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MUSINGS

Vol. II, No. 10

FREE ISSUE — EVERY FORTNIGHT

September 1 — 15, 1992

The Corporation's begun to look into converting

Our garbage into fuel

(By A Special Correspondent)

Is there hope for a cleaner Madras before long? It would seem so, if the Corporation keeps its promise and ensures adequate garbage-clearance to keep a factory busy year-round converting it into a coal-like fuel.

It is reported that the Corporation has been having dialogues with at least one private business house interested in setting up a Rs. 1 crore plant to convert 200 tonnes of garbage a day into 'coal'. But if those reports are correct, the economies of scale might not work out.

It is stated that the Corporation collects at present 1500 tonnes of garbage a month and hopes to step it up to 200 tonnes. But is that all the

garbage there is in the City? If it isn't, might it not be better to farm out the entire garbage clearing operation to those interested in converting it into solid fuel? That is the issue under consideration at present.

Meanwhile, the Corporation is drawing up plans to ensure that 34 kilometres of road in the city will be litter-free. The stretches to be cleaned up in two shifts by 272 sanitary workers, 24 supervisors, 12 sanitary inspectors, 30 drivers and 11 lorries will be:

- Rajaji and Kamaraj Salais, from Clive Battery to the new Lighthouse.
- Anna Salai-Mount Road from Munro Statue to Kathipara Junction.

- Periyar Salai from Dental College to Nehru Salai.
- Cathedral Road-Dr. Radhakrishnan Salai, from Anna Flyover to the DGP's office.
- Sardar Patel Salai to City Limits on the East Coast Road.

It is stated that 1360 new dustbins will be erected on these routes at intervals of every 50 metres. But all this attempt to clean up can only be successful if there is public co-operation, say Corporation officials. Garbage bins and plastic bags must be used regularly, not the roadside as is the prevalent practice. Will the citizens of Madras cooperate in bringing about a Cleaner Madras? The next few months will tell.



Did you say it's getting hot again? That it's never as hot as this in August? Well, here's one solution to the heat. When the owner of the elephant in our picture brought it to a suburban town for a festival, he came riding in a bullock cart. And as he went to look for the organisers, he parked both elephant and cart in such a fashion that the elephant provided shade to his friend the bull. And, says photographer S. ANWAR, they stayed in peaceful companionship like this for over an hour, till their owner returned.

Pack, cook or manure with it!

(By A Staff Reporter)

Coirpack, the patented brain-wave of P N Nandadasa of Flexport's, Colombo, is a wonder material that coconut-growing Indian states like Tamil Nadu should be looking at to decrease the amount of garbage we strew about the place.

Coirpack is merely coconut fibre dust that's, by patented means, machine-pressed and moulded into any type of solid packaging. But what's even more special about this totally non-polluting packing material is the many environmentally friendly secondary uses it has.

As an empty unit of packaging it can be used as a flower pot that can be planted with its seed-content in the soil where the dust will nourish growth. If the container is hammered into loose

dust, it serves once again as a first rate manure. And broken into pieces, it serves as an almost smokeless fuel for the Island's thousands of open hearths.

Said to be safe packaging for anything from television sets to milk bottles, it is a packaging material that is 100 per cent biodegradable and which can never exist as garbage.

Sri Lanka was the first country to introduce coconut milk powder — which some business houses in Kerala are now beginning to take a more serious look at. Now it's introduced Nandadasa's Coirpack — and perhaps a Madras business house will look at it more carefully. It's time this state and the rest of South India did more with coconut.

Speeding at snail's pace

(By Our Motoring Correspondent)

Much has been written about the four-lane traffic experiment that's being conducted on a 2½ kilometre stretch of Anna Salai. It's undoubtedly too early to come up with a solid evaluation. But first impressions have been none too favourable.

In the week or so preceding the formal inauguration and hours before the inauguration itself, I've had reason to use the stretch four times, both ways. Driving down towards Anna Statue, it's taken me between 30 and 40 minutes every trip, from the Flyover to the Statue. I've watched buses racing in a queue in their third lane, I've watched autos and two-wheelers make good time in their second lane, but when it comes to cars in the first lane it's been sheer penance. Only the inside service lanes are worse — and this lane creates further havoc when vehicles coming out of offices on it seek their lanes.

The reason for first lane problems is not far to seek. The traffic from Thiru-Vi-Ka Road, the pedestrian crossing near IOB headquarters, the right turn into Patullo's Road and the traffic coming from and into C-in-C Road make this a snail's pace drive for cars.

The worst block is the Patullo's Road junction, where there is no room for vehicles halted for the turn, the chaos they consequently create snarling up all car traffic. The C-in-C junction hold-up is only slightly better by comparison. Once this is cleared, it's smooth driving thereafter. But until that happens, my most significant finding is that the largest number of lane-breakers are the car users, including several smartly dressed women drivers. Both bus drivers and auto drivers are, to a lesser extent, doing a fair job of keeping to their lanes — but are being punished most.

Coming the other way, it's comparatively smooth driving, because there's only one right turn — at the C-in-C Road junction. STOP all turns, except LEFT turns, on Anna Salai and ensure that pedestrians must cross only by subway and things will improve considerably on this stretch. And if the system is extended up to Meenam-bakkam, with turns only at Anna Statue, C-in-C Road, Gemini, Eldam's Road, Cenotaph Road, Nandanam, Saidapet, Raj Bhavan and Kathipara Junction, we might yet get a smooth, fast ride up and down Anna Salai-Mount Road.

The unreported flames

(By A Staff Reporter)

We're late with the news, but what happened on Cathedral Road, opposite the Chola Sheraton, on the evening of Monday, August 17th, is still news because this reporter has seen no account in any paper of that event and the non-events that followed.

On the opposite side of the road from the Chola, there was this white

LCV ablaze, its driver's cabin and engine spouting flames. Unconcerned, traffic passed by and equally unconcerned appeared to be the posse of policemen some distance behind it. But once the sudden splutters and the crackling noises erupted, the police beat a hasty retreat and some of them decided to bring the traffic to a halt. Meanwhile, residents of the houses and stores by which the vehicle was parked

kept worriedly wondering whether the flames would spread.

Which worries were understandable, for there was nary a fire engine in sight for the 20 minutes I watched the blaze. Moving on, there were the fire engines of Teynampet sitting pretty, with no excitement in the air at their fire station, a scant five minutes away from the blaze. And, I was later told,

a fire engine at Poe's Gardens was within even less travelling distance.

Never did find out how long the blaze lasted, when the fire engines turned up — if they did — why no effort was being made earlier by all those policemen to douse the flames with buckets of water and sand, and what caused it all. Some avid fire watcher might like to let Madras Musings know.

MANALI RAMAN...

Oh, it's not for us! It's for the Lord. Make your offering to Him and seek His blessings!

MANALI RAMAN

Embellishing the detection rate

The Man from Madras Musings has always felt that the Tamil Nadu Police is perhaps the best police force in the country — when it is allowed to do its job. Certainly, the record of the Tamil Nadu Police in all-India inter-Police competition has been a truly envious one.

Despite all the multifarious security concerns it had during the year 1991-92, the Tamil Nadu Police achieved a near 70 per cent detection rate and a 72 per cent property recovery rate in the nearly 7000 crime cases it investigated. Now that's a record most Police forces would like to have, but it is sad that one among the 30 per cent of unsolved cases is the case of acid thrown on I.A.S. officer Chandralekha.

Having arrested a couple of the culprits, it is strange that the Police have not been able to make further headway despite the keen interest the state's I.A.S. cadres and Police officers themselves have been taking in the case. In fact, it has been left to stormy petrel Dr. Subramaniam Swamy to draw attention to the lack of progress in the case and, in his usual blustering way, he's threatened to bring the C.B.I. in (as though that organisation hasn't problems of its own, what with Madhavan's resignation causing ripples in its ranks).

This, *The Man from Madras Musings* feels, is certainly not necessary. With their investigative record, the Tamil Nadu Police are certainly capable of cracking the case. But why is there no progress? Several ugly rumours provide several ugly answers, but then everything is grist for the local rumour-mill. May be the investigators will yet surprise the rumour-mongers and provide a solution which they were not able to do in the now almost forgotten Indira Nagar murder case. It's time some light was shed on that mystery too. It's answers to such mysteries that will enhance the Tamil Nadu Police's fine reputation, not merely securing a high crime detection rate in run-of-the-mill, unglamorous crime.

Rush to help
Cuba's boxers with rippling muscles out-boxed the world in Barcelona. Its beautifully built sportsmen ran faster, threw longer, jumped higher than sportsmen and women from most of the rest of the world, including several of the affluent countries, and beat squads from most of these nations in team competitions. In fact, as the Cubans, all from one small island, rushed for gold, it was not only an impressive performance that was turned in but it also indicated a great deal of money spent on training and demonstrated some first rate organisational skills.

It struck *The Man from Madras Musings* quite strange that even as the sheen had not worn from this glitter, and its implications, a local committee in Madras, betwixt and between swilling the hated Yanqui's Pepsicola, was denouncing the fate of a Cuba that was starving and thundering how badly it needed food — from an India where many hundreds of Cubas were below the poverty line and each individual of which probably has far less to eat than the average Cuban!

To this end the local bleeding hearts had gathered a seven-figure sum with which to buy foodgrain for Cuba and their efforts of the past few weeks were being supplemented in every state in the Union. Shouldn't someone tell them of the fate of the Muslim and Croatian Bosnians, who probably could do with much more help, of emaciated Somalis and Ethiopians or of the millions in India who do not have three square meals a day? Or if we have no time for renegade Communists who might turn fundamentalist or nationalist, or if we want to paint a picture to the world that's all well on the food front in India, wouldn't it perhaps be more appropriate if the collection was spent on improving Indian Sport to Cuban standards — perhaps even with Cuban coaches? *The Man from Madras Musings* wishes that do-gooders such as these would occasionally be more realistic than idealistic and not act in haste only to repent at leisure.

