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MADRAS MUSINGS

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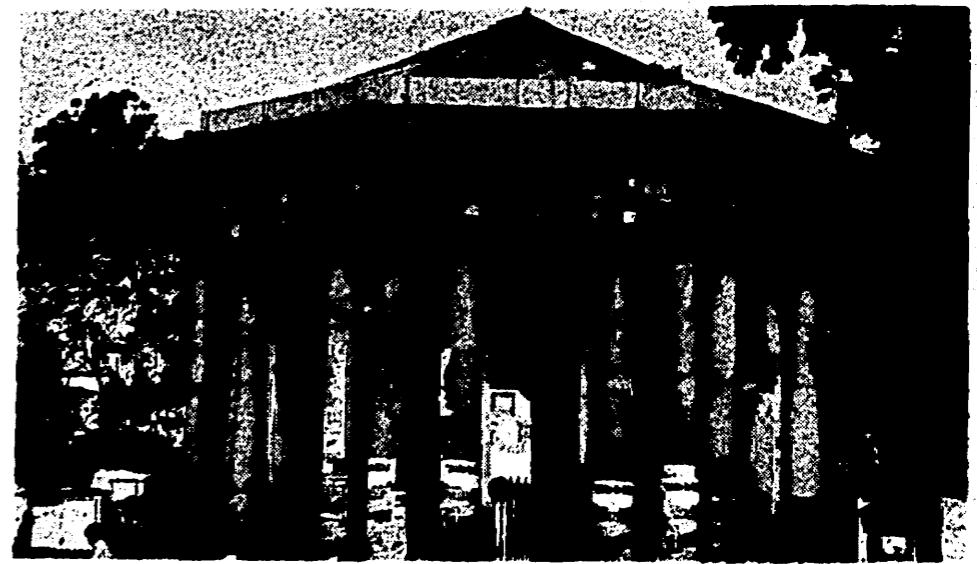
Vol. I. No. 24

FREE ISSUE — EVERY FORTNIGHT

April 1 — 15, 1992

Where does 'Madras Musings' go? After...

This year of contribution



The Printer's Devil

Naturally National

It was only in the last issue of *Madras Musings* that your Editor referred to the printer's devil. And it was during that same fortnight that a letter turned up congratulating us on producing an error-free paper. Those who believe in such things would undoubtedly talk of the power of some eyes. But a more rational reason for the bloomer that appeared in the first lines of our lead story last fortnight is that someone was careless. And so the printer's devil was allowed to get away with Compressed NATIONAL Gas for Compressed NATURAL Gas. Such errors are getting to be a bit of a national phenomenon due to a dearth of good proof readers, but that's no excuse.

P.S. We did, for the record, get natural gas right everywhere else, so we're not quite as uninformed as we may have seemed with that introductory clanger.

THE EDITOR

MANAALI RAMAN...



...That was all right then... But now she'll have to bring much more... You know, there are so many others interested in our son...

IN MAD, MAD MADRAS

With this issue, *Madras Musings* completes a year of service to Madras and its citizens. The good news is that it will continue for a while longer, that the publishers have decided to give it a bit more of trial. To which end they seek your views with the questionnaire inside. Meanwhile, this gives your Editor this chance to look back and look forward.

It has been a year of considerable satisfaction to those of us who have put *Madras Musings* together every fortnight and we do believe we have made some contribution to a better understanding and appreciation of this city of ours. Equally, from all that we hear — and our mail continues to be quite substantial, apart from what's told us as we move around that city — the contribution we have been making to Madras, the style and presentation of our journal and the non-political, human and sometimes more-light-than-Madras-is-accustomed-to touch appear to have struck a responsive chord with readers. And several of them are not only enthusiastically loyal to *Madras Musings* but keep writing to us to add their friends to our readership.

The bulk of that readership in on a mailing list that is nearly 8,000 strong. Apart from this, we have been putting out about 2000 copies in about two dozen well-known outlets in different parts of the city, which have been grabbed within a day or two of release every fortnight. Distributing, thus, nearly 10,000 copies at present, we are reaching a readership many times that number — and most of them are members of the city's leading clubs, its professional associations, its leading

(Continued on P4)



The very first issue of *Madras Musings* (April 15th 1991) featured Bentinck's Building. That's the building that was in the process of being pulled down at the time and, in our last issue, readers would have seen that it was almost down. But now, as then, still surviving in front of it is the cupola featured here (on top). This is one of the city's Cornwallis Cupolas — and it was built to house the Cornwallis statue that's now housed beneath the staircase at the Fort Museum.

A close look at the base of the white marble statue dating back to 1800 will enable viewers to recall why Cornwallis, defeated in North America, was being honoured in Madras. Despite his Governor-Generalship, he led the Army against Tippu Sultan in the Second Mysore War and negotiated a settlement that involved keeping two of Tippu's young sons hostage in Madras till the British' expedition's costs and compensation were paid and a promise of good behaviour made. The handing over of the hostages to an avuncular and benevolent-looking Cornwallis is leatured at the base of the statue, but above in towers Cornwallis in all his imperial splendour.

The original location for the statue was meant to be the junction of Cenotaph Road (from Cornwallis Cenotaph) and Mount Road, and a cupola was built for it there. That's the cupola now moved to below the Gemini Flyover (above left). It was then decided to locate the statue on the Parade Grounds — or Fort Square — behind the Governor's Council Chambers and House (now part of the Legislature) and a second cupola was built (above right). That's the one that's been moved by the side of the Fort Museum after the statue it housed was moved into the museum in 1950. Somewhere along the way, there was a thought that the Cornwallis Cenotaph ought to be moved out of the Fort and another cupola was built to receive it in front of Bentinck's Building. That's the cupola whose fate is in the balance; will it be as lucky as the first one to find another location as a monument to a bit of history? (Photographs of cupolas by SUSHEELA NAIR).

When will New Moore Market open?

The new style of Madras architecture, perhaps to be called 'Pages from the Past', is to be seen in an unchristened building in Park Town which, in official circles, is being called the Lily Pond Complex and which this journal plans to call the New Moore Market. And why shouldn't it be called that, when the old Moore Market, in whose place it has been built, was part of the ethos of Madras city for 85 years?

But a market by any name is the least part of the worries of those connected with the building, which echoes to some extent the Indo-Saracenic of the old. The main concern

of those hoping to get space in it is: When is going to open for business? A large number of those wondering are from the 800 or so shopkeepers who were in the old market and want to revive in the new premises the trade which many are now forced to conduct on the pavements opposite. Eighty of them were book-sellers whose old book trade was renowned all over India.

The new building has been ready from last November, except for a few finishing touches that can be provided in a matter of days. But for some unspell out reasons, the complex is not opening for business — and no one is

prepared to say exactly why, not even in the Legislature where a question about it was asked but the answer to which got lost in a maze of digression. Could it have something to do with a decision not being taken on rent?

Originally it had been thought of selling the stalls to the shopkeepers on hire-purchase terms. Then there was mention of rental at Rs. 1 a sq. ft. against the prevailing rate of Rs. 4 a sq. ft. Now there's a fear that rents might be Rs. 20 per sq. ft. Rents at old Moore Market, say worried shopkeepers who'd long been there and now

look for priority allotment, was less than Rs. 10 a month for each shop!

The New Moore Market will have 859 stalls on four floors, including 110 for book-sellers. It was built at a cost of Rs. 6.6 crores by the Tamil Nadu State Construction Corporation to echo its progenitor and took over 30 months to complete. The Municipal Corporation, the owners, took a Rs. 3 crore loan at 14 per cent interest from HUDCO to complete the work.

(See also page 4)

Is this the end of the road?

As Standard Motor Products tries to haul itself out of the mire with a slightly refurbished out-of-date LCV model, Enfield India seems to be running into trouble with its two-wheelers, despite the flagship of the Group, the *Bullet*, being in much demand overseas.

Eicher Motors, who had come to the rescue of Enfield some time ago and who, in the past year, had been trying to streamline operations of the Madras group and develop a synergy of operations in the two groups, is itself having problems with its *Canter* and its tractors. That's not made life any easier at Enfield, where losses continue.

One answer suggested to tide over the problem is for Enfield to sell its fairly new and attractive building on Mount Road, near the Guindy bridge. Reports on this short-term measure suggest that the building — with a splendid bit of turf landscaping in front of it — should fetch about Rs. 7 crore in the present market and this will help to tide over the group in the present crunch. Will this give the group the breathing space needed to improve its vehicles?

The Enfield *Bullet*, which accounts for much of the group's Rs. 8 crore export turnover, has caught the eye in Europe as an intriguing page out of the past and is being bought by those on a nostalgia streak. But in India, its fuel guzzling habits and its heavy weight do not attract lightly-built buyers enamoured of the sleekness and fuel efficiency of Japanese models. Unless the *Bullet* follows that route, its Indian market is likely to continue to drop and all the buying by institutions like the Police and the military will not help it. It might, however, be able to keep the operation going on a lesser level, with its export and institutional markets, if even more

accept the 'golden handshake' that's been going on for a while.

Octogenarian tales

The Cosmopolitan Club, founded in 1873 "to (introduce) Europeans...to the principal

SHORT 'N' SNAPPY

residents and thereby (afford them) some insight into Indian Society", has been in its present premises a hundred years this year. And for sixty of those years B Madhava Rau has been a member of the Club that was once described as "the best Indian Association in the whole of India".

