expressions find their place here as observed in Mariam's 'Torture' filled with gashes and nails. Smriti's flower studies in watercolours, Sadiyah's elegant calligraphy, Lakshmi's myriad compositions ease the disturbances and serve as a perfect foil to the more surreal images as do many of the other's works. Certain compositions are carefully planned while others appear to be more tentative.

The themes have thus been variously realised with naivete, boldness and simplicity. The rich tapestry of textures and colours used, draw the viewer's attention. Freedom to interpret and visualise independently set the tenor of the exhibition. The growth of the artist rests on inspiration and on the long hours of toil invested. This exhibition provided a forum for the student artists to express themselves which will give them the impetus to carry themselves forward to fulfill the promise of a future generation.

college play - blithe spirit



Noel Coward wrote *Blythe Spirit* in 1941, weeks after German bombs destroyed his London office and apartment. In a time of national tragedy, Coward said that his goal was to write a “very superficial comedy”. Charles and Ruth invite Madame Arcati who is a medium, to their house for a séance. Arcati materializes Elvira, Charles' dead wife. She is however visible and audible only to Charles. She plans to kill Charles so that they may be happy together. Ruth gets killed instead. For a time Charles finds himself trapped in a weird situation, haunted by two wifely ghosts. Initially the script seemed shallow, but that was our flawed perception. We had intense discussions that unveiled the many planes of meaning and gave us concrete insights into the play. We began thinking about motifs, journey, choices. For us the play was a challenge.

This was our production, conceived, designed and executed in its entirety by students. The play was directed by Yog Japee, an actor-director, who has built quite a reputation for his commitment to theatre in the city.

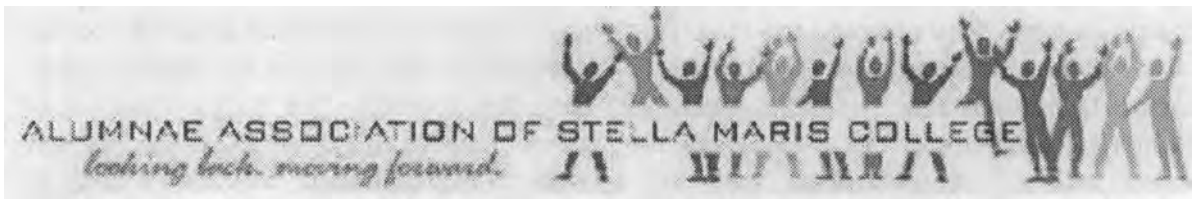
It took two months of intensive work to bring the production together. It all started with a theatre workshop where we grasped the basics of theatre. We were ready to take on Noel Coward's script. We'd begin practices at 2.00 pm after class hours everyday, with voice exercises. Soon the play began to take shape. The actors became comfortable with their dialogues, and we progressed to the moves. This part was the slowest. Things just didn't seem to work out and progress came to a halt. At this demoralizing stage, the crew entered like wind

in a closed room. Their planning and execution gave us the motivation, we so desperately needed. During this time, we found amazing friends in each other and learnt how to accommodate and identify with each other. The play had provided for us fantastic learning potential. We were truly a team. We learned skills, we read texts, we researched "invisibility", suspended objects in air, moved them, we learned about human relations, discipline, anxiety, anger and bonding. We learnt we could execute dreams.

Cast & Crew: Susheel Gandhi, Pratyusha Gupta, Geetanjali Sriram, Shanas, KS, Deepali Gupta, Neha Mehta, Mallika Sen, Nalina Gopal, Sonya David, Batool Lehri, Amritha Swamy, Gayatri Koshy, Bindhumalini N, Nasra Roy, Lavanya Ravikanth, Amy Thomas, Thushanti Selvarajah, Diya Chakola, Susan George, Anusuya John, Veena Kuruvilla, Mithra Suresh, Anna Thomas, Arati Nithianandam, Taruni R.

Deepali Gupta
II BA English





alumnae association (aasmc)

The AASMC as we are fondly called seems to be the largest Alumnae Association of a women's college in Chennai. Since its inception in 1994 it has been an exciting onward journey with more and more Stella Marians coming into the Alumnae fold.

The AA is spreading its wings and crossing different shores, the circle widening from the state to National to International regions.

The year 1996-1997 saw the Golden Jubilee of the Alma Mater. The AASMC realised one of its objectives i.e interaction between the past and present. The AASMC organised a musical extravaganza by the renowned Dr KJ Yesudas. We raised funds enough to have our name embedded in today's CC Block as one of the donors. The same year saw the birth of Sister Flavia's dreamchild- the Alumnae Directory to commemorate the grand occasion of the Golden Jubilee. During the year 1998-1999 spadework was done for bringing in more life members. "Become a life member" seemed to be the slogan of the day. A second edition of the Directory is under way. There is a classification of members regionally as well.

The AA office room at 0-3 is well equipped with telephone, computer, printer and Internet facilities. Donors and benefactors, all alumnae members, made it happen.

The tree of our AA began sprouting new branches. On November 27 the Kerala Chapter was inaugurated at the Taj Residency, Cochin. The Chapter has its own office bearers and area Co-ordinators in Kottayam, Quilon, Calicut, Trivandrum, Mananmar and Trichur. The tree is growing strong. June 15, 2002 saw the opening of another Chapter-the Karnataka chapter at Manipal County. It was a fun-filled, nostalgic event, made more special by the presence of Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, (Principal), Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent and Sr. Christine Antony (Vice-President of AA). The Alumnae General Body Meeting is held once in two years with elections bringing new office bearers. Our news letters are brought out twice a year. We have our round of picnics to the seaside, exciting games, talks and lectures, sale of products by Alumnae entrepreneurs and regular meetings. Christmas celebrations are special occasions with the traditional cake and wine, favours and carols and of course Santa Claus. Our illustrious Alumnae are invited to be the chief guests at such gatherings and special occasions. High achievers like Prabha Sridevan, Dr. Mary Abraham, Rasheeda Bhagat, Susheela Ravindranath, Sunanda Parthasarathy, Rekha Shetty, Radha Raju, Rathi Jaffer have been our special invitees. AASMC is also actively involved in college activities in some areas. Two such



important areas are the Bridge Course and the Career Guidance Cell. Sister Christine Antony was chiefly responsible for the successful revival of the Bridge Course and the involvement of Alumnae members in the Bridge Course, initiated to equip the student for regular college or her chosen career. The course helps students from vernacular medium to communicate better in the English language. Ms Rebecca Chandy, Ms Prema Srinivasan, Ms Marie Cabral, Ms Shankari Subbiah, Ms Pratima, Ms Tilaka, Sr Claramma, all Alumnae, were the facilitators of the Bridge course this year.

The present economic slowdown has meant that jobs are harder to come by than they were earlier. To make things easier for students the AASMC has set up a comprehensive Career Guidance Cell. The cell proposes to make available easy access to reliable and relevant

information on the jobs, positions and opportunities that are open to students. The Cell will also put together a portfolio of any literature, brochures and information available to provide in depth awareness. The Cell proposes to conduct workshops, seminars and other special events that will help the present Stella Maris students to plan their careers.

The AASMC is growing from strength to strength with Dr. Sr. Annamma's encouragement and Sister Christine's able guidance. Mrs. Mahalakshmi cheerfully assists us in all our paper work. Meetings are held periodically to plan the course of action. The coming year will surely see many more AA Chapters inaugurated. The Alumnae Directory will soon go online.

Padma Asokan (Gen secretary)
Sudha Vyas (Editor)

Do contact us : 8113350 E-mail: aasmc@rediffmail.com URL: www.aasmc.org



valedictory

Though April 5, 2002 seemed far away and did not very much engage our attention, its approach was suddenly perceived and it was all over by the time we could fully comprehend all that was happening in those last few days. This day officially marked the last day at Stella Maris College, for us the final year students of the undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

The day's events began with the tree planting ceremony, where the student representatives of the Arts and Science Departments planted saplings. These saplings were left as reminders of our myriad experiences and wonderful moments spent at college.

The tree planting ceremony was followed by the invocation and prayer service. The prayer service began with a prayer thanking God for His abundant blessings, that He had showered upon the college throughout the academic year.

Four students representing the Arts, Sciences, Commerce and Post Graduate departments shared their experiences about studying at Stella Maris College. Even though each student had a unique experience to share, the common thread that connected each student's experience at Stella Maris was that the college helped mould each individual's identity and helped bring out the best in them.

The Chief Guest, Mrs. Jaishree, in her valedictory address spoke about the role of a

woman as a mother, housewife and career woman. Her speech was both interesting as well as thought provoking.

In her address, Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, Principal, encouraged the students, to strive constantly to keep the flag of Stella Maris College flying high.

The students then took the pledge to serve their country to the best of their ability and to live up to the ideals established by their Alma Mater.

As the evening wore on to the night, the stage was set for the lighting of the lamps. The sparkle from the lamps set against the backdrop of the darkness of the night was really beautiful. As the flames flickered, the college song was sung in unison and with great pride. The sight was indeed very pretty, causing Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip to remark that the stars must be laughing from above to see such pretty lights shining below. The students then proceeded with their lamps, and laid them near the statue of Mother Mary, in front of the B-Block.

As the ceremony drew to a close, each student must have been thanking her lucky stars for having got the opportunity to study in a truly wonderful college like Stella Maris.

*Manisha Abraham
III BA Economics*



we are all cracked

An Interview With Megan McKenna

Dr Megan McKenna visited us on campus. She works for the poor and the helpless and is unrelenting in her pursuit of justice for God's people. Dr McKenna is a writer, a teacher and a thinker. She holds separate doctorates in Scriptures and Liberation Theology, and Adult Education and Literacy. She lives in Mexico.

On education

It doesn't matter much if you don't have an academic degree. What matters is that you meet God, take care of the poor and work for justice. We live life to be so human as to become God-like. Follow your heart where it leads you, to someone else whose heart is more broken than yours. We are all ordinary people with cracked hearts, but then, it's only the cracked people who let the light through!

On religion

There is one mount and there are many ways to get up there. When you're dealing with God it's always a mystery. There are so many things that you don't know. If you're really devoted and really faithful, then you won't have a problem with other religions. This is mainly because all the religions have come out with a new set of commandments that they all agree on:

No war, no violence. War is not an option. It doesn't help anybody. It's just going to kill more people.

There must be truth, no lies. There must be no stealing, no hurting.

All the religions including Christianity says that God knows what is in your mind and that no matter what you say in your prayers whether Buddhist or Hindu, we will be judged on what we did with our lives. Matthew also said, "Whatever you did unto your brothers or sisters, you did unto me." That's what the Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims and the Christian communities and every single one of the religions preach. The world cannot stay locked in what happened in the Middle Ages. If you look into the history of the world since the Middle Ages, more people have been killed because of religious wars. People who were killed in the World Trade Centre were ordinary people. The people who did the blasting said, "We are the truth and we are it. Nobody else can live their religion."

On Mother Teresa

I would prefer it if they didn't canonize her. If you like the way a person lived, imitate her instead of spending time and money on her canonization.

On Gandhiji

Some people thought he was great, some wanted to kill him and some did. When you try to change the way people think, people are going to get angry.

Student Editors



interview with the students' union

With leadership comes great responsibility. What sets a leader apart from the others is their ability to not only rise up to challenges but to view them as stepping stones to a goal. As we reflect on the year that has past and gear ourselves for the year ahead, we stop to acknowledge and appreciate some of our leaders, our very own union leaders – Nasra, Ashitra, Pratyusha, Anna, Divya & Surabi whose determination, constancy, presence of mind and assistance have inspired us tremendously and paved the path towards achieving success.