Beating the ban

The Man from Madras Musings has been seeing several ingenious ways of beating the ban on pasting posters in the City. Not that they are really necessary; the ban appears to be being enforced ONLY on the main arteries and in the case of public property of any significance, so posters appear to be pastable unhindered elsewhere. Nevertheless, many people appear to feel that the poster-publishers want to make the point that they are not being allowed to plaster important fixtures in the city with posters in their particularly inimitable style. So they're taken to other means of publicity, some

clever, others ugly and plain petty.

One's used a horse-carriage 'hoarded' all over with placards for, and bags of, what he is selling. Another put an elephant in a showroom draped with his message. A third has allowed the walls of his institution to be painted with several colourful messages, each perhaps for a fee. But dear Mr Karunanidhi, *MMM* is hardly pleased with the efforts of your supporters — or were they the minions of an insti-

SHORT 'N' SNAPPY

tution with which your name is associated?

The Man from Madras Musings must congratulate *Murasoli* on celebrating its Golden Jubilee. Long may it thrive. But Mr Karunanidhi, or Mr Maran, did you have to announce it and make your point about the poster ordinance by putting up a rather loud, temporary cloth hoarding (taking advantage of the freedom to erect cutouts) in the one place in the city where an effort has been made to demonstrate what a nice place a cleaner Madras would be? Was that hoarding by the flyover — for which, *MMM* believes, you, Mr Karunanidhi, were responsible and should be proud of — really necessary? Come, come, gentlemen. With your cultural accomplishments, *MMM* had expected better. Could we and everyone else agree to keep important public property and the main thoroughfares free of posters, hoardings and cutouts?

In Brief

★ The Indian Convention Promotion Bureau, whose aim is to get the world to convene in India, recently announced that Madras had been chosen as one of the three centres in India where a major modern convention centre with integrated facilities would be established to attract international conferences. This very likely refers to the international exhibition site to be established in Taramani. Nothing, however, has been heard about progress there after the signing of agreements between the state government and the Trade Fair Authority of India. Particularly concerned about its fate are the printers of India. Their next international exhibition (PAMEX) and conference in India is scheduled for 1995/6 and has been earmarked for the South. With Bangalore also chosen as a convention centre, whoever puts one up first will get the printers' business. Come on, Tamil Nadu, we pioneered almost everything to do with printing in the country; must we lose out on this exhibition now? India, incidentally, in 1991 held 494 of the world's 33,000 international conferences and earned about US \$ 30 million against a worldwide expenditure reportedly of \$ 104 BILLION!

★ The worldwide prescribed noise level limit is 50 decibels (DB) by day and night. Madras has a noise level of 77 by day and 73 by night. But all of you who hear the loudspeakers of politicians, temples and teashops, not to mention radios and TV sets in homes, do you believe that we are less noisy than Delhi, Calcutta, and Bombay (83, 83, 80 DB by day and 77, 75 and

MMM

74 by night)? *The Man from Madras Musings* does not. Our traffic horns alone should produce such decibels without the help of loudspeakers!

★ The Rs. 100 crore conglomerate that public sector whiz manager Krishnamurthy and his sons, all now under a cloud, built up include India Meters, Cauvery Sugars, Hydraulics Ltd formerly of the Union Motors Group and acquired through marriage, Ergodyne (boiler components), two software companies, several investment and marketing companies and even a Rs. 10 crore company in the Netherlands. Surely all this information was public property! Then why did successive governments fail to take a closer look at this growing empire of a man whose lifelong career has been that of a public sector executive, not exactly the best way to grow rich. Could it be that we in this country accept the philosophy that it is the DUTY of every father to leave his offspring not only richer but better placed than he was and heir to his power? The exceptions are few indeed in the upper echelons.

★ Is Kamal Hasan making a comeback to Bollywood and Hindi films? It is reported that the star, perhaps the country's most versatile actor and whose stay in Bollywood was cut short a few years ago because of, it is alleged, the petty jealousies of rival actors, is teaming with Rajan Lal of the IITL Group and director Mani Ratnam to set up a Hindi film-producing company. It is stated that the company, like Ratnam's brother's GV Films, may even go public after its first release.

MMM

Special teachers for special people

Twentyfour children, from 6 to 14 years old, stood in a somewhat ragged drill formation on a beautifully tiled verandah floor of a restored 200 years-old bungalow.

"Ready?" asked a beaming Kalaiyani.

"Ready, Miss!" came a deafening chorus.

"One! Two! Three! Four!" went the teacher, swinging her arms in time. "One! Three! One! Four!" went some of the children, their arms vigorously imitating the teachers' movements. But no one took the slightest notice of the somewhat erratic counting; they were all much too busy enjoying their morning exercises before classes and, besides, apart from the teacher and assistants present, no one had a mental age of more than five years. The students of the Meston Educational Rehabilitation and Research Centre (MERRC) at Royapettah were obviously very happy. One little boy, however, sat by himself on the polished wooden floor of the adjoining room.

"Come, Sriam, what's up?" asked another teacher. He looked at her uncomprehendingly, and slowly tears filled his eyes. "Come, come," said the

teacher, helping him to his feet. He was quite tall. Speaking gently to him, she put her arm around the child and began to walk him towards the group. No one will know what went on in his brain, but he smiled a rather vacant but somewhat contented and appealing smile, and made a few floppy arm movements.

Sriam is a spastic, and the three teachers at MERRC are products of a

does not, and should not, result in becoming an outcast. Yet, incredible as it may seem, Special Education received no attention at the University level until 1988, when Madras University was the first in the country to offer Special Education as an optional subject in the B.Ed. course.

The same year, Meston College of Education, Royapettah, having just become affiliated to Madras University,

• by Simeon Mascarenhas

teacher training programme that is unique in India. Let's go back a bit.

The past ten years or so have seen a growing and long-needed awareness of handicapped people and their problems in adjusting to a society and an environment that does not, generally speaking, take them into account. The "Year of the Handicapped" brought them some attention, and special societies for the disadvantaged sought to make known the difficulties faced by their members in coping with a world which is often too much for even normal people. There were efforts to educate society at large that being handicapped

offered the Special Education option to its B.Ed. students. While certain colleges in Madras and other cities offered various graduate courses in a few branches of Special Education, it was left to Meston to structure a B.Ed. course completely based in favour of Education for the Mentally Handicapped (EMH). A graduate with this training would therefore have earned the degree 'B.Ed. (EMH)'. This upgrading of the normal B.Ed. course came in 1990-91, as a result of Meston going autonomous. The outcome is a B.Ed. course only five years old, but more specialised than the

ON THE ROAD TO PRIVATISATION

The possibility of partial privatisation of nationalised banks is not unimaginable any longer. The need is obvious, with their requirement of about Rs. 10,000 cr to comply with capital adequacy norms. Debate on this issue has gained momentum, especially as Dr. Manmohan Singh has made it clear that the Government has no plans for privatisation of banks directly or indirectly. So then how will these banks secure the required resources?

The need of the hour is to pick up the gauntlet and compete with foreign banks and well managed private sector banks. Foreign banks can, of course, bring in resources at will. Private sector banks too are comfortably positioned to raise huge resources from the public, as long as they are efficient, and can reward their shareholders with bonanzas of high dividends and bonuses. This is, of course, possible only with the RBI's approval. We wonder why? Any attempt by the RBI to restrict their justified freedom will only be perceived as an attempt by it to overawe banks doing well enough to declare high dividends. To frown on anything better than the prevailing levels would be seen as an attempt to curb the gaining of popularity by private banks.

The very ideology of nationalisation of banks remains to be tempered, tied as it is to the ideal of social welfare at any cost. The public sector banks have seen nothing wrong in the politically conceived loan *melas* and waivers. The fact that the government has had to consent to higher capital adequacy norms of four per cent, in relation to the risk weighted assets, implies that due regard must be paid in the future to international standards. If banks seek to have an international presence, the norms should be as high as

eight per cent. This will only be possible by raising capital through public issues.

Social welfare schemes make little sense, except in the context of a strong and profitable system. The sooner the notion is dropped that banks can carry on as before with low capital, unprofitable portfolios, large non-performing assets and impractical SLR/CRR requirements, the better. A healthy system cannot be conceived without loosening

which is awaited. The newly created product division, engaged in marketing of some consumer durables, has also started its operations and this will result in higher income and profits in the coming years. The share price is likely to rise in the range of Rs. 70 to 75 by the end of the financial year.

NEPC-Micon Ltd (Current Market Price: Rs. 108.00): India's premier commercial wind-farm company, NEPC-MICON Ltd. is engaged in the manufacture of Wind Turbine Generators (WTG) and Wind Driven Pumps. It has got off to a good start in the very first year of operation, registering a sales of Rs. 20.48 cr. GP of Rs. 2.18 cr and PAT of Rs. 2.03 cr. EPS stands at Rs. 3.79 on an equity of Rs. 5.36 cr. It plans to put up its own utility farms in Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh at a cost of Rs. 60 cr and these farms will fetch an income of Rs. 7 cr p.a. The project is being funded by a rights issue in the ratio of 2:1 at a premium of Rs. 30. The present capacity utilisation of 20% is likely to go up to 45% in the next year. The company is confident of achieving a turnover and PAT of Rs. 80 cr and Rs. 8 cr respectively. We recommend the scrip for medium term gains.

SOL Pharma (Current Market Price: Rs. 142.00): Belonging to the Standard Organics group, SOL has shown a compounded growth of 60.1% in sales, 52.4% in PBTD and 54.1% in PAT over three years. Its performance in 1991-92 has been impressive. Sales went up by 70.96% to Rs. 50.49 cr, exports being 21.3%. Exports more than doubled to Rs. 10.76 cr in a year. PBTD is Rs. 3.23 cr and PAT Rs. 2.35 cr, an increase of 64.8% and 48.5% respectively. Considering its excellent track record and the group's firm base in formulations and also in exports, this company can be expected to earn a PAT of Rs. 3.18 cr on a revenue of Rs. 70.70 cr which will give an EPS of Rs. 12.53 for 1992-93. This should fetch a price of Rs. 190, suggesting a good buy at current price.