Recently, the Club hosted a dinner to honour this octogenarian on the occasion of his *kanakabhishekham*. And Meera Raghavendra Rao, who was present at the function, writes:

Replying to the felicitations offered by senior members of the Club, the guest of honour recalled an occasion when General Cariappa, who was a reciprocal member, wished to borrow 20 books from the library. He was informed by the then librarian that it was against the rules to borrow 20 books at one time. Gen. Cariappa had then sought Madhava Rau's help, as he was then the Hon. Secretary of the

Club. Madhava Rau acceded to the request, but informed the then President, Justice T Venkatadri, of the General's request. The Justice endorsed Rau's action saying, "We can make an exception for one who defended the country. I will stand

by you if any member objects." Those were the days, Rau concluded, in an emotion-packed voice. ♪

Centenary marker

A little noticed centenary year reached its climax when the Young Women's Christian Association of Madras on March 9th, its hundredth birthday, inaugurated its Centenary Building. That building remembers the work the Hon. Emily Kinnaid did during a visit to Madras in 1891-2 when she got the Madras Christian Women's Association and the King's Daughters to merge and become yet another chapter of the world-wide YWCA movement.

The Women's Christian Association had been founded in 1884 in Madras, nine years after the first YWCA in India had been founded in Bombay. The King's Daughters was founded by an American, Lillie McConaughy, in

1890, a few months after her husband David had founded the Madras YWCA on February 1st. Both organisations became one at the urging of the Hon. Emily Kinnaid, whose mother, Lady Emily, had, as the Hon. Mrs Arthur Kinnaid, brought about a similar merger in 1877 to launch the worldwide YWCA movement. That movement came about when an organisation founded by the Hon. Mrs Arthur Kinnaid joined hands with another Christian organisation founded by Emma Roberts after the two founders had tea together at the Kinnaid mansion.

Narrating the story of the founding and then going on to tell a story of growth and dedicated effort is a book brought out as another marker of the Centenary. Gladys Ambat, who has been with the YWCA for nearly 40 years both as a member of the Staff and now as a Volunteer, tells a moving story in *More Grasp To Reach* — but in it she also does her share of plain speaking, which highlights in several ways the problems of voluntary organisations the world over. Those plain words are perhaps the most valuable part of this history of an organisation which has truly rendered much silent service. Those who lead it through the second century will benefit greatly from reading Gladys Ambat's words.

MMM

Safety with Stockinvest

Money mania has seeped into the very fabric of our lives. Like never before, the nation's attention is riveted on the share movement, the share market and anything even remotely related to it.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has done good by the investors, by introducing the 'Stockinvest' scheme. This is a much-awaited move towards investor protection and controlling the unscrupulous activities that have come to be a part and parcel of this game. The applications for new issues are especially fraught with problems, with confusions galore in their wake. Now, at long last, investors are at least assured about the safety of the money involved. With this scheme, the investors' money remains in a bank account and gets debited only after the allotment of shares is finalised. Till such time, the money continues to earn interest. Thus, the investor is benefitted by the advancement in liquidity.

'Stockinvest' requires a lot of thinking. Considering the colossal amount of money involved, premeditation on investor safety cannot be overdone. The involvement of banks in this scheme should be taken care of by competition. Vysya Bank is one such bank that has gone ahead to announce its version of 'stockinvest'. Others will need to follow.

Apart from this, the companies collecting subscriptions would have to come out in support of this investment, by mentioning it in their prospectus. Thereafter, the twin problems of coordination and efficiency remain.

There has to be coordination between the bank and the company, with the issuing company helping by giving a detailed statement of allotment and non-allotment to the collecting bank. This has to be effectively transmitted to the several branches of the banks offering this scheme. From thereon, efficiency would play a

prominent role, as the statements in question would have to reach the innumerable branch offices of banks. This process is certainly possible. And, in time to come, we hope that the rough edges will be smoothened and give way to a foolproof system that a healthy market deserves.

'Health is wealth' the claim holds good for any situation. Here are some recommendations for the forthcoming fortnight.

Stiles India Ltd. (Current Market Price — Rs. 35/-): This Hyderabad-based company is engaged in the manufacture of ceramic glazed/unglazed wall and floor tiles with an annual capacity of 15,000 tonnes. For the half year ended September 1991, turnover amounted to Rs. 4.71 crs., on which the company earned a cash profit of Rs. 52 lakhs. However, after providing for depreciation, the net loss amounted to Rs. 24 lakhs. The company has a good order book position and is working at over 100 per cent capacity now. The management is confident of paying a maiden dividend in 1992-93. The share price is likely to double in a year's time.

T V S Electronics (Current Market Price — Rs. 46/-): Controlled by the TVS group, this company manufactures UPS units, switch mode power supply, lapdrives, keyboards etc. Although the first half working has not been encouraging in the current year, the long-term outlook is bright in view of its indigenisation efforts that would reduce the import content. A target of Rs. 60/- seems to be a realistic anticipation in the short-term.

Aban Lloyd Chiles Offshore (Current Market Price — Rs. 236/-): This Madras-based company is mainly engaged in providing and operating offshore jack-up drilling rigs, ships, vessels and other machinery. It is coming out with a rights issue to part finance its new rig purchase. The share price is expected to go to Rs. 300/- in the short-term and Rs. 400/- in the medium-term.

K. Gopalakrishnan

OUR READERS WRITE

Chimp export

This is with reference to Harry Miller's letter published in *Musings* of March 15th. It is not I who has exported chimpanzees to South Africa, but the director of the film.

The Fifth Monkey is a surrealistic fable and, hence, not a work of realism. The character played by Kingsley discovers these chimpanzees in the forest and, as they are not supposed to be found there, he hopes to make a lot of money by capturing them.

If Harry Miller still has any doubts, I would be quite happy to provide him with a copy of the film.

Film Fan
Madras 600 010.

Is this fast?

With provision of separate post boxes at T Nagar and Teynampet Post Office, one would expect faster delivery, as a substantial amount of work in sorting has been left to the public, but my experience has been otherwise. I posted an envelope at T Nagar PO in the slot provided for Kanniyakumari Dt. (Destination-Nagercoil) on 22.2.92 and it reached the addressee on 7.3.92. Another envelope posted for the same addressee on 7.3.92 reached him on 13.3.92.

More proof that it is not the system but the implementing people behind the system who decide its fate!

S Rajagopalan
14 Anandam Street,
Madras 600 017.

Spelling well

Madras Musings is quite interesting. Its layout, quality of print and paper are indeed very good. What is most noteworthy is the fact that there are no misspelt words at all (Such papers are something rare these days!)

Stephen Arulraj Edward
5, Second Street
Third Main Road
C I T Nagar Extn.
Nandanam-600 035

Consumer to Yoga

Please consider whether it is possible to include the following: Consumer protection, Health, Matrimonial Advertisements, Medicine, Science and Yoga.

S Navaneetha Krishnan,
46 Thandavara Mudali St.,
Madras-600 021.

Keeping free

When I was on a visit to Madras last month, I picked up *Madras Musings*. It is well edited, contains good news and views and I am surprised that the issue is free. I know that this cannot continue for long and therefore when you do start charging, I will be glad to subscribe. I am sending you a M.O. of Rs. 10/- to defray the postage expenses, etc.

C W Thomas
14 Hosur Road
Bangalore 560 025.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Thank you, Mr Thomas. But we've returned your M.O. As for how we hope to survive, please have a look at Page 1 of this issue. Could you help?

Generosity appreciated

It happened to see your *Madras Musings* in a local library. It's simply superb! Keep it up. One thing that baffles me: How come you send such a thought-provoking and useful magazine freely to the readers? How generous you are!

T S Subramanian
Tiruvannamalai-606 601

More art reviews

We would like more art reviews of exhibitions in leading galleries.

S Velumani
72 Thirumangalam Road
Madras-600 049

Arguing in America

Champions of the moot

IN PROFILE
by
Lisa Durante

"Competitions are a buzz, a high positive addiction." That's 24-year-old law student V Athmaram talking about his new-found passion for moot competitions, which has catapulted him into the international arena of mock court contests. Athmaram and team-mate P K Anantharaghavan are now in Washington DC, U.S.A. representing India in the gruelling Philip C Jessup International moot competition which started on March 27th and ends on April 4th. The two hope to do both Madras Law College and India proud.

The objective of the legal fisticuffs in moot competitions is to bring out the advocating skills of law students, who have to assume both the part of the defendant and the litigant in turn during heated play-offs between two-strong college teams. Madras Law College has long had a good record in such competitions, but the past year has been a particularly good one.

Athmaram, Anantharaghavan and G Sirisha have wrangled their way to the top in several contests. Last December, Athmaram and Sirisha finished second at an all-India competition in Delhi, with Athmaram being judged the best student advocate; Bombay won. Bangalore were third. Then, in January, Athmaram teamed with Anantharaghavan at the national selection trials in Pondicherry, and the team finished second to University Law College, Bangalore, who also head for Washington. Then, in February, Athmaram and Sirisha teamed up for an all-India meet in Thiruvananthapuram, winning the title and having Athmaram once again judged the best student advocate.

