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METAL CUTTING TOOLS

Armenians to celebrate

A publishing anniversary

Another Madras first



George Gregorian faithfully tends the most significant tomb in the Armenian Church, that of the Rev. Sh(e)mavonian who is the 'Father of Armenian Journalism and Publishing'.

(All photographs by V S RAGHAVAN)

(By A Special Correspondent)

Madras has more 'firsts' to its credit in the modern India that evolved after 1498 than any other Indian city. Most are little known and less remembered. But virtually unknown in the city is the fact that it was here, 200 years ago this year, Armenian publishing began with the issue of the first Armenian newspaper in the world, *Azdarar*.

In the early days of Madras, the Armenians were a major trading presence. Later, they made Calcutta their citadel. Today, in Calcutta, where once there were a few thousand Armenians, with a school and college founded by them, there are only 200. There are about another hundred spread throughout India, most of them in Bombay, THREE in Madras. And when most of them gathered in Calcutta this past Christmas, the topic most discussed was what Archbishop Aghan Baliozian, Primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church, had reminded them of during a recent visit to India from his Sydney base.

He urged the community in India to celebrate the pioneering work of the Rev. Archpriest Haruthiun Sh(e)mavonian, who, on October 28, 1794, released the first ever Armenian journal in the world from a small Madras 'Black Town' press. The journal died with its editor in 1824. The Rev. Sh(e)mavonian is buried in the splendid little garden cemetery in the Armenian Church of St. Mary in Armenian Street, Georgetown. His tombstone, the finest in the cemetery, was reconstructed by the Armenian Association in 1965 and is lovingly tended today by one of the few Armenians in the city, that splendid raconteur George E Gregorian, Vestry Officer and Sexton of the Church.



The Rev. Archpriest Haruthiun Sh(e)mavonian.

The Archbishop, announcing the planned commemoration of the bicentenary of the Rev. Sh(e)mavonian's work, said that the Armenians wanted "to involve Indian scholars in the event as, besides developing the Armenian script letters for printing, the Father was also a scholar in Persian and Arabic" Gregorian doesn't seem to know about these plans, but it might be fitting if the Madras Booksellers' and Publishers' Association and the Madras Printers' Association considered how best they could team with the Armenians to celebrate this significant event in Indian printing and publishing history.



Detail of the inscription on the Rev. Sh(e)mavonian's tomb in the Armenian Church, Armenian Street, George Town, recalling the 1794 date.

Australia pays pension at last

(By V. Jagannathan)

After seven years of procrastination, the Australian Government recently sanctioned $40,000 to Sister Mary Theodore Asmar (67), a Madras based Australian nun, as a one-time payment in lieu of the monthly pension that is her due.

The irony of Sr. Mary Theodore being awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in 1991, for her services in the cause of international relations — particularly to disabled children in Madras — and being addressed as Australia's Mother Teresa on the one hand and her being refused her pension on the other had been highlighted by the Australian media. That was when the Government woke up and, as a special case, sanctioned the grant.



Sister Mary Theodore of MITHRA.
(Photo: V S RAGHAVAN)

An Australian after reaching 60 years, becomes eligible for a pension. Sister Mary Theodore became eligible for a fortnightly pension of $306.10, but the Australian Government refused to pay it to her as the pension rules state that "a pension is not payable to an Australian resident while overseas if the

(Continued on P2)

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q7a

Four other anniversaries in 1994

(By A Special Correspondent)

Besides the bicentenary of Armenian Publishing, 1994 will mark the anniversary of several other significant events in Madras history. Yet none of them are likely to be marked, even if they are remembered. Nevertheless, they deserve recording, for each has played its role in the history of Madras and the growth of the city.

1644, 350 years ago, was when Francis Day left for good the city he had helped to found. Two years earlier, his boss, Andrew Cogan, who had taken the decision to give Day his head in founding Madras, had left and Day was made Agent of the entire Bay. Day might not have left behind a record of exemplary agency, but it is still not too late to remember his contribution to founding Madras. When will we get a Francis Day Road or a Francis Day Building?

1694, 300 years ago, was when Governor Nathaniel Higginson, who had been the first Mayor of Madras — and the first Mayor outside Europe — began building a new *Fort House* as residence as well as Council Chamber. *Fort House* is the core of the present Secretariat and Legislature and was clearly visible before it was hidden by the buildings of the 1950s which face the Parade Ground. This core is the second oldest existing building in modern Madras, 15 years 'younger' than St. Mary's in the Fort. Surely 300 years of continuous governance from the same building is occasion for celebration?

1744, 250 years ago, Anwaruddin of Chicacole and Rajamundhry was named the Nawab of the Carnatic by the Mughal Empire's Nizam-ul-Mulk of the Deccan. And so began the Wallajah dynasty, whose destiny was so closely intertwined with the British in Madras that protocol **still** honours its scions, the Princes of Arcot. The birth of a dynasty is surely an event for commemoration by the successors.

And in **1794**, 200 years ago and as mentioned last fortnight, America appointed its first Consul in Madras.

While no plans are as yet being drawn up to commemorate any of these events, the Murugappa Group — perhaps one of the few mercantile groups with a sense of history — which commemorated the 350th Anniversary of Madras with a splendid coffee table publication; *Madras — The Gracious City*, and a very popular quiz, is, it is understood, planning to bring out another coffee table volume which will, in some ways, be no *Madras Musings*' 'The Old and The New' feature. Will Government consider this a commemoration of *Fort House* and 300 years of continuous governance?

Violence, Vengeance and Vigilanteism

This is not a blurb. The mainline dailies have already written them. This is not a review as described at a recent panel discussion on reviewing; it is not an account of the work complemented by an analytical assesment and evaluation of it. Rather, it might just be what one speaker at the discussion suggested a review should be: an orgasmic reaction. In fact, it is a cry from the heart after patiently watching for three hours the preview of the new Kamal Hasan starrer, *Mahanadi*.

Over a third of the film is taken up by mindless violence, both in good and bad causes. About another third is taken up with vengeance being the hero's. And very much part of the avenging role is vigilanteism, the hero being judge and jury in a country where he is convinced no justice can be found!

We may be living in a country where justice is delayed, where often it is not done, where there are one set of rules for some people, and another set for others, where the big bullies and those with connections thrive and the meek and those who do not know the right people lose out, and the silent majority may, because of all this, be losing out. But is the hero's way in *Mahanadi* in answer?

If Kamal Hasan — and all those connected with this film– think so, then all hope is lost. We'll soon return to the law of the jungle. And that would be tragic. Which is why *The Man From Madras Musings* is grieved that Kamal Hasan agreed to star in this film. The need to find the wherewithal to make his magnum opus is undoubtedly there, but surely this is not the way?!

Whatever be wrong with this country, violence is not the way out. Vengeance is no riposte to wrong done. And least of all is the way of the vigilante the path to justice. The young seeing this film, in a state known for its emotionalism, can only be carried away by the example set. And where it is not unknown for the law to be taken in their own hands by individuals and groups, such glorification of vengeance and vigilanteism is not the wisest of things.

A few, like *The Man From Madras Musings*, might understand that *Mahanadi* could well be a cry from the heart of good and intelligent people fed up and frustrated with the system and all that's evil that thrives in its name. But many more are not likely to understand that and could well come under the influence of the film and be subconsciously incited into lawlessness to uphold the law as each one sees it. MMM only hopes that he is not being fanciful and seeing shadows where there are none.

What next?

The Pontiff is dead. Long live the Pontiff. Many, however, are not certain that the succession to the saintly and revered Kanchi Sankaracharya is going to be all that smooth, even if the baton-wielding Al-Seshan and the soft-spoken former President each in his own way tries to smooth ruffled feelings and bring about a happy succession.

The worldliness of the peregrinating senior and junior acharyas, their attitudes to the secular and the spiritual and the fact that there have been rumblings in the Kanchi Mutt for some months now all point to an uneasy time before the next pontiff of Kanchi is recognised. The fact that there have been notices in the press announcing who is and who is not connected with the Mutt and all the stories about gold that has allegedly not been fully accounted have not left the Mutt with the spotless reputation it had until about a year ago.

It would call for a great deal of effort by the baton-wielders, the persuasive soft-speakers and others concerned with the legendary institution to bring about an amicable settlement and restore the pristine reputation of a hallowed place of pilgrimage.

Business briefs

★ Another family feud is being played out before the Supreme Court, where Mrs. Madhuri Mathur and her sons Ajay and Vivek are locked in battle over that well-known brandname *Sumeet*. Eight years after she had allowed her sons to use the name *Sumeet* for their product range, Mrs. Mathur — who with her husband had introduced the runaway success that was and is *Sumeet* — wanted to withdraw her permission. Will the *Sumeets* manufactured by the sons have to get a new brand name? Or will they win the battle? Watch out for the results!

★ Another legal battle involves an even older and more revered Madras name, Gordon Woodroffe's, a company synonymous with early Madras trade and leather. The battle for the company is being fought by Manu Chhabria, who has filed suit against brother Kishore Chhabria. The former's Shaw Wallace holds 34 per cent equity in Gordon Woodroffe's, the latter's Tracstar Investments 26.4 per cent. It is other equity owned by the brothers and which could tilt the balance that is being disputed. Meanwhile the State Bank of India oversees operations and refuses to take sides.

In brief

★ The Mumbai Tamil Sangam, after which a marg has been named in the western metropolis, celebrates its golden jubilee this year. And to commemorate a belated anniversary — the Sangam was actually formed in 1940 — a year-long programme of *iyal, isai* and *natakam* has just got underway.

