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Vol. II. No. 22

FREE ISSUE — EVERY FORTNIGHT

March 1 — 15, 1993

How do we run Madras?

Has anyone got an answer how it can be done without money?

(By The Editor)

Lawyers, chartered accountants and traders are protesting against Professional Tax. Gandhians, generals and principals are protesting against Property Tax. Associations and companies are protesting against Sales Tax. Factories are protesting against what might be called 'Environment Tax'. And no doubt we can find someone or another to protest against any other kind of tax.

In the last few weeks we've been reading about all these protesters and we've had our fair share of letters from them. While we sympathise with their feelings about the kind of services they

get for what they pay and their highly erudite arguments about why they should not pay any more, it strikes us as passing strange that there is one major — and common — omission in this mess of verbosity.

And that is that none of these eminent leaders or their followers have come up with a concrete suggestion about how this city should be run better, at what cost and how that cost should be collected. There is at least one eminent chartered accountant amongst these protesters whom we've read of. Perhaps he could give us an accountant's picture of what the City's income is and how much can be done with it and how. And then, if he feels more is necessary for a cleaner, better Madras with efficient public utilities, perhaps he will tell us how much is

needed, how it is to be spent and how it is to be collected. We would gladly lend these columns to such a detailed analysis from this accountant or any other person with ideas on how to run this city and make it a better place.

It strikes us that while almost everyone in this City is always ready to protest against any kind of payment towards it, there are few like a Lion your Editor once heard roar from amongst the pride: "Tell us how much should be paid by each person who can afford it to make Madras a better city and I'll gladly pay!" To almost everyone of the protesters, running the city well and making ends meet is someone else's problem, not their's. Could they please make it their problem and come up with a financial analysis on how to make Madras work?.

Death in the park

(by Simeon Mascarenhas)

Visitors to the Vandalur Zoo in its early days will doubtless remember the solitary Indian Rhino that the place was lucky enough to have. What's happened to it? It's no longer in the Zoo. Has it become as extinct as the rest of the species is becoming in India, where it is being hunted for its allegedly aphrodisiac horn?

One story I've heard is that a child tossed it an unopened tetrapack-packed fruit juice and when the pack did not burst in the rhino's inside, it lodged itself immovably in its intestines. And shortly thereafter the animal died, even as the Zoo authorities were going frantic trying to diagnose the cause of its 'illness'. While officials connected with the Zoo don't like to confirm this incident, they do admit that the same thing happened to a spotted deer.

Plastic bags, tetrapack containers etc have since been banned at the zoo.

But whichever way you look at either tragedy, the fault lies with our educational non-system and the blinding discrepancy between what we hear about kindness to animals and the practice of these 'noble ideals'

(More on the Zoo on P. 5)

Opposition role a puzzle

A backbench revolt by the Congress(I) in the Legislative Assembly, some counter-missiles from the ruling AIADMK, walk-outs and Chief Minister Jayalalitha's announcement of a few benefits to the needy — the mixture was as before, during the short session to discuss the Governor's Address. The only difference this time appeared to have been the coming together of the two warring groups in the Congress(I), and the near-split in the relationship between the two electoral allies — the AIADMK and the Congress(I).

What had started as a trickle had turned into a torrent in a matter of 24 hours. On February 8th, V Dhandayudapani and a few other Congress(I) members walked out following what they thought was an unsatisfactory answer to their questions on the blasting of the Gandhi statue at Villupuram. The next day, the entire Congress(I) group walked out following a clarification sought by the Chief Minister on the Congress Party 'split' in the Legislature. On February 10th, the Congress(I) members were evicted after being named, following Congress(I)

accusations that a Government resolution on Hindi imposition through Doordharsan was politically motivated. And on February 12th, Congress(I) boycotted the Assembly altogether.

Rough houses there have been in the House in the past, and there will probably continue to be. Aberrations too. But they are on a small scale compared to the members' counterparts elsewhere in the country, where such incidents are commonplace because both ruling and opposition parties have no control over their members.

(Continued on P3)

The South still churns them out

(by A Staff Reporter)

There may have been a slight drop in the number of films made in the South in 1992, compared to 1991 (naturally, NOT in Tamil, the leader by far), but the industry continues to churn them out despite the challenges of Doordarshan, Cable TV, Star TV etc., videos and what not.

In all, 565 films were produced in the South in 1992, 52 less than the previous year. These included 185 in Tamil, three more than in 1991; 146 (172) in Telugu; 93 (91) in Kannada and 89 (94) in Malayalam. There were also 46 Hindi films, two English ones and one each in Sanskrit, Oriya, Bengali and Marathi made.

The bulk of these films were made in Madras. And with Bombay producers still preferring the professionalism of Madras film technicians, Madras continues to be the film capital of not only India but also the world — in terms of sheer numbers of films made. Quality, of course, is an entirely different matter.



Once cleaned, then forgotten

Dolly Simon, formerly of the American Centre Library and at present the life and soul of the Indo-American Association, will weep when she sees this picture if she hasn't already done so on seeing the scene in the Law College campus in person. The obelisk towering over the scrub forest is the Hynmer's Obelisk dating to the 1680s. And in the vaults below it are buried Joseph Hynmers of the Madras Council and the young David Yale. Elihu Yale, to be a memorable Governor of Madras from 1687, had married the widow Hynmers and David Yale was their son. Joseph Hynmers, Yale's best friend and a fellow Councillor, died in May 1680 and David Yale, four years old, in January 1688. Yale commemorated both with this memorial.

