September 28th 2002
Awards of Excellence
Canadian Tamil Youth Development Centre
Toronto Centre for the Performing Arts
Saluting Excellence in our Community

Our very best wishes to the honoured recipients of the Canadian Tamil Youth Development Awards of Excellence.

We are proud of the contributions you have made to the community with your talent, ingenuity, imagination and initiative. Here's wishing you continued success in the new millennium.

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DIRECTIONS is a quarterly magazine of the Canadian Tamil Youth Development Centre (CanTYD). It is a vehicle for dialogue and a networking tool for Tamil youth. The next issue is planned for March 2002.

DIRECTIONS
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This magazine is available on the CanTYD homepage.

We would like to hear your opinions about this issue of DIRECTIONS. Please send your comments to directions@cantyd.org or to the above address.

The objective of DIRECTIONS is to encourage dialogue and debate on a variety of subjects. The opinions expressed in the magazine are those of the author and not of DIRECTIONS or CanTYD. Contributions may be edited according to space restrictions and to comply with CanTYD mandate.
FROM THE EDITORS

It is a pleasure to hand to you, our special issue of Directions. This issue is a combination of both the Directions and Awards of Excellence magazines. As you all can see, Directions is quickly becoming a full-fledged publication containing opinion pieces, columns, stories, etc. Our previous issues have been well received by the Tamil youth community. Volunteers are always welcome to join Directions' friendly and dedicated team.

Now getting on to the theme of this issue. Life is full of problems and without them, life will be meaningless. As human beings, we cannot be coward and run away from them but rather we must stand our ground and overcome the obstacles in our path and reach for excellence and succeed. Reaching for excellence and succeeding in life can be done academically and/or socially. Does a degree or hard work guarantee success? Or is it neither and merely a matter of luck? Does one really need to have a college/university degree to be respected and get a good job? Yes indeed, without a degree one would be hard pressed to find a job these days. The degree beside your name will earn you good impression. But then again, as long as the person has the exposure to the business world, can't he earn a respectful living through honest hard work? There are lots of people who have succeeded in life without a degree and there are so many people who are in a good position because of their degree.

So with these thoughts in mind, lead your life to wherever it takes you and as long as you think things through carefully and make informed decisions and choices, you will have happiness and success in your future.

- Randa, Nesha and Gaithree.
A mere four and a half years ago 14 Tamil university and college graduates set out to form an agency to serve the growing needs of Tamil youth in the Greater Toronto area. Their footsteps were guided by their thirst to assist and empower our youth in order to maximize their potential. With very limited means this group set to change the world, at least their part of it. They had very little financial support, experience, and organizational recognition.

Since the formative days of CanTYD, we have had four and a half years of sustained and continuous growth allowing us to better serve the needs of our diverse youth population. Our programs evolve in order to make our services more effective. For example, last year we launched Project RANI, a program to assist young Tamil women with the aid of the United Way of Greater Toronto. This year, we are pleased to expand our programs with the Community Mobilization Project, funded by the National Strategy on Crime Prevention and Project IMPACT, funded by the City of Toronto. These two new programs will allow us to create capacity and assist Tamil youth and their families in different areas of our city. In addition, we have increased our roles in high schools with the expansion of Project THAMIL. These programs are unique and custom designed to serve the needs of our youth and their families in the long term.

The names and pictures of our Awards winners you see in these pages reflect the depth of commitment our youth have made to academia, community, sports, arts and to overcoming challenges. These awards not only represent their individual success, but the success of an entire community. We value the contributions of our award winners and encourage others to follow in their path. The sacrifices of our community members - the parents, guardians, and family - their investment in the future of their children is bearing fruit as our community moves forward. We congratulate the awards winners and their families for a fine effort!

The success of CanTYD lies in the hands of its volunteers and staff. Their individual and collective efforts shape and mold this organization into a unique and rewarding entity. Though most remain out of the spotlight, they are the people who make CanTYD special. A big heartfelt "Thank You" goes to our Fearless Leader/Big Brother - Gary Anandasingaree, for having had the fortitude and the wisdom to support and guide the growth of CanTYD over the past year.

We would also like to thank each one of you for your continued support in making this event a great success. Whether you are a funder, sponsor, judge, journalist, nominee, award recipient, or a community member - your continued support has been inspiring in making this event an annual reality!

Anusha Srijeyanathan  Neethan Shanmugarajah
Director  Director
A single bullet escaping the barrel of a gun is enough to take away a valuable life, a life’s worth of memories, a hope for the future, and will leave scars even in the life of the one who pulled the trigger. Kapilan Palsandiran, the first Year University of Waterloo Physics student, whose death came at the hands of random violence, shook us all. To all of us who were contemplating doing something to help youngsters and prevent the Tamil community from being labeled as brimming with criminals, it was the wake up call.

On February 15, 1998 at 7:00 p.m., 17 members gathered in the boardroom of the Tamil Eelam Society to do something to reduce the negative portrayal of the Tamil youth in the news media and to formulate strategies and programs to reduce violence and enable the development of our youth. From this discussion arose Canadian Tamil Youth Development Center (CanTYD). Our mission for the year 1998 was set towards fostering a positive image of Tamil youth in the community.