★ Amiable V Sundaram, marking time till he quits the IAS at the end of March — this time for real — and *The Man From Madras Musings* caught up with each other at a wedding the other day. And there Sundaram chuckled, "MMM has done me a good turn. The last time *Musings* wrote about me, it ensured my transfer. Now I can happily quit." But why? And Sundaram once again recited the words of one of the two or three persons he ever likes to quote, Winston Churchill: "The only shield to a man's honour is his conscience — the sincerity and the rectitude of his actions. Armed with this shield, he shall always march amidst the ranks of honour, whichever the fates may play." One of these days he's likely to add to that by launching into Churchill's "men of straw" quotation.

★ Just retired Foreign Secretary and former Indian High Commissioner to Shri Lanka, J N Dixit, is, it is reported, busy with his memoirs. In it, the man who was once described as the "Viceroy" of Shri Lanka, is expected to reveal much about the India-LTTE connection. One report even says that he is likely to reveal the alleged payments — once rumoured as being Rs. 5 crores — made by the Indian Government to the LTTE, before relations soured and the Tigers took on the IPKF. Another person busy with recollecting the LTTE is former Tamil Nadu Chief Secretary M Rajendran. He is believed to be recording the LTTE-Tamil Nadu nexus in his memoirs, which he is now working on. The only memoir-writer not likely to talk about the LTTE's Indian connection is the former President, R Venkataraman, whose record of his years as president is due for release by HarperCollins shortly.

★ The days of scavenging in Pondicherry are over. The last 118 families — 476 person in number — involved with clearing nightsoil have been rehabilitated. By achieving this, Pondicherry has shown the way to the rest of India. To make the scheme permanent, the union territory government has offered 50 per cent subsidy for converting dry latrines into wet ones and has got nationalised banks to help with the rest of the money, if needed. So far, 650 homes have responded. The rehabilitated families, meanwhile, are being trained in other occupations — and could, a report of the change-over says, show the way to the 700,000 scavengers in the rest of the country, including several parts of Tamil Nadu.

★ Sivakasi-bashing, for its use of child labour "amidst hellish working conditions", is being given a new lease of life because of an hour-long 16mm documentary *Kutty Japanin Kuzhandaigal* that is doing the rounds in South India. Made by a Bangalore-based Tamil documentary film-maker Chalam Bennurakar, it focuses on the theme: "Seventy per cent of the children working at Sivakasi's factories are girls, as young as five or six who, instead of going to school and enjoying their childhood, toil from dawn to dusk. The scenario is truly Dickensian..." Bennurakar hopes that "with all this, some change would actually take place in the condition of these children". *The Man From Madras Musings* has not seen anything "Dickensian" in Sivakasi, but then that is just another point of view. What might not be another point of view, however, is the kind of change Bennurakar hopes for; too often, the change is not necessarily for the better in the Indian context.

★ Many homes in the Adyar area, some of them very conservative ones, have for years opened their doors to paying guests, offering accommodation to foreign students studying at Kalakshetra or researching at the Theosophical Society. But now the Government of India Tourism Department is trying to spread the PG net wider. And, surprise of surprises, the largest response in the four southern states has been from conservative Tamil Nadu, where 60 families, veg and non-veg, have registered themselves with the Tourism Department. In many cases, the hosts have been doubling as guides and, in at least one instance, in Mandaveli, an American chemical engineer found himself a bride, his hosts' daughter! Looking at the growing tourist inflow into Tamil Nadu, expected to increase by over 20 per cent this year (last year was 19%), the GOI Tourism Department head in the South, Dr Poornima Sastry, feels there is a large "economy class tourist market waiting to be serviced" and the PG way could be the means of helping that market grow. If pictures don't lie, the Deputy Director-General herself seems to be showing the way; in a recent photograph two European guests were seen to be "sharing a meal with Sastry" at home, eating off plantain leaves!

MMM

SHORT 'N' SNAPPY

Australia pays...

(Continued from P 1)

person leaves Australia before the end of a period of 12 months".

Sister Mary Theodore has been living in Tamil Nadu since 1951. She was 25 when she came here after graduating in Commerce and Law. In 1971, she founded the Madras Institute to Habilitate the Retarded Afflicted (MITHRA) — an unique institution. Sister Mary Theodore was not able to fulfil the Australian domicile conditions as her continued presence was required by the inmates and staff of MITHRA.

The grant sanctioned would prove a boon to her, for Sr. Mary Theodore has been suffering from severe arthritis, spending about Rs. 4000 a month on medication for it. But she has other plans for the grant. "I have only received the sanction order as of now, not the money. Once I get the money, I intend to use it to expand MITHRA, which is suffering a severe cash crunch," she told this reporter.

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Brown, R	Market focus
Busselle, M	The complete 35 mm source book
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Silverster, P	Electric circuits
Waller, J	The quality management manual
Waterhouse, K	Unsweet charity

Our Readers Write

Trying to remember 50 years ago

From time to time your editor receives letters requesting information about Madras. One letter we received last October was addressed to "*The Madras Mail* or local newspaper". It had wound up at *The Hindu* and was forwarded to *Madras Musings*. The letter was from E Simpson of Sheffield, Yorkshire, who had served in Madras with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from December 1944 to 1946. He wrote:

"I was a soldier in the REME 10 Base workshops near a village called Avadi, a few miles out of Madras. The camp was almost derelict. When I arrived there we were under canvas — without proper facilities, such as toilets, water etc. We were going down like flies with dysentery and malaria — our main food was duck stew. However, things improved in time, and we finished up with comfortable huts ('bashers' as they were known then), proper toilets, showers, food. We also had a pub (The Wade Inn), cinema and many other amenities. On Saturdays, we would go by train to Madras, down those steps from the station — catch a rickshaw to Grant Road, have a meal in the Great China Restaurant, take in a film ... I also used to drive officers to Madras to the Connemara Hotel ... I am 70 now, but I remember that time very well. I shall never forget it. I look back now and think how lucky I was to visit India, even though we were at war ... The main reason for my letter is to try and find out if that camp and workshops in Avadi are still there — If so, any photographs would be most welcome, or any photographs of Grant Road..."

Your Editor responded as follows: "... the REME Works and camp at Avadi are still very much military property. Government armament and ordinance factories ... now occupy the site ...

As for Grant Road, I think you mean MOUNT Road, which is still the 'Main Street' of Madras. As for the Great China Restaurant, it no longer exists, if it ever did. There were two Chinese restaurants on Mount Road that date to that time and one of them survives — the Chunking. If I get any more information about the other, I will let you know."

Mr Simpson responded with a letter which we received on New Year's Day. It read:

"... Your letter ... brought back memories of fifty years ago, when I was in Madras. It seems like only yesterday. The most amazing thing was the photograph you sent of Mount Road (sorry about the Grant Rd). Note the notice in the photo I have sent: 'Musee Musicals'. The same notice is in the one you sent. It's truly incredible, isn't it?

I know the Chunking restaurant. But I think the one we used to go in was the Great China. There was a cinema also, which I think used to stand back off the main road, also 'My Coffee Bar' which made the most delicious iced coffee."

He also sent us a photograph which we publish this fortnight. Simpson is on the left. The picture had been sent 'home' from Madras in April 1946 and at the back it says, "Taken in Madras on 27-4-1946. Temperature 95° in the shade".

EDITOR'S NOTE: If any reader has any more information to offer Simpson, please send it to us to be passed on.

A bit of semantics

On November 23, 1993, my wife and I were booked to fly to Delhi on the morning Modiluft flight. The flight was cancelled and we travelled by the evening IAC flight.

I applied to the Modiluft offices, Madras and Delhi, for free tickets back to Madras in redemption on their Guarantee offer widely advertised. I have had no formal reply, but the Manager in Delhi told me that we were not entitled to free tickets because our flight was not 'delayed' but 'cancelled'!

This example of semantics continues to be published in some of the airlines' advertising.

Lt. Gen I S Gill
31, South Bank Road
Madras 600 028.

Dead telephones

Reference N Ramanathan's letter on telephones in *MM*, December 16, this is my own encounter with Madras Telephones.

During the heavy rains in November my own phone became dead. I complained several times to the concerned Telephone Exchange through my neighbour's phone but no one turned up for 3 or 4 days. So, at last, I made a personal trip to the Exchange to meet the concerned officials. During the course of my conversation I asked the Engineer concerned as to why, even after a mild downpour, many telephones in Madras suddenly go dead and, this, in the year of grace 1993 when Technology had advanced so far one could expect practically trouble-free telephone service all the year round. The answers I received were revealing.

The engineer said: "Sir, don't you realise that we are after all Indians?" To my further query as to how this should matter, he said: "Sir, our bosses also happen to be Indians. When the British were bosses we used to take our work more seriously". The engineer's colleague pitched in and said: "Sir, did not Wintson Churchill say 'power is being transferred to men of straw' at the time of our independence?" After this, comment is superflous. Colonial rule has wrought havoc with our psyche.

R C Narayanan
T-59B, 32nd Cross St.
Madras 600 090.

A willing reader

Your observations on the future of *Madras Musings* makes sad reading. I perfectly understand your anguish and anxiety. Though many of us would co-operate with you if the issues are to be priced, and as you say that seems the only alternative, yet it would sound the death-knell for the very concept of 'FREE MAILING'. May I suggest a solution for trial?

A committee of eminent personalities from among your esteemed readers be formed and a general meeting of all beneficiaries be held on a date and venue convenient to you so that willing readers may be requested to go and meet various corporate bodies and Governmental and private organisations with your authorization and request these bodies to extend support by giving Ads. Though having served as a Govt. officer for 35 years and also having represented an ad agency for a year, I am personally very sceptical about Corporates, Incs, Banks etc, but I still feel it is worth a try. Of course, individually we are all prepared to do any service to realise your noble objective.