Athmaram is the son of eminent Madras cardio-surgeon S Vasudevan and virologist Sumathi Vasudevan. His two sisters, however, have chosen medicine. In most competitions Athmaram finds himself the odd man out, coming from a medical family; usually all the competitors come from families of lawyers, like Anantharaghavan, whose father is a Senior Advocate and one of whose two elder sisters has already followed in the family vocation. Sirisha's father G V V Sathyanarayana is also a lawyer; her mother is a lecturer in Zoology in Guntur.

The theme for the Washington moot centres on a hypothetical scenario that has some similarities to the recent US-Iraq crisis and the "Kurdish Question". An oppressed minority group in one country calls for help. Members of the same community residing in a neighbouring nation take up the call and invade the country they accuse of human rights violations. The UN Security Council, in the meantime, condemns this new aggression and a coalition of three nations launch an offensive against what they perceive to be the initial offending nation. That's the feisty problem of international law that these two young men will have to wrestle with against teams from at least 40 to 50 foreign countries. Australian and Canadian teams may pose a "bit of a problem," says Anantharaghavan, but "we will shine"; Athmaram is confident.

Even though the trio survive on an "only law diet" all year round, and particularly during contest seasons, they are all refreshingly enthusiastic about

Trying to veer the talk away from Law is difficult. Their common hobbies, such as reading for instance, are fostered with advocacy in mind: Anantharaghavan keeps abreast of specialised journals and biographies of role models, while Sirisha admires Nani Palkhiwala's work. Athmaram, however, spreads his reading wider and enjoys Orwell, Dickens — and Wodehouse "for a laugh". All three claim they do not have time any longer for sport — karate in Athmaram's case and mountaineering in Sirisha's — and that life will resume only after they graduate.

The State Government has always underwritten the expenses of students competing in these international meets — the approximate expenditure being about one lakh rupees. Such sponsorship is only natural, because the selection of two students from Madras to represent India abroad is a "proud moment for our college, which has represented the country FIVE times in the last eight world moot sessions," Athmaram states proudly. "We just hope we can do the tradition full justice this year." Anantharaghavan adds:



Arguing their way to the U.S. — V Athmaram, on left, and P K Anantharaghavan on right. G Sirisha also teamed with Anantharam to fare well in several moot competitions.

Planning expansion, despite problems

Although the Tamil Nadu Government has announced an industrial policy with many attractive features, it has not produced any rush of investment in the state yet. In fact, a couple of North-based groups, after examining the various concessions, have opted to go to Karnataka and M.P. It is quite probable that, after years of giving an impression that this state is not quite entrepreneur-friendly, it is difficult to wipe out that image overnight. Various governments also, unfortunately, have given the impression that they tend to favour a particular industrialist or a particular group of industrialists.

This does not quite mean that there is total lack of activity in the state. Our own native industrialists with their pronounced dislike of going outside the state plan their new projects or expansions as far as possible within the state itself. The textile machinery giant, the Coimbatore based LMW is planning to put up a large pig iron project in Tamil Nadu. The Murugappa Group, which has always felt that it could operate in an environment which is free and is less



This gentle, pastel-shaded water-colour of the 'North Boat Quay on the Singapore River' was featured on the cover of the elegant invitation card sent out in Madras by the Singapore Tourist Promotion Board.

Meet the West in the East...

In surprising Singapore

The Singapore Tourism Promotion Board team, over 25 strong, jetted into Madras one recent morning and jetted out that evening after meeting local tour operators and the Press, 'seeing' Madras and presenting a dazzling promotion. All of it was done with jet age speed and American slickness, leaving at least this viewer a little

Singapore', a song-and-dance show with three tall and slinky models, now in dazzling, figure-hugging sequined evening dresses, now in vanda orchid embellished black party frocks, prancing midst the singers and dancers, with hips swivelling and pelvises jutting. It was slick as you'd ever want cabaret to be, it was loud and brassy for the young,

• by H.A. SUMITH

skeptical about all the warmth-the-turn-it-on-now, turn-it-off-now smiles promised.

The team's visit was an attempt to change Singapore's image from 'shopping centre' to 'family tourist destination'. Why go West when Singapore has so much to offer, that was the thrust of the promotion. And as though demonstrating how the West had come East, the team produced 'Surprising

sweet and tender for the oldies — thanks to a Fernando undoubtedly out of Colombo somewhere along the way — and even the only two bits of Singapore culture, bar some Indian, Malay and Chinese costuming, were Singapore folk with the Western beat heavily interlaced.

Both 'Surprising Singapore' and the near silent video 'Four Faces of Singapore' — a reference to the Lion City's ethnic mix — as well as the rest of the evening was a hartsell, American style, to get the upmarket Indian tourist to head for Singapore. The team was obviously looking for a very different mix from what it had got in 1991 when 210,000 Indians visited Singapore, staying for a little over five days each. As many as 46 per cent of these visitors stayed outside hotels and much of the rest were out on shopping sprees. Only about 30 per cent came on holidays, 20 per cent were on business.

The STPB was now obviously targeting the business traveller and the good-time seeking holiday-maker: A wealth of entertainment for them, the razzle-dazzle of the Western nightclubs, the latest in fashion for the fashion-conscious buyer, the best in food and wine for the epicure — Singapore had it all. But if the sell is to work, a little less condensation, fewer plastic smiles and warmer handshakes would have gone much further. The STPB would have done better if it had introduced more of the charm of SIA's Singapore Girls — in the figurative sense — than offering such an obviously commercial presentation.

Indeed, if ever Indian visitors move out of Little India, I hope they'll find it a little warmer than the rather business-like atmosphere that pervaded the presentation in Madras the other evening. Super-efficiency tends to overwhelm with its chilliness.

Another life?

Enfield is reported to be having problems, but like the famous cat it has had many lives: It could well enjoy another one.

Both Enfield chairman Viswanathan and Eicher chairman Vikram Lal have reaffirmed the strength of the alliance recently. Enfield may sell buildings and other unproductive assets, but it will not sell any of its manufacturing activities. With cost cutting and restructuring, it will turn around soon, they are confident.

BUSINESS
REVIEW
by
THE SHROFF

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110 Velachery Road, Madras 600 032.

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

Dated: 1.04.1992.

Sd/- Publisher

ANOTHER LANDMARK VANISHES

The Luz Pharmacy is closed. When my son told me this I was shocked. And distressed at the vanishing of a 60-year-old landmark in Mylapore.

At the time Luz Pharmacy came up, Mylapore was a place of leisure and repose, and had three other well-known medicine shops: the Anglo-German Drug House, back of the bustling terminus for trams at the junction of Luz Church Road and Kutcheri Road, the South India Pharmacy, a few yards east of the Mylapore Club, and Goodwin and Company, down Kutcheri Road, near the bylane known as Madalayanarayan Street, or *Mithaikadai Sandhu*. While two popular physicians, Dr. T. Sitapathi Iyer and Dr. T. G. Pillai, owned the Drug House and Goodwin and Co., South India Pharmacy was run by K. V. Ramachandran, a brother-in-law of Dr. Sitapathi Iyer.

Rama-chandran made a success of his business when he launched Kesavardhini hair oil, which was a hit. He shifted its manufacture to Coimbatore during World War II, but his wife, who took over after Ramachandran's death, brought back the Kesavardhini business to Madras and to Kodambakkam. Though it has changed hands, Kesavardhini continues in the same place.

Apart from being a successful pharmacist, K.V.R. was a scholar, and a connoisseur of music and dance; his fair complexioned wife, looking like a doll in her youth, was herself well versed in Bharatha Natyam. K.V.R. covered music concerts for *The Hindu*, if I remember right, after Keerthanacharya C. R. Srinivasa Iyengar. K.V.R.'s love of Tamil and the arts enabled him to start a high-profile Tamil monthly,

Silpasree, to which many scholars and well-known writers, like K. S. Venkatramani, S. Vaiyapuri Pillai, G. Raghava Iyengar, V. Narayanan, to name a few, contributed. However, K.V.R.'s flirtation with *Silpasree* was short-lived.

Luz Pharmacy picked up quickly and was the medicine shop for not only the Mylaporean but also for those on its fringes, in Alwarpet, San Thomé and Mandaveli, because of its personalised service. Its boss was Mr. Vedantham, a very cheerful gentleman from Triplicane, who could also be seen at all important cricket matches of those days. His son, V. Krishnamachari, as cheery as his father and also very fond of cricket, maintained, even improved, the personalised service, and it must be gnawing to him now to close the Pharmacy, in order to accommodate a business house which had purchased the cluster of buildings in which the Pharmacy was located. When talking of Luz Pharmacy, Kalyanam, who attended to one and all with a smile and who had a word on every topic, should not be forgotten.

Luz Pharmacy was located all its sixty years in a three-room block, and though it did not expand this space its popularity went up and up. Luz Pharmacy and Sundaram Stores, an all-purpose shop a few doors away, were the two popular landmarks which were referred to by anyone trying to locate other places in Luz Corner. Sundaram Stores was wound up two decades ago, its former owner a Mylaporean still at heart, though now residing in Alwarpet. Now Luz Pharmacy has vanished. Left are only memories.