What they had set out to do

We believe it is very important to be aware in order to do anything or achieve anything. AWARENESS REALISATION/ENLIGHTENMENT ACTION Our goal was to make people aware of activities on-campus and off-campus and thus motivate them to act.

How being a part of the union made a personal difference

Personally it made us not only responsible for ourselves but for an entire student body. We were answerable on behalf of the whole student population.

Everything you do influences some change, reaction or action and thus the utmost thought has to go into it, especially when you are taking everyone into consideration.

Difficulties encountered and concept of teamwork /division of work

When you are in a rigid structure, some



Students Union with the Logo

times trying to bring change is hard as it is seen as new, something unknown. So ideas however innovative have to be thought about. They have to be approved by a large number of people before they can be implemented. It was amazing working together, we were all strangers but we came together very easily. It was a tremendously exciting experience. You really have to work as a team to get anything done and posts don't matter at all!

Views on bringing about student initiative

It is very difficult to motivate students and it is a constant challenge to think of new ways of motivating them.

How to strike a balance between personal, college & union activities -

A necessity not an option! It can be done be organised, systematic, prioritise and of course be extremely energetic and healthy! Believe you can and you can!!

Where do you strike a balance between supporting a student and protecting her?

Be practical and rationalise with whomsoever concerned and in the end be a representative of the idea that you think best. Talking things through and always being honest is the best way.

Experience on the whole

An enriching experience. Many memories—

loads of grumbles, and laughs. Good and bad experiences, but at the end of it we enjoyed it all. An experience that everyone must have. A year very different but that's what makes it worthwhile.

Student editors



how safe is the food we eat?

Soil is an irreplaceable natural resource, which is required for production of food, industrial raw materials and for generation of energy resources. Unfortunately large-scale applications of chemicals, dumping of domestic and industrial wastes have polluted our soils. Soils have a natural ability to hold on to heavy metals like Cadmium, Zinc, and Lead which enter plants not just through the roots but also by aerial absorption. They also accumulate in the tissues of soil organisms and are biologically magnified as they are transferred to higher organisms through the food chains.

The Green Revolution of the 1970s, which emphasized only on increased crop production led to the extensive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides to meet the growing food demand for the ever - increasing population. Modern practices of agriculture involving application of fertilizers and pesticides have resulted in the build up of persistent toxic compounds in soils which have adverse effects on people, plants and animals. In the sixties many farmers laced their seeds with methyl mercury to prevent mold growth. Mercury is a nerve toxin and the main health concern is its effect on the brain, particularly in the growing foetus and the young. The euphoria regarding the success of these chemicals died when pests started developing resistance to the pesticides and these toxic chemicals threatened not only the soil health and but also human health. These chemicals were found in several food commodities and even in breast milk.

India is one of the leading pesticide

manufacturers in Asia. The use of pesticide in India is increasing at the rate of two – five percent per annum (Toxics Link Report 2000). The bulk of pesticides are used in agriculture and horticulture. Even though several pesticides like DDT, Aldrin, Endrin, Chlordane, Heptachlor and Hexachloro Benzene have been either banned or restricted in India, many of them are still being clandestinely manufactured and sold in the domestic market. Some of the banned pesticides are being replaced by equally harmful chemical pesticides which may have even longer and graver human health and environmental ramifications.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research undertook an All India research project to determine the concentration of pesticides in samples of agricultural produce, animal feed and milk products. Results showed that most of the food that is consumed by us is contaminated with pesticide.

- More than 50% of the samples of vegetables analyzed had pesticide residues (DDT and Aldrin).
- Whole milk was contaminated with DDT and BHC.
- Honey and animal feed (straw) had residues of DDT.
- The survey also revealed DDT contamination of different brands of baby milk powder, highlighting the fact that infants consume the largest amount of pesticides.

- Several brands of cooking oils and ghee were found to be contaminated with lead. Lead, a cumulative poison enters oils through the soil during production. Although it is claimed that most brands of oils and ghee conformed to the permitted limits of pesticides, it is important to note that long term exposure to small quantities of pesticides can impair the nervous system and movement of muscles (Insight 2001).
 - A recent research conducted by the Consumer Education Research Centre has found that most of the wheat food brands are contaminated with pesticides like DDT, Lindane, Aldrin, Dieldrin and Ethion which cause acute toxicity. Even examples of food grain showed contamination with Lindane, Ethion, Malathion, DDT and BHC (Insight 2000). Most grains are stored in warehouses where insecticides are sprayed. These grains are sold in the market and the insecticide residues remain in the flour. Insecticide residues (DDT, BHC, Lindane, and Heptachlor, Aldrin and Dieldrin) were also found in meat, fish and eggs (Toxics Link Report 2000). These chemicals are lipophilic, they are absorbed by the fat in the body and continue to accumulate in the human system. The pesticide load in the human body has reached alarming proportions.
 - Aldrin, Dieldrin, DDT and BHC residues have been reported in human adipose tissue, blood serum and breast milk (Toxics Link 2000).
 - In India, the DDT level reported in breast milk is amongst the highest in the world (Toxics Link 2000). This clearly indicates that breast milk is a conduit for passing on the pesticide from the mother to the child.
 - Studies have shown that a 3 kg infant consuming 500ml of milk daily will ingest 0.21 mg DDT / kg / day which is 42 times greater than the recommended 0.005mg / kg for DDT (WHO 1973).
- 90% of the pesticide intake is through food. Pesticides have health effects, which were hitherto unrecognized. A growing child with a high hormonal activity would suffer effects related to endocrine disruption which would manifest only at puberty as sexual dysfunction, slowed intellectual development, retarded cognitive and physical growth and reduced immunological functions.
- Endosulphan, another highly toxic insecticide which is widely used to control pests on coffee, cotton, cereal, vegetable, tomato and potato crops, can be absorbed through the skin, lungs and intestines. It is a stimulant of the central nervous system. Severe endosulphan intoxication causes muscular trembling, convulsions, breathing difficulties, pulmonary oedema and cyanosis. Endosulphan affects not only the somatic cells but also the germinal cells.
- Today the biotechnology revolution is heralded as an ecological miracle and is being

offered as a chemical free, hazard free solution to the ecological problems created by chemically intensive farming. The myth about biotechnology is that it will launch a period of chemical free agriculture. Unfortunately most research and innovation in biotechnology are being undertaken by chemical multinationals whose main focus is to develop pesticide and herbicide resistant varieties. This is a strategy to increase the use of pesticides and herbicides. For the third world farmer this strategy of employing more chemicals on pesticide and herbicide resistant varieties is suicidal. Thousands of people die annually as a result of pesticide poisoning.

The question that should be uppermost in our minds right now is, can we afford to poison our soils and our food? What are the solutions to this problem? Bioremediation, a natural process involving the use of microorganisms such as bacteria to remove environmental pollutants from soil, water or gases could be an answer to this problem. Unfortunately bioremediation is not always successful.

Today earthworms are recognized as efficient managers of solid wastes. Organic wastes like agro wastes, cattle dung, rotting vegetables and fruits and kitchen wastes can be recycled into nutrient rich compost by the

earthworms through the process of vermicomposting. Large scale vermicomposting can be done in several pits in open fields. Homes and gardens can maintain their composting units in cement tanks or circular well rings or in crates. Vermicompost is rich in beneficial microbes and plant nutrients. Use of vermicompost as manure ensures a healthy soil for the growth of nutritious, chemical free food, besides reducing the load of environmental pollution. Vermicompost has been used to grow vegetables and crops like paddy and sugarcane (Ismail, 1997). It is undoubtedly better than chemical fertilizers in both economical and ecological aspects. Alternative agricultural practices involving the application of the economically viable and ecologically sound vermicompost in lieu of costly and toxic chemicals will not only ensure sustainable food production but will also give the entire human race and our dying soils a new lease of life!

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Dr. Chitrlekha Ramachandran
Faculty, Zoology



the friends club of tura, meghalaya°

For five rambling years, the friends club of Tura had been invoking the motto, “awake, arise, and achieve.” And now suddenly, we were in that magnanimous city, Chennai.

17-19 January 2002.

We visited Stella Maris College. We understood a sense of willpower as we took in this gigantic academic organization. Awestruck would be the appropriate word to describe our feelings when we saw the emblem of Stella Maris: the lone star guiding a ship across a tempest at sea. We knew we were among the very best. Seeds of artistic greatness reside in those undoubtable fires that fuel particular achievement.

We were warmly welcomed by the NSS volunteers who took us around the campus. We were in our traditional Garo dress, and we were noticed alright! Even in the space of that brief acquaintance we were at home. We enjoyed the hospitality of these wonderful volunteers. Being in their homes with their families gave us glimpses into their lifestyles, cuisine, and traditions. Some of us even had a glimpse of a famous South Indian actor! We continue to relish the exquisite food that we enjoyed.

The following day we went to Paddapai, a village situated 60 kms from Chennai. As children we had always wondered about life in big cities; we hadn't even imagined about life in rural areas around the city. The HRED Centre was in the middle of lush green fields, enveloped by mystic silence. In the distance was the

Paddapai lake, its beauty and serenity untouched. Friends there gave us an exotic welcome—chandan on our foreheads. Here we took in the basic meaning of discipline, ethics, dignity of labour, value of service, and humility in victory. A three-hour session with Sir Rathna Nathrajan proved most inspiring. At seventy-two he remains the picture of strength, determination, exuberance, and the captivating confidence of youth. His words and methods invoked in us a spirit of achievement and taught us to acquire, develop and master our talents. Ask not why, but ask why not, seemed to be his philosophy of life. These words had deep influence on us and convinced us that victory does not lie at the end of the race alone, but indeed at every step.

We visited families in Paddapai. We were dressed in saris and it was overwhelming to see the glee on their faces and enjoy the warmth of their good will. We talked to each other. We even learned Tamil! The children were so free and familiar with us that each of us had a couple of them pulling our hands while they vied with each other to take us to their homes. Some houses had only one room. But every house had television. We even had a sports event. The local students were so good we were no match for them. At the end of the day the NSS volunteers and the villagers organised a cultural function for us. Elders and political leaders were present. We were truly on top of the world, with the Tamil stick dance and the fire dance leaving us close to delirious. We in turn danced the traditional Wangala, and sang

Garo songs. Every night at Paddapai we prayed in silence in the darkness. We sang songs that infused in us spirituality. Our spirits renewed and it was as if we were being transported to a world of eternal silence, misty solitude and everlasting peace.

Sambar, idlis, rasam, saris, ghagras, flowers, small tamil lines—memories that weave with our NSS friends are etched in our minds. And there was Madam Prabha Nair, charismatic, and dynamic. She is a woman who can love and teach others around her to love and serve unconditionally. Her warmth reassured us we were not outsiders miles away from home. Words will never be enough to thank all these wonderful people for the heaven they gave us right there in Tamil Nadu.

The NSS does such remarkable work: helping the handicapped, educating the poor, imparting literacy to the workers' children. Their selfless service touched us on an emotional level. The innocent twinkle in the eyes of the less privileged children harboured in us a determination to do the same in Garo Hills. Perhaps the time has come to complete the circle.

Michelle Sangma

* Basco Youth Animation and Counselling for Integral Development, Meghalaya, in collaboration with the NSS unit of Stella Maris College organised a three-day programme for 30-35 students from Meghalaya, most of who belong to the Garo tribe. Michelle Sangma was a participant.



India-the exotic land teeming with a rich cultural heritage is an interesting blend of both modern and orthodox mindsets and is dictated by many conventions in almost all walks of life. Superstitious and God-fearing the common man on the street follows a regular routine from the time he wakes up in the morning till he rests after a hard day's work. When Hinduism first began there was a reason behind every action followed and every thought in the mind. Brimming with symbolic affiliations, there was a religious or a moral necessity behind every ritual act practised. Somewhere along the course of time as society grew and developed new and innovative ways of thinking a gradual but inevitable change crept in.