P Krishnaswamy
G-3 Lloyds Colony
Lloyds Road
Madras 600 014.

The greater need

Reference to your article "Wanted — A Heritage Act" (*MM* Jan. 1). The idea of "putting in order" and cleaning up important landmark buildings in our city is truly commendable. Their revamping would go a long way to commemorating the history of Madras.

But what is even more urgently required today is a "Cleaning Up and Discipline Enforcement Act". Dirt and filth seem to be accumulating as days roll by. Leaking drains, undulating roads and garbage strewn all over are now commonplace. And ever-proliterating slums seem to only make matters worse!

Of still more importance is the need to discipline the increasingly chaotic traffic, pedestrians and the public at large.

Even a metropolis like Bombay, which is reeling under a massive population explosion, is extremely well organised. People follow, in Bombay, the queue systems at bus stops and auto stands without fail and the vehicular traffic there proceeds in an extremely orderly fashion.

For the citizens of Madras, whose population is about half of Bombay and with a much larger area, these are definite lessons to learn. Let our New Year Resolution be to sincerely strive for a "CLEANER, HEALTHIER AND A MORE DISCIPLINED MADRAS."

Parag Kapadia
58, Burkit Road
T. Nagar, Madras 600 017.



E Simpson (on left) in Madras in 1944. And the Musee Musical sign is in the same place, he points out, after seeing V S RAGHAVAN'S picture below.



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The ad mentioned in Gen Gill's letter — and it is still making the rounds, he says.

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Tickets (Rs. 200, Rs. 100 & Rs. 50 downstairs, Rs. 20 upstairs) available at the Music Academy

India's first women doctors

It was only in 1874-75 that applications from ladies, for medical education in the Madras Medical College, were received for the first time. They were from:

- The wife of a Barrister,
- Two daughters of a deceased Captain,
- The widow of a Master of Doveton College, who was a Lt. in the Volunteer Guards. She was the daughter of an Hony. Surgeon.
- The wife and daughter of a Hony. Surgeon.

Four of them took the LMS Degree of the Madras University in 1877-78. They were in order of ranking: Miss White (I), Mrs Mary Scharlieb (II), Miss Beale (III) in First Class. The other lady was Miss Mitchell in 2nd Class.

Mrs Scharleib, the wife of the Barrister, later proceeded to England and was the first lady doctor to take the MD degree of the London University. Subsequently, she returned to Madras to practice and was the founder of the Queen Victoria Hospital for Women (now Kastur Ba Hospital), Triplicane, before she eventually returned to England to teach at the London Universtity.

The number of women students studying medicine, which was ten in 1883-84, steadily increased, year by year, and it was 21 in 1887-88. Out of 21, 18 were Europeans or Eurasians and 3 'Native Christians'. Not a single Hindu or Muslim women had till then, ventured to undergo medical training, on account of the very slow progress of female education among them.

Miss D'Abreu of Calcutta was the first lady to pass the MBCM degree examination of the Madras University (1887-88). Muthulakshmi Ammal (Reddy) took her MBCM degree in 1912.

In 1883-84, the ten lady students in the Madras Medical College were Mrs Van Ingen, Misses D'Abreu, Abala Das, Ramsbotham, Yerbury, Smith, Govindurajulu, Jacobsz and Gurdial Singh. The two 'Native Christians' (Misses Govindurajulu and Gurdial Singh) who took their LMS degrees in 1887 were appointed as Asst. Surgeons under the Military Government.

The Madras Medical College, by turning out, year by year, since 1875-78, a number of young ladies as doctors, who were most usefully employed in all parts of India, was doing work with which the work done by other medical schools in India cannot, it was believed, be compared.

Matriculates were admitted to LMS (4-year) classes and F.A.'s were admitted to MBCM (5-year) classes.

C A Reddi
57 EVK Sampath Road
Madras 600 007.

Here's how to evaluate private sector Mutual Funds

After various parleys and amongst great 'tom-toming', the private sector Mutual Funds have arrived! And if one had a problem choosing from a potpourri of branded consumer products, one ain't seen nothin' yet. Currently, the five private Mutual Funds in the fray are 20th Century, Kothari Pioneer, ICICI Premier, Taurus the star share, and Morgan Stanley. Since all of them are flexing their financial muscles and are bitten by the bug of innovation, a few hints on evaluating them would come in handy.

Large is beautiful: Larger the size of a fund the better, provided it is

BULL'S EYE

backed by high expertise. Morgan Stanley Growth Fund targeted a whopping Rs. 300 cr and bagged an even higher Rs. 1120 cr, undoubtedly due to Morgan Stanley's international reputation as an able financial service company.

Great expectations or risk-free returns?: Check the mix of securities proposed by a mutual fund. For risk-free returns, look for higher investment in debt. But remember, returns from equity, which is risk-prone, is higher.

The more frequent the disclosures, the better: How often will the fund declare its NAVs? Will the portfolio be declared oftener than once a quarter to ensure transparency in operations? In this context, Taurus Mutual Fund beats all by providing the investor with round-the-clock information about value of investment.

Ensuring better liquidity: Check the offer document. If the scheme is to be listed at 'one or more stock exchanges or at least one stock exchange', the liquidity is limited. The larger the number of stock exchanges listed in, the better. The units of 20th Century Mutual Fund are listed in all the major exchanges and the OTC Exchanges of India, facilitating easy trading by the investors. Also, if a scheme provides repurchase facility (promises to buy back units from the investor after a specified time at a certain price), see that the repurchase is early.

How chummy?: Check whether the mutual fund has a branch network to handle your grievances and has additional benefits like insurance cover and advance against the units on pledge. Taurus and 20th Century are providing Accident Insurance cover to investors, which is a very welcome feature.

The higher the participation by the FIIs, FIs and banks in the scheme, the better, for this manifests their faith in the scheme. Taurus is the only private mutual fund where the FIIs and FIs have invested Rs. 60 cr and the collaborators, Lazard Brothers, have participated to the extent of 40%.

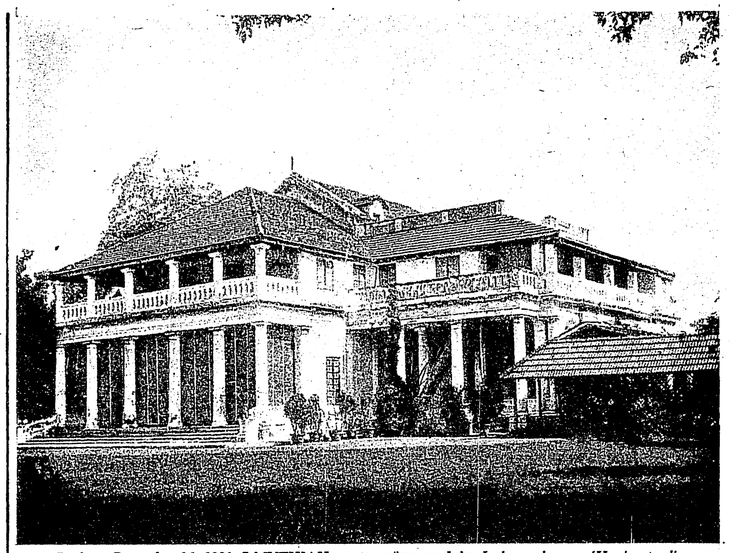
For now, the criteria of experience in the field shouldn't bother us as all the sponsors are required to show a positive networth for five years before floating a private sector mutual fund. If the sponsors have already floated some schemes in the past, the performance of the earlier schemes can be compared with market returns and against the BSE index.

Meanwhile, here are a few recommendations for this fortnight:

TTG Industries (CMP Rs. 37.50): The company was incorporated in 1987 and manufactures specialised equipment used in Pollution Control Technology. The equity issue of the company totaling Rs. 2.16 cr at a premium of Rs. 2 per share was offered to the public in Oct. 1993 to finance its backward integration project and upgrade infrastructural facilities. It has technical collaboration with DISAB International AB of Sweden and Davy McKee Corporation of USA. It also has orders worth Rs. 20 cr on hand. Being in a Pollution Control industry, its profits enjoy 100% tax exemption. It has projected an EPS of Rs. 3.09 for 1993-94. Buy.