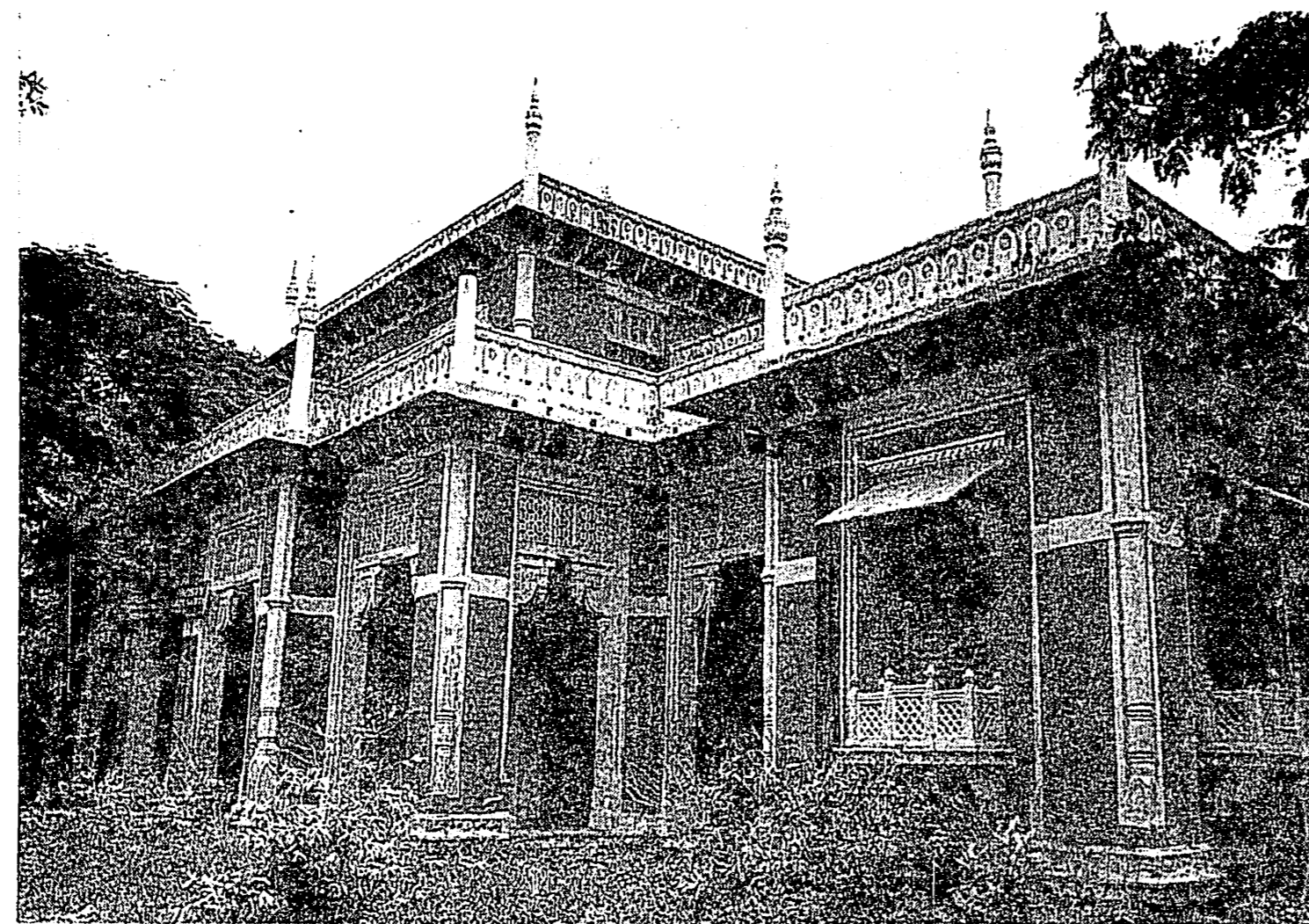
P. N. SUNDARESAN

Not one but two provide it as they battle it out on the shelves. In the first lane is the favourite Shoba De with *Sisters* (Penguin India, Rs. 75). The dark horse in the second lane is Dilip Thakore with *Succession Derby* (Omnimedia, Rs. 70). Bored with Bollywood, De turns to the big bad world of business in a tale of two women who play for high stakes, driven by ambition, lust, greed and hate. Good *masala* this! Thakore brings his considerable experience as a former editor of *Business India*, *Business World* and not least *Debonair* to 'bare' on his tale of corporate shenanigans. Both novels will have you guessing at the thinly veiled references to real people and real companies.

While the critics see red (or is it blue?), you can bet the authors are laughing all the way to the bank. Meceaaaaww!

Satyajit Ray's *Our Films, Their Films* (Disha, Rs. 85) is a timely reissue, as this great director is very much in the news. The book is a compilation of articles written over the years and covers various aspects of his art. As the title suggests, the book is divided into two sections. The first contains anecdotes of his experiences as a film-maker, as also his views on Indian cinema. In the second section, Ray looks at some landmark films from abroad. It also features Ray's insights on some of his favourite film-makers, such as Chaplin, Ford, and Kurosawa. All in all, a 'must buy' for the film buff.

GAUTAM PADMANABHAN

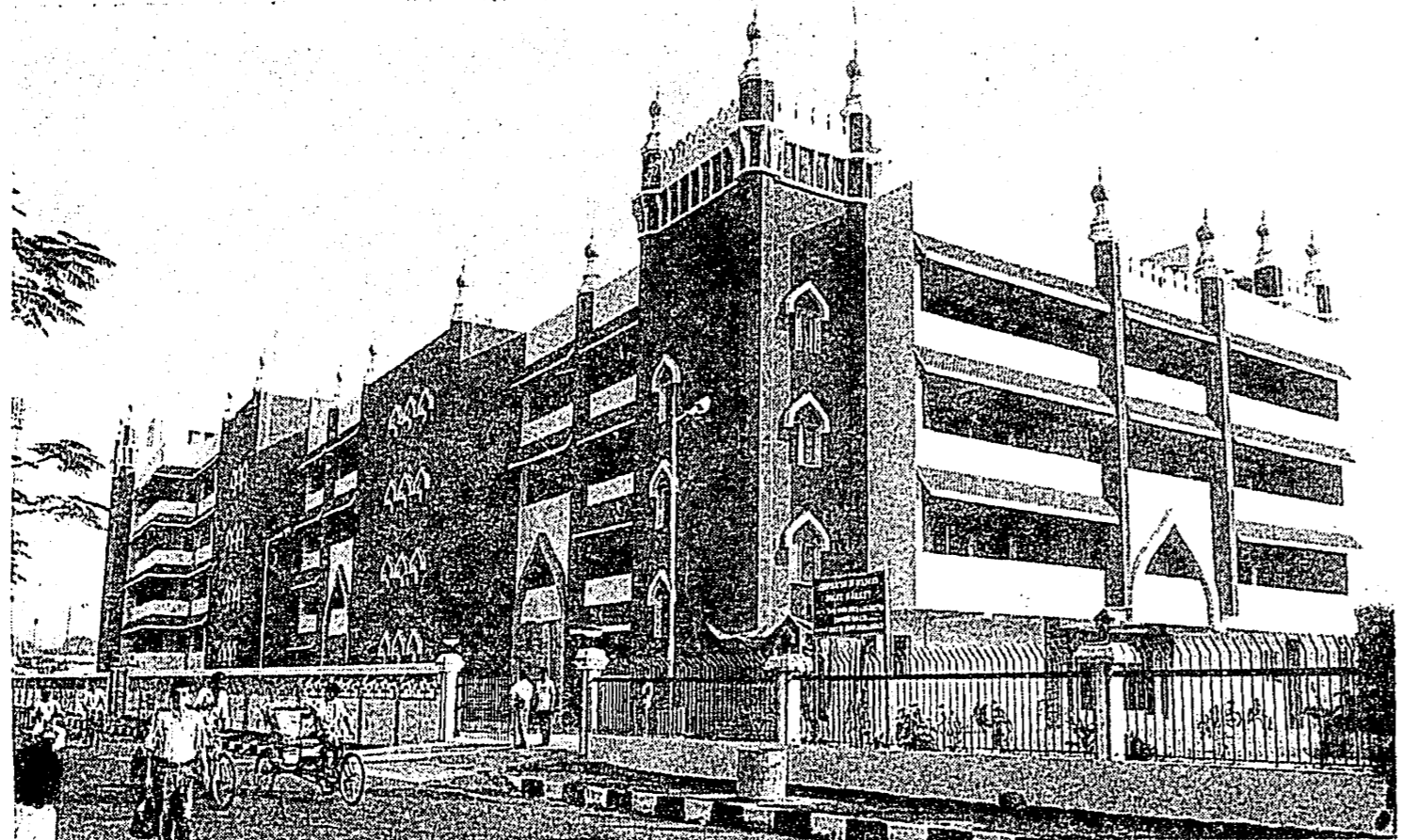


Bearing a striking resemblance are this fortnight's 'Old and New'. The Old is the Indo-Saracenic square block that's in the campus of the Director of Public Instruction, and which belonged to the old College of Fort St. George where Civilians became proficient in the languages of the Madras Presidency and, in turn, contributed much to the development, formal structuring and recording of those languages. This dilapidated building of mausoleum-like appearance (and, in truth, atmosphere), which stands in isolation in a corner of this bustling campus, belongs to the Madras Literary Society, probably the oldest subscription library east of Suez.

