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STELLA MARIS COLLEGE

(Autonomous)

CHENNAI - 600 086.

2003 - 2004

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Editorial

*Life, like a dome of many coloured glass,
Stains the white radiance of Eternity...*

These words of Shelley capture the very essence of life – its richness and complexity, its splendour and beauty. Life is a myriad-hued dome that embraces the entire human experience, all the colours of life: the warmth and cheerfulness of yellow, the serenity of blue, the passion and energy of red, the vibrancy of orange, the majesty of purple, and the tranquillity of green, all shot through with the more sombre grey, brown and black. The colours and experiences come together and combine in the infinite permutations and patterns of individual lives. Different colours may predominate, but the experiences remain unique, and leave their mark even on the pristine beauty of Eternity. Life is magical. Life is amazing.

There's something amazing, too, about life at Stella Maris. The wide range of academic and

cultural activities that offer every student a host of meaningful experiences, the bubbling energy and exuberance of students, the idealism and enthusiasm of youth, the warmth of friendship, sometimes the pain of differences and the setbacks of failure, but also the exhilaration of success, and the pride of achievement and recognition. And the multitude of students - each different, yet special, who bring to the college the unique colour of their own personality. Each has a place to fill, a part to play. And together they form patterns. Beautiful patterns that change from year to year.

This issue of the College Magazine has attempted to capture this vibrant variety and diversity that makes life at Stella Maris such a rich and unique experience. Look into the kaleidoscope...and enjoy the spectacle.

Editorial Board

Student Members

Preethi Prabhakaran, II MA Fine Arts
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Lakshmy Ramanathan, I BA Literature
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Ms. Christina Rajkumar, English
Ms. Mallika Madhavan, Fine Arts
Ms. Indumathy Balachandar, Commerce
Dr. Geradette Davey, Botany

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College Day, 6 March 2004

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



Prof. V. N. Rajasekharan Pillai, Vice-Chairman, University Grants Commission and Chief Guest of this evening's function, Rev. Sr. Cecilia Joachim, Provincial Superior and Chairperson of the Governing Body, Stella Maris College, Dr. Sr. Rita Marneni, Superior and Secretary of the college, Sr. Sundari, Superior, respected members of the Governing Body and the Academic Council, dedicated faculty, administrative and supportive staff, generous benefactors of the college, cherished alumnae, valued friends, dear parents, and students.

The mission of Stella Maris College is to empower women to face the challenges of life with courage and commitment, to be builders of a humane and just society, and to promote a learning community, in which all, especially those from less privileged backgrounds, feel part of the collaborative high quality educational process which is value based, leading to holistic growth.

This, the 57th year of continuance of the college has been a year of re-dedication to the vision of Mary of the Passion, the foundress of the Franciscan

Missionaries of Mary, and her vision to uplift young women, the downtrodden and the needy. A century after her death, we are still inspired by this vision, which urges us to cross all geographical and cultural borders and surge towards a pluri-secular society.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Sr. Cecilia Joachim who has assumed responsibility as Provincial Superior and Chairperson of the Governing Body of the College.

Sr. Mary Rose, former Provincial Superior and Chairperson of the Governing Body of our college was our guiding force these past eight years, and we wish to place on record our appreciation for the encouragement and support given during her tenure.

Teachers are the supporting pillars of an institution and today, I have the onerous task of thanking four of our faculty, on the eve of their retirement, for their dedication and contribution to this institution.

Dr. Ms. Padmamalini, Department of English, has been at Stella Maris College for the last 25 years.



Prof. V. N. Rajasekharan Pillai, Vice-Chairman, University Grants Commission addressing the gathering.

Besides her acknowledged aptitude at the publishing desk, it is as an excellent teacher that she will be particularly remembered. Her depth and expanse of knowledge of literature and language have held her in awe among students. It is the scope of her intellectual exploration as applied to the clarity of her teaching, for which she has earned our collective gratitude. We wish her well in the years ahead.

Ms. Meera Balachandran, Department of English, has for the last 21 years contributed richly to the academic and cultural life on campus. She has regaled the students and the faculty with her intellectual, sensitive and committed personality and excellent command of the subject. Her melodious voice and poetic expression have soothed many an audience. We express here the strains of gratitude from those with whom she worked and taught.

Ms. Lakshmi Venkatasubramaniam, Department of Economics, retires after 17 years of service. Analytical and logical, she is a reserve of knowledge that aims at awakening the intellectual capacities of the students. Her lectures serve as eloquent testimony of a very fine mind. We remember Ms. Lakshmi for her inspiring messages, her graceful teaching style and her sense of humour. It is with respect and admiration that we wish her happiness in retirement.

Ms. Rhevathy Jesudoss, faculty of the Department of Zoology, has been a teacher committed to her profession for the last 16 years. Her interaction with students and her ability to transform her teaching into a variety of activities is laudable. Dynamic and generous, she has contributed in many spheres, especially in the arena of sports and games and social awareness programmes. Exuberant and sprightly, she has endeared herself to her colleagues and students. I take this opportunity to wish her a restful retired life.

Catholic education is a fellowship, and the people who are in this institution form a part of the mission to serve, and in doing so, to shape and form women of character. As an educational institution at the tertiary level, we try to interface teaching, research and community service as a means to achieve the integral formation of the young people who come to us. We seek to establish a link between knowledge and values, intellectual development and moral thought, understanding and ethical meaning.

The activities of the college for this academic year have been prompted from the mission of the institution, and I will highlight a few that have contributed to the making of women of integrity and character.

In this world of expanding frontiers of knowledge, the college continues to sustain its links across the globe, and has opened its doors to establishing new academic initiatives, which help in the growth of the institution. The United Board for Christian Higher Education has supported the following development programmes in the college: Faculty Training Programme for Business Administration and Management Studies for the Department of Commerce and the Scholar in Residence Programme, where faculty and students of the Department of English had the opportunity of interacting with Mr. Ranjit Hoskote, poet, cultural theorist and curator, Dr. A. K. Ramakrishnan, West Asian scholar, activist and environmentalist and Ms. Kamila Shamsie, novelist from Pakistan. The programme included writing workshops, open lectures and public readings. It was an enriching experience, which invited the participants to share in their intellectual acumen.

Ms. Bernadine Joseph, Department of English has benefited from the United Board's Freeman Scholar and has finished one semester at

Valparaiso University, Indiana USA. Her second semester will be spent at Seoul, Korea.

We were fortunate to welcome into our midst Dr. Tim Light, Chairman of the United Board and colleagues who visited the college in January 2004.

Another international collaborative project is the MOU signed with the Birmingham Institute of Art and Design, University of Central England, by Stella Maris College for the Department of Fine Arts. Ms. Ashrafi Bhagat and Ms. Margaret Thomas will be visiting the Birmingham Institute in March, to chalk out the process of collaboration.

A new project centre donated by the People and the Government of Japan under the Grant Assistance for Human Security Project and named after our Foundress, Hélène de Chappotin, will be blessed and opened by His Grace, the Archbishop of Madras-Mylapore on March 10th. This centre will function as a resource centre for promoting extension activities in keeping with the mission of the college.

'Sangamam', the community activity extension centre of the college continues to function at Royapuram. The Self Help Groups and the Transit Schools are very active and the Women's Development Corporation has identified the Self Help Groups for financial assistance in the form of loans and grants. A Capacity Building Workshop will be conducted for the women leaders of the Self Help Groups on International Women's Day. The three-year Action Research Project sponsored by IFCU has been completed and the Project Report has been sent for publication. Ms. Sandra Stephen, Department of Social Work presented the report of 'Sangamam' at the meeting of the International Federation of Catholic Universities at Brazil in September 2003.

Dr. Ms. Ordetta Mendoza, Head, Department of Bioinformatics, participated in two international workshops on '*Applied Proteomics – Separation*

Sciences' and '*Mass Spectrometry'* at the University Hospital, Geneva, Switzerland during September – October 2003.

Sr. Lourdu Mary, fmm, Department of Social Work was invited by the GRAIL Centre to Cape Town, South Africa for a programme on Strategic Planning in October 2003.

Sr. Christine, fmm, Vice- Principal, and a team of faculty and students from the Department of Social Work, participated in the World Social Forum held at Mumbai in January 2004. Ms. Naomi Rajkumar of III B.A. Economics also represented Chennai at the same Forum.

Extension activities of the college are also spread across a few villages of Tamil Nadu. The project aimed at reaching Science and Technology to the rural women, coordinated by Dr. Ms. Geetha Swaminathan, Department of Chemistry, involves women drawn from about 15 villages around Padappai. The Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, has sanctioned Rs. 10.5 lakhs for this project on 'Low Cost Processing and Preservation of Horticultural Produce'.

The Service Learning Programme continues to attract over a hundred student volunteers, who give generously of their time to educate the people of the villages around Padappai and make them self-confident. Our NSS volunteers also attended a 10-day rural camp at this village. Ms. Sagaya Malar Vizhi, II B.A. Sociology, attended a six-week International Programme on Service Learning at Manila, Philippines in August 2003, where she was adjudged the Outstanding Student in Academics, and Outstanding Student in Service-Learning, winning two medals and certificates.

Through the Social Awareness Programme, the students have been active in areas such as health

education, welfare of the aged and physically and mentally challenged, environmental awareness programmes, computer education in Corporation Schools and child welfare programmes.

One of the objectives of the college is to develop a community of individuals endowed with intellectual curiosity and an eagerness for lifetime learning. A means toward achieving this objective is permitting faculty and students to organise and participate in seminars, workshops and conferences in India and abroad.

In January this year, we were privileged to participate in the Special Lecture held at Stella Maris College in honour of Ms. Kalpana Chawla brought to us by Dr. Douglas Brown and Dr. Jonathan B. Clark, NASA scientists.

Dr. Ms. Sundari Krishnamurthy, Department of Sociology, presented papers on '*Communication across borders: Experiences of Rural Indian Women in using Cyber Cafes*' at San Diego, California, USA in May 2003 and on '*Information Technology, Development and Women*' at a conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA, in June 2003.

Dr. Ms. V. Padma, Department of English was invited to be the Keynote speaker at the International Conference of Women Playwrights on 'Women Making Theatre in a Changing World' held at the Philippines, in November 2003.

2/Lt. Dolly Thomas, Department of History attended the three months Pre-Commission Training Programme at the NCC Officers Training Academy, Gwalior, and was awarded the Commandant's Silver Medal for Best All Round Lady Cadet.

The college has sustained its academic environment by organising several programmes for the faculty, where distinguished academicians, both from India and abroad, conducted sessions or delivered lectures. Dr. Fr. V.V. Abraham, sdb, conducted sessions for

the faculty while Dr. A. Raman, faculty, University of Sydney, Orange conducted a two-day workshop on 'Academic Audit'.

Dr. Siddhartha Sen, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland delivered a lecture on 'Hamiltonian Principles and Optics' for the faculty and students of the Department of Physics.

Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, Chairman, M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, delivered the Dr. Meera Paul and the Dr. Hannah John Endowment Lecture on 'Women, Biodiversity and Biotechnology'. This lecture organised by the Department of Zoology drew a large number of participants.

The Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent Endowment Lecture of the Department of Economics was delivered by Ms. Hema Ravichandran, Senior Vice-President, (HR), Infosys Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore.

The Department of History organised the Smt. Indira Gandhi Endowment Lecture on 'Government's Role in the Empowerment of Women'. The lecture was delivered by Dr. Vasanthi Devi, Chairperson, Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women.

The Dr. Thangamani Endowment Lecture of the Department of Mathematics on 'How to Design a Traffic Signal' was delivered by Dr. P. K. Subramaniam, Professor, Department of Mathematics, California State University, Los Angeles, USA.

Stella Maris College also played host to several administrators and faculty from various colleges in India who visited the college to study the functioning of Autonomy and the Credit Based System.

Our faculty participated in seminars organised by the University Grants Commission on the occasion of its Golden Jubilee at Bangalore, Hyderabad and Pune. We are grateful to the UGC for introducing new initiatives during the X plan period.

The faculty members personally strive to develop their knowledge through research programmes. Dr. Ms. Prema Jagannathan, Department of English, and Dr. Ms. Miriam Soares, Department of Zoology, obtained their Ph.D. degrees this year. Several of our faculty have submitted their theses and are awaiting the viva-voce examination. Twenty-one members of our faculty were deputed for doctoral research under the UGC's FIP scheme during the IX plan period.

Due recognition is also given to the excellent work undertaken by our faculty members, and the awards received by a few stand testimony to this fact:

Dr. Ms. Madhu Dhawan, received several awards including the 'Sahitya Bharati Award' and the 'Hindi Ratna' from the Sahitya Sammelan, Prayag, and the Sahitya Academy, Allahabad respectively for her contribution to the Hindi literary field.

Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip received the 'Mother Teresa Award' for Higher Education from the National Integration Committee, Tamil Nadu and the 'Seva Ratna Award' from the Centenarian Trust.

To form women of character, with moral principles and integrated personalities the institution lays emphasis on Value Education. Under the guidance of Sr. Sundari, fmm, and Sr. Christine, fmm, the college strives to inculcate values in students, and continues to strengthen their faith formation through meaningful programmes. Six retreats were held this year with the active participation of the catholic students as part of the Campus Ministry. Eminent speakers were invited to conduct sessions for the students on various themes relating to Value Education.

Training Programmes are conducted in the college to ensure the holistic development of the student's personality. A variety of certificate courses such as Drawing and Painting, Customer Relations

Management, Investment Banking and Financial Services, Health Management, and Airline and Travel are also offered.

To sensitise students to critique current socio-economic, political and cultural issues and to denounce all forms of oppression relating to class, caste and gender, the college promotes several programmes that involve both faculty and students.

Students of Social Work trained in Street Theatre, performed skits on: Water Conservation, AIDS Awareness, Women's Issues, and Child Rights in the city slums.

The Department of International Studies held a National Seminar on 'International Systems in the 21st Century' in January 2004.

The Stella Maris College chapter of the ISTD contributed to student development by organising sessions on Stress Management, Human Resources, Quality of life, motivation and attitude, and communication skills, which were conducted by eminent resource persons.

The college has encouraged students to organise and participate in programmes, which help instill in them a sense of national pride and appreciation of Indian traditions and cultures, and also sensitise them to environmental issues, thus motivating them to promote ecological justice and sustainable development.

'Mela 2003' – was organised by the Students Union with the objective of reviving Indian culture through dance, music and games. A one-day Seminar on 'Social Entrepreneurship' – POT POURRI, also by the Students Union had sessions on Acupressure, Modelling and Sculpting, Dandiya, etc. Stalls were also put up by various NGO's. The Union also organised its annual celebration of various days like Teachers Day, MTC Day, Workers Day, AIDS Awareness programmes, and many more.

The college provides students with various opportunities to express themselves through their writing skills in the annual college magazine with the theme 'Reason and Passion', the college newspaper, 'The Star of the Sea', as well as the departmental journals including 'Ankur', the journal of the Department of Economics, 'Literary Journal' of the Department of English, 'Focus' of the Department of International Studies, 'Khilti Kaliyan' of the Department of Hindi and 'Zircon' by the Department of Chemistry to commemorate the 40th year of its foundation.

The extra-curricular activities of the college also offer students avenues to develop their potential.

The National Cadet Corps develops resilience in students while challenging them to participate in activities few women dare to undertake. Six of our cadets, Cdts. Supraja Raghavan, Roshni, Jamie Ann, Leading Cdts. Bragadha, Nancy and Ft. Cdt. Morin Diana were selected for the Republic Day Camp at New Delhi this year. Ft. Cdt. Morin Diana was also selected to march on the Raj Path and Leading Cdt. Bragadha was adjudged 'Cherry Blossom'. At the national level, our cadets participated in the Combined Annual Training Camps (CATC) and National Integration Camps (NIC) held in several states. They also participated in the Trekking Camp at Sikkim and the Rock Climbing Training Camp at Kerala. At the International level, Leading Cdt. Soni Maria Jacob was selected for a Youth Exchange Programme to Vietnam.

The National Service Scheme, with its 268 student volunteers in 18 institutions and organizations, offered its services to schools for the blind and deaf, homes for the aged, physically and mentally challenged, AIDS awareness programmes, blood donation and hepatitis B vaccination camps.

The Sports and Games facility of the college attracts a lot of interest, and the activities include Aerobics,

Yoga, Karate and training for Red Cross and First Aid. Several of our students have represented Madras University 'B' Zone in the major games and athletics meets including the All India Inter University Tournaments. The college Table Tennis Team bagged the Winners Trophy of the Bhatt Memorial Tournament conducted by SDNB Vaishnava College and the All India Tournament conducted by CMC, Vellore, while the Shuttle Badminton Team was placed in the second position for the same tournaments. The Throwball Team was also placed in the second position in the All India Tournament conducted by CMC, Vellore.

The Stella Maris Students Union with its motto 'Log on to challenges, Surf to success' were posted overall winners in several intercollegiate cultural competitions including 'Deep Woods' of MCC, 'Neherika' of Anna Adarsh, 'Shristi' of Ethiraj and 'Charisma' of JBAS College. Our students were also overall winners at the Mylapore Academy Oratorical Competition, L. N. Birla National Debate Competition, Octavia Music Competition, 'Utsav' Western Dance Competition, LIBA Quiz Competition and several others. The intercollegiate cultural programme organised by our College, 'Mélange', was a huge success with a record audience. At the prestigious 'Natak' intercollegiate original play competition our team bagged several awards including that of best director, best play and best script.

Clubs are an integral part of life on campus, catering to the varied interests of the student body. This year saw the birth of three new clubs: 'The Links' the computing club launched by the students of Computer Science, The French Club 'Cercle des Francophiles' and the Event Management Club.

Ashwini Viswanathan, II M.A. Economics was awarded the State Government Scholarship of Iyal Isai Nataka Manram for the year 2004, while

Nischinta Amarnath of I B.A. Economics received the 'Young Achiever Award' from the Rotary Club in the category of Arts and Extra-curricular activities.

Five of our students, Megha, Tanvi, Sruthi, Mallika and Gayathri of III B.Sc. Zoology participated in an exhibition at Anna University as part of the International Conference on 'Coastal Water and Fresh Water Issues' conducted by the Institute of Ocean Management, and were awarded the first prize of Rs. 3000 for their exhibit on the 'Impact of Global Warming on Coral Reefs'.

Theatre plays an important role in Stella Maris, and students are encouraged to display not just their histrionic talents, but also to be involved in the entire production process. This year, there were two productions. The Tamil play, '**Malarkaliley Aval Malligai**' staged in December at the Music Academy was an adaptation of the novel by the well-known Tamil writer, Indumathi. The English Play staged on campus in February, '**That...then, This... now**' a story of long, long ago quite recently, was based on the Panchatantra Tales and was directed by Yog Japee. This production, completely organised by the students from start to finish, also received good reviews.

Exhibitions, intercollegiate competitions and fests were held by various departments and these included the 'MATHZOOM' by the Department of Mathematics, 'BC to AD - RESURGENCE' by the Department of History, Chemistry's 'REACTIONS', Zoology's 'SYNAPSE'; 'WIZZIT' by the Department of Computer Science, Botany's 'BIOTECNICA' and 'SPARKS' of Physics, 'ECOCENTRIC' by the Department of Economics, 'COMBAT' by the Department of Commerce, Sociology's 'SAMAGAMA' and 'RENAISSANCE' by the Department of English. The Department of Fine Arts will be holding its Annual Exhibition at Amethyst on March 19th. The Department of Chemistry also

conducted the annual quiz competition for the Sr. Juliet Irene Rolling Trophy in February this year, while the A D Shroff Memorial Elocution Competition organised by the Department of Economics was held in September 2003.

This year also marked the Golden Jubilee of the Social Work department and the Silver Jubilee of the Botany department.

The activities of the Department of Social Work included a three-day 'Sensitisation Programme to Combat Child Labour' for the teachers of Chennai Corporation Schools and 150 rehabilitated child labourers, in collaboration with the Education Department, Corporation of Chennai. A report has been published in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu Adi Dravida Housing Development Corporation entitled 'Development Oriented Field Work in Social Work' that presented the rehabilitation of sanitation workers. An Endowment Fund and an Endowment Lecture in honour of Sr. Thecla Camacho, fmm, foundress of the department were also instituted. 'Unnathi', the Social Work Students Forum, also held a national seminar on 'Globalisation and Natural Resources Management'.

As part of the Silver Jubilee celebrations, the Department of Botany organised a UGC sponsored National Seminar, 'Bioinformatica 2003' in collaboration with the Department of Bioinformatics in December 2003, and a state level seminar and exhibition of medicinal plants and herbal products, 'Aushadhiyam' in February 2004. A workshop for School Teachers on 'Effective Teaching of Biology' was also conducted in September 2003.

To enhance the learning environment, the management has invested generously in infrastructure. In this process, the College Library has undergone numerous changes. It is now fully automated with the books being bar coded, thus

enabling faculty and students to have better access to online resources.

The college has also invested in LAN between departments and has procured a leased line connection for better Internet access.

Our contact with students remains strong long after they have passed through the portals of the college, and the ever-increasing chapters of our Alumnae Association are a testimony to the strong bonds that bind past and present Stella Marians together.

Sr. Christine, fmm, along with eight of our alumnae co-ordinates the activities of the Career Guidance Cell of the college. They organised training programmes and workshops through out the year. Campus recruitment with the participation of prestigious companies is gaining momentum with part-time jobs and internships on the increase. We are grateful to this dedicated team for giving so generously of their time and resources. Mention must be made of the project offered by Citibank to the Department of Commerce on e-business with special reference to customer satisfaction.

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

- Sr. Cecilia Joachim, fmm, Provincial Superior and Chairperson of the Governing Body,
- Dr. Sr. Rita Marneni, fmm, Secretary of the College,
- Sr. Christine Antony, fmm, Dr. Ms. Jilly Joseph and Dr. Ms. Chitra Krishnan, Vice-Principals,
- Dr. Ms. Sundari Krishnamurthy, Dr. Ms. Patricia Gabriel and Sr. Kochutheresa, fmm, Deans of Student Affairs,

- Dr. Ms. Susan Oommen and Dr. Rukmani Sridharan, Academic Deans,
- Dr. Ms. Nalinakshi Madhavamurthy, Controller of Examinations,
- Members of the Staff Council and faculty, for their dedication to the teaching-learning process and for sharing responsibilities in the administration,
- Sr. Florine, fmm, Sr. Ann Mathew, fmm, Sr. Hilda, fmm, and members of the administrative and supportive staff for their cooperation and support in ensuring the smooth functioning of the college,
- Our dear students who, with their youthful exuberance add to the vitality of campus life,
- Public and private sector organizations and agencies for supporting our projects and programmes,
- All the benefactors who have instituted scholarships for deserving students,
- Our well-wishers, for your sustained interest in the activities of the college.
- A special word of thanks to you dear parents, for entrusting us with the formation of your daughters.

As this academic year draws to a close, we thank the Almighty for his bountiful blessings and for the gift of persons who have enriched our lives.

I leave you with this thought - that we have the responsibility to open new horizons to the life of human beings through collective ideals which emphasise the dignity of each person and the whole of society.

Thank you and God Bless!



Special Address

SR. CECILIA JOACHIM, f.m.m., PROVINCIAL, CHENNAI PROVINCE

Distinguished Chief Guest, Prof. Rajasekharan Pillai, Principal Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, dignitaries on the dais and my dear friends, it is indeed my privilege to be present here this evening with you at this College Day celebration. Thank you, Sr. Christine, for your kind words of introduction.

Congratulations Sr. Annamma, for a very impressive College Day report, the fruit of a year's hard work put in by the management, staff and students of the college. Indeed, you have every reason to celebrate this day and I am indeed happy to join you in this celebration. I am aware that your programme this evening will be a long one. Therefore, I shall be brief.

For the congregation of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, the year 2004 is a significant one. This year, being the hundredth death anniversary of our Foundress H el ene de Chappotin – known as Blessed Mary of the Passion – I want to share with you a special thrust of the FMM Management. We wish to commemorate the Centenary of the passing from this life of Blessed Mary of the Passion through our initiative to be in solidarity with 'Displaced Peoples.'

A hundred years have gone by. The Centenary that we celebrate is a call to rediscover the person of Mary of the Passion and to reflect on the situations in which she lived, and her multiple initiatives in the face of harsh realities. Her mission was clear and simple, to make God's presence and love tangible in the world, especially among the forgotten and neglected, the weakest of the weak. At her death in 1904, it was only 27 years since the foundation of the Institute. There were already 2060 sisters living in 86 communities in 23 countries spread over four continents.

This was the dynamism of her person and charism. Personally, she did not intend to found an Institute as we have it today, or to be a Foundress. In her writings, she says it was as if God had driven her along like an ass that is whipped in order to make it move forward without knowing where it was going.

Through those 27 years of great hardship, obstacles and even dire need, she piloted the Institute with skilful hands and a rare intelligence. She possessed a noble and tender heart and a soul so filled with God and she said, "If it is my work, it will perish with me – but if it is God's work, it will continue." And so it has.



Mary of the Passion was fully a woman of her time. Carried along by a century on the move, with it she advanced, convinced that the Institute had a purpose, in her own words, "for ends, which though already vast, we do not yet completely know." Searching always for God's purposes and will, liberated in her the sources of those initiatives and daring, which cause us to regard her as a woman ahead of her century.

Mary of the Passion grew up and lived in a world of transition. Before her death in 1904, the first plane had flown across the sky, electric lighting had begun to change the rhythm of the days, and the telephone had begun to abolish distances.

As early as 1886, barely a decade after the foundation, she responded to needs from different parts of the world and introduced the use of the printing press. Its purpose was, as she envisioned it, to provide training to young women, a source of subsistence and also a means of communication with her sisters, who were beginning to fan out across the globe.

She found the need for a link and so she started the 'FMM Annals'. It is documented that whenever she started work in one place, another was started in the missions – and that was, in countries like Asia, Africa and South America, which established networking and became the backbone of her Institute's activities. Wherever the FMM established convents, the people around the area developed and in time, became even the best.

Her Charism handed down to each FMM during the past century, and continuing today, is based on 'self-offering' of the life of each member for God's people based on the Institute's principle.

In tribute to this innovative spirit of the Charism, we the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary are launching an international project for 'Displaced Persons'.

Today, we live in a global context of international concerns. We are confronted with the explosion of civil wars and ethnic strife, which are forcing large numbers of families, especially women and children, to flee their homes in search of security and survival elsewhere. Uprooted from the normal support structures, and deprived of basic human rights, they are vulnerable to abuses of all kinds. In conflict situations, women and children are the most vulnerable and abused, and migrate in search of a living. Globalization is also a major reason for migration and internal displacement – a phenomenon we have to face.

Today, there are about 25 million displaced people in the world; most of them are victims of civil war and are unable to return to their homes. At the beginning of 2003, nearly 3,45,000 refugees were living in India, including 1,44,000 Sri Lankans, 1,10,000 Tibetans from China and an estimated 52,000 Chin and other minorities from Burma, 15,000 from Bhutan, about 12,000 from Afghanistan and about 20,000 from Bangladesh and Nepal and from other countries. Totally, there are about 5,00,000 people internally displaced in India because of political violence. Some 64,000 live in state-run camps in Tamil Nadu alone. There are also millions of other displaced people like street children, widows and deserted, and children abandoned at birth.

Our Project for Displaced Persons will be called the Héléne de Chappotin Centenary Project. It will:

- Ensure animation, support and continuity of existing involvement with displaced persons
- Promote new initiatives for working with displaced persons
- Promote solidarity and networking with outside agencies
- Co-ordinate advocacy work
- Collaborate with other organizations for the training and formation for volunteer work among the refugees.

I dare to share this project at a College Day function so that an institution like Stella Maris College, which is doing so much good work through the NSS and other college projects, and is already reaching out to different categories of neglected and disadvantaged people, will become a part of this endeavour, and contribute to it through its personnel, infrastructure and other facilities. We also seek the help of all our well-wishers to collaborate with the college in this project.

Let me conclude this address by seeking God's blessings on those of us assembled here and on all people, especially those who collaborate in the work of justice and peace. We need in our century, more than in the past, courage and daring, faith in the abiding presence of God, and immense belief in ourselves if we are to respond to the needs of our world.

God, bless our eyes so that we will recognize injustices,

God, bless our ears so that we will hear the cry of the stranger,

God, bless our mouths so that we will speak words of welcome to newcomers,

God, bless our shoulders so that we will be able to bear the weight of those struggling for justice,

God, bless our hands so that we can work together with all people to establish peace.



Convocation Address

Prof. S.P. Thyagarajan
Vice-Chancellor, University of Madras

A Convocation may connote the end of formal education resulting in the award of degrees or diplomas, but not of education as such. Learning is a life long activity. Our own international leaders like Mahatma Gandhi or Prophet Mohammed or Jesus Christ exhorted everyone, women and men alike, to pursue learning from the cradle to the grave, and to cross every frontier to seek knowledge that will make every human being a perfect human being with societal commitment.

Today is an occasion for all the graduates assembled here to express your gratitude to all those who prepared you to enter the most important phase of your life - a life of challenges as well as opportunities. An optimist should take every challenge as an opportunity. The education that you have received, no doubt, equips you to shape your own personal career. But it also enables you to determine how you wish to contribute to creating a better future for India and for our own cultural state of Tamil Nadu. My hearty congratulations to you all!

His Excellency Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the President of India, in his inaugural address at the 78th annual

meeting of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) held recently at the Shri Venkateshwara University, Thirupathy on the 20th of November 2003, has outlined the "Mission of the Universities in Nation Building". He said, "The Universities have a major responsibility in nation building through enriching Science, Engineering and Technology, and by providing value based education to students to make them moral leaders. For realizing the above, the capacities required in educational institutions are: the capacity for research or inquiry; the capacity for creativity and innovation, particularly the creative transfer of knowledge; the capacity to use high technology; the capacity for entrepreneurial leadership and the capacity for moral leadership."



The lamps of knowledge



If the above mission of our academic President is to be achieved, enormous educational innovations are to be conceived and implemented. One of these innovations in our country has been the “ autonomous college system”. This was initiated with the National Policy of Education in 1986, which stated that, “Education is a unique investment in the present and future, and higher education is a crucial factor for survival”. The concept of autonomous colleges gained momentum after the Kothari Commission’s Report (1964-66). Based on this recommendation, the University Grants Commission encouraged the concept of autonomy to selected colleges in the Universities as early as in the fifth plan. The first initiative was taken by the Government of Tamil Nadu which amended the Universities Act in 1977, and 12 colleges were conferred the autonomous status in 1978-79. It was the University of Madras which stood as the leader

in introducing the autonomous college system in the whole country. In spite of the efforts of the UGC, the number of autonomous colleges in the country at present is only 132. They are spread over 29 Universities and eight states, even though the 7th Plan recommendation was to have 500 colleges under the autonomous college system. Among these 132 autonomous colleges presently in India, 48 are in Tamil Nadu, 35 in Madhya Pradesh, 18 in Andhra Pradesh, 17 in Orissa, 4 in Uttar Pradesh, 4 in Himachal Pradesh, 3 in Maharashtra and 1 in Gujarat.

Even though this number is too low when compared with the total of over 15000 colleges in the country, there is an all-round awareness that is being created for academic freedom, innovations to achieve better standards in teaching, research, consultancy and extension. The teaching-learning process is getting modernized with greater momentum in a



Our young graduates

learner-oriented approach to assist in skill and capacity building of the learner. However, there needs to be a collective effort in the higher education system to fulfill the following objectives:

1. To strengthen the academic and physical infrastructure for achieving excellence in teaching, research and outreach programmes.
2. To promote flexible and effective governance.
3. To enhance the quality of the learning and teaching process at the undergraduate and postgraduate level with the help of a flexible choice based credit system and the whole range of innovations currently accepted globally.
4. To promote academic programs relevant to the socio-economic needs of the nation.
5. To improve undergraduate education in colleges by the interfacing of the PG programmes.
6. To promote networking with Centres/ departments and laboratories around the country.
7. To promote skill oriented programmes.
8. To achieve global standards of excellence in education, training and research so that Indian higher education can attract foreign students into our Universities.

It is in this context, that this great institution of higher learning, Stella Maris College, has made a positive impact on the national standard of higher education in India. Having been founded on the day of our independence, 15th August, 1947,

Stella Maris College has become autonomous since 1987 under the University of Madras. As a college accredited at the five-star level by NAAC, this college has also emerged as a sought after institution for international collaborations. I understand that this college has exchange programmes with institutions in the United States, and projects sponsored by the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia, New York, and the Federation of International Catholic Universities, Paris. It is also commendable that the college has signed agreements of academic collaborations with the Birmingham Institute of Art and Design, University of Central England in Birmingham, UK; Uniting Academic Studies and Community Service, New York, USA, and the Consulate General of Japan for a project centre on, "Functional Literacy and Vocational Training." With these credentials, the college may gain eligibilities in future for a Deemed University status as well.

I fondly request the colleges, whether autonomous or non-autonomous, and their teachers to fully adopt the academic audit system introduced by the University of Madras in letter and spirit. Only then we can satisfy the claim that we are making as 'institutions of excellence'. Only then, we can bring out students of excellent quality to serve the community at large. Let me conclude by saying, "Excellence always evolves around Excellence" and let us all join together to make the University of Madras as an "International Peak of Excellence in Higher Education" when she enters her 150th year by the year 2006.

Thank you all for the patient hearing and wish you all a very bright future!