Vijay Shanthi Builders (CMP Rs. 13.75): Vijay Shanthi Builders has successfully executed projects in Madras, meeting the specific needs of middle income segments. The public issue in Nov. 1992 was not well received. It's estimations for

(Continued on P8)

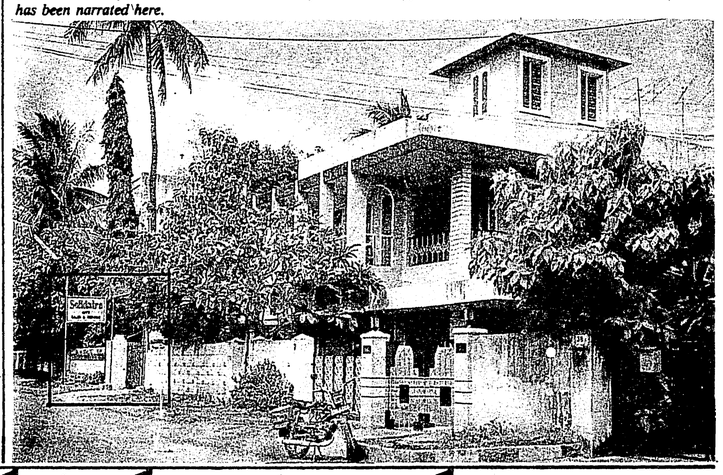


Back on December 16, 1991, **S MUTHIAH** *wrote a piece on John Jealous who was 'Hoping to discover more on Hope'.* **MUTHIAH** *now adds, in this rather different version of THE OLD and THE NEW, that Jealous is still following the trail of Laurence Hope but seems no nearer reaching trail's end and the expected book. Instead, Jennifer Carter (Cross) of Melbourne, Australia, turned up in Madras the other day, and she too was following the trail of the romantic poet who committed suicide in Madras shortly after her husband, Gen. Nicholson, had died. And Jennifer Carter seemed very much closer to journery's end, with a book, on the author of "Pale hands I loved beside the Shalimar..." and other romantic poems sung to tea-time music, due some time before year's end or early 1995.*

THE OLD... ***...& THE NEW***

In Madras, the Carter-Cross's, both from LaTrobe University, visited the graves of the Nicholsons in St. Mary's Cemetery on The Island — and, like other admirers, had them cleaned up again. They scoured Graeme's Road to find a trace of the nursing home in Murray's Garden — and found nary a hint. They took in the atmosphere of the Madras Club, which they thought had probably not changed very much from Gen. Nicholson's day. And, finally, wound up at Murray's Gate Road — and were delighted to find a family or two who recalled the name **Dunmore House,** *but failed to recognise the house Jennifer Carter showed them in a photographic reproduction that she had unearthed in a library in, of all places, Atlanta, Georgia, USA. That picture, THE OLD this fortnight, is captioned "The home of Laurence Hope in India". Why, with that caption, it should be presumed to be the house built by Murray, Earl of Dunmore, at the end of Murray's Gate Road, is a little hard to fathom, considering the many homes the Nicholsons lived in in India. But since the caption mentions only Laurence Hope, the only place that was home to her in widowhood was* **Dunmore House** *— and, so, presumably, the presumption.*

Be that as it may, what the Carter-Cross's found on Murray's Gate Road is the subject of **V S RAGHAVAN'S** *NEW. And old-timers on the road made vague mention of a big gate, by where the Soldidaire sign has now come up, which led to a big house that survived there till the 1960s. It was owned by Maharajah Surya Rao of Pithapuram, they recalled, and explained that is why this stretch of Murray's Gate Road is now called Maharajah S R Road! Jennifer Carter wonders whether anyone can identify the house in THE OLD and add more to what has been narrated here.*



MANAALI RAMAN...



Oh, well, it's an occasion to remind us of the existence of his office ...!"

IN MAD MAD MADRAS

Lovebird wins hearts

(By A Staff Reporter)

The star of the recent Auto Expo '93 in Delhi was a car from Tamil Nadu, Coimbatore-based Eddy Current Control (India) Limited's, *Lovebird*. This fully indigenous electric two-seater car on scooter tyres will be on the roads in April.

Eddy, who manufacture current variable speed drives, microwave industrial heating equipment and microwave domestic ovens, use a direct current motor, powered by a rechargeable lead acid battery pack, in the *Lovebird*, which is priced at Rs. 1.15 lakhs. Another model, the *Chariot*, which is more like an open golf car, will be available for Rs. 79,000. The running cost of these economy cars is expected to be 25-60 paise per kilometre, including replacement of batteries.

After a day's running, the *Lovebird* can be plugged to a single phase AC domestic line and, in about eight hours, the battery will be fully charged. Battery life is expected to be around three years.

The noiseless and pollution-free *Lovebird* has a steel chassis and fibre glass reinforced polyester body. Four wheels ensure a smooth ride and it has a four-speed gearbox with reverse synchromesh.

A new company, called Eddy Automobiles India Limited, will go public to raise Rs. 4-crore funds for the Rs. 6-crore project, according to M D Jos, managing director of Eddy Current Controls (India) Limited. Production will be in three different centres: Chalakudy in Kerala (chassis-making and assembly), Coimbatore (batteries, fibre glass and some key components) and Hosur (controls).

The company is targeting the manufacture of 2,000 cars in 1994 and 6,000 in 1995. After streamlining operations, a second plant is to be set up in Chettipalayam, near Coimbatore. Jos is convinced, "the future belongs to the electric car", because of increasing pollution awareness and continuing improvement in battery technology. He claims the company has about 450 domestic orders on hand and 50 export orders. Denmark, USA, Germany, Austria, UK and Sweden are other countries which manufacture electric cars. Jos says that, since 1988, it is compulsory in Los Angeles that 5 per cent of the cars on the roads are electric-powered.

An electrical engineer from Kerala, Jos had designed a four-seater electric car, akin to the Premier 118 NE, eight years ago. But it was too expensive and his team then started on a new research programme that, three years later, produced the *Lovebird*. Its dimensions are: Length 210 cm, Width 136 cm, Height 132 cm, Wheelbase 148 cm, Ground clearance 16.5 cm, Kerb weight with battery 650 kg, Pay load 175 kg.

The minor's right as a mother-to-be

EDITOR'S NOTE

In a case that generated considerable discussion on the status of minor girls, the Madras High Court recently allowed one such girl to continue with her pregnancy against the wishes of her father. But Madras High Court advocate **Geeta Ramaseshan** feels that though the Court respected the girl's freedom of choice, the judgement could encourage teenage pregnancies. Something she considers a matter of concern. Ramaseshan recently discussed the case at length in *The Telegraph*, Calcutta. What she had to say is reported elsewhere in this feature.

For the first time in the country, a court had to decide whether the father as a parent and natural guardian had the right to seek the termination of pregnancy of his minor daughter under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act.

A LANDMARK CASE

THE CASE

Krishnan, a single parent, alleging that his daughter Sasikala, 16 years old, had been kidnapped, filed a criminal complaint against one Rajan. The police produced Rajan and the girl before a magistrate. Rajan was remanded to judicial custody, while the girl, being a minor, was directed to be detained in a government home, as she refused to go with her father. Subsequently, the girl's detention was extended on various pleas, but at one hearing Krishnan heard with shock the magistrate order the release of the girl after making the following observation, "Since the victim girl is within 20 to 25 years, she is set free and hence petition is closed".

When Sasikala joined Rajan, Krishnan filed a writ of habeas corpus in the Madras Court on the ground that his daughter was a minor. He filed her birth certificate which showed her to be 16 years old. In September 1993, a Bench disposed of the case but directed that Sasikala be kept in a private home till she attained majority. The father was asked to bear all her expenses, while Rajan and his family were prevented from meeting her.

In November, Krishnan filed another application stating that his daughter was pregnant, and that, under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, no pregnancy of a woman below 18 could be terminated without the consent of her guardian. He also alleged that his daughter's pregnancy was caused by rape and hence would cause grave injury to her mental health. He sought the court's permission to have the pregnancy terminated. **(Note:** Court permission for termination of pregnancy is not required, except when the woman is in custody under orders from a court.)

The Bench, comprising Justice M Srinivasan and Justice Abdul Hadi, interviewed Sasikala, who told them that she was a minor, had married Rajan and wanted the child. She was, she said, prepared to take care of it, even if her husband deserted her.

The Bench, in a 69-page judgement, considered a host of English and American decisions on the rights of minors and held that if the termination of pregnancy was ordered against the girl's will, it would affect her mental and physical health. "The million-dollar question — whether a minor girl was entitled to an order from the court for terminating pregnancy when she was not agreeable to termination—had not arisen before any court in India", the court observed, "It was of great importance and relevance in the present day society, when the number of teenage pregnancies was said to be on the increase." But having stated this, the court went on to rule that the father could not seek the termination of his minor daughter's pregnancy.

Sasikala is now an inmate of a women's home, waiting to become a major. But before that she will become a mother. And a dejected Krishnan will find himself an unwilling grandfather. Rajan has a right to visit her once a month.

JUDGEMENT & ARGUMENTS

Geeta Ramaseshan writes in *The Telegraph*, Calcutta:

It is in the realm of health that the court's observationsbecome extremely controversial. While asserting that abortion is highly dangerous for the health of a woman, and that teenage pregnancies are discouraged, the judgement quotes extensively from American and English journals. Consider the following observation, "The prevalent opinion is that the complications which may arise due to teenage pregnancies can be avoided by proper ante-natal care, such as examining the pregnant girl at least once in a week in the third trimester". The psychological, emotional, social and economic issues arising in a teenage pregnancy in India are not taken into account.

The court further observes, "It is also the opinion of the medical experts that termination of the first pregnancy would result in sterility and the woman concerned may not have any pregnancy thereafter." For this the court relies on the opinion of one Dr T R Bedi, MD, given in a question-answer column of *Women's Era*.

The judgement does protect the rights of the minor and recognises the freedom of choice. Over this, there can be no dispute. However, in drawing upon expert opinion and religious texts, it is extremely critical of abortion. It should be noted that religious texts are highly patriarchal and do not give any control to the woman over her body

Certain questions are left unanswered. Sasikala informed the court that she was married to Rajan. Considering the fact that the marriage is legal under Hindu Law (The Child Marriage Restraint Act merely prohibits and seeks to punish perpetuators of child marriage; it does not consider such marriages void), what about Rajan's right? Should not he have a greater right than Sasikala's father?

The bias in favour of bearing the child is reflected in the following observation of the court in the beginning of the judgement. "The petitioner has prayed for direction to the Superintendent, Kasturba Gandhi Hospital, Madras, to terminate the pregnancy on the ground that his daughter is still in her teens and teenage pregnancy will lead to many complications. The irony of the matter is that Kasturba Gandhi, after whom the hospital is named, was married at the age of 13, and had her first child at the age of 15, and the second child at 17." This — when there are moves to raise the age of marriage.