K. Gopalakrishnan



Two specially trained teachers (at right and in the doorway) take a class for the students of the Meston Educational Rehabilitation and Research Centre, which is associated with the Meston College of Education in Royapettah. They are special teachers for some special children who get a great deal of joy out of their education.

(Photograph: VS. RAGHAVAN)

other children, viz. English, History, Mathematics, Physical Science or Biology! Obviously, we have here a case for greater autonomy under enlightened direction.

The introduction of this course has had an important consequence — the founding of MERRC, in 1989, where both mentally handicapped children and trainee teachers acquire the respective skills they will need. The children's conditions vary widely, so that each of the 25 needs individual attention — and gets it. MERRC is a day school. Only educable children are accepted, severely handicapped ones being recommended to specialised care. At Muttukadu, a village on the Mahabalipuram Road that has been adopted by Meston, is a residential school for mentally handicapped children. This village in fact houses the headquarters of MERRC; while they accept the children of very poor parents (they have 16 residents), the Royapettah branch has pupils from varying socio-economic strata. At neither school are fees collected. Admission procedures give priority to poorer and more handicapped children.

At both schools, parents are asked to come in for counselling at least once a month. Progress, at least in the Royapettah school, can be judged from

the fact that one of its students commutes daily from Manali, and another boy makes his own way to and from Royapuram by bus! Several of the pupils can write simple sentences and do a little arithmetic.

What happens when the children reach adolescence, I wondered. Were they sent 'out into the world', i.e. back home, or on to another school? No, no, not the three teachers said emphatically. Director Dr. Rabinudras plans to begin a vocational training centre, where crafts like tailoring and basketmaking will be taught, thus putting students in a position where they can be useful, earning members of their families and an integral part of society.

An interesting fallout of the introduction of the B.Ed. (EMH) course was that 'men only' Meston was allowed by Madras University to admit women students at the B.Ed. level for this course, it being universally observed that women are, in general, more suitable than men in such fields. However, Meston had begun admitting women students, to the M.Ed. course, as early as 1943, a long time before Dr. Adella Paul, became the first lady principal in 1990! A quite different situation from women's colleges, where

(Continued on P5)

First to last

I was given a copy of Vol. 2, No. 5 *Madras Musings* at Grand Sweets and Snacks. Thinking it was some advertising material, I gave it but a cursory glance. Imagine my surprise when it turned out to be one of the nicest magazines I have seen in recent times! I drove home to read through 'Reg No...' at first page left top corner to 'Edited by S Muthiah' page 8 bottom corner-right (I suppose S.M. is the same as the editor of *IRB*) and I was (to be figurative) enthralled! Excellent reading material, light, well-written, unique style of publication and pleasing (apologies to Dr. A.R. Baji for adopting his response). Now I would like to read *MM* regularly.

K V Sankaran
Adambakkam
Madras-600 041

A tour wanted

It would be a great idea if the Madras Circle of the Archaeological Survey of India arranged a bi-weekly conducted historic tour of the entire Fort St George, from where British India was founded, against payment of a nominal charge of Rs. 5/- per head and for children free.

C A Reddi
57 E V K Sampath Road
Madras-600 007

A city tabloid

That *Madras Musings* survey of Reader-ship was vociferously acknowledged came through in 'A Selection of Responses'. As an avid reader of *MM*, I can vouchsafe that many readers will acclaim *MM* as a CITY TABLOID with its name and a paper involved in the citizen's problems.

Such features as 'Add a New Word to your Vocabulary' and a regular Quiz can bring new lustre to the glossy icons of *MM*.

J Krishnamurthy
8/10 LIC Staff Qrs.
K K Nagar-600 078.

Our Readers Write

Charge Rs. 5

Your free mailer *Madras Musings* is really great. You should start charging at least Rs. 5 a copy. It would be very nice if you could start a series of life stories of great people like MGR, Gandhi, Nehru etc.

Kumar Rajendran
1917 Venus Apts.
Venus Colony IInd Street
Madras 600 018.

How to enforce it

In the present context, MANAALI RAMAN (*MM*-July 16) ... was excellent. There would not have been a need for an Ordinance to regulate pasting of posters, if political parties, and the p(a)sters used their common sense.

Almost every public place is abused, or misused, and is filled with filth. We wonder how this Ordinance is to be enforced, given our appetite to paste/print posters at the drop of a hat.

V Rajagopalan
V Srinivasan
Parthasarathy Nagar
Adambakkam
Madras-600 088.

Vituperation & appreciation

The "Old and New" column of *MM* is both interesting and informative. It is a pity that one had chosen to criticise it in abusive language anonymously. For preparing this feature one has to go in search of old monuments, photograph them and gather relevant particulars about them. Then these have to be matched with modern counterparts. A lot of thought and effort have

I am an avid collector of recipes. Yours are amongst the more practical ones. Many thanks for lots of happy reading.

Mrs E Khurshid
Dhanalakshmi Avenue
Madras-600 020.

Star crazy

Granting that the Tamizhan, considered the Brains Trust during the Independence movement, is a dying or dead specie, the projection of Dr (!) Kushboo as our future Chief Minister is not only shocking but a cruel joke on the Tamizhans. I fervently pray and hope that the "young man of status and education" who made this prediction did so as a practical joke!

S Rajagopalan
14 Anandam Street
T. Nagar, Madras-600 017.

To a 'T'

When I was in the U.K. I used to read a lot of 'local' papers and I used to think that it was a shame that we didn't have such papers in India. *MM* fills that gap to a 'T'

Dr Hiramalini Seshadri
Anna Nagar, Madras-40.

Writer wanted

We can't afford to miss 'View from the Wings' for two months and the information it would give about happenings in the art world of Madras. Please arrange for somebody to continue to write the articles.

S Velumani
72 Thirumangalam Road
2nd Street
Madras-600 049.

EDITOR'S NOTE: I wish we could find someone to keep up the good work. But, as of now, we haven't been lucky.

to go in their preparation. Thus, it is not an easy task to provide this material fortnight after fortnight.

A criticism of this feature, or any feature as a matter of fact, is welcome if it is constructive, providing ideas to enhance its presentation. The Editor should not be deterred by such irresponsible outpourings. For every vituperative critic there are thousands of appreciative readers.

M. Sethuraman
Mahalakshmi Nagar
Adambakkam
Madras-600 088.

Recipe tips

I enjoy reading the recipes in *MM*. I would like to make a suggestion. Please tell us how many servings we can expect to get from each recipe. For instance, in *Dahi Parathas*, you could say how many *parathas* — approximately — could be made with five cups of flour.

In *MM* August 1, Mrs Raghupathy's recipe 'Fancy Apples' is really too cute by half! Unfortunately, it is the kind of recipe which wins awards at women's club gatherings — Much ado about nothing!

In your *Vegetable Khichdi* recipe you list '4 pods' of garlic amongst the ingredients. Four whole pods of garlic is surely too much, so perhaps you meant 4 flakes of garlic. I spotted this in an earlier recipe for 'Masala Brain Curry' (can't remember the date — Sorry!). Any way, whether it is the glossy or flakes, they both come in varied sizes. Perhaps the best way is to say two (or whatever) teaspoons of chopped garlic.

Titan to go global

Just five years old, Titan Watches is one of the most spectacular success stories in the Indian corporate sector. This company, which is a joint venture between the venerable Tata's and the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO), was set up in 1987 to manufacture watches. Today, along with SPIC, it is the star performer in TIDCO's rather lacklustre galaxy.

Tata's wanted to enter the watch industry. TIDCO had got a tie-up with a large French company to manufacture watch movements. Thus, Tata's and TIDCO got together in 1982. But it took three more years for the project

a reliable name. Tata's were ideally placed to meet all four requirements.

It is well known in the watch industry that with Titan's entry into the market, the smugglers' hold on it has been weakened considerably. The consumer today prefers Titan watches in the price range of Rs. 500 — 2,000 to smuggled watches. HMT has not made a dent in the quartz market.

Allwyn watches have been facing problems due to a poor cash flow.

Titan makes watches in a variety of materials and finishes, gold-plated brass, stainless steel, aluminium and high-grade resin. It has created over

BUSINESS REVIEW

to take off. In the pre-liberalisation days, it took that long to get government permission for a perfectly good project.

At this point Titan took a calculated risk. It decided to go in for the manufacture of quartz analogue watches. The market leader, HMT, was concentrating on mechanical watches. Titan was taking on not only the public sector giant HMT but also the smugglers' lobby, which was very strong at that time.

Today, Titan's decisions have proved to be right. It has a 57 per cent share of the Indian analogue quartz market. To achieve this, Titan had to literally create a market. Its sales growth has been averaging nearly 64 per cent annually. During the same period, the total Indian watch market grew at less than 10 per cent a year.