A few years ago, as part of the commemoration of the tercentenary of the oldest municipal body in India, the Madras Corporation, which was inaugurated by Governor Yale, there was a revival of interest in Yale in the City, mainly due to the efforts of Dolly Simon. As part of that effort, in which U S Consul-General John Stempel played a notable role, the Archaeological Survey of India cleaned up this monument and its surroundings, and even the neighbouring Powney Vault became visible again. There were even some contributions from alumni of famed Yale University in the US — which took its name from benefactor Elihu Yale — and that helped in the cleaning up of the tomb as well as ensuring access to it. But now the 'jungle tide' has taken over once again — and the only way to get to the last surviving memorials in what's left of the first British cemetery in Madras is to part the thorny scrub below the arrow and struggle through.

No doubt, after this picture and these lines appear, there'll be a cleaning-up process again. But why can't this be done on an ongoing basis? Aren't the authorities at Law College conscious of history — even if looking after ancient monuments is not their job?

There is also a moral in this story. Conservation and cleaning up are all well and good. But it must be a continuous process. Once done and thereafter forgotten is neither conservation nor achieving a cleaner Madras.

(Photograph: V S RAGHAVAN)

Lapierre drops in...

...and talks of joy and hope

Dominique Lapierre cannot let you down. He looks exactly like you've always wanted him to — big built, casually clad, exotically accented and comfortably propped on smooth showmanship. An insatiable love for the less-privileged whom he refers to as "the likes of the world" burns within him, even as he reaffirms his faith: "You can survive any bad experience if you know how to fight against it. My time in Calcutta right through the *City of Joy* had taught me a lot about the capacity of man to be bigger than adversity." Author of *Mounballen and Independent India*, *City of Joy*, *Beyond Love* and co-author of *Freedom at Midnight* and several other books, Lapierre writes in French, is read in more than a dozen languages, including Hindi, and believes he was a richshawpuller in his last birth.

He docked in Madras (a few weeks ago) for a day while aboard the cruise ship *Memoz* with 550 very affluent tourists "who averaged 90 years". He joined them in Bombay and travelled with them to Goa, Cochin, Madras, Sri Lanka and on to the Seychelles. While aloft, he would lecture to them on his "love affair with India". He took them to Mamallapuram and Kanchipuram to show them "some of the most beautiful monuments of India... and also the life and some of the problems of the country".

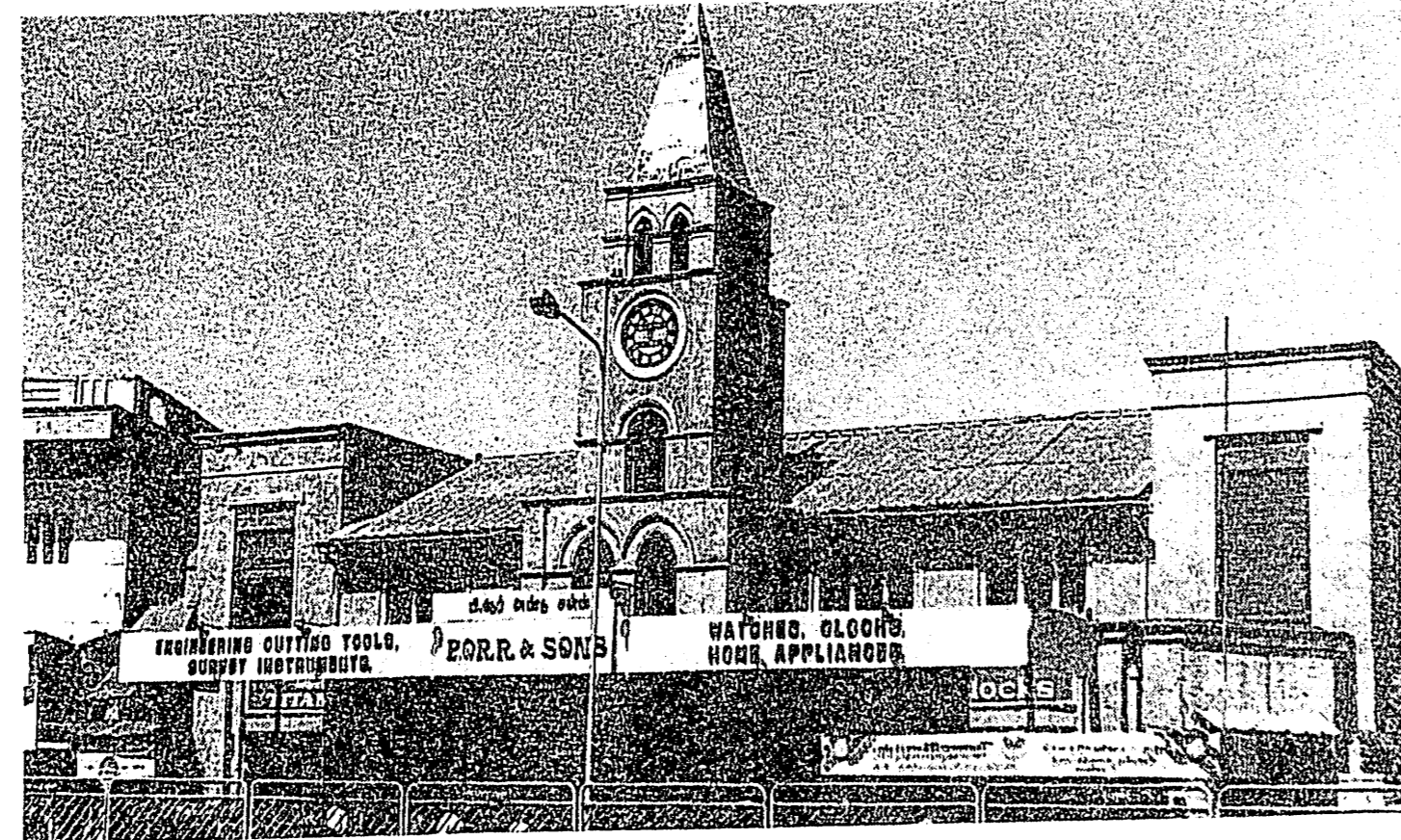
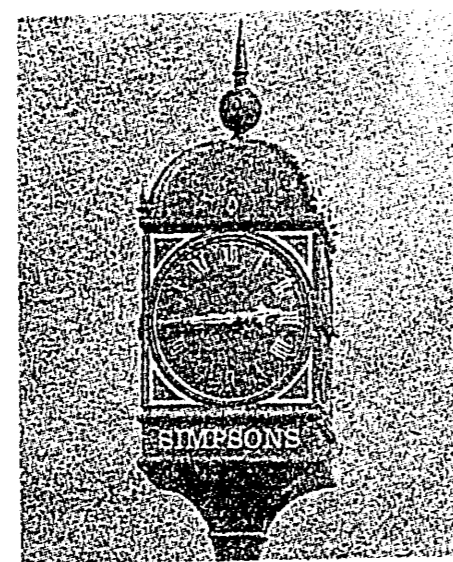
Shortly after they touched Tamil Nadu shores, and the gentle waves of the Bay of Bengal lulled them into siesta, Lapierre stepped out alone for a few private moments with the land of his love, only to be trapped by Madras Doordarshan and, later, by a buoyant press at the Park Sheraton. After the press was thrown out, he spent over an hour at the Danai Bookshop signing warm wishes and greetings on his books, heady with the aroma of fresh print and crisp paper. The reading public of Madras mobbed