The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act is a very liberal law. If the doctor is of the opinion that the pregnancy has caused injury to the woman's physical or mental health, or there is injury to the child, abortion is permitted. Pregnancies caused due to rape or failure of contraceptives are all examples of injury to the mental health of the woman. The Act also requires the doctor to take into account the woman's actual or reasonably foreseeable environment. The Act further provides that pregnancy of a girl below 18 cannot be terminated without the consent of her guardian. The judgement left this question open but agreed with the public prosecutor that no distinction is made betweeen a major and a minor in the matter of fundamental rights, and that Article 21 was wide enough to include Sasikala's right to continue her pregnancy and have the child.

It is difficult to approve of teenage pregnancy as a policy not only because of the population issue, but most importantly from the viewpoint of the minor's health and well-being. The judgement recognises the wishes of the minor to have a child, but the observations carry the risk of encouraging teenage pregnancies, besides restricting the right of the woman to have an abortion.

The judges might have also opened the doors of dispute when they observed the abortions cannot be had on demand. "The woman cannot abort at her will and pleasure, even during her first trimester," the court observed. This, many feel, is a rather narrow interpretation of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act.

One Man's Madras — HARRY MILLER'S

Indian English is O.K., but not catachresis

Normally when I bring the matter up with Indian friends, they mutter something vague about there being nothing wrong with Indian English, and, of course, they are right. There is nothing wrong with Indian English any more than there is with Welsh, or Scottish, or Irish English (American English isn't English at all!!). But that's a different thing from **corrupting** the language, of which I give examples:

My father died three years back....

I was in Bangalore three years back....

Here the use of the word 'back' is a catachresis — the misapplication of a word. Is the word 'ago' unknown in Indian English? Thus:

I went to Bangalore three years AGO and I'm going back tomorrow.

In *The Hindu* the other day there was a report of a mass grave being found in Shri Lanka in a place, *'where none but the Army could have had access'*. Confusion between 'none' and 'no one' is very common, but they are totally different expressions with different meanings and different etymologies. Thus:

The guest arrived for the meeting, but there was no one there. He wanted some money, but found he had none.

English is, of course, a crazy language anyway. Who can blame the 'non-English' for pronouncing the word 'yacht' exactly as it is spelt! On the other hand, what I have come to call the 'dee syndrome' is inexcusable. In a book review, I noticed that a photographer high in the Himalaya had found it necessary to *'defreeze'* the ice, where most of us would be content to melt it; *The Hindu* (a newspaper running a weekly column on English usage) found it necessary on December 21st to *'depollute'* the water; I remember the Madras Corporation's determination to *'dewater'* the Buckingham Canal. And Mrs. Gandhi was always *'defusing'* the tension between India and Pakistan. The list is endless.

Indeed one of my more mischievous English friends has gone so far as to compile a pseudo glossary:

Deflower - grow vegetables
Detour - stay in one place
Denude - dress
Depose - turn your back on the camera
Delay - clear the table
Delight - save electricity
Decease - start
Depress - refuse Harry Miller's article
Deplain - go to the hills
Dehike - lower prices
Desalivate - spit
Desoil - clean
Decoy - become extrovert

.... and many, many more. Perhaps readers would like to invent their own.

Again, who can blame the 'non-English' for confusion over English plurals, which are downright crazy! Another writer recently mentioned the example of how we make the plural of box *boxes*, but a number of ox are not *'oxes'* but *oxen*. *Antelopes* are acceptable, but not *deers*; the almost vanished clique of 'big game hunters' could be heard announcing they were going out after *lion*, or *tiger*, whereas they always hoped for, often succeeded, in getting several.

One Indianism, if I can call it that, however, always makes me grit my teeth: the use of the expression *the same*.

I have a dozen crates to send to Bangalore. Please arrange for the collection of the same.

Surely 'them' (or better, 'their collection') would suffice. But it always has to be 'the same', an expression I have never heard in any other English-speaking country. Where, I wonder, did it come from; why is it universally used in the subcontinent? Do I detect traces of Imperial bureaucracy here?

MADRAS MUSINGS

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NOTABLE BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Antifederalism: The Legacy of George Mason.
Edited by Josephine F. Pacheco
George Mason University Press, 1992. (320.473 ANT)

Butman, John
Flying Fox: A Business Adventure in Teams and Teamwork
AMACOM, 1993. (658.402 BUT)

Cingranelli, David Louis
Ethics, American Foreign Policy, and the Third World.
St. Martin's Press, c1993. (327.7301724 CIN)

Drugs in America.
Edited by Robert Emmet Long
H.W. Wilson Company, 1993. (363.45 DRU)

Gray, Colin S.
House of Cards: Why Arms Control Must Fail.
Cornell University Press, 1992. (327.174 GRA)

Inside the Environmental Movement: Meeting the Leadership Challenge.
Edited by Donald Snow.
Island Press, 1992. (333.72 INS).

Rogers, David
The Future of American Banking: Managing for Change.
McGraw-Hill, Inc., c1993. (332.1 ROG)

Zaller, John R.
The Nature and Origins of Mass Opinion.
Cambridge University Press, 1992. (303.38 ZAL)

Do you make an 'Ideal Couple'?

Tube Investments of India recently held an all-India contest to choose the 'Ideal Couple' from amongst its married executives. Regional contests were held in the four metros and the winning couple from each zone met the other winners in a grand finale at the Park Sheraton in Madras.

The finals took the form of the judges marking the couples on the basis of how they reacted to various situations that were described to them. Those situations, we feel, will not be without interest to readers. How will you react to them?

In the first round, hypothetical situations were posed to the husband and wife in turn and their views sought on how they would tackle the situations. The questions in this round were:

To the husband

1. Your ailing mother-in-law is staying with you. She is very fussy, and you are not on good terms with her. On the other hand, your wife is very attached to her mother. How would you tackle this situation?
2. Your niece is to come and stay with you as there are good colleges in your city. Your wife is not in favour of her coming. But you want to help your sister's daughter. What will you do?
3. While visiting your mother who is critically ill, you get a telegram from your wife saying there is a serious problem in the office and you are to come immediately. What will you do?
4. Your boss has invited you for dinner on New Year's Eve. During the party, you happen to spill some gravy on the beautiful saree of your boss's wife. What would you do?
5. Your sister's marriage has been fixed, but it is a love marriage and she is marrying out of caste. Your wife being very orthodox insists you should not attend the wedding, but you feel you have a duty towards your only sister. Your attending the marriage will, however, create a rift at home. What will you do?
6. You have called your boss for dinner, and you have prepared a good non-vegetarian meal. But much to your dismay, after everything is ready, you find that, on that particular day, he does not eat non-vegetarian food. In what way will you help your wife to tide over the critical situation?
7. After the day's work you come home loaded with still more work. Much to your dismay, you find that your wife has accepted a dinner invitation for both of you that night. What will you do?

To the wife

1. You love silk sarees, but you find that your husband feels such sarees involve meaningless cruelty to thousands of silkworms, and abhors the idea. What will you do?
2. Your husband is away at office and your cousin suddenly calls on you. Both of you decide to go to a movie. At the theatre, during the interval, you spot your husband sitting a few rows away with another woman. What will you do?
3. Your husband's trip abroad has been scheduled at a time when your son/daughter is to have his/her final examination. Your husband insists that you go along with him, leaving the child at a friend's place. You too are keen on going, but this would inconvenience the child. What will you do?
4. Much against your wishes, your husband has taken up a business venture. But now it has failed miserably, incurring heavy losses. What will your attitude be and what will you do?
5. Your husband gets you a birthday gift, which you do not like at all. You do not want to be hypocritical, but at the same time you do not want to hurt his feelings. What will you do?
6. Your husband's friend, who has helped him a lot in his life, is coming to spend two days in your house. Due to a bad experience you have had with him earlier, you can't stand the sight of him. What will you do?
7. You are at a dance. The man of your dreams comes up to you and asks for a dance. Your husband is very conservative. He certainly won't approve of your dancing with the man. What would you do?

For both husband & wife

1. Your child is giving his/her first musical performance. Both of you are fanatics in this field. Something unexpected happens, and you can't make it to the concert. How would you react?
2. The M.D. of your company is expected for dinner at 8 p.m. It is now 7.30 pm and cooking is not over yet. Your child, who is supposed to be back by 7 pm, has not yet returned from the school function she is attending. The school is 10 km away. What will you do?

Try these — and find out for yourselves...

(Rounds 2 & 3 next fortnight)

Quizzin' with Ramanan

(Quizmaster V V RAMANAN'S questions are from January 1st — 15th)

1. Name the veteran Kerala CPI (M) leader who was expelled amidst controversy.
2. In what way has TN Congress MP, M Krishnaswamy, eulogised the Prime Minister?
3. What is the quantum of bonus announced for Tamil Nadu State Government staff for 1992-93?
4. Name the noted Tamil scholar and exponent of *Thirukkural* who died on January 14th.
5. Where was the 9th World Sanskrit Conference held recently?
6. By using what technique have scientists in the US now accurately dated the earliest human ancestor 'Lucy'?
7. 'Pancham' passed away on January 4th. Who was nicknamed 'Pancham'?
8. Which popular Tamil star completed his 100th appearance recently? In which film?
9. Name the recipient of the Jnanpith Award for 1993?
10. Name the two bills passed in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly which envisage making the Chief Minister the Chancellor of the State Universities.
11. Name Asia's first 24-hour Indian language TV service launched on January 1st.
12. Which great seer attained *Mahasamadhi* recently?
13. For what art has R G Murthy been honoured with the 'Kalaimamani' award this year?
14. The renaming of which University after Dr B R Ambedkar caused a furore triggered by the Shiv Sena?
15. Name the well-known American food chain whose entry to India was cleared by the Finance Minister on January 11th?
16. Who has donated a Rs. 30 lakh gold 'Saligrama Mala' for Tirupati's Lord Venkateswara to wear on all important occasions?
17. Which state introduced the first vernacular telegraphic service on January 14th?
18. What change has the Tamil Nadu Government introduced with regard to hoisting the national flag on Republic Day at District Headquarters?
19. Who retained their titles at the 42nd LIC National Volleyball Championship held in Hyderabad?
20. Name the popular BBC 'Test match special' commentator who passed away recently.