*Prof. V.N. Rajasekharan Pillai,
Vice-Chairman,
University Grants Commission,
Sr. Cecilia Joachim,
Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip,
Dr. Sr. Rita,
Vice-Principals
and Student Union Members.*



*College Day Cultural
Programme*

The Singers

The Dancers





*Prof. S.P. Thyagarajan,
Vice-Chancellor,
University of Madras and the
Academic Council*



*Chief Guest Ms. Rekha Shetty
with the Principal, Secretary,
Vice-Principals and Student Dean*



*Grow strong and straight - the tree
planting ceremony*



Inauguration of the Hélène De Chappotin Centre



On March 10, 2004, the Hélène de Chappotin Centre was blessed and opened by the most Rev. Dr. Arul Das James, Archbishop of Madras-Mylapore, in the presence of Mr. Masayuki Tsuchikawa, Consul, Consulate General of Japan in

Chennai, and Sr. Cecilia Joachim, fmm., Provincial Superior of the Chennai Province. The inauguration of the Centre coincided with the Death Centenary of Blessed Mary of the Passion, the Foundress of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary. The Centre – named after the Foundress – was funded by the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security



Projects, through the Consulate General of Japan, Mumbai. This scheme, which aims at promoting the welfare of those most in need in developing countries, provides assistance to non-governmental organisations, research institutions and hospitals. The new Project Centre includes a conference room, a hall for group sessions, six project rooms and two guest rooms.



Lighting the lamp : Rev. Dr. Arul Das James, Mr. Masayuki Tsuchikawa, Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip and Sr. Cecilia Joachim



The Chief Guests with Sr. Provincial, Sr. Principal, the Superiors and sisters of the community

Since its inception, Stella Maris has always sought to reach out to the community in service, and to inculcate in the students a concern for the less privileged. The opening of the Centre marks a major step forward in the commitment of the College to the marginalised and the less fortunate. The two-storey Project Centre will be used to conduct training programmes and workshops for the various extension projects of the College: the National Service Scheme (launched in 1969), the Functional Literacy Programme (launched in 1992) and SANGAMAM, the Culture and Drug Use / Abuse in Asian Settings – Research for Action Programme (launched in 1992). The Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, has also sanctioned a project of Low Cost Processing and

Preservation of Horticultural Produce, which aims at reaching science and technology to rural women drawn from about 15 villages around Padappai.

Speaking at the inauguration, Sr. Cecilia Joachim, f.m.m., said: “ Blessed Mary of the Passion even in her lifetime had a dream... I see in this Project Centre the realization of this dream for our country and our Province ... May its programmes include all the students, teaching, and non-teaching staff. May its doors be kept open for the sisters of the Province of Chennai and other Provinces of India, and abroad as well. Let this Centre link us together, not just in an academic pursuit to be fulfilled, but to translate our intellectual and theoretical efforts into concrete and practical terms.”



The Hélène de Chappotin Centre



With Joyful Hearts

"She is like a tree that grows beside a stream, that bears fruit all the time, whose leaves do not dry up and who succeeds in everything she does ..."

- Psalm 1: 3



The 19th of March 2004 was indeed a memorable day for all Stella Marians. It was the day on which Sr. Helen Vincent celebrated fifty years of religious life as a Franciscan Missionary of Mary, surrounded by a host of relatives and friends who gathered at St.

Thomas Convent, Mylapore to rejoice with her on this golden day.

A much loved and respected figure, Sr. Helen Vincent was Head of the Department of Economics. In 1973, after completing her Ph.D., she assumed office as Vice-Principal of the College. From 1978 to 1990, she was Principal, and it was during this period that she successfully steered the college towards Autonomy. From 1997 to 2000, Sr. Helen was Secretary of the College and Superior of the Community. Ever young at heart, and always full of energy and enthusiasm, Sr. Helen has remained active even after her retirement. She was Secretary of the Xavier Board of Higher Education for five years, worked in Rome for some time, and currently teaches at the Community College in Santhome.

A radiantly happy Sr. Helen greeted every guest,

who received a beautiful favour, in the shape of a golden rose, to mark the occasion. The celebrations began with a concelebrated mass in the convent chapel, during which Sr. Helen renewed her religious vows. The chapel itself - packed and overflowing - and elegantly decorated with an abundance of golden yellow roses, was a sight to behold! Mass was followed by an open-air function at which Sr. Helen was warmly felicitated with songs, dances and speeches, by the FMM sisters of her community, our Principal, Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, f.m.m., members of her family, her former students, and the teaching and non-teaching staff of Stella Maris College. Speaking at the function, one of her former students, Ms. Thara Mohan Rao described her as a person who 'always binds people by her love, and disciplines students by the sheer force of her personal example'. The long lines of people queueing up to wish her on stage, were a testimony to the special place she holds in the hearts of all who know her.

The celebrations came to an end with a delicious buffet dinner - the perfect end to a golden evening. The words of Sr. Colleen North, f.m.m., summed up the feelings of everyone present: "We are proud of you Helen, and thank God for you."

A special function was organised in the college on the 30th of March to felicitate Sr. Helen Vincent on her Golden Jubilee.

In Appreciation

Ms. Meera Balachandran retires after twenty-one years of committed service in the Department of English. Her association with Stella Maris goes back to 1968, when she joined the MA Literature course. She joined the faculty of the department in 1983. Meera has played an important role in the department, and has generously given her time and energy to her professional tasks. She has been involved in syllabus framing, editing the College Magazine and the Literary Journal of the Department, and in co-ordinating remedial teaching for the students. The quality of her work has enhanced the credibility of the department.



Meera has distinguished herself not just in the performance of the tasks entrusted to her, but also in the manner in which she conducted herself. Serene and poised, she is an excellent teacher, and very sensitive to the needs of her students. She is an extremely talented person, and her knowledge of, and her interest in, Indian classical music and dance enabled her to co-ordinate many of the cultural events of the college. She was actively involved in the Spic Macay, and was instrumental in bringing some of the greatest classical artistes to perform in the college.

Meera is an extremely gracious and good-natured person, who has always maintained a

harmonious relationship with everyone. She sums up her teaching experience at Stella Maris in these words: "I have understood that teaching is the greatest learning experience!"

Ms. Lakshmi Venkatasubramaniam retires after seventeen years of dedicated service in the Department of Economics. A gold medallist in BA Economics from Kerala University, she completed her MA at Stella Maris College, obtaining the Second University Rank.



Lakshmi's field of specialization is Indian Economic Development and Consumer Affairs, a paper she constantly updates, so that her students always have the latest information at their fingertips. Lakshmi is an excellent teacher, who is much admired and respected both by her students and her colleagues. She has served as Dean of Student Affairs, guiding students with sound advice and help. As editor of 'Ankur', the magazine of the Department of Economics, she clearly showed her literary skills and her meticulous attention to detail. Lakshmi was also a member of the team of faculty who set up Ujjwala, the Women's Studies Cell at Stella Maris. She served first as its Secretary and later as its President.

Lakshmi is a person of many talents, not least of which is her talent for languages. Besides

English, she is fluent in Tamil, Hindi, Malayalam and French. She is an able administrator, a gifted musician and a voracious reader. In a changing world, Lakshmi stands out by her qualities of punctuality, regularity, responsibility, commitment and sincerity. Looking back on her years as an educator, she says: "Teaching is a double blessing. It enriches those who teach and enlightens those who learn."

Ms. Rhevathy Jesudoss retires after sixteen years of committed service in the Department of Zoology. She is a former student of Lady Doak College, where she was awarded the prize for the Best Outgoing Student both at the undergraduate and post-graduate level. As a college student she was also an athletic champion and a University and State volley-ball player. She began her teaching career in Lady Doak College, Madurai, and joined the staff of Stella Maris in 1987.



Rhevathy is a very efficient person, capable of organising any programme with the greatest ease and confidence. She has served on various committees and has contributed generously to various departmental and college activities. The Department of Zoology is particularly indebted to her for the introduction of the Microbiology and Biotechnology courses, which have enhanced the quality of the BSc degree in Zoology.

An effective and capable teacher, Rhevathy has inspired and motivated a large number of students. She knows how to combine firmness with kindness, and always remains sensitive to the needs of the students. She has a generous

disposition, and is always quick to extend a helping hand to anyone who needs help or guidance. She is a warm and sincere person, with a deep and abiding faith in God. Over the years, she has been a constant source of support to the department. Her presence in the college will truly be missed.

Dr. Ms. Padmamalini Sundararaghavan retires after nearly twenty-five years of loyal service in the Department of English. She is a very dynamic person and has contributed richly to the growth and development of the department and the college. She has played a significant role in framing the syllabus of the department, and has helped in organizing seminars, workshops, and refresher courses, and in editing the Literary Journal of the department. She has also been the editor of the College Magazine, and staff advisor of the campus newspaper 'The Star of the Sea'. She has organised several Creative Writing workshops for the students, and played a vital role in organizing the Writer in Residence Programme of the department.



An excellent teacher, she is both creative and versatile, leading her students to new areas of learning and self-discovery. Her attention to detail and her innovative approach have enhanced the quality, both of her own work, and the work of the department. Her calm and serene manner, and the integrity of her words and actions have enriched the department, with whom she has always maintained a stable and warm relationship. Her absence will be deeply felt both by her students and her colleagues.



Assembly



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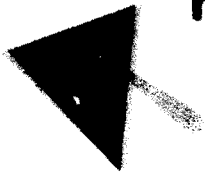


Scope

Culturals



Karri



Kaleidoscope

Almost magical, what little pieces of coloured glass and a couple of mirrors can do! The symmetry and the beauty are breathtaking and it's not just the treat to the eye that makes it addictive but also its ability to transport one to a dream-like state.

Reflective symmetry has been observed since ancient times. Legend claims that the early Egyptians would place two or three slabs of highly polished limestone together at different angles and watch with fascination, as mandalas were formed by human dancers. It was not until centuries later, however, that this optical phenomenon was encased in one small tube and given a name.

The kaleidoscope was invented in 1816 by Sir David Brewster of Scotland. While he was experimenting with prisms and other optical tools, he discovered that beautiful symmetrical patterns were made when loose pieces of glass and other objects were reflected by mirrors and/or lenses in a tube-like instrument. The symmetrical patterns would vary when the mirrors were set at different angles or when different numbers of mirrors were used. Brewster's term for the new instrument he invented was the 'kaleidoscope', which in Greek means 'beautiful form to see'.

The device uses the image-forming properties of combined inclined mirrors. Depending on the number of mirrors and the angle between them, the kaleidoscope produces multiple

symmetrical patterns. Since its creation, the kaleidoscope has been sold primarily as a toy, but has practical uses as well.

A simple kaleidoscope is made of two thin, wedge-shaped strips of mirror touching along a common edge, or a single sheet of bright aluminium, bent to an angle of 45 or 60 degrees. The mirrors are enclosed in a tube with a viewing eyehole at one end. At the other end is a thin, flat box that can be rotated. This flat box is made from two glass disks, the outer one ground to act as a diffusing screen. In this box are pieces of coloured glass or beads. When the box is turned or tapped, the objects inside tumble into different groups, and when the diffusing screen is illuminated by natural or artificial light, six or eight different symmetrical images appear. The number of combinations and patterns is without limit.

The kaleidoscope is a wonderful example of how seemingly small and insignificant things can come together to miraculously produce pleasure, wonder, and even perfection. All kinds of things go into its construction – from something as ordinary as construction paper to something as precious as a gemstone. However, the gemstones and pieces of coloured glass or even grains of sand do not compete with one another to grab our attention but instead seem to magically fade into the totality of the picture.

Kaleidoscopes come in all shapes and sizes,

but there are four primary parts that all kaleidoscopes share: 1. The eyepiece 2. The body 3. The mirror system, and 4. The viewing objects.

There are five different types of kaleidoscopes. The chamber kaleidoscope has an enclosed object case with free-tumbling jewels, beads or other objects. The liquid chamber-scope has an object case filled with liquid (usually glycerine) in which the jewels, glass beads or other objects float. The wheel scope has one or more wheels at its objective end that may contain glass, translucent rocks like agates, pressed flowers, beads, jewels or other objects.

The refillable scope features a removable object chamber. The contents of this little chamber can be changed and users can experiment with their own assortment of colours and objects. The teleidoscope uses mirrors and lenses alone so that anything that is viewed is multiplied.

A kaleidoscope is ever changing. Inside of a kaleidoscope exists a whole other world, visible only through a tiny hole. Every image seen through a kaleidoscope is unique and will never exist again. One nudge of the tube and the image is gone forever. But as anyone who has had the pleasure owning one knows, when one image is lost, a new one is found!

*Sneha E.S.
II B.Sc. Physics*



Surfing to Success

STUDENTS' UNION REPORT

'Success is an attitude' is a famous management saying. Underlying these simple yet powerful words is the courage and determination to face all odds and challenges. The Students' Union 2003-2004 realised that only such an attitude would enable it to live up to the ideals of Stella Maris. But success is not just a goal to be achieved, it is a process of intellectual, moral and spiritual growth.

In today's techno-savvy world, it seemed apt to choose a logo from the IT world. Just as one logs on to the Internet to gain access to a world of knowledge, we should log on to the

challenges posed in our day-to-day lives in order to succeed. The logo shows a smiling computer sitting on the surfboard of challenges, and riding on a powerful wave. It reminds us that even when life throws the worst at us, we must learn to face everything with a smile. If we log on to the challenges, we will be swept to success.

The Students' Union Office Bearers for the academic year 2003-2004 were;

President : Merin Jose
Vice President : Asweni Lakshminarayanan

General Secretary: Sumangali Jayachandran

Treasurer : Shakti Bharath

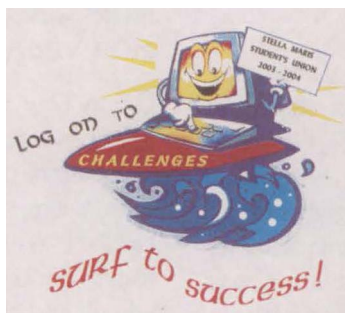
Cultural Secretary
(Arts) : Shanasa K.S.

Cultural Secretary
(Sciences) : Pragya Bhatnagar

The Students' Union 2003-2004 made this an eventful year for the students by organizing a wide range of activities. One of their main aims was to keep the various clubs active through open air assemblies and other cultural activities.

The year began with an assembly to welcome the I year students, and a Students' Union Orientation was then conducted for all the I years. This was followed by the Student Council Orientation, which was aimed at developing leadership and communication skills.

Freshers' Talent Day was followed by IMPULSE, the inter-departmental culturals, where the students were divided into five groups, each consisting of three departments. The winners were the Departments of Literature, Chemistry, International Studies and II MSc Maths. The biggest cultural event for Stella Marians, the much-awaited QUARTET FIESTA, the inter-years culturals, was a three-day event in September, where for the first time, 53 events were staged. The event was marked by fierce competition and loads of enthusiasm, and the III years were the overall winners. MELANGE, the inter-collegiate culturals held in December, saw the college swarming with enthusiastic participants from various city colleges. MOP Vaishnav were the overall winners.



Several special assemblies were organised to mark various occasions. On MTC day, the college thanked the MTC drivers and conductors with a cultural programme, mementos and refreshments. Children's Day was celebrated with the children from Shanti Bhavan, who put up a song and dance presentation at the OAT. Later, the Union distributed gifts and balloons to the children. Teachers' Day, Administrative Staff Day and Workers' Day were also celebrated by the Union. Independence Day was celebrated at the OAT with a colourful cultural programme put up by the Departments of Zoology and Computer Science. This was followed by the Stella Maris Birthday celebrations, at which the cake was cut by the retiring faculty members. The Union also observed Friendship Day and Sunshine Day, when the students came dressed in shades of yellow.

Open-air assemblies were also organised to make Stella Marians more aware of various issues such as Drugs, AIDS, Cancer, the Environment and Human Rights.

Pongal celebrations were organised by the Tamil Mandram, and the entire college was treated to sweet pongal. Christmas was celebrated at the OAT with a crib, carols, a Christmas play, and a 'sweet' visit from Santa Claus. The Christmas carnival on the 9th of December was a day filled with fun, food, games and music. The proceeds from the stalls were given to the poor and the needy.

The Union also screened the Tamil blockbuster 'Kaakka Kaakka', and organised a value based Magic Show for the whole college. A two-day

Mela was organised at the end of August in the canteen area, with games, food stalls, music and dance, depicting the States of Punjab and Rajasthan. The purpose of the Mela was the revival of Indian culture.

The Union Seminar POTPOURRI, on the theme of Social Entrepreneurship was a mix of workshops and seminars, and was aimed at sensitising the students to social issues. Stalls were put up by various NGOs such as CRY, Action Aid, India Trust, The New Indian Express Group and others.

This year, the college put up a Tamil play *Malargalile Aval Malligai*, which was staged at Music Academy on the 4th and 5th of December. This year's English play *That Then...This Now...*, which was staged in the college grounds on the 28th and 29th of February, was unique by its innovative concept and the fact that it was conceived entirely by the cast of the play. In January, Stella Maris participated in *Natak*, the Festival of College Theatre held at Max Mueller Bhavan. Our play won the maximum number

of awards – Best Overall Production, Best Director, Best Supporting Actress, and Best Costume and Make-up.

The enthusiastic participation of the students in intercollegiate culturals enabled them to win many trophies. Besides winning a variety of prizes at various cultural events, Stella Maris were the overall winners at DEEP WOODS of M.C.C., NEHERIKA of Anna Adarsh College, SHRISHTI of Ethiraj College, CHARISM of JBAS College, FESTEVE of W.C.C., EUPHORIA of MGR Janaki Ammal College and JHANKAR of MOP Vaishnav College.

Union Day was the grand culmination of the activities of the Students' Union. The formal programme – the reading of reports and the oath taking – was followed by the traditional carnival. A wide range of stalls were put up. Rides on the merry-go-round and the giant wheel, and the foot thumping music played by the DJ filled the day with fun and excitement. All in all, it was an eventful and memorable year.

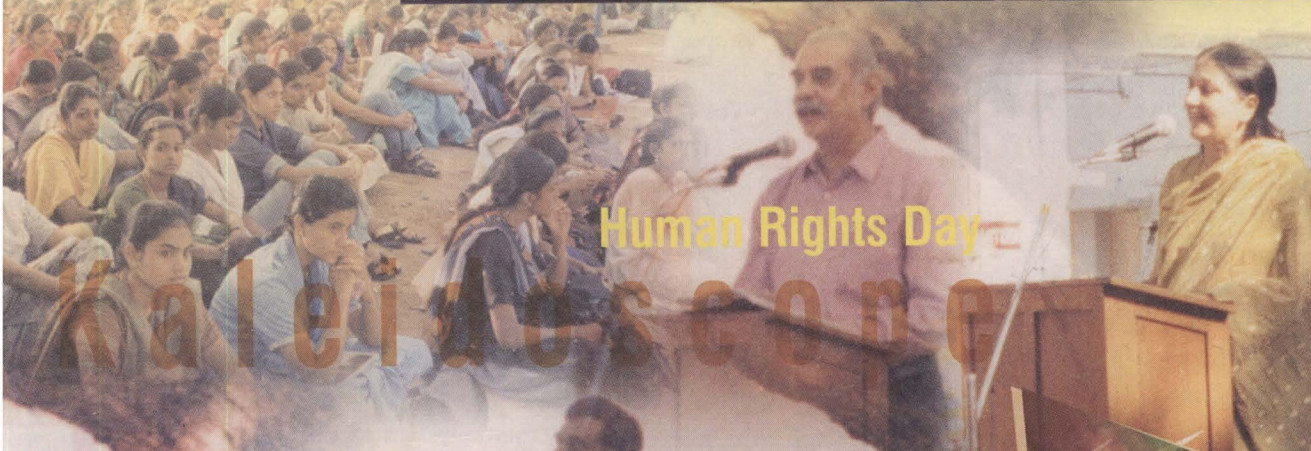


Executive members of the Students' Union 2003-2004, with the Principal, Vice-Principals and the Deans of Students

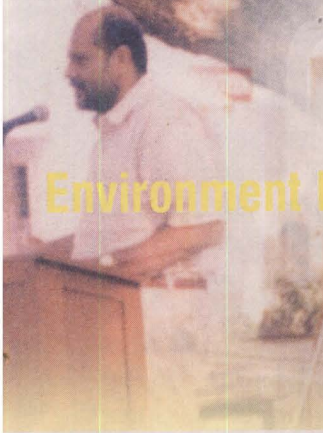
The Taste of Stella
Union Day, 18th March 2004



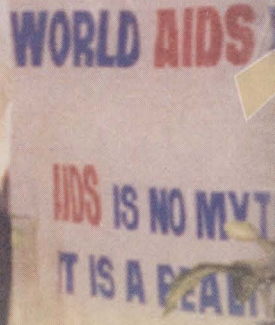
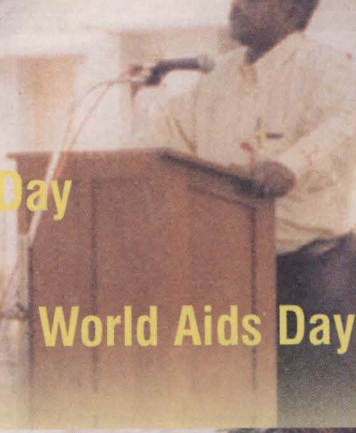
Human Rights Day



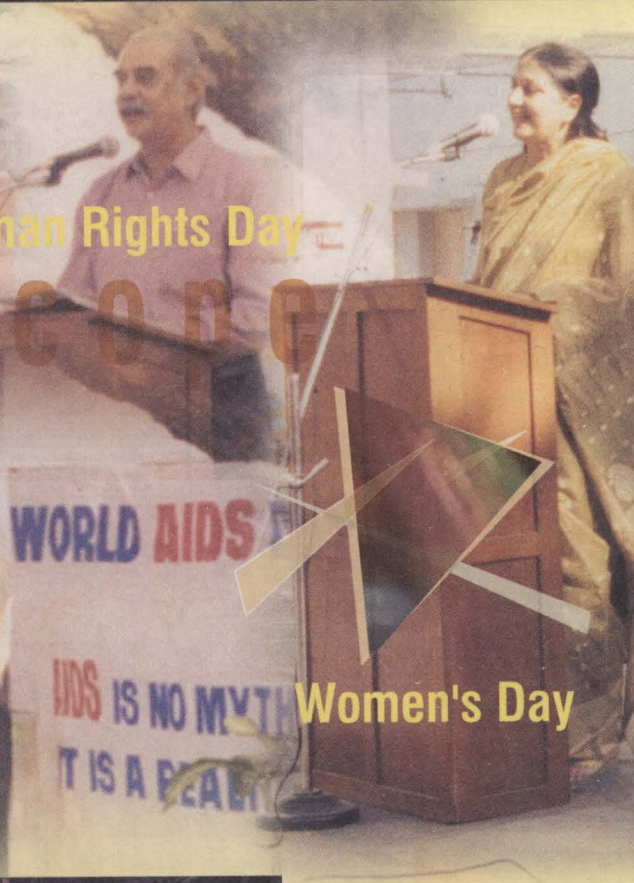
Environment Day



World Aids Day

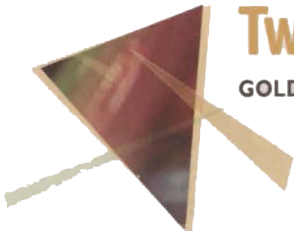


Women's Day



Children's Day
Young dancers from
Shanti Bhavan





Two Score Years and Ten

GOLDEN JUBILEE REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

The Department of Social Work, which celebrated its Golden Jubilee during the academic year 2003-2004, was founded in 1953 by Rev. Sr. Thecla Camacho, f.m.m., whose vision was to create and promote a highly organised centre of learning in Social Work. What began in 1953 as a one year Diploma Course in Social Service was upgraded into a two year M.A. degree in 1962, and at the turn of the century, the department moved into the credit based system. New courses, such as BSW and MPhil in Social Work, are being introduced in this Golden Jubilee Year.

In August 2003, an Endowment Fund was instituted in the name of Sr Thecla Camacho, f.m.m., foundress of the department. The fund will be used to organise the annual Sr. Thecla Endowment Lecture; to give an award to alumnae in recognition of their outstanding contribution through social work; and to provide financial assistance to economically backward students pursuing their Social Work studies at Stella Maris College.

The Golden Jubilee celebrations commenced in September 2003 with a multimedia presentation on Sr. Thecla Camacho, f.m.m., by Dr. Ms. Poppy Kannan, Head of the Department of Social Work. This was followed by the Endowment Lecture on 'The Development of the Concept of Welfare and its Relevance Today' which was delivered by Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent, f.m.m., former Principal, Stella Maris College and a former student of



Dr. Sr. Rita, Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent, who delivered the Endowment lecture, Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip and Dr. Ms. Poppy Kannan

Sr. Thecla. Honouring and felicitating former faculty members and retired Heads of the Department was an integral part of the Jubilee celebrations.

A 3-day seminar on 'Sensitisation Programme to Combat Child Labour' was also organised in September. The keynote address was delivered by Thiru. G. Santhanam, IAS, Director, Department of Town and Country Planning, Government of Tamil Nadu. Government initiatives to combat child labour were presented by Dr.M.Rajaram, IAS, Commissioner of Labour, Tamil Nadu Labour Welfare Department, while Thiru. Dharmendra P.Yadav, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Education, Corporation of Chennai spoke on the role of the Chennai Corporation in combating child labour. The participants included 50 Corporation school teachers and 110 rehabilitated child labourers. The participants



Dr. Rajesh Tandon, President, PRIA, with Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, Dr. Sr. Rita and Dr. Ms. Poppy Kannan

pledged to provide an environment for education, to create an awareness of the issues involved, to sensitise society to combat child labour, to work towards the elimination of child labour, and to rehabilitate them and provide them with basic education.

In October 2003, a State level workshop on 'Capacity Building for Voluntary Development Organisations' was organised in collaboration with Participatory Research In Asia (PRIA), New Delhi. The main objective of the workshop was to enhance the long-term investment of voluntary organisations in people. Dr. Rajesh Tandon, President of PRIA addressed the participants on 'Building Civil Society for Reforming Governance: Role of Voluntary Development Organisation'. The participants were from fieldwork agencies and NGO's from all over the State.

In December 2003, UNNATHI, the Social Work Students' Forum organised a National Seminar on 'Globalisation and Natural Resource Management'. The issues and concerns debated were the dynamics of globalisation, its impact on health, on women, on work, on education, and on natural environment. The seminar also highlighted the need to work towards

sustainable development. The participants were from Schools of Social Work in India, activists, social work practitioners and academicians, and members of government and non-government organisations. The seminar included lectures by eminent environmentalists, plenary sessions, paper presentations by student participants, cultural competitions and field trips.

Human Rights Day was observed by screening two short films: 'State of Denial' directed by Elaine Epstein, which revealed the experiences of individuals in South Africa living with AIDS, and 'Rana's Wedding', an award winning film from Palestine, which focussed on the right to love and happiness in a world torn by war. This event was organised in collaboration with the International Foundation for Crime Prevention and Victim Care, Chennai.

In January 2004, 5 faculty members and 42 students of the Department of Social Work participated in the World Social Forum Meet in Mumbai. They organised a rally and performed street theatre shows on the theme 'Another World is Possible'.

In March 2004, as part of Women's Day celebrations, the Department organised an exhibition on 'Child Rights' and 'Women's Issues' in collaboration with CHOLAI, a social action group.

Two more jubilee events are scheduled for the next academic year: a get-together of the alumnae of the department, and a four-day workshop on 'Qualitative Analysis in Research' for social work academicians.

This Golden Jubilee year - a milestone both for the department and the college - has been a time to pause, look back, take stock, offer thanks, plan ahead, and look forward to new vistas of committed service.



Growing Tall

SILVER JUBILEE REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

The untiring efforts of Ms Rajalakshmi, former Head of the Department of Botany, and the unstinted support of the then Principal, Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent, f.m.m., led to the formation – 25 years ago – of the Department of Botany. Since then, the department has grown and blossomed with a band of dedicated staff and the support of Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, f.m.m., our Principal. The Silver Jubilee of the Department of Botany was celebrated by a series of events that were organised over the academic year 2003-2004.

The commemoration of the Silver Jubilee began with a solemn prayer service on the 9th of July 2003. The formal inauguration of the Silver Jubilee year was held on the 31st of July 2003. Ms. Gowri Venkatesan of the first batch (1979-1982) was the Chief Guest. The other dignitaries who graced the occasion were Sr. Mary Rose, f.m.m., Provincial, Dr. Sr. Annamma

Philip, f.m.m., Principal, Dr. Sr. Rita Marneni, f.m.m., Secretary, and the former Heads of the Department, Ms. Rajalakshmi, and Dr. Ms. Vijaya Parthasarathy. Past and present students gathered in large numbers and added colour and gaiety to the occasion. The alumnae honoured the former heads by sharing their experiences as students, and praised them for their service and dedication.

From the 2nd to the 4th of September 2003, the department organised a 3-day workshop for school teachers in Chennai on 'The Effective Teaching of Biology'. The workshop was conducted by Ms. Padmaja, an alumna of the department, and special lectures were given by the staff of the department. The response to the workshop was overwhelming, and the teachers appreciated and lauded the efforts of the department.



On stage :
Dr. Sr. Rita,
Ms. Gowri Venkatesan, Chief Guest,
Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent,
Ms. Rajalakshmi,
Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip,
Sr. Mary Rose,
Dr. Vijaya Parthasarathy and
Dr. Usha Krishnan

The major event of the year was 'Bioinformatica 2003', a National Workshop on Bioinformatics, which was organised by the Departments of Botany and Bioinformatics from December 16th to 18th, 2003. The seminar brought together resource persons from abroad and within the country. Other international experts shared their expertise through videoconferencing. The participants (college lecturers and post-graduate students), benefited richly from the exposure to hands-on experience, and were grateful to the department for having organised a workshop of such a high calibre.

On February 4th, the department organised an intercollegiate programme called 'Biotechnica', in which many students from city colleges participated with enthusiasm. The competitions included events such as Quiz, Junk Art and Flower Arrangements.

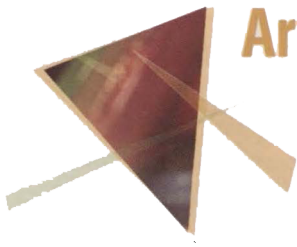
On February 19th, the department organised Aushadhiyam, a seminar on Medicinal Plants. The seminar was accompanied by an exhibition

of medicinal plants and herbal products on the 19th and 20th of February. Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, f.m.m., inaugurated the seminar and the exhibition. The seminar was attended by the faculty of various colleges, and the exhibition was open to city schools as well as the public. The seminar created greater awareness about the uses of different medicinal plants, and the preparation of medicinal products. The exhibition was a feast for the eye, as there were more than 200 medicinal plants on display. Many reputed industries and organisations exhibited, and sold their products. The exhibition also included two stalls of medicinal products put up by the students of the department. These products were accompanied by a description of each plant and its medicinal uses. A special stall highlighted the adulteration of medicinal products. Both the seminar and the exhibition were a great success.

The Department will conclude its Silver Jubilee celebrations with a formal function in the next academic year.



Aushadhiyam - The herbal way to health



Artistic Collaboration

Educational partnerships have become a global phenomena, with a coming together, not only in terms of knowledge sharing, but also in cultural and social exchange. As Stella Maris College forges ahead, broadening its horizons and welcoming new ventures and approaches at a holistic level, it is significant that a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Birmingham Institute of Art and Design (BIAD), University of Central England, and the Department of Fine Arts, Stella Maris College on August 11th 2003. A reciprocal visit was made in March 2004 by Ms. Ashrafi Bhagat and Ms. Margaret Thomas, the P.G and U.G. Heads of the Department of Fine Arts. The visit was facilitated by the British Council, Chennai, and co-ordinated by Prof. Aftab Gharda, Deputy Head, Department of Visual Communication, BIAD.

As the University of Central England is located in four different campuses, our faculty visited all the four centres, and discovered the infra-structural facilities offered to the students, as well as the intricacies of the course and the industrial facilities/tie-ups of the Departments. The Fine Arts Department is situated at Margaret Street, the Foundation Course in Bournville, the School of Jewellery and Silversmithing in the Jewellery Quarter, while the Departments of Visual Communication, Fashion and Textile, and Historical and Theoretical Studies are situated in Gosta Green.

During the meetings with the Heads of these Departments, our faculty discussed various aspects of the proposed collaborative action plan. The post-graduate programme at BIAD is made up of three courses - the PG Certificate, the PG Diploma and MA.



*Educational Partnership : Signing the Memorandum of Understanding.
Prof. Aftab Gharda, BIAD;
Mr. Kartar Singh, British Council,
Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip,
Dr. Sr. Rita and
Ms. Ashrafi Bhagat*

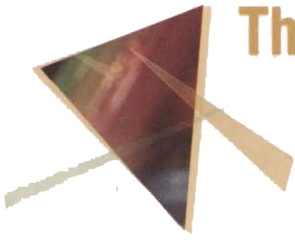
Unfortunately, this structure does not lend itself to the possibility of transferring credits to BIAD, which would have enabled our students to either spend a semester, or finish the MA programme there. Therefore, the sessions were largely focused on the possibility of extending the services and resources of the Departments of Visual Communication and Fashion and Textile Design, through workshops for the faculty of our college in Graphic Communication and Surface Ornamentation. The purpose of these workshops would be to equip our faculty with the latest theoretical structural framework, and the skills required for teaching studio-based

practices. It was also decided that an International workshop - which has now been scheduled for August 2004 and December 2004 - would be organised on Graphic Communication and Textile Design. Our faculty also attended a lecture on 'The Arts and Crafts Movement in Birmingham' organised by the Department of Theoretical and Historical Studies.

Special mention must be made of Prof. Aftab Gharda who arranged the various meetings and accompanied the faculty on their visits, and to their meetings. The College thanks the British Council for its assistance and looks forward to its continued collaboration and support in our growth towards excellence.



*Broadening horizons : The Birmingham visit
Ms. Ashrafi Bhagat and Ms. Margaret Thomas with Prof. John Butler,
Department of Art History, BIAD.*



That Then... This Now...