him, unmindful of the fact that they were missing their footing and stumbling over Lapierre titles and tomes, precariously stacked all over the tiny bookstore. There was excitement and cheer and quick exchanges between the well-read and the less read and that made it possible for everyone to tell him how much (s)he enjoyed reading that particular book he was signing — some even managed a quick discussion! An hour later, at Landmark, the scenario was the same.

The press in their characteristic manner grilled Lapierre and he parried their volleys with devastating enthusiasm. Saddened by the Ayodhya misfortune, he said, he came to India to pray for communal harmony. Together with Mother Teresa and Shabana Azmi he offered prayers for peace at Raj Ghat in Delhi. In the context of the extensively researched *Freedom at Midnight* he looks at Ayodhya: "The people of India had followed Gandhiji on the road to Independence but somehow had not really understood, or made theirs, his message of love and nonviolence. I think that is one of the biggest problems of India." His investigations tell him that communal harmony has not really been broken. "Much of what happened was a matter of goondas, triggered by real estate people wanting to appropriate for themselves. I think also that the press and the media have played the thing so highly that they have in a sense intoxicated the country with this problem... This is only a temporary setback. In a slum like the City of Joy where you have 75,000 people, about equally divided between Muslims and Hindus, the people know that they cannot afford communal violence. When you have to fight every day against all the odds — your landlords, lack of water, lack of medical care, you are bound together to survive. They do not lose hope even in the worst circumstances because they have retained this capacity to love, to share, to celebrate..."

About the film *City of Joy*, he says, "I think it's a beautiful film. It carries the message of hope, of courage, of sharing, that I wanted to put into the book. The performances of Om Puri and Shabana Azmi are Oscar material. I get goose pimples every time they arrive in Calcutta from their village and every time I'm really caught with this story in fraternity, in humanity. This Om Puri is the most human man on earth — when he opens a box and takes out a seed of a flower and says to his family, 'this comes from our farm and we are going to plant this in the pot and by the time this grows I would have collected the money so you can get married' — it is something unbelievable. It was an enormous success. More than 20 lakh Frenchmen have seen it. It is all over Europe right now. In France it's playing in 287 cinemas

(Continued on P5)



Got what it takes

Here's a little heard story about an industrial giant. Chemplast, of the Madras-based Sanmar group, set up its subsidiary Metkem Silicon in 1986 to spearhead its trailblazing scientific efforts to manufacture silicon with wholly indigenous technology. This endeavour of the group has put India on the global scene by making it one of the six countries in the world to have developed and commercialised poly-silicon and monocrystalline silicon production from scratch.

Though fumed silica had been derived, the company, back in the mid-seventies, was scouting around in search of a technology to make a pure version of silicon called polycrystalline silicon (PCS). PCS finds wide usage for photoelectric and electronic grade applications.

Quite unfazed it got in touch with Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, and in a joint venture hit the jackpot in 1982. The technology was discovered but, alas, the equipment required to test the efficacy of the product was missing even as the US continued to dither in selling its equipment. But as the saying goes, when the going gets tough, the tough get going. The equipment was manufactured in ten days flat and the crystalline sample was sent to NASA for approval.

The story now takes a new turn. The US authorities, who had till then

Simpson's, 150-years-old-and-more and enjoying the status of flagship of the Amalgamations Group, has always had a sense of history. Its archives still preserve drawings and specifications of the palanquins, coaches and carriages it built in its first years, and honoured in its main hall is its first factory bell which tolled the hours of work and rest when Simpson's was located where the Cosmopolitan Club now is. To commemorate all these years and the passing hours, Simpson's has now installed a clock at the junction of Dr Radhakrishnan Salai and the Marina. The elegant clock, in a metallic blue with gold embellishment and numerals, is suitably old world in design, rather reminding older viewers of the gaslight era and nightingales singing in Berkley Square. Equally appropriate is the choice of location — for it was on this road falling into the Marina that, in the days when it was called Edward Elliot's Road, S Anantharamakrishnan, 'J' to all who knew him and founder of the Amalgamations Group, lived and where the family still live. But there is an angle or two — not the one featured here — at which

the clock tends to obscure the view from Dr Radhakrishnan Salai and the Marina. The elegant clock, in a metallic blue with gold embellishment and numerals, is suitably old world in design, rather reminding older viewers of the gaslight era and nightingales singing in Berkley Square. Equally appropriate is the choice of location — for it was on this road falling into the Marina that, in the days when it was called Edward Elliot's Road, S Anantharamakrishnan, 'J' to all who knew him and founder of the Amalgamations Group, lived and where the family still live. But there is an angle or two — not the one featured here — at which

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(Photographs: V S RAGHAVAN)

shown hesitation to provide the said technology, perked up at the quality of the Indian samples. And it would interest readers to learn that India ended up forking out a couple of millions as fee for a technology it had already developed on its own!