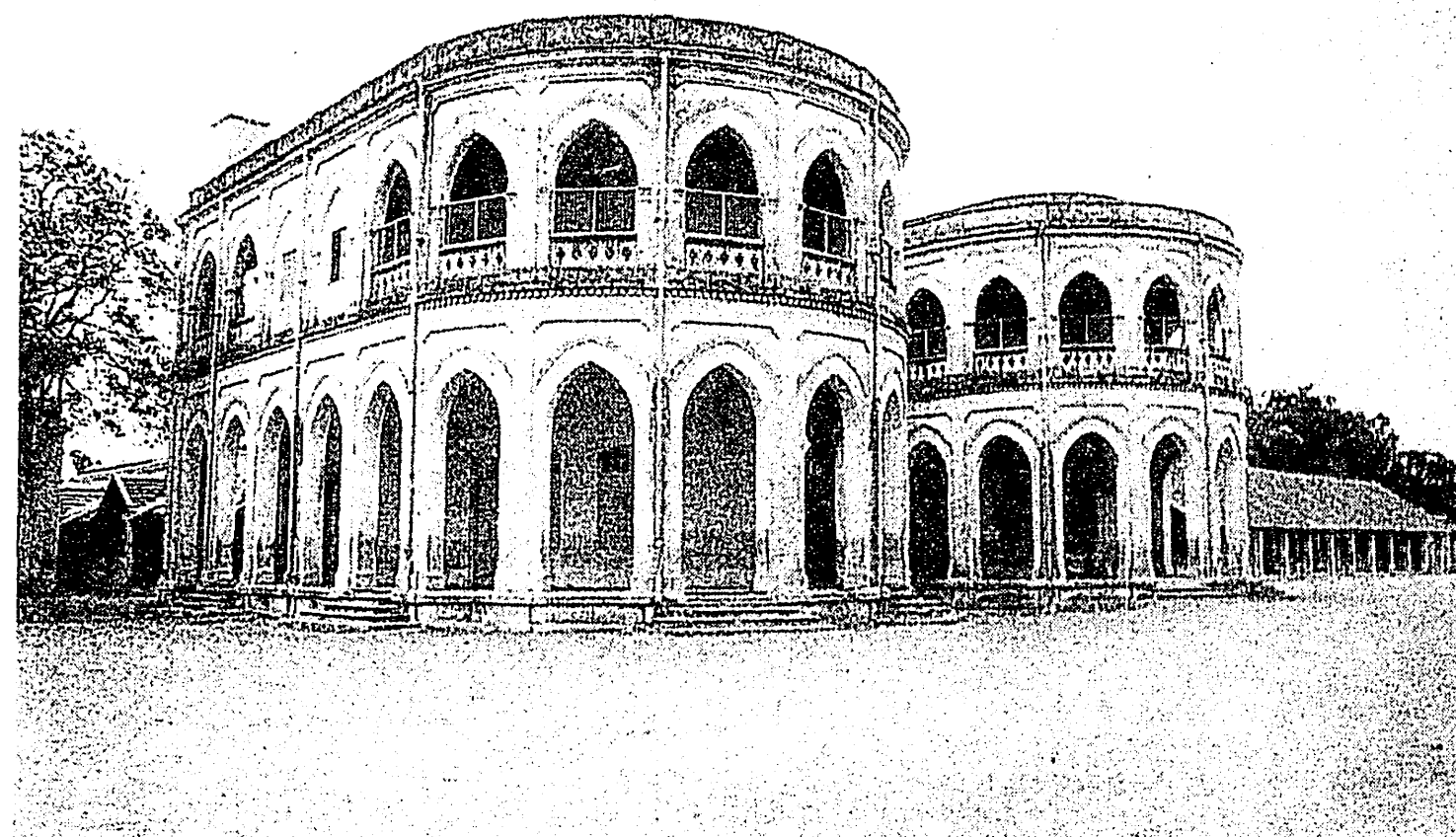
Talking to A & M Magazine, the company's Vice-Chairman and Managing Director Xerxes Desai has said that watchmaking is a perfect business for the Tata group. It requires large financial outlays (about Rs. 100 crore have been invested in Titan so far). It requires national marketing. It requires hi-tech precision engineering. And it requires

850 designs. The Titan factory is in the SIPCOT complex at Hosur. It includes a toolroom of international standards, fully equipped shops to make the metal parts of the quartz analogue movement, a case-making plant, a computer-controlled gold-plating line, a high-tech iron-plating unit, state-of-the-art CAD facilities and a very large assembly shop.

Titan is the first Indian watch company to have a product development cell. It has had to design most of its watches. Its marketing department thinks of a watch more as a lifestyle item than as just a timekeeping device. Its latest Raga range of watches for women is even thought of as a fashion accessory!

Titan now wants to go global and is preparing itself to enter the European market in a big way. Titan will shortly be introducing watches there in the range \$ 700-1,500. It is also planning to make jewellery watches and then jewellery, both for the export and local markets. Desai wants Titan to help establish India's image in the foreign market. He is convinced that it can be done with an upmarket, branded precision engineering. And it requires

(Continued on P5)

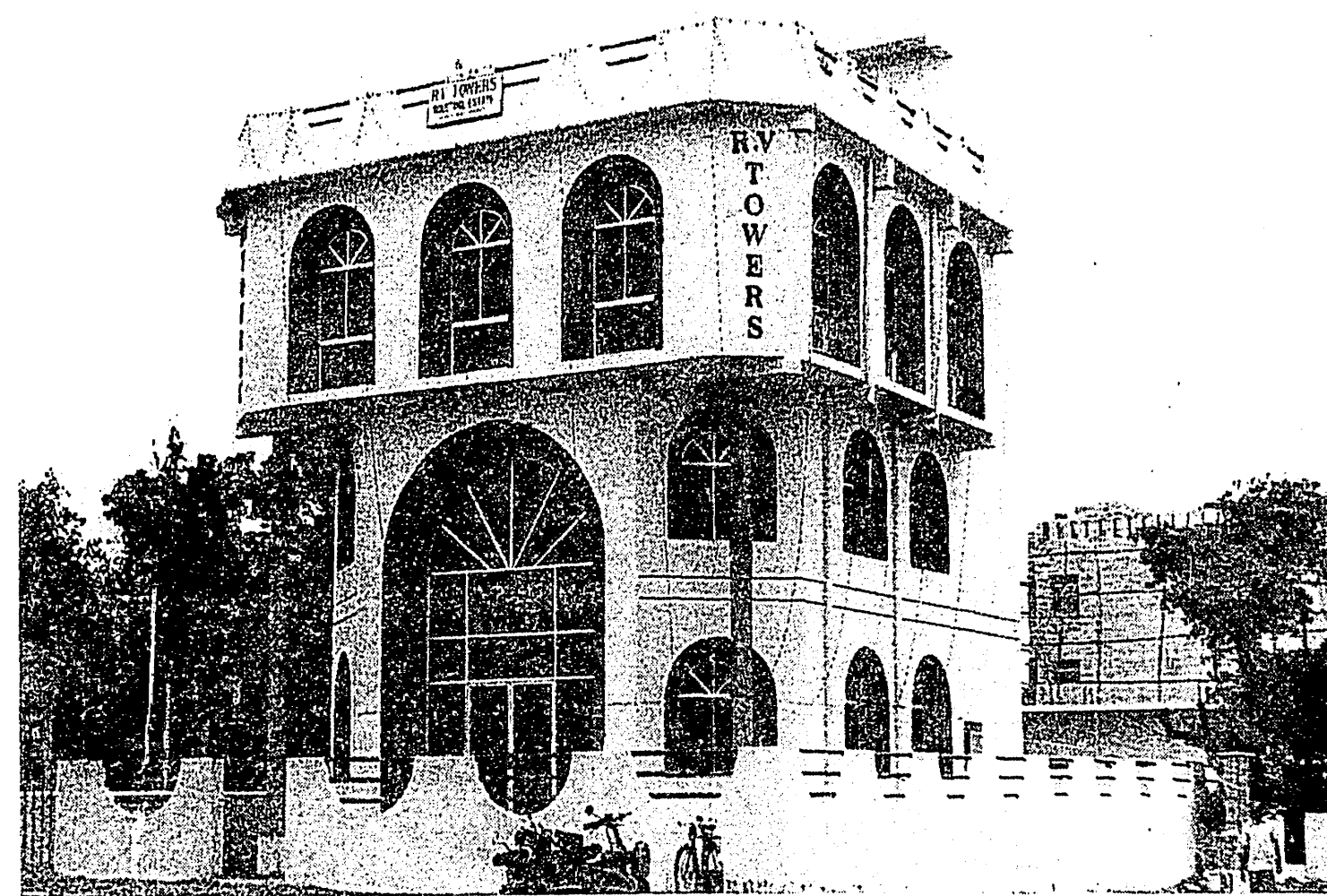


Both our pictures today are of buildings that have used curves for ventilation. In the Old building the arches are slightly Gothic. But the building itself takes a more regular double-curved form, in many ways echoing Ice House (aka Vivekananda House). It may be in a state of disrepair, but this is one of the most striking buildings in Saidapet. It is a part of the school attached to the teachers' training college here, an institution associated with the name of Charles Todhunter. The college was established in 1856 and is one of the first modern teachers' training institutions in this part of the world. Several striking 19th century buildings are to be found on its campus, all in a state of disrepair. It is only to be hoped that none of them are threatened by the wreckers' hammers.

THE OLD...

...& THE NEW

The New is further south on Mount Road, near Kathipara Junction, in fact. The more conventionally curved arches here have been filled with tinted glass, presenting a picture of gloom within. 'R.V. Towers' is occupied by the Industrial Manufacturers' Association, Guindy, and is striking not only for its large expanses of darkened glass but for its brownish ochre and cream wallpaint as well. It's a bit loud, but it certainly attracts attention on the way to the airport.



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When cops meet robbers

Aboard the Tirunelveli Express on its way to Madras, inside a compartment reserved for the Tamil Nadu Police, was an anxious-looking man in plainclothes. He sat clutching an ordinary suitcase in his hands. Was he a detective? He was not. His name, it would turn out, was Murugesan and in his suitcase he had something more valuable than mere files full of brown writing paper.

When the train chugged into Madurai, Murugesan had a surprise coming. An unknown person turned up at the compartment and asked him to go to a cheap local lodge. There, there was another surprise awaiting him; the man who had given him the bag at Nellore! He hastily took the suitcase from an astounded Murugesan and, without bothering to explain anything, hurried out.

No sooner had Murugesan left the lodge, than the man with the suitcase reappeared at the lodge with a couple of others. Suddenly there were knocks on the door of the room they were in and in stalked a Customs squad the moment the door was opened. The three offered no resistance. When the

suitcase was opened it revealed thirty solid gold bars, with a name and address in London! The Customs were more than surprised when they came to know that two of the men in the room, Veerapandian and Sankaran, were policemen in service! The three men were taken into custody and investigation began into the case of the smuggled gold.