(Answers on p. 8)

Carry on, Healer

• Sabita Radhakrishna

"He's young, he's good looking, he's terrific." "People rush to see him." "You come back feeling good." Film star? Certainly not! Famous model? Far from it! Serious and committed, Dr Krishna Raman never lets his professional barrier slip, even at the cost of being criticised for being impersonal!

Raman is a healer, in the true sense of the word. I like the word 'healer' because it refers to someone who alleviates pain, someone who cures and also exudes care and concern. Someone who "doctor" seems to have new connotations today. It is part of a commercial yuppie culture, where money is to be made as fast as prescriptions can be written.

Not that Raman does not write prescriptions; he is a qualified alumnus of Madras Medical. But he is different, because he believes in non-formal ways of healing. And what helps is his training in yoga right from his teens, his *guru* being B K S Iyengar. Raman administers allopathic medicine whenever it is absolutely necessary and advocates non-invasive diagnostic tools when the need arises, but most of the time he gets you over your pain with gentle exercises built into a daily routine which attacks the root of the problem.

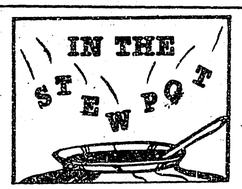
He watches you carefully as you enter his room. Your walk, the way your shoulders slope, your posture, the way you drag your feet... and before you express your complaint he knows about it. Raman examines you, repositioning your body, noting the points which produce those sharp twinges of pain. There is an exercise remedy for all aches and pains — except, perhaps, those due to fevers.

Yoga needs to be inculcated into a person's daily routine at an early age and not considered as a one-time magical cure. Krishna Raman's pet theory is that a person needs to understand that good health, the most vital factor in the process of living, just does not happen by chance. Good health needs to be nurtured, sculpted and worked hard towards maintaining it as an insurance in old age. Yoga teaches that good health is achieved through the practice of *asanas*.

The standing poses are invigorating, refresh the mind and remove tension, aches and pains. They not only stimulate digestion, but regulate the kidneys, relieve constipation, improve

(Continued on P8)

IN THE STEW POT



A Tomato Rice with cheese and oregano. Two spicy side dishes — *Masala Tongue Fry* and *Masala Paneer Slices*. Finish with *Chikoo Milk Shake*.

MASALA TONGUE FRY

4 sheep's tongues
2 onions, chopped fine
2 *tomatoes*, chopped fine
2 tsp chilli powder
2 tsp *dhaniya* powder
½ tsp turmeric powder
2 tbs oil

Ground paste

1" piece ginger
8-10 pods garlic

Garam Masala

1" cinnamon
3 or 4 cloves
¼ tsp *saunf*

Method

Wash the tongue thoroughly till the water is clear. Pressure cook the tongue with 2-3 cups of water for 20 minutes. Set aside the water in which the tongue has cooked. Scrape the tongue clean of the outer skin. Chop into medium-sized pieces.

Put the chopped tongue in a pan and add the chilli paste, *dhaniya* and turmeric powder. Add the water that has been set aside and cook till it is absorbed.

Heat oil, add the *garam masala* and curry leaves. Add the cooked meat and fry till red in colour.

Garnish with coriander and mint leaves. Serve with rice.

Mrs P Raghupathy

TOMATO RICE

1 cup rice, soaked in water for 10 minutes and drained
4 tomatoes puréed and water to make two cups of liquid
¼ cup chopped vegetables (peas, beans, carrot and cauliflower)
½ cup cheese grated
½ teaspoon oregano
2 tbs ghee
2 onions, chopped fine
Salt and pepper to taste

Method

Heat ghee, fry the onions till transparent, fry the vegetables and rice for a few minutes. Add the oregano, half the grated cheese, tomato puree, pepper and salt.

Close with a lid and bake in a pre-heated moderate oven for half an hour, or till done. Sprinkle the remaining grated cheese and serve immediately.

MASALA PANEER SLICES

200 g *paneer* sliced into 2" pieces
Ghee for shallow frying
1 tsp red chilli powder
1 tsp *dhaniya* powder, toasted
Salt to taste

Method

Shallow fry the *paneer* slices in a *tawa* till golden on both sides.

Sprinkle salt and *masala* powder and serve immediately.

CHIKOO MILK SHAKE

6 *chikoos* (*sapota*)
4 cups milk
Sugar to taste

Method

Peel and deseed the *chikoos*. Chop into small pieces.

Combine milk, *chikoos* and sugar in a liquidiser. Blend until well mixed and frothy. Serve at once in a tall glass.

Chandra Padmanabhan

Dungan in Madras

by Randor Guy

Fortyfour years later, he is back in Madras, not to muse and ponder over the past, but to produce a movie. He is the film-maker who gave Tamil cinema an impetus and a new direction way back in 1936 when it had none.

Tamil 'talkies', which arrived in 1931, were mostly photographed plays or canned theatre which the viewer saw at a fixed distance, as he did the stage. One man changed all that. Trained in Hollywood, he brought a burst of fresh air into the 'Old World' atmosphere of Tamil cinema. His camera was agile throughout a film, and cinema as it is today understood was introduced by him in his maiden directorial venture, *Sati Leelavathi* (1936). A film of technical excellence, it introduced a crop of new faces who, in later years, created history of many kinds.

The writer of the story was a successful magazine editor-publisher named Thiruthuraipoondi Subramania Srinivasan (later immortalised as S S Vasan!). The main performers recruited from the stage included M K Radha (later the hero of the Gemini *magnum opus Chandralekha* (1948), T S Balaiah (a great character actor possessing an amazing range of talents and acting skills) and, in a small role as an investigating police inspector, there appeared a starving, struggling, shy 'Boy's Company' stage actor named Marudur Gopala Ramachandran destined to emerge as a phenomenon not only in Indian cinema but also in world political history.

Sati Leelavathi was a box-office success which established its maker as the man to be watched in Tamil cinema. His name was Ellis R Dungan (NOT. Duncan!).

He stayed on in Madras for fourteen long years, creating many hits like *Ambikapathi* (1937), *Sakunthalai* (1940), *Meera* (1945) and *Manthiri Kumari* (1950). Then, in 1951, he returned 'home' and was hardly heard of again in Madras. At home he moved into "purposeful films and documentaries on social issues like ecology and pollution", issues hardly of interest in Madras.

The Ohio-born American who made Tamil films had studied motion picture techniques at the famed University of Southern California where, among his fellow students, was a wealthy Indian, Mani Lal Tandon, who had come to America to study film production. At the invitation of Tandon, Dungan and fellow student, Michael Ormalov came to India to work in Tandon's family picture production company. But what Tandon proposed, the gods disposed and the family project was shelved!

Undaunted, Dungan stayed back in India and made his way up, up and up in Tamil cinema, while Ormalov did not find the pot of gold. He did, however, work on a Tamil film which he directed for the well-known Madras city silk and cloth merchant Assandas. The film was *Navayuvan* or *Geetha Saram* (A Modern Youth) (1937). Featuring the noted Carnatic musician, V V Satagopan, the film was shot partly in Madras and also in London, thus earning the distinction and honour of being the first Tamil film to be filmed, at least in part, abroad. The shooting on the streets attracted attention in London and British newspapers covered the event. A London daily described V V Satagopan as "the Rudolph Valentino of India"!

Dungan was in such demand that, in 1936, the year of his debut, he directed three films *Sati Leelavathi*, *Seemanthini* and *Iru Sahodarargal*. Quite a record that, for that period of time!

Whatever has brought him back to Madras after all these years? A trip down nostalgia lane? Not quite! At the young age of eightyfour, Dungan has been engaged by a Chicago-based American producer, Gary Mass, to work as associate producer of an English feature film to be called *The Little Cobra*. A 'family picture', it will be a shot on location in and around Ooty, Mysore, Pondichery and the jungles of South India. Right now, in America, pictures built around kids are a big draw and the hero of this film is one such kid, a Sabu of the 1990's. The search for the Indian boy is on!

Gary Mass was in Madras late last year to scout for locations and also meet people in the film business. One of the locations he chose was the Crocodile Bank on the way to Mamallapuram.



A rare picture of Ellis Dungan (second left behind the camera) at work. To his left is the famed cameraman Jiten Banerjee. The picture was taken in Newtone Studio, c. 1944, during the shooting of Meera (1945). M.S. Subbulakshmi is on the right and K R Chellam is next to the American nurse who visited the sets with the G.Is. seen in the background.

Dates for Your Diary

February: 'Artist of the Month' — Giridhar Gowd

February 4-5: 'Documentary Films of the Former GDR'. Of the generation which set out in the Sixties to remedy the painful lack of films about the GDR, the most important name is that of Jurgen Bottcher. Seminar with Jurgen Bottcher, Berlin. (Max Muller Bhavan — on invitation only).