Indian culture holds its own anywhere in the world. It has endearing beauty, charm and unfathomable depth. Lighting a lamp, saying "Namaste", worshipping the "tulasi", saying "shaanathi" thrice, chanting "Om' -Each of these has an underlying significance and deep rooted meaning, though on the surface they may appear to be superficial superstitious acts in the eyes of an outsider to this faith. Understanding the true expression behind these acts lends meaning to an otherwise mechanical and indifferent performance of rituals which is so often dismissed as mindless or superstitious fated to be forgotten with time.

One of the primary reasons why our culture has remained strong and vibrant until modern times with only the bare minimum changes being incorporated into its fold, is because of its inherent capacity to rejuvenate and re-invent

itself along with the changing times. Indian Culture is best described as being adaptable, effervescent and versatile.

Customs that have outlived their use are gradually replaced by others, which have more meaning in the new context. Human or animal sacrifices practised with great vigour in the past have now been dropped. Following of other acts such as Sati, Untouchability and so on have now practically been eliminated. Ours is a culture which tailors itself to suit the needs of the modern Indian Man and to constantly acquire and imbibe the best of technological and scientific advance without in any way losing grip on its roots which have been planted deep into its fertile soil. It is this adaptability that has certified India to be recognized as one of the World's oldest living civilizations.

Many of the ancient traditions though simple and endearing have lasted the test of time and are an indispensable part of innumerable Indian homes even today. An Indian though he may live in any distant corner of the world, is an Indian first and only then a Tamil, Sikh, Muslim or Punjabi. Hindu concepts of Dharma and philosophy are practised today not only by millions of Indians but also by many non-natives who claim that it brings great joy and peace to their lives.

While many of the foreigners seem to detect the potency, endurance and inherent energy in our belief, we ourselves seem to be ignoring our rich past to focus all our stamina towards aping the west in almost all respects from food and

clothes to even media-oriented programs. Even though it is acceptable to imbibe certain values from the western world while continuing to be firmly rooted in our own and to make the best of both worlds, blindly aping the west will ultimately be disadvantageous and even harmful to all. Westernisation has almost become a way of life and has pervaded all spheres. People have incorporated western ways of thought and action into everyday life. Unlike us the west is a relatively new civilization with only a few years of convention and tradition propping them up.

One of the most important questions facing the youth of today revolves around self-identity. The children of today are faced with problems of peer-pressure and feel stifled in the society they are an integral part of. They feel a need to fit in above all else. With a motley of mixed cultures before their eyes, they find it difficult to recognize their role and place in this heterogeneous multiform society. It is very easy to follow someone else's lead. What is more difficult is to stand up and hold our own against another. Life has a lot to offer us if we are willing to see and take note of the various opportunities available to us.

Ralph Waldo Emerson once remarked "Do not go where the path may lead; go instead where there is no path and leave a trail." Emerson's statement exemplifies my feelings on the subject and is extremely relevant in the context of Herd mentality. Many of the "Green Teens" of today seem to flock towards similar careers/ educational fields and job options. The number of Engineers, Doctors, Lawyers and Computer Software professionals flooding markets everywhere is astounding. Statistics

reveal a terrifying picture of narrow lanes of opportunity being crowded by millions. This Herd mentality results in a vast mismatch of demand and supply of required labour.

Another comparatively new concept that many have started to follow is that of going abroad for study and job options. While this new migratory tendency might definitely be of much assistance in increasing and satisfying individual career goals and bringing in money to the many who venture abroad in search of a new-sprung lifestyle, the long term ultimate loss is borne by the nation. This "Brain Drain" results in depletion of much required labour forces, human resources and the fresh creative thinking of the youth. This leads to a further widening of the culture gap. The identity of an Indian abroad is at loose ends-he has a foot in both lands and none to call his home. His children are automatically in today's common parlance referred to as an "ABCD-American Born Confused Desi" -Drowning in a sea of confusion, they are at a complete loss of individuality.

Primary needs such as food and clothes have also been encroached upon. While variety is the name of the game today, the young and the old alike are forfeiting the traditional "dal, chawal" and "sadam" in favour of "Pizzas", "Coke" and 'noodles'. When it comes to clothes, the bold new jeans, hipsters and minis have replaced the established prevalent dress code of the coy and demure salwar or sari. The new theme for fashion is "Indo western" clothes and even music-Westernizing the Indian garment and tunes. As soon as Madonna dons a mehendi tattoo and wears a bindhi on her forehead, its popularity is immediately revived in India. It

appears as if our own ideas/ cultures gain more respect when adopted by the west. Needless to say this is not an encouraging trend.

Much of this portrayal is due to the role of the media who have contributed a large extent to our prevalent mind-set. Defiant TV programmes surging loudly through the screens boast of the new shows such as "Temptation Island", "Meet your Mate" and so on which deeply influence the impressionable teenager who is left marked by this new creed for life. In addition to this there are new channels such as F TV-Fashion TV, which display half naked models walking down a ramp twenty hours a day. Even Kaun Banega Crorepathi-a programme which broke all records for a daily gameshow was a direct take off from the American production of "Who will become a millionaire?" Is India ready for such flagrantly brazen programmes which deal with the problems of the developed nations when its own people starve for days on end without anything edible to feed upon? Is it even really necessary?

I think that it is important that we not lose sight of the larger picture here- our unique privileged position in society, wherever and in whatever field it may be that many can only dream of. The importance of education in changing the lives of people cannot be undermined. This is all the more relevant in a country like India, where heartrending sights of children desperately trying to study under the light of a lamp-post are something that we have all seen and been stirred by. The more dogmatic we are, we consciously close many doors of opportunities that we could experience, learn from, draw strength and courage from and go

on to be a better person. After that, can there actually be an individual who doesn't require a second chance?

May be one of the main problems facing us is the lack of role models who have the ability and foresight to focus on key areas such as morality, ethics, discipline and honesty to name a few. Cannot one billion Indians produce one such leader? We are still forced to rely on the greatness of a Gandhi, Nehru or Sardar Patel to carry us through our present day troubles and shine us a ray of hope, which will show us the path ahead. While I cannot emphasise enough the importance of cultivating and nurturing our own identity, it is essential to bear in mind that no man is an island and that no nation can exist in isolation. It is important to remember that each person we meet or come in contact with has a definite part to play in our overall education in the subject of life. We can never walk away empty-handed after any encounter with the feeling of not having learnt something new. One of the richest experiences life has to offer is that of meeting with other people from different walks of life and the reciprocal exchanges that goes on between them- it appears impossible to me that one should ever give without getting anything in return.

Many of us grow up with an exaggerated sense of our own self-worth and intelligence. Our spectrum is narrow, our tolerance level non-existent and our motto in life 'My way is the best way, if not the only way'.

Eating humble pie (with unceasing regularity) is probably the best way of learning one of life's bitter truths and what should have been the Eleventh Commandment-'you are



definitely not as smart as you think you are (or even as smart as others think you are!)’ It’s perfectly acceptable to utter the words ‘I don’t know, but I will find out’. While a good level of self-esteem and confidence are pre-requisites in any situation, it is the feeling of sheer presumptuousness that you couldn’t possibly be wrong, that is bound to get you in trouble.

I would like to conclude by asserting that Balance is the key to set the pendulum of life

in equilibrium. We should be able to juggle the modern amenities of life with the simple basic values that are essentially Indian. While change is inescapable and sometimes even essential we should not lose track of our basic goals. Sometimes we have to look back as much as we have to look forward. Without our past, there is no future.

Harini Chandrasekar
I BA Fine Arts



icons grace the living space

An ancient Indian Icon sculpted to perfection following the specifications given in the ancient treatises, is to a devotee, an object of veneration. The icon is admired in every quarter for its intrinsic beauty, stability and inherent sense of power. In the Temples, the icon's significance is never lost, wherever it may be. The icon's power as representative of an omnipresent, omnipotent being dominates the devotee who worships it with intense faith, blind to its artistic value or the lack thereof. In fact to the worshipper to view it as an objet d'art would be tantamount to sacrilege. The aesthete on the other hand waxes eloquent on its physical perfection, analyses its various poses, reads and interprets the messages that it conveys but in all is ignorant of its religious 'power'.



Today these very icons which hitherto lay ensconced within the womb, the sanctum of the temple or graced its various halls have found a place in our homes. The sanctity of the puja room is not the icon's ambit in the modern world, for it has become a symbol of the art lover as it graces his everyday space. No place is too mean or too grandiose for the 'Modern' icon. Herein lies the debate – do icons lose the very purpose of their existence by being forced to occupy a different space? This argument is very relevant to the orthodox *silpin* (sculptor) and the devotee who sees his image despoiled by being usurped from its position of power and holiness. To the art connoisseur the icon is a work of art, to be appreciated for its own sake and not for its value as a symbol of worship. Both however will not tolerate a deviation from



the prescribed rules of proportion, one for the sake of propriety and sanctity, the other for the sake of aesthetics.

However the world is not composed merely of these two kinds of people- there is a third category that have achieved a happy balance.

They are those who have allowed the icons to enter their hearts and homes, to adorn their walls, shelves, and tabletops, even gardens and still faithfully worship images in all their glory in temples and *puja* rooms. To them God is truly omnipresent – in gaudy calendars, beautiful brass lamps, exquisite porcelain statuettes- for HE blends into everything. In retrospect it is not very difficult to understand such a balance. Are we not a part of this mass of people who readily accept the presence of God everywhere? The Indian way of life from ancient times has truly been one of flexibility, embracing every religion into its ample folds. The same generous outlook also extends to the so-called crafts, for in Indian thought there has never been the huge rift between the arts and crafts, as it existed in the west. This perhaps also contributed to our acceptance of every kind of image which fills a physical void in our homes thereby satiating the spiritual need in many hearts.

We readily worship a plastic idol at our altars and indulge our love of the artistic by purchasing a wonderfully wrought brass icon or stone sculpture giving it pride of place on our mantelpieces. We are neither aesthetes nor *pujaris*, but are people with faith and an artistic bent who decorate our homes with the 'Icons' of our choice, welcoming our God into our midst.

Lakshmi Priya Daniel
Faculty Fine Arts

on education

Nolan: Tradition, Mr. Keating.

Keating: I thought the purpose of education was to learn to think for yourself.

- from the motion picture "Dead Poet's Society" (1989)

I watched "Dead Poet's Society" at a point in time when I wondered why I had spent a major part of the last sixteen years of my existence inside classrooms. Prof. Keating (played by Robin Williams) seemed to present the best argument – in favour of education.

In the movie, Keating is an English teacher at Welton Academy, an extremely conservative boys prep school in the fifties. He teaches his students that there's more to school life than just curriculum and awakens in each of them, a different, special fervour. A small group of his students decides to open a club called the Dead Poet's Society, a club that Keating (who went to Welton as a teen) was a part of once upon a time. Keating urges them, "carpe diem, seize the day... make your lives extraordinary." He also encourages them to think for themselves.

For a long time, I never really understood why we had to go to school. I didn't understand why children couldn't be left alone to build sandcastles, play with Lego and generally have a good time. Uniforms, school bags, notebooks, homework – all seemed like means of torture. And then, there was school itself – that large impassive institution with its secure walls (and no means of escape) where we, as students, moved from one grade to another for fourteen years. It seemed like a grand conspiracy; perhaps our parents had forged a deal with the Principal to keep us there for fourteen years. In return, what they called education would be thrust upon us innocent souls.

Later, much later, I thought about it – why, why would they do that? One of the most significant reasons was perhaps that our mothers needed the respite. The other, more relevant, seemingly, was that everyone else was also sending their children to school.