- November 2003 : Er... We are still thinking.
- December 2003 : ... Still thinking - more vigorously in fact. We need more time ...
- January 2004 : Ah! Thought process ends. Priyanka suggests the Panchatantra.
- 6 January 2004 : Practice begins. Enthusiasts gather at canteen area to experiment with four stories from the Panchatantra.
- 26 January 2004 : Production managers puzzled at the full attendance of the cast. Realization dawns when Birthday Girl Nalayak aka Pooja brings in the lasagna.
- 31 January 2004 : Onlookers complain of the gradual transformation of 'actors' into 'animals'. They are consoled that it is all in the game.
- 1 February 2004 : Characters allotted. The Pataniputrans practise sweeping, spitting and tea tasting, while the 'animals' watch National Geographic and Animal Planet.



Vishnusharma - Showing the way

- 5 February 2004 : Scripting... Rescripting... Rehearsing... Rehearsing... Rehearsing... Summer sets in and so does the heat of our tightening schedule. Managing with characterization, torrents of sweat, sun tan and all .
- 10 February 2004 : Day-to-day speech impeded with rhymes - the play is growing on us.
- 15 February 2004 : The conclusion of our play - still incomplete. We tap our talents and creativity, and a bright spark suggests that Vishnusharma is actually the prince's father in disguise. Director suggests less movie viewing and more rational thinking.
- 18 February 2004 : The press conference. We enact excerpts heightening the suspense. A fun-filled day. What came later was more filling - free food.
- 20 February 2004 : Review published in the papers. Hostel copy of the newspaper missing and the cast suspected.
- 23 February 2004 : We take classes off. Gruelling schedule - 3 rehearsals a day. Enriching feedback. Makeshift tents at F-21 are suggested.
- 25 February 2004 : Intense activity - set designing, production, tailoring, trying out costumes and finally the make-up artists walk in. Three rehearsals followed by an hour in the washroom - washing away the face paint, I mean.
- 28 February 2004 : BUTTERFLIES (in our stomachs). The lights go on and the play is brought to life. The fictitious town of Pataniputra, discontented citizens, a confused king and wily sidekicks. The jungle of Sundalvan, a wise sage, a proud and not so wise lion, prancing monkeys and a righteous mouse. During the interval, the mela is in full swing, with jalebis simmering in oil, and steaming sundal. The play comes to an end and there is an uproar... Sorry! Applause.
- 29 February 2004 : (refer February 28) Play over. The heaviness sets in on our hearts. The two months that seemed like a lifetime have flown away in no time at all.
- 25 March 2004 : Reliving the play while writing this.

Manjusha Kuruppath
II BA History



A Tale of Long, Long Ago, Quite Recently

Dedication, hard work and combined effort were the key ingredients for the success of 'That...Then...This...Now', the Stella Maris College play of 2004. It was unique by the fact that it was entirely a student production under the guidance of the director Yog Japee. The play was a re-worked and contemporary version of several stories from The Panchatantra. The idea of the play was conceived by Priyanka Joseph, and evolved by the cast and the director. The purpose of the play was not simply to provide one and half hours of entertainment, but also to highlight various issues in society today – corruption, the negative effects of globalisation, the water problem, and conmen posing as saints – so that the audience had something to laugh at, and something to think about as well.

The story starts with the citizens of Pataniputra expressing great apprehension about the coronation of the Yuvraj. They fear that Karataka and Damanaka – the evil sidekicks of the inexperienced and confused young prince – will completely destroy Pataniputra. They decide to seek the help of Vishnusharma, a wise old sage, now living in banishment in the forest, to reform the prince. There is a brief but energetic encounter between the humans and the animals, which is resolved only with the entry of Vishnusharma. It is decided that Vishnusharma will enter Pataniputra in disguise, with the animals posing as a theatre group, so that through their dramatic presentations, the

prince will learn to differentiate right from wrong. The situation is made more interesting by Karataka and Damanaka, who constantly proffer lessons and morals that are counter to those preached by Vishnusharma and his group. This makes the prince even more confused, but as in all folk tales, we see the eventual victory of good over evil, and the prince finally becomes wiser and more tolerant.

The evil plots of Karataka and Damanaka (always doomed to failure), the romantic interludes between the only couple in Pataniputra – Paandu the paanwala and Kuppi the sweeper –, the fact that all the lines spoken by Mammotea, the tea seller ended in 'ty', and the 'kadi' jokes of Kodaiswamy, the umbrella carrier, were a constant source of laughter in the play. Another highlight of the play was the live band Parampara, which played perfectly in tune for the Patanis, but which always played badly and missed the cues when playing for the Sundalvan Theatre Group. In order to do this, the members of Parampara, all of whom were extremely good musicians, had to deliberately play badly – which must have been very difficult indeed! But the ones who stole the show were the Sundalvan Sundaris – the dancing girls of the Sundalvan Theatre group – who were an out-and-out hit!

What I, personally, love most about acting, is getting into costume and make up; and this time it was an extremely elaborate affair. The Fine Arts students confidently took up the

challenge of painting the faces of all the animals, as well as the faces of Karataka and Damanaka. The costumes were colourful, well-designed and comfortable. Costumes and make-up for twenty characters, the music band and the dancers was a mind-boggling proposition, but the crew did a wonderful job. The sets and props people had great fun too, though the work was tiring.

The most exciting part of the whole experience was the fact that for the first time, more than eighty people worked together to produce a play! I'm sure I never had a meal that wasn't shared, or a conversation with less than five people at a time, but there was not one moment of discomfort. We were all completely comfortable with each other. I particularly recall one day when all of us were asked to come up with specific walks, laughs, speech patterns etc., for our characters. In a matter of minutes the whole room was filled with weird noises, from the lion's roar to the high pitched squeaking of a mouse. I've seen any number of wacky walks, but Vyshnavi's took the cake! She managed to walk with her legs criss-cross, with her left leg becoming her right and her right leg her left. If anyone had walked into the room at that moment, they would have surely mistaken it for a madhouse!

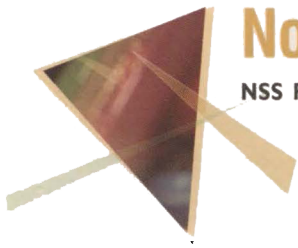
There were just twenty characters on stage, but in the process of developing them nearly double the number evolved: a tortoise christened Too Shy, who for the life of him couldn't move more than one step a minute; Witchy, the evil sweeper woman of the town, who, in fact, was a witch in disguise; a caterpillar with three heads; a woodpecker and several others... There was such an excessive flow of creativity and enthusiasm that it was a pleasure to work in such a group. Since everyone was doing something outrageously crazy, there was no room for inhibitions. I think we all enjoyed ourselves so much because we were all allowed to be ourselves.

I will always treasure the entire experience. I still remember the first day, when we were called for auditions. I couldn't make up my mind. I thought I would take the easy way out and be part of the crew, but once I heard the storyline, I simply couldn't resist! For the next two months, the play was my whole life. Everything else took a back seat. It was a memorable experience, a privilege that all of us would love to be a part of again.

*Nalina Gopal
III BA History*

Parampara - a versatile orchestra





Not Me, But You

NSS REPORT

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

- Swami Vivekananda.

The N.S.S. unit of Stella Maris College came into existence in 1969 and entered its thirty-fifth year at the start of the academic year 2003-2004. With the motto “Not Me but You”, the N.S.S. strives to train students for responsible citizenship and leadership, and aims at enhancing the personality of the individual. Through individual and collective participation, the N.S.S. aims at creating social awareness and arousing the social consciousness of the student volunteers. This academic year saw the participation of 268 student volunteers in the

N.S.S. programme. The N.S.S. in Stella Maris believes that motivation, enthusiasm and commitment will go a long way in achieving our goals.

The regular placements for the volunteers were spread over 18 institutions in the city. Of these, 11 institutions catered to the physically and mentally challenged, 5 to less privileged normal children, while 2 were for senior citizens. The following institutions provided opportunities for the N.S.S.volunteers to be socially involved and to realise the concept of service, and caring through sharing:

1. St. Louis Institute for the Blind and Deaf
2. Andhra Mahila Sabha
3. Kakkum Karangal
4. Little Flower Convent School for the Blind



NSS Day
Serving with joy

5. Little Flower Convent School for the Deaf
6. Shishu Bhavan
7. MITHRA
8. MCJD Home for the Deaf
9. Home for the Handicapped
10. Maithree
11. Thakkar Baba Vidyalaya
12. R.C. Middle School
13. South India Scheduled Tribes
14. St. Joseph's Welfare Centre
15. YMCA Boys Town
16. St.George's Orphanage
17. Don Bosco Beatitudes
18. Old Age Home for Senior Citizens

The year's activities began with the orientation programme conducted for all the 1 year undergraduate students of the college. This was followed by an inter-action programme within

the campus for the 1 year NSS volunteers, which aimed at creating a better understanding of sharing and caring. A special camping programme was also conducted at Padappai by the NSS unit on the theme 'Youth for Swachata'. The camp, which combined fun and service, moulded many of the volunteers into new beings. The leadership qualities and the communication skills that were imparted to the volunteers made them more sensitive persons.

Besides these regular activities, the N.S.S.volunteers have had unique and numerous opportunities to participate in a variety of other programmes, which made this year an extremely busy and challenging one. Our volunteers rendered their services at the following Camps and Programmes organised in the city: the Senior Citizen Medical Check-up Camp held in Kumaran Hospital., 'Handi-Park 2003-2004' organised by the Leo Club of Park Town, World Elder's Day organised by the Senior Citizens Bureau at Raja Annamalai Mandram, the Twenty-Third Annual General

*NSS Day
Getting the message across*



Meeting of College Students and Graduates of the Blind held at the SIST premises, the Rally organised at Rajaratnam Stadium by the Mohan Foundation, and the Torch Rally organised by the Tamil Nadu Social Welfare Board on the theme 'The Girl Child's Right to Live'.

Several volunteers also attended Seminars and Training Programmes. Our volunteers attended a seminar on 'Mass Media and Crime' held at D.G. Vaishnav College, and the Street Theatre Training Programme organised by the Madras University at ICSEA, Ennore, where they were trained to put up street plays in order to create awareness about AIDS among college students. Three volunteers attended the TOTC (Trainees of Trainers) programme conducted by APAC, VHS, Adyar. This was a ten-day programme, and one of the volunteers was chosen as a co-ordinator of the team which would perform in the various colleges. Six volunteers were chosen as peer educators and attended sessions on AIDS Awareness conducted by APC at the Madras University. One of our volunteers also attended the Training Programme and Seminar on AIDS held in Madurai in November 2003.

Sagaya Malar Vizhi C. of II BA Sociology participated in the Seventh International Partnership for Service-Learning Summer Programme that was held in the Philippines from the 21st of July to the 30th of August 2003. The programme, at which she represented Stella Maris, and India, was organised by the Henry Luce Foundation. At the end of the Programme she emerged as the outstanding student in Academics and in Service Learning. She was awarded two medals and certificates.

Three of our volunteers attended the NSS Orientation-cum-Cultural Festival held in D.G. Vaishnav College. They also participated in the Consumer Awareness Competition conducted by the Sri Kanyaka Parameswari College for Women where they emerged the overall winners, bagging the first place in Mock Court and Exhibition, and the second place in Debate. At the Sensitisation Programme for HIV/AIDS, conducted by TANSACS in Ethiraj College, the Stella Maris volunteers won the first place with a shield and a cash award of Rs.2000/-.

The NSS volunteers also rendered their services to the college at the 1 year Parents Meet; the Tamil Play put up by the College at Music Academy; and the Christmas Fete. A Hepatitis-B vaccination programme was also conducted in the college. The final activity of the year was a Blood Donation Camp organised in the college by the NSS unit in February in collaboration with the Madras Voluntary Blood Bank. One hundred and twelve donors - both staff and students - donated blood.

The year's activities culminated on the 20th of February with the celebration of NSS Day at the Open Air Theatre. Prof. R. Ayappan, Joint Director of Collegiate Education was the Chief Guest. Students from the various institutions where our volunteers render service, put up a variety entertainment programme that was enjoyed by the entire college. The colourful display and the joy of the participants were ample testimony to the selfless service of the NSS volunteers, under the able and dedicated guidance of Ms. Prabha Nair, our NSS Co-ordinator.

Writers in Residence

AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH

The Writer in Residence Programme, which was funded by the United Board of Christian Higher Education, made this year a special one for the Department of English. The programme provided students and faculty with the rare opportunity of enjoying lectures and inter-active sessions with the novelist Kamila Shamsie, the poet Ranjit Hoskote and the academician Dr. A.K. Ramakrishnan, each of whom spent a week in the department.

The programme was inaugurated in the first week of December with Dr. Ramakrishnan, Director, School of International Relations, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam. Dr. Ramakrishnan, whose area of specialization is

West Asia, Orientalism and Edward Said, transformed Post-Colonial theories and jargon from words on a page to living concepts that are integral to our lives. The lectures and interactive sessions brought a new awareness and sensitivity to the contemporary politics of our post-colonial world.

In February, the Department welcomed the Pakistani novelist Kamila Shamsie. Shamsie is the author of three novels: **In the City by the Sea** (1998), **Salt and Saffron** (2000) and **Kartography** (2002). The lectures and interaction with Shamsie on the craft of the novel, and her experiences as a writer were amazingly refreshing and exciting.



The first week of March brought Ranjit Hoskote, poet, journalist and cultural critic. Hoskote has published three volumes of poetry: **Zones of Assault** (1991), **The Cartographer's Apprentice** (2000), and **The Sleepwalker's Archives** (2002). He was also the recipient of the Sanskriti Award for Literature in 1998. Freedom and resistance, writing and reading, and the aesthetics of art were explored in sessions that showed a remarkable blend of scholarship, wit and penetrating insight. Hoskote helped us to rediscover the joy and beauty of poetry.

Both Shamsie and Hoskote conducted Creative Writing Workshops for the students of the department.

The Writer in Residence programme was remarkable on several counts. The visiting

writers and scholar provided tangible inputs in subject areas that are defined in the curriculum. The programme also contributed in a significant way to curriculum development; not only in the narrower sense of course description and evaluation, but in terms of who we are, and the directions our thinking may take. Both students and faculty enjoyed the opportunity of being exposed to perspectives that are informed by worlds outside the academia. We were also exposed to points of view and descriptions that demanded clarification, and were made aware of the relevance of classroom learning to discourses and communities that determine the nature of our lives. Exposures of this kind, and the interactions that followed, constitute a necessary part of learning. The programme offered students the forum to develop academic skills as well as to explore their potential as individuals and scholars.

Showcasing Talent

The annual exhibition of the Department of Fine Arts was an event that was much awaited and anticipated by all of us from the time we joined college. It was to be the culmination of three years of our artistic experience, and provide us with a platform to exhibit our creativity and talent.

Nestled amidst shady trees, Amethyst provided the perfect ambience for the exhibition, which showcased some of the best work of the final-year undergraduate and first-year post-graduate students. The well known artist, Dr. Alphonso Arul Doss symbolically inaugurated the Exhibition on the evening of the 19th of March by painting with a flourish, in bold colours on a canvas, the picture of a colourful bird, symbolic of the students of Fine Arts...colourful birds embarking on a journey.

A vast assortment of techniques and styles were displayed. Experiments ranged from straight forward to intricate, objective to abstract, real to surreal. Employing varying media, ranging from oils, acrylics and pastels to mixed media, most of the works were an extension of the individuals themselves and their emotions, and a myriad of colours and forms expressed the diversity of the students.

Organising the exhibition was a learning process for each and every one of us, and we learnt a



Mr. Alphonso Arul Doss inaugurating the exhibition

lot at every stage. The exhibition also enabled us to interact with people from diverse fields with whom we could communicate on the common ground of art with ease. Public response was both gratifying and encouraging, though most of us were initially quite apprehensive and unsure of how our works would be received.

Most of the paintings on display were sold to the public who encouraged us during the exhibition and made us feel more confident of our talents. Seeing the appreciation and enjoyment in their eyes when they viewed our work was the best reward that we could possibly ask for.

*Harini Chandrasekhar
III BA Fine Arts*

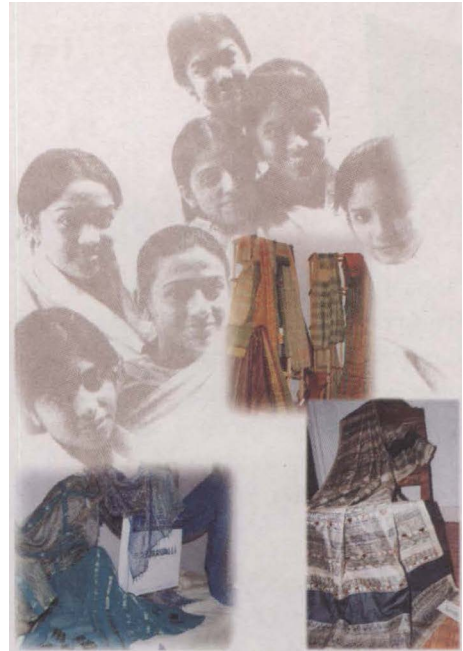


April 2004 was yet another occasion for Stella Marians to exhibit their creativity. This time, it was a Textile Show put up by the final year post-graduate students of Textile Design from the Department of Fine Arts. The 3-day show, entitled BĀNDHANA or 'coming together' was held at Amethyst. BĀNDHANA featured the concluding textile projects of the students – an impressive array of fabrics and made-ups that ranged from the ethnic to the contemporary.

Amritha Alapatt was inspired by Madhubani paintings. She designed dupattas and stoles in silk, which were painted in Bihar. Accents of layered fabric, cutwork, beadwork and kantha embroidery were then thrown in to add glamour and contemporary chic to the collection. Nithya Ramaswamy looked at the rich imagery of Kangra miniature paintings, whose delicate and lyrical forms she adapted as motifs on screen-printed yardage in cotton and poly-cotton.

Komal Soni drew from the traditional minakari and kundan jewellery of India, taking bracelet, brooch and pendant patterns, and transforming them into elegant embroidered embellishments on a collection of silk kurtas. Hemlatha Vassanani used the brilliant hues of the peacock in her line of georgette and tissue stoles, which were then sprinkled with abstract feather motifs in appliqué, sequins and embroidery.

Tejashri Calve decided to give a new look to

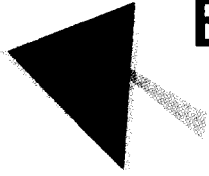


the Rasipuram sari of Tamil Nadu. Her bold initiative convinced the conservative weavers of Rasipuram to alter their looms work with fine cotton yarn dyed at Salem, and weave a refreshingly different collection of saris with co-ordinated blouse material.

Tania Thomas designed an eco-friendly line of home furnishings tie-dyed in Japanese Shibori techniques, using vegetable dyes on silk. Coloured with a palette derived from tea waste and indigo, her collection, dyed at Munnar, Kerala, combined solid and patterned fabrics fused with appliqué and stitchery. Priyadarshini Ilango was inspired by the concept of the fantastic, and came up with a colourful and trendy range of cushion covers combining raw silk, synthetics, bold screen prints and textures.

BĀNDHANA was a great success, receiving good reviews in the press, praise and encouragement from visitors, commissions for the talented seven, and job offers as well!





Building India

On the 1st of October 2003 Mr.T.N.Seshan, former Chief Election Commissioner visited Stella Maris College to speak to the students on 'The Civil Services as a Career Opportunity for Women'. At the outset, Mr.Seshan expressed his concern about the dwindling number of candidates (almost 50% less than it was twenty years ago) from South India, especially Tamil Nadu, in the Civil Services.

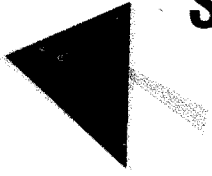
After briefly speaking of India's history and rich heritage, Mr. Seshan asked why India still remained a Third world country ridden by poverty, despite having made great progress in science and technology. He explained that this paradox is due to massive brain drain, and the basic economics and politics of our country. In this context, he strongly expressed his

conviction that the Civil Services provide us with the opportunity of doing something concrete and beneficial for the development of our country. He emphatically stated that the IAS offers a wider canvas for a more meaningful and varied career than any other profession. He said that success in the UPSC exam, requires 90% perspiration, 8% inspiration and 2% of luck. A good command of the English language, self-confidence, imagination and good communication skills are of primary importance.

The talk was followed by an inter-active session, during which Mr.Seshan enthusiastically answered all the questions raised by the students.

Betsy Vinolia
III BA Literature





Spellbound

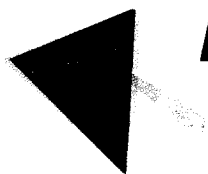
He is in the Guinness Book of World Records for having performed the greatest number of magic shows in twenty-four hours. He derives pleasure not merely by waving his wand and performing illusions and tricks that keep his audience on the edge of their seats, but by directing their attention to the thought provoking insights that lie beneath the dazzling face of magic.

For Rajesh Fernando is a magician with a difference. One who strongly believes that magic can be used as a medium of communication to inculcate and foster value-based education. For the last three years he has travelled all around the world performing a brand of magic, layered with messages.

When Rajesh Fernando came to Stella Maris in July 2003, he performed a variety of magic tricks. For example a newspaper was torn to pieces and scattered all over the stage. He

then gathered all the pieces together and crumpled them in his palm, and even as he joked and spoke of the need to build up and not destroy other people, Stella Maris were thrilled to find that the bits were somehow fitted back together and the newspaper was whole again! He hit metal rings together, and they interlocked to form a long lovely chain, emphasizing the strength, support and understanding that can be derived from connectivity. Though he explained a trick or two, the students were impressed by his skills, and they willingly accepted and assimilated the values he demonstrated through his tricks. The show, which was organised in turns for the whole college, was a refreshing and meaningful break from classroom routine.

Nivedita Subramaniam
I BA Literature



A Welcome Break

The III year excursions are an important part of college life. Whether it is a study tour or a class excursion, these trips are memorable experiences of friendship and togetherness.

Our decision to go to Kodaikanal was met with “Kodaikanal? But how many times...?” A predictable reaction. But no matter how “used up” the vacation spot is, if you’re going with your friends and classmates, it does not matter. You always end up having fun!

We were accompanied by our teachers, who were the epitome of patience and fortitude throughout the trip. Anyone, who could put up with 50 deranged girls, deserves a medal for bravery! The trip actually started on the train itself, as everyone started chatting, playing and listening to music, much to the incredulity of a relatively outnumbered three-member family, our sole accompanying passengers in the entire coach.

Reaching Kodai Road, we boarded the buses and began our trip, stopping on the way to see Silver Cascade and eat delicious road-side *bajjis*. In Kodai, we visited Coakers Walk and the awesome Guna caves. Our resourceful event manager organized a trek for us, and we managed to climb a hill (at least it seemed like one!) and look at the Cross on top of Pillar Rock from a very close angle.

At the Kodai lake, cycling and boating as well as a pleasant surprise awaited us. The PG Economics students were also there on their excursion. On the last day, we visited a museum which housed an animal fur collection, an insect collection and several other specimens which

did not find favour with the more sensitive souls in the group. Our final stops were Saleth Church and the Kurinjandavar Temple.

The last day came, much to the agony and dismay of all. We had been together for two years, but nothing had brought us as close to each other as this trip. But we still had something to look forward to. One more semester, that we knew would be unlike all the others, because now we knew each other, knew our teachers and more importantly knew ourselves.

B. Sowparnika
III BCom.

Lush coffee estates, the evening sky peeking out from behind the clouds and smiling faces: these formed our welcome committee at the sylvan town of Mercara, and we promptly fell in love with the scenery!

The next morning we set off to see Bagahmandala and Talaikaveri. The former, the confluence of three rivers and the latter, the origin of the river Kaveri. Hindus consider both sacred, and a dip (or perhaps two) could wash off all your sins completely! Our next stop was the gorgeous Abbey falls, sheets of water just kissing our feet along with rain-water drenching us. An absolutely wonderful experience!

At the Dubare elephant camp, we, as zoology students, not only learnt more about our subject, but also pledged to do our bit to save these elephants, which are on the brink of extinction. Our trip to Coorg also included a visit to the Tibetan settlement. Apart from the peace and calm, the other plus point was that we got to shop!

The excursion was a wonderful experience of not only visiting places we've never visited before, but also a chance to bond with our classmates. At the bonfire for example, the girls were at their best pulling each other's legs, but everything was taken in the best of spirits. The 'gangsters' of our class were up to some mischief or the other all the time: either scaring the timid ones with ghost stories or clicking pictures of groggy girls, but every bit of it was fun, and will be remembered for a long time to come.

*Megha Rajaram
III BSc Zoology*

Our shrill voices echoed against the clattering of wheels on the railway track, as on the 15th of August 2003, Chennai slowly receded into the background and we were at last on our way to the exotic land of beaches – Goa. The scorching heat of the afternoon could not kill our spirits as we savoured the moment when at last, we, as a class, as friends, were on this trip of a lifetime.

The lush green of the west coast was inviting and invigorating - small rivulets, waterfalls, backwaters, hills, and the emerald of fields and forests. The station at Madagoa came as a real surprise. It didn't seem like an Indian railway station at all - no hawkers, vendors or porters,

no honking, shouting or traffic, no buildings and most importantly no crowds of people bumping into each other. A thirty-minute bus ride led us to our absolutely exotic resort with the beach in the background. That evening we met other visitors to the beach who communicated in sign language and took a few snapshots for us. Our initial feelings of pity turned to amusement when we discovered later on that they were from a meditation camp where they were not permitted to talk!

The next day was a whirlwind tour of South Goa. We visited a few Hindu temples, the Church where the body of St. Francis of Assisi is preserved, and the biggest church with the biggest bell in Asia. We also had a glimpse of pop star Remo Fernandes' house, and spent time at the Dona Paula beach. We then boarded Paradise, the ferry that was to take us on a one-hour ride, during which, amidst a shower of rain, we listened to music and watched a few traditional Goan and Portuguese dances.

The five-hour journey from Bangalore to Chennai was more exciting than our initial journey to Goa. Songs, dances and loud music filled the air. It was fun all the way back and it ended in hugs, and tears at Chennai Central. Our tour was over. The exotic land of beaches was not the purpose of our visit, but the joy of being together as a group. We were united as one family, bound together by love and friendship, and the memory of each moment will last for a lifetime.

*Betsy Vinolia
III BA Literature*

It was the last week in the warm month of July when my class decided to go for an excursion

to Ooty, and as the train pulled out of the station, I waved excitedly to my family members, pushed my suitcase under the seat and joined my friends.

There we were, the 37 most uncontrollable, noisy, nocturnal bundles of energy teamed with a pair of calm and composed teachers. What added to the excitement was that we were to celebrate two birthday parties in the coach. We tried to keep the secret until midnight when out came the creamy cakes, the burning candles, shouts of joy and also a 'fuming' TTR who went back grinning to his seat with a slice of cake in hand! Phew!...that was close I thought!

We made merry all night, while our poor co-passengers caught a few winks of sleep before daybreak. As the faint rays of the Mettupalayam sun entered our coach, all of us knew that it was the beginning of the most unforgettable trip of our lives. And sure enough, the natural beauty of Ooty, our visit to the Botanical Gardens and the lake lived up to our expectations.

S. Josephine
III BSc Physics

On August 20, 2003 the final year Maths students set out on our eagerly awaited trip to Munnar in God's own country, Kerala. We enjoyed every moment of the trip - the train and bus journey, and the time spent with our friends in our rooms.

The views were truly breath taking. The greenery and natural beauty of Kerala lifted our spirits. The refreshing showers and the morning mist were a totally new experience

for us. Icy-cold waterfalls, the mind-blowing boat trip, the fresh juicy carrots and short walks through the tea gardens were a wonderful change from the drudgery of college life. An unexpected, and not entirely welcome bonus, was the natural blood transfusion practised on us by the 'cute' leeches encountered on the way!

These moments will remain as fresh as dew in our hearts!

A. Gayathri
Kalpana Rajeswari N.
II MSc Mathematics

Our class was highly excited about the excursion. As the train began moving out of Central we began singing all kinds of songs and dancing around in the compartments. Most of us stayed up till midnight, and some of the girls who slept early were the victims of our pranks. While they were sleeping, we decorated their faces with Dracula teeth made of toothpaste. Our class rep. acquired a coating of toothpaste on her lips, as well as a black moustache! But they slept through it all and discovered their 'make up' only on the following morning!

At Coimbatore, we visited the Sugarcane Breeding Institute, where we learnt all the details of micropagation and tissue culture of sugarcane plants. On the way to Ooty, we stopped at the High Field tea plantations and Sims Park. In Ooty we visited the Botanical Gardens, and our guide took us to the highest mountains in Tamil Nadu, from where, it is claimed, one can see Veerappan's gang of terrorists. On our last night we had a campfire. It was freezing, but as soon as the fire was

lit, something happened to all of us. We danced and sang all kinds of songs, screamed with joy and cheered loudly while the quieter girls watched us go crazy with joy. We were really unhappy the following day as we gathered for a final snap of the entire class before leaving.

Though the trip was a study tour, we felt really relaxed, as we needed a break from our books and lectures. Our excursion was a memorable experience, and we will always cherish the memories of the wonderful days we spent together with our class mates.

Shivanthi Yogarajan

III B.Sc. Plant Biology and Plant Biotechnology

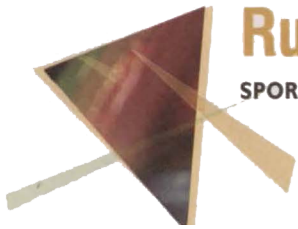
Some of the most memorable trips of our lives are part of our student days especially when it is a ten day tour of some of the most exotic and least known locations in the whole country. This year, the students of the Department of Fine Arts went to Madhya Pradesh and visited Bhopal, Indore, Mandu, Sanchi, Dhar, Bagh, Vidisha, Bhimbetka, Ujjain and many more sites of historical interest. It was a packed itinerary with so many places to cover and so little time.

Our first stop was Indore. Then we proceeded to Ujjain, a quaint village known for its historic and religious magnificence. One of the most exciting sites was Mandu, an important town in the art of ancient India whose imposing ruins still stand testimony to its glorious past. Mandu is a town of palaces and fortresses, of King Bazbahadur and his beloved queen Rupmati. The next site, Bagh, proved to be a disappointment as the original paintings of ancient Buddhist monks were almost entirely damaged by water seepage in the rocks. Next on our itinerary was Bhopal, and then Sanchi, where we saw the Great Sanchi Stupa, whose aesthetic grandeur needs to be experienced to be fathomed. Our next visit was to the Hindu and Buddhist caves at Udaigiri. At Vidisha we visited a small museum with ancient Buddhist artefacts. The following day was spent at the Tribal Habitat where we saw the recreated habitats of the tribes of India, complete with their utensils, clothes, art forms, decoration, etc. Our final stop, Bhimbetka, well hidden in the forest contains over 600 rock shelters with cave paintings dating from the Stone Age.

No trip is complete without its share of fun and frolic, and that was ever abundant. It was difficult to leave behind such historic and ancient art sites and return to work in college.

Sucharitha Thiagarajan

III BA Fine Arts



Running the Race

SPORTS REPORT

The achievements of our students in Sports and Games during the academic year 2003-2004, were very commendable. The students participated in various sports events in the city and at the State and National levels with great enthusiasm and vigour, and won many awards and trophies.

In the Inter-Collegiate tournaments, our teams were the Runners-up in Lawn Tennis, Table Tennis and Cricket. Several of our students represented Madras University 'B' Zone in the following major games and athletics:

Basket Ball :

Jyothsna John, II MSc IT
M. Seema, II BCom.
D. Indhumathi, II BSc Maths.
Ruvitha Chacko, II BCom.
Nishchala, I BCom.
Madhumitha, I BSc Chem.
Indra Priyadarshini, II BCA

Cricket :

Tanvi, III BSc Zoo.
Irene Sangeetha, II BCom.
Beulah Kavitha, II BCom.
Vidhya, III BCom.
Janani Amalraj, II MA Eco.

Shuttle Badminton :

Rashmi, III BCom.
Priya, I BA Fine Arts
Shalini, III BCA
Deepalakshmi I BCA

Lawn Tennis :

Kaavya K., II BSc Chem.
Seema, III BA Fine Arts
Rupha Ramani, II BA Lit.
Sanjana Prabhakar, I BCom.

Table Tennis :

S. Nirupama, III BCom.
N. Aishwarya, I BCA
G. Archana, III BCom.



Learning the art of self-defence



Dancing to fitness

Volley Ball :

Rebecca, II BCom.

Divya, II BCom.

Hockey :

A. Santhoshi, II BCom.

N. Deepa Rekha, II BCom.

J. Deepa Arasi, II BCom.

P. Thilakavathi, I BCom.

Athletics :

Mary Sherin Jose, II BCom.

Krithika, III BSc Physics

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

Cricket :

Tanvi, III BSc Zoo.

Irene Sangeetha, II BCom.

Janani Amalraj, II MAEco.

Table Tennis :

N. Aishwarya, I BCA

Rowing :

Sudakshana, I BCom.

Priyanka, III BCom.

Samyuktha, I BA Soc.



Chief Guest Mr. Ganesan, Retd. IG of Police, Railways, giving away a Trophy on Sports Day.

Shooting :

Jahnvi Mahalingam I BA Fine Arts

Some of our students represented Tamil Nadu in other games as well:

Lawn Tennis :

Sanjana Prabhakar, I BCom.

Shuttle Badminton :

Rashmi, III BCom.

Table Tennis :

N. Aishwarya, I BCA

Hockey :

A. Santhoshi, II BCom.

N. Deepa Rekha, II BCom.

J. Deepa Arasi, II BCom.


P. Thilakavathi, I BCom.

Athletics : Mary Sherin Jose, II BCom.