Till February 11: An international seminar on Real Madras Handkerchief, hosted by the Madras Craft Foundation. The Real Madras Handkerchief, also known as Madras, Madras Lungi, Madras Checks, George Cloth or Guinea Cloth, is a major export to West Asia and the African countries. In fact, the women of Nigeria use Madras cloth for everyday wear as 'turbans' and as a *lungi*. The seminar will look at the different aspects of weaving the cloth and will also have a hands-on workshop in which designers, weavers, exporters and development organizers will participate. Participants are from around the world and there will be papers presented on the historical and geographical perspective, the use of the cloth around the world, the current situation of weavers, design trends and directions in Rumal weaving. MCI's Dakshinachitra (a museum-in-the making) is creating a collection of woven designs which will be catalogued and displayed in the museum.

February 8: 'The Cologne Saxophone Mafia' (MMB in cooperation with ICCR). The five member 'Saxophone Mafia' play a form of contemporary music which, besides other stylistic influences, also has to do with jazz, but "we have developed a language of our own". (On passes) (Kamaraj Hall 7 p.m.)

Season for the New Wave and Modern Dance

The View From The Wings by V.R. Devika

Mallika Sarabhai will be in Madras performing her feminist theme 'Sita's Daughters' to raise funds for Joint Action Council for Women. *Sita's Daughters* is a one-woman show telling the stories of some of India's bravest women of yesterday and today, women who refuse to give into the pressures around them, women who questioned the world and values around them. They are the Sitas who refuse to submit to the tests and trials of weak and doubting men.

Mallika had a very successful tour of her earlier production on a women's theme, *Shakti, the Power of Women* in the U.K. and India. The same team of Mallika Sarabhai and British director John Martin has created this new piece, which has Darpana's musicians and is flexible enough to play in the largest theatres and the smallest villages. The performance is at the Music Academy on of February 9th. On the 10th at the same venue, the Battery Dance company from the U.S., led by Jonathan Hollandar, will perform. They are a Modern Dance group quite in love with India. Jonathan Hollander is also a great organizer. He has organized many tours of the U.S. by Indian artists. The Company will also give a performance at the S.O.S. Children's Village on the 7th and for Parampara on the 8th.

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This seems to be the season for New Wave and Modern Dance. A simple and elegant evening was organized by the Alliance Francaise on January 22nd. *Wings and Masks*, an experimental dance piece, was presented by Padmini Chettur and Pravin. They collaborated with Udhay, a guitarist with the popular rock group Nemesis Avenue, flautist Karthik, and Natesh the set designer. They say the idea came from the painter C. Douglas. The basis of the form was Bharatha Natyam and Kalaripayattu. Wings represented aspirations, ambitions, dreams and a means of liberation. The mask, fears and frustrations. The programme was a highly personal exploration of the theme and its emotional content. Good team work, passion and a lack of fancy and high-sounding words to explain the dance made the evening truly pleasant. It was also good that it ended just when it did. Sweet and short and good. It did not drag the audience with it, but flowed along and ended just before it became too much to take. Bravo Padmini and Pravin!



Padmini Chettur in 'Wings and Masks'. (Photo by S. ANWAR)

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A unique event is taking place on the evening of February 7th at the Music Academy. It is ten years since the Bharatha Natyam legend Balasaraswathi passed away. Her daughter Lakshmi, married to American mridangist Douglas Knight, has been living in the U.S. Now the couple have decided to come back to Madras. On February 7th they have organized a 'Tribute to Balasaraswathi' in association with the Music Academy. M.S. Subbulakshmi, a childhood friend of Bala, will light the *kuthuvilakku* and sing the Invocation. There will be a dance performance by Anuradha, Lakshmi's son and Bala's grandson. Bala's brother. T. Viswanathan will play the famous *Krishna Nee Begane Baro*. Music Academy president T.T. Vasu and musicians Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer, K.V. Narayanaswamy will participate.

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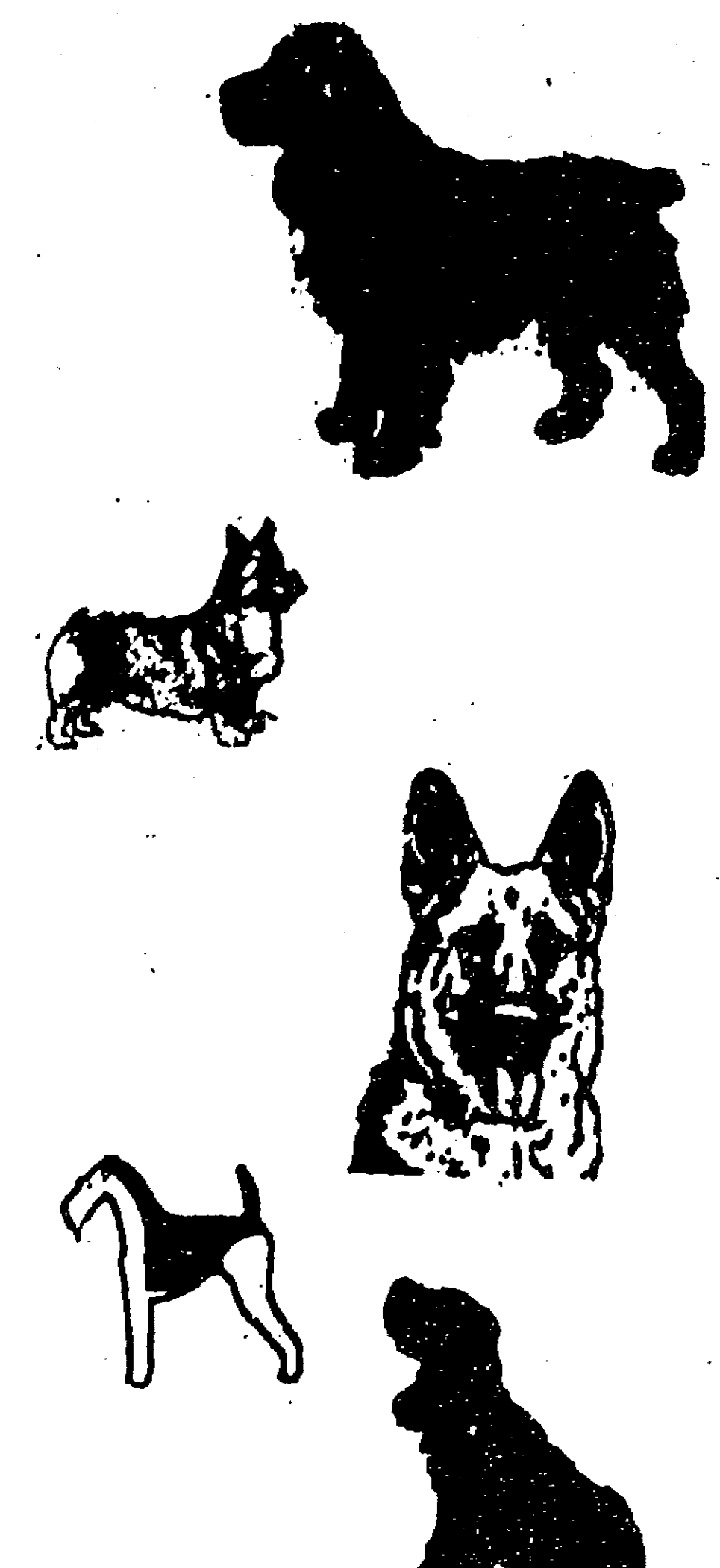
Four young girls came out of Africa recently to India, a country from where their ancestors had gone to South Africa generations ago. The girls, Seema Lala, Akashia Bhakthawer, Vanashree Pavadai and Kuveshni Reddy had never set foot in India. But they had been studying Bharatha Natyam from Satyabhama Kolapen, an alumna of the Madras Kalakshetra, to keep in touch with Indian culture. They came on a tour of South India to show their dance and to see their ancestral land.

Living in South Africa and being of Indian origin is not so easy in these times of strife and struggle, wedged as they are between the Blacks and the Whites. They have been dancing Bharatha Natyam to mixed audiences and are greatly appreciated though it is the exotism and the costuming of the dance that has attracted the Africans more than the technicalities of dance. Some of the dancers themselves know no Tamil. The girls revere their teacher Satyabhama as well as husband Mahalingam who runs an institution called the Sangeeth Nataka Akademi of South Africa.

"We work against tremendous odds," said the dancers in chorus, "but it is a joy to learn an artform that gives such an insight into Indian culture". It was indeed a challenge to please a knowledgeable audience in Madras at the Madras Music Academy's minihall, and it proved exceedingly satisfying.

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It's a dog's life, showing off...



• by PUSHPA CHARI

Every January I come smartly to heel and trot happily beside my husband to the Annual Dog Show organised by the Kennel Club of South India, to applaud and to admire our burnished, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed canine friends in all their magnificent variety. It is a foray into the dog world which I rarely miss, with its lovely doggie sights and smells, the air thick with pedigree and pupmanship, not to mention its delecatable distance away from the ... er ... dogfights of the 'human' world! So here I am once again at the wondrously shamina-ed YMCA grounds for what is to be the first every National Dog Show held by the Kennel Club of India.

It is organised, as always, with a fine balance of meticulous precision, a dogged (no pun here) eye to detail and a colourful carnival-like atmosphere. Add to this the impressive array of 30 canine clubs participating from all over India, five international judges of repute on hand to judge the best from a staggering 900 breed-dogs drawn from 60 breeds, a knowledgeable Madras crowd running into thousands, and you have a Dog Show which is Class 1, impeccably pedigreed *et al.* ....

