

March 23, 2000

Social concerns reach the tree-top



CAMPUS JOTTINGS

IT IS 'End of Days' time around campuses as the academic year draws to a close. It has been a week of valedictories and annual days. And the students of Loyola College are a busy lot.

Rahuel Stone, for example. He has his final semesters, internals, a part-time job, NIS exams — to top it all, he is the President of the Rotaract Club, and the valedictory of the club's activities is coming up on Friday.

The Rotaract Club of Loyola College, recently organised a cricket contest for the blind. The noisy ball is rolled on the ground, and the batsman takes a swing, listening to the sound created by the rolling ball.

The club has been doing one thing or the other, throughout the year. A Flashback. First, it was the voting awareness campaign, then the Orissa Cyclone Relief Project, Traffic Awareness Project, Vandalur Zoo Project, Old Age Home, Organ donation, blood donation, Platinum Jubilee exhibition, Rotaract Annual District Conference held recently and an Orphanage project.

Friday, it is time for the Rotaractors to hold their heads high for all that they have done the year long.

Not that the women have been far behind. The Exnora International have awarded students of Social Work from Stella Maris College, the 'Best Service to the Community Award' for their contribution in improving slums of Thiru-Vi-Ka Colony located in Teynampet.

The students R. Jayanthi, K. Devi and Sister Alice, in the course of their field study, worked for improving basic facilities, individual help to the slum-dwellers, and for general welfare activities for the community.

The slum improvement project was supported by Exnora, Lioness Club of Temple Bay, Stella Maris College and the Madras Cathedral Lions Club.

More social work projects to follow. This time, it is the turn of the Madras School of Social Work students to organise a dental camp and a general health camp for the slum dwellers of Kasi Viswanatha Kuppam, Thiruvottiyur on Friday between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m.

A 15-member student team led by Yathi



CLICKING FOR POSTERITY: New College prize winners posing for the college albums, at the end of the College Day on Wednesday. — Photo: K. Gajendran

Venkatesh and Swarna Sudha, will also put up a street play 'Koodi Vazhnthal Kodi Nanmai' on joint family system and its inherent advantages.

The students, undergoing their field training at HelpAge India, will also distribute awareness kits on old age and problems.

Social concerns reach the tree-top, with students of Sri Venkateswara College of Engineering, Leo and Rotaract clubbers, working on 'Green World 2000'.

The students started off with a signature campaign against use of plastics in day-to-day life. The college organised a 'No Plastics Week' from March 13 to 18 to highlight the negative aspects of plastics.

The student co-ordinators G. S. Naveen Kumar and D. N. Vetrivel plan to introduce an 'Adopt a Tree' project within the college, to make the campus a greener place.

SRM Engineering College, had its annual day on March 16. The students were asked to get themselves exposed to industrial practices.

Mr. A. P. Gandhi, President of Hyundai Motors, the Chief Guest of the function stressed on the 'survival of the fittest' mantra. These are the days of competition, he said. Nearly 88,000 cars were sold in less than 17 months inspite of stiff

competition, the Hyundai President told the students, asking them to adopt a positive attitude to face challenges and learn continuously for improvement.

DG Vaishnav College had its College Day celebrations on Wednesday, presided over by Dr. M. Anandakrishnan, Vice-Chairman of the State Council of Higher Education. The Principal Dr. S. P. Rajagopalan presented the annual report.

Also celebrating College Day on Wednesday were New College and Empee Institute of Hotel Management and Catering Technology.

Earlier, the Mar Gregorios College celebrated the College Day on March 15 and Alpha Arts and Science College bid an emotional farewell to the final year students on March 20. Later in the day, the convocation was held for the first batch of students.

Chennai Alliance Francaise student Chinmaya who won the local round of the All-India French Nightingale contest, is one of the four All-India winners of the contest. He gets a one-month stay in France.

Coming up on Saturday at Alliance Francaise is a skit competition for the city colleges.

(By Sudhish Kamath)