Shooting : Jahnvi Mahalingam, I BA Fine Arts

This year the Table Tennis, Shuttle Badminton and Throw Ball teams of our college participated in several State and All-India Intercollegiate and Open Tournaments. Our college Table Tennis Team bagged the Winners Trophy of the Bhatt Memorial Tournament conducted by SNDB Vaishnava College and the All-India Tournament conducted by CMC, Vellore, while the Shuttle Badminton Team was placed second in the same tournaments. The Throw Ball Team was placed second in the All-India Tournament conducted by CMC, Vellore.

The performance of the students, which was of a consistently high standard, was the result of their hard work and commitment to sports, and the continuous support and encouragement of the Principal and the Management. The college looks forward to similar achievements in the future.



Another World is Possible

REPORT ON THE WORLD SOCIAL FORUM 2004

On the 14th of January 2004, the students of the Department of Social Work set out on a unique journey. We were on our way to Mumbai to be a part of the World Social Forum 2004 that was held from the 16th to the 21st of January around the theme 'Another World Is Possible'.

The WSF is an International Forum that provides a democratic, people-centred



alternative to globalisation. It is an open space to discuss alternatives, exchange experiences and strengthen alliances among mass organisations of workers, peasants, women, youth, and students; and social and people's movements of Dalits, indigenous peoples, minorities, immigrants and NGOs. After having been hosted for three consecutive years in the Brazilian city of Porto Alegre, the venue was shifted this year to Mumbai. WSF India adopted

as its principal focus, an opposition to imperialist globalisation, patriarchy and militarism; and to communalism, casteism and racism. The youth forum, the Intercontinental Youth Conference (IYC) ran concurrently, with the objective of 'mainstreaming' the discourse of the youth.

While the opening and closing Plenary Sessions of WSF 2004 were exclusive events, the four intervening days were packed with panel discussions, dialogues, debates, public meetings,



self-organised activities, testimonials and 'open spaces' for mass movements. Cultural events, exhibitions, expressions of the performing arts, and the screening of films drawn from peoples' struggles and movements captured the flavour of cultural responses to the onslaught of globalisation and the politics of exclusion, sectarian violence and wars.

The arrangements at both WSF and IYF were massive. We stayed in open tents at the Don

Bosco Youth Centre, the place where the IYC was held, and braved the wintry cold of Mumbai. We attended programmes and took part in the activities of both the WSF and the IYC. Travelling from the IYC to the WSF and back was also a good experience as we learnt to be independent and make our own decisions. We were given the freedom to attend the sessions of our choice, and the choice was impressive, ranging from Media, Militarism, Sustainable and Democratic Development to Ecological and Economic Security, Finance and Trade, Production and Social Reproduction, Religion, Culture, Identity, Patriarchy and Gender. We visited thematic exhibitions, watched movies on Peace, and visited the stalls put up by the various NGOs, where we got a lot of information and material.

The various NGOs, grass roots groups and institutions staged a variety of cultural programmes, such as street theatre, dances, plays, mime and songs; and organised rallies, dharnas and protests highlighting different problems and issues. And we were a part of all this! We created a great impact at the IYC, by leading a candle light rally for Peace. Though we were a small group of 42 students, we

caught the attention of hundreds of participants who joined the march. Some of us performed along with an organisation named 'Young At Risk' to support National Integration and Child Rights. We participated in two rallies: one was a rally of all the IYC participants and the other was a rally of all the participants from Tamil Nadu.

The whole of Mumbai buzzed with activity during those six days, and the Stella Marianas went all out to be a part of it. It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be one with the thousands who gathered there with the intention of making a difference. Underlying the six-day experience was the feeling of solidarity of peoples around the world.

Being at the WSF was a great learning experience. We gained a lot of knowledge and arrived at a deeper understanding of the various issues rocking the world today. We returned with a new zeal to serve people, and with the determination not to take our profession for granted. We realised that true dedication can bring about a change – however small – in a world torn apart by social evils.

*S. Diana
I MA Social Work*

The Time of your Life

HOSTEL REPORT

As I spend my last few days in a place that has come to mean so much to me, I think of the year that has gone by. The images that flicker before me are many. I walk past the picture gallery in my mind. The year is almost done. How did we begin?

The first major event in the hostel year was the election of Floor Representatives, 2 per floor, 6 per hostel. This was followed by the Rep meeting with Sr. Principal. What was meant to be a little chat with the Principal bloomed into a major discussion on mess food! Wonderful ideas of having a cookout were mentioned. That's what the beginning of a year does to you – the impossible appears possible, even likely!

Once the reps were settled in (or rather identified), the Freshers' Party reared its head. For weeks, I years (and I PGs) had been made to practise cat-walking, and had developed a healthy dislike of seniors who were pushing them towards what seemed initially a pointless waste of time. The time had come to put an end to their suffering! And so Freshers' Day arrived. Freshies were dressed up and enjoyed the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity of having their seniors wait upon them hand and foot (literally and metaphorically)! The event began. And in the midst of all the off-stage madness, the reps (some of whom were arithmetically challenged) managed to arrive at some results (after nearly coming to blows with the tension of ploughing through pages of numbers). What



had come to be a chronic migraine ended that night. It was time to wait for the Return Socials. Let the migraine begin for them, we thought.

The Return Socials were great fun. It's always interesting to know how talented our juniors are. Or how unsuspecting and innocent they can be. Hostel tradition requires seniors to snoop around and find out the Freshies' plans for the Socials. If we're lucky we can even sneak up on them while they are practising. This year, however, there was no need to sneak. The Freshies didn't appear to realize that we're not supposed to know what's going on! A whole bunch of highly intelligent and

totally jobless seniors were left speechless by the lack of secrecy. Sneaking became ridiculous (actually it always was). Let's say we woke up to certain realities at that point. Other than being fabulously talented, our Freshies managed to feed us so well that their indiscretions were forgiven. And in case you haven't realized it by now, each social means a lot to the hostelites – even if only in terms of non-mess food.

The next dinner party thus scheduled was for Christmas. Christmas, the season of joy and giving will forever be associated with Parry's corner for me, and for many other seniors. Christmas in the hostel has a rich, beautiful and - quite frankly - a painful tradition behind it. Every Christmas, all the final year students get together, (floor-wise), and decide on how to decorate their respective floors. The II years have to make the arrangements for Mass and the I years decorate the mess (for which decorations are never enough - the place seems to grow around Christmas!). The final year students have the most arduous task ahead. It all begins with sitting down together and thinking of a theme, which requires people to a) turn up, b) stop bickering and, c) avoid talking about food. Once this is done, comes the near impossible task of staying within a budget. This is where Parrys comes into the picture. Parrys is undoubtedly the most amazing place in Chennai where practically everything is available. Cheap. So plans are made. Material is bought and decorations prepared. D-Day. Final year students are expected to stay up all night and put up their decorations. A battle of epic proportions begins. The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. Defeated, people are found napping on tables, chairs or under them sometimes. Staying awake all night is no joke. Especially when there is work to be done.

Ironic. We spend all our time in hostel praying to get a free run of the place, and when we finally get the chance...everyone wants to sleep! Thank God for sunrises. Morning comes. We wake everyone up, show off our work, our labours of love. We promise the wardens that we'll go to college and then we promptly go to sleep (hats off to those who actually made it to class!). We wake up to attend Christmas Mass and dinner. Sleep then beckons and we return to the twilight zone.

What's left after the hols? Hostel Day and the Farewell of course. Hostel Day was the sequel of Freshers' Day, judging by the phenomenal amount of insanity in the air. The long dormant occupational hazards of the 'reps' came to the fore as we tried sorting out the details, making sense of everything. Honestly, if it hadn't been for the Wardens, all kinds of things might have happened. Or worse, nothing would have happened! The cultural programmes were arranged around the theme 'Reflections', and barring minor hiccups (like the *kuthuvilakku* going missing minutes before the show, and the dancers feverishly straining to hear the music they were supposed to be dancing to) the show went rather well. Relief and pride were strongly felt as Sr. Principal praised the programme. The Best Outgoing Students for the year were announced. Prizes were also given for the cleanest room, but having no such inclinations myself I'm afraid I blanked out at that point of the event. Hostel Day ended. Several appetites once lost, were regained. The year, in a way had ended.

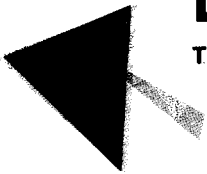
The Farewell remained. A short programme this year. A pause in our busy, hectic lives to say Good Bye. Thank you juniors for a lovely Farewell, for gently reminding us that a phase

in our lives was now officially over. We realized that these past years have been part of a larger journey, and that the time had now come for us to move on.

The hostel is not a place. It is a way of life. One that we cling to briefly, before we plunge into the world we've been preparing to face.

Friendship, discipline, independence, loyalty. We learnt these lessons here – whether we wanted to or not. One hopes one will always remember, through tales to children, grand children and new friends. One hopes that memories will survive, pearly and untarnished through the deceptions of life.

Ranjita Gunasekaran
III BA Literature



Looking Forward

THE CAREER GUIDANCE CELL

What started off as a small endeavour - the Career Guidance Cell (CGC) at Stella Maris College, Chennai - is now an inspired team of eight who work under the motivation and guidance of Sr. Christine, f.m.m.

This past year is one that all of us at the CGC will always treasure. We started out with some trepidation, unsure of our capabilities and effectiveness. The training programme in career counselling that was organized for us instilled in us the confidence that we would indeed be able to do our bit for the college. The programme transformed us from novices, who felt nervous at the enormity of the task ahead, to a competent group that approached the task in a methodical manner, with confidence and passion. Our small room, today, is a veritable hub of activity.

The apotheosis of our efforts was the overwhelming success of the recruitment drive

that we organized for the final year students during February 2004. Many prestigious companies visited our campus and recruited over 210 students. We hope to improve on this figure next year, and are sure that our exercise has paved the way for more companies to look to Stella Maris for their recruitment needs.

Another highlight of our activities was the series of training programmes that we organized for the students. We conducted a one-week 'Training for Careers/Life Skills' programme for the final year students during their vacation in November 2003. We arranged for professional trainers to come and impart their specialized knowledge on a wide variety of topics - language and communication skills, motivation and confidence building, interpersonal skills, time and stress management, creative thinking, etiquette training and personal grooming,



presentation skills, preparation of CV, facing interviews and GDs. The feedback about this programme from the students proved a great morale booster for us. All the students, without exception, hailed the programme as having been of immense practical value, poised as they were at a turning point of their lives. In December 2003, we organized another workshop for the second year students, concentrating on effective communication and fluency in the English language. The success of these workshops has spurred us on to organize yet another programme for the present second year students titled "Creating Your Future", at the beginning of the next academic year.

Our efforts would not have been half as successful without the encouragement and assistance offered by the college. The Principal,

Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, always showed a great interest in our activities and supported our programmes with complete belief in our efforts. Here, we must mention our very dear Sr. Christine who was always there for us - her sympathetic ear and generous heart made CGC a "home away from home" for all of us.

Apart from the professional satisfaction that the CGC gave us, equally heartening were the friendships that we formed within the CGC team. We are now a cohesive team whose common link as Stella alumnae motivates us to help the present students to the best of our abilities. In the coming years, we hope to scale greater heights by helping many more students blossom from unsure teenagers into confident young ladies who will be equipped to make informed choices about their future.

Ms. Hema Ramkumar
Career Guidance Cell



The National Cadet Corps was started in 1948 by our then Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru with the vision of training young boys and girls to be better citizens in all walks of life, because the youth are the future architects of India, on whose shoulder lies the responsibility of nation building. The NCC today has become an established avenue for channelling the physical resources of our youth and inculcating in them a spirit of service, nationalism and patriotism. 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.

In the two decades of its existence, the Stella Maris unit has won many laurels for the college. This year too, our cadets came out with superb performances and kept the flag of Stella Maris flying high.



Our cadets in Delhi



At the NCC Republic Day Camp 2004

The year's activities for the NCC began even before the commencement of the academic year with six cadets attending a fun-filled and exciting All-India Trekking Expedition to Ooty. The first combined Annual Training in which twenty-five of our cadets participated was also held before the commencement of the academic year and the Stella Maris NCC Company emerged the over-all winners. The cadets won the first place in Contingent Drill, Solo Dance and Group Song. In the TSC competition, Cdt.



Sudha was adjudged the best TSC. Cdt. Rohini and Cdt. Sudha won the 2nd place for the Medical Banner and the Signals Banner respectively. Cdt. Vidya won the first place for Solo Dance and Cdt. Gayathri K. won the second place in Solo Song.

The freshmen were enrolled in July 2003 and were initiated into the NCC activities at the Annual Inaugural Camp held on August 16th & 17th 2003 at the Besant Camping site, Theosophical Society, Besant Nagar. The camp was organized by the NCC unit of Stella Maris College. The camp was a 2-day 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 opportunity for our first year cadets to get a taste of camp life, as they enthusiastically worked along with the second and third years. Our Chief Guest was Col. Vam Hussain, Group Commander, Madras Group 'A'. He judged our flag area and line area along with Commander Bhasker, Commanding Officer of the I TN Naval Wing.

Lt. Dolly Thomas, who was officer in charge of the NCC from June 2001, attended the Pre-Commission Training Course at Gwalior in 2003. She completed the course with distinction and was awarded the Commandant's medal.

Naval Cdt. Divya K.P. won the gold medal for ship modelling at the Inter-Group competitions held at Trichy, and she represented Tamil Nadu for the ship modelling competition at the Nav Sainik camp at Vishakapatnam. Leading Cdt Nansi Priya represented Madras Group B as the Best Cadet and was adjudged the best MC at the Inter-Group competitions in Trichy. Cdt. Rohini won the first place for firing at the Triveni Camp. At the Thal Sainik Inter Group

Competitions, Cdt. Sudha won the first place for firing.

Five cadets were selected for the State Level Thal Sainik Inter-Group competitions held in Coimbatore. Five Army cadets representing Madras A were selected for the Republic Day Inter-Group competitions held at Trichy. Two naval cadets and one air wing cadet were also selected for the Inter-Group competitions. Cdt. Sangeetha Sivadasini was selected for the MH attachment camp, and she stood overall first.

To foster a spirit of unity among the youth of the country, and to help them realize that under all the petty differences lies a bond of commonality that integrates us as a nation, the NCC organizes National Integration camps, which were attended by several of our cadets. Cdt. Pooja and Cdt. Anupama participated in the NIC at INS Mandovi, Goa. Cdt. Pooja won the gold medal for Solo Song. Cdt. Anuradha and Cdt. Vijaya Mahadevi participated in the NIC at INS Gujarat. Cdt. Anuradha won the Gold medal for Solo Dance. Cdt. Jaquiline attended the NIC at Ranchi, Bihar and helped the TN contingent win the overall first. Cdt. Sindujha and Cdt. Poonghuzali attended the NIC at Pondicherry. Cdt. Sitalakshmi attended the NIC in Rajasthan and helped the TN contingent win the overall first. Cdt. Sangeetha attended the NIC camp at Punjab. Flt. Cdt. Mrinalini attended the NIC at Agra. Lt. Dolly Thomas attended the NIC at Karnataka where the TN contingent won the first place for the NIAP presentation and the second place for Line Area and Discipline.

To inculcate in the cadets a spirit of adventure and daring, the NCC has several adventurous activities. Cdt. Sara Antony was selected for the thrilling and much sought after para jumping

course conducted at Agra. Sgt. Yamini and Cpl. Monica were selected for the exciting Sikkim Trekking camp, and Cpl. Lavanya was selected for the rock climbing training camp, Kerala.

Our Delhi returns are Cdt. Sudha and Cdt. Nisha Christy, who were selected to represent the Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Andaman directorate at the TSC camp. Cdt. Sudha won the first place for Map Reading, and Cdt. Nisha Christy won the third place for First Aid. Six of our cadets were selected for the Republic

Through the social service programme Jeeva Sparsham, the Stella Maris NCC Company reached out to the less fortunate in society. Charity begins at home and our initial programmes were for the children at Shanti Bhavan. The cadets organized special programmes for elderly citizens, the mentally challenged, child victims of cancer, eye donation awareness campaign, a vaccination drive for cattle, campus cleaning and tree plantation at Corporation schools.



NCC - Building women of character

Day Parade at New Delhi this year: Cdt. Supraja Raghavan, Cdt. Roshini, Cdt. Jamie Ann, Leading Cdt. Bragadha, Leading Cdt. Nansi and Flt. Cdt. Morin Diana . Flt. Cdt. Morin Diana was selected to march on the Raj Path and Leading Cdt. Bragadha was adjudged Cherry Blossom.

The youth exchange programme provides cadets with a lifetime experience of visiting foreign countries as youth ambassadors. Leading Cdt. Sony Maria Jacob was selected for a youth exchange programme to Vietnam.

The inter company competitions were conducted among the four companies Alpha, Bravo, Charlie and Delta, on the 11th and 12th of December 2003. The various competitions contested by the companies in the run for the Best Company included Contingent Drill, Individual Drill, Cross Country, Signals, First Aid and Home Nursing, Map Reading, Best Cadet event, best TSC cadet and AK & GSK. Charlie Company emerged the overall winners and walked away with the trophy for the Best



Company of the year 2003-2004. At Cadofest 2003, an intercollegiate competition organised by D.G.Vaishnav College, Cdt. Jennifer Defiva won the first place for Maitri. Stella Maris won the first place for the Jeeva Sparsham presentation. Cdt. Infanta Judith won the third place in the Best Cadet competitions. Stella Maris also won the first place in Signals and First Aid; the second place in Solo Song, and the third place in Individual Drill. At Cadoutsav 2004, another intercollegiate competition hosted by Loyola College, Stella Maris emerged runners-up. Cdt. Infanta Judith Priya was judged 1st Best Cadet, Cdt. Sudha was Cherry Blossom, Cdt. Sara Anthony won the first place for Best Right Marker, and Cdt. Mariann won the second

place for Best Parade Commander. Stella Maris secured the second place for Contingent Drill, Signals, First Aid Quiz and GSK. We also secured the overall culturals banner, the first place for Solo Song, first place for Group Dance and the second place for Solo Dance and Group Song.

Cadets of the II year appeared for the B certificate examination on March 6th and 20 cadets of the III year appeared for the C certificate examination on the 27th and 28th Feb. All these achievements would not have been possible had it not been for the constant support of our Principal, Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, the Management and the faculty of our college.



The outgoing NCC cadets





SANGAMAM, the Culture and Drug Use/ Abuse in Asian Settings – Research for Action Programme was launched in 1992. An extension project of Stella Maris College, SANGAMAM works with various groups of the fishermen community at Kasimedu in Royapuram. The staff of the unit organise programmes to educate women, youth and child labourers towards empowerment and community organisation, and collaborate with civic bodies to improve health and sanitation in the community. The research and field team of the unit are part of an International Project entitled ‘University and Community Development, Education and Training for Community Organisation’ in collaboration with the International Federation of Catholic Universities. This year the Director of the project, Ms Sandra Stephen participated in a Conference at the University of Santa Ursula, Rio de Janeiro, where all the Asian project partners shared their experiences in similar projects.

The project has come a long way in achieving its



SANGAMAM - Tailoring Unit



SANGAMAM - Women's Self Help Group

goals, though there is still much to be done. Nevertheless, its success may be measured by the ‘oneness’ that the project workers have been able to establish with the community. The tasks are challenging, but the search for solutions outside the well-lit areas of university learning continues.

This year, SANGAMAM focussed on the importance of co-operative organisation, especially for women. It saw the emergence of 11 self-help groups, made up of 215 women. This was achieved with the collaboration of the Tamil Nadu Women’s Development Corporation. Emphasis was laid on equipping women with life-skills such as capacity building, in areas such as self-confidence, decision-making and entrepreneurial skills.

The transit schools are ample proof of the persistent problem of child labour in the area. Stella Maris College runs two transit schools in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board. This year, 76 children were enrolled in the transit schools under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan scheme. These children are incorporated into the mainstream of education in the following academic year.

The participation and determination of the people at Kasimode need special mention and appreciation. The sustained efforts of the team working with the youth, bore much fruit this year, and produced a vibrant group of boys and



girls who are determined to make a major change in the quality of their lives. As their first initiative, the youth have come forward to maintain the cleanliness of the streets in which they live.

All the developmental efforts of the project have been achieved through participatory methods of community intervention. Women assume leadership roles in all activities, and collaborative efforts have always been a learning experience which generate knowledge and contribute to people's development.

Special mention must be made of the commitment of the Social Work students who were placed with SANGAMAM for their fieldwork. Students from Stella Maris College, Loyola College, Madras Christian College and Vaishnav College were extremely supportive of our work, and contributed wholeheartedly to the welfare of the people at Kasimode. Other NGOs and Government departments also collaborated successfully with SANGAMAM on several occasions.

The FUNCTIONAL LITERACY programme is one of the several outreach programmes of Stella Maris College. The main objective of the programme is the empowerment of rural women by imparting basic reading and writing skills, and providing them with vocational skills and training in order to help them to become self-employed, and thus improve their economic condition. This year, 160 student volunteers from various undergraduate departments, and 11 staff co-ordinators worked together for this on-going programme which is based in Altanancheri, Padappai Panchayat, around 40 kms. from Chennai.

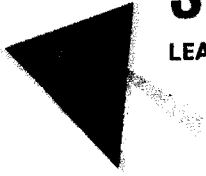
The programme started off with a session for the staff co-ordinators conducted by Ms. Prabha

Nair, N.S.S. Co-ordinator of the college. The students of the I year were given a two-day orientation by Ms. Shanthi Karunakaran, from the State Resource Centre. This helped the students to become aware of conditions in the village, and to acquire the communication skills necessary to work there. The II and III year students attended a one-day session with Ms. Sucharitha, a social activist, on Effective Planning and Co-ordination of Activities. Another group of students attended a demonstration on the preparation of a Low Cost Nutritious Diet organised by the Board of Nutrition. Two of the staff co-ordinators also attended a two-day consultation on Institutionalising Service Learning at Lady Doak College, Madurai.

The students were divided into four groups, and each of the groups decided to take up a specific activity related to the four thrust areas of Literacy, Vocational Skills, Health and Environment and Human Rights. Every Saturday a group visited the village and conducted a programme related to each of these areas. Besides this, students also visited the families and taught the women and children.

The response from the women was very encouraging. They have formed 15 SHGs, which regularly conduct meetings, and function very efficiently, carefully keeping records and maintaining accounts. They have also formed a federation of SHGs, and take part in the Grama Sabha meetings, thus becoming involved in issues relating to their village.

The Functional Literacy Programme has been brought under the purview of the Service Learning Programme, which encourages students to look at themselves in all their capacities and the roles they play in society, and to bridge the gap between education, knowledge and its relevance.



Spectrum

LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM · GLIMPSES OF DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES

This year the Department of Economics invited Ms. Hema Ravichandar, Senior Vice-President, Human Resource Development, INFOSYS, Bangalore to deliver the Sr. Helen Vincent Endowment Lecture on February 19th, 2004, on 'The Best Practices in Human Resources'.

Ms. Ravichandar stated that Human Resources is one of the core business operations, and the essence of any employment management effort. She explained how the process of HRD begins from the moment of recruitment and continues to enable and develop the skills of the employee till the moment of his assessment and recognition.

Speaking of People Management Processes, Ms. Ravichandar said that it would have to be in line with the goals of the firm, and would have to encompass the recruitment, training, compensation, and performance management of the employees. Ms Ravichandar proposed the idea of a People Scorecard to evaluate performance on the whole, and introduced the idea of People Capability Maturity Models that initiate and guide the process of developing a 'culture of excellence'. She concluded by emphasising the importance of HRD in the context of changing global trends that are making a growing impact on the employment scenario in India.

The lecture was followed by an interactive session with the audience, consisting of students

from the Departments of Economics, Commerce and BCA.

*Neetha Jayanth
II BA Economics*

COMBAT, the Inter-Collegiate Commerce Fest was held on the 18th of February 2004. Various city colleges participated in this one-day extravaganza. The events included Adzap, Best Manager, Mission IIM, Business Quiz, Currency Design and Ad-Apt. Mission IIM, along the lines of Shipwreck, was innovative this year, as participants had to argue their way into IIM, Ahmedabad. Best Manager had four rounds in all, the most challenging being Stress Interview. This event tested the candidate's business acumen, as well as the emotional quotient.

The Cultural Fest was an enjoyable experience for both the participants and the audience, as it was a welcome break from the monotony of regular classes. The overall trophy was bagged by Loyola College.

*Payal Satish
II BCoin*

On the 10th of November 2003, a special programme was organised by the Department of Physics to honour the memory of Kalpana Chawla. The programme was part of a series

organised all over India by her husband Jean Pierre Harrison with the intention of creating awareness about Kalpana Chawla and her career at NASA.

The two speakers of the day – who had also suffered a personal loss in the disaster – were Dr. Douglas R. Brown, Chief Finance Officer, NASA, and Dr. Jonathan B. Clark, a neurologist and Flight Surgeon for NASA. Dr. Brown lost his brother, David Brown, Mission Specialist NASA, while Dr. Clark lost his wife, Laurel Blair Salton Clark, Mission Specialist, NASA.

Dr. Brown and Dr. Clark briefly shared their personal memories of Kalpana Chawla. A video presentation was then made, showing scenes from Kalpana Chawla's life; first as a young girl, and later as a trainee at NASA, giving details of her physical endurance, her flight training and her training methods. This was followed by a description of the six people on board the ill-fated Columbia Shuttle, and an account of the research that they were to have undertaken.

A lively interactive session came next, dealing with general questions about the qualifications needed to be an astronaut, the nature of the research that requires conditions in outer space, the duration of space missions, the effect of space travel on the human body, the feasibility of space tourism, and the resources – money, time and effort – required for every mission. Finally, materials (in the form of CDs) on the NASA training programme were presented to our Principal. The audience also observed two minutes of silence at the beginning of the programme to honour the memory of Kalpana Chawla.

*Sneha E.S.
II BSc Physics*

SYNAPSE means connections and that is exactly what the Zoofest was all about. It's the time of the year when the I years get to meet the II years, the II years the III years, and all of us, the Stella Marians, get to meet the Vivekanandites, Loyolites, MCCians and all the rest. It involved connections made not only that day, but through the prior week of chaos and confusion. Committees were formed, plans were made, re-thought and picked bare to the bone (not to get too anatomical!), and finally when it felt like everything was falling apart, everything fell into place. The challenge to all of us lay not only in thinking up biological twists for events like Dumb Charades, Pictionary, Quiz, Crosswords and Exhibition, but also in staying on the right side of the line separating interesting from nerdy! At the end of the day, what is important is that people met, friends were discovered and connections made!

*Tanvi Vaidyanathan
III BSc Zoology*

The Inauguration of the ICFAI Business School Certificate courses for the year 2003-2004 was organised by the Department of Commerce on the 28th November 2003. Mr. Rangarajan, Dean of Students of the ICFAI Business School was the Chief Guest, and offered the college his assistance in setting up an Entrepreneurial Development Cell, a Consultancy Wing and a Faculty Development Cell, in addition to the existing Certificate courses in Advertising, Banking, Communication and Sales Management. A brief account of the courses being offered during the current year was also given. Certificates were distributed to the outstanding students of the previous year's courses.

Payal Satish, II BCom.

A chance question, asked a year and a half ago, led to the formation this year, by the BCA students, of LINKS, the Computing Club. The beginning of the academic year saw much discussion and debate regarding the club. The name of the club and its motto were finally decided. The club would be called LINKS and the motto would be 'Think together, work together', as it sums up the aim of the club, which is to bring together like-minded people with similar interests. A team of office bearers and a staff co-ordinator were chosen, and the club was formally inaugurated on September 8th 2003. Mr. Charles, a well-known multimedia professional, presided over the function. To arouse the interest of the students, charts and banners were put up all over the campus a week before the inauguration itself. At the inauguration of the club, the logo, mission, and the future activities of the club were presented by Angeline Prabha of III BCA, who had designed the logo.

The first event organised by the club was the screening of the film 'Matrix Reloaded'. Workshops, seminars, quizzes and debates are being enthusiastically planned for the future.

*Preethi Jose
Aswathy George
III BCA*

The Janakiammal Trust for the Welfare of Women and Children was set up in honour of K.P. Janakiammal, the multi-faceted founder-president of AIDWA (the All India Democratic Women's Association). The Department of Economics organised the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the Trust with a lecture at Stella Maris College on November 28th 2003.

The speakers for the day were Ms. Padmini Swaminathan from the Madras Institute of Development Studies and Ms. Asha Krishnakumar, an award winning journalist. The talks dealt with the changing employment scenario, with special emphasis on women, and called for a collective effort by the media, NGOs, the Government and academicians to alleviate women related issues.

*Neetha Jayanth
II B.A. Economics*

The students and faculty of the Department of English were treated to a lecture-cum-reading session by Ms. Bernadine Evaristo on the 17th of November 2003. Evaristo, who is one of the new generation of British writers, was in Chennai as part of a tour organised by the British Council. It was a rare opportunity for the department to meet and interact with a well-known contemporary writer. Evaristo has already published two novels in verse – **Lara** and **The Emperor's Babe** and is currently working on a third novel. **Lara**, she admits, is almost autobiographical, since it traces the life of a young girl born of a British mother and a Nigerian father; while **The Emperor's Babe** is set in Roman Britain.

Refusing to be labelled as either post-colonial or feminist, she nevertheless admitted that her stories are all essentially about strong women. Frankly answering questions on racial discrimination, Evaristo spoke of her own childhood experiences, of her experiences in different countries, and of the varied reactions to readings from her novels.

The session, which lasted over an hour, was thoroughly enjoyable and gave many insights

into the process of creative writing. Evaristo's talk was not only entertaining, but also inspiring, and touched a chord in more than one aspiring writer.

Sowmya R.
I BA Literature

First came the French Revolution... and then came the Demonstration at the Sorbonne...and then occurred yet another seismic event in the history of the *culture française*...the inauguration of Stella Maris' very own and very first French club, *Le Cercle de Francophiles*, open not only to the students of French, but to all lovers of French language and culture.

Le Cercle de Francophiles was started with the objective of expanding French beyond the limits of academics, and linking French culture to our own. Within one semester the club has begun to move progressively towards this objective and to imbibe its ideals of *Amitié! Vivacité! Créativité!*

Le Cercle de Francophiles was officially inaugurated on 17 December 2003, by M. Jean - Pascal Elbaz, Director, Alliance Française de Madras, who shared his ideas on growing Indo-French relations with the club members and faculty. The inaugural function was followed by an interactive session on Higher Studies in France, conducted by Mlle Camille Allauzen, Edufrance Consultant.

In the potpourri of club activities held earlier in 2004, *Le Cercle de Francophiles* made its contribution with the universally appealing idea of food. On 16 February, the college canteen was animated with activity as M Jean-Christophe Celibert, Chef at La Madeleine, made *crêpe*

after *crêpe*, each one glazed with mouth watering syrup, as a part of the *crêpe* demonstration and sale organized by the club. The French food fiesta continued on the following day, 17 February, with a traditional French lunch at La Madeleine. Right from the *Salade César* to the *Crème Brulée*, it was a truly delightful experience.

Le Cercle de Francophiles is here to stay at Stella and looks forward to more interactive sessions, animation films and cultural events in the years to come. That's what the club is all about - learning, fun and the French *joie de vivre!*

Poonam Mohan Ganglani
II BA Literature

January 13th 2004, 6:30 PM. RENAISSANCE 2004 had come to an end. It was a long journey from the time the idea of a literature festival took shape sometime in September 2003 (perhaps even earlier) to the actual day itself. RENAISSANCE 2004 was special because nothing like it had been done in the department for a long time. Therefore the name: Renaissance. The Inaugural saw the screening of the documentary, 'The Making of Renaissance 2004', a video prepared by the students of the department. The uniqueness of the fest lay in its events. Cocktail, for instance, enabled the participants to show their talents through singing, sketching, dramatizing and dancing, based on a literary work. Ink Busters saw creativity expressed through the art of writing. Translation skills were put to the test in *It Athu But Aanal*. In *Rasa*, the essence of a literary work had to be captured and put into another genre. In *To be or not to be*, Shakespearean characters like Romeo and Lady Macbeth had

to use their persuasive talents to save themselves in a sinking ship situation. Poetry Reading was showcased in Espresso and Club Sandwich, and the Literary Quiz took a different shape with interesting rounds like Pictionary and What's the Good Word. The worlds of literature and art were brought together in Cut Art, where modern poetry was expressed through art.

Besides the staff of the Department of English, the judges included Mr. Yog Japee and Mr. Freddy Koikaran from the Chennai theatre circle, and Mr. Ajit from the advertising field.

Annie Philip
III BA Literature

A harbour is where ships are safest, but a ship is not meant to remain there... Stella Maris College has indeed been a safe haven for us, but one day all of us have to leave this cocoon and step into the tumultuous world where the law of the jungle prevails. Do we have the skills required to make a smooth crossover from being students to being employees? Despite all the knowledge we have amassed, what tangible skills have we gained? As the raw material of the organisation we join, we need to be well equipped. The ISTD unit of Stella Maris College is geared towards fulfilling this need. All the activities of the ISTD are focussed on three specific goals:

- development of self
- development of group skills
- development of professional skills.

This year, the ISTD started off with an enrollment of 199 students. Many interesting and useful topics such as Stress Management,

Importance of Attitude, Being One's Own Motivator, Kickstarting Creativity, etc., were discussed with the students through presentations and group discussions by expert speakers like Mr. Daniel (a marketing professional), Ms. Seetha Lakshmi (alumna of Stella Maris) and Dr. Sundari Krishnamurthy (Head, Department of Sociology), to name a few. The ISTD encouraged a high degree of participation, and the students benefited greatly from the sessions.