The gold was traced to a smuggler from Sri Lanka who, during a trip from

Randor Guy

Jaffna, had brought 90 bars of gold into India. The boat had landed on a lonely part of the coast near Tuticorin and the bulk of the gold buried deep on the shore. The balance, some 30 bars, were handed over at Tirunelveli Railway Station to a man called Thangam who had come to Tirunelveli to take the gold to Madurai. At the station, Thangam had been noticed by a man who had knowledge of the gold smuggling operation. He informed two policemen on duty at the railway station, Veerapandian and Sankaran, who caught up with Thangam and got the truth about the gold out of him.

They then drew up a plan. Instead of arresting Thangam, they agreed to share the gold! With jail the option, Thangam agreed.

The three decided to send a middleman, Murugesan, to Madurai with the gold. And to ensure his safe passage, the two policemen on duty put Murugesan in a compartment reserved for the police. That was how Murugesan found himself where he was with a suitcase given to him. While the train was on its way to Madurai, the trio took a taxi to take them there. All the way they argued about the division of the gold and they were still at it when there came that disturbing knock on the door!

On information given by Thangam, more gold was taken out of a pit in a bare stretch of beach. The bars recovered from both caches added up to 80. Whatever happened to the remaining ten bars? Nobody knows....

After a speedy trial, the accused were sentenced to varying terms of imprisonment. But why did the cops turn robbers? And were there any other policemen involved in the disappearance of the remaining bars?

— The Shroff

Digesting medicine

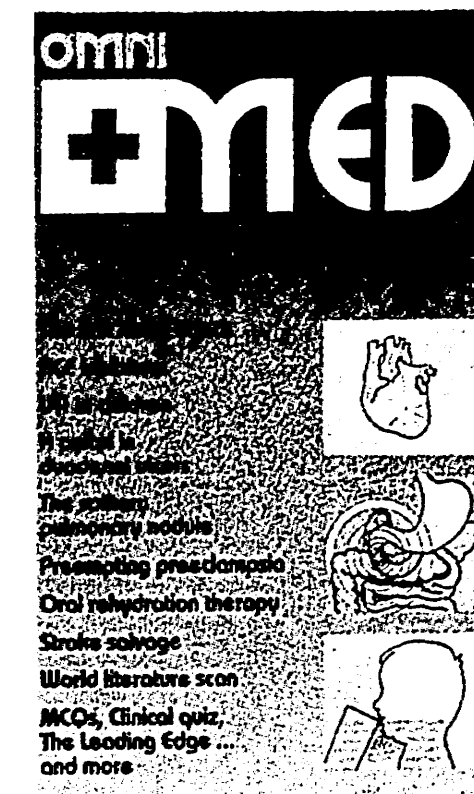
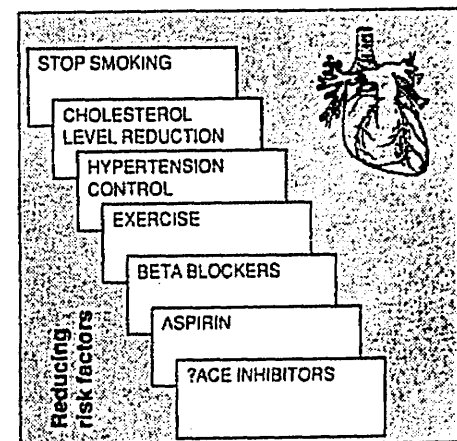
Was it the 3001st, or thereabouts, medical journal in the world that came into circulation in India recently? It would seem so to go by the announcement at its release function in the city, that there are some 3000 medical-related journals circulating the world over today.

So what's new about *Omnimed*? "For one thing," says Dr Arjun Rajagopalan, its articulate editor, "*Omnimed* will distil the mind-boggling amount of information available today — in many of those 3000 or so journals — and feature only that which is relevant to the Indian doctor." Which, it would seem, will prove to be a Herculean task, as the body of information available to the average doctor today is about twenty times more than what was available at the turn of the century. Nevertheless, *Omnimed*, which unabashedly emulates *Reader's Digest*, will try.

The wide range of subjects in *Omnimed* indicates that it is more for the general medical practitioner than for the specialist. But will the busy GP of today rely on the printed word, when he can depend on modern visual communication techniques at the switch of a button? "A good 85 per cent of the doctors, believe it or not," said Dr Arjun Rajagopalan in his audio-visual lecture (Oh, yes!), "still rely on the printed word."

Dr Rajagopalan is that rare surgeon who is obsessed with education and determined to pass on what he knows. And in these days of specialisation, where doctors like Gods look down imperiously from high pedestals, it's refreshing to come across a medical

• by A Special Correspondent



The cover of *Omnimed*, the new medical digest, and a typical illustration inside.

editor who, in this magazine, quotes and endorses Franz Ingelfinger's thoughts on the 'arrogance' of medicine men and women. Such arrogance, Ingelfinger says, includes:

- ★ The arrogance of ignorance in the anti-scientific activist.
- ★ The arrogance of unqualified belief in and promotion of inadequately evaluated therapies.
- ★ The arrogance of failing to admit to the patient when we don't know.
- ★ The arrogance of not giving each patient full information about his/her condition.
- ★ The arrogance of inferring that failure of treatment may be the patient's fault.

Omnimed is published by Zenith Publications, Madras, and is freely distributed to doctors on request by Rallis India. The two teamed together to organise the release function in Madras where Dr Badrinath, eye-specialist, did the honours.

They're both special

(Continued from P3)

men are banned even at the Ph.D. level!

Meston remains the only city college to offer the EMH option, so I asked Dr. Paul what the response has been. "Excellent", she beamed. So much so that there are plans to extend this field to the M.Ed. level. Perhaps it will be introduced in 1997, when Meston celebrates its Diamond Jubilee. The usefulness of such a course can be gauged by the fact that at least two EMH graduates have opened schools for the mentally handicapped, one in

Tamil Nadu and the other in Andhra Pradesh.

Of the 20 seats available, about 75 per cent are taken by women candidates. Interestingly, only 20-30 per cent of all EMH candidates have a basic degree in psychology or sociology; most have 'regular' degrees. The teacher trainees are also sent to MITRA, Anna Nagar, and the Spastics Society's school in Royapuram for training.

Meston College of Education, governed by the Meston Educational and Development Association, was founded in 1937, having grown out of Wesley Arts College, which was one of Madras' pioneering arts colleges from 1887 to 1933. The pioneering spirit of the founder principal of M.C.E. (or Meston Training College, as it was then called), the Rev.T.R. Foulger, was well in keeping with the spirit that founded a humble Wesleyan Mission school in 1851, and out of which grew so many answers to society's needs in the field of education. Obviously, the same spirit is alive and well.

Business Review

(Continued from P4)

product like the watch. He points out that the Japanese did precisely this: they conquered the world initially with cameras, calculators and watches.

If all goes well, Titan could turn out to be one of the first global companies to be established in India. And TIDCO can be justifiably proud of its premier project.

Pulse Beat

The busy doctor is torn between two important realities. He realises on the one hand that he has to keep up with the enormous volume of new medical information that piles up daily, while at the same time, the rigours and demands of his daily schedule leave him with very little time to sit down and read current literature.

doctors revise some of their viewpoints. Political barriers are crumbling like old bricks, nations are increasingly thinking along similar lines. We have to shed our insular nature and stop seeing ourselves as something unique. The oft quoted viewpoint that Indian patients are different is, by and large, unsubstantiated. One has to think globally...

This problem is not unique to doctors. Other professional groups have come up with ... the 'trade journal(s)' ... Attractively designed, printed in colour and resorting to the liberal use of graphics, they have served admirably as a painless method of keeping in touch with what's new.

The medical profession in India has numerous journals that are, almost without exception, published by medical societies, with narrow spheres of activity and interests. Equally without exception, they are all strapped for funds, poorly printed and edited, and devoid of visual attractiveness.

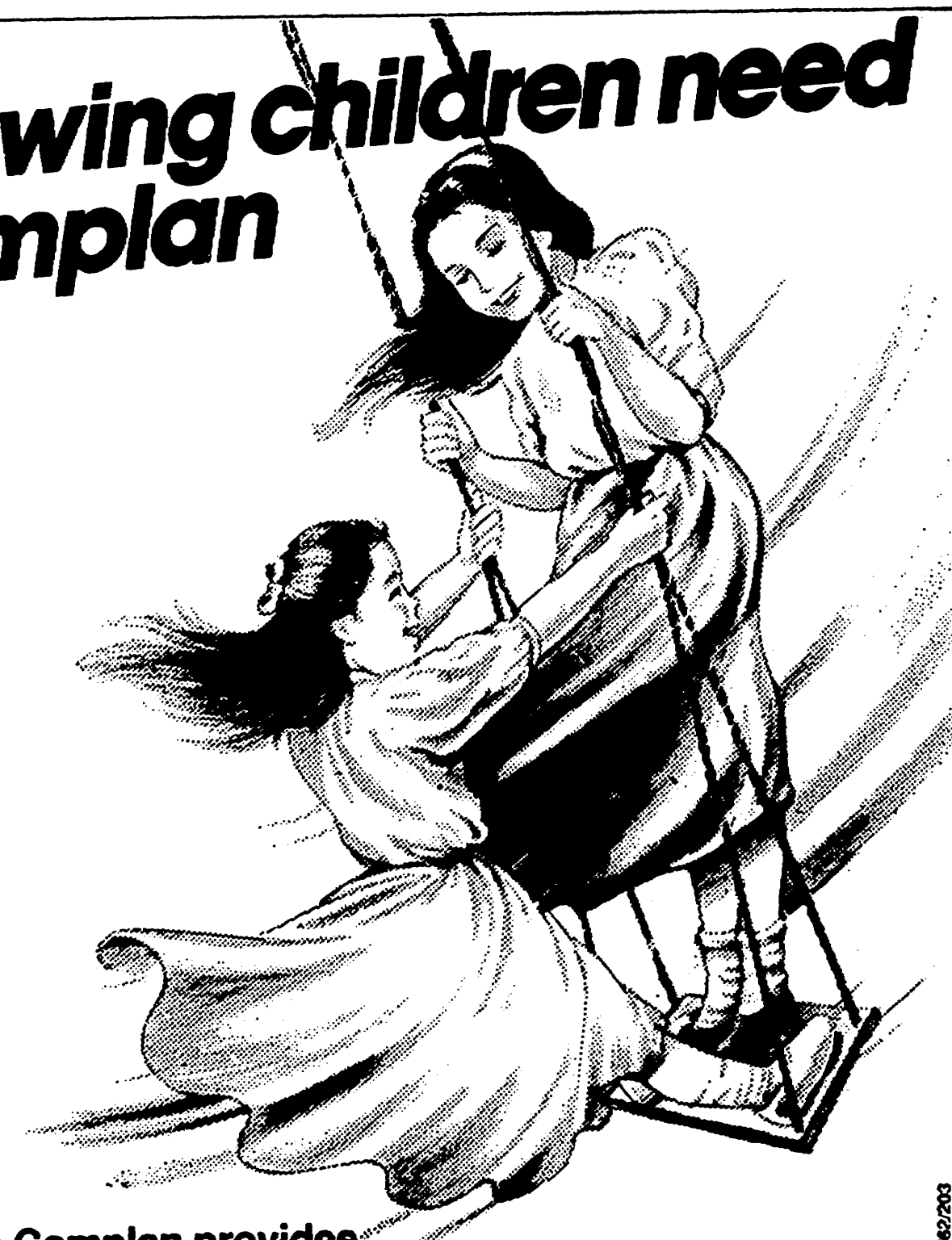
The past few months have borne witness to two major events that should make Indian