The trick was pretty neat. Once the US learnt that our samples were just as good as their product, it benevolently offered to sell us its technology. India,

• BULL'S EYE

blithely unaware of the pioneering efforts of the South-based company, parted with a cool amount as technology fee.

The dirty games apart, this story should stand as a stout example that we obviously have what it takes to challenge the best in the world. The prospects of Super 301 looming large on the horizon, should least threaten us, given the wealth of our brains and the guts at our disposal. But somewhere along the line things start going haywire. Call it infrastructural snafu or national apathy towards R&D efforts.

Chemplast stands a pioneer today in areas of silicon application. PVC manufacture and a host of other chemicals. And the sheer size of the Rs. 1000 crore Sanmar group with its tentacles spread in diverse areas, and its vast man-power base, are features that can hardly be ignored.

Meanwhile here are some promising recommendations for the fortnight.

Dharani Sugars Ltd. (CMP: Rs. 52.50): The half year ended Sept '92 results show a commendable growth in the company's sales and profitability. For a 49% rise in turnover, there was a quantum jump in the gross profit by 176% to Rs. 2.51 cr. It achieved a net profit of Rs. 1.47 cr against a loss of Rs. 9.79 lakhs in the previous period. The annualised EPS amounts to Rs. 3.27. The company is planning to set up a 2500 tcd sugar mill in Orissa jointly with IPICOL, apart from increasing the capacity of the leased mill from 1250 tcd to 2500 tcd. Phase I of this expansion has been completed by adding balancing equipment which has increased the capacity to 1700 tcd. Further, it has plans to set up a distillery and alcohol based downstream project in Tamil Nadu. A turnover of Rs. 46 cr and a PAT of Rs. 3.9 cr is estimated for March 1993. This would yield an EPS of Rs. 4.35 and justify a price of Rs. 65 by the time of the results. The EPS for 1994 is expected to be around Rs. 5, supporting a price of Rs. 90.

Technically, the graph shows that the prices have broken on the upside from a symmetrical triangle formation.

Sakti Sugars Ltd. (CMP: Rs. 68.00): The company has announced good results for the first half-year ended Sept. 1992. Sales have increased by 41% and the losses reported were only Rs. 1.66 cr against Rs. 4.73 cr. The performance for the second half will be encouraging as the distillery and castings unit will be functioning better. The new mill at Haripur village with

(Continued on P7)

Indian wildlife

Signs of hope at Vandalur

If you haven't visited the zoo at Vandalur, or have been planning a trip, the time to go is now. Before it gets too hot. And when the parkland is at its best, covered with thick scrub jungle, much of it virgin, that abounds in wild flowers and grasses of extraordinary beauty.

The Aringar Anna Zoological Park is perhaps more of a botanical treat than a zoological one, flora not needing to be caged. And efforts should be made to promote both aspects of one of Asia's largest zoos which, with a little imaginative management and skill, could easily be made one of the world's great animal and tropical flora parks.

The impish little rosy-cheeked cockatiel, rather like a winged Pirot, is named for the blush of pink on each cheek, this colour beautifully set off by the rest of the bird's colouring — yellow and grey. These exuberant little birds tend to stand out from the many others, though all are interesting. The irrepressible members of the parrot family

chatter away non-stop, providing delightful entertainment for children. And then there are the rather puffed-up Jacobin pigeons with their heavily-feathered legs, looking for all the world like retired generals from the Crimean War promenading in spats.

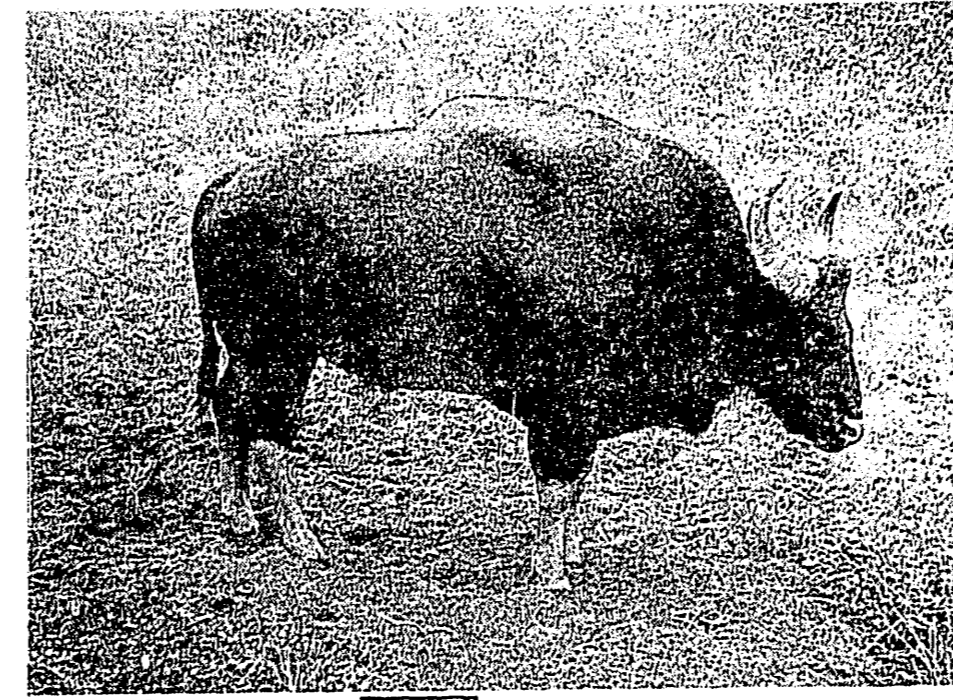
The only grouse you can have about the displays is the rather excessive use of heavy mesh (sometimes more