Payal Satish
II Bcom

The Department of International Studies organized a two-day National Seminar on the 8th and 9th of January 2004 at Stella Maris College. The seminar aimed at initiating debate and analysis on the dynamics of systemic transformation and emerging issues both at the global and regional levels. The seminar evoked a commendable response from renowned resource persons and experts in the fields of Defence, International Relations, Strategic Studies, Globalisation, and Human Rights. Among the resource persons were Prof. M. S. Rajan, the founding member of the School of International Relations at JNU, New Delhi, Professors Dr. Swaran Singh and Dr. Savita Pande from JNU, Maj.Gen. Paul, Dr. Arvind Kumar from NAIS, Dr. M.J. Vinod from Bangalore University and Dr. Sudhir Jacob from Central University, Hyderabad.

The entire two-day seminar was divided into five sessions, with a chair and a discussant for each session, with about five presentations in each, followed by a comprehensive summing-up. The highlight of the seminar lay in the presentations on an extensive array of topics.



The themes ranged from hardcore IR theories, such as Functionalism, Constructivist Theory, Hegemony and Dynamics of International Security and Conflict, to Area Studies, such as China, Central Asia and Oil resources, and the Balkans. The sessions focused on areas such as Human Rights, Economic Policies, Globalisation, Trade, Intellectual Property Rights, etc. Each session was followed by vigorous interaction and debate.

*Rose Antony
II MA International Studies*

A one-day seminar on 'Trends in Banking and Financial Services' was organized by the Department of Commerce for its II and III year students. Four eminent speakers, from leading banking institutions were the resource persons.

Mr. Ramakrishnan, Vice-President, ICICI Securities, spoke about Investment Banking and explained how corporate houses raise funds at an optimum cost, and ensure that the public investors get a reasonable return. Mr. Paulson, AGM, SBI, described the various types of loans offered by banks, and the eligibility criteria to avail of these loans. Mr. Shivakumar, Senior manager, HDFC Bank, made an informative presentation about Retail Banking, while the final speaker, Ms. Swapna Mitra, Product Manager, Acquisitions, Citibank, highlighted the growing importance of Internet Banking, and gave us an idea of career opportunities in this field. The seminar was both informative and educative.

*Deivanai .A.
II BCom.*

The afternoon of 8th March was indeed a special day for the Department of Zoology. There couldn't have been a better day on which to salute two great women of the department - Dr. Meera Paul (the former Head of the Department), and Dr. Hannah John.

Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, the Father of the Green Revolution in India, and one of the most successful scientists of today, consented to deliver the 'Dr. Meera Paul and Dr. Hannah John Endowment Lecture' on 'Women in Biodiversity and Biotechnology'.

Dr. Swaminathan talked about the wealth of biodiversity that India possesses, and asserted that women are the main force in protecting this biodiversity. He cited examples from the Chipko movement – one of the largest conservation projects in the world – and the rural woman in Orissa, who was awarded an International Prize for preserving the biodiversity in her neighbourhood. He spoke about women entrepreneurs who have succeeded in the field of biotechnology and scientific research, and encouraged the audience to follow suit. Needless to say, the talk was inspiring, informative and indeed very appropriate.

*Megha Rajaram
III BSc Zoology*

The Department of Chemistry held its annual fest REACTIONS 04 on the 17th of February. The day began with an inaugural presided over by Dr. Ganga Radhakrishnan, Director Grade Scientist, CLRI, Chennai. She addressed the audience on 'The Advancement and the Role of Chemistry in Today's World'. To commemorate the fortieth year of the Department of Chemistry, the magazine

'Zircon' was released with the first copy being given to the Chief Guest.

The fest was attended by eleven colleges, with students participating enthusiastically in all the events. The events conducted were Quiz, Debate, Adzap and Collage (an offstage event). Debate, the first onstage event focussed on 'Sea Water as a Future Energy Source'. The most interesting event of the day, Quiz, had more than 15 teams for the prelims and 6 teams qualified for the finals. The rounds held this year were different, and new rounds were introduced. The overall winners of the fest were Loyola, who won the Sr. Annamma Philip rolling shield, as well as the Sr. Irene rolling cup for the Quiz. The fest was a great success and helped to tap the potentials of the students, while making them aware of the various avenues of chemistry.

*Harini Subramanian
Kaavya Krishnakumar
II BSc Chemistry*

A very interesting seminar on Advertising and Media Management was organized by the Department of Commerce on the 15th of December 2003. The speakers were Mr. Ranji Jacob Cherian, Client Services Director, Walter J. Thomson, who spoke on 'The Role of Advertising Agencies in the Current Decade'; Mr. Sharath Chandra, Station Head, Radio Mirchi, who spoke of the techniques of advertising over the radio; Mr. B. Chandrasekhar, Chief Executive, Ideopraxist Advertising Co., who spoke about Electronic Advertising; and Mr. Krishna Menon, Outdoor Media Consultant of Ogilvy and Mather, who spoke on Outdoor Advertising.

The seminar was extremely interesting, and through the use of relevant examples, discussions and audio-visual aids, helped all the students to have a better understanding of the field. It was a day well spent. Full of fun, yet a good learning experience.

*Payal Satish
II BCom.*

The day had arrived! Dazzling lights, expectant students, the hustle and bustle of the organizers - this was the atmosphere in F 2-1 on the 1st day of WIZZIT, the two-day cultural programme hosted by the Department of Computer Science. Our Chief Guest for the day was Mr. Rajendran of NIIT. Most of the first day was spent on lectures and audio-visual demonstrations, which gave us an insight into various IT related subjects. Representatives from Sutherland Supersight Sequence spoke about BPO and call centres - a fast emerging employment opportunity, and Mr. Raghunathan from Array Futuristix, a multimedia animation firm, gave us a most exciting presentation. The day ended with a question and answer session, which was very interesting.

On the second day, after the guest lecture, several intercollegiate events were organized. Students from nearly thirty colleges participated and displayed their talents. The Quiz and Adzap both entertained and informed us about current developments in the IT field. One of the highlights of the day was the entertainment by Mr. Mazher, Chennai's most popular DJ, who added to the excitement of the event.

*T. Aswini
II BCA*

The Department of Economics bustled with activity on 10th February 2004, the day of the interdepartmental, intercollegiate fest, ECOCENTRIC 2004. The programme, in which most of the city colleges participated, aimed not only at facilitating the exchange of ideas, strategies, principles and philosophies revolving around world economy and the global business scenario but, also at posing challenging situations to test their creativity, determination, presence of mind and knowledge on a wide range of corporate issues.

A solemn inaugural function preceded the address of the Chief Guest, Mr. Pandia Rajan, CEO of the high-flying HR giant MAFOI. He explained the factors leading to the birth of MAFOI, and gave the audience a deeper insight into the general management framework, various aspects of HR strategy and the global status of Indian call centre conglomerates.

The on-stage events kick-started with SOS, in which participants were presented with an unusual company crisis and required to generate innovative solutions. Skills 'N Quills challenged the talent and intelligence of the enthusiastic essayists, with its wide range of topics. While the preliminary rounds for Gray Matter were taking place off-stage, Turnabout took centre stage in F 2-1. The finals for Gray Matter followed, and the quizzers were bombarded with questions on various dimensions of socio-economic systems, corporate and commercial concerns, current affairs and international trade dynamics. Other off-stage events included Cut N' Paste and Grids N' Columns, which assessed the creative abilities, artistic expertise and lateral thinking skills of the students. Advertainment was ECOCENTRIC's grand finale as students displayed the range of

advertising by imagining attractive ways of marketing their product.

ECOCENTRIC culminated with boisterous cheers and thunderous applause as Loyola College emerged the overall winners.

*Nischintha Amarnath
I BA Economics*

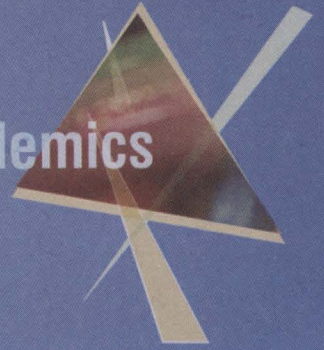
MATHZOOM, the intercollegiate Maths Fest, was organised by the Department of Mathematics on the 4th of February 2004. Vigorous preparations began a week before the scheduled date, as the students prepared the invitations, the backdrop and the questions for the various events, under the active guidance of the faculty. The students were divided into groups, and assigned specific tasks, which they enthusiastically performed in the best possible way.

On the actual day, the formal Inaugural was followed by 16 paper presentations by the colleges who participated in the event. This, in turn, was followed by events such as Olympiad, Quiz and Potpourri. Potpourri - which comprised Mathtoon, Star Watch and Dumb Charades - was a new event introduced this year. Students from all the colleges participated with great enthusiasm, and certificates and cash prizes were awarded to the winners at the end of the day. The event helped to bring out the hidden potential of the students, and united them as a team working for a common goal.

*A. Gayathri
K. Kalpana Rajeswari
II MSc Maths.*



Academics



Kaleidoscope





Excursions



Kaleidoscope



Sustainable Development

Forty years have passed since biologist Rachel Carson published 'Silent Spring', the wake up call that gave rise to the modern environmental movement. She described in graphic detail how pesticides like DDT were threatening bird populations. Another landmark event has been the setting up of the Worldwatch Institute in 1974. A number of NGOs have appeared on the scene, to fill the gaps left by the government and the business sector. Some of them are local, with a handful of members. Yet others are global in nature, like the World Wide Fund for Nature, which has a membership of more than 5.2 million. While some NGOs concentrate on research and information dissemination, others, like Greenpeace, rely on political confrontation and stirring up public interest through media events. In the beginning, the environment groups were concerned about shrinking forests and vanishing species. Now the issues have become more numerous, covering problems like rising carbon dioxide levels, falling water tables, ozone depletion, melting glaciers, dying coral reefs and the like. The debates have become more focussed and the controversies provoke a lot of discussion and arguments.

One of the key debates centres on the question of Economy vs Ecology. Economists are practical, hard-headed people who perceive the economy to be the centre of the universe. For them, the environment is only a part of

the economy. Ecologists, on the other hand, are convinced that the environment is more important than the economy. Economists are pleased with the phenomenal growth of the global economy, which is reflected in the enormous increase in the volume of goods and services produced. Ecologists are unhappy because such acceleration in the growth is the result of indiscriminate and reckless use of our limited resources. They worry because they see that the economy is increasingly in conflict with the earth's ecosystem.

The economic policies that have brought about extraordinary growth in the economy are, at the same time, destroying its support system. The four ecosystems that supply our food and raw materials are forests, rangelands, fisheries and croplands - all these are being destroyed. Many of us may live in highly urbanized areas, but still we continue to depend on the earth and on nature, just like our ancestors. To give a typical example, we are running up a water deficit. Inhabitants of Chennai are aware of the problem of falling water tables. This is also happening in China, India and the U.S. We are still dependent on rain for water.

Just as Copernicus argued that the earth revolved around the Sun, upsetting the existing paradigm, we need to formulate a new worldview, with the environment at the centre and the economy forming the subset. So, economic policy should respect and recognise

the principles of ecology. This is crucial because in the long run, environmental degradation will lead to economic decline.

It is heartening to learn that economists are becoming more ecologically aware, instead of swearing by the market. Nearly 2500 economists have endorsed the introduction of a carbon tax to help stabilize the climate. The International Society of Ecological Economics has been set up, with members all over the world. Its vision is to build a sustainable world by integrating the thinking of economists and ecologists.

People all over the world are hungry for a vision. They want to know how they can help to arrest and reverse the trend of environmental degradation. We have to ask ourselves what we can do. We have to make personal changes in our lifestyles and practise the 4 R's – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Refuse. We have to stop robbing future generations of their heritage. We have to cut down on consumption, and stop consuming as though there is no tomorrow. We have to change our mindset and recognize that the economy can

sustain progress, only if it is compatible with the earth's ecosystem. So a new system has to evolve, what Lester Brown calls an 'eco-economy', one that respects the principles of ecology.

Unfortunately, the market often fails to tell us the ecological truth because it does not factor in the environmental costs of providing goods and services. One way to tackle this problem would be to get environmentalists and economists to work together and calculate the cost of environmental degradation. This cost should be added to the price to arrive at full cost. This would lead to the making of decisions which are ecologically responsible.

A sustainable economy cannot emerge by accident or wishful thinking, but only by a concerted and intelligent effort by political leaders - governments, corporate planners, investment bankers and individual consumers – in fact, by all citizens of all countries spanning the globe. If we want economic progress to continue in the future, we have no alternative except to build an economy that will sustain and support generations to come.

*Ms. Lakshmi Venkatasubramaniam
Faculty, Department of Economics*



Stirring up the Hornet's Nest : The Crisis of the IIMs

Our premier IIMs – India's greatest unique selling proposition (USP) in the realms of intellect, technology and entrepreneurship – have so long served as silent catalysts in swelling the ranks of the intellectual resource pool of our country, by providing undue encouragement to the export of Indian intelligentsia, which has risen to cosmic heights in the upbeat global market. Never had the IIMs made such a big splash in the media as they have today! Controversy upon vexing controversy continues to plague them, as they flounder in an attempt to seek a fair dealing in the fee-cut swamp.

So, who – or rather, what – stirred up the hornet's nest? The fateful CAT paper leak was apparently the precipitating factor, which, besides subjecting the candidates to untold trauma and tension, also drew undesirable attention from the Government. That the CAT retest was conducted without a glitch on Feb 15th 2004, causing the managements and faculty to heave a joint sigh of relief, is an entirely different matter.

The Government's stand that the fee reduction will not influence the autonomy of these premier institutes of excellence remains unjustified, falsified even. The Public Interest Litigation's (PIL) plea with the court, to halt the Government's incursion into the academic affairs of first-rate management institutes, and the vehemence of its belief that the HRD

Ministry passed the order with a view to gain control over the IIMs, linger hauntingly in our troubled souls. This recent state of affairs has raised many a fiery debate revolving around the excessive interference of the Government, particularly in institutions of international repute.

One of the key characteristics of the famous Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization (LPG) model lies in the degree of participation of the Government and the private bodies in the development of the Indian corporate sector. While the latter are to play a relatively larger role in this regard, the former would only provide guideposts in the face of contingencies. The LPG also calls for a withdrawal of subsidies, with the aim of propelling the industry to manage its affairs on its own, notwithstanding competition. Free rein would be given to the market forces in the determination of prices. When the economic situation is such, it is peculiarly strange on the part of the Government to startle us with its sudden announcement of a grant to the IIMs. This contradicts the formerly avowed policy of liberalization.

It is a known fact that the IIMs have a stable financial standing, aside from the fine brand name, which they have conscientiously fashioned for themselves over the course of the last few decades. Why would they require Government aid at this juncture? *Management*

education must be expanded and made affordable to all. The shortfalls in the resources of the IIMs will be covered sufficiently, where necessary, with additional state support. Sounds clichéd. But that's the Government's version. Isn't the duplicity of the claim obvious? The Government is not in a position to generate finances to the IIMs by realizing revenues through public and external borrowings. If the Government does run out of income, (regardless of the tall claims and promises it is making now), the IIMs will inevitably become unviable, loss-making units; they cannot make their ends meet by relying solely on the income of Rs.30,000 collected from each IIM student.

How will the IIMs revise their course content, improve their lab facilities, augment their infrastructure and capital, increase the strength of their faculty and grow and expand further? Instead of funding a business administration course in institutes with as good a standing as the IITs and IIMs, the HRD Ministry should ideally channel its financial resources to more institutions for secondary and higher education and/or upgrade the infrastructure facilities in primary and corporation schools.

The Government's earnestness in taking up the cause of equality in education can perhaps be justified if it adopts measures to reduce the hefty donations and capitation fees in medical and engineering institutions. The commercialization of medical institutes further degrades the noble profession, which we theoretically call 'medicine'. Why should we rest the blame solely on those allegedly avaricious doctors who profit from their poor patients to compensate for the colossal sums of money they paid to receive their degree? Obviously, the likelihood of an IIM graduate deceiving people to repay the loans he might

have taken to pay his fees is substantially much lower!

In point of fact, lower and middle-income students are hardly engulfed in catch-twenty-two situations because of their inability to repay the loans they may have taken to pay the fees. The banking sector teems with a range of educational loans on easy repayment terms and at concessional rates of interest to IIM aspirants. No one would raise objections to repaying the loans borrowed, when there is a surefire guarantee of paying back every penny once the IIM graduates secure enviably lucrative jobs in high-ranking companies and conglomerates. Furthermore, Rs.1.5 lakhs represents an equivalent of roughly 3000 U.S.D or 2100 British pounds, which in actuality constitutes a very nominal fee. Isn't that the price we should pay if we want to enhance our technical and business acumen, strengthen our intellectual capacities, broaden our visions, widen our perspectives and expand our mental horizons?

If there are problems in the way the IIMs are being run, it is the board of directors of the IIMs who are to be taken to task. In this regard, an ideal problem-solving technique on the part of the Government would be to monitor the composition of the Board of directors. If the Government contrarily endeavours to deal with the situation by exercising its control, it would make the board of directors ineffective and weaken our sturdy tenets of corporate democracy.

The Indian economy clearly banks on the excellence of the IIMs for its growth and development. We should do everything we can to preserve the sacredness of these institutions.

Nischintha Amarnath
I BA Economics



Accessible Art : The Print

In the prevailing cultural climate, when the allure of all things modern and western is wearing thin, anything with reference to our traditional past is coveted. Who wouldn't want to own a Ravi Varma? While it certainly would not suit everyone's wallet, with reproductions, owning one is not impossible.

Reproductions help bring the world of fine art to those who may never have an opportunity to see the original. Most often, public acquaintance with art is dependent on a replica of the work. Most people experience a work of art only through a photograph, a slide, a cast, an engraving, a half-tone print or a coloured reproduction. Art reproductions offer advantages in terms of convenience, aesthetic development and a gratifying experience, providing a direct, yet mimetic, visual account that allows the viewer freedom in construing the artist's statement.

It may be argued that since the reproduction is not the same as the original, there is a danger that a facsimile may become interchangeable with the original in the viewer's mind. Colour reproductions may lose some of the depth of perception and texture produced by brush strokes and the play of light on background figures, and the viewer's sense of excitement in perceiving the work may be dissipated because the reproduction is not the 'original' piece on which the artist worked.

The term 'original print' usually denotes hand-pulled works in printmaking. Alternatively, all mechanically produced reproductions are also called 'prints', regardless of the technique used to produce the end result. These prints may be 'open', or numbered 'limited' editions. In open editions, because of the large numbers that are published, the mass-produced reproductions do not have significant value, and are of variable quality. However, greater accuracy of colour reproduction and texture has become possible through the use of technologically advanced scanning systems. High quality reproduction on premium paper is not cheap, but the buyer who is willing to invest in a quality reproduction can be assured of greater fidelity to the original.

In the Eastern systems of painting, there has always been an emphasis on achieving likeness. Both the Six Limbs of Painting, or the Indian 'Shadanga' and the Chinese Canons of Painting deem verisimilitude, or transmission by copying, to be essential to good art. Imitation is valued as a virtue which promotes understanding, which in turn may lead to visual stimulus. The realistic quality in the figurative style is easier to relate to, as is evident in the deference accorded to Ravi Varma's works. The presence of a story, a narrative within a landscape, makes for spontaneous identification, and involves minimal strain in reading the text, while providing the intellectual pleasure of recognition

and enjoyment. The technique and medium take on a subservient role, while narrative assumes importance.

In the customary icon-venerating religiosity of Hindu culture, where puja rooms are found in most homes, sacred imagery finds a ready abode. Catering to this need were the Thanjavur paintings, oleograph and lithograph prints of Ravi Varma's paintings, and the all-pervasive calendar pictures. While the latter satisfied the popular tastes of the masses, Thanjavur painting banked on its exclusivity, while the accessibility of Ravi Varma's paintings – in terms of both volume and price – helped in creating a sensibility, while satisfying a more elitist audience.

Visually, we, as a nation, seem to be deficient in what Pierre Bourdieu terms 'cultural capital'. That we have been fairly insensitive to our visual heritage is proven by the paucity of the remains of our painting traditions. For such an audience, bereft of continuum in visual literacy, literal representations are necessary. Ravi Varma, much derided in the past, has been resurrected because of his realistic style and religious themes.

To date, Ravi Varma's paintings have fetched up to Rs.65 lakhs. At such prices, they are certainly not affordable to most art lovers. To reach a wider audience, Ravi Varma, in his lifetime, set up a lithograph press in Lonavla to produce prints of his paintings, which would thus initiate millions of Indians into art. More iconic and marketable forms replaced the characteristically refined imagery of his paintings, spawning a spate of garish 'god-pictures' by lesser artists, which formed the basis of the

calendar art genre, that was fashioned by offset and litho presses for decades.

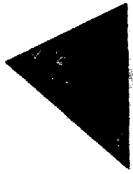
To keep up with the growing demand for religious imagery in the average household, Tamil magazines like 'Ananda Vikatan', 'Kalki', and 'Kalaimagal' commissioned artists with professional training, like Silpi Srinivasan, to create paintings of deities within the holy precincts. The images of the gods and goddesses were portrayed exactly as they are viewed by the devotee within the sacred confines of the *sanctum sanctorum*, utilizing the representational skills of the artist. Reproduced by offset printing, and published as part of these magazines, the paintings could be cut out and framed, serving as prints. This was curious, since most temples would not permit photography of the idol. To a certain extent, these images replaced calendar pictures.

Reproductions may be printed or painted. In painted reproductions, images may be 'appropriated' from some pre-established source, and sometimes 're-contextualised' by the artist. Imitation may be seen as a form of flattery. The skill involved is paramount, where credit lies in being able to copy, and yet, there is always the addition of one's own element. While extracting imagery from different contexts, the creativity of being able to exploit modern technology is important.

A good way to start an involvement with art, the humble print brings the gratification of owning a masterpiece, albeit a reproduction, and indeed offers an easier access to a beauty that is otherwise out of bounds.

Ms. Swapna Sathish
Faculty, Department of Fine Arts

Honour at Stake



On the occasion of the much-hyped International Women's Day, celebrations take place every year. Seminars, conferences, rallies focussing on the issues of education, laws inimical to women, gender equality ...the list is endless. But does it make a difference? Are such events sufficient, or should we attempt to radically change our thinking?

As long as man was a hunter and a nomad, the relationship between the genders was one of freedom and equality. Women came to be the repository of honour only when hunters took to the sedentary lives of farmers. It was only then that the 'my' factor crept in: *my* land, *my* crops, *my* tools, *my* house, *my* women. Consequently, depriving a woman of her chastity became the ultimate revenge that any man could take on his enemy. Even today, when newspapers report an incident of violence against women, the response is always the same. There is initially a sense of outrage - but the furor soon dies a silent death.

Instead of feigning surprise at this phenomenon, we need to seriously ask ourselves: what is the position of women in our society? Mother, sister, daughter, wife...are they merely symbols of honour? The notion of honour is an important part of our tradition, and the fact

that every woman is seen as a potential threat to the family's honour makes her a burden. Women have been accorded a very exalted position in religion, mythology and history. But a woman is not considered a person in her own right with an individual and distinct identity - a simple Sheila or Chandra. From the day a female child is born, she is seen as a burden, a liability, a responsibility, and consequently her life is structured. One false step, one innocent misdemeanour is sufficient to bring dishonour to her father or brother. Thus, while she is guarded as a precious gem, she is at the same time tragically put to death in many societies. *Sati*, which was abolished over two centuries ago, is still brutally practiced. The humiliation and confinement of women still continues.

What society must understand is that woman is not a commodity to be passed to various hands at different stages of her life. She is a human being created by God in the same manner as man, with the same basic rights - the right to think for herself, to make her mistakes and to learn from them. Unless this is understood, the position of women in our society will continue to be ambiguous, and outrages against women will continue unabated. Unfortunate, but true!

Nayantara Yadava
II BA Sociology



All Creatures Great and Small

India is a land synonymous with Ahimsa or non-violence. The Father of our Nation, Mahatma Gandhi stood for non-violence even while waging a war. Indian culture, irrespective of its diverse religious beliefs, values all living things - people, plants and animals. This reverence for life and humanity is exemplified even in our religious texts. Jainism, for example, believes in non-violence to the point where it directs Jains to walk with a small broom in their hands in order to gently sweep away the ants and insects in their path, so that they will not inadvertently crush and kill these insects with their feet.

Hindu mythology assigns a divine status to animals. An animal is the confidante of most gods and goddesses. Hanuman, the monkey god, was the greatest ally of Lord Rama. The cow is believed to be Goddess Lakshmi, and the elephant, Lord Ganesha. Hindus even have a festival called *Mattu Pongal* to honour and worship cows and bulls, which are animals essential for our health and livelihood.

Coming from such a rich and gentle culture, it is a shame that cruelty towards animals is a serious problem today. In Chennai, for example, it is the custom for men, women and children to go sightseeing in bullock carts during the Pongal holidays, after worshipping the cow on *Mattu Pongal* day! You would never believe that the very same people have just worshipped the bulls, when you see the way they thrash

the bulls to move faster, without caring about the weight they have to draw. Imagine the plight of these poor animals, pulling an overloaded cart all over the crowded city, and getting beaten a thousand times in the process!

Bulls are not the only animals to suffer this fate. We also throw hot water on cows if they do not yield enough milk, and inject them with Oxytocin so that we can convert even their blood into milk. In our eagerness to squeeze as much milk out of the cows for our children, we forget about the calves, which also need their mother's milk for growth and sustenance. And we live in a country that believes in the value of kindness towards all living things!

PETA, an American based animal welfare organisation, is protesting against the importing of leather goods from India because of the horrible way in which we treat our animals. Instead of leading the march against cruelty to animals, we are on the blacklist of nations which torture their animal population! Unfortunately, these charges are true. You only have to look at the lorries that transport cattle to the slaughterhouses. The lorries are loaded with four times their capacity. The animals in the front row are forced to hold their heads straight up, and they bleed as their skin rubs against the metal. The other animals also suffer from torn skins and injuries, for their horns wound each other. If you think this is horrible, there is worse to come. We are so greedy

that we want to increase the load of our lorries even more. So, what do we do? We cut off the legs of our cattle and stack them like logs, one on top of the other. And we live in a culture that honours Atman or life more than anything else!

And the conditions in our slaughterhouses are no better. Whatever life is left in the cattle is squeezed out when they reach their 'final destination'. The people at the slaughterhouse begin to remove the skin from these animals while they are still alive. We do not even have the decency to put our animals to a quick death with an electric saw like they do in Western countries. We saw our cows inch by inch, and let them suffer for at least twenty minutes before they die.

People who have money to gain are not the only ones exhibiting such cruel behaviour towards animals. Ordinary people like you and me do so as well. You only have to see the horses that we use for joy riding on our beaches. Their flesh hangs from their backs because of the unsuitable saddle that rubs against their skin, and they are visibly underfed and overworked. And yet we pay money to ride them for fun, and we live in a country that prides itself on its history of non-violence!

It was Mahatma Gandhi who said that a country could not be called civilized unless it treated its animals with dignity and respect. If Gandhi were alive today, what would he say about the way animals are treated in his own country? There is no doubt that we have become mean and insensitive over the years. We are superior to plants and animals only because of our sixth sense, which gives us the ability to make choices. We can choose to protect all God's creatures, or we can choose to watch in silence

the atrocities around us, or we can even choose to torture animals ourselves. What would you choose to do?

I urge you to choose to protect the harmless animals that share this planet with us. You can protect their rights in many ways:

- When you see an animal in distress, please stop and try to help.
- If the animal is large, or you are afraid, get help from someone.
- If you see an overloaded cart or lorry, stop the vehicle. You can demand assistance from the police to question the driver.
- Stop using leather unless you know the skin was removed painlessly from the animals.
- Protest against primitive and painful methods of killing animals.
- Donate generously to animal welfare organisations and become a member.
- Spread the message of fair treatment of animals to family and friends.
- Practise what you preach at home. Protect and nurture the animals that frequent your home, such as dogs, cats and birds. Make a move - even a small one - and it will inspire others to follow you. You may find that you are able to inspire an entire street to fight injustice.

Abuse and cruelty to animals is against the law, and is punishable with a jail sentence. Unless we demand justice, the police will not mete out this punishment to those who hurt our animals.

The bottom line is that we should care. Most of us are kind and gentle people who do not want to harm the living beings that inhabit this earth with us. It would be a shame if we allowed a small minority to dominate and ruin the delicate balance that God has created. Recall the words of Martin Luther King that the

atrocities in this world are not due to the acts of the bad, but to the silence of the good. And never forget that we belong to a culture that stresses the sanctity of life, whether it is that of a person or an animal.

*Madhumitha R.
I BSc Chemistry*



Coral Reefs S.O.S

Coral Reefs, with their vibrant colours and rich bio-diversity, are often referred to as the 'Rainforests of the Ocean'. India has more than 500 fringing reefs around the coastal islands of the Gulf of Mannar and Kachchh, the offshore islands of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and 10 atolls and 36 coral islands in the Lakshadweep archipelago. These reefs provide resources for large sections of the coastal and island populations in terms of fisheries, mineral wealth and tourism. Unfortunately, due to large-scale destruction through human activities like over-fishing, inflow of fertilizers, deforestation and reckless diving practices, there has been a drastic decrease in the overall coral population.

However, it has been found that the single greatest threat to coral reefs is, in fact, climate change. Of the 27% of the world's coral that has been lost, about 16% was damaged due to a single climatic event, the El Nino/La Nina of 1998. During this event, the reefs of the Persian Gulf were annihilated and S.E Asia was hit hard with localized losses of 60-90%. Climatic change affects corals in many ways. The first is heat

stress. The surface temperature of the earth is expected to rise between one and four degrees Fahrenheit over the next 20 years. Since most corals are already at their upper heat tolerance limit, further increases are likely to result in bleaching, a phenomenon wherein the tiny organisms living within the coral (called zooxanthellae) are ejected, making the once colourful coral appear stark white.

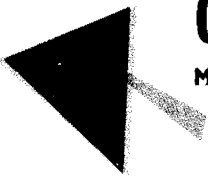
Heightened levels of carbon dioxide are a cause for global warming, and are thus indirectly a cause for coral stress. A direct increase in carbon dioxide levels will inhibit the photosynthetic activities of the zooxanthellae, resulting in bleaching. Projected levels of carbon dioxide will have an effect comparable to a temperature rise of 5.5 degrees Fahrenheit. It will also alter the carbonate balance and reduce pH, affecting calcification. This inhibits the corals' ability to build and rebuild the reefs. Coral reefs do have the inherent ability to acclimatize to increases in water temperatures, but current global warming trends far exceed the range of adaptability. One of the worst

affected areas is the Great Barrier Reef. Measuring the sea surface temperature (SST) of all our oceans and the sea surface height (SSH) can give us an indication about what is influencing today's weather, and how much heat is being stored in the ocean to influence future planetary climatic events.

Coral reefs are rapidly becoming endangered, but they can be saved if immediate measures are taken to conserve these miracles of nature. Legislation to prevent global warming like the Kyoto Protocol call for reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, but though a few countries have ratified it, larger nations like the United States still remain evasive. Another idea proposed by researchers is to seed the oceans

with iron so that the phytoplankton level will significantly increase and therefore draw more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. However, this is a highly controversial technique, since ecologists around the world argue that the method could have dangerous side effects on the delicately balanced marine ecosystem. Marine Protected Areas have proved to be a very efficient system of protecting coral reefs by enforcing rules and regulations to restrict coral mining and over-fishing. Artificial reef formation is another potentially viable technique that is being currently researched by various companies around the world.

Tanvi Vaidyanathan
III BSc Zoology



Obituary

MR. OIL AND MRS. GAS

Date: 10/10/3000

Time: 17:45

Funeral Service Venue: International People's Forum

Commemorative Speech: Mr. J.S. from Oils and Spoils Incorporated.

Dear friends, today we are gathered here to commemorate the lives of two very important souls, Mr. Oil and Mrs. Gas, well known to all of you I am sure. Distinguished politicians, businessmen and women, industrialists, policy analysts, educationists and students; this is a sad day indeed. Our lives will change much

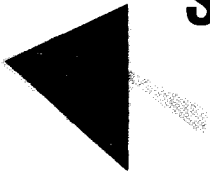
with the extinction of our friends. What I envisage today is a return to the Stone Age. Forget the jet planes, the rockets, the anti-ballistic missile defences! Production will, or has it already, come to a grinding halt? We shall see the return of the venerable bullock cart. Mr. President of the United States, my advice to you is to contact authorities in India. Hopefully, they still have some knowledge of the technology.

We plundered and blundered. I am apprehensive about predicting our own death knell, but it is near. Remember the time, when we scrambled for the Middle East? We used

our two friends as ruses to invade Iraq (that was in 2003). We faced challenges from those miscreants who blew up oil pipelines, creating a ball of smoke - poisonous smoke. I wonder how many died then? Remember our prospecting in Central Asia, especially over the Caspian Sea? The complex pipelines? Honourable dignitaries from Russia, you no longer have to fear the Chinese or the Americans. All you have to fear is your own survival. How will you place food on the tables of millions of people? How are you going to keep the cold out of your lives? These are shivering times my friends, there will be no heating, no cooking, we will starve...and we will die. Alaska was the most unfortunate, we went there as a last resort, after digging deeper and deeper from oil reserves in Tenghiz, Trombay, Alberta and Libya. The final frontier cracked. Environmental havoc resulted from drinking up of the last drops of our precious friends.

We stole from our earth, friends, that's what we did. Brutal murder. True, we tried alternative sources of energy production: we tapped the air, the wind, the sea...but never optimally and never wisely. We achieved our fortunes, our economic goals, through political and sometimes military means. Our greed never satiated, we exploited and marched ahead, each of us wanting the title of Pax - the ruler of the world...What are we ruling over now? The probability of a nuclear attack or a missile attack has been rendered null and void due to the lack of precious fuel (that's good news isn't it?). But we, my friends, have reached the brink of extinction or the level of mere existence. How many of you are going to revert to the rubbing of two stones to provide a fire? How many of you are going to walk to your place of work? Our friends who created the very fabric of the economies of the world have now destroyed it.