Another event of more immediate context to us in India, is the recent steep hike in exchange rates. Imported books and journals, which were all expensive, have now become prohibitively so. Still, we cannot use this as an excuse to fall behind the times. *Omnimed* gives you a truly international perspective at a very small cost.

The time is ripe for a medical professional overview, a single source periodical that covers a wide range of topics and interests, with a get up and editorial style that will catch the imagination of its readers ... *Omnimed* is designed to fill this long awaited need.

ARJUN RAJAGOPALAN
Editor

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On the street where I live

My friend said:

Look, I am probably running this into the ground, but I don't seem to be able to stay away from pondering over the street where I live. I find it a fascinating bit of urban microcosm. As long as I am using big words, let me also say that it is a paradigm for urban living. In physical dimensions, it is not much of a street. Probably about a furlong in length, with about forty residential buildings, some of them duplexes and one or two high-rises.

On the positive side, we have no pavement, or other kinds of shops. But we are close enough — all we have to do is to step outside our tiny street — to a very large shopping centre, famous and not so famous temples, and — oh, yes — slums. So we are never deprived of excitement unless we choose, shell-like, to crawl into our habitats, impervious to what is happening outside. A stupid attitude, really. By stepping out of our protective shell, I have witnessed fires in the slums, fist-fights nearby, and jolly and noisy temple doings.

In external forms, we are good neighbours and respect one another's rights and privileges. One from this respect takes is to ignore the garbage. Your neighbour may dump it on your door-step and you may return the compliment by doing the same to him. Recently, however, the rag-pickers of the city have discovered what a veritable gold-mine our street is as far as garbage is concerned. By the time they finish their scavenging, our street often looks as good as new.

What about our inter-action with one another? Well, again, in external forms we are good neighbours and

Looking aSKance

respect one another's rights and privileges. By and large, we are all reasonably well-to-do citizens, another reason for being haughtily deferential to one another. Actually, very few of us know one another to speak to, though we may be aware of one another's official identities. If a death (fortunately a very infrequent occur-

rence) occurs, or, more happily, an auspicious event takes place, we all rally round, whether we had exchanged our neighbourly words or not in many months.

Some of us have certain distinctions. There is a scruffy old gentleman who is regarded with respect by some of the denizens of the street because he is supposed to have a direct line to some god or the other. Come to think of it, I suppose I am also an important character of the street, not simply because various people peep through my door to watch me have my evening pick-me-up, but also because we keep

open house for the children of the street.

The children of the street, god bless them, they are really the only means of communication between us dour adults. We derive much of our information about our neighbours from their children. It is the children who set the pace on our street and keep us relating to what is going on in the outside world. They played out World Cup Cricket on our street, moved without missing a beat to tennis during Wimbledon, and became busy with football, hockey and acrobatics as the Olympics unfolded. They don't let us get too far away from the things that really matter.

S.K.

A baked bonanza, this time. Begin with the spicy, clear *Chicken Bone Soup*. Serve with hot golden brown *Dinner Rolls*. Using tender corn cobs which are very much in season, make *Sweet Corn Baked*, creamy and delicious. And serve *Baked Vegetables* on the side. Yes, it is made from the humble brinjal and bottle/ridge gourd, unbelievable though it may sound.

CHICKEN BONE SOUP

Ingredients

Bones of two chicken (wings, breast, neck, liver)
2 onions, sliced fine
1 small bay leaf

Garam Masala

3 cloves
2 cardamoms
1 small piece cinnamon

Powdered fine

Paste

1" ginger
4 pods garlic
¼ teaspoon peppercorns, powdered
1 teaspoon coriander seeds, powdered
2 large tomatoes, chopped fine
½ teaspoon turmeric powder
1 tablespoon oil or butter
½ cup coriander and mint leaves

Method

Clean and wash the chicken bones. Set aside. Heat oil in a pressure cooker, add the *garam masala* and fry the onions till light brown.

Add the pepper, coriander powder, ginger-garlic paste and fry for a minute. Add the chopped tomatoes, chicken bones, turmeric powder, the mint and coriander leaves and salt. Fry till a nice aroma comes. Add 3-4 cups of water and cook for 20 minutes with the weight.

Remove the flesh from the chicken bones and shred them to pieces. Filter the soup and add the shredded chicken pieces.

Garnish with chopped coriander leaves. Serve hot with hot bread rolls.

Mrs P. Raghupathy

DINNER ROLLS

¾ cups maida
1 tbs dry yeast
1 cup milk, scalded
2 tbs sugar
2 tbs butter
½ teaspoon salt
1 egg

Method

Dissolve the sugar in the milk and warm gently. Sprinkle the yeast on top and leave in a warm place, until frothy.

Mix the flour and salt. Rub in the butter and stir in the yeast mixture and egg. Knead well, for 5-8 minutes. Let it rise in a warm place till double (approximately 1½ hours to 2 hours). On a floured board, shape the dough as desired.



Place on a greased pan and let it rise till doubled. Brush with milk and bake in an oven (400°F) till browned.

SWEET CORN BAKED

Corn on the cob, to give one cup of grain
1 cup milk
2 tbs butter
2 tbs maida
4 tbs cheese, grated
½ teaspoon pepper, powdered
1 egg, beaten
1 capsicum cut into rings

Method

Pressure cook the corn on the cob. Scrape the grains, measure out one full cup. Lightly grind in a liquidiser and set aside.

Heat the butter, add the flour. Cook on a low fire stirring continuously, taking care to prevent lumps.

Add the milk. Season with salt and pepper. Stir the mixture till it is creamy in consistency.

Add the cooked corn, beaten egg and half the cheese.

Pour into a baking dish. Sprinkle the remaining cheese and decorate with capsicum rings.

Bake in a moderate oven for 30-40 minutes till the top is golden.

BAKED VEGETABLES

¼ kg round brinjals, peeled and chopped fine
¼ kg bottle gourd or ridge gourd, peeled and chopped fine
1 big capsicum, deseeded and chopped fine
2 tbs tomato ketchup
Oil for deep frying
4 tbs bread crumbs
Salt to taste

For the sauce

5 ripe tomatoes, chopped fine
4 onions, chopped fine
1 teaspoon chilli powder
2 tbs oil

Method

Deep fry the vegetables. Drain on paper towels. Mix the salt and tomato ketchup. Set aside.

Heat the oil. Fry the onions till transparent. Add the tomatoes, chilli powder, salt and cook till sauce consistency.

Arrange half the vegetables in a baking dish. Top with half the sauce.

Top again with the remaining vegetables. Finally top with the remaining sauce. Over this sprinkle the bread crumbs. Bake in a moderate oven for 20-25 minutes. Serve this side dish hot.

Chandra Padmanabhan

Quizzin' with Navin

(Quizmaster NAVIN JAYAKUMAR'S questions are all from the fortnight of August 1-15)

- Who won the Magasaysay Award for 'enriching India and the world with his sublime mastery of the star and with music that colours the mind'?
- Putting aside her reservations in taking up the role of a male, who played Narada in the film *Savitri* to raise funds for Kalki?
- In a historic moment for international shipping, which two seas, separated by the European continent, were linked on August 1 when the last section of the Rhine-Main-Danube canal filled with water?
- How have the Chief Horticulturist of the Indian Hotels Company and the Corporation of Madras transformed the south bank of the Cooum next to the Connemara Hotel?
- Which local theatre group, along with the Max Mueller Bhavan, recently staged Max Frisch's powerful play *Andorra*?
- What are 'Intrinsic Action', 'Eager Mace' and 'Native Fury'?
- In which hilly forest region in UP has there been a spate of terrorist killings?
- Name the co-creator of 'Superman' who lost out on millions of dollars after signing away the rights to the comic book hero. He died recently.
- Remember Varadaraja Perumal, former CM of Sri Lanka's N-E Province? He recently expressed his desire to return to his homeland. Where is he currently staying as a 'special guest' of the Indian Govt.?
- Who won the most number of gold medals in the recently concluded Barcelona Olympics? (Name him/her.)
- What instruments used to study the interior of the body can be introduced through small incisions in the skin during 'keyhole surgeries'? An all-India conference on this topic was held at Willingdon Hospital recently.
- Name the CBI Joint Director who was taken off the stocks scam case by the Government.
- The Binny Bridge will be widened soon. Which two roads does it connect?
- The 450th birth anniversary celebration of which emperor has been surrounded by controversy, with critics terming it a 'mela' and 'unscientific' as far as historians are concerned?
- Which eminent freedom fighter ran a parallel government called 'Patri Sarkar' in 1945-46? He passed away recently.
- How much money did Stanchart lose in the securities scam?
- Name the handicapped former US Army instructor who won an Oscar for his performance as a handless soldier in *The Best Years of Our Lives* and who had to sell the statuette recently to finance an eye operation for his wife.
- The PM recently dedicated the historic Salimgarh Barracks to the nation. What is the historic significance of these barracks in the Red Fort?
- Name the World War II hero who commanded the legendary 'Dambuster' squadron and who later set up a global network of homes for the disabled. He died recently.