Then, there was that invincible cause: education.

The word education has come to mean a great many things over the past few years. When I was ten, education was the excuse my parents used, to force me to memorize multiplication tables and words I couldn't spell. When I was sixteen, it was the panacea that cured the distracted soul. At eighteen, I discovered that education didn't really end with the Higher Secondary Board exams; education justified the need to enroll in college (and remain there even in the face of turbulence).

Today, at 20, education, to me, signifies the beginning of a great journey. A journey into a world that's new, overwhelming and fascinating. Education has helped me understand my choices and work toward concrete targets. Education has helped me realize that I do have choices although these choices may have been fashioned by external factors such as the environment I grew up in. Looking back, perhaps I have gained more than I may have lost. Then again, when I don't exactly know what it is I've missed, it's harder to complain.



Yet, over the years, I've also come to believe that learning is not strictly confined to the classroom. Coffee houses, chat rooms, pool parlours, canteen, are all sites of learning. Inter personal communication is probably one of the best means of educating oneself, ever. A fine example would be an English Literature classroom – from my own experience, I know that some of my classmates are extremely well read. Chance conversations, even idle gossip, sometimes throw up names – books, authors, cinema – both good and bad. In the process, we absorbed information, we learned.

Sport has been an integral part of my life since I was eight. Learning to play a game taught me “to meet with triumph and disaster” and come to regard them dispassionately. Losses did disappoint me no doubt but I learned to move on. College provided many of us the opportunity to renew our ties with sports and games (temporarily severed by the Board exams!) Education, very often, happened on the sports ground. We could not blame the condition of the courts or balls for a bad loss, we had to accept the fact that on that given day, our game fell below par. Watching the other students train hard was incentive enough to pump up the adrenaline. I developed this fascination for basketball. I have since learned to shoot into the basket, sometimes once, in about several hundred tries. At least I tried. Seeing, in this case, was learning.

Above all, as a student of Literature the most sacred place on campus, to me, was the

library. A virtual paradise to the book lover, the collection is at once overwhelming and awe-inspiring. Books of every imaginable genre, magazines, newsletters, journals and the freedom to choose! I only wish the books and magazines were treated with a little more respect. Books chronicle our lives; we ought to handle them with care. Our education would not have been complete without the visits to the library voluntarily, or otherwise. Although our course teachers did goad us on to spend more time in the library rather than hang around the canteen area, somehow it didn't really occur to us that we may have perhaps gained a wider perspective on what we were reading had we supplemented them with adequate reference material.

As I pack my bags for the very last time, I look back on three years of college life and realize that I've been extremely fortunate. I was given the opportunity to learn about the world around me, and to form opinions. I've learned more about life, and myself. More importantly, I've learned to think. Decisions are no longer impulsive; the word rationale makes sense now than ever before. I have become aware of the world around me. I have also become aware of the consequences of my actions and somewhere I have come to understand that my actions essentially reflect who I am. And I try to be true to myself and I try to be honest in all that I do.

Perhaps education wasn't so bad after all.

V. Meera
III BA English

With the sun burning down on them, the two female players attempt their level best to outwit the other by cleverly manipulating the yellow sphere and placing it out of her opponent's reach. When one wins, she gets awarded a certain amount of prize money, which is a lot less than what a male player would get if he were to win the same tournament. If the competitors were male, does that mean they ought to get paid more? Don't the women work as hard as the men do to win?

Let us consider the various aspects of a tennis match. First of all, both the men and women play on the same surface, be it hard court, synthetic, clay or grass court. They play under the same climatic conditions as well, along with the same rules and regulations, which they have to abide by. They take the same amount of breaks between the games. They drink the same energy drinks provided. The women are not given performance - enhancing drugs(steroids) to make their jobs easier!

The only aspect where there is difference is the number of sets they play. The men play best of five sets of games while the women play best of three. Women are thought of as incapable of playing as long as men do, resulting in the lower prize money. Haven't humans come far enough to know that nobody is superior to the other? Shouldn't there be equality? When women could be treated equally during the Rig Vedic times, why has the position shifted today?

Conditioning has caused people to consider women as those who are to stay at home and

do household chores and take care of their husbands and children. The moment she expands her frontiers and ventures outside her home, instead of being welcomed, she is discouraged. She is said to be entering a man's world, a world where she does not belong.

There are some women who do manage to make it over the obstacles, but are faced with discrimination. They get paid a lot less than their male counterparts. Those who are successful and independent are said to defy traditions by doing something which is not expected of them.

Let us consider modeling. That is one profession where women are paid more. Does that mean that other than being a housewife, the only other way a woman can make her mark is by flaunting her body? Advertisers are using women as sex symbols to promote their products. Obscene pictures of women are used as cover pages of magazines for better sales. Is this the image of today's woman?

Who decides what is expected of women? Should there be any reason to expect only a certain amount of duties from women? Women are humans too. They have capabilities too. If they want to achieve something, then they should be granted equal opportunities. When they reach their set goal, they should be awarded what they deserve. There have been attempts to bring about equality. Only time will tell if these efforts are successful or otherwise.

Seemab Zaheera
1 BA Fine Arts



volunteerism and youth

"Are you in earnest? Seize this very minute, what you can do or dream you begin it; Boldness had genius, power and magic in it. Only engage, and then the mind grows heated. Begin, and the work will be completed".

- Goethe

Have you ever heard yourself say "If only I had known, I could have, I would have done things differently". I have.

I enrolled in the Young Women's Christian Association when I was in the second year of my college and life has never been the same. It didn't strike me then that I was volunteering with a membership movement or a women's organization, or for that matter an organization that was concerned about issues affecting women and girls. Was I ever aware of what volunteer movements were and how young people could get involved in such movements?

Yes. I did my bit as every student does going through school and graduation, being attached to a social service project and in the end getting a certificate. Was that enough I question myself after my visit to South Korea in 2000 for the International Youth work camp on Volunteerism and my visit to the capital in January - February, 2002 as the youth Representative for the City of Chennai at the National Convention of the YWCA of India.

What is Volunteerism? And why do people volunteer? Defined in the broadest terms, it is the contribution that individuals make as non profit, non wage and non career action for the well being of their neighbourhood community or society at large. People volunteer for a variety of reasons. The possible motivations include sharing professional skills, getting to know a

community, commitment to a cause, personal identification with a cause, need to keep oneself busy and maybe to add to one's resume. Volunteerism benefits both the giver and the recipient, for it is in giving that one grows as a person. Unlike charity, it preserves the self-esteem of the recipient. Interestingly, the UN declared 2001 as the year of Volunteerism.

For me Volunteerism, is more than just a sense of wanting to do good. It is a process of creating a spirit of service that will remain throughout. It is a way of being. Approaching issues and concerns with this attitude creates in others the feeling of giving -- giving without measure.

At the heart of every voluntary thought lies a spirit. Motivation is an inner urge that arises both innately as well as from one's upbringing. Volunteering is rooted in deep sensitivity, in going far beyond the borders of the self.

Youth holds tremendous potential in terms of voluntary action because young people are idealistic, have considerable energy and also a burning desire to achieve. It has also been observed that young people's programmes almost always believe in bringing about positive societal change.

If youth are to be volunteers it is important to make them aware of their



strengths, their potential of doing good work and to become conscious of the motivations behind their decision to volunteer. They stand at a point where they are unsure of their own potentialities. If the elders of the community can set them on a journey of self discovery, they will be able to understand the depth, currents and waves of the community.

It is also possible sometimes for young volunteers to get disillusioned because they are not able to clarify their values on various issues. This happens when they get caught up in the "heat of the moment". To develop a lifelong spirit of volunteerism, it is important for young

volunteers to engage emotionally with the issue at hand.

It becomes essential to help young volunteers learn how to work in groups, communicate better and develop problem solving skills and become critically constructive. This will ensure growth and facilitate them to take on leadership roles. A realisation of these important elements aligns the young volunteers to the team and makes them realise that they fit into the bigger picture.

Elizabeth Simpson
I MA English



the way i am

Like the rest of us, I too have my strengths and shortcomings. I consider my strength to be my ability to appreciate the good qualities in people and in nature. What I don't really like about myself is my tendency to keep anger bolted inside me. It takes me enormous effort to express my displeasure visibly. I'm basically a very polite person though unfortunately this trait is often taken advantage of. But I guess in the long run being nice pays so I'm seldom perturbed by it.

I think I've been lucky in life so far, not having had to struggle too much. I believe in trying my hand at everything even if that means making mistakes.

The worst thing in life would be not to take any risks, merely to avoid failures. On the contrary my mind hunts and targets only the shortest route to make it through the journey.

Happiness for me is freedom- freedom to do what I think right. Freedom to distinguish right from wrong on my own terms, morals and values. Freedom to think of anything beneath the sun without any hesitation.

My family and friends are like a canvas on which I paint all the thoughts and dreams of my life. Life just would not be the same without them. I guess if I were a plant I would liken my roots to my family and my leaves at various levels to my friends. So I would be the stalk, growing in the direction I feel best with my friends beside me and my family as my support.

I find a lot of pleasure in giving. In life there is only so much that one can possess. Our

measure of happiness keeps diminishing as we get richer. In economics we call it the rate of diminishing returns. So why not derive more contentment out of giving what we can!

I consider myself a very outdoor person preferring oceans to mountains and sun to rain. I could spend endless hours on the beach just watching the waves. Adventure thrills me and when my daring mood sets in, even a seemingly daunting task to others will be a euphoric one for me. One of my favourite pursuits is visiting islands. The idea of being on an isolated piece of land with nothing but water is exhilarating. Island hopping is a dream I look forward to making come true.

English may be reckoned officially as the universal language, but personally I consider the unofficial language to be music. I feel music can arouse emotions, hopes and dreams as no other language ever could. Music has the power to soothe and lift a person's psyche to limits that transcend the power of words. It lacks any prejudice, adding to its unique beauty in today's chaotic and fanatical world.

What awes me the most is the virtual speed at which time flies. At times however a few minutes seem to stretch into years but mostly the years that have gone by seem to have passed like seconds. I have been fortunate to have lived through many different worlds owing to my father's job, which demands travelling. Most were enjoyable and memorable but some offered a life I was unable to relate to. I especially thank my mother a great deal for helping me get through life's ups and downs.

Some of the worlds I've seen were prosperous and comfortable, others backward and miserable. Through my trips I have come to understand that it is essentially the people of a country who are responsible for these differences. If I could change one aspect of India, it would be to alter the mentality of my people who tend to be cautious and wary of change. I think if both people and the changing times keep pace with each other, our nation would advance a great deal.

Looking back on the past nineteen years leaves me with a tinge of sorrow that these wonderful worlds I've visited have sailed away but there is a greater sense of contentment at all the wonder I have experienced through them. And once again I'm in a new chapter of my life- my college days.

My vision into my future is limited. What I will eventually become is still a question left unanswered. At present I can only believe in myself and live one moment at a time.

I fear heights since they are an instant reminder of my mortality. When it is time for my flame to be extinguished I would rather it were put out at once without leaving it to flicker in agony and die out gradually. Every action of mine revolves around the belief 'we live life but once'. Hence for me making the most of life whether it involves danger, sheer fun or endurance with the ultimate end of satisfaction is the goal of my journey- the journey towards the inevitable uncertainty.

Symantika Chelliah
I BA Economics

o ye of little faith

Pessimism . Cynicism . The words would be spoken of in the same breath as suicide and murder. Suicide because it makes you give up on yourself and on your life and murder because it makes other people give up on themselves and their lives. Chills run down my spine when I hear the familiar refrain 'Why should I because no good is going to come of it anyway' or 'why would I when it wouldn't make any difference?'