expectant, bright looks. The pair here looks extremely intelligent, even friendly, though we know that the Dhole is perhaps the most elusive and secretive animal in India. I wonder when we will have easy access to the Bedi brothers' superb film on these fascinating red creatures, a film which B.B.C. deemed good enough to telecast.

• by Simeon Mascarenhas

than one layer) on the enclosures, which greatly obstructs the view. But that, I suppose, is a regrettable necessity, although the open plan with moated enclosures is followed in general. Despite requests and the presence of vigilant staff and zoo volunteers, there have been cases of animals and birds dying from eating food (and sometimes other objects) thrown to them by visitors.

It is a credit to the Zoo authorities that all the exhibits are in excellent



A splendid Gaur

A note of caution

★ You have to pay to take a camera in. India must be the only country in the world where visitors to just about any place have to pay to take photographs.

★ Slide shows and films with a running commentary (keep the volume down, please) in special areas would certainly enhance the usefulness of the place. There is an auditorium, near the entrance, but appears to be little used.

★ This is not an outing for the infirm or the handicapped, unless they take the electrically driven train that goes to enclosures along asphalt roads. The roads that are not paved should be surfaced to allow wheelchair traffic.

★ A pair of medium-power binoculars would help, and a wide-brimmed hat is essential.

★ Apart from the rest areas, there are many lovely spots where a picnic lunch can be enjoyed, but remember to gather all your litter into a PAPER bag, or an old newspaper, and put it in the nearest dustbin.

physical condition, particularly the Big Cats (the zoo has two lion cubs just now) and the simply magnificent and immensely powerful Gaur, the world's largest breed of wild cattle. The Dhole, or Indian wild dog, gives visitors

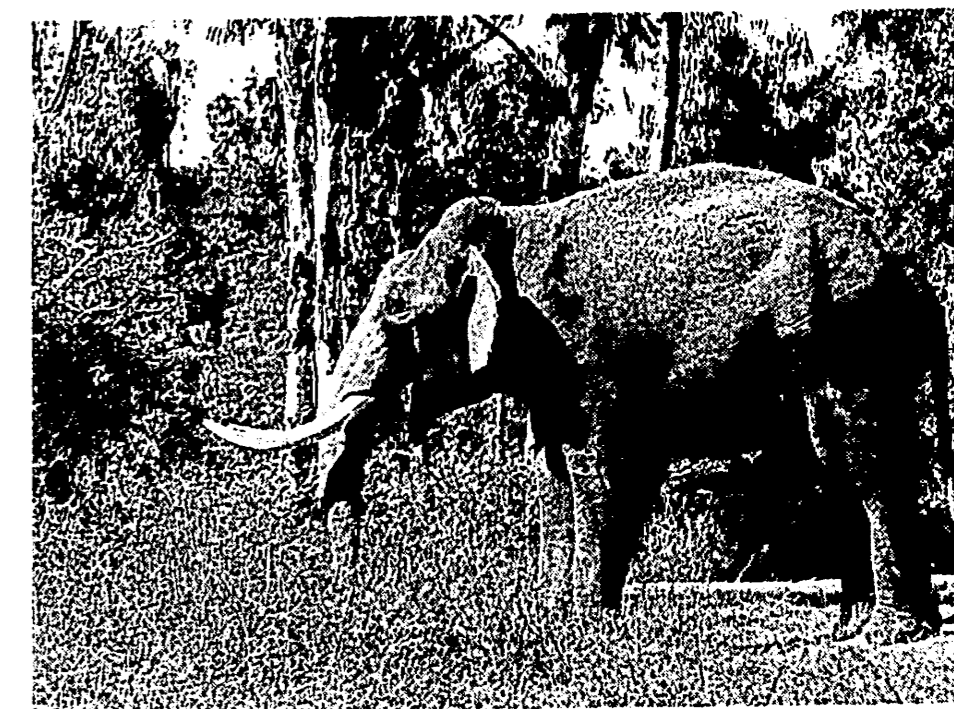
LAPIERRE

(Continued from P4)

at the same time. I have seen the film 15 times — not because I'm a self-indulging masochist, but because I'd been invited to present it. Every time I sit for ten minutes and then I say I'm going to see another film or I'm going to have dinner, and every time I'm caught and I stay until the end."

One of the most cherished moments of Lapierre's life came when he was made a citizen of honour of Calcutta by the Corporation and he received the golden key of the city from the Mayor. There is more than a key at stake for him in Calcutta. With part of the royalties from *Freedom at Midnight* and the whole of it from *City of Joy*, he and his wife Dominique are running a whole network of humanitarian operations there — dispensaries, schools, irrigation programmes, centres against tuberculosis etc., etc., and, most recently, a floating dispensary to take care of the needy of the Sundarbans. "It's just a drop of water, I know, in the ocean of needs — but as Mother Teresa told us one day, an ocean is made of addition of drops..."