Once the library of the College of Fort St. George, it became home of the Asiatic Society's Madras chapter in 1829 and has been in occupation since. The Society that Chief Justice Sir John Henry Newbolt was founder-Chairman of was registered in 1887. ... & THE NEW Today, it has, in this building, over 150,000 books, more than 30,000 of them 19th Century volumes, including 1000 rare books of the 16th-19th century period. With a dwindling membership and reduced corporate munificence, the library is struggling not only to make ends meet but even to preserve what it has. Who'll help, its membership keeps wondering.

Echoing in remarkable fashion the Old — note the decorative domed pillars on the roofs, the arched entrances and the parapets — is this fortnight's New, the New Moore Market. Built on the filled-up Lily Pond in the People's Park Governor Charles Trevelyan had created, the new complex has four floors, each of 3000-3200 sq m extent, and a basement (1300 sq m) for a cafeteria. Individual electricity facilities for each shop, fire-fighting equipment, provision for lifts and escalators and a sky-lit ramp in the centre have been provided. All that it now awaits is occupants.

(Photographs by SUSHEELA NAIR)



This year of contribution

(Continued from P1)

Many have suggested that *Madras Musings* becomes a priced publication; every one of them has even indicated his or her willingness to subscribe upto Rs. 100 a year. But *Madras Musings* was founded as a unique, free issue publication to provide a forum for the improvement of the city. We would like to keep it that way.

But survival cannot depend indefinitely on such goodwill and on treating it as an image-builder for an organisation. If *Madras Musings* is to continue, it will have to pay its way. And that can only come through advertising — from those who care about Madras and those who see it reaching those who can afford to make a contribution to Madras. If that advertising supports does not grow in the next few months, there will be one less voice to be heard crying for this city. And that, most readers will agree, would be a pity.

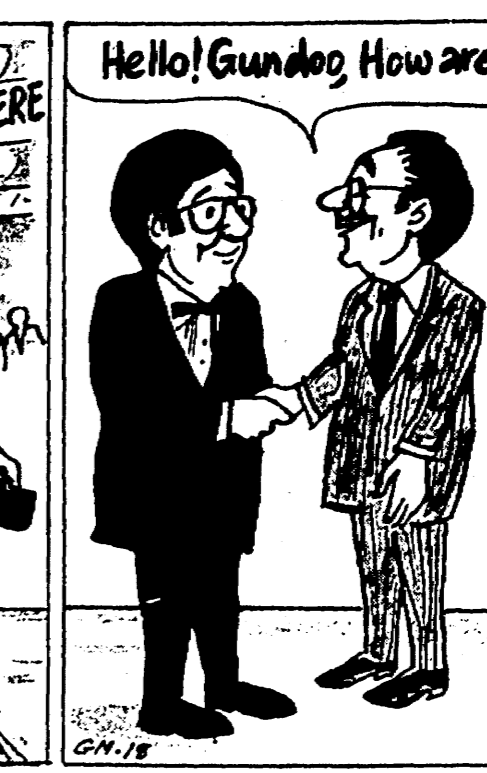
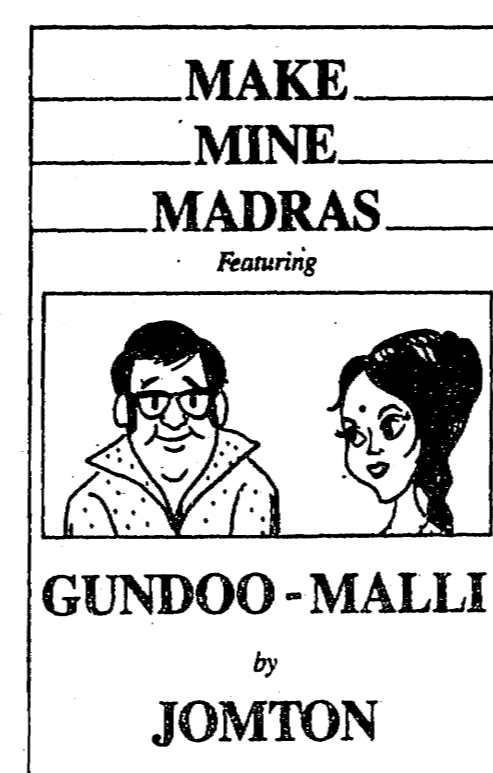
And, finally, arising out of the need for more pages and a greater variety of material, there's the Rs. 640,000 and more question: 'Whither *Madras Musings*? In fact, that's a question that should read: How long more, *Madras Musings*? The answer to that lies in the hands of the business houses and other advertisers and their advertising advisers in this city.

The only suggestion your Editor feels a real need to heed is the one that

youth does not feature too often in educational institutions and its service organisations.

We have, throughout the year, continued to welcome new readership, and no request to be put on our mailing list has been turned down. In this year of growth, only one person on the list has written in to say she did not want a copy even for FREE. Against that lone voice, there have been hundreds of letters requesting copies or asking that *Madras Musings* should follow the writers to their new addresses.

There have also been scores of suggestions on how to improve *Madras Musings*. These ideas for columns and articles range from Health to Astrology, from Astronomy to Pets, from Hobbies to Pop Music. To all of them we can only plead a lack of space, for any inclusion from such a suggestion list can only be at the expense of some of the existing material, most of which appears to have met a general welcome.



MM a year old

Come, all ye faithful, it is celebration time. *Madras Musings* is a year old with this issue. A year might be an invisible speck in the infinity of time, but it is nothing to be sneezed at in the life of a periodical. And for those of us who have been associated with *MM* from its inception — if inception is the word I want — this is not just a gratifying moment, but a moment that calls for gratitude also. In the rest of this column I occasionally use "we" rather than "I" it does not for a moment mean that I am usurping the prerogatives of the Editor, it is simply a convenience for expressing some thoughts. (In any case there have been frequent complaints from churlish readers that there is too much "I" in my column.)

When *MM* was first conceived, its sponsors had several options open to them, and the decision to make it a free, 8-page tabloid was deliberate, though



taken nervously and after a lot of soul-searching. A further decision was to make it entirely City-oriented (with an occasional excursion into other areas), and fill it full of matter that would be

of interest to the Madras, wherever he was. That this was a correct decision was obvious from the beginning when our subscription list grew from a couple of thousand into over eight thousand in the course of a few weeks. *MM* was obviously fulfilling what is usually known as a felt need in a city that has no other magazine devoted to it, with the distinguished exception of *Aside*, which is considerably different from *MM* in motivation, style and substance.

A free periodical full of interesting reading matter with contributors drawn from various specializations? Was it feasible in an environment in which the only free publications are house-organs? Would people not view with suspicion, if not totally despise, anything that was offered free? (As a matter of fact some readers keep wondering whether we might not one fine morning charge a subscription, while others actually plead with us to levy at least a nominal subscription.) That *MM* would be distributed free was a carefully considered decision of the sponsors, the reasoning being that if it proved to be

good enough, it may gain more of a readership than if it were sold for a price. This is exactly what has happened.

Early on, the Editor and his advisers worked out a format for the periodical, and since the formula proved successful, it has hardly been changed in the subsequent months. The main focus has always been the city, its pleasures and its shortcomings, its happenings, the regular and the unusual (one issue had two different "man bites dog" stories), and, generally, what people would want to know about what is happening in their city. To this effect, *MM* tries to take in its scope a wide variety of topics, all of which may not be of interest to all of its readers, but it is something more than a hodge-podge publication devoted to odds and ends. It has its own inner logic.

Two sections which have proved to be particularly popular are the quiz — nobody can deny the temptation to prove to himself that he is as knowledgeable as the next man — and what

S.K.

The Institute's whiz kids

During the past few years, a new trend has been noticed in Tamil Cinema — the emergence of a new school and style of film-making by the students of the state-run Film and Television Institute of Tamil Nadu in Madras. Besides the current favourite of film producers, that brilliant young film-maker R. V. Udayakumar, others, like Abavanan, P. R. Devaraj and Aravindaraj, have also made a considerable impact on Tamil Cinema.

Besides film-makers, the Institute has also produced talented cinematographers and other technicians, like the brilliant lensmen Ashok Kumar, P. C. Sri-ram, Nivas and others. It has also produced a fine crop of actors and actresses, like Anandaraj, Thyagu, Suhasini and others.

In the early years of Tamil Cinema, there was no facility for the study of film technique in a disciplined, systematic and organised manner. Aspirants learnt the different aspects of film-making by trial and error, mostly by error.

To fill the void, a polytechnic was established by the Provincial (British) Government in Broadway, Madras, where training was given to students in cinematography and sound engineering. Those who successfully completed a three-year course were awarded a diploma, a Licentiate in Cinematography and Sound Engineering (L.C.S.E.). In 1959, the Directorate of Technical Education was established and, a year later, an institute of film technology surfaced. In 1964, a modern Film Institute was started on a 64-acre plot in Adyar. Over the years, instruction and training in many disciplines of cinema, such as acting,

cinematography, editing, film direction, film theory, screenplay writing, film processing were offered. Students were also initiated into the making of films. Later, training in television and video were also added to make the Institute full-fledged.

In the beginning, a diploma holder found it extremely difficult to get his foot in the door and, for a long time, the

KINEMAYANA

local film industry looked at these students with contempt. Indeed, a creatively excellent cameraman like Ashok Kumar was forced to produce his own film, *Janma Bhoomi* (Malayalam), to get a break. One of the earliest films of merit to be made by the diploma holders was *Daham*, an off-beat Tamil film directed by Babu Nandancode, starring the Tamil film star R. Muthuraman as a blind man. It was a flop, but Rudraiah's *Aval Appadithan*, starring Sripriya and Kamal Hasan, created quite an impact.