I said pretty much the same thing to my friend who was moaning about how plastics were choking the rivers of the country. She nodded patiently and then started talking about what could be done to save the rivers. At the end of the discussion, I asked her when she planned to start on her campaign against plastics. Her reply? A sigh with a what-difference-can-I-make sort of look.

Look around, there are so many lovely things to see, hear and feel. True, there are horrific happenings like terrorist acts, abuse, fraud that strike a jarring note, but if we look around with a less cynical and a less prejudiced

mind, we can see loveliness and feel happiness too.

Whoever said that nobody gave respect and love anymore? Why is it then that people dutifully stop their vehicles when they see the traffic policeman raise his hand? Why do we wave back at tiny heads as trains speed past?

Friends laugh with each other. Open up to each other. A daughter or son walking on the road gently directs the mother off the path of an oncoming vehicle. Kids still believe in Santa Claus and Snow White.

There's love everywhere, right from a grandson sitting on his grandpa's knee, to a mother teaching a daughter how to wear a saree, to friends laughing together. The warmth of this love brings a smile to everyone's face. As long as we keep smiling, we can be sure that life is going to be wonderful and a little heavenly. And all we need to do is scratch away the veneer of pessimism, that we use to cloak our hopes and dreams.

Sonia Tharappan
I BA Economics



a drive down the marina

The splutter of the engine
The squeak of wheels on stagnant water
The vehicle roars to life
We drive on, dispensing with chatter.

It's a ride to nowhere
Just a drive, down memory.
No place. No destination. No stops.
Down the beach. Down History.

The sky bursts open, releases
Its pent-up fury.
The rain falls, gentle and soft
Inside, the silence seems eerie.

Splendour in squalor. Colour in the smog.
Neon lights on the marina, a blur.
Urchins squabble over battered kites
A stray seeking grub, by the water

Cryptic thoughts flood the mind's eye.
Thoughts familiar to human kin
The colours of the wind seem to design
The absolutely chaotic depths within

The journey seems endless
We fail to terminate our jaunt
The horizon appears, the roads beckon
Repose ain't what we want

It's a long drive home
It seems so far away
We're homeward bound
We'll get there someday.

V. Meera
III BA English



waves to shore

Near the shore I stand and the waves beckon
Echoing the understood message across the horizon
I fear the crabs and creatures not known
As steps lead further away leaving footprints alone
The shells catch the sunlight, so beautiful and rare
Something so simple, my soul is all I have to bare
Before I miss the incredible, I trace back
Shells, from sea to shore, there is nothing that lacks
So long as waves to wave and shore to shore
The magic is always present, lets ask for no more
Dear friend, you and I, the waves always meet the shore.

celebration of earth in rain

This gray cloud that covers the sky
Threatens the sun, blazing its heat
One more second and the game is up
Colourless heavy drops escape from above
Hitting hard against the earth in fury
Like thousand ants marching forward
Water, that cools the baked below
Water, that would drown a parched throat
Breath by breath comes the fragrance of soil
Reminding of joyful birth and sorrowful death
And everything on mother earth belongs to this soil

Bharati Naik

I M.Sc. Information Technology

till that day

When answers are not found
Does the interrogation stop?

When peace is in hiding
Will the quest for it cease?
When loneliness engulfs you
Have you sought solace in the dark?

When you don't want to be found
How far is far? How high is the wall?

When there are no more tears
Has the sadness been seen?

I ask, I seek, I search
I run, I build, I search
I await the day you shall too.

Veena Kuruvilla
II BCom

the gloom

When the sky's dark,
There is mist in the eye
And sadness everywhere.
The wind howling and wailing
Like a child looking for its mother,
Tears flowing like a river,
A force that is not known to man himself.

Vishnu Priya
I BA English



merciless eternity

Never ending, perpetuating,
On and on the cycle goes
Trapped forever, trapped together,
No way out of this cage so cold.

Day-call for the sandman,
Sprinkling softly through my mind
Not enough to set me free
To wake me into some dream divine

All around. A restless murmur
Susurrating quietly,
Rain of sound in this deepest drought
Till thunderclap does silence them

A way to while away the time
All the while I wait in vain,
Prophetic of another time
When things shall be the same again.

Ticking, talking
Waiting, watching,
Counting, clicking
On and on. . .

Praveena Jaipal
B BCA



the journey

*of self exploration,
self-understanding,
self-growth
never ceases.*

But maybe it brings you back to where you began.

She sat contemplating, as light years far away in the distance metamorphosized into fast approaching streaks of technology, sucking everyone into a vortex of oblivion. Unperturbed by this, she continued scrutinizing it's eyes, and made some adjustments to the iris.

A single mind lost in a surrounding of artificial intelligence, which closed in on her, made her as compact and concise as possible, but not necessarily easier to understand or manipulate. She was prevented from thinking for herself - programmed by other instructions and set circumstances.

What could seem more interesting? She couldn't be more qualified for her job.

Lost to the world, and found in her world of arms, wires, legs, metal, chips and eyes she made them think, feel, listen and talk. Given the ability to make them reason and learn. It was 'her' universe, 'her' life-like people. Into

this distorted image of the world enter her brainchildren, who, surpass all expectations. They are the ceiling of her Sistine chapel. Mesmerizing and near divine, but simultaneously untouchable and inaccessible.

Rays of light creep through the blinds, bouncing off her arsenal of instruments in her laboratory, revealing her shimmering acuteness and professionalism. Her ideas and thoughts litter the floor, which are finally pieced together to form her 'human'. She sat back and looked at her perfect picture, not realizing, in the dingy room, that it was a collage.

Being told to pack up for the day, she put her 'babies' to sleep, locked the door behind her, and briskly walked out of the building, shielding her eyes from the afternoon sun.

As she turned the corner, the sun was illuminating a two-year-old boy, whose iris was as brown as his skin, and he was crawling alongside a long and sluggish, bottle green caterpillar. The sparkle in his eye, the unspeakable joy and his unquenchable curiosity...

Her journey was just beginning.

*Gayatri Bashi
II BA English*

வைறக்க கவிதைகள்

கதவைத் திறக்காதே
வெளியே மாக்கோலம்
இரசித்து உண்ணும் அணில்

•••

பறந்து களைத்த ஈசல்கள்
இளைப்பாற அமர்ந்தன
ளிகின்ற விளக்குத் திரியில்

•••

உரெங்கும் தண்ணீர்க்கஷ்டம்
மழை வேண்டும்
மண் வாசனைக்காக

•••

கையில் சிலம்புடன் கோபக் கண்ணகி
அலட்சியமாக
சிலம்பின் மேல் சிட்டுக்குருவி

•••

உணவு விடுதியின் வெளியே
விலைப்பட்டியல்
எழுதிப்போடும் சிறுமி பசியோடு

•••

பொன் மின்னும் வானம்
பூத்துக் குலுங்கும் இயற்கை
மை தீர்ந்த எழுதுகோல்

•••

கொட்டும் மழை
வேகமாய் ஒதுங்கினேன்
பைக்குள் அந்த மயிலிறகு

•••

காற்றே சிறிது நேரம் வீசாதே
மண்தரை முழுதும்
மலர்களின் அணிவகுப்பு

•••

கு. தேவிபிரியா
விரிவுரையாளர், தமிழ்த்துறை



இளமைக் கனவு

இளமைக் கனவுகளே!
ஆயிரம் ஆசைகளை
கண்கொண்டு பார்த்து
கைகூடும் நாள் குறித்து
திட்டங்கள் தீட்டி
செல்லும் வழியில்
தடைகளைத் தாண்டி
முன்சென்றவள் சற்று
பின் நோக்குகையில்
கனவுகள் மட்டும் அதிகரிக்க
இளமை என்னானதோ?

அரசியல் வியாதிகள்

தீடீர் மழையில் நேற்று முளைத்த
காளான்கள் - அரசியல் வாதிகள்
திசை மாறிச்செல்லும் காற்றைப் போல
இவர்களும் கட்சி மாறுகின்றவர்களே
புயல் கரையைக் கடந்து விடலாம்
இவர்கள் நம்மைக் கடக்கும் போது
எத்தனை தொல்லைகள்
பெருமழையால் சிறிதளவே சீரழிவு
ஆனால் இவர்களால் இன்னும்
எத்தனையோ!

கே. ஃபெமினா
II B.Sc, Maths (Additional)

அன்பு

பூக்கள் பூத்தது
உன்னைப் புகழ்ந்திட!
அருவிகள் விழுந்தது
உன்னைத் தழுவிட!
மேகம் கலைந்தது – மழையாக
உன்னை நனைத்திட!
நான் தோழியானேன் – உன்னிடம்
என்றென்றும் அன்பு கொள்ள !

எதிர்காலம்

ஜாதிக்கு ஒரு தலைவன் இல்லை
சாதிக்க ஒரு தலைவன்!
குடிசைகள் நிறைந்த சேரிகள் இல்லை
ஒங்கி உயரும் கட்டிடங்கள்!
மதவெறி வழிபடும் இறைவன் மட்டும்!
மொத்தத்தில் எதிர்கால
உலக அரங்கில்
இந்தியா – முதல் இடம்!

கல்லூரி வாழ்கை

இனிய பொழுதில்
வண்ணத்துப் பூச்சிகள்
விளையாட ஆரம்பித்தது!
ஒடியது
ஆடியது
பாடியது
பொழுது முடியத் தொடங்கியது
அனைத்தும்
பிரிந்தது கண்ணீர்க் குடத்துடன்
முடிந்தது கல்லூரி வாழ்க்கையும்!

1. மேரி அனிதா
I B.A. History

விழித்தொழு

எழுந்திரு
கனவுக் கோட்டைகள்
கானல் நீர்
தெளிந்திடு
சிந்திக்க மறவாதே
நீ எழுந்தால் எழுந்திடும் இவ்வுலகம்!
நினைவில் கொள்
என் உயிர்த் தோழியே
நீ ஒருத்தி போதும்
உலகை மாற்ற
வலிய ஆயுதம் உண்டு உன்கையில்
வேற்றுமையில் ஒற்றுமை
சாதியற்ற சமுதாயம்
நீதி நிறை வாழ்வு
நம் குறிக்கோள் தெளிவுகொள்
புறப்படு
புதுமை காணத் துணிந்திடு
அச்சம் களை
துணிவைத் துணையாகக் கொள்
அறிவை ஆயுதமாக்கு
வெற்றி உனக்கே
இருட்டறைச் சமுதாயம்
எழுச்சி பெற
அறிவு விளக்கை ஏந்திடு!

R. பெட்ஸி வினோலியா
I B.A. English



பெண் சிவக் கொலை

மரிக்கும் நேரத்தில் தன் பார்வையால் அவள் தன் தாயிடம் பேசுகிறாள்.

கல்லறைக்குப் பூவாக்க நீ என்னைச் சுமந்தாலும்,
உன் ஸ்பரிசத்தை நிமிடத்தில் மகிழ்வேன் தாயே!

உதைத்ததற்குத் தண்டனையாக நீ மரணத்தைக் கொடுத்தாலும்,
உன் பரிசை அன்போடு ஏற்பேன் தாயே!

கள்ளிப்பாலைக் கொடுத்தாலும் நீ நெல்லைத் திணித்தாலும்,
உன் நினைவில் என்றும் வாழ்வேன் தாயே!

ஐனித்ததும் மரணம் எனக்கு – ஆனால் நான்
உன் மனதில் இருப்பேன் சுமையாக – நீ
கல்லறைக்குச் சென்றாலும் அங்கு தூங்குவேன். பசுமையாக.....