ELIZABETH ROY



The Vandalur tusker

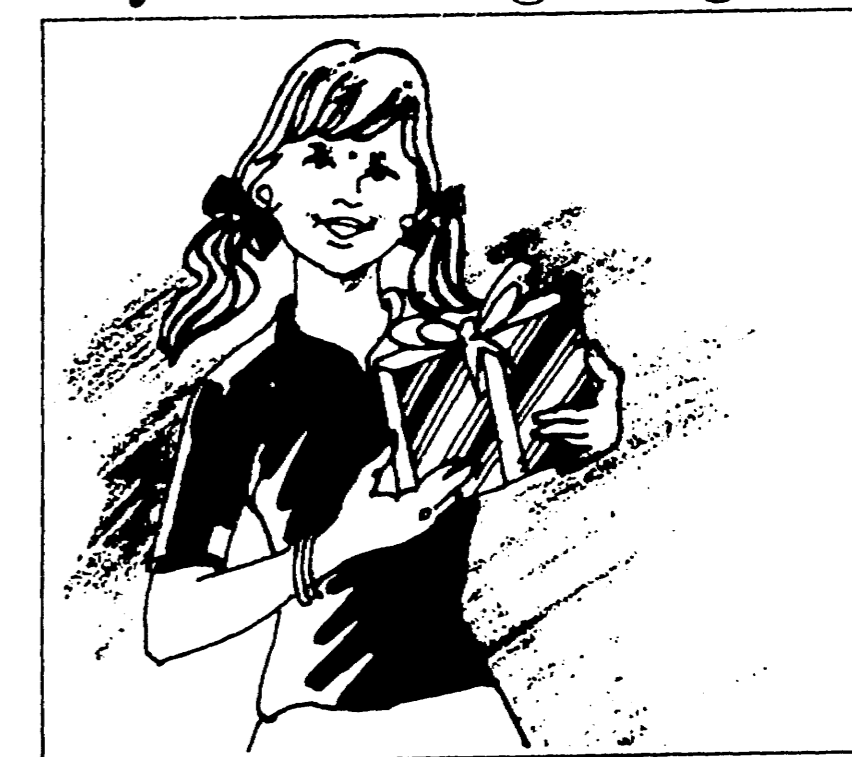
The whole place is very well kept, with no litter lying around. There could, however, be broad shade trees planted along all the excellent roads (Oh that Madras City would have such roads!) which are several kilometres in all. The existing toilets are clean, but there could be a few more, say, one at each of the eight rest stops: it's a very large park! The many shade and flowering trees planted in and around rest areas and enclosures in the early 80's have been nurtured so that they form today a good forest canopy. There is perhaps a bit too much eucalyptus; the accent should be on native species. Care, however, has been taken not to plant shade trees in the wild scrub zones, as shade is detrimental to the natural scrub.

There is a paucity of signposts at subsidiary junctions, and what there are should be to international standards and protected from our harsh sun. Spellings could be checked. Corresponding to the bird and animal 'footprints' along roads in the map supplied with the entrance

ticket are painted outlines on the real road — but these are few and far between, and who looks down in a zoo anyway? If these markers must be used, then they ought to be of durable plastic, in eye-catching colours, at intervals of not more than two metres. Following them will doubtless be a nice game for children, but might distract visitors from noticing the flora.

The Madras Zoo was begun in 1855, as part of now forgotten People's Park. In the 1960's the Zoo fell into the most horrific state and the nadir was reached in the 1970's when it was, mercifully, closed. By then most of its animals had died of starvation and neglect. In 1979, the Government of Tamil Nadu shifted what was left (not much) to the Vandalur Reserve Forest, and the new zoo, 1265 acres (510 ha) in extent, was opened in 1985. The most important change was transfer of control from the Corporation of Madras to the Forest Department. The park is situated 32 km from Madras, on the Great Southern Trunk Road.

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Four days at Chepauk

• THE CORNER FLAG

Watching from a corner of the field the goings-on, on and off it, in the City's first 'Test' in three years, this antique columnist noticed that the action started even before the match. There was once-mysterious leg-spinner Laxman Sivaramakrishnan trying to tease and test the English cricketers at the nets with his wiles and though they did appear to get the better of this faded one-series wonder, the visitors **did** get quite a long practice against one of the better spinners in the country.

And, that, shouted loud one Calcutta paper, was most unpatriotic of the Madras leggie! Thundered Lokendra Pratap Sahi, "...in India, it's also fashionable for one-time stars to help the visiting team at nets! ... While one is not dubbing (this act) unpatriotic, the question of ethics **does** arise ... Would a Graham Dilley or a Bob Willis help the Indians on their next visit to England? Or would Imran Khan offer his services in Pakistan?"

Sahi adds that this "controversial" practice was started when Bishen Singh Bedi bowled to the English in Delhi in January. This columnist had heard some whispers about that at the time and had thought 'What nonsense!', but Sahi confirms the feelings about it by saying that "Undeterred...Sivaramakrishnan has gone ahead and assisted Graham Gooch's beleaguered men in Madras....That England have proved dismal learners is another matter".

It would seem that to help another team by bowling to it at nets is no longer cricket. And to think that *The Corner Flag* had still been thinking that cricket was a sport, a gentleman's game, and all reporters had a sense of fairness. Obviously the times have changed!

Chinese-style shrimp

The next major incident was also off the field. All cricket writers have commented that Gooch and friends should have known better than to have indulged in Chinese-cooked shrimp on the eve of a major match. And at least one has gone on to absolve Indian chefs of blame, saying that once upon a time half the Sri Lankan team went down with a similar ailment after eating fish in Grimsby, that great British fishing port. What, however, strikes *The Corner Flag* as strange is not Gooch's cavalier attitude to pre-match diets but

that a five-star hotel belonging to perhaps the most prestigious chain in the country could serve food that would ensure a cricketer getting his runs in an unconventional fashion. Are the chefs at our five-star hosteleries so careless with their handling of food?