By sheer merit and the quality of their work, the diploma-holders slowly forced their way into the fortress. The commercialised, cliché-ridden world of Tamil cinema sat up and took notice during the early Eighties when a new trail was blazed by a group of talented alumni of the Institute. The film which stunned everyone was *Oomai Vizhigal*, produced by Abavanan and directed by Aravindaraj. Its box office success prompted local film producers to chase diploma-holders to make pictures for them. 'A-Film by Film Institute Students' became a line that promised success. The students of the Film and Television Institute of Tamil Nadu had arrived.

The View from Fort St George... by R.K.K.

The LTTE time-bomb

Sri Lanka's Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) dominated the discussions inside the Tamil Nadu Assembly for a few days, with members worrying over how some members of this terrorist group are leading astray misguided youths in the State. A chillingly grim picture was painted by Chief Minister Jayalalitha when she disclosed that an LTTE 'suicide squad' had sneaked into the State "to carry out assassination attempts on myself and some other leading personalities". She also mentioned 'information received' of LTTE plans to bomb *Malligai*, headquarters of Special Investigation Team probing the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi, in order to hinder the investigation. And added that a 'ghost' transmitter was working in the Salem-Yercaud area, interfering with Police wireless communication.

Ms. Jayalalitha said categorically that the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act was not being, and would not be, misused. She reminded the House that there were 30 bomb explosions in Tamil Nadu last year and that a tough line was needed. The Chief Minister accused the LTTE of spoiling the peace of the State. Many members urged steps under TADA against those supporting the LTTE. The LTTE, they insisted, should be banned.

Ms. Jayalalitha, who is in charge of the Police portfolio, paid a splendid tribute to the Police and said that, after

her government came to power, all political interference in Police Administration had ceased. But, she added, to appreciative smiles, that it was her view that bureaucrats in general and IAS and Police officers in particular should be made accountable for administrative lapses. As elected representatives, politicians were made accountable to the people. But the bureaucrats had job security and at least some of them did not realise their responsibilities at all.

She also expressed the view that Kachalivu should be got back by India, and that the Centre should take action to prevent the Sri Lankan Navy Gandhi, in order to hinder the investigation. And added that a 'ghost' transmitter was working in the Salem-Yercaud area, interfering with Police wireless communication.

The House welcomed Finance Minister Nedunchezhiyan's announcement reducing the surcharge on Motor Vehicle Tax for stage carriages from 25 to 10 per cent, and the instructions issued to government departments to reduce expenditure by 10 per cent.

counter from the Minister was that the member should set an example and could even persuade his colleagues to give up their salaries. The question arose from the answer to the main question about the order in force to effect a cut in all non-Plan and non-Salary expenditure.

Subdued laughter also followed Congress (I) Kumari Anandan's query whether a tax reduced to two per cent could again be lowered to five per cent! The 1991-92 budget in September had mentioned a reduction in tax on 'gold covering jewellery' from eight to two per cent, and the March budget mentions a tax reduction on imitation jewellery from eight to five per cent. The Minister had no answer.

Revenue Minister Somandaram pointed out how the State was losing because people, particularly in Kanniyakumari District, were registering documents in Kerala, which accepted a lesser Stamp Duty, and said the Registration Act would be amended so that registration of properties in the State was done only in the State's sub-registry offices. He announced total tax exemption for handicraft products manufactured by organisations approved by the Khadi Commission and the Khadi Board. A taxation special tribunal to ensure speedy disposal of cases pending before the High Court is to be set up.

Mantra for Delhi

— from Mamallapuram

Controversy has surrounded the work of British sculptor Stephen Cox, who works in Mamallapuram. We see his granite work with the isolated eyes, nose, ears greeting us at the entrance of the British Council, Madras. We have read much critical writing on his work and philosophy. Now there's more to come.

On Sunday, March 15, a group of Madras journalists and artists drove down to Mamallapuram to look at *Mantra*, his latest sculpture, a 12-foot square, 4-foot thick, 30-tonne piece made of several blocks of granite brought from quarries near Kanchipuram and put together for previewing before it was to be ferried by lorry to Delhi where it will be installed in the new British Council building designed by Charles Correa and inaugurated by Prince Charles. Artist Howard Hodgkin's large mural will be framed in the front of the building. The main courtyard will have Stephen Cox's large sculpture which will be reflected in the pool in front of it.

It took one year, with twenty stone-workers, for Stephen Cox to finish *Mantra*, which he looked at fondly while talking to visitors. They had worked until 1 a.m. the previous night to put the sculpture together. While we struggled in the bright sunlight to see it in perspective, Cox remarked that the sculpture presented quite another sight in the moonlight.

Comic element was provided on the occasion by a local artist who had one too many and who, at lunch at the TTDC Resort, where Cox always stays, insisted on telling everyone what he thought of everything and everybody connected with art.

Sculptor hit as actor

The Russian Cultural Centre recently presented Nikolai Gogol's *Dead Souls*, directed by Santhan P Alexander. The Russians told me the play conveys the true spirit of Gogol. A pleasant surprise was the natural acting of painter/sculptor Hans Kaushik, well known in Madras for his terracotta sculpture workshops with children. He received an appreciative ovation.

Kaushik is quiet and unassuming and is always a hit with children, whether they are from elitist schools, Corporation schools or from a village. He is now helping with a potters' workshop at Kelambakkam, working in tandem with Ray Meeker of Pondicherry.

Hans has turned out to be an important resource person for children's workshops in Madras — as well as an actor to watch!

Twist at the end

Street plays are old hat, but this one had a twist at the end — or, more precisely, a twist of rubber. The South India AIDS Action Programme (SIAAP), which has been working in different ways to make people aware of AIDS, recently rounded up its volunteers to produce street plays that talked about AIDS with frankness and humour. At the end, when pamphlets and, er... condoms were distributed, there was a mad scramble — for the condoms.

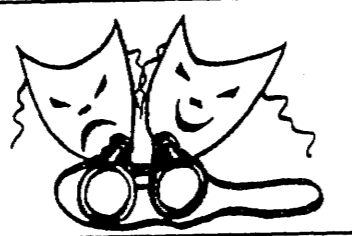
Now SIAAP is holding its third volunteer training workshop in April. The workshop will be in English and is spread over five sessions (four 3-hour sessions and one day-long one). The

sessions will feature discussions, presentations, games, video shows etc. The course is free and open to all. Interested? Get in touch at OP Block,

Dates with dancers

An interesting Bharatha Natyam dance festival is in the offing in Madras from April 4 to April 12.

THE VIEW FROM THE WINGS



Voluntary Health Services (VHS), Taramani, Madras-600 113 or call 416886, 2348125. The workshop promises to be informal, interactive and fun.

Organised by ABAI (the Association of Bharata Natyam Artists of India), the festival will present some well-known solo dancers and group dancers, not just from Madras but also from the Tamil



Putting the final touches to *Mantra*, on left, and, above, Stephen Cox at work in Mamallapuram.



Pour the fruit juice-honey mixture over the cake. Then arrange the fruit over the cake.

Spread the jam uniformly. Pour the thick custard over the fruit. Cool till the custard sets.

Beat the fresh cream and spread over the custard. Decorate with orange segments and serve cold.

Chandra Padmanabhan

FISH SOUFFLE

4 tbs butter
½ cup flour
1½ cups milk
2 cups cooked fish flakes
2 tbs grated carrot
2 tbs grated onion
4 eggs
1 cup seasoned mashed potatoes
Pepper and salt to taste

Method

Pre-heat oven to 360°F. Mix the fish flakes, salt, pepper, carrot and onion and keep aside.

Melt butter in a pan. To this add the flour. Then add milk gradually and cook, stirring it constantly till it thickens.

Add this hot mixture to well beaten egg yolks. Combine fish flakes, mashed potatoes. Beat egg whites till stiff and add this last to the mixture.

Bake for about 30 minutes at 360°F.

Neela Prabhakar

QUIZZIN' WITH NAVIN

(Quizmaster NAVIN JAYAKUMAR's questions are all from March 1-15)

- Where in Turkey did a recent earthquake kill over 1000 people?
 - Which island country bid goodbye to the British monarch as head of state on March 12 and became a republic?
 - He led the Irgun Zvai Leumi, an extremist guerilla group. Later, becoming PM of his nation he was a co-winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1978. He died on March 9. His name?
 - INS *Rajali*, India's biggest Naval Air Station, was inaugurated recently. Why was it so named?
 - Which party split, with eight of its 13 MPs in the Lok Sabha formally requesting the Speaker to recognise them as the 'real' party?
 - Who is the Commander of the UN Peacekeeping Force in Yugoslavia?
 - What is the 'Book of Life'?
 - The superimposition technique used to establish the identity of dead persons was demonstrated in court by Prof. P Chandrasekharan in connection with which case?
 - Who turned the spotlight on himself with 'Ad Review 1991'?
 - Name the 5-day dance festival which started on Mahasivaratri at Chidambaram?
 - What are Gambusia and Tilapia?
 - Who is the 'Bangalore Strangler' who killed 23 women?
 - Which city college plans to conduct an English speaking course for PTC drivers?
 - Sikkimese and Tibetans celebrated their New Year on March 5. According to the Tibetan almanac the new year is known as the year of the _____?
 - Who headed the Tax Reforms Committee whose report caused a furore in Parliament over whether its contents had been leaked to the World Bank?
 - Which predominantly Armenian enclave in Azerbaijan is often in the midst of armed conflict?
 - Which two countries are the largest exporters of raw opium to the advanced countries for medicinal and scientific purposes?
 - South Arcot District is to be bifurcated into South Arcot and?
 - Which country goes to the polls on April 9?
 - INS *Rajali* is India's fifth Naval Air Station. Where are the other four?
- (ANSWERS ON PAGE 8)

T.N. sport forging ahead

It's been a splendid season for Tamil Nadu sport. Cricket, Hockey, Volleyball, Basketball, Football and Table Tennis have all seen Tamil Nadu teams among the best in the country. In Athletics, the men's team finished best of all STATE teams, only the institution teams faring any better. And several women athletes turned in fine performances. The only tragedy is that converting this talent into real world class, or even Asian class, is lagging far behind. And this is entirely due to the niggardly attitude to sponsorship of sports persons in this state.