M. நந்தினி
I B.A. History

பெண்ணைப் போற்றுவோம்

எங்கும் எதிலும் பெண்கள் உலகில்
ஏற்றம் புரியக் கண்டோம்!
தங்கு புகழைப் பெற்ற பெண்கள்
தரணி மீதில் உள்ளார்!
பொறுமை குணத்தால் பெண்தான் இன்று
போற்றி வளர்ப்பாள் குடும்பம்
அருமை பெருமை சேர்த்து வீட்டில்
அக மகிழ்வைத் தருவாள்

நன்கு பணிகள் செய்வாள் வீட்டை
நலம் விளங்கச்செய்வாள்
மென்மை குணத்தால் பெண்தான் உலகை
மேன்மை கொள்ளச் செய்வாள்!
வன்மைப் பண்பும் உண்டு என்றும்
வண்மை குணமும் உண்டு - பெண்ணே
நன்மை தீமை ஆய்ந்து - நட்பை
நாட்டில் நிலைக்கச் செய்வாள்.

வீரம் கொண்டு நிற்பாள் பெண்தான்!
வெற்றி! நாட்டி நிற்பாள்!
தீரமோடு செயலால் பெண்தான்
திக்கு எட்டும் செல்வாள்!
உறவு காத்து நிற்பாள் பெண்தான்
உதவும் கரத்தில் உயர்வாள்!
மரபில் பண்பு காத்து பெண்தான்
மகிழ்ச்சி சேர்த்து வைப்பாள்!

முனைவர் விஜயலட்சுமி இராமசாமி
தமிழ்த்துறை - விரிவுரையாளர்



காத்திருந்திருக்கிறேன்

நானும் காத்திருக்கிறேன்
தேவை ஏற்படும்போது பணத்திற்காக!
பசி வரும்போது உணவிற்காக!
வருகிறேன் என்று சொன்ன நண்பனுக்காக!
பாதி இரவில் விழிப்பு வந்தவுடன் வரப்போகும் விடியலுக்காக!
வண்ணத்துப்பூச்சி பூவில் அமரப்போகும் நொடிக்காக!
முதல் மழைத்துளியை கையில் ஏந்தும் பொழுதிற்காக!
பரியாத புதிரின் விடைகாணும் நேரத்திற்காக!
தோல்வியில் துவளும் போது தோள் கொடுக்கும் தோள்களுக்காக!
தனிமையில் என்னை வருடும் இசைக்காக!
கடலின் ஓரத்தில் நிற்கும் போதும் என்னை நோக்கி
ஒடிவரும் அலைகளுக்காக!
என்னை அன்பாய் வருடும் தென்றலுக்காக!
பல நாட்கள் படித்து ஒரு நாள் வரப்போகும் முடிவிற்காக!
காத்திருக்கிறேன்
நானும் நிறைய விஷயங்களுக்காக காத்திருக்கிறேன்.
காத்திருந்தலின் சுமை தெரியும் எனக்கு

V. விஜயா
II B.Sc., Maths (Add)



Que faire : Reculer ou Avancer?

Une devise d'une tribu d' Afrique dit: " Si tu avances tu meurs; et si tu recules tu meurs. "Dans ce cas, que peut - on faire? L'homme du clan affirme que mourir c'est mourir. Reculer est le signe de lâcheté; alors mieux mourir en avançant qu'en reculant.

La vie pour chacun est un dur combat. Pour gagner, cette devise est l'un des meilleurs conseils à suivre: ne jamais reculer. Nous rencontrons plusieurs obstacles sur notre chemin, mais ce n'est pas en reculant que nous parvenons à les surmonter; c'est au contraire en luttant. Notre vie n'est composé que de luttes. Parfois même nous ne savons pas où nous trouvons encore l'énergie, tellement l'expérience a été difficile qu'on n'a plus de force. Et quelques fois encore, nous ne savons pas par où commencer notre lutte. Toute l'existence paraît être sans but, nous nous demandons pourquoi nous avons à vivre si c'est pour souffrir, ... Mon cher, si tu penses comme ça, tu dois comprendre qu'il n'y a pas de raison de désespérer. Tiens bon et lutte. Vas-y, continue ton combat. C'est après la victoire que tu riras de ta propre peur.

Prenons quelques exemples de luttes, tu verras que c'est toute une vie: Quand l'enfant est encore au sein de sa mère, il est nourri, tenu au chaud, soigné. Mais il ne veut pas y rester. Il veut découvrir le monde et doit lutter pour cela. Au moment de l'accouchement, il doit faire des efforts pour arriver à l'extérieur. C'est sa lutte. Né, il rencontre une toute autre réalité différente de ce qu'il imaginait. Le monde n'est plus excitant. Mais il ne peut non plus

retourner d'où il vient. (C'est pour cela qu'il pousse un cri) Il n'y a pas d'autre solution qu'avancer même si la vie semble grise depuis le début.

Maintenant le bébé grandit. C'est une autre expérience. Il doit combattre pour avoir sa nourriture. Les cris et larmes constituent son arme. S'il désespérait et se disait que la vie ne valait rien, que s'il avait su qu'on lui compliquerait la tâche il ne serait pas né; ce serait de la lâcheté. Alors sa croissance n'aura plus un sens, elle lui sera ennuyeuse. La lutte a quelque chose d'excitant qui brise la monotonie. Au moins il attend le moment où il parviendra à parler et exprimer ses points de vue (Son seul espoir).

Grant, l'enfant se trouve en présence du monde réel. Rien ne va plus comme il le pensait. Il se demande pourquoi on le traite encore comme un enfant. Souvent on ne lui permet pas de faire ce qu'il veut (Comme je voudrais jouer avec ces verres!!! On me dit que ça se casserait. Mais comment donc? Je ne peux pas y croire sans avoir essayé au moins une fois") L'autorité parentale lui semble un obstacle. Il veut se battre et ne pas reculer. En guise de récompense on l'appelle "Vilain" (Pas joli comme nom!!!) Il veut s'affirmer dans la société. Il ne doit pas oublier que pour l'espèce humaine, comme d'ailleurs pour qu'homme, courageux, il se bat (même si souvent ça se termine mal pour lui).

L'école devient plus tard un autre fardeau. Non seulement les études sont fatigantes, les



copains ne sont pass aussi coopératifs qu'il l'aurait voulu. Ne perds pas courage mon petit. Rempli tes devoirs envers tout le monde, sois gentil, et tu surmonteras toutes tes difficultés.

Vient alors l'adolescent. Tout y compris les parents, ne fait que l'embêter. Il se demande comment le monde est parvenue à être aussi gênant! Mais lui, au moins il peut se révolter, on dira que ce n'est pas nouveau. Il veut s'exprimer mais on le comprend pas. Il veut découvrir mais tant d'obstacles l'en empêchent. Mais il ne se fatigue pas. L'avenir lui semble incertain, seuls ses rêves lui donnent la force de continuer la lutte. Il rêve de ces jours quand tout le monde reconnaîtra qu'il avait raison. Il se voit en héros qui a vaincu tous les obstacles et qui recoit maintenant la couronne de victoire. Elle ne sera que le résultat de ses efforts.

Maintenant l'adulte. L'homme qui pensait que tous ses problèmes prendront dès qu'il sera grand, découvre au contraire que c'est leur début. Il doit prendre en charge sa famille qui ne regarde que lui pour subvenir à ses besoins; sa carrière qu'il doit entretenir, son corps qui lui réclame un repos. En bref il ne peut satisfaire un seul besoin sans avoir une contrainte par ici, par là et le problème est qu'il en finit jamais. c'est en voulant en satisfaire un qu'une multitude d'autres naissent. Mais oui donc! Ne savait - il pas qu'il sont contagieux? Il parvient

à continuer sa lutte grâce aux attentions de sa famille et ses amis envers lui, et les récompenses de tout sorte qu'il obtient de son labeur. Au fond de lui même, il n'attend que le moment où il pourrait enfin se reposer, après en avoir fini avec tout Ça et s'affirmer qu'il en a été aussi champion.

Les obstacles n'en finissent jamais. Même vieux, l'homme doit encore lutter.

Sa santé de plus en plus délicate, la force lui manque de faire ce qu'il pouvait dans sa jeunesse. ("Oh comme je voudrais encore être capable de sauter! Je me ferais volontiers parachutiste!!! "Mais, même un petit pas lui, coûte cher!) Il voulait continuer, atteindre son idéal, les contraintes de la vie ne le découragent pas. Il veut avancer aussi longtemps qu'il est en vie. Surtout quand il regarde en arriere et voit tout qu'il a pu faire et ses succès, il se dit que la vie valait la peine d'être vécue.

Vois - tu mon cher, quoi que tu fasses, où que tu ailles tu devras combattre. Ta vie est synonyme de lutte Tu n'as pas à t' en fuir devant les obstacles, c'est de la pure lâcheté. Bats-toi, ne recule pas et même si Ça peut te coûte cher. Par ta volonté tu pourras réussir et tu pourras te réjouir de tes réussites. Et dis-toi que tu n'es pas le seul à combattre et courage donc.

Mujawamariya Gaudiose
II B.A. Economics



1. समय का सदुपयोग

समय बड़ा बलवान होता है। इसे सबसे कीमती भी कहा जाता है क्योंकि प्रत्येक खोई हुई वस्तु पाई जा सकती है लेकिन बीता समय कभी लौटकर नहीं आता।

समय का सदुपयोग हमारे जीवन की सफलता की कुंजी है। हमारा यह जीवन क्षण भंगुर है। यदि हम अपने समय को व्यर्थ ही गपशप और आलस में खो देंगे तो हम जीवन में कोई महान कार्य नहीं कर पाएंगे। तब सफलता हमसे कोसों दूर हो जाएगी। अर्थात् समय रूपी पूँजी समाप्त हो जाएगी और हम खाली हाथ देखते रह जाएंगे।

“कारवाँ गुजर गया। गुबार देखते रहे।”

कबीर दास जी ने भी निम्नलिखित दो पक्तियों में समय के महत्व को बड़ी सुंदरता से कहा है—

“काल करे सो आज कर आज करे तो अब पल में प्रलय होगी, बहुरि करेगा कब।”

विद्यार्थी इसे व्यर्थ की बात कहकर टाल जाते हैं, लेकिन ऐसा विचार स्वयं उनके लिए हानिकारक सिद्ध होता है। समय नष्ट करने पर छात्र को तो पछताने का भी अवसर नहीं मिलता। हर काम के लिए एक समय तथा हर समय के लिए एक काम निश्चित होना चाहिए।

समय मात्र व्यक्तिगत तौर पर ही नहीं

सामाजिक और राष्ट्रीय तौर पर भी महत्वपूर्ण है। इसलिए सभी को चाहिए कि स्वयं भी समय के मूल्य को पहचान कर उसका सदुपयोग करें तथा जो इसका दुरुपयोग करते हैं उसे ऐसा करने से रोकें।

“मनुज बली नहीं होत है, समय होत बलवान।”

दीपशिखा झा

बी.ए., द्वितीय वर्ष, इतिहास



2. दीपक

दीपक जिन्दगी का न जाने कहाँ खो गया रहता है रोया-सा जमाना, न जाने क्या हो गया दीपक नहीं जहाँ, रहते हैं, आँसू हरदम वहाँ दिल का अथाह दर्द, बताते हैं सरेआम

आजादी क्या मिली, हम अपनी गुलामी में खो गए अपनी ही रोशनी से, अपनी दुनिया रौंद गए

जिन दीपकों ने अपनी बलि चढ़ाई, आजादी दिलाने में उनकी ही पीढ़ी लगी है, आजादी मिटाने में।

भूमण्डलीकरण, उदारीकरण के मायावी जाल में चुम्बकीय शक्ति-सम मतिभ्रम, चिपकते जा रहे हैं