(Answers to Quiz on page No. 8)

Ganesh Darshan on Anna Salai

Anticipating Ganesh Chaturthi, the Poompuhar showroom on Anna Salai ensured that, between August 17th and 29th, it was jam-packed with Lord Ganeshas in variety without number. This has been a yearly feature since 1981, but sales this year were expected to touch a record 25 per cent over last year's Rs.4 lakhs plus.

Be He known as Ganapathi, Gajananna, Vinayaka, Vigneshwara or by any other name, Ganesh, by indicating to mankind the goal of human evolution and the path to reach it, occupies a place of distinction in the Hindu pantheon. In Maharashtra His festival is celebrated more enthusiastically than anywhere else. But Tamil Nadu appears to be fast catching up, at least in the variety of artistic Ganeshas being created here, with the Tamil Nadu Handicrafts Development Corporation Limited leading the way.

Ganesh is usually depicted in Maharashtra as being coloured red, pot-bellied, with one tusk broken and with four arms, each holding a noose, a goat, a pot of sweets etc, or he is seen riding a rat. But what Poompuhar offered was human ingenuity at its best.

Is it possible for a pot-bellied man to dance? Ganesh here seemed to have the answer, displaying such unaffected grace that He could put the most lissom dancer to shame. This was by no means the only interesting depiction of the people's favourite God

who, according to the manager of Poompuhar, is a great hit in the export market too. There was, for instance an amusing Ganesh going on a *kasi yatra*, typical umbrella in hand and *kamandalu* in tow. Another depiction of Ganesh, and a lovely one at that, was of Him in his favourite *sayana* pose. Then there were several Ganeshas playing musical instruments. In one He played the

by DHANYA GOPINATH

drums, in another the *midangam*, in a third the veena and so on, and with every one of them he seemed completely at ease.

At Poompuhar, Ganesh was also created in a variety of materials. While most of the Ganeshas on the ground floor were of antique-finished bronze, wood or *papier maché*, upstairs they were in such materials as granite, soapstone, serpentine stone, ceramic, rosewood, country wood etc.

A white *erukku* root Ganesh deserves special mention, for the *erukku* is a herbal plant which grows only on river banks and by temples surrounded and inhabited by poisonous insects and reptiles. According to the manager of Poompuhar, Ganesh is perhaps the only God created in this medium, as the very shape of the root resembles

Him. According to Agasthya Rishi, the simple presence of a white *erukku* root Ganesh is enough to overcome any evil and bring about such happy events as long-awaited marriages, employment, business success etc. Priced between Rs. 70 and Rs. 200, the *erukku* root Ganesh was perhaps the best buy.

Housed behind the main Poompuhar show-room were the Ganeshas in *papier maché*. This light material is great for bringing out such details of the Ganesh form as the elephantine head, the broken tusk, the conspicuously large stomach, the folded leg and the rat sitting near the food with imploring eyes, as if waiting for the master's sanction. Here too there were Ganeshas with five heads and others with 14 arms.

Bronze and antique-finished bronze Ganeshas ranged in price from Rs. 40 to Rs. 95,000. rosewood Ganeshas were going at Rs. 300-900, ceramic ones at Rs. 40-Rs. 150 and those in *papier maché* from Rs. 60 to Rs. 2,000.

In fact, there was a Lord Ganesh for every purpose and every taste. Ganesh Chaturthi may be over, but many an appealing Ganesh may still be seen in Poompuhar. Hurry and catch up with the Lord with the Lotus in his fourth hand raised in blessing.

international film festival in Bangalore during the 1980s Bhakta did not agree with the way the Delhi bureaucrats ran it. In characteristic fashion, he organised a 'parallel' film festival during the same period in Bangalore — with some measure of success. That's Bhakta, who now heads the Madras-based SIFCC! All power to him.

The Winter's Tale in Madras

On September 13th, 14th, 15th at 7 pm at the newly air-conditioned Museum Theatre. This tragedy — comedy of Shakespeare will go on the boards under the direction of Mithran Devanesen. The cast includes Michael, Muthu, Vinita Nayar, Mohd. Yusuf, George Deligianis, Yesrab Ali Mirza and Mailhithi Kalavi amongst others. Tickets are on sale at Landmark bookshop.

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Ganesh Darshan was a great success at Poompuhar during the fortnight before Ganesh Chaturthi. And the pick of the exhibition were the dancing Ganeshas and Lord Ganesh heading for Kasi.

How to grow mushrooms

Fungus-based protein has a great future in India, a largely vegetarian country.

One such fungus is the oyster mushroom. It has a good flavour and texture and is highly nutritious, being rich in thiamine (B1), riboflavin (B2), niacin (B3), ascorbic acid (C) and cyanocobalamin (B12). It also contains vegetable protein, essential amino acids and minerals such as calcium, phosphorus and iron. It is very good for people with high blood pressure, heart diseases and diabetes, and for slimmers and pregnant and lactating mothers.

The simplest way of growing these mushroom at home is as follows:

REQUIREMENTS: Some straw, polythene bags, spawn.

METHOD: Cut the straw into small pieces and soak it in water for 5-6 hours. The straw is then sterilized. Fill in polythene bags together with the spawn. The mushrooms grow after 15 days. Daily harvests can be made and used for domestic consumption.

The best places to grow mushrooms at home are sheds, rooms and outdoors.

For housewives it can be an enjoyable and profitable hobby

For further details contact: Rajind N Christy, 145/3 Classic Apartments, Anna Nagar West, Madras-600 040.

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Bhakta at the helm

The South Indian Film Chamber of Commerce's new President is M Bhakthavatsala, affectionately known to all as Bhakta. This apex body of the film industry in South India, founded in 1939, has a convention of electing its President by rotation; he (always a 'he' till today!) is chosen from the four language film industries of the South, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada. This year it is the turn of a representative from the Kannada film industry and Bhakta was the unanimous choice.

Bhakta, from an affluent old Mysore State family in the liquor business, is a qualified Business Management specialist who has worked in top executive positions in public sector undertakings before he came into movies as financier, producer and also actor. Like any intellectual getting into movies in India, Bhakta too was drawn into what is called 'the parallel cinema' movement in Karnataka (it has also been called 'art cinema', 'new cinema', and, according to a wag in Bangalore, 'Un-cinema'!). He joined Girish Karnad, Girish Kasaravalli, N Lakshminarayana, B V Karanth, G V Iyer, Lankesh, Thikkavarapu Pattabhirama Reddi (the maker of *Samskara*, which started it all) and others in encouraging the move to better cinema. He also acted in such films. (Sadly this movement, after a brief but bright innings, has begun to fade).

Our Cinema Correspondent reports from the Madras Film World

a go-getting person like Bhakta. But it is hoped that he will point the way for SIFCC to achieve much more. (A senior member once told this correspondent that much of SIFCC's energies, time and cash are spent in arranging glittering receptions to visiting ministers, chief ministers, parliamentary delegations, government officials and other assorted VIP's. This writer once noticed an MP from Bengal speaking for 18 minutes non-stop on STD to his home and office from the SIFCC office, before walking away without even a word of thanks! All that SIFCC has to show for such activities are glossy albums of photos!)

Bhakta is an articulate, no-nonsense type. He can be — and has been — a stormy petrel too. During an

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A look at Vivekananda Cricket

Hard work keeps them at the top

If there is one City college which has reigned supreme in inter-collegiate cricket over the last two decades, it's been Vivekananda. The number of trophies of different sizes stashed inside a wooden almirah in the College Principal's room is ample proof of this supremacy.

Last year it had a rich haul, winning the LUCAS-TVS, Rotract, Madras University and Madras South Division Trophies. It lost only the tournament for the IIT trophy, losing in the finals to its arch-rival Loyola College by a single run.

However, the most impressive victory of the Vivekananda team last year was against the Hyderabad Colts team in the YSCA tournament. The Hyderabad team had a number of Ranji Trophy players playing for it.

Nine players from Vivekananda played for the T.N. Colts team which toured England last year. The team won seven out of nine matches against the English minor counties. The wins included one against a team coached by former Pakistan test cricketer Wasim Raja.

In the academic year 1990-91 the Vivekananda College team won all the tournaments it played. It has visions of another good season this year, despite an early season loss.

Vivekananda's strong team this season is captained by S.Sharath. His Vice-Captain is P.B.Anand. Both have played for the Indian under-19 team. Pace bowler M. Shanmugham, who has played for a TNCA XI, is the only

player from the South to be selected for the MRF Pace Foundation coaching scheme. In addition, the team includes good players like Sikhander, Rajesh Khanna, Madan Gopal and many other first division league players. Sharath, Anand and Sikhander all figured in the recently concluded MRF-Buchi Babu trophy. And the Madras University XI has in its ranks six of these players.

• by Venkatachari Jagannathan

"It is the tradition of our college to give preference to cricketers when admitting students on the sports quota," says D. Ramakrishnaraju, Director of Physical Education, Vivekananda, and its cricket coach. He adds, "Here the environment for players is very good, enabling them to improve their cricketing skills."