CanTYD has made inroads into the Tamil community and the non-Tamil community. CanTYD has worked with the news media to bring about a change in the portrayal of Tamil youth. Partnership between the Toronto District School Board and CanTYD has provided the volunteers at CanTYD the necessary training in several areas including counseling, leadership training etc., and it has also enabled CanTYD to actively interact with the students to provide needed assistance, counseling, support and role models to follow. In addition, CanTYD also works in partnership with the Toronto Police Services in working with the community to reduce violence and promote development. Our activities are thus geared towards reaching out to youth, the community and other stakeholders, provide the necessary services and to work in partnership with all concerned to achieve our mission.

Since February 15, 1998, we have grown from a 17-member organization to a center with more than 100 volunteers and are ably assisted by a dedicated group of advisors. With the tremendous support, CanTYD has been receiving from everybody involved we are determined to successfully achieve our mission of empowering and developing our Tamil youth.
Research
When CanTYD was initially formed, preliminary research was conducted to assess the needs of Tamil youth in Canada. Based on the recommendations of this preliminary research, several programs were started to address the issues that face Tamil youth. In August of 1999, CanTYD launched a year long in-depth research study funded by the National Strategy on Community Safety and Crime Prevention to explore the issues and concerns that face Tamil youth in the Greater Toronto Area. A survey of high school Tamil students as well as interviews of frontline workers and the youth themselves was conducted and culminated in the publication of Toronto Tamil Youth: The Realities in September 2000. CanTYD will continue to conduct research on a need basis to determine how to effectively serve the Tamil youth in Canada.

Awards of Excellence
Awards of Excellence, CanTYD's signature event seeks to motivate and inspire high school Tamil youth to excel in various fields and provide positive role models. Students who have excelled in Athletics, Academia, Community Service, Unique Distinguished Effort, Most Improved Effort, and Overall achievement are recognized at this prestigious annual awards ceremony. In addition, awards are given to students who have strived to overcome great difficulty and also to those who have made a dramatic improvement in their scholastic career. An independent panel of judges determine the recipients of the awards. Award winners who are continuing on to post secondary education receive a scholarship towards their higher learning. It is CanTYD's vision to propel all Tamil youth to achieve their full potential.

Counselling
The Centre provides peer counselling, information and referrals to Tamil youth. All information is kept confidential. Peer counsellors provide access to resources and options in general and aid and advocate on behalf of Tamil youth with any issues they might have.

Directions
This quarterly publication by CanTYD provides Tamil youth with a forum to express themselves through written contributions. Directions is widely distributed and read in the Greater Toronto Area and is also available to a global audience via the Internet. Readers of Directions include Tamils and non-Tamils who are working with or for the Tamil community.

Communications
The Communications Team, the outreach team of CanTYD, endeavours to establish relationships with mainstream and Tamil media to foster better relations between communities through workshops, presentations, and networking. The team provides support for all CanTYD programs to publicize the achievement of Tamil youth which in turn help overcome the inaccurate negative image of Tamil youth in the media while concurrently creating a positive one. CAPS, the Communications Archiving Project, aims to keep an accurate database of online and paper articles relating to Tamil youth.
Programs In CanTYD

Web Team
The web team connects CanTYD to the rest of the world. Our website, www.cantyd.org has been visited by individuals from all over the globe who have acclaimed the achievements of CanTYD. The website serves to inform both members and non-members of CanTYD's activities.

Project T.H.A.M.I.L.
Project T.H.A.M.I.L. (Tamils Helping And Motivating to Inspire Leadership) team, works with Tamil youth at a grassroots level to inspire leadership in students. The program also seeks to involve parents as part of the process. To achieve this goal, Project THAMIL currently runs the following programs:

School Outreach - CanTYD currently works with Tamil highschool students at five secondary schools on a regular basis. The outreach workers act to foster strong relations with students, teachers, administration and parents. Students are given the opportunity to actively participate in interactive workshops such as assertiveness, conflict resolution, and "parents: bridging the generation gap and culture".

Akka Thamizha? - Akka Thamizha? is a publication of literary and artistic submissions by Tamil students from Grade 7 to OAC. Akka Thamizha? is a result of an initiative by highschool youth to promote youth expression, creativity and originality through the arts.

Drop-In Centre - The Drop-In Centre serves to provide Tamil youth with a positive environment to interact with other youth and older mentors. Although no permanent facility exists at the present time, CanTYD uses community centres to hold constructive recreational activities during the summer and school year. The Drop-In Centre participants work on several projects, schoolwork assistance, sports, workshops, and discussions groups to name a few.

Parents Network - The team has created a Parents Support Network to provide Tamil parents with access to resources and support. A Parents Support Network will create greater awareness in areas such as education, careers in Canada, and the Canadian justice system.

Medai Koncil - A young talented group of artists produce plays written and directed by writers and producers in the group. They have received rave reviews for their productions with themes of domestic violence, substance abuse, and violence presented at several community events during 2001.