कैसी विडम्बना, कैसा रहस्य

स्वतंत्रता के नाम कुर्बान, देश का यह अंजाम

हीरे-सोने-चाँदी वाला यह देस
अब दूसरों की, चिकनी रोटियों का लालची हो गया।

इमारतों के ख्याली पुलाव में
चोर रिश्वत खोर हो गया

अपनों ने ही झोपड़ियाँ, जला डालीं
किस कदर भूल गए हम, उन जवानों को

जो लड़े सीना तान, जंगे मैदानों में
जिनके लहू की खुशबू
आज भी महक रही बागानों में।

दीपक जिन्दगी का, न जाने कहाँ खो गया।
रहता है रोया सा जमाना, न जाने क्या हो गया।

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3. कर्ज

कैसा बदला ये नक्शा देश का
जो दिखाने के लायक नहीं है
कर्ज का बोझ है इतना,
जो उठाने के काबिल नहीं है।

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4. नारी

नारी है गुलाब की क्यारी
हो जाती है सब पर हावी

घर को संवारे वो बनकर मनचली
दिल को लुभाए, वो बनकर परी

क्रोध में बन जाए काली
करती है बच्चों की रखवाली

रखती है सबके इलाज की चाबी
नारी से ही तो, बसी है ये दुनिया सारी।

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5. फूलवाली

मैं बी.ए. दूसरी साल की छात्रा थी। हर महीने की तरह इस बार भी होस्टल से छुट्टियाँ बिताने शनिवार को घर जा रही थी। मैं स्टेशन पहुँची और ट्रेन का इन्तजार करने लगी। ट्रेन नौ बजे आई। छुट्टी का दिन होने की वजह से बहुत भीड़ थी। जैसे ही ट्रेन रुकी सभी दौड़ने लगे और धक्का-मुक्की करके अन्दर घुसे। मैं किसी तरह अन्दर घुसी और जगह ढूँढने लगी। सफर तीन घंटे का था और इतनी देर खड़ा रहना मेरे बस की बात नहीं थी। ट्रेन चलने लगी और लोगों की बातें सुनाई देने लगी, पूरा कम्पार्टमेंट

औरतों से भरा हुआ था। जिन्हे जगह नहीं मिली वे दरवाजे के सामने बैठ गई। उफ ! पैर रखने तक की भी जगह नहीं थी।

स्टेशन आते यात्रियों की भीड़ बढ़ती जा रही थी। कभी बिस्कुट वाला, कभी समोसे वाला, कभी पॉपकोर्न वाला तो कभी फलवाला या फूलवाली आ जाती। मेरी निगाहें बैठने के लिए जगह ढूँढ रही थी। मैंने पीछे मुड़के देखा तो एक जानी-पहचानी आवाज़ सुनाई दी।

“दीदी-यहाँ आइये”।

एक अठारह साल की लड़की मुझे हाथ दिखा रही थी। उसके हाथ में फूलों की टोकरी भी थी। जिसमें सफेद, गुलाबी, नारंगी, पीले, बैंगनी फूल सजे हुए थे। उसकी बगल वाली सीट भी खाली हो गई थी। मैं उस की तरफ चली गई और वहाँ बैठ कर चैन की साँस ली। अपना बैग एक तरफ रख कर रुमाल से पसीना पोंछने लगी तभी वो लड़की बोली—“कैसी हो दीदी?”

“क्या आपने मुझे पहचाना नहीं।”

मैंने ‘न’ में जवाब दिया, तो वह तपाक से बोली, ‘दीदी मैं मनु हूँ-आपसे छह महीने पहले इसी ट्रेन में मिली थी।’ मैंने ध्यान दिया तो याद आया कि ये वही ‘मनु’ है जो ट्रेन में फूल बेचती थी और बहुत समय से गायब थी। लंबी सी, सावले रंग की, माथे पर बिन्दी, हाथों में चूड़ी और गालों पे छोटा सा काला तिल, जो उसकी छवि को और बढ़ा देता। बहुत ही बातूनी एवं

चंचल स्वभाव वाली। मेरे पूछने से पहले ही बोल पड़ी कि टिकट वाला उसे पकड़ ले गया था, जिससे कि उसका आना बंद करवा दिया था। वह दो सौ रुपये जुर्माना माँग रहा था जो कि परिस्थिति के अनुकूल अधिक थे।

फिर हम लोग इधर-उधर की बातें करने लगे। मैंने पूछा—“तुम्हारे पिताजी आज-कल क्या काम करते हैं?”

बोली—‘शराब में मस्त रहता है, हरामी।’

मैं उसके जवाब से दंग रह गई।

गुस्से में कह उठी—“माँ सारा दिन फूल बेच कर मेरी तरह पैसा कमाती है और शाम घर पहुँचते ही बाप सब मेहनत की कमाई छीन लेता है। कभी-कभी तो भूखे ही सोना पड़ता है।” फिर थोड़ी देर तक चुप रही।

दुखी मन से बोली—“दीदी आपकी शादी कब होगी? अपनी शादी में मुझे भी बुलाना। मैं आपके लिए ताजे फूल लाऊँगी।”

मेरे ‘हाँ’ कहते ही वह बहुत खुश हो गई। मैंने पूछा तुम कब शादी करोगी—(मजाक में)

तुरंत बोली—“मैं कभी शादी नहीं करूँगी।”

मैंने पूछा क्यों ?

“क्योंकि जिस तरह आज मेरी माँ तकलीफों का सामना कर रही है, मुझे भी ये सब सहना पड़ेगा। “चैन-आराम” नाम का शब्द ही नहीं है हमारी दुनिया में।” फिर उसने एक

औरत की तरफ इशारा किया—“यह मेरी सहेली है। आठवाँ महीना चल रहा है लेकिन दिन-भर चने बेचती है और शाम को इसका पति इसकी कमाई शराब और ऐश में उड़ा देता है।”

थोड़ी देर रुकने के बाद मनु फिर बोली—

“हमारी जिन्दगी न जीने के बराबर है। गरीबी, भूखमरी ही मार डालती है।”

मैं मनु की बातें सुनकर खुद को उससे छोटा महसूस कर रही थी लगा जैसे मनु पच्चीस साल की हो गई है जो सब-कुछ समझती है।

तभी ट्रेन तिरुवलंगाडु जो कि छोटा-सा स्टेशन है पर रुकी और एक लड़का, एक साल की बच्ची को गोद में लिए ट्रेन में चढ़ा एवं हमारी तरफ आया, मैंने अपना पर्स जैसे ही पैसे देने के लिए निकाला, मनु तुरंत बोली “ये मेरा छोटा भाई है और मेरी नई बहन।”

मासूम-सी बच्ची मनु की गोद में खेलने लगी, वह मुस्करा रही थी। उसका भाई हमारे पास आकर बैठ गया और टोकरी टटोलने लगा। मैंने बैग से बिस्कुट निकाल कर उसे पकड़ा दिया। बच्ची अपनी छोटी-सी दुनिया में मस्त थी। मैं अपनी दुनिया में खो गई और खिड़की से आसमान की तरफ देख कर सोचने लगी कि इस नन्हीं बच्ची का भी यही भविष्य है जो मनु का है। बड़ी होकर ये बच्ची भी फूलों की कैद में बन्द हो जाएगी, उसकी नन्ही सी मुस्कराहट इन्हीं फूलों की पंखुड़ियाँ में कहीं खो जाएगी।

बच्ची अपनी दुनिया में मस्त थी और गोद से बाहर आना चाहती थी, पर उसे क्या पता कि उसकी आगे की दुनिया इसी टोकरी में सिमट कर रह जाएगी।

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6. बालक का भय

बेटा : माँ... माँ (चीख सुनाई पड़ती है)।

माँ : क्या हुआ बेटे ?

बेटा : बड़ा बुरा सपना देखा माँ...सपने में मैंने देखा कि हमारा घर जल रहा है लोग मर रहे हैं और आप और पिताजी पूरी तरह घायल हैं।

माँ : नहीं बेटा, ऐसा कुछ नहीं है। ये तेरा वहम होगा।

बेटा : नहीं माँ यह सच है। कोई हमें मारने की कोशिश कर रहा है। ये कौन है माँ जिसके कारण मेरा घर, मेरे भाई का घर सब कुछ बरबाद हो रहा है।

माँ : नहीं बेटे मुझे तो ऐसा कुछ नज़र नहीं आता।

बेटा : मम्मी आप इस चीज़ को नज़रअंदाज क्यों कर रही हैं कि मैं और भैया

आजकल एक-दूसरे से बोलते नहीं हैं। यहाँ तक कि जब मैं उन्हें देखता हूँ, वे मुँह मोड़कर चले जाते हैं। पूछने पर उनका यही जवाब होता है कि चल हट तू एक हिन्दू का बच्चा है। ऐसा क्यों माँ ? क्या मैं इससे पहले एक हिन्दू का बच्चा नहीं था।

माँ : नहीं बेटे, तुम पहले भी हिन्दु थे और आज भी हो।

बेटा : फिर माँ ये भेदभाव क्यों ?

माँ : अब तू इतना जान ही गया है तो ये भी जान ले कि तू अब तक जिस देश में रहता था वह एक ऐसा देश है जो भेदभाव को नहीं मानता। लेकिन जब से कश्मीर और पाकिस्तान का युद्ध आरंभ हुआ तब से पाकिस्तान यह समझ बैठा है कि मुस्लिम क्षेत्र में मुसलमान ही रह सकता है।

बेटा : इस स्थिति का जिम्मेदार कौन है?

माँ : ये तो मैं भी शायद नहीं जानती, परन्तु शायद जब से बँटवारा हुआ है तब से यह सिलसिला चला आ रहा है।

बेटा : माँ क्या किसी ने इस मसले को नहीं सुलझाया? स्थिति में सुधार लाने की कोशिश नहीं की ?

माँ : स्थिति में सुधार लाने की कोशिश की तभी स्थिति और बिगड़ गई।

बेटा : मैंने सुना था कि सुधार लाने के लिए ही उन्होंने लाहौर बस यात्रा की थी।

माँ : हाँ, तुम ठीक कह रहे हो बेटा। लेकिन जब वहाँ के राष्ट्रपति को जेल की सजा हुई तो पाकिस्तान में एक नया सैनिक राज्य स्थापित हो गया। जिसके मुख्य नेता और आज के राष्ट्रपति श्रीमान मुशरफ हैं।

बेटा : लेकिन माँ क्या जनरल ने भारत से अच्छे संबंध या कश्मीर के मसले का हल ढूँढना जायज नहीं समझा।

माँ : ऐसा मैं निश्चित रूप से नहीं कह सकूँगी लेकिन एक बात जरूर है कि कई बार ऐसा हुआ है कि जनरल खुद भारत के साथ समझौते पर चर्चा नहीं करना चाहते हैं। न चाहते हुए भी जनरल विदेशी शक्तियों के दबाव के कारण हाँ करने पर मजबूर हो जाते हैं।

बेटा : लेकिन क्या वे खुद इतने वर्षों के युद्ध को समाप्त नहीं करना चाहते या हमारे प्रधान मंत्री खुद इस युद्ध को समाप्त करना नहीं चाहते?