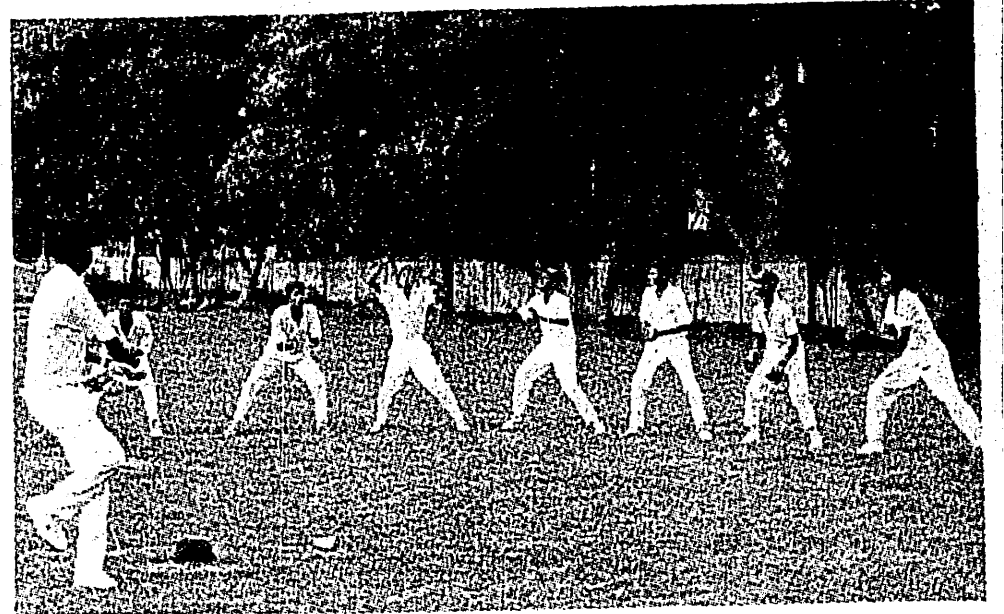
No wonder the college has had on its rolls in the past illustrious test cricketers like V.V. Kumar, T.E. Srinivasan, V.B. Chandrasekhar and Vivek Razdan. Two former Indian team captains, Krishnamachari Srikkanth and S. Venkataraghavan, studied for one year here before joining Guindy Engineering. The college has also had on its rolls a host of Tamil Nadu Ranji Trophy players, like P. Ramesh, Prachakara Rao, S. Srinivasan and V. Sivaramakrishnan.

Merely admitting talented individuals does not make an excellent cricketing team. Something extra is needed to be the top team. And that is the willingness to put in hours of hard work and develop a strong team spirit. That is where the Vivekananda teams score over others.

Players toil at the nets for at least three hours a day, throughout the year. The net practice sessions are taken with utmost seriousness. On the field, these young players are hard core professionals with the team captain in total command. Players are not allowed to talk at the nets and prior permission is needed from the Captain even to go get a drink of water. But the players are fully aware that such a regimen is necessary for sweeter results.

The selection for the team is a continuous process. Apart from the annual selection, players are selected and selected again based on performances in inter-class, double wicket and single wicket tournaments. Hence, the players are kept working harder to retain their places in the college team. Preference is also given to specialist batsmen and bowlers, rather than to all-rounders, whom other colleges seem to prefer.

"When compared to the sports budgets of other colleges, ours is insignificant," says Ramakrishnaraju. "But our boys do not need any financial incentives. All they want is a little publicity and their morale would be boosted to achieve more." The same sentiments are echoed by the players.



Some of the Vivekananda College cricket team hard at practice at the College's tree-shaded grounds in Royapettah. While these players brush up on their catching, their teammates are busy at the 'nets'. (Photograph: M.S. VIDYAPATHI).

"Creation of a sports endowment might lead to petty bickerings and hence we are not in favour of it," says Dr. S. Thiagarajan, Vivekananda's Principal. But the College welcomes

financial assistance, of the kind it received from M/s Chemplast Ltd., that made a turf wicket possible, at the college grounds in Mylapore.

Camps only to make money

"It is not necessary that the camps should produce champions; it is okay if they kindle an interest in the children for tennis. And do you know what the parents also say? The camps help their young to keep away from television, which of late has been getting a frightening hold over them."

That's what an organiser of a summer tennis camp, who is also one of those behind a regular tennis coaching school in Mylapore, told me the other day. And in a lull in the conversation I paused to think over what he had said.

In the last five years or so, using the summer vacation, cricket and tennis coaching camps have sprung up in

Summer camps organised by the regular coaching schools are in line with their aim of promoting tennis or cricket, but for the casual promoter the aim is purely monetary. If they say they are promoting sport through such camps, ask them to run similar camps for games like football, hockey, basketball and volleyball. They'll shy away from the idea. These games do not have the same glamour as cricket and tennis in this country, nor are those who indulge in them generally affluent enough to shell out the kind of money any one of these coaches may ask.

Former national table tennis champion V Chandrasekhar told me a

• by P N SUNDARESAN

A change justified

The Duleep Trophy finalists would have been spotted by month-end. The semi-finals were scheduled to be played in Madras and Bangalore from August 28th, and Hyderabad will host the final from September 9th. How North Zone would have acquitted themselves in defence of the title they won last year, and how India skipper Mohammed Azharuddin's South Zone team would have fared, is anybody's guess at the time of writing.

South Zone, with former India skipper Krish Srikkanth as vice-captain, were among the fancied teams. Irrespective of how they performed, the composition of the South Zone team, with as many as six Tamil Nadu players in a 15-member squad, was a tribute to the status of Tamil Nadu cricket. A couple of days after the announcement of the team, it got a bigger boost as MRF and SPIC beat off the outstation challenge to contest the final of the TNCA's annual Buchi Babu shield tournament.

Incidentally, the public support and the media coverage the tournament got more than vindicated the TNCA's stand. Its president, R.B. Alaganan, and secretary, Bharath Reddy, had asserted that the change in the format of the tournament, conducted for the first time this year as a limited-over, one-day league

competition, was made not only because of time pressure, with the Duleep Trophy round the corner, but also because it was felt the decades-old tourney needed a new look. The change was fully justified.

The one-dayers gave the all-India invitation tournament more than a new look. Sponsored for the second successive year by MRF, the tournament, in

by
AJAX

which teams from Calcutta, Bombay, Bangalore and Hyderabad matched their skills against four selected Tamil Nadu teams, caught the imagination of city fans as never before. It was indeed such a success that it is unlikely to be switched back to the humdrum three-day pattern.

Gone through to schedule inside a week despite interruption by rain, the 50-over tourney provided thrills galore, including two unforgettable last-ball finishes.

Pride of place among the highlights of the first edition of the one-day Buchi Babu tourney must go to MRF's last-ball, semi-final victory over SWIL of Calcutta, because it featured Kapil Dev, India's greatest-ever

all-rounder. As MRF smelt victory, Kapil, in a now or never bid, came on to bowl the last over. With three needed off the last ball, it was left to the youthful Asish Winston Zaidi (what a cosmopolitan name!) to face Kapil. Showing utter disregard for the bowler's reputation, Zaidi stepped forward and drove the decider straight for four past a diving Kapil, and it has been a long time since Chepauk had witnessed anything like the scene that followed.

As Zaidi and his partner, B. Ramprakash, raised their bats and did a victory dance, hundreds of fans rushed in, hugged them and congratulated them on having removed a formidable challenger, and made the final an all-Madras affair, SPIC having made the grade a day earlier. Unfortunately, the final was a comparatively drab affair despite the festival look the sponsors gave it by providing the teams with multi-coloured kit and white balls imported from Australia.

It is not known if the tournament rules permitted night cricket in broad daylight. But many felt the sponsors would have done better by boosting the prize money (Rs 15,000/- to the winners and Rs 10,000/- to the runners-up) with the huge amount spent on striped uniforms and white balls.

different parts of Madras, most of them using school or college grounds. The camps are of two kinds — those run by regular coaching schools, which enable them to pick up fresh trainees for their schools for another 'academic year' from June, and those which exploit the current enthusiasm of the young and their parents by running a short camp for just over a month and then fading away from the scene after making a quick buck.

Yes, there is really good money in running such camps, and the purse swells if the promoter is able to get hold of a sponsor to back him. The fee for a trainee, whether in tennis or cricket, is quite high, being between Rs. 200 and 400 for the entire session. Besides this, every trainee has to spend as much or even more to equip himself with the right kit and equipment, which the coaches insist on. Despite the steep expenses, there is a tremendous rush to join the camps, in the same way there is a rush for admission to academic courses despite the very high fees.

This is a far cry from my day when we used the common club kit while playing matches as well as at the nets. There was also no regulation or restriction on dress during nets. Some state players even used to turn up in dhotis! Yet the discipline was splendid.

decade back, while narrating the struggle Indian table tennis players have to undergo, that cricket was "big business." Since then, tennis has also shown the same signs of becoming big business. These summer camps in cricket and tennis help to nurture this aspect, while other games languish for want of financial support. But the respective associations, possibly with the support of sponsors, should make the attempt to run coaching camps in these games. A pity the will is not there.

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

- Pandit Ravi Shankar;
- M.S. Subbu lakshmi;
- North Sea and Black Sea;
- They have planted an elegant flower and herbal garden on the bank;
- Koothu-Pattarai;
- They are codenames of U'wargames in the Gull;
- Terai region;
- Jo Shuster;
- In the high security Chanderi Fort in Madhya Pradesh;
- Vitaly Scherbac;
- Endoscopes;
- K. Madhavan;
- Commander-in-Chief Road and Binn Road;
- Emperor Akbar;
- Achyut Patwardhan;
- Soya bean;
- Ove Rs. 590 crores;
- Harold Russell;
- was the site of the famous INA trial (G.S. Dhillon, Shanawaz Khan and P.K. Sehgal by the British);
- Lord Leonard Cheshire, the founder of the 'Cheshire Homes'.