*Manisha Anna Abraham
II MA International Studies*



Silent Gunfire

One does not have to strain one's ears to hear the sound waves when a gelatine stick, or its more sophisticated cousin the RDX, or the compact AK-47, or a shoulder-held missile launcher goes off, because the explosion is so deafening it can be heard for miles around. But how do you detect an explosion, or the tat-tat-tat of a machine gun when it occurs silently? Such quieter occurrences are more lethal and devastating in the wreckage and destruction they inflict. If you think that I am essaying here a sketch of terrorism - the violence, armed struggle or guerilla warfare that is so common around the world, you are mistaken. On the contrary, what I am trying to do is to make out a case against the silent activity that surreptitiously precedes violent societal earthquakes and convulsions.

When a terrorist strikes, be it in Madrid, Manhattan, Tel Aviv, Colombo, or closer home in Coimbatore, rightly, or rather self-righteously, we condemn the violence and the tragedy that has befallen the innocent victims. But we forget the quieter invasions and the accompanying atrocities that laid the foundations, well in advance, for such sanguinary denouements. If we sit back on our sofas and train our analytical telescopes on such violent conundrums across the globe, invariably there come into view groups of people who are the originators of all such bloody after-events. But these monsters carried on their activities in

such deafening quietude that, until the after-effects blew up in our face, we never smelt anything amiss anywhere! Now tell me, who is to blame? The perpetrators of the blood curdling events or the men who stealthily sowed the seeds of discord and violence in the first place? The IRA gunmen of Northern Ireland, the LTTE rebels of Sri Lanka, the PLO guerillas of a still-born Palestine, the ETA Basque separatists of Spain or the dreaded Al Quida operatives, so ubiquitously blamed for violence occurring anywhere in the world, all have a common cradle, they all sing a common credo and they all serve a common cause. They were all born when a politically, economically, numerically, intellectually, or militarily more powerful group of a region drove a lesser group into the cul-de-sac of insecurity, and towards the possibility of their eventual extinction. Finding themselves between the devil and the deep blue sea, the lesser group invariably turned into desperadoes, fiercely fighting for their very survival. The domineering power learns, albeit in a gruesome way and in macabre settings, the advantages of peaceful co-existence with the lesser group. So, who is to be blamed for the violent finale - the desperadoes or the domineering group?

Before your mind reels at the scenario just painted, let me give you a break, a glimmer of hope, a silver lining in an otherwise dark horizon. Let us shift camp, for a brief but

interesting case study, to a period setting of the early eighteenth to the early nineteenth century in the verdant plains of the erstwhile Travancore-Cochin-Malabar region.

Those were the days of Brahminical supremacy, the entire land-holdings of God's own country having been more or less consolidated in the hands of the Namboothiri Brahmins, as explained by the 'Parasurama Purana', the land deal made by King Mahabaali. The womenfolk belonging to the households of the Kshatriyas, the martial and the agrarian castes were reduced to a glorified debauchery called 'sambandhan' by the intellectually superior and racially dominating Brahmins. What thus went on for a whole century, was a cultural invasion accompanied by racial decimation, a sort of unspoken ethnic cleansing that virtually wiped out the pure-bred martial and agrarian communities of their millennia-old ethnicity and ancestry. (Ref. **The Castes and Tribes of Southern India** by Edgar Thurston, the first Population Surveyor General of India). The fact that the battle-scarred male members of the martial communities, equally feared and admired for their valour and battle-field accomplishments a few centuries earlier, had turned into silent witnesses of the inglorious goings-on in their community, speaks volumes about the rot that had set in, and the total degeneration of the native social mores and cultural value systems under the assault of the invading culture, though this happened all too quietly within the seclusion of households.

However, what is really amazing is the fact that such a deep-set, widespread and well-

trenched social tyranny was put paid to in the mid-nineteenth century without any armed rebellion, without any violent upheaval, without even a single drop of blood being shed. Such a swift and remarkable peaceful social reformation was the handiwork of a people's movement marshaled by Sri Narayana Guru, a social awareness activist, born in the lower echelons of the caste hierarchy.

Around the same time, yet another people's movement successfully brought down upper-caste hegemony in another sphere, by peacefully arranging for the temple-entry of the down-trodden at a place called Vaikom, once again in Kerala. This movement was eloquently orchestrated and ably spear-headed by the firebrand social reformer and rationalist thinker from Tamil Nadu, E.V.R. Periyar, aptly acclaimed as 'Vaikom Veerar'.

These brave champions of the peoples' cause never resorted to violent strife and destruction to redress the injustices heaped on one section of society, by another oppressive section. Do not these singular achievements spell out an astounding anti-thesis to the terrorist's doctrine that the 'flames of injustice can only be doused by the fiery holocaust of violence'?

Which brings us to the interesting and ethically heart-warming conclusion of our reflection, namely, in order to be effective, counter-offensives and counter-revolutions need NOT necessarily be violent, destructive and blood-spilling in character. Fighting desperadoes of the world, are you listening?

*Ms. Vimala Stephen
Faculty, Department of History*



The Power of Prayer

I lock myself in my room and sit cross-legged on the floor. Settling myself comfortably, I close my eyes. Then I take a deep breath, hold the air in until I feel my lungs nudging my chest as if requesting me to exhale gently. I repeat the process for a few seconds...though...it feels like a lifetime.

Meanwhile, I experience silence engulfing me. Everything comes to a halt. It feels as if nothing else exists in this world. Nothing else matters. Nothing else is real in this world.

I can feel consciousness course through my veins and touch my very being. I cannot attribute a form or any features to it, but I feel a fullness within me that wasn't there before. This is my experience of God. I dwell in it for a while...then I slowly open my eyes. There is a smile tugging at my lips, telling me everything will be all right.

With this sensation, I go about doing my chores. I know that someone is taking care of me, I know that someone loves me. And in that security, I course through the day with a bounce in my step and lightness in my heart.

And yet, another day comes to an end. On all days there are ups and downs, but time and again, the presence I felt in the morning is affirmed. I perceive it in any form I invoke it – whether I call it Krishna, Rama, Muruga, Jesus or Sairam. People call it by different names and attribute different definitions to it. Some doubt its existence all the while.

For my part, I believe in, and ponder over its various manifestations. At its very core, I perceive it to be the culmination of all that is good and pure in this world. To me, an awareness of this goodness and purity is an awareness of God. Nothing is more real than the reality that we call God.

In fact, I catch glimpses of various manifestations in everything, be it the encouraging smile of a stranger on a particularly depressing day, or the unassuming generosity of a friend. Every good deed done unto me, every blessing, every favour is an expression of God's grace.

However, I must admit that at times, engrossed in pettiness or pride it is very easy to be deluded of this priceless miracle.

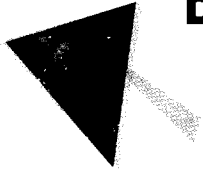
God takes care of each one of us. We are the ones who are unaware of its/his/her presence in our lives. This lack of awareness is to a great extent the cause of our miseries. In this fast-paced world, if we slow down enough to ponder over this, we will be able to lead more fulfilling lives.

This is the prayer I ask in God's name:

*That for our sake,
We may be granted the humility
To feel the need for him in our lives,
To be blessed with
The awareness of his grace on us...
...At all times.*

AMEN

Dharini Parthasarthy, II B.A. Sociology



Biotechnology: The Science of the Future

Gone are the days when science was just botany, zoology, physics or chemistry. Today, science is a varied field with much scope for research and development, which has resulted in a more profound description of life at the cellular and nuclear level. The newly acquired knowledge in the field of biology has resulted in great improvements in the health and welfare of man. Biotechnology is the application of biological organisms, systems or processes to manufacturing industries.

Genetics and Biotechnology

So far, biotechnology has been considered with respect to two characteristics – obtaining the best catalyst and the best environment. The most effective, stable and convenient form for the biocatalyst is a whole organism. In most cases, this could be some type of microbe like bacterium, yeast or mould. Originally, these micro-organisms were extracted from the natural environment. But today, scientists can genetically alter these into superior organisms. This is a practice that is being carried out by most biological-based industries, and is the direct result of the close co-operation between technologists and geneticists.

Genetic recombination occurs during normal sexual reproduction and consists of the breakage and rejoining of DNA molecules of the chromosomes, which is of vital importance to living organisms. Generally, there are strong

taxonomic constraints that confine the naturally occurring mechanisms, which permit genetic recombination to take place.

In contrast, recombinant DNA techniques known as genetic engineering, offers unlimited opportunities for bringing about new combinations of genes, which at the moment do not exist under natural conditions. Genetic engineering has been defined as 'the formation of new combinations of heritable material by the insertion of nucleic acid molecules, produced by whatever means, outside the cell into any virus, bacterial plasmid or other vector system, so as to allow their incorporation into a host organism in which they do not naturally occur but in which they are capable of continued propagation'.

Single Cell Protein Production

One of the biggest problems facing the world today, especially in developed nations, is population growth. At present, there are 4 billion mouths to be fed, and if the present growth rate continues, by the year 2000 this number will exceed 5 billion.

Conventional agriculture may not be able to produce a sufficient supply of food, particularly protein. The search for protein is unrelentingly pursued. Today, new agricultural practices are widespread: high protein cereals have been developed, and the cultivation of soybeans and

groundnuts is ever expanding. As a result, the use of microbes as protein producers has gained wide experimental success. This field of study has become known as single cell protein production (SCP) and refers to the fact that most of the micro-organisms used as producers grow as single or filamentous individuals rather than as complex multi-cellular organisms like plants or animals.

The acceptability of SCP, when presented as human food, depends not only on its safety and nutritional value, but also on other factors. People do not usually fancy the idea of eating food derived from microbes. In many cultures, there are guidelines regarding what one can and cannot eat. Also, odour, colour, taste and texture need to be taken into consideration when dealing with people's desires. Thus, if SCP is to be used as direct food for man, then the skills of the food technologist will be greatly challenged.

Biotechnology and Medicine

Antibiotics are anti-microbial compounds produced by living organisms and are used therapeutically and sometimes prophylactically in the control of infectious disease. Over 4000 antibiotics have been isolated, but only about 50 have achieved wide usage. Antibiotics may function over a wide range of micro-organisms and are termed 'broad spectrum'. In contrast, streptomycin and penicillin are examples of narrow spectrum antibiotics being effective against only a few bacterial species. Most antibiotics have been derived from the mould fungi. Thus, in medicine, biotechnology will have an increasing importance in the production of new and improved products that will contribute to the well-being of mankind

Environmental Technologies

Waste can be considered as any material or energy form that cannot be economically used, recovered or recycled at a given time and place. Growth in human populations has generally been matched by a greater formation of a wider range of waste products, many of which cause serious environmental pollution, if they are allowed to accumulate in the ecosystem.

In rural communities, recycling of human, animal and vegetable wastes has been practiced by man for centuries, providing in many cases, valuable fertilizers or fuel. In urban communities, where most of the deleterious wastes accumulate, efficient water collection and specific treatment processes have been developed since it is impractical to discharge high volumes of wastes in natural land and waters.

Vaccine Production

The vast majority of micro-organisms are of a harmless nature. Indeed, most have very beneficial properties that can enrich our lives and many are even essential to our health and well-being. A few micro-organisms can, however, cause infection and these are termed 'pathogenic', which means they have the ability to inflict damage or cause disease. Potential biological weapons can be found within the various groups of micro-organisms. The poisonous products of micro-organisms, plants or animals designated as toxins are also considered as biological weapons.

Genomics

The Human Genome Project, which was started towards the end of the 1980s, involves the

sequencing of the entire human genome. The project aims at gaining a deeper insight into the organization and function of genetic materials and to provide a solid, molecular base of physiology and medicine.

Especially controversial is the Human Genome Diversity Project, which was set up in 1993 and which aims at providing a comprehensive study of genetic variation across different human populations. However, it has generated a storm of moral, cultural and political controversy in which opponents have argued that it 'smacks of racism, commercialism, exploitation and cultural imperialism'. In particular, some critics have expressed the fear that the information gained from this project may be used to create genetic or ethnic weapons to target a particular racial or ethnic group.

A woman once asked Benjamin Franklin if he would marry her so that their child would have his brains and her looks. He looked at her and smilingly told her that it would be a shame if the opposite happened. This tells us that genes and inheritance can only be manipulated to a certain extent – beyond that nature takes its course. Because of the pronounced dual-use aspects of biotechnologies, it is very difficult to advocate the prohibition of any type of biological research. Therefore, it is proposed that research activities are monitored, and ethical decision-making rules are applied to research in order to enhance transparency, and to serve as an early warning signal for activities that are neither justifiable nor beneficial to mankind.

*Sharon Moses
Christine Jayakaran
II BSc Plant Biology & Plant Biotechnology*



Sweet Tooth

A bar of chocolate is worth a million smiles! Have you ever wondered what makes chocolates so special? Apart from the fact that they are delicious? There are few foods that people feel so passionate about – a passion that goes beyond a love for the ‘sweetness’ of most candies or desserts. For the true ‘chocoholic’, just thinking about chocolate can evoke a pleasurable response. Chocolates have left their mark on mankind over the centuries. Sounds improbable? Here are the facts.

The earliest record of chocolate was over a thousand years ago in the South American rain forests, around the Amazon and Essequibo rivers, where the tropical mix of high rainfall combined with high year round temperatures and humidity provide the ideal climate for the cultivation of the cacao tree. The tree was worshipped by the Mayans who believed it to be of divine origin, hence it’s generic Latin name, meaning ‘Food of the Gods’. Cacao is a Mayan word meaning ‘Good Food’. Cacao was later corrupted into the more familiar ‘cocoa’ by the Europeans.

The Aztecs, who came after the Mayans, also prized the beans highly, but because the Aztec civilization was at a higher altitude in the Andes, the climate was not suitable for the cultivation of the tree, and they acquired the beans through trade and as the spoils of war. The Aztecs also used the beans as currency. The Aztecs, like the Mayans before them, enjoyed cacao only

as a beverage made from the raw beans. It featured prominently in ritual, and as a luxury available only to the very wealthy. The Aztecs called this drink ‘xocolatl’. The Spanish conquistadors found the word almost impossible to pronounce, and so corrupted it to ‘chocolat’, and the English further changed it to ‘chocolate’. In fact, the Aztecs prized ‘xocolatl’ so much above gold and silver, that when Montezuma was defeated by Cortez in 1519, and the victorious conquistadors searched his palace expecting to find gold and silver, all they found were huge quantities of cocoa beans. The Aztec Treasury consisted not of precious metals, but of cocoa beans!

Xocolatl, or chocolat, or chocolate, as it became known, was first brought to Europe by Cortez. By this time, the conquistadors had learned to make the drink more palatable to European tastes, by mixing the ground roasted beans with sugar and vanilla, thus offsetting the bitterness of the Aztec drink. Cortez brought the bean to Spain, and from here the beans traveled to England, where the first Chocolate House was opened in London in 1657, followed rapidly by many others. English colonists carried chocolate with them to England’s colonies in North America. Destined to become the United States of America and Canada, they are now, by far the largest consumers of both chocolate and coffee, consuming over half the world’s total production of chocolate.

Chocolate was first eaten in solid form when bakers in England began adding cocoa powder to cakes in the mid 1600s. In 1828, a Dutch chemist named Johannes Van

Houten invented a method of extracting the bitter tasting fat or 'cocoa butter' from the roasted ground beans. His aim was to make the drink smoother and more palatable, but he unknowingly paved the way for what we now call chocolate. Chocolate as we know it today, first appeared in 1847, when cocoa powder and cocoa butter were mixed to produce the first chocolate bar. In 1875, a Swiss manufacturer found a way to combine - some would say improve - cocoa powder and cocoa butter with sugar and dried milk powder to produce the first milk chocolate.

One of the most pleasant effects of eating chocolate is the 'good feeling'. Chocolate contains more than 300 known chemicals. Caffeine is the most well known of these chemical ingredients, though it is found only in small quantities. Theobromine, a weak stimulant, is also present in slightly higher amounts. The combination of these two chemicals (and possibly others) may provide the 'lift' that chocolate eating provides. Theobromine

belongs to a class of alkaloids known as methylxanthines. Drewnowski found that eating chocolate causes the brain to produce natural opiates, which dull pain and enhance the feeling of well-being. If the receptors in the brain that signal the presence of opioids were blocked, there would be no chocolate bingeing. It was not shown, however, if this was caused by the high fat or sugar content of chocolate candy.

Chocolate also contains phenylethylamine, a chemical related to amphetamines. Like amphetamines, this raises blood pressure and blood sugar levels, resulting in a feeling of alertness and contentment. The caffeine in chocolate may also cause feelings of alertness and a pounding heart, though the other two stimulants in chocolate - the caffeine relatives theobromine and methylxanthines - are weaker than caffeine. You would have to eat more than 12 bars of chocolate to get as much caffeine as there is in one cup of coffee. All of these stimulants increase the activity of neurotransmitters in the brain. However, the same wonderful elixir is lethal to dogs and horses.

But that is another story altogether...

*Kaavya Krishna Kumar
Harini Subramanian
II BSc Chemistry*



Special Education

The world is a kaleidoscope of colours, people and children, with haves and have-nots. When we talk of children, it is their learning ability that often concerns us. How many times have we, or our friends, had difficulty in learning the arithmetic tables, remembering them and reproducing them in the dreaded exams? Have you wondered why some of your friends who were very smart in answering the teacher and coming up with creative ideas, always under-performed in tests and produced disappointing results? Well, there is no mystery behind it. In simple terms, these children have what is called a learning disability.

Learning Disability is a disorder that affects people's ability to interpret what they see and hear. There are many kinds of learning disabilities and one of them is **DYSLEXIA**, which is a specific learning disability. Dyslexia refers to a difficulty in processing language. 'Dys' means difficulty and 'lexia' means language. There is generally a big discrepancy between the intelligence potential and performance of children who are dyslexic.

Dyslexia is a neurological disorder and may be either developmental or acquired. Birth trauma and serious head injuries could also be a cause. Dyslexia is believed to be caused by the under-utilization of the left hemisphere of the brain, which is responsible for the language processing areas like reading and spelling. When a child

shows a delay in reaching the normal childhood 'milestones' (crawling, speech, etc), he/she could be at a risk for learning disability. Dyslexic children exhibit both verbal and non-verbal symptoms. The verbal symptoms are noticed only when the school teacher realizes that the child reverses letters or words while reading or spelling ('was' for 'saw', 'pot' for 'top', etc).

These children need specialized remedial teaching with multi-sensory methods (visual, auditory, kinesthetic, tactile methods) of learning. They need to be taught study strategies using mnemonics and other memory skills.

But there is a silver lining to this cloud. Help for such children, is at hand with assessments, counselling and remedial help provided by special educators. It is indeed very heartening to note that great people like Thomas Alva Edison, Leonardo Da Vinci and Winston Churchill (to name a few) made a name for themselves though they were dyslexic. So, next time you come across such children, do not ridicule them, but help them by making teachers and parents understand this condition. Tell them that help is available to enable these children to realize their fullest potential. Support them, for you may be nurturing a young scholar!

Anusha Narayan
I BA Sociology





Background Music : Underwater Whispers

The world could seem like
A fishbowl.
But when a clownfish,
A goldfish, a turtle,
And a jellyfish
Live together,
The fishbowl becomes
An ocean.

The ocean is huge.
Very accommodating.
The jellyfish have space to wiggle,
The turtle ponders,
The goldfish forgets.

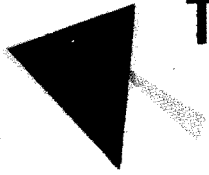
But how can I forget to add,
The red-eyed shark,
With bloodthirsty teeth?
And what happened to the clownfish?
You may wonder.

Our clownfish plays hide-and-seek
With him.
The shark's pointy nose,
Smells out her bubbly trails.
Did the ocean give her away?

She has her anemone-home to live in.
Anemone with long brown fingers,
Waving to the musical whispers of the ocean.
Anemone fingers,
Tickle her red striped aquatic body
To make her laugh.

You see,
She needs to laugh to be a clownfish.

Vandana Krishnan
III BA Literature



The Raven

The sunlight blazed hot on the open porch of her beach house, where Elena sat relaxing with a cup of iced coffee as she read that morning's newspaper. This was always the best part of the morning for her. As she sipped her coffee, she glanced at a headline "Young college student found dead in bathtub - murder suspected." She put the paper down, leaned back, shut her eyes, rubbed her temples and picked up the mug of coffee that stood on the table beside her. Just then the telephone rang... 'Damn!', she muttered under her breath as she moved to the telephone, rather swiftly for a woman of her age. She took the receiver off the hook and said in a pleasant voice: "Hello?"

Elena was a slender woman of sixty-three (although one would swear that she couldn't be older than forty). She had perfect features... beautiful brown eyes, hair that fell in curls over her brow and a smile that could charm a snake out of hiding. At first sight, one would describe her as beautiful.

The voice at the other end of the phone was rather feeble. It sounded frightened and scared. "Elena", the voice stammered. "It's me...Jessie..." Elena groaned inwardly.

Jessica, Elena's younger sister bore little semblance to her. The two had never been particularly close as sisters... Jessie had always been mother's pet, the favourite daughter and had always enjoyed a special relation with her

mother. But Elena no longer minded. She had grown used to it...

Elena was jolted out of her distraction by the sound of Jessie crying. "Jessie... What's wrong?"

"It's Kris...she...she died last night." The words came out in an almost ghostly whisper, and sent a chill down Elena's spine. "Her room mate found her dead in her bathtub, last evening... the police believe she was probably murdered."

Elena gasped. Jessie was clearly telling the truth...but she couldn't believe it...she couldn't believe it... it wasn't possible.

"But who? Why?" Elena stuttered as the tears welled up in her eyes. "Murder?... it can't be... it's just not possible." Elena trembled as she spoke.

"Elena I really need you here now. Without Kris, life just..."

"I'll be right there"

She replaced the receiver on the hook and ran out of the doorway grabbing her coat as she left.

It took Elena about an hour to reach the farmhouse that Jessie had inherited from her mother. Remembering how devastated Jessie had been by her mother's death two years ago, Elena wondered how Jessie would deal

with this tragedy... Jessie was a single mother and she had simply doted on Kris. Kris had graduated from school just a year ago and had insisted on going to the university of her choice. Jessie had been extremely reluctant to let her go but Kris had been very excited about leaving home and learning to be independent. Elena herself had empathized with Kris. Kris was so much like her. But what would Jessie do now... how would she react...?

As Elena drove towards the farm, she passed a couple of police cars that were just leaving the farmhouse, and as she swung in through the gate she saw a number of chickens walking around madly, clucking loudly as though laughing at something very funny.

Elena took it all in. The fresh air, the smell of chickens, of cows, of manure... everything smelt the same, and brought back memories of good times when their mother would send them to feed the chickens or milk the cows. Suddenly fear gripped Elena and she felt the hair on the back of her neck begin to rise. Something terrible was about to happen. She just knew it. But what? She could not tell. But she felt it, creeping out of the sky, reaching her through the sounds, the colours that filled the air.... Suddenly from somewhere in the trees, a big black bird flew out ...heading toward her!

Elena screamed and as she fell to the ground, she saw an enormous raven swoop right over her and fly into the neighboring tree. Elena heaved a sigh of relief "Just a raven", she thought, " Nothing more...just a raven...."

Picking herself up, she walked to the farmhouse, pushed open the door that was slightly ajar and walked right in. "Jessie, it's me, Elena. Where are you? Jessie...."

Hearing no response, Elena panicked and ran up to the bedroom. She pushed open the door and found Jessie sitting on the bed, a hideous smile upon her face. For some reason her hands were hidden in her lap.

As she entered the room she fought back a rising sense of panic "Jessie", she gasped trying to make her voice as normal as possible, "Are you alright? You had me worried there for a few..."

"It was you, wasn't it?" Jessie whimpered. "It was you.... YOU killed her"

Elena stared at her in horrified disbelief. The shock had been too much for Jessie. She seemed to be completely unhinged by grief. In a daze, she heard Jessie continue...

"It was you... you were responsible for her death. You always hated her, I know you did. You killed her.... And now you deserve to die..."

Before Elena knew what was happening, she heard a deafening noise... a loud bang. The air still laden with the smell of manure, of chicken and cows, was now mixed with the smell of gunpowder. As she fell Elena saw a big black bird sitting on the windowsill, and then... darkness.

Shirley G.
I BA Literature

Tradition

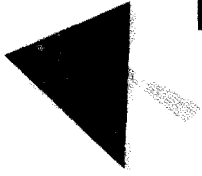
He emerges, drenched
In discovery of what lies beneath:
A treasure-chest
Of ritual and belief.
No explanation for what he sees.
Just mysteries that fail to unfold
Something like a film roll
Yet to reveal
Yet to expose.
No age or time can confine
What's yours, what's mine.
Hearing the bell
He makes his way up,
Not alone,
But with tradition wrapped around his
shoulders.

*Rashmi Kumar
I MA Literature*

Ill remembered

Like the phlegm of an old cough,
It balls up in my throat,
Rough with the memory of soreness.
The body grows tired of fighting this
Onus of a satisfied customer.
If years heal, I hope the remembrance
of redness in my head
will die - and the lie
of a gift wrapped package
instead of apology.

*Subiksha Krishnaiah
II BA Literature*



The Best is yet to be

Her head rested on the pillow creating a deeper shade of white around her scalp. She lay under warm blankets and the people sitting around her could barely discern a body under the fabric.

"Ma, Sameer is here," her daughter said. She opened her eyes before the sentence had ended and turned her head gently towards the left. "Sameer..." she said, her voice dissipating like the steam from a hot cup of tea. Her gaze travelled slowly from his face to the bed where her son's hand lay clasped in hers, her gnarled fingers looking like the overgrown branches of a neglected shrub. As her eyes shut to the dimly lit room the image of a bright bougainvillea flashed before her. Strange how certain images in one's memory never fade or lose colour with time, and how a single thought can open the tap of memories, allowing the waters of the past to flood the barren lands of our present.

Sameer. She had known another by the same name. Her neighbour's good looking son...

She had first seen him eating an ice gola from the candy man who frequented their lanes. As luck would have it her mother felt like having one too. This chance meeting, however was the beginning of a bond - lifelong and passionate - quite unlike the icy pretext that had brought them together.

"Do you know what your name means?" she had asked him. The bougainvillea swayed in the breeze as if trying to look away and give them privacy.

"A gentle breeze" he replied, trying to work a flower into her long black hair. A gentle breeze? No. Rather, a strong gust of wind that had blown her away like a broken leaf....

It was January in Amritsar. The sunlight blended with the nip in the air, making the atmosphere seem like a delicious mix of salt and sugar ready to be smeared on a piece of raw mango. She held Sameer's hand and felt his long shapely fingers encircle hers. His nose sought the insides of her ears as they embraced and lost themselves in each other's arms...His laughter was like the temple bells clear, pure and genuine. Every time she thought of him a warm happy flush rushed through her body, as if someone had poured hot soup through her veins. When he wanted to tease her, he called her 'Nandi the bull'.

Sameer... She used to think of him at nights when she lay under the starry Amritsar sky. Like most young girls in love, she dreamt of a home together, children and marital bliss. Dreams, however, seldom mirror reality. Partition separated their lives and ways. Sameer and his family fled to Pakistan two days before the fifteenth of August. Nobody knew when or how. They just vanished, darkness playing

accomplice. Amidst the slaughter and bloodshed there was another death, the death of a dream. Nandini mourned over its invisible corpse. Wept till her tear glands stopped functioning. The corpse burned in the fire as she took her wedding vows, and though the being was gone the ashes remained. Ashes she never immersed but held close to her heart. When her first son was born she could not think of any other name. Heena who was born two years later was named after his elder sister. Nandini celebrated his birthdays, the anniversaries of their first meeting, and shed angry tears every August 13th. They stained her cheeks, but could not revive a soul now barren. Maybe it was wrong, even unfaithful, but what could she do? How could she forget the only man she had ever loved? "Why did he do it to me? Why did he leave me? Why did he inflict this festering wound that continually runs?"

Tears crept into her eyes and stood poised for descent. She blinked, sending them plummeting

down her cheeks and onto her cream pillow where they ended their journey.

As she lay there, she knew something was approaching her and she waited for it calmly. What was it? She did not know... It was too subtle and elusive to name, but she felt it creeping out of the shadows, moving towards her in the stillness of the room...

As she exhaled gently, a darkness overpowered her. She shut her eyes and let it envelop her, her body still, her thoughts calm. Suddenly, Nandini heard his voice - Sameer's voice... His face appeared through the darkness, illuminating her final journey. He held an ice gola in one hand and held out the other. Her palm clasped his, not gnarled, but smooth, and her glass bangles tinkled as he pulled her close.

"Nandi the bull" he said smiling, "what took you so long?"

Saraswati Datar
I BA Literature

Bird, Fish and Bone

The bird looked at the fish
It looked back at her with fishy eyes.

Are you going to eat me?
That did cross my mind
You can't, you know?
Why not?
Because.
What do you mean because.
Just because, bird.
I demand an answer.
Because, once I tell you, you'll find a way to
eat me.

Okay, let's strike a bargain.
No I take no risks.
Hear me through.
No. Forget it.
Listen.
No.
Okay.....Ouch!!!!

The bone: What did you do that for?
Because you listened.

*Deepthi Sebastian
I BA Literature*

Let's All...

On a hot dreary afternoon;
A pungently nasal voice
Surrounds us.
It pushes us to the brink
Of endless boredom.
Monotony encompasses us.
We have to get out of this
Overpowering cocoon.
Then a bulb lights
Atop the head of a genius,
Maybe we should travel to
the end of the universe says she.

No, we all should sing
A love song, melodious and
Soulful, pipes another voice.

Or let's all laugh about something silly
A billy goat perhaps? Grunted a cynic.

Then the philosopher among us
Cleared her throat and said prophetically
Let's all live a while my children
Let's all just live.

*Shruthi Padhmanabhan
III BA Literature*

Untitled

Doe-eyed dreamy,
Groping towards that
Rapturous oasis
Morphing into a mirage...

*Sangeetha N.
I MA Literature*

Sometimes I think...

Sometimes I think,
I'd rather chew on a bone
Than a cloud
For earthward,
My wars can be fought.
Bloodmaps are good guides.

I claw the airs,
Spell heat with my mouth shut.
My mane bites into my flesh.
Restless impressionist
I'm no lion.

I cannot own the wilderness
That is mine.

*Nivedita Subramaniam
I BA Literature*

Untitled

I still suffer those
Persistent murmurings of hope
Every time I go home,
As I see you beneath the flowered gate
Hand on hip
A frown on your face
Why so late? I hear you say
And I blink
And stare at the bare gate
an ice-cream, uneaten, melting into a sippy
mess.

In the house
The silence of your voice echoes around me
I can smell the emptiness surround me
The walls are cold
I have lost my love for silence
As I seek noise
But I know...
Nothing can drown out your absence.

*Ranjitha Gunasekaran
III BA Literature*

ஸ்டெல்லா மாரிஸ் கல்லூரி மாணிவிகளால் தமிழ்த்துறை பெருமையோடு நடத்திய இனிய நாடகம்

மலர்களிலே அவள் மல்லிகை!

விஸ்வநாதனின் குடும்பம் ஒரு நடுத்தரக் குடும்பம். அவரின் மூன்று பெண்களில் மூத்தவளான வித்யா இலக்கிய ஆர்வம் கொண்ட புரட்சிகரமான சிந்தனைகள் கொண்ட பெண். தனித்தியங்கும் சுபாவம் கொண்டவள்.

அவர்களின் தூரத்து உறவுக்காரரான ரமணி வித்யாவின் மீது தீவிரக் காதல் கொண்டிருந்தார். விஸ்வநாதனும் அவரது குடும்பமும் ரமணியிடம் அன்பு காட்டினர். ரமணி வித்யாவின் மீது கொண்டிருந்த காதலை அறிந்த விஸ்வநாதன் ரமணியை அவளுக்கு மணம் முடித்து வைப்பதன் மூலம் அவளது புரட்சிகரமான நடவடிக்கைகளுக்கு முற்றுப்புள்ளி வைக்க நினைத்தார்.

வித்யா தன் அப்பாவின் சர்வாதிகார நடவடிக்கைகள் பிடிக்காமல் வேலைக்குச் சென்று கொண்டே தபாலில் படிப்பைத் தொடர முடிவு செய்தாள். அவள் வேலை பார்க்கும் நிறுவனத்தின் மேலாளரான ஹரி, வித்யாவின் அழகில் மயங்கி அவளிடம் தன் விருப்பத்தைத் தெரிவித்தான். அவள் அவளிடம் தன் விருப்பமின்மையைத் தெளிவாக உணர்த்தினாள்.

வித்யாவின் இலக்கிய ஆர்வம் அவள் சங்கரை, சந்திக்க வழி வகுத்தது. அவளின்

இலக்கிய ஆர்வமும், புரட்சிகரமான சிந்தனையும் சங்கரை அவளிடம் காதல் கொள்ள வைத்தது. குடும்பச் சூழ்நிலையின் காரணமாக வித்யா, ரமணியைத் திருமணம் செய்து கொள்ள நேர்ந்து விடுகிறது.