And what head-turning upmarket bluechip specimens — both dog and human — you see: Reclining, posing, preening, sizing each other, "eating the air" or indulging in the occasional 'bow wow', on the lush YMCA lawns! Here a pony-tailed pair — pretty lady and her beribboned Lhasa Apso — and there an Afghan Hound with his hair parted as elegantly and sleekly as his svelte elegant owner. Under the dappled tracery of banyan trees, a *menage a trois* of three Dachshunds serenely hold tryst — and what do we have here? Yes, they are a rare pair of Cairn Terriers, being bred by Mrs Leela Ratnam, President of the Kennel Club of South India, whose energetic presence is being sorely missed here today. Picking their way through the crowd like mannequins are pretty Pomeranians, Apsos with bouffant hair-dos and beribboned Poodles with punk hair styles! The owners come in all shapes and sizes too, from dazzling *kaddakan*-wearing youngsters to 3-piece suited establishment types, not to mention young ladies in earnest conversation with their beloved dogs. In fact, my only jolt of the day comes when I naively butt in on one such *téte-a- téte* and a rather *pukka*-looking mastiff bares his teeth at me ....

But the show is really on in the three arenas where the dogs parade, trot, come to heel, obey and show their eyes, teeth, neck, tails etc, for judge-matic examination, the poor darlings. For the first time in India, specialist judges for different breeds are judging the dogs. Lucille Ellem for obedience, and Louise Donald, David Roche, Robert Leabon Curtis and Michael Brenton for best in show, best of breed etc. But to me, the most unforgettable sights at the Dog Show are a gaggle of spotted Dalmatians loping into the arena with magnificent grace, little Pomeranians frisking around the ring, great big Alastians and Hounds taking over the arena, massive Bulldogs sedately doing their paces. How each one puts his human counterpart to shame with his unconscious majesty, total grace and dignity ....

And who says dogs don't possess a sense of humour? At the 'Obedience' test, a Spitz-something-or-other listens intently to his master's order to 'stay put', ears cocked in total attention, then looks his master straight in the eye, gets up and marches off with great eclat. His neighbour in the race follows suit with the same elan and, a while later, yet another dog in the race yawns prodigiously and walks off! The audience titters as I suspect do the recalcitrant dogs. I spy a large Alastian, perhaps a little fed up with his master's badgering using the latter's leg as the ...er...lamp post. A tiny littly Apso suddenly snatches the comb from his mistress' hands, while she pleads with her to give it back and "get your pretty hair combed, don't you want to come first, kootchie-koo". Kootchie-koo, alas, is happily bitting the comb to a frazzle ....

Yes, at the National Dog Show it's every dog having its day all right, with the stalls doing a brisk trade in dog T-shirts, collars, chokes and chains, custom-made halters and name tags, herbal dog shampoos and soaps, and biscuits and bones with enticing flavours! Perhaps next year there will be dog psychiatrists and fashion designers too.

And so, as a setting sun casts long shadows over the lovely lawns, its adieu to the wonderfully organised National Dog Show, to the organisers, the participants, the judges, the winners and also-rans, and, above all, to all the dogs: Magnificent, graceful creatures who really made our day. They were winners, each one of them, at a unique occasion in Madras — the first-ever NATIONAL Dog Show.

Tamil Nadu's sports need

Better standards, not better shows

by JAICI

Few Chief Ministers in India today have done as much for Sport as Tamil Nadu's J. Jayalalitha. The Rs. 42-crore Nehru international football-cum-athletics stadium in the heart of Madras, the country's most modern and best-equipped infrastructure, is her brainchild, and so is the international athletics meet that inaugurates its synthetic track, the only one of its kind in India.

The athletics extravaganza opened with the unforgettable sight of a flag-march by thousands of school-children and a variety of dances. And then there was athletic fare never seen in Madras before. Wholehearted support for this spectacular occasion came from A.C. Muthiah of Tamilnadu Petroproducts, M.A.M. Ramaswamy, Nalli Kuppuswamy Chetty and Ramasamy Udayar, who, together, handed over to the Chief Minister handsome donations totalling Rs. 1.5 crores.

This international show is only the beginning. It will be the turn of the SAF Games to hold the stage next year. These Games will be the most shining feather in the Tamil Nadu sports bodies' cap. But whither Tamil Nadu sport?

What Tamil Nadu sports fans really hope for is that Chief Minister Jayalalitha will not be content with staging international shows but will soon turn her attention to the standards of sport, particularly athletics, in the State.

Poor record, good press?

Well as Tamil Nadu managed to make the knock-out stage of the Pepsi Ranji Trophy Championship with a clear-cut home victory over Goa in their last league tie, the former National champions not only failed to live up to their status this season but also have had to eat humble-pie. But Jupiter Pluvius was particularly kind to Tamil Nadu, whose first two home matches were virtually washed out, giving them a solitary point from each fixture.

Tamil Nadu were, thus, virtually short of match practice when they took on arch-rival Karnataka in Bangalore and it was no surprise they took a sound beating. Fortunately, the victory over Goa saved them from the ignominy of being an also-ran. But, in between the Bangalore rout and the Chepauk victory, the State had the humiliation of drawing a blank in the National team now taking on Shri Lanka. W V Raman's loss of form was mainly responsible for this black-out.

Fortunately for this cricket-crazy southern state, there are others, like Robin Singh, Sunil Subramaniam and M Venkataramana, who all have the potential to see to it that the Tamil Nadu flag no longer flies at half-mast. For one thing, they have plenty of opportunities to show their worth and for another they have dedicated officials at the helm, who care not only for the players but also the media.

Perhaps as a celebratory gesture for his return to power, after having been dethroned two years earlier, the honorary secretary, for instance, has broken new ground by giving Pressmen covering big Chepauk matches VIP treatment during lunch and tea breaks.

ANSWERS

1. Ms K R Gowri; 2. With an audio cassette 'Nam Thalaivar Narasimha Rao'; 3. 19 per cent; 4. 'Thirukkural' V Munuswami; 5. Melbourne, Australia; 6. Laser Fusion Argon Dating System; 7. Noted Music Director R D Burman; 8. Prabhu in *Rajakumaran;* 9. Dr Sitakant Mahapatra; 10. The Madras University and the Annamalai University Bill and the Tamil Nadu University bill; 11. Jain TV; 12. The Paramacharya of Kanchi Sankara Mutt; 13. Jesting — He is a court jester; 14. Marathwada University; 15. Pizza Hut; 16. Gnanananda Mutt near Vandavasi; 17. Tamil Nadu; 18. The State Ministers would hoist the tricolour instead of the Collectors; 19. Tamil Nadu (Men) & Indian Railways (Women); 20. Brian Johnston.

Bull's Eye

(Continued from P4)

1992-93 were not realised. But the first half performance for 1993-94 (turnover of Rs. 5.55 cr and PAT Rs. 1.13 cr) inspires confidence. Its estimation of a sales and PAT of Rs. 12 cr and Rs. 2.15 cr respectively for 1993-94 appears feasible. The resultant EPS of Rs. 3 per share will support at least Rs. 20-25. It has also promised a dividend of 20%. Prices, after reacting to a low of around Rs. 11, appear to be resuming their uptrend. But at current levels with a stop loss at Rs. 10.

Ponni Sugars (CMP Rs. 43.00): Ponni Sugars, managed by the South-based Esvin group, has plants in Salem, Tamil Nadu and Bargarh in Orissa, with 1250 tcd installed capacity each. It came out with a rights and public issue in May 1993 and June 1993 respectively to finance a new 2500 tcd sugar mill in Balangir, Orissa, at a cost of Rs. 45.50 cr. For Mar. 1993, it achieved a turnover and PAT of Rs. 46 cr and Rs. 2.03 cr. Ponni is confident of achieving a PAT of Rs. 3.34 cr and Rs. 18.16 cr for 1994 and 1995 respectively, giving an EPS of Rs. 3.30 and Rs. 8. These projections appear reasonable, as all its three units will operate at their full capacity by 1995. Although the share appears to be nearly fully priced for 1994, the anticipated EPS of Rs. 8 for 1995 supports a price of around Rs. 70, making the share an attractive buy. Technically, prices after moving sideways between Rs. 30 and Rs. 40 have broken upwards and are moving sideways between Rs. 45. and Rs. 50. Buy with a stop loss at Rs. 40 for medium-term gains.

K. Gopalakrishnan

Carry on, Healer

(Continued from P6)

circulation and breathing. Standing poses correct posture and improve a person's walk. To the uninformed, yoga spells incredibly difficult poses, twisting and turning of the body and limbs — feats which seem all too impossible. Raman devises *yogasanas* which benefit people. For those medically as yet unfit, he offers the use of props — basically ropes, belts, wooden stands and bricks to provide basic support, without reducing the benefits of the *asanas.*

Some of the most effective exercises for relief from backache, headache, and stiffness of neck and shoulders are the twists which activate and exercise abdominal organs, improve digestion, eliminate sluggishness and help the spine become more flexible. For heart patients there is now new hope in the form of relaxation exercises and *asanas* which improve blood supply into the heart. Even the most seemingly difficult poses, like *Sarvangasana* (shoulder stand) and *Halsana* can be simplified using a chair, bolster and folded blankets. The chest opens, the internal organs are stretched and the pose is calming.

Once relief from pain is achieved and a cure assured, you thirst for more. You feel sorry that in all those years of frenetic activity you could not allocate time for tuning up your body. But you'll be glad to discover it is never too late..

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INTACH calls all graduates of the University of Madras and other members of the public to support the worthy cause of conservation.

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