Youth Transition Program - A program for grade 8 students, it aims to make the transition from elementary school to high school a better and comfortable process. This is achieved throughout the transition summer with a program consisting of workshops facilitated by high school students on issues that they encounter in the high school environment i.e. peer pressure, popularity, conflict resolution etc.
Programs In CanTYD
contd...

Project RANI
Dedicated to the empowerment of young Tamil women, Project RANI devotes its attention to workshops, Drop-in Centres, Girl Talk!, Mother-Daughter Drop-ins and various activities. A much needed program, Project RANI volunteers visit secondary schools and provide counselling and support to young Tamil women.

Project IMPACT
It aims to prepare three neighbourhoods to develop into proactive local communities that can deal with youth issues themselves through addressing the root causes. The project has two direct goals:

1. Education:
   a) To increase awareness about youth issues in the three neighbourhoods through dramas, pamphlets, videos and workshops
   b) To familiarize the community about the services available to address youth issues such as gang violence, substance abuse, parental conflict and mental health related issues.

2. Outreach:
   a) To work on an individual basis with youth who are involved in anti-social activities in these neighbourhoods to get them back on track
   b) To involve a group of youth in that neighbourhood in the education component of the project so that they develop skills in leadership, teamwork, presentation, communication and organization.
   c) To use the identified youth to take the message to the other youth in the neighbourhood.

The overall purpose is to reduce the amount of anti-social activities in three neighbourhoods and to increase the capacity of the community to address these issues through education and awareness.

Community Mobilization Program
The project is aimed at increasing the participation of the youth and the parents in various activities in two neighbourhoods. For example, School extra-curricular activities and school parent councils; increasing the use of community resources and services by youth as well as by parents so that they can address issues such as substance abuse and health issues more effectively; increasing the awareness in the community about the youth issues and their consequences. Through these three outcomes, the project will ensure a better communication at home and also availability of productive activities for youth rather than hanging out in streets and getting involved in illegal activities.

Community Watch
CanTYD works with other organizations to find effective solutions for issues relating to the Police Services and seeks to educate the police on Tamil community issues. In partnership with other Tamil organizations and the Toronto Police services, CanTYD facilitates the Community Watch program. In addition, an important task of Community Watch is to provide education and awareness of the history, cultural background and issues of the Tamil Community that will hopefully assist police in serving the community in a culturally sensitive manner.
Finance Team  
finance@cantyd.org
The finance team provides accounting and financial support for CanTYD's initiatives. To run the various programs in CanTYD, financial help is solicited from government grants, corporate sponsorships, and private personal donations. While maintaining the financial integrity of CanTYD, the team facilitates the training of new members in a non-profit financial environment.

Volunteer Team  
volunteer@cantyd.org
With over 300 volunteer applications in the CanTYD database, the volunteer team ensures that all new volunteers have found their niche in CanTYD. Facilitating the smooth transition into this organization, this team endeavours to make the "first impression" a good one.

Admin Team  
coordinators@cantyd.org
The working horse of CanTYD, this team ensures the smooth running of the day-to-day activities of CanTYD. From ensuring the accuracy of CanTYD administration records to maintaining contact with the community and composing letters to service providers to updating volunteer hour logs, this team is involved in every facet of CanTYD. An opportunity to learn about the inner workings of a non-profit organization, volunteers eagerly sign-up for this up-and-coming team.
அமையாள்

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நான்கு வண்டி விளங்கும் பெருமையான அறிவியல் கல்வி மற்றும் தமிழகத்தின் அறிவியல்

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தமிழில் விளங்கும் பெருமையான அறிவியல் கல்வி மற்றும் தமிழகத்தின் அறிவியல்
காப்புற தியாகோஸ் பெப்பர்க்கின்

தமிழில்

காப்புற தியாகோஸ் நம் அளவிலுள்ளனவற்றை நல்ல பிரசுரமாக்கினும் பொறுப்பு உள்ளது. இவ்வண்மையானது முன் மாற்றும் வழியாக நல்ல பிள்ளை வழங்கும் முறையில் இயக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

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ஙாண்டுருசி: சரணமுருவாரை

நூறு விமான (சூட்டுவலமெனவும் நம் சிவப்பில் காணப்படும் சிவப்பு) மார்காணம் பல்வேறு

காப்புற தியாகோஸ் பெப்பர்க்கின் பிற நிகழ்வுகளும் தமிழ்நாட்டின் தமிழகர்களின் கவிஃநாட்டு கட்டுப்பாடுகளுக்கு பாதுகாப்பு பின்னர் குறிப்பிட்டுள்ளது. இதன் விளக்கத் தகவலை கொண்டு தமிழகர்களின் பாதுகாப்பு பின்னர் தமிழகர்களின் ஆத்மங்களைத் தந்து கொண்டுள்ளன.
வாக்கு வாக்கு தினசரி (மாணவு) கற்கள் கல்வியறிவுச் செயல்பாடுகள் உடைய மாணவாரிகள் கூடை
காண்கும் பாடல்பெட்டியில் காண்நேரடைக்க "காவல் தினசரி" என்றுடன். மாணவாரிகள் தொடர்கால
நூற்றாண்டுகளை விடுதலைக்கு முந்தைய செயல்பாடுகளண்டு தாழ்வாறு எழுந்து