சங்கர் வித்யா மீது கொண்டிருந்த காதலை மனதுக்குள் பூட்டி வைத்துக் கொண்டு அவளுடன் நண்பராகப் பழகினார். இது சங்கருடைய பெற்றோர்களுக்குப் பிடிக்கவில்லை. சங்கருக்கு அப்பொழுது, ஒரு விபத்து நேர்ந்திட, அவரது வலதுகை எலும்பு முறிந்து விடுகிறது. தொடரைத் தொடர்ந்து எழுத முடியாமல் வித்யாவிடம் அந்தப் பொறுப்பை ஒப்படைக்கிறார்.

ரமணி, வித்யாவைத் தீவிரமாகக் காதல் செய்வதால் அவளின் எழுத்து தங்கள் இருவருக்கும் இடையே வந்துவிடுமென்ப பயப்படுகிறார். வித்யாவோ தனக்கு இது பற்றி யோசிக்கக் கால அவகாசம் தேவை எனக் கூறுகிறாள்.

ரமணி, சங்கரைச் சந்தித்து மனம் திறந்து பேசுகிறார். சங்கர், ரமணிக்கு, தான் வித்யாவிடம் கொண்டுள்ளது நட்பு மட்டுமே எனப் புரிய வைக்கிறார். வித்யாவைப் புரிந்து கொண்டு,



Scenes from the play

இருவரும் விட்டுக்கொடுத்துப் போகும்படி அறிவுரை கூறி ரமணியைத் தெளிய வைக்கிறார். வித்யாவின் சாதனைகளைப் பாராட்டி, அவரைக் கவுரவிக்க ஒரு விழா ஏற்பாடு செய்திருப்பது பற்றியும் ரமணியிடம் தெரிவிக்கிறார்.

விழாவில் ரமணி வித்யாவின் எழுத்தைப் பாராட்டுகிறார். வித்யா தன் கணவரின் அன்பைப் புரிந்து கொள்கிறாள். சங்கர் தன்னுள் இருந்த திறமையை வெளிக்கொண்டு வந்து தனக்கு வழிகாட்டியாக இருந்தார், தன் லட்சியத்தை அடைய வைத்தார் என அவரின் உதவிக்கு நன்றி

ஒன்று நமது சிந்தனை

மனிதனுடைய சிந்தனைகள் அனைத்தும் அவனுடைய இதயத்தில் இருந்துதான் வெளிப்படுகின்றன. ஒவ்வொரு மனிதனும் சிந்தித்து எண்ணும் எண்ணங்களைத் தொகுத்துச் சேர்த்து வைக்கும் வண்ணக் களஞ்சியம் தான் இதயம் என்று சொல்லலாம். இந்த இதயம் ஒவ்வொரு மனிதனுடைய வடிவத்தைப் பார்க்கும் பொழுது, மிகச் சிறியது என்பது உண்மைதான். ஆனால், அந்தச் சிறிய இதயம் சுமக்கும் எண்ணங்கள்தான் எத்தனை! எத்தனை!! ஒரு மனிதனுடைய பண்பை அளந்து காட்டும் ஓர் உன்னதமான கருவியே இதயம் தான்.

மனிதனுடைய வளர்ச்சிக் கேற்ப, இதயத்தினுடைய எண்ணங்கள் மாறுபடும். குழந்தைகளின் இதயம் வீட்டையே சுற்றி வரும். இளம் வயதினர்களின் இதயம் கட்டவிழ்ந்து விளையாட்டில் செல்லும். வாலிப வயதினர்களின் இதயம் வசீகரத்தை நாடும். திருமணமானவர்களின் இதயம் ஓர் ஒழுங்கில் இயங்க முனையும். முதுமை அடைந்தவர்களின் இதயம் அந்த ஓர் ஒழுங்கிலேயே நின்று விடும்.

இதயங்களில் எத்தனை வகையான எண்ணங்கள் கொண்ட இதயங்களைப் பாக்கிறோம். கல்லாக, பாறையாக, எதற்கும் கலங்காது வஞ்சகமாக இருந்து தூற்றப்படும்

கூறி வித்யா அவரைக், குருவாக ஏற்றுக் கொள்கிறாள்.

இத்தகைய சமூக நாடகத்தை மாணவிகள் 2003ல் டிசம்பர் மாதம் 5-ஆம், 6-ஆம் தேதிகளில் மியூசிக் அகாடமியில் அரங்கேற்றினர்.

இந்த நாடகம் பொது மக்களால் பெரிதும் வரவேற்கப்பட்டது. தினத்தந்தி, தினமலர், இந்து ஆகிய பிரபல பத்திரிகைகளில் மாணவியர்களின் ஆற்றல் பாராட்டப்பட்டது. மாணவிகளின் ஆக்க சக்தி வெளிப்பட இந்நாடகம் வழிகோலியது!

இதயங்களும் உண்டு. இரும்பாக, எஃகாக, துணிவாக எதையும் செய்து ஏற்றம் பெறும் இதயங்களும் உண்டு. பொன்னாக, பூவாக, பொழிகின்ற பாலாகப் போற்றப்படும் இதயங்களும் உண்டு. உண்மைக்கு உயர்வு கொடுத்து நடுநிலையோடு குறிக்கோளுக்கு முக்கியத்துவம் கொடுத்து மகிழ்ச்சி பெறும் இதயங்களும் உண்டு. பொய்மைக்கு உயர்வு கொடுத்து பொய்மையை உண்மைபோல் உரைத்து, வரும் இன்னல்களால் சஞ்சலப்படும் மாறுபட்ட எண்ணங்களைக் கொண்ட இதயங்களும் உண்டு. ஆக, மனிதனுடைய உணர்வுகளை, உணர்வுகளால் தோன்றும் எண்ணங்களை, எண்ணங்களால் தோன்றும் செயல்களை, செயல்களுக்கு அடிப்படையாக இருக்கும் சிந்தனைகளை எல்லாம் அணு அணுவாகப் பிரித்துப் படம் பிடித்துக் காட்டும் சிறந்த ஒரு கருவிதான் இதயம்.

எனவேதான், மனிதன் செய்யும் செயல்களை அடிப்படையாக வைத்துக் கொண்டு, நற்செயல்களைச் செய்பவர்களைப் பார்த்து, 'உங்களுக்கு இதயம் எவ்வளவு பெருசு', என்றும், 'உங்களுடைய மனசு பெரிய மனசுதான்' என்றும், 'உங்க மனசே மனசு' என்றும் பலர் பலரையும் பாராட்டுவதைக் கேட்டிருக்கிறோம். இன்றும் கேட்டுக் கொண்டிருக்கிறோம்.

மாறாக, நற்செயல்கள் செய்யாதவர்களைப் பார்த்து, 'உங்களுக்கு இதயமே இல்லையா' என்றும், 'கருணையே இல்லாத இதயம்' என்றும் பலர் பலரைக் கூறவும் கேட்டிருக்கிறோம்.

இந்த உலகத்தின் ஒழுங்கே ஒரு கைப்பிடி அளவுள்ள இதயத்திற்குள் தான் இருக்கிறது. எனவே, உலகத்தினுடைய ஒழுக்கம் உயர்வடைய வேண்டுமானால், உலக மக்களுடைய இதயங்கள் உயர்வான கருத்துக்களைச் சிந்திக்க வேண்டும்.

நாமெல்லாம், சைவர், வைணவர், கிறித்துவர், இசுலாமியர் போன்ற சமய எல்லைகளைக் கடந்து, இந்தியர், சீனர், செர்மானியர் போன்ற நாட்டெல்லைகளைக் கடந்து, தமிழர், தெலுங்கர், கன்னடியர் போன்ற மொழி எல்லைகளைக் கடந்து, அந்தனர், செட்டியார், நாடார், முதலியார் போன்ற சாதி எல்லைகளைக் கடந்து வாழ வேண்டும். நமக்குள் இருக்கின்ற வேற்றுமைகளுக்கு இடம் கொடுக்காமல் மனிதன் என்ற உணர்விலே இருக்க வேண்டும்.

மனிதன் என்றும் பிறரையோ, பிறவற்றையோ சார்ந்து வாழ வேண்டிய நிலையில் உள்ளவன். அவன் இயற்கை முதற்கொண்டு, இறைவன் வரையிலும் அனைத்திடத்திலும் தொடர்பு கொண்டவன். மனிதனுடைய உள்ளத்தில் அன்பு, அருள், அறம் என்றுமே உறைந்திருக்கும். இத்தகைய உள்ளத்தில் அவ்வப் பொழுது அழுக்காறு, அவா, வெகுளி, இன்னாச்சொல் போன்றவை எழலாம். அந்த நேரத்தில்தான் பிணக்குத் தலைதூக்கும். இந்த இடத்தில் மனிதமனம் தூய்மை, விட்டுக்கொடுக்கும் தன்மை போன்ற நல்ல மனப்பான்மையோடு செயல் பட்டால் நிச்சயமாக அங்கு இணக்கம் ஏற்படும். 'இணக்கம் அறிந்து இணங்கு', 'நல்லிணக்கமல்லது

அல்லற்படுத்தும்' என்பது சான்றோர் வாக்கு. எனவே, நாம் எப்பொழுதும் இணங்கி வாழக் கற்றுக் கொள்ள வேண்டும். விட்டுக் கொடுக்கக் கூடிய குணமும் நம்மிடம் இருத்தல் வேண்டும்.

இன்று மனிதனுடைய உழைப்பும், சிந்திக்கும் திறனுமே, புகழின் உச்சிக்கு அவனை அழைத்துச் செல்லுகிறது. மனித குலத்தின் வளர்ச்சிக்கு, சிந்திக்கும் திறனும், நல்ல உழைப்பும், முயற்சியும் தான் காரணம். இவற்றிற்கு ஆணியேவராக, அடித்தளமாக அமைந்தது இணக்கம். அதாவது, ஒருங்கிணைந்த தன்மையை ஒற்றுமை என்றே சொல்லலாம். இப்படியாக, மனிதனுடைய சிந்தனை செயல் படுவதற்கும், சிந்தனை உயர்வடைவதற்கும் பலருடைய ஒத்துழைப்பும், செயல் திறமும், ஒற்றுமை உணர்வும் அங்கு சங்கமமாக வேண்டும்.

இன்று பல தொழிற்கூடங்களும், கல்விக் கூடங்களும் மலைபோல் உயர்ந்து வெற்றி நடை போடுகின்றன என்றால் அங்கு ஆயிரக்கணக்கான மக்கள் ஒற்றுமையோடு ஒத்துழைத்து உறுதியோடு உழைக்கிறார்கள்.

எனவே, நாம் ஒவ்வொருவரும் ஒருமித்த மனத்தோடு ஒருங்கிணைந்து ஒற்றுமையோடு உயர்ந்த சிந்தனைகளோடு செயல்படுவோம்!

'சிந்திப்போம்!
செயல்படுவோம்!!
ஒருங்கிணைவோம்!!!

ஒற்றுமையால் உயர்வடைவோம்' என்பதை அனைவரும் நமது சிந்தனையாகக் கொண்டு ஒங்கி உயர்ந்து வாழ்வோமாக!

- டாக்டர். விஜயலட்சுமி இராமசாமி.
பேராசிரியர், தமிழ்த்துறை.

சந்தேகம்

அன்பெனும் மலர்கள் பூத்துக் குலுங்க
என் மென்மையான இதயத்தை உன்னிடம்
தந்தேன்...

அதில் ஏனோ சந்தேக விதைகளை
விதைத்துவிட்டாய்!
நினைவிருக்கட்டும் -
இன்று கிள்ளி எறியப்பட வேண்டியது
என் மனமல்ல!
உந்தன் சந்தேகமே!

ர. பவித்ரா
II BSc Maths

மனிதப்பாதி?

ஆயிரம் உண்டிக்கு ஜாதி - இதுவே
மனிதனின் மிருகப் பாதி!
கைவிட்டோம் மனிதத்தை
மறந்தோம் அதன் மகத்துவத்தைப் போரில்;
அறிமுகமற்றவரையும் வெறுக்கிறோம்
அவரைக் கொல்லத் துடிக்கிறோம்!
மேடையில் பேசுகிறோம் மனிதநேயம்
மறுபுறம் செய்கிறோம் ரண காயம்!
யாரைவெல்ல இந்தப் போராட்டம்?
என்றுதீரும் இந்த வெறியாட்டம்?
நாமா படைப்பின் சிகரங்கள்? - இல்லை;
நாமே நாகரிக மிருகங்கள்!
மனிதப் பாசமே அன்பு - அதைக்
கடைபிடிப்பதே நம் பண்பு!
நிலையில்லா வாழ்வுக்கேன் இந்த ஓட்டம்?
மூச்சே நின்றபின் எங்கிருந்து ஆட்டம்? - எனவே,
மறவோம். மனித நேயம் மறவோம்
வாழ்வோம் மனிதராய் வாழ்வோம்!

பா. கிருத்திகா
III BSc Botany

பொங்கல் விழா

“பொங்கலோ பொங்கல்!” ஆம் இந்த 2004-
ஆம் வருடத்தின் பொங்கல் விழா நம் கல்லூரியில்
சிறப்பாகக் கொண்டாடப்பட்டது. இவ்விழாவில்
பொங்கல் சிறப்புக் கலை நிகழ்ச்சியாகக் கிராமிய
நடனம் ஒன்று கிராமத்து கலைகளை
எடுத்துக்காட்டும் வகையில் அமைந்தது. அதைத்
தொடர்ந்து பொங்கலின் சிறப்பை விளக்கும் ஒரு
இனிய பாடலை நம் கல்லூரி மாணவிகள்
அழகாகப் பாடினார்கள்.

தமிழ்த்துறைத் தலைவர் பேராசியர் டாக்டர்
உலகநாயகி பழனி அவர்கள் சிறப்பு விருந்தினரை
அறிமுகப்படுத்த, நீதிபதி திரு. கற்பக வினாயகம்
அவர்கள் அனைவரையும் தன் வசீகரமான
பேச்சாற்றலால் கவர்ந்தார்.

பொங்கல் என்பது ‘தமிழர் திருநாள்’ என்று
எடுத்துக்காட்டும் வகையில் இனிய தமிழால்
அழகிய வார்த்தைகளாலும், கருத்துகளாலும்
விழாவை மெருகேற்றினார். ஒரு நீதியரசர்
என்பதையும் தாண்டி அவர் ஒரு இலக்கியவாதி
என்பதை உணர்த்தினார். அவர் தமிழ்மேல்
கொண்டிருந்த ஆர்வமும், பற்றும் அவரது பேச்சில்
மின்னியது.

பொங்கல் திருவிழாக்கோலம் பொங்கலின்
வருகைக்கு முன்னரே கல்லூரியில் உற்சாகம்
குறையாமல் காணப்பட்டது. அன்றே கல்லூரியில்
உள்ள அனைவருக்கும் சுவையான சர்க்கரைப்
பொங்கல் வழங்கப்பட்டது. இந்த இனிமை
குறையும்முன் பொங்கல் விடுமுறையும் இனிப்பான
செய்தியாக வந்து மகிழ்வித்தது.

இத்தகைய மகிழ்ச்சிகளிடையே நாளும்
முடிவிற்கு வந்தது. இந்தப் பொங்கல் நிகழ்ச்சிக்குப்
பொறுப்பேற்றவர்கள் தமிழ்த்துறையைச் சேர்ந்த
பாரதி மன்றக் குழுவினர். இந்நிகழ்ச்சி,
தமிழ்த்துறையின் கலை நிகழ்ச்சியாக மிளிர்ந்தது.

பா. கிருத்திகா
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கடமை

அன்பு நண்பா!
'நீ' எடுக்கின்ற
முயற்சியில்
தளர்ச்சி காணாத போது
உன் வாழ்வில்
ஏது வீழ்ச்சி!

உன் உள்ளத்தில்
உறுதி வசந்தமாய்
வருகின்ற வேளையில்
உனக்கேன் சோர்வு!

உனது பாதங்களுக்குத்
தெரியுமா? இது தான்
பாதை என்று!

புரட்சி நோக்கி
புறப்படு! அன்பு நண்பா!
புறப்படு!

உன்னை வாழ்வின்
வசந்த எல்லைக்கு
அழைத்து வருவது

உன்னில் புதைந்து கிடக்கும்
எண்ணில் லடங்கா ஆற்றல்!

நீ செய்ய வேண்டியது
விடா முயற்சியை
விடாமல் இருப்பது!

தோல்வி கண்டு துவளுவது உனக்கு மடமை!
அறிவு கண்டு எழுந்து நிற்பது உன் கடமை!

போராடுவது என்றும்
நமக்குப் புதியதல்ல! நாம்
பிறக்கும் பொழுதே
ஆயுத(ஃ) எழுத்தோடு பிறந்தவர்கள்!

புறப்படு நண்பா! நாளை
உனக்கு என்றும்
வசந்தம் தான்!

- பேராசிரியர் டாக்டர். திருமதி உலகநாயகி பழனி
தமிழ்த்துறைத் தலைவர்
தமிழ்த்துறை.

சத்தியமே ஜெயம்

தீக்குளிக்க புறப்படு தோழா ! அது
தீதென்று யார் சொன்னது?
எங்கும் லஞ்சம்! எதிலும் வஞ்சம்!
பணமே வாழ்க்கைப் பாதையானது
குணமே குன்றிலிருந்து கீழே வீழ்ந்தது
தப்புத் தாளங்கள் காதினில் வந்து விழ
தடுக்காது இருந்தால் தாங்குமா இப்புவி
சத்தியத் தீயில் சட்டெனக் குதித்திடு தோழா!
சத்தியமே ஜெயம் எனப் பறைசாற்று தோழா!

நா. சிவபாலாம்பிகை
II BSc Maths

நினைவெல்லாம் அவள்

முதல் இராத்திரி நடக்க இருக்கும் இருண்ட அந்த அறையில் தன் விதியை நினைத்து நொந்து கொண்டிருந்தான் சுரேஷ். அமெரிக்கா செல்ல இருந்த தன் தம்பியின் கல்யாணத்திற்காக நடுக் காட்டில் டாக்டருமெண்டரி படம் எடுத்துக் கொண்டிருந்த தன் வேலையை அப்படியே விட்டுவிட்டு வந்தான். வந்த இடத்தில் அவனது வாழ்க்கையில் இடமில்லை என்று ஒதுக்கிய ஒன்று நிகழ்ந்து விட்டது. அதுதான் திருமணம். கல்யாணத்திற்கு முதல் நாள் அமெரிக்க தூதரலுவலகம் சென்ற அவன் தம்பிக்கு விபத்து நேர்ந்திடவே மறுநாள் முகூர்த்த நேரம் வரை அவன் திரும்ப வரவில்லை. பெண்வீட்டார் சண்டை போடவே தன் பெற்றோரின் மானத்தைக் காக்க இவன் மணமகனாக மாறவேண்டியதாயிற்று. மணமகளின் முகத்தைக்கூட பார்க்காமல் விருப்பம் இல்லாமல் தாலியைக் கட்டிவிட்டான். திருமணம் முடிந்ததும் அன்று மதியம் கைகால்களில் கட்டுக்களுடன் வந்த அவன் தம்பியை எப்படியோ சமாதானப்படுத்தி அவன் இங்கேயே இருந்தால் இதனை மறப்பது கடினம் என்பதால் அவனை விரைவில் அமெரிக்கா அனுப்புவது என்று குடும்பத்தினர் முடிவும் செய்தனர்.

இவ்வாறு அன்று காலைமுதல் நிகழ்ந்தவை அனைத்தையும் தன் விதியின் விளையாட்டு என்று எண்ணிய சுரேஷ் அவனது மனைவி வைஷ்ணவியை அன்று இரவு முதன் முதலில் பார்த்தவுடனேயே அவளது அழகில் தன்னைப் பறிகொடுத்துவிட்டான். இந்த முகத்தைப் பார்க்காமலா தாலிகட்டினேன் என்று மனவருத்தப்பட்டான். அவன் மனம் இப்படி ஒரு 'தடார்' பல்டி அடிக்கும் என்று அவனே எதிர்பார்க்கவில்லை. அவளோ அவனிடம் 'என் விருப்பத்தைக் கேட்காமல் அனைவரும் சேர்ந்து என் வாழ்க்கையை அழித்துவிட்டீர்கள். அமெரிக்கா போய் வாழத்தான் உங்கள் தம்பியைத் தேர்ந்தெடுத்தீன். ஆனால் இப்பொழுது என்னுடைய

அமெரிக்க கனவு தூள்தூளாய் போய்விட்டது. உங்களை என்னால் கணவனாக ஏற்கவே முடியாது' என்று சொல்லி தூங்கப் போய்விட்டாள். அப்பொழுதுதான் சுரேஷுக்கு இந்த மனதை திருடும் உருவத்தினுள் அர்த்தமற்ற ஆசையும் பிடிவாதமும் இருப்பது தெரியவந்தது.

சுரேஷுக்கு இந்தியாவில் இருக்கவே விருப்பம். அதனால்தான் இதற்குமுன் வந்த பல வெளிநாட்டு வாய்ப்புகளை விட்டுவிட்டான். பின்னர் பல நாட்கள் ஓடியும் வைஷ்ணவியிடம் பலமுறை எடுத்துச் சொல்லியும் அவள் பிடிவாதம் குறைவதாகத் தெரியவில்லை. கடைசியில் பார்ப்போமே என்று விட்டுக்கொடுத்துத்தான் சுரேஷ் தனக்கு அமெரிக்க ஐரோப்பிய காடுகளில் படம் எடுக்க வந்த வாய்ப்பை ஏற்றுக் கொண்டான். இதனைக் கேட்டவுடன் வைஷ்ணவியின் மகிழ்ச்சி உலகத்தின் எல்லையையே தொட்டது.

வைஷ்ணவியை அமெரிக்காவில் இருந்த அவள் அண்ணன் அண்ணியுடன் தங்கவைத்துவிட்டு சுரேஷ் காட்டுக்குள் படம் எடுக்கச் சென்றுவிட்டான். அவள் முதல் இரண்டு மாதங்கள் அமெரிக்கா முழுவதையும் சுற்றிப்பார்த்ததால் வாழ்க்கை மிகவும் இன்பமாகச் சென்றது. பிறகு அவளுக்கு வீட்டிலேயே இருப்பது சலிக்கத்துவங்கியது. அண்ணன் அண்ணி இருவரும் வேலைக்குப் போய்விடுவார்கள். அந்தத் தனிமை அவளை வாட்டத் தொடங்கியது. மூன்று மாதங்களுக்கு முன் அவளை விட்டுச்சென்ற சுரேஷ் மீண்டும் அந்தப் பக்கம் வரவே இல்லை. எப்பொழுதாவது தொலைபேசியில் பேசுவான், ஈ.மெயில் பண்ணுவான். ஒவ்வொரு மாதமும் டாலர் கணக்கில் நிறைய பணம் அனுப்புவான். பேசாமல் ஒரு வேலைக்குப் போகலாம் என்று முடிவுசெய்து வேலைத் தேடத் தொடங்கினாள். அவள் படித்த பி.ஏ.-க்கு ஒரு டிபார்ட்மென்ட் ஸ்டோரில்தான் வேலைகிடைத்தது. பொழுது போவதற்காகத்தானே என்று அவளும் அதில் சேர்ந்துவிட்டாள்.

ஒருநாள் திடீர் என்று சுரேஷ் ஈ-மெயில் பிராஜெக்ட் பாதியிலேயே நின்றுவிட்டது என்றும் அவன் மீண்டும் இந்தியா செல்லப்போவதாகவும் செய்தி அனுப்பினான். அத்துடன் கூடவே அவனால் இனிமேல் பணம் அனுப்ப முடியாது என்றும் முடிந்தால் அவள் சம்பாத்தியத்திலேயே வாழ்க்கையை அமெரிக்காவில் ஓட்டவும் இல்லையென்றால் இந்தியா வந்துவிடவும் என்றும் எழுதியிருந்தான். இதனைப் பார்த்தவுடன் வைஷ்ணவிக்குப் பேரதிர்ச்சி உண்டாகியது. பணம் நிறைய கொடுத்துத் தங்கும்போதே அண்ணியின் போக்கு வரவர சரி இல்லாததுபோல் தோன்றியது. இனிமேல் அவள் சம்பாதிக்கும் மிகவும் குறைவான அந்தப் பணத்தைக் கொடுத்து அங்கு தங்கினால் அண்ணி என்ன சொல்வாளோ என்று யோசித்தாள் வைஷ்ணவி.

இப்படி யோசித்தே ஒரு மாதம் ஓடிவிட்டது. அப்பொழுது திடீரென்று சுரேஷ் அமெரிக்காவில் உள்ள அவர்கள் வீட்டிற்கு வந்தான். வைஷ்ணவி தன்னைச் சமாதானம் செய்து இந்தியா கூட்டிக்கொண்டு போகத்தான் வந்திருக்கிறான் என்று நினைத்து, எப்படிக்கேட்டாலும் அமெரிக்காவில் இருந்து போகக்கூடாது என்று முடிவும் செய்தாள். ஆனால் வந்தவன் அவளிடம் இந்தியாவிற்கு வரும்படி கேட்கவே இல்லை. இரண்டு நாட்கள் தங்கி எங்கோ அலைந்துவிட்டு இந்தியாவிற்கே புறப்பட்டுவிட்டான்.

அவன் போனவுடனே வைஷ்ணவியின் அண்ணன் அவளிடம் இந்தியாவிற்குப் போய் சுரேஷோடு வாழச்சொன்னான். அவளோ 'என்னோடு வாழவிரும்பாதவன் காலில் நான் விழுமாட்டேன்' என்று கத்தினாள். இதனைக்கேட்ட அவள் அண்ணி 'யாருக்கு வாழவிரும்பமில்லை? உனக்கா சுரேஷுக்கா? அவர் எதற்காக இங்கு இரண்டு நாட்கள் வந்தார் தெரியுமா? உன்னைத் திருமணம் செய்ய இருந்த அவர் தம்பி இங்கு குடித்துவிட்டுக் காரை ஓட்டியதால் ஒரு விபத்தில் இறந்துவிட்டார். அது தெரிந்தால் இந்தக் கல்யாண

கலாட்டாக்களால் ஏற்கனவே மனம் உடைந்துள்ள அவர் பெற்றோருக்கு நல்லதல்ல என்பதற்காக அவர்களுக்குத் தெரியாமல் அவர் மட்டும் இங்கு வந்தார். இது பற்றித் தெரிந்தால் நீயும் ரொம்ப வருத்தப்படுவாய் என்று உன்னிடம் சொல்ல முடியாமல் மனசுக்குள்ளேயே புழுங்கிக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்' என்று அவள் அண்ணி முடிக்க, அவள் அண்ணன் தொடர்ந்தான். "அவர் தன்னுடைய பிராஜெக்ட்டைப் பாதியிலேயே விட்டுச் சென்றதற்கு நம் அப்பாதான் காரணம். என்ன புரியவில்லையா? நம் அப்பாவிற்கு மூளையில் கட்டி இருப்பதாகவும் ஒரு மேஜர் ஆபரேஷன் செய்ய வேண்டும் என்று தகவல் வந்தது. அப்பொழுது நான் ஒரு பிளினஸ் விஷயமா இங்கே இருந்தே ஆகவேண்டும் என்ற நிலை. உன் அண்ணியோ கர்ப்பமாக இருக்கிற இந்த நிலையில் போகக்கூடாது என்று டாக்டர் சொல்லிவிட்டார். சரி, உன்னை அனுப்பலாம் என்று சுரேஷிடம் கேட்டபொழுது தான் போய்ப் பார்த்துக் கொள்வதாகவும் இது பற்றி உன்னிடம் சொல்ல வேண்டாம் என்றார். ஏனென்றால் நீ இப்பதான் உன் விருப்பப்படி அமெரிக்காவில் நிம்மதியாக இருக்கிறாய்: ஏன் அதைக் கெடுக்க வேண்டும் என்றார். இப்படி எல்லாவற்றையும் உனக்காகவே செய்யும் அவருக்கா உன்னுடன் வாழவிரும்பமில்லை. உனக்குத்தான் அமெரிக்க வாழ்க்கை என்ற பைத்தியம் பிடித்திருப்பதால் அவருடன் வாழ விரும்பம் இல்லை. என்ன பெரிய அமெரிக்க வாழ்க்கை?. என்னைப் பார். அப்பாவிற்கு உடம்பு சரியில்லை என்று தெரிந்தும் போய் பார்க்க முடியாமல் புலம்பிக் கொண்டிருக்கிறேன். உன் உணர்வுகளை மதிக்கத் தெரிந்த சரேஷ் போன்ற கணவனுடன் நீ காட்டிற்கே போய் வாழலாம்" என்று அவள் அண்ணன் சொல்லிக் கொண்டே போக வைஷ்ணவியின் காதுகள் பொறுமையை இழந்தன. இந்தியாவிற்கு வருவதற்காக அவள் கால்கள் பரபரக்கத் தொடங்கின. அப்பொழுது அவள் மனதிற்கு இந்தியா ஒரு சுவர்க்க பூமியாகத் தோன்றியது.

இந்த சுவர்க்க பூமியை அவள் கால்கள்
தொடறினைப்பதற்கு முதற்காரணம் அவளுடைய
அப்பாவைப் பார்ப்பதற்காக என்று நினைக்காதீர்கள்.
அவளுடைய கணவனுடன் சேர்ந்து வாழ்வதற்கே.

இதுதான் வாழ்க்கை! மற்றவை வெறும்
சக்கை! இது உண்மை! வெறுமை அல்ல!

நா. மகாலட்சுமி,
II BSc Botany

ஒற்றுமை

அன்று
இன்னுயிர் நீத்தனர்
இன்பத்தை இழந்தனர்
வீட்டைத் துறந்தனர்
செங்குருதி சொரிந்தனர் நாட்டுக்காக

இன்று ...
பஸ்ஸைக் கொளுத்தினர்
கடைகளைச் சூறையாடினர்
பொது சொத்தினை அழித்தனர்
செந்தீ ஆக்கினர் நாட்டை

இனி
மானிடா!
ஆக்கத்தின் ஒற்றுமை ஏந்து
அழிவின் ஒற்றுமை விட்டொழி
பாரதத்தின் மேன்மையை
பாரதியின் கனவில்
பட்டொளி வீசி பரவச் செய்திட
ஒன்றுபட்டிடு உயர்வு கொண்டு!

நா. சிவபாலாம்பிகை
II BSc Maths

மத நல்லிணக்க செயல்பாடும் மனிதநேய வழிபாடும்

“கல்தோன்றி மண் தோன்றாக் காலத்தே”
முன் தோன்றிய மூத்த குடி நமது இந்தியக் குடி.
நாகரிகத்தின் பிறப்பிடமாய் விளங்கும் நம் நாடு,
அக்கால மனிதனாம் கற்கால மனிதன் முதலாக
இக்கால மனிதனாம் கணிப்பொறி மனிதன் வரை
ஏற்பட்டுள்ள பரிணாம வளர்ச்சிகள் அனைத்தையும்
தன்னகத்தே கண்டுள்ளது. பண்பாட்டின்,
கலாச்சாரத்தின் அன்னை என்று நம் பாரதத் தாய்
புகழ்ப் பெறுகின்றாள். ஆனால் கங்கையும்
காவிரியும் பாய்ந்து ஓடுகின்ற இப்புண்ணிய பூமியில்
இன்று சாதிகளின் பெயராலும் மதங்களின்
பெயராலும் இரத்தாறு ஓடுகின்றது. இதற்கு முக்கிய
காரணம் மனிதன் மீது மனிதன் இரக்கம் கொள்ளும்,
“எவ்வுயிரும் தம்முயிர் போல் எண்ண - தெய்வம்
நின் கருணை செய்யாய் பராபரமே”

என்று தாயுமானவர் உரைத்த அந்த ‘மனித
நேயம்’ இன்று நம் மக்களிடையே குறைவுற்று
இருப்பதேயாகும்.

“தன் பெண்டு, தன் பிள்ளை தன்வீடு
சோறு இவையுண்டு தானுண்டு”

என்ற சிறியதோர் ‘கடுகுள்ளம்’ கொண்டவர்
பெருகி வருகின்றதே மனிதநேய சீர்குலைவிற்கும்
மதச் சண்டைகளுக்கும் அடிப்படைக் காரணமாக
விளங்குகின்றது.

ஒரு சமுதாயத்தைச் சீராக்க வேண்டுமானால்
அதைப் பிள்ளைப் பருவத்திலேயே நேராக்க
வேண்டும் என்பதை நன்குணர்ந்த பாரதி,
பாப்பாவிற்குப் பாடும்போதும், முரசு முழங்கும்
போதும், ஜெயபேரிகையைக் கொட்டும் போதும்

மத நல்லிணக்கத்திற்காக அருமையாக பாடிச் சென்றான்.

“எல்லோரும் ஓர் குலம் எல்லோரும் ஓர் இனம் எல்லோரும் ஓர் நிலை எல்லோரும் ஓர் விலை நாம் எல்லோரும் இந்நாட்டு மன்னர் - ஆம் நாம் எல்லோரும் இந்நாட்டு மன்னர்!”

என்று நாட்டின் ஒவ்வொரு குடிமகனுக்கும் முடிசூட்டி மகிழ்வுற்றான் அந்த எட்டயபுரத்து எரிமலை.

“சாதி இரண்டொழிய வேறில்லை” என்ற ஓளவையின் வாக்கினை உறுதிப்படுத்த,

“சாதிகள் இல்லையடி பாப்பா - குலத் தாழ்ச்சி உயர்ச்சி சொல்லல் பாவம்”

என்று ஒரு சிறு குழந்தையின் உள்ளத்தில் மனிதநேயத்தைப் பெருக்கவும், மத நல்லிணக்கத்தை மேம்படுத்தவும் தன் கவிதைகளைத் தொடுகின்றான்.

சாதிகள் இல்லையென்ற அவன், காக்கை, குருவி போன்ற உயிரினங்களையும், அருவி, மலை போன்ற அ.நிணைகளையும் கனிவான இரக்கம் நிறைந்த பார்வை பார்க்கிறான்.