The Corner Flag had thought that Delhi Belly was a thing of the past with the current crop of five-star hotels being built to meet international standards. But it would seem that he is wrong; even these establishments can still assure visiting cricketers the runs!

Rathore's record

Cricket writers who have been condemnatory of Bedi and Sivaramakrishnan lending the English a helping hand have been, together with less 'patriotic' writers, rather unanimous in averring that the toss and Professor Rathore's umpiring were responsible for India's victory on Chepauk's traditional dusty strip, perhaps India's most result-oriented wicket. Being almost equally gentlemanly was an English cricket writer who thought that only one decision was rather dubious in the first innings — which rather coincides with *The Corner Flag's* reading of what happened.

Be that as it may be, Umpire Rathore's record in other circumstances in the match was hardly of a kind to instil confidence in any verdict he hands down. He allowed one seven-ball over, ruled five balls an over on another occasion and declared poor More out even before a catch was made — only to find that he had to bring down the burning finger when Gatting dropped the sitter.

A striking contrast to all this was what television revealed in the First Test — Umpires Reporter and Venkataraghavan must be, as a team, one of the best in the business.

The money-spinner

Never has Chepauk in all its long history seen such advertising — and most of it, including the conservative *Sportstar's*, vulgarly loud. All this has netted it over Rs. 55 lakhs, including ticket sales of over Rs. 25 lakhs. The Tamil Nadu Cricket Association is apparently now in the happy position of being able to keep the game going for two years in the state without anyone watching any of the hundreds of matches played at all official levels. It will also hopefully look after the stadium better than it was tended during the four days of the Test at Chepauk.

During that period, the litter hardly ever seemed to be cleared. Hordes of urchins appeared to be present most of the day, but certainly after 'mid-day', getting in the way of spectators as they scrounged amidst the litter to pick up anything that might have been inadvertently dropped or for 'empties' etc. And as for getting your seat, if you happened to turn up late, no one really seemed to care. "Why not just sit in any seat?" And if you were later challenged for doing just that, that helpful helper just looked the other

Equilibrium in Madras

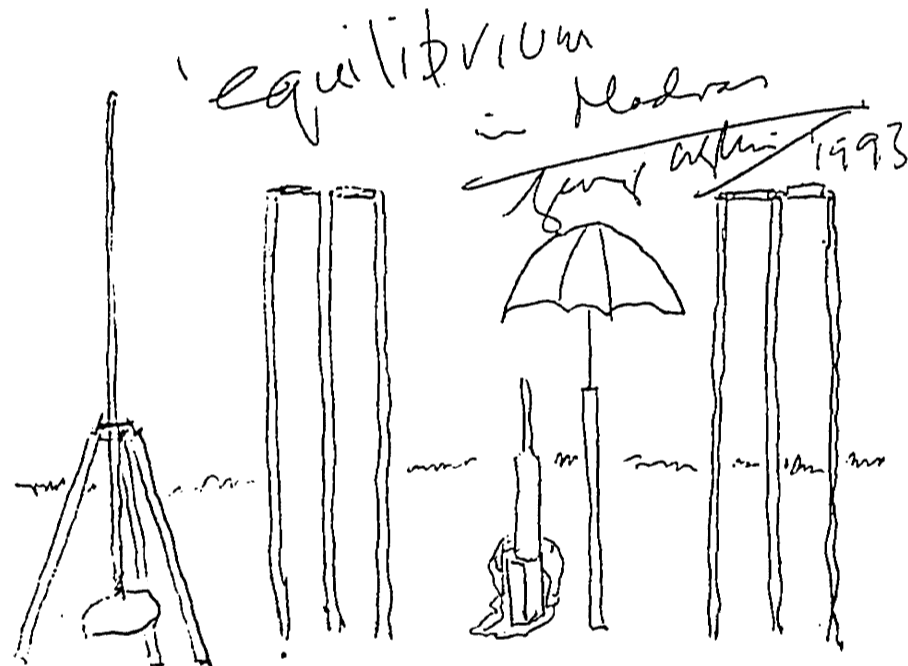
Outstanding Scottish sculptor and installation artist George Wyllie arrived in Madras in early February to construct — with students and artists from the Lalit Kala Akademi and the College of Art — a 'Shrine to Cricket', to coincide with the second 'Test'.

Wyllie, who has been described as "one of the most dynamic, creative and original personalities in the international Art world today", is a 72-year-old whose energy outlasted that of every young artist who worked with him during that week. His outpouring of ideas and totally original thinking left them breathless, as they tried to grasp his conception of synergic art and the reasoning behind his 'spires' — constructions which incorporate his ideas on "air, stone, equilibrium".

Local cartoonist THOMAS JOHN who contributed caricatures of Gooch and Azharuddin to Wyllie's 'Shrine to Cricket', caught the 'sculptor' at work on the 'The Colossal Creation' created out of wood (above), which, together with a ball that looked like a shaven green coconut, was the main ikon in the shrine.

Wyllie's workshop culminated in a procession from Lalit Kala Akademi to the British Council Division on Anna Salai, where, on the lawn, he made yet another "Public statement" on cricket — this time with casuarina poles for wickets, a white plastic umbrella shading a 'bronze' replica of the ikon, and a wooden 'spire' and stone pendulum as 'umpire'(?). Wyllie then autographed Thomas John's sketch of this creation and gave it a name: 'Equilibrium in Madras' (below).