I can see a number of organisations getting ready to say "that's not right". But it is; what I'm talking about is not petty through permanent jobs, or part-time employment with moderate appearance fees. I'm talking of the kind of money RAMCO have been putting into chess champion Viswanath Anand's progress. And I'm talking of more. Like getting all those Tamil Nadu football players who were noticed at the recent nationals and giving them the best possible training and the handsomest inducements to stay with the game in Tamil Nadu and progress from here into the national reckoning.

In this year's national football championships, which saw Tamil Nadu finish as losing semi-finalists in a tie-breaker, several of the most outstanding players were young 'uns from the state. The best ball distributor was the diminutive right half, Hamilton Bobby, brother of the renowned Xavier Pius. R Amalraj, Grand Duraidandian and striker Kumaresan all wove dazzling patterns as they impressed with their speed, dribbling and shooting accuracy. And skipper Ashok Kumar was a tower of strength.

The young and enthusiastic side was the pick of the tournament and demonstrated the greatest flair. What does the state do with it now?

At the national, representational, state and even lower levels.

No will to fight

Another reason for India's poor showing during the recent one-day and Test series was its total lack of fight. And the roots for this unwillingness to fight are, again, to be found in our Ranji Trophy matches.

Just look back on the two semi-finals — or, for that matter, most of the other matches in the tournament in the past few years. Both Tamil Nadu (lucky to be in the knock-out round at all) and Delhi won their matches on the first innings and made no effort thereafter to win outright. Instead, they both opted for batting practice in the second innings, with players like Raman ambulating along.

So long as the rules allow a first innings win in four- and five-day matches, each team is only going to try and crawl to such a victory — and to Hades with the second innings and a REAL decision. With such an attitude, there is no way for a spirit of deter-

mination or of the will to fight to develop. If those are to be part of every player's make-up, every match must then be made a real competition — and that can

been victims of reports that implied that their nationalities have had something to do with their decisions, that those decisions could have favoured their

THE CORNER FLAG

only be done by limiting the game to, say, 120 overs each in the first innings and 90 overs a side in the second. And no points for anything but an outright result.

Neutrals no answer

A few weeks ago, *The Corner Flag* had written that neutral umpires would not provide the satisfaction sought by cricket fans and players alike, that only changes in the rules — to eliminate every aspect of subjectivity in decisions — would. The World Cup has demonstrated this point rather clearly — and, curiously, in almost the very terms that had been mentioned as a warning a few weeks ago.

Indian umpire Piloos Reporter and Pakistan umpire Khizer Hayat have

own teams. In the India-South Africa match "not even the sight of Hudson's bat in the air raised a doubt in (Hayat's) mind". And Piloos Reporter gave a rather similar decision against Pakistan's Inzamam-ul-Haq in the South Africa match and the Pakistan squad was livid. He is also said to have ruled against Pakistan in the Australia match — and they didn't like that one bit either! In the case of the former, a decision against Hudson (53) might have helped India squeeze past Pakistan into the semi-finals, instead of which it helped knock out India; in the other case, the unfavourable decisions helped India's chances more than it did Pakistan's, it was bruited about.

Whatever TNCA Umpire Subramanian might have written to the Editor

of this journal, there's no getting away from such insinuations so long as the rules are left as they are.

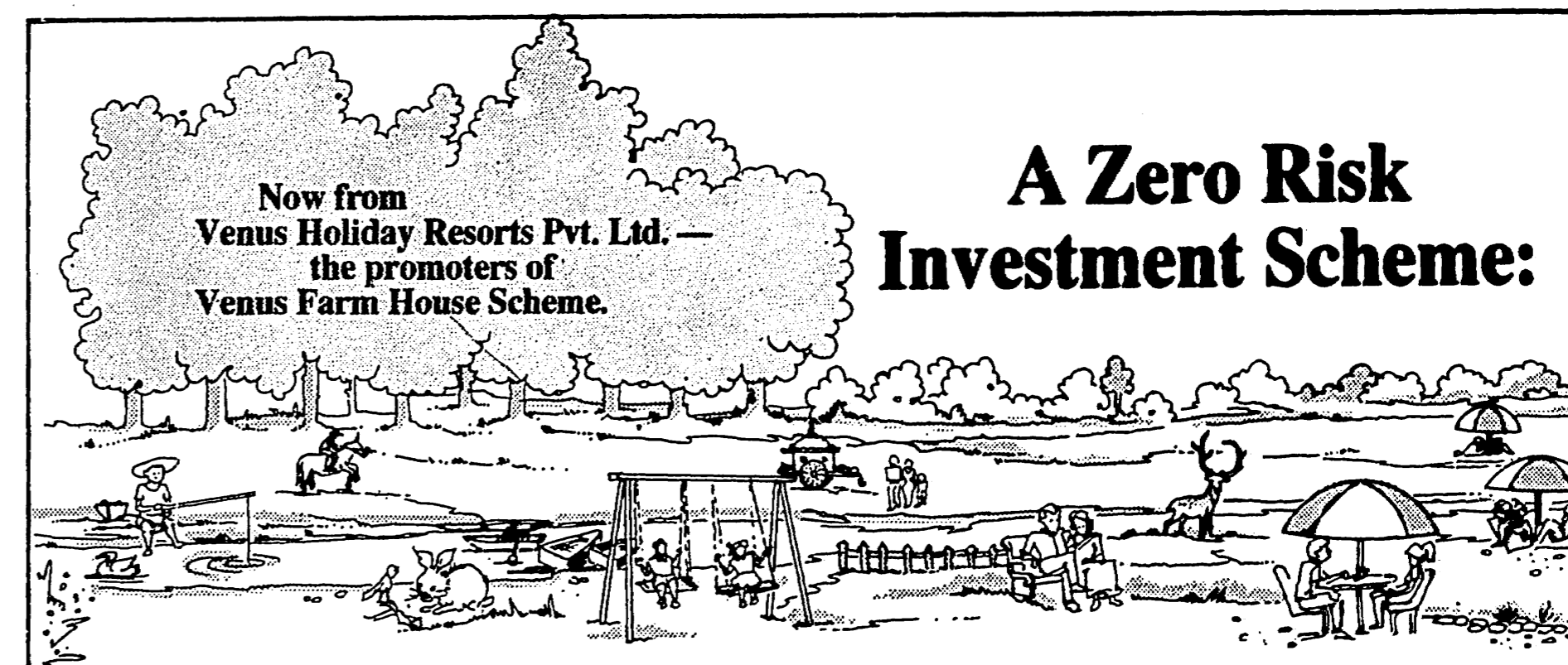
Was it said?

Was it heard right? Was it reported right? Did Srikanth really say, after his return from Australia, that he was "looking forward to the final against Delhi"? Does a statement like that imply what I think it does?

If it does, it's hardly fair by those who've lifted the team into the final when Srikanth was away. And, more so, when his form was so indifferent on the tour. Based on that record, I would have thought he would have first wanted to get back into form before looking at getting back into competition.

On the other hand, he might have just meant that he was looking forward to WATCHING the final and the reporter had unwittingly left out the word that would have clarified what Srikanth really meant. What's the real word?

That word's been uttered since the above was written: form or no. Srikanth's been chosen in the squad for the final. Perhaps his luck will be better than in Australia.



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Riaz, rising star

Hockey fans in the city were disappointed that the Indian Hockey Federation (IHF) decided against holding the 55th National Hockey Championship for the Rangaswamy Cup in Madras. But there was some consolation when the Championship was held in Madurai, for the third time in the last 25 years. But the officials who noted this achievement with pride might ask themselves why burgeoning young talent in the State is being neglected, how Mohammed Riaz, Tamil Nadu's newest star on the hockey scene, was allowed to slip from the State's hands into those of Indian Airlines. Tamil Nadu turned in its best performance in years at the Championship. But with Riaz, it might have even gone further.