“முப்பது கோடி முகமுடையாள் - இவள் மொய்ப்புற மொன்றுடையாள் செப்புமொழிபதி னெட்டுடையாள் - எனிற் சிந்தனை யொன்றுடையாள்”

என்று பாரதத்தைக் குறித்த செய்திகளைத் தருவதோடு மட்டுமின்றி, இங்கு மக்களின் நல்லிணக்கத்தைக் காட்ட முற்படுகின்றான்.

“தனி யொருவனுக்கு உணவில்லை யெனில் ஜகத்தினை அழித்திடுவோம்”

என்று உணர்ச்சி முழக்கம் செய்ததோடு நில்லாமல்,

“முப்பது கோடியும் வாழ்வோம் - வீழில் முப்பது கோடி முழுமையும் வீழ்வோம்”

என்று சூளுரைப்பது அவன் மக்களிடத்தே காணவிழைந்த மனிதநேயத்தையும் நல்லிணக்கத்தையும் தெளிவுறக் காட்டுகின்றன.

நதிகளைத் தேசியமயமாக்கும் எண்ணத்தை அன்றே அறிந்திருந்த தீர்க்கதரிசி யல்லவா அவன்? அதனால் தான் மனித மனங்களை இணைத்தால் தான் மத நல்லிணக்கம் தோன்றும் என்றுணர்ந்து,

“கங்கை நதிபுரத்துக் கோதுமைப் பண்டம் காவிரி வெற்றிலைக்கு மாறு கொள்வோம் சிங்க மராட்டியர்தம் கவிதை கொண்டு சேரத்துத் தந்தங்கள் பரிசளிப்போம்”

என்று பாடி மகிழ்ந்தான்.

அவன் தன் வாழ்வையே மத நல்லிணக்கத்திற்கு நல்லதொரு சான்றாக நம்மிடம் விட்டுச் சென்றுள்ளான். அதனால் தான் பார்ப்பனர் குலத்தில் பிறந்த அவன், காக்கையையும் குருவியையும் கூட தன் சாதி என்று சொல்லிக் கொள்ள பெருமைப்பட்டான். எனவேதான் அவன்,

“.....இனி வேதியரும் ஆரியரும் வேறெவரும் ஒன்றே”

என்று மத நல்லிணக்கத்தை இங்கு மிக அழகாக அடிக்கோடிட்டுக் காட்டுகின்றான்.

‘தமிழன்’ என்று சொல்லிக் கொள்வதில் மிகுந்த பெருமையடையும் பாரதிதாசன், வரங்கால பாரதத்தைக் குறித்த கனவை இங்கு அழகுடன் காட்ட விழைகிறான்.

“இமயச் சாரலில் ஒருவன் இருமினான் குமரி வாழ்பவன் மருந்து கொண்டோடினான் ஒருவர்க்கு வந்தது அனைவருக்கும் என்ற மனப்பாங்கு வளர்ந்தது வேண்டிய மட்டும்”

ஆனால் இவனே எழுதிய “கொலை வாளினை எட்டா” எனத் துவங்கும் கவிதையின் முதல் வரியினை மட்டும் படித்துவிட்டுச் சிலர், கொலை வாள்களை கையில் வைத்துக் கொண்டு மனித நேயத்தையும் மத நல்லிணக்கத்தையும்

அழித்துக்கொண்டு, தாங்களும் அழிவுற்றுக் கொண்டு இருக்கின்றனர். எனவே தான் அவன் அன்று கண்ட கனவு இன்றுவரை வெறும் கனவாக மட்டுமே உள்ளது.

“...பாற்கடல் மிசை கிடப்போன்
இயேசுவின் தந்தை எனப்பல மதத்தினர்
உருவகத்தாலே உணர்ந்து உணராது
பலவகையாய் பரவி நிற்கும்
பரம்பொருள் ஒன்றே”

என்றவன் பாடிய பாடலை ஒரு முறை ஊன்றி சிந்தித்தால், இன்று நம் புண்ணிய தேசத்தில் ஏற்பட்டுள்ள மிகப் பெரிய தட்டுப்பாடான ‘மதநல்லிணக்க செயல்பாடும் மனிதநேய வழிபாடும்’ எளிதில் தீர்ந்துவிடும் என்பதில் எள்ளளவும் ஐயமில்லை.

மத நல்லிணக்கத்தையும் மனித நேயத்தையும் வளர்க்க, பாரதிக்கும் பாரதிதாசனுக்கும் முன்னரே நம் தமிழ்ச் சான்றோர் பலர் தத்தம் படைப்புகளை

விட்டுச் சென்றுள்ளனர். “யாதும் ஊரே யாவரும் கேளிர்” என்பது பழமை வாய்ந்த நம் புறநானூற்று அடியாகும். அதையே இக்கால அறிஞரும், “ஒன்றே குலம், ஒருவனே தேவன்” என்று கூறுகின்றனர். நாட்டில் வேறுபட்டுக்கிடக்கின்ற மக்களின் மனங்களை ஒன்றுபடுத்த வேண்டியது இன்றைய இளைஞர்களின் கடமை. இயேசுபிரான் சொன்னது போல, “நீ காண்கின்ற மனிதனிடத்தில் அன்பு கூராவிடில், நீ காணாத தேவனிடத்தில் எவ்வாறு அன்புகூர முடியும்?” என்று சிந்திக்க வேண்டும். நாமது சிந்தையில் அப்பொழுது தோன்றும் எண்ணங்களுக்கு உடனே செயல் வடிவம் கொடுக்க வேண்டும். மத நல்லிணக்க செயல்பாட்டிற்கும் மனிதநேய வழிபாட்டிற்கும் நாம் நம்மால் இயன்றதை,

“இன்றே செய்வோம்: அதையும் நன்றே செய்வோம்”.

சே. இரம்யா
I BA History

GUY DE MAUPASSANT “ CLAIR DE LUNE ”

Guy de Maupassant, l'écrivain français du dix-neuvième siècle, est né en 1850 en Normandie, au Nord de la France. Il est connu dans le monde entier pour ses nouvelles réalistes, simples et 'brutalement sarcastiques'. Sa vie, sa philosophie et ses oeuvres sont influencés par l'auteur français, Gustave Flaubert. Ses écritures principales décrivent un monde cruel, où la misère détruit la joie et où l'espérance se transforme à la crainte. Il met en valeur la vie bourgeoise, la pauvreté, le gouvernement, la guerre franco-prussienne, les animaux et les spectres. Il est l'auteur d'environ 250 nouvelles (1880-1890), publiées dans des recueils comme 'Yvette' (1885) et 'Toine' (1886). Maupassant a écrit plusieurs romans comme 'Bel Ami' (1885), 'Pierre et Jean' (1888) et les autres. Le monde littéraire a perdu un vrai génie quand Maupassant est mort en 1893, passant ses derniers jours dans un asile.

'Clair de Lune' est une histoire de Maupassant qui a particulièrement captivé mon intérêt. Cette nouvelle focalise l'Abbé Marignan, un prêtre zélé et austère, qui possède deux caractéristiques uniques. Premièrement, il croit que chaque partie de la nature a sa propre raison d'être: le cycle des saisons pour les rythmes d'agriculture, la pluie pour rafraîchir les plantes, le soir qui prépare la nuit, et les ténèbres qui amènent le sommeil. En tirant la logique de chaque création, il croit qu'il comprend totalement les plans de Dieu. Le deuxième aspect de son caractère est sa misogynie – sa haine totale des femmes. A ses yeux, les femmes symbolisent le péché, capables de rien que l'amour charnel. Il croit que Dieu les a créés uniquement comme des pièges pour l'homme. Cependant, malgré cette haine, il se

sent l'impulsion paternelle pour sa jolie nièce frivole, à qui il veut préparer la vocation religieuse.

Un jour, il apprend que sa nièce a un amoureux qu'elle rencontre tous les soirs à 10 heures, au bord de la rivière. Cette nouvelle le choque profondément, et il passe le jour silencieux et enragé, se sentant trompé par un enfant. Ce soir-là, il se prépare à découvrir la vérité. Il ouvre la porte – mais il s'arrête soudain, surpris par le clair de lune splendide et captivant. Il entre dans la nuit tranquille, stupéfié par la beauté qui l'entoure – les arbres ensevelis de lumière, les mélodies des rossignols, la rivière tamisant les rayons de la lune – et il commence à s'affaiblir devant cette beauté mystique. Une question le trouble: si la nuit est destinée au repos, pourquoi est-ce que Dieu l'a béni avec une telle beauté, illuminée par le clair de lune, plus poétique que l'aube, le jour et le soir? Pour qui est-ce que cette beauté s'épanouit? Il réfléchit...mais pour la première fois, il se sent perdu devant la création du Seigneur, ne comprenant pas le raisonnement derrière ce mystère.

A ce moment-là, comme une réponse hurlée par son Dieu, il voit sa nièce et son amoureux, au clair de la lune, leur amour complétant la splendeur de la nuit. Il lui frappe l'esprit que la beauté nocturne a été créée exprès pour l'amour pur des amoureux, et humilié, il s'enfuit, 'comme s'il était entré dans un temple, auquel il n'avait pas le droit d'être.

Le titre de l'histoire est donc, symbolique. En illuminant les ténèbres de la nuit, le clair de lune éclaircit l'esprit de l'Abbé Marignan, qui était dans le noir de préjugé jusqu'à ce moment

visionnaire. L'histoire est un commentaire sur la nature humaine. Comme l'Abbé, chacun a la tendance de rejeter l'incompréhensible. Il faut donc supprimer ce défaut, en acceptant chaque être créé comme égal et important.

A mon avis, la puissance de cette histoire est dans le réalisme et la simplicité de l'expression. Maupassant la raconte d'un ton de sarcasme

en ce qui concerne les croyances de l'Abbé, ce qui nous prépare le changement à la fin du récit. Les images tissent une impression inoubliable de la beauté perçue par l'Abbé, et servent à illustrer la magnitude du Créateur. 'Clair de Lune' est donc un excellent échantillon de l'art de Maupassant - ce qui lui a apporté la gloire universelle de nouvelliste.

Poonam Mohan Ganglani
II BA Literature

शिक्षा-नैतिक मूल्यों की निर्मात्री

बीसवीं शताब्दी में तकनीकी विकास एवं पदार्थ विकास इतनी क्षिप्र गति से हुआ कि मनुष्य गौण हो गया और पदार्थ मुख्य बन गए हैं। अगर इसी गति से विकास होता रहा तो मनुष्य एक 'रोबोट' बन कर रह जायेगा। सभ्यता के विकास के लिए पदार्थ का विकास आवश्यक है पर साथ ही चेतना के विकास की भी आवश्यकता है। हमारी शिक्षा केवल पदार्थ के विकास का मार्ग दिखाये तो मानव तनावग्रस्त जीवन जीयेगा, जो उसके हित में भला नहीं होगा। इसके विपरीत अगर शिक्षा केवल चेतना के विकास की हो तो मनुष्य अभावग्रस्त जीवन जीएगा। सर्वांगीण विकास के लिए सर्वांगीण शिक्षा की आवश्यकता है। शिक्षा का अर्थ है प्रशिक्षण। प्रशिक्षण अभ्यासात्मक प्रक्रिया है। पुरानी आदतों को बदलकर नयी आदतों को सीखना आवश्यक है। पुरानी आदतों को बदला नहीं जाता; नई-नई आदतें निर्मित होती जाती हैं। अच्छा जीवन जीने के लिये जीवन को गतिशील निर्मल और उपयोगी बनाना जरूरी है, व्यक्ति का व्यक्तित्व ऐसा हो जिसमें उपर्युक्त तीनों घटकों का समाहार हो। शिक्षा ऐसी होनी चाहिए जो व्यक्ति के व्यक्तित्व में इन तीनों घटकों का समावेश करायें। शिक्षा का अर्थ मस्तिष्कीय विकास कर धन के अर्जन का मार्ग दिखाना भर ही नहीं होना चाहिए। विद्यार्थी भाषा, गणित, कला, इतिहास, इंजीनियरिंग, चिकित्सा, विज्ञान आदि किसी का भी अध्ययन कर ले वह शिक्षित होकर जीविकोपयोगी कार्य में लग जायेगा। जीविका जीवन के लिए उपयोगी है। परन्तु केवल जीविका पर ही ध्यान दिया जाये तो यह शिक्षा अधूरी होगी। बौद्धिक

विकास के साथ-साथ मानसिक विकास भी अत्यंत आवश्यक है। शिक्षा ऐसी होनी चाहिए जो दोनों ही विकास यथासंभव करे। स्मृति, कल्पना एवं चिन्तन मन के ये तीन कार्य बुद्धि की परिधि में हैं इसलिए ये बौद्धिक विकास के अन्तर्गत आते हैं। धृति, सहिष्णुता एवं मनोबल मानसिक विकास की परिधि में आते हैं। शिक्षा द्वारा इनका विकास करना अत्यंत आवश्यक है।

व्यक्ति की क्षमता का मूल आधार है उसका अंतर्जगत। उसकी अभिव्यक्ति का आधार है बाह्य जगत। इसलिए दोनों जगत का सम्पूर्ण विकास करना ही शिक्षा का उद्देश्य होना चाहिए। शिक्षा का काम है विद्यार्थी में अनुकूल एवं प्रतिकूल दोनों प्रकार की परिस्थितियों को झेलने की क्षमता पैदा करना। यह काम केवल शिक्षाविद ही नहीं कर सकते वरन् विद्यार्थियों का सम्पूर्ण योगदान भी जरूरी है।

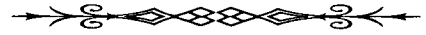
जीवन की गतिशीलता, निर्मलता और उपयोगिता विकसित हो, यह अच्छा जीवन जीने के लिए जरूरी है। सम्बन्ध, परस्परता और उपयोगिता के बिना सामाजिक जीवन की व्याख्या नहीं की जा सकती। शिक्षा द्वारा विद्यार्थियों का बौद्धिक विकास भर करना पर्याप्त नहीं वरन् उसे समाज के लिए अनुकूल बनाना भी जरूरी है। वैयक्तिक सुख सुविधा और धन संग्रह को सर्वस्व मानने वाला समाज के लिए उपयोगी नहीं हो सकता। वर्तमान शिक्षा गतिशीलता की शिक्षा है। मूल्य परक शिक्षा निर्मलता एवं उपयोगिता की शिक्षा है। उनके समन्वय से ही पूर्ण शिक्षा सम्भव है। शिक्षा में विषयों की बहुलता होने पर भी नैतिक शिक्षा को महत्व देना जरूरी है।

बौद्धिक विकास के साथ-साथ चरित्र विकास की आवश्यकता है। यह नैतिक शिक्षा ही दे सकती है। शिक्षा प्राप्त कर व्यक्ति कार्मिक क्षेत्र में दक्षता प्राप्त कर बहुत प्रगति कर रहा है। परन्तु व्यक्ति पहले से आज बहुत ही ज्यादा तनावग्रस्त जीवन जी रहा है। व्यक्ति की मानसिक शांति और सामाजिक सुव्यवस्था आंतरिक एवं बाहरी परिष्कार से ही संभव हो सकता है। शिक्षा द्वारा विद्यार्थी को अच्छा बनाना जरूरी है। अच्छा बनाने का मतलब उसके मन में भय, अहंकार, क्रोध, लोभ, घृणा, ईर्ष्या, द्वेष और वासना के जो बीज होते हैं उनका परिष्कार करना है। शिक्षा द्वारा विद्यार्थी आपसी संबंधों की कड़ी को समझे और नैतिक आचरण करे तो उसकी शिक्षा सफल मानी जायेगी। शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में नैतिकता का समावेश अलग से नहीं होना चाहिए वरन् शिक्षा की समायोजना में नैतिकता के आधार तत्व स्वतः ही समाविष्ट होने चाहिए। शारीरिक, मानसिक और भावनात्मक स्वास्थ्य का बोध कराये जाने पर नैतिकता के प्रति स्वयं ही आकर्षण उत्पन्न हो जायेगा। आज अर्थ के प्रति आकर्षण ने नैतिकता के दृष्टिकोण को धूमिल बना दिया है। विद्यार्थी की शिक्षा उचित ढंग की हो तो वह इन आकर्षणों से खुद को विलग करने में समर्थ होगा।

जीवन रथ बौद्धिकता के रथ पर चलाया नहीं जा सकता। जब तक विद्यार्थी इन्द्रियों पर नियन्त्रण रख अपनी इच्छा, आकांक्षाओं पर अंकुश नहीं लगाता तब तक शिक्षा उसका पूर्ण विकास करने में असमर्थ ही समझी जायेगी। अर्थात्जन के प्रति छात्र का आकर्षण इसलिए है क्योंकि उसका फल उसे प्रत्यक्ष रूपेण हाथों हाथ मिल जाता है। नैतिकता और सदाचार का फल प्रत्यक्ष न होने के

कारण इसके प्रति विद्यार्थी का आकर्षण कम होता है। विद्यार्थी शिक्षा के दौरान अपरिपक्व होता है। उसके अपरिपक्व मन को परिपक्व बनाने का श्रेय शिक्षा को जाता है। मनुष्य आत्मसीमित हो स्वार्थी बन गलत दिशा में अग्रसर हो रहा है। इससे समाज प्रदूषित हो गया है। इस प्रदूषण से समाज को युवा वर्ग ही बचा सकता है। युवा वर्ग शिक्षा का सही अर्थ समझे तो वह समाज में व्याप्त प्रदूषण को मिटा पायेगा जीवन को मशीन जान मनुष्य यंत्रवत् जीवन जीयेगा तो वह समाज को स्वस्थ नहीं रख पायेगा। नई पीढ़ी को समन्वयवादी दृष्टिकोण से अपने भीतर झांकते हुए मानवतावादी दृष्टिकोण का विकास करना होगा। इससे स्वस्थ समाज का निर्माण होगा और नई पीढ़ी मार्ग भ्रष्ट होने से बच जायेगी।

डॉ. कमला विश्वनाथन
प्राध्यापिका, हिन्दी विभाग



नव शताब्दी

नव शताब्दी का सूरज उगे
नव आशा किरण लिये।
कोई व्यक्ति मिले ना भूखा
कोई न हो बेघर, बेसहारा
सबको रोटी मकान मिले
सबका सदा उत्कर्ष रहे।
धर्म जाति-भेद भाव मिटे
रूलिंग पार्टी विरोधी पार्टी
मिल जुल कर शासन करे।
इंसान को इंसान समझे
इंसानियत का भाव जगे।

नव शताब्दी का सूरज उगे
नव आशा किरण लिये
परमाणु मजबूरी न रहे
आतंकवाद का जोर थमे
सबके मन में विश्वास जगे
जन-जन में प्यार बढ़े।
नव शताब्दी.....

सबको बराबर हिस्सा मिले
सबको जीने का आधार मिले
बड़ों के प्रति सम्मान जगे
सच का नारा बुलन्द रहे।
नव शताब्दी.....

नारी प्रगति करती रहे
घर को सुव्यवस्थित बनाये रखे
नफरत का भाव मिटे
प्यार का मंत्र गूँजता रहे
धरती हरी भरी बनी रहे
मानव सुखी सम्पन्न रहे
मल्टिनेशनल की काली परछाई
देश को प्रदूषित न करे।
नव शताब्दी.....

बेकारी का शाप मिटे
तरुणों को रोजगारी मिले
'जाति भेदभाव दुश्मनी मिटे
सबके मन में प्यार जगे
नव शताब्दी का सूरज उगे
नव आशा किरण लिए।

डॉ. कमला विश्वनाथन
प्राध्यापिका, हिन्दी विभाग

लघु कथा

इंडिया और पाकिस्तान के बीच एक दिवसीय क्रिकेट खेल होनेवाला था। दोनों कप्तानों के बीच यह तय हुआ था कि जो भी हारेगा, उस टीम का कोई भी सदस्य एक महीने के लिए अपने घर से बाहर नहीं निकलेगा।

इंडिया हार गई, और सारे खिलाड़ी अपने-अपने घर पर बैठे थे। एक दिन सौरभ गांगुली की पत्नी की तबीयत खराब हो गई और उन्होंने गांगुली से बाहर जाकर सब्जी लाने को कहा। जब उन्होंने मना किया तो उनकी पत्नी ने उन्हें एक साड़ी दी और वह पहनकर जाने को कहा।

गांगुली सब्जी खरीदकर बस में लौट रहे थे। अचानक उनके पास साड़ी पहनी हुई एक औरत आकर बैठ गई। थोड़ी देर बाद उस औरत ने पूछा—“तुम सौरभ हो न?” और गांगुली ने सिर हिलाया। फिर से उन्होंने वही पूछा और वही जवाब पाया। अंत में तंग आकर गांगुली ने कहा—“हाँ मैं सौरभ हूँ। क्यों?” और जवाब मिला “अबे मुझे नहीं पहचाना ? मैं युवराज हूँ।”

अंजना बालन

II B.A. Literature

अधिकार का प्रश्न

राम अपनी बकरी को दूकान में बेचने के लिए ले जा रहा था। राह में उसने अपने दोस्त प्रवीण को देखा और बातचीत करते हुए कहा कि वह बकरी बेचने जा रहा था। —तो प्रवीण ने कहा

कि वह भी आएगा। कुछ आगे चलकर बकरी भाग गई। राम और प्रवीण उसके पीछे-पीछे भागे और उसे पकड़ा। फिर उसे उन लोगों ने बेच दिया तब प्रवीण ने कहा, 'मुझे आधा हिस्सा मिलना चाहिए'। राम बोला 'पर बकरी तो मेरी है'। प्रवीण बोला 'उसे पकड़ने में मैंने तुम्हारी मदद की थी'।

श्री रंजनी

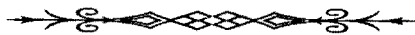
II B.A. Literature



प्यासी मिट्टी पर बरसा पानी
सब कुछ धुल गया और बनी एक नई कहानी
हरे पत्ते लगे और भी चमकने
सारा शहर लगा महकने।

मृदुला मित्रा

II B.A. Economics



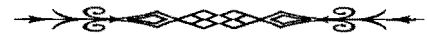
आज की नारी

आज की नारी, संपूर्ण नारी,
जोश और होश से भरी हुई।
अनोखे उसके तौर-तरीके,
चलती मर्द को साथ लेके।
सालों पहले था बुरा हाल,
बेचारी नारी थी बेबस और लाचार।
बाल विवाह, सती थी उसकी किस्मत,
पति के घर में भी ना मिलती राहत,
अब है खड़ा ये कौन सामने,
तोड़े किसने शीशे, आईने।

एक नई पहचान बनाई अपनी,
विकास के पद पर कदम बढ़ाती।
सुन्दर, चंचल, निडर, परिश्रमी
है धरती माँ की गोद से जनी।
आज की नारी नहीं बेचारी,
आज की नारी है शक्तिशाली।

वैष्णवी आर.

II B.A. Literature

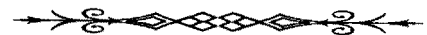


बूँद का रहस्य

पानी की पहली बूँद
सूर्य की पहली किरण,
वैसे ही
आदमी का पहला कदम।
अनजान और अजीब
हौसला देता है परिवार
हर कदम के साथ
सहारा और प्रेम।
सच्चाई का सामना
और मानव के प्रति प्रेम
भाई चारा और कर्तव्य
सब सिखाता है ये परिवार।
फिर चलके वक्त आता है कि
हर व्यक्ति अपनों में
खो जाता है।

सिमि सुसन संतोष

II B.A. Literature

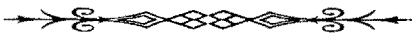


अकेला चना भी भाड़ फोड़ सकता है

कहते हैं कि 'अकेला चना क्या भाड़ फोड़ेगा' परन्तु यह वाक्य इस कथन को गलत कर देगा। एक बार भारत से एक बहुत बड़े कवि जापान में किसी कवि सम्मेलन में गए वहाँ उनकी रचनाओं की खूब प्रशंसा हुई। जब वह दुबारा भारत लौट रहे थे तो उस दिन उनका व्रत था और वह उस दिन अन्न और नमक ग्रहण नहीं कर सकते थे, वह केवल फल खा सकते थे, सो जब वह स्टेशन पर पहुँचे तो उन्होंने सोचा कि कुछ फल खरीद लें, उन्होंने दूर-दूर तक देखा पर कुछ नहीं मिला तो उन्होंने खुद से कहा "शायद जापान में अच्छे फल नहीं मिलते।" कुछ देर बाद जब वह ट्रेन में चढ़ने लगे तो एक व्यक्ति दौड़ा-दौड़ा उनके पास आया उसके हाथ में ताजे फलों से भरा एक टोकरा था। जो उसने उन्हें दे दिया कवि महोदय एकदम से चौंक गए फिर बोले "इनका दाम क्या है" तो उस व्यक्ति ने कहा "जी कुछ नहीं" अगर कुछ देना चाहते हैं तो बस इतना कीजिए कि अपने देश में जाकर यह मत कहिएगा कि जापान में अच्छे फल नहीं मिलते।" उसकी बातें सुन कवि महोदय हैरान हो उसे देखते रह गए। इसीलिए कहते हैं कि "अकेला चना भी भाड़ फोड़ सकता है।"

सुधा यादव

II B.A. Economics



दिन

दिन आते हैं, दिन जाते हैं
मन के पन्नों पर जल-कण से
भर आभाएँ थरते हैं
गुमसुम से कभी खड़े रहते
चुप चल देते हैं आगे से
जागे में जागे-जागे से
जाकर ये कभी दूर घाटी से
रह-रहकर गुहराते हैं
लहरों से कभी शीश धुनते
मिल जाते अगली लहरों में
गाते-गाते चुप हो जाते
चुप हो होकर ये गाते हैं।

ऐसलिन मेरी

II B.Sc. Mathematics

जीने का सहारा

राहुल एक उदास, अकेला लड़का था। वह अनाथ, गरीब और बेबस था। इसी कारण उसके कोई दोस्त नहीं थे। एक दिन जब वह कालेज से निकलकर अपनी साइकिल पर चढ़ने ही वाला था तब उसकी किताबें नीचे गिर गयीं तब रोहित वहाँ से गुजर रहा था। उसने उसकी किताबें उठाई और उससे बातें करने लगा। रोहित ने राहुल को अपने साथ एक पिक्चर देखने के लिए बुलाया। पिक्चर देखने के बाद राहुल ने रोहित को गले लगाते हुए कहा, "तुमने मेरी जिन्दगी को बचा लिया। अकेलेपन के कारण मैं आज आत्महत्या करने वाला था।"

विनीता हैरी

II B.A. Economics

इंसानियत

दो दोस्त थे एक रामू और दूसरा राजू। दोनों के अलग-अलग विचार थे। रामू पैसे कमाने में ध्यान देता था और कहता था कि मनुष्य को जीवन में पैसा ही चाहिए। लेकिन राजू की सोच अलग थी। एक दिन दोनों नदी के उस पार जा रहे थे। तो रामू के पास पैसा था और उसने नाव खरीदी और राजू से कहा 'देखा आज मेरे पास पैसे हैं इसलिए मैंने नाव खरीदी।' राजू ने कहा 'मैं भी तुम्हारे साथ चलूँ।' 'नहीं'....मैं नाव में अकेले सैर करना चाहता हूँ। राजू ने समझाते हुए कहा "पैसों के लिए हर चीज़ बेच दो लेकिन इंसानियत को नहीं।"

शिमना एम.पी.

II B.A. Economics

एक गिलास दूध

एक छोटी लड़की भूख से तड़पते हुए घर-घर जा भोजन मांगती जा रही थी। केवल एक घर का द्वार खुला और एक महिला ने उस पर तरस खा कर दूध का गिलास पकड़ा दिया। लड़की ने भद्र महिला को धन्यवाद दिया और चल दी।

कुछ दिनों के बाद वह महिला बीमार पड़ी और उसे अस्पताल में भर्ती किया गया। उसके पास इलाज के पैसे नहीं थे। वह घबराई हुई सी चिंतित हो दुविधा में बैठी थी तभी डाक्टर ने आकर सूचना दी 'हमारे एक डाक्टर ने यह खत आपको देने को कहा है।' खत में लिखा था 'एक गिलास दूध के खर्चे पर मैं आपका इलाज करूँगी।'

विनीता नविस

II B.A. Economics

उठाएँ कदम...

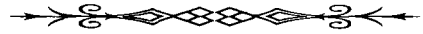
हम हैं इस धरती के रहने वाले
हम हैं धरती मां के सबसे प्यारे
हमने धरती को सिर्फ कष्ट दिया है
धरती के पदार्थों को नष्ट किया है।।

क्या ऐसा करना पाप नहीं है ?
क्या इसीलिए हम धरती पर जन्में हैं?

चलो सभी एक कदम उठाएँ
इस धरती को खुशहाल बनाएँ।।

नवीना गोविन्दराज

II B.A. Literature



अनजाना प्यार

राम और सतीश अच्छे दोस्त थे। एक दिन राम ने सतीश के यहाँ सीमा को देखा, और उसे चाहने लगा। अपनी इच्छा सीमा से कहा, उसे भी राम से प्यार था। कुछ दिन बाद दोनों के घर में उनके प्यार को लेकर लड़ाई हुई। दोनों के माता पिता ने उनके प्यार को स्वीकार नहीं किया।

राम कॉलेज में पढ़ता था और सीमा स्कूल में, उनका प्यार बचपन का प्यार था। यह सोचकर उनके माता-पिता ने उनके प्यार को नजर अन्दाज कर दिया।

सब ने मिलकर एक निश्चय किया कि वे दो साल के लिए एक दूसरे से नहीं मिलेंगे और यदि उसके बाद भी उनका प्यार नहीं बदला, तो उनकी

शादी कर दी जायेगी।

राम और सीमा ने यह शर्त मान ली और दो साल तक एक-दूसरे से नहीं मिले। फिर भी एक दूसरे के लिए उनके मन में प्यार पहले जैसे ही था।

राम को एक अच्छी नौकरी मिल गई और उसने खूब कमाया। राम के माता-पिता ने उनके प्यार से संतुष्ट होकर उनकी शादी की मंजूरी दे दी।

जब वे सीमा के यहाँ रिश्ते की बात करने गये तो सीमा एक रंग बिरंगी चादर पर लेटी थी। उसके मुँह पर एक सफेद कपड़ा बंधा हुआ था और माथे पर एक रुपया की बिंदी सजी हुई थी। राम ने उसे देखा तो वह काटो तो खून नहीं वाली स्थिति में था। उसे सीमा का रूप रंग याद आने लगा। उसकी चुहलबाजी याद आने लगी।

उसका मन यह स्वीकार न कर सका कि वह मर गई थी। थोड़ी देर बाद उसे याद आया कि एक दिन जब दोनों गाड़ी में बाहर गए थे तो उनकी गाड़ी फिसलकर दुर्घटना ग्रस्त हो गई थी। सीमा को गहरी चोट लगी थी। फिर अस्पताल में उसे राम के मित्र सतीश का खून दिया गया था। हाँ सतीश को एड्स था, और अब सीमा उसके इस भयंकर बीमारी की सजा भुगत रही थी। एड्स सिर्फ अनुचित यौन आचरण, चरित्रहीनता से नहीं होता पर एक बहन को उसके भाई का गन्दा खून दिया गया था। तभी रक्त ट्रान्स्फ्यूजन से एड्स उसके जिस्म में प्रविष्ट हो गया था। राम जड़मूर्ति की तरह खड़ा स्थिर दृष्टि से उसके शव को देखता रहा....

जे. धनलक्ष्मी

II B.Sc. Botany



STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), CHENNAI - 600 086

LIST OF OVERALL PERCENTAGE OF PASSES

April - 2004

	CLASS	APPEARED	PASSED	% OF PASS
B.A.	History	44	26	59.09
	Sociology	49	36	73.47
	Economics	63	47	74.60
	Fine Arts	42	41	97.62
	English	54	52	96.30
B.Com.	Section - A	76	63	82.89
	Section - B	145	138	95.17
B.Sc.	Mathematics			
	Section - A	38	37	97.37
	Section - B	33	30	90.91
	Physics	42	40	95.24
	Chemistry	42	41	97.62
	Botany	42	39	92.86
	Zoology	37	26	70.27
B.C.A.		94	91	96.81
M.A.	International Studies	27	27	100.00
	Economics	22	19	86.36
	Fine Arts	14	12	85.71
	English	14	13	92.86
M.S.W.	Social Work	23	23	100.00
M.Sc.	Mathematics	35	33	94.29
	Information Technology	18	18	100.00
	Bioinformatics	17	17	100.00

**Statement about ownership & other particulars about the newspaper Stella Maris College Magazine
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Form IV - (See Rule 8)

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|--|-----|--|
| 1. Place of Publication | ... | 17, Cathedral Road, Chennai - 600 086. |
| 2. Periodicity of Publication | ... | Annual |
| 3. Printer's Name | ... | Paul Antony |
| Whether Citizen of India
(if foreigner state the country of origin) | ... | Citizen of India |
| Address | ... | C/4, Ambattur Industrial Estate,
Chennai - 600 058. |
| 4. Publisher's Name | ... | Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, fmm, Ph.D. |
| Whether Citizen of India
(if foreigner, state the country of origin) | ... | Citizen of India |
| Address | ... | 17, Cathedral Road, Chennai - 600 086. |
| 5. Editor's Name | ... | Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, fmm, Ph.D. |
| Whether Citizen of India
(if foreigner, state the country of origin) | ... | Citizen of India |
| Address | ... | 17, Cathedral Road, Chennai - 600 086. |
| 6. Name and addresses of individuals who own the
newspaper and partners or shareholders holding
more then one percent of the total Capital | ... | Stella Maris College, Chennai - 600 086. |

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

Date : **15-08-2004**

Signature of Publisher : Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip, *fmm, Ph.D.*