Theme, concept and sketches bring Art to Madras Musings' Sports Page this fortnight.



way. The squabbles throughout the day seemed to an old-timer rather disproportionate for a civilised occasion. But then cricketing times are obviously changing, as already commented.

God save England!

The 50,000 or thereabouts crowd on Sunday was the largest *The Corner Flag* has seen at Chepauk in recent years. It was nice to see an almost packed stadium. And it was nicer yet to see its rather disciplined approach to 'The Wave' that international football introduced and which television has converted even Indian crowds to. Round and round Chepauk Stadium it went, nine times the longest, this column counted. The only ones not participating in it were those ever-so-earnest journalists and the even more earnest spectators sitting above them in the TNCA's best enclosure.

Another aspect of the crowd was the large number of English enthusiasts present. There were the individuals and couples here and there, scattered throughout the stands. But the two largest blocks appeared to be holiday groups. John Snow led the more affluent group, which sat next to the Press after paying Rs. 1250 per head, cheered daintily, stood up at all the right times as someone returned to the pavilion and included some very

elegantly dressed ladies with even more elegant coiffures. The other was a younger, more sporty group, happiest with a minimum of clothing and full of fun. Singing sonorously — and dolorously — 'God save our Gracious England (!)', they even had the crowd around them standing at attention!

The third most striking feature of those days in the sun was the number of home-made posters the camera-lovers turned up with, many with a new one each day. Several were genuinely clever — but whatever their quality, almost every one of them appeared to catch the international camera's eye and showed the world that English is not a dead language yet in India.

At their best

And then, of course, there was the cricket. *The Corner Flag's* 'Man of the Match' was undoubtedly tall, slim, athletic Chris Lewis with much of the same languid grace of Sobers. If he had saved England from an inning defeat, would he have got the award? This column thinks he should have **anyway**, but the uncharitable tend to think that he was **allowed** to bat freely for the match to go into a fifth day — with whatever happy consequences that offered all concerned.

Refusing to be as uncharitable, *The Corner Flag* is willing to compare this innings with the one Sobers played on this same ground to save a match with his tailenders. **That** was an innings, and so was **this!** Don't be surprised if Lewis winds up as an English all-rounder of at least the Botham class. In the West Indies, he could even be of a higher class.

Say of a class with Kapil Dev. That man never fails to astound. His was the best bit of batting from the Indians — Tendulkar's and Amre's knocks pedestrian beside it, and Siddhu's even less elegant. But it was his bowling on Sunday that warmed the heart even more. Determined to show that, even on a slow turner, he could take wickets, he bowled half a dozen overs that must have come close to his best ever. If anything took the stuffing out of the English it was those overs, not the mysteries of Kumble who still has a long way to go to become a Chandrasekhar.

As for the three spinners, persist with them in the squad for the next few years, play at least two of them in **every** international match, and in a few years it might even be possible to talk of them in the same breath as the immortal quartet. Would be glad to hear what Venkataraghavan thinks of them, having seen them close-up in Calcutta. Will the umpire talk?

Celebrating early

Who was that commentator who was celebrating early and near-drunk by 3 pm on Sunday? Will he get another chance to keep butting in with his inanities and embarrass his fellow commentators?

Dates for Your Diary

- Till Mar. 12th:** The Indian Council for Cultural Relations and the Sangeet Nataka Akademi are holding an India International Music Festival at the Music Academy (6.30 p.m. on the days listed). The programme is as follows:
- Mar. 1:** Philippines — Joey Ayala and the Bagong Lumad (Neo-ethnic music).
- Mar. 2:** Spain — Sergio Vicente
Peru — Juan Castro Nalli (Guitarists).
- Mar. 3:** Hungary — Muzsikas (Folk music).
- Mar. 4:** Austria — Vienna Flautists Ensemble.
- Mar. 5:** Australia — Sirocco (Folk music band).
Germany — Drummele Maa (Percussion ensemble).
- Mar. 7:** Japan — Min On Ensemble (Traditional music) (Museum Theatre).
- Mar. 8:** Portugal — Lisbon Minstrels.
- Mar. 9:** Russia — Panov Seplet.
- Mar. 10:** Sweden — Stockholm Baroque (Soloists).
- Mar. 11:** France — Stradivaria (String & wind ensemble interpreting French music of the 17th & 18 Centuries).
- Mar. 12:** Ireland — O. Suillebhain (Traditional music of Ireland with Indian influence).
- Mar. 8 to 12:** Madras University's Music Department seminar on folk music and literature. Different aspects of the folk musical tradition will be explored by scholars and experts in the field from around Tamil Nadu. There will be live demonstrations and discussions. Each day's session will be chaired by a Vice Chancellor of a university in Tamil Nadu. Contact Music Department, Madras University, for invitations.

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. Kamban Kaviyamudham (HMV);
2. Beijing, Berlin, Brasilia, Istanbul, Manchester, Milan and Sydney;
3. Indo-Russian Integrated Long Term Programme of Cooperation, Moscow;
4. K. Rajaram;
5. It was a mock exercise for all operational agencies to prepare them for any emergency;
6. Dr. Har Swarup Singh, the erstwhile Lt. Governor of Pondicherry;
7. To request water supply in case of acute shortage;
8. DPR Korea, beating Romania 2-0;
9. 'Poornami' Viswanathan;
10. The privatised Metro Channel;
11. *Little Mermaid*;
12. The Russian space experiment to create artificial daylight on February 4th;
13. Arthur Ashe;
14. Justice M. N. Venkataswami;
15. 90 paise;
16. February 6th;
17. 'Prithvi' medium range missile;
18. Judith Polgar beat Boris Spassky;
19. P. Balaraju;
20. Kamal Amrohi.

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