माँ : मुझे तो नहीं लगता है कि दोनों देश आपस में एक होना चाहते हैं और आपसी मेल-मिलाप या रिश्तों को मजबूत करना चाहते हैं। मगर ऐसा किया तो शायद वे अपनी कुर्सी में टिके नहीं रह सकते।

बेटा : तो आपका मतलब है कि वे इस मसले द्वारा कुर्सी पर टिके रहना चाहते हैं। तब तो यह कुर्सी का किस्सा हो गया।

माँ : अगर ऐसा चलता रहे तो शायद हमें भी धरती के इस स्वर्ग की तलाश में जाना पड़ेगा जहाँ सच्चाई एवं प्रेम का साम्राज्य हो।

बेटा : सच कह रही हो माँ। भारत और पाकिस्तान दोनों देश अब परमाणु परीक्षण करने में कामयाब हो गये हैं। काश ऐसा दिन न देखना पड़े जब दोनों के बीच की दुश्मनी इतनी बढ़ जाये कि वे एक दूसरे के खून के प्यासे हो जायें और दो पड़ोसी देशों के बीच गांठ बढ़ती चली जाए और दोनों को भयंकर परिणाम भुगतना पड़े। काश ऐसा ना हो।

माँ : ठीक है बेटा अब सो जा रात आधी से अधिक बीत चुकी।

बेटा : लेकिन माँ सोते-जागते मुझे भयानक सपने आ रहे हैं।

माँ : घबरा नहीं बेटा, हम प्रभु से प्रार्थना करेंगे कि ऐसा दिन कभी न देखना पड़े।

वैष्णवी श्रीधरन

बी.ए., प्रथम वर्ष, इतिहास



7. विस्तृत होती भारतीय संस्कृति

“जननी जन्मभूमिश्च स्वर्गादपि गरीयसि।”
इस संस्कृत श्लोक का अर्थ है कि हमारी जननी, जन्मभूमि स्वर्ग से भी महान है। परन्तु अफ़सोस ! यह श्लोक कई सालों, बल्कि वर्षों एवं सदियों पुरानी है और कितने लोग आज इसे अपने दिल से सच मानते हैं, यह वाद-विवाद का विषय है।

भारत को आज़ादी मिले 53 साल बीत गए और नेताओं तथा ज्ञानियों का कहना है कि हमने बहुत उन्नति कर ली है। परन्तु यह प्रगति है क्या? क्या छोटे-छोटे कपड़े पहनना, रातें डिस्को में बिताना, आए-दिन ‘पीज़ा-कार्नर’ में खाना खाना आदि ही नया विकास के लक्षण हैं? इस प्रकार की उन्नति से भारतीय संस्कृति छिन्न-भिन्न हो जाएगी।

एक ज़माना था जब भारत को “स्वर्ण जन्मभूमि” माना जाता था। आज भी दुनिया भर में “भारत” के नाम से लोगों के मन में कोई ख्याल आता है, तो वो है हमारी अनुपम संस्कृति का, हमारे साम्प्रदायों का और हमारी रीति-रिवाज़ों का। परन्तु आज यही महान संस्कृति विस्मृत होती जा रही है। यदि आज का युवा वर्ग इस विषय में कुछ करे नहीं, तो जल्द ही भारत की अपनी पहचान नहीं रहेगी। फिर हमारे बहुमुखी राष्ट्र में और दुनिया भर के देशों में क्या अंतर ?



भारत की अद्वितीयता इसी में है कि इसकी संस्कृति विश्व भर में प्रसिद्ध है। परन्तु हम अपनी नादानी में अपनी इसी अद्वितीयता को खो बैठ रहे हैं। 'हिन्दुस्तान' इस नाम से मन में कितने प्रकार के विचार एवं यादें जाग उठती हैं। हम याद करते हैं ऊँचे, अटल हिमालय, गंगा-यमुना जैसे पावन नदी, उत्तर भारत के खेत, राजस्थान की रेत, पूरब के पहाड़ एवं जंगल, तथा दक्षिण के मंदिरों और महासागर को। ऐसा रम्य मेल संसार में और कहाँ देखा जा सकता है ?

अतः आज के युवक-युवतियों को चाहिए कि वे अपने देश की संस्कृति पर गर्व करें। हमारा आज यह फर्ज है कि हम सब एकजुट होकर भारत को उन्नति की चोटी पर ले जाएँ। परन्तु यह उन्नति हमारी अपनी होनी चाहिए, अर्थात् अपने संस्कारों व रीति-रिवाजों पर आधारित। प्रगति का अर्थ अपने जड़ों को भूल जाना नहीं, बल्कि अपने ही जड़ों की सहायता से आगे बढ़ना है।

“भारत का सुनहरा कल
याद आए आज हर घड़ी, हर पल।
हमारा बल 'अनेकता में एकता'
भिन्न विचार-विश्वास हमारी अद्वितीयता।

परन्तु आज क्यों है देश में यह हलचल ?
क्या हमारा देश-प्रेम न रहा अविचल ?
संस्कृति बनाए रखने का अब यही है मार्ग,
चलो, कुछ कर दिखाना है हमको आज।

संस्कृति, संस्कार, रीति-रिवाज,
आज हमें लग रहे हैं बकवास,
पर याद रहे—यही है हमारी आन और शान,
और “भारतीय” ही है हमारी पहचान!”

जय हिन्द

स्वाति सपना

बी.ए., द्वितीय वर्ष, इतिहास



8. बुढ़ापे का सहारा

हमारे बुढ़ापे का सहारा
तू कहाँ जा रहा है ?
हमें बेसहारा छोड़ कर
तू कहाँ जा रहा है ?
जिसे इतनी कामनाओं से, पाला था हमने
जिसकी हर जिद को, माना था हमने
वही आज हमें त्याग कर जा रहा है
हमारे बलिदानों को भूल कर जा रहा है
जिस शिक्षा, धन, शोहरत और कामयाबी के
अहंकार में वह डूबा जा रहा है।
वह कभी हमारी मेहनत के पसीने से निकली थी
यह वह भूलता जा रहा है।
कभी जिनकी उंगली पकड़ कर, चला करता था,
उन्हीं को आज छोड़ कर स्वार्थवश जा रहा है
मात्र अपने भविष्य को सुधारने, दूर विदेश में
अपनों को ही त्याग कर जा रहा है।
वृद्धाश्रम के सन्नाटे में

हम तुझे रोज याद किया करते हैं
हमारा एकमात्र सहारा, हमारी आँखों का तारा
तू हमें छोड़ जा रहा है...?

रोसी एन्टोनी

बी.ए., द्वितीय वर्ष, इतिहास



9. मेरा देश

भारत हरा भरा और प्यारा
ऋतुओं का अद्भुत नजारा
जहाँ सुनाती है चिड़िया
इन कुँजों की प्यारी कहानी।

भारत के महानगरों में
होता है एक तरफ तकनीकी विकास
हाय, दूसरी तरफ दुख का आगार
असंतुलित होता प्राकार

कारखानों की गंदगी
खेतों की हरियाली
गाँव के मासूम लोग
और शहरों के भ्रष्ट लोग

भारत सिर्फ एक
परन्तु इसमें विविधता अनेक
लोग तरह तरह के
किन्तु सांत्वना एकता के सूत्र में सब बंधे
अब तक हैं एकसाथ जुड़े।

जे.के. निवेदिता

तृतीय वर्ष, इतिहास



10. अगर गांधीजी जिन्दा होने लो !

हे भगवान—मेरी आँखें न हो, मुझे बहरा
कर दो, मेरी टाँगे चल न पायें, मुझमें दिल न
हो, ना ही जान हो, गाँधीजी यही कहते। भारत
को आज की स्थिति में देखकर गाँधीजी का
सिर शर्म और लज्जा से झुक जाता। कश्मीर के
आतंकवादी, असम के उल्फा, गुजरात के दंगे,
बाबरी मस्जिद का तहस-नहस एवम्
तमिलनाडु-कर्नाटक जल विवाद को देखते-
देखते गाँधीजी अंधा होना पसंद करते।

हवाला घोटाले, दूर संचार घोटाले बिहार
के अनगिनत घोटाले, हिन्दु-मुस्लिम विवाद, मैं
तमिलनाडु का हूँ, मैं असम का हूँ, मैं गुजरात
का हूँ और ये तू-तू...मैं-मैं, सुनने से गाँधीजी
बहरा होना पसंद करते। आज के भूमि विवाद,
एक प्रांत से दूसरे प्रांत का झगड़ा, जहाँ भी जो
तनाव, भाग-दौड़, भूख-गरीबी, कश्मीर से
कन्याकुमारी तक और गुजरात से अरुणाचल
प्रदेश तक भारत की स्थिति देखते-देखते
गाँधीजी की टाँगे हमेशा के लिए थक जायेगी।

गाँधीजी का दिल टूट जाता तो रो पड़ते
वो, "भारत मेरा दिल टूट रहा है!" भ्रष्टाचार से
लदा है। एक भाई दूसरे के खून का प्यासा है।
भारत जो सारे जहाँ से अच्छा था, आज भारत
सारे जहाँ का कर्जदार है। भूख में बच्चे मर रहे
हैं, जबकि गोदाम भरे हैं। आतंक है पर दूसरे पर

विश्वास नहीं है, मैं अगर मर गया “हे राम” कहते, तो मैं हिन्दु हूँ और अगर “हे अल्ला” कहूँ, तो मैं मुसलमान। जब टुकड़े भारत के हो रहे तो गाँधी तो भस्म हो जायेगा।

शर्म है मेरे मन में के मैं एक भारतवासी हूँ। इसलिए नहीं कि मैं यहाँ पैदा हुआ, पर इसलिए कि भारतवासी होकर भी, भारत की शक्ति अधूरी है। सभी एक थे तो मैं था, आज सभी है पर मरे हुए बेहतर, तो आज के भारत में गाँधी का काम क्या।

प्यार होता नहीं, उभरता है, एकता करते नहीं एकता रहने और समझने में हैं। भारत आज गाँधीजी के दिल में नहीं, किसी कचरे के ढेरे में है। आज गाँधीजी जिन्दा है, पर उनकी पहचान नहीं, जिन्दा लाश है वो। भारत के लिए उन्होंने सब कुछ किया पर आज समझ में आया कि अधूरा बलिदान है वो।

आज जागो मेरे प्रिय देश वासियों नहीं तो हमेशा के लिए सो जाओगे। जो सोने की

चिड़िया है हमेशा के लिए भूल-भूलैया बना दोगे उसे।

भारत, भा---र---त में बिखर जाएगा। खुशियाँ तुन्हें मिल जायेंगी, मगर दिल पत्थर बन जायेगा।

“बचाओ” करके भारत माँ पुकार नहीं सकती, मगर बेटे हो तुम उसके, दिल है तुम्हारा मगर धड़कन उसकी महसूस ज़रूर कर सकते हो।

जागो, जागो, पहले अपने आप को सीधा करो, फिर अपने भाई की जी जान से मदद करो। आज सीचों मगर विश्वास रखो कि कल फल मिलेगा। एक राह है तुम्हारी उसी पर चलो।

“जीओ और दूसरों को भी जीने दो।”

रा. नीन





Dr. M.S. Ananth, Director, IIT, Chennai Chief Guest
at the Convocation Day



Graduates taking the Oath

Overall Percentage of Passes April – 2002

CLASS	APPEARED	PASSED	% OF PASS
B.A.			
History	54	42	77.78
Sociology	62	43	69.35
Economics	68	53	77.94
English	58	52	89.66
Fine Arts	39	32	82.05
B.Com.			
Section – A	76	67	88.16
Section – B	137	126	91.97
B.Sc.			
Mathematics			
Section – A	52	41	78.85
Section – B	49	43	87.76
Physics	49	40	81.63
Chemistry	36	32	88.89
Botany	41	31	75.61
Zoology	45	38	84.44
B.C.A	75	73	97.33
M.A.			
Economics	24	19	79.16
Fine Arts	13	9	69.23
English	27	26	96.30
Social Work	26	25	96.15
M.Sc.			
Mathematics	27	25	92.59
P.G.D.C.S	11	11	100.00

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