Mohammed Riaz, a twelfth standard student of the Madras YMCA Sports School, turned in a splendid performance at the Madurai Nationals when, combining with senior players like Jasbir Singh, Shakeel Ahmed and Mukesh Kumar, he helped Indian

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. Erzincan. 2. Mauritius. 3. Menachem Begin. 4. After a bird of the eagle family known for its speed and agility. 5. Telugu Desam. 6. Lt Gen Satish Nambiar. 7. The South African identity document. 8. Auto Shankar case. 9. Alyque Padamsee. 10. Natyanjali. 11. Larvivorous fish to combat mosquito breeding in Madras. 12. Nagaraj. 13. Stella Maris. 14. Water Monkey. 15. Dr Raja J Chelliah. 16. Nagorno Karabakh. 17. India & Turkey. 18. Villupuram- Vallalar Dist.. 19. UK. 20. Goa, Cochin, Port Blair and Vishakhapatnam.

Airlines to reach the finals. Airlines wooed him after he had led Tamil Nadu into the finals of the McDowell-Herbertson Junior National Hockey Championship held at Tirupati last July. He was the outstanding player of the championship. Sadly, there was no 'player of the tournament' award.

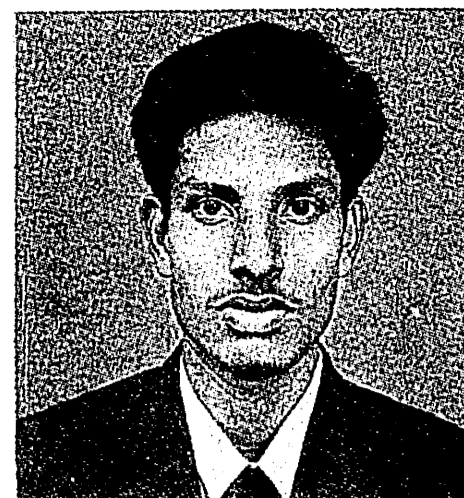
Riaz, born in May 1972, comes from a family of hockey players. He was eight when he learned the basics of the game from his father, Abdul Nabi, now an International Grade I umpire but who had played for Tamil Nadu in the past. His uncles, Jabbar

Basha and Abdul Hamid, played for India and Tamil Nadu respectively. His elder brother, Mohammed Jameel, turns out for the I.O.B. team in the Madras league.

Riaz had his early schooling at the Madrasa-e-Azam Government Higher Secondary School, but when his talent was spotted he moved to the YMCA Sports School. In 1987, while at the National sub-juniors training camp, Riaz met Mervyn Fernandes, the former international, who gave him a few tips on how to improve his stick-work. That advice was to prove of great help to him

in the tournaments to come. In 1989, Riaz was selected for the junior Indian team. He was also a member of the Indian (Whites) team which defeated Kenya 3-0 in August last year.

An indefatigable and aggressive player, Riaz puts in a gruelling five hours on practice in the mornings and evenings, every day. During the last ten months, he has been more out of Madras than in, attending training camps in Delhi, Bangalore, Patiala and Gwalior. But he makes it a point to make up for the lost time with family and friends whenever he's back in



Mohammed Riaz

Madras. He also then catches up with watching cricket and tennis.

Riaz's future plans include completing his graduation and developing his hockey skills further. But this year, he was not able to take his Plus Two examinations, as he was attending the Senior Olympic camp in Delhi. (This surely is one area where the Educational Authorities could make allowances for Riaz and other champions like him.)

His performance at the various camps brought him a scholarship from Indian Airlines. No doubt a job will follow. He had to accept the Airlines offer because no organisation in Tamil Nadu was willing to help as handsomely. How long will it be before Tamil Nadu realises that a major part of its up and coming sports talent will fade away, or seek pastures new, if it doesn't receive financial support and the best training facilities?

But even if Riaz is lost to Tamil Nadu hockey, Madras will one day be proud of its contribution to the national hockey scene. For Riaz is certain to play for India. And he might be the answer to the country's need for a left inner or a centre half — he's played both positions equally well, but is happiest when playing as a roving link-man.

A. Seshagiri Rao

Thirty-two-year-old Robert Foley has proved to be more than a worthy successor to the late Ali Asker and Aris David, who both had helped M A M Ramaswamy dominate the Indian Turf scene. When, about eight years ago, Ramaswamy put the young Foley in charge of his high-power establishment, it was generally felt that the Englishman was too young and inexperienced to look after the country's biggest string. But the youngster's "bloodline" stood him in good stead.

Son of Jim Foley, a former Guindy champion horseman, who took to training after retiring from the saddle, Robert was not found wanting in any phase of his profession. In his very first season, he saw to it that Ramaswamy's decade-old domination of the Madras turf continued. He has not looked back. Going from strength to strength. Foley hit the world Turf head-

Foley's second century

lines by the end of the 1990-91 Madras season when he emerged as the first trainer to saddle a century of winners at one centre in a single season.

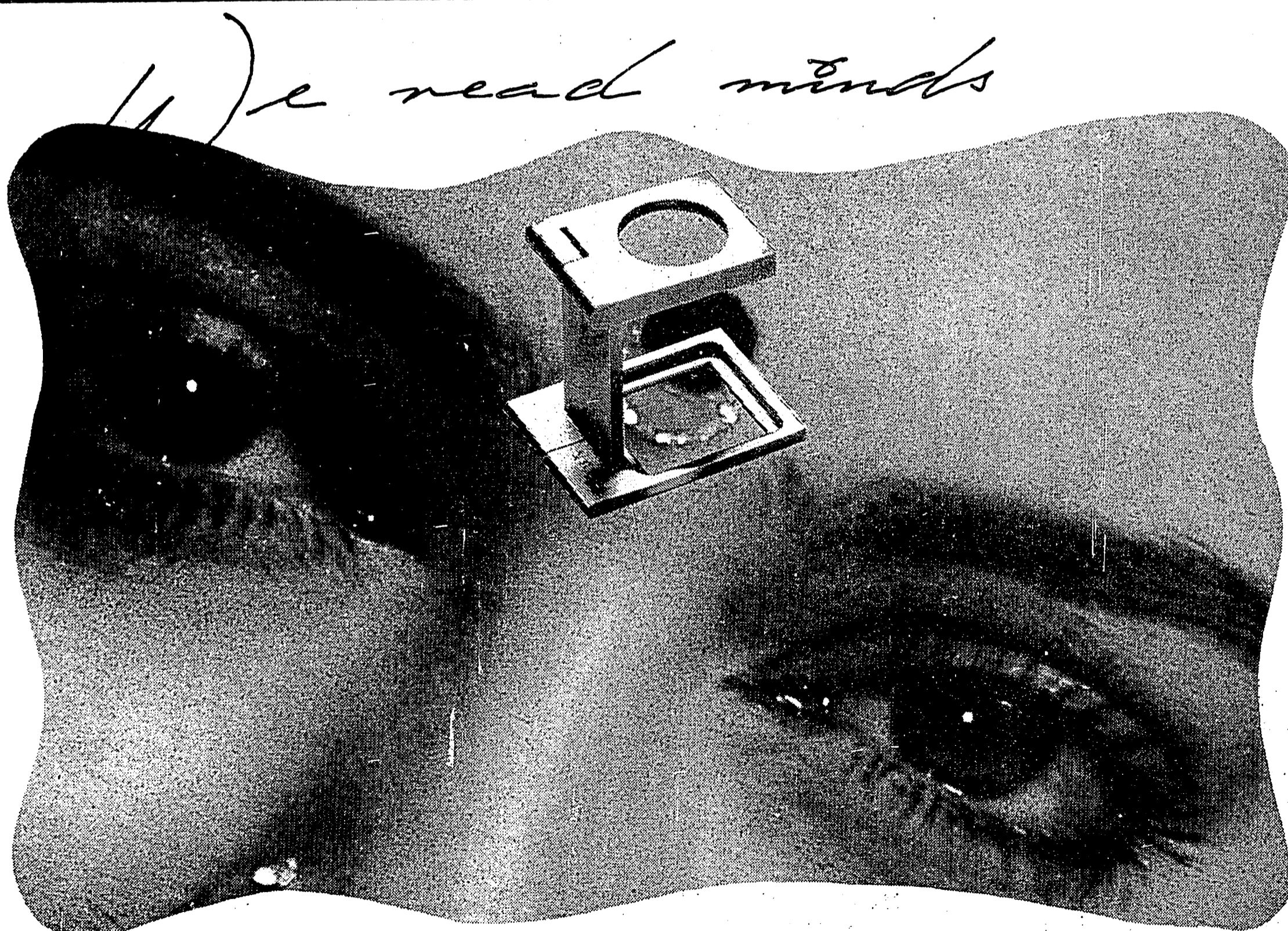
Wonder of wonders, Foley on March 15th this year completed his second successive century! His 100th winner at the 1991-92 Madras season was Ramaswamy's Magic Gleam, a Jerry Can filly, who cantered away with a 1,200 metres race at the season's 34th meeting. In

the remaining six fixtures, Foley, as expected, not only eclipsed his previous record of 106 winners but set new figures, which he alone is capable of lowering.

The road to turf greatness is not strewn with roses. Sheer hard work is needed. Foley owes his success to the hard and dedicated work he turns out every morning. But the expert advice he receives from Ramaswamy also helps.

Soon after Magic Gleam emerged as Foley's 100th winner this past season, the record-shattering professional was felicitated by his friends and fans. But it took the Department of Racing, Government of Tamil Nadu, nearly an hour to realise, that Foley had reached another landmark. On behalf of the DOR, its commentator announced Foley's feat and congratulated him a day after the feast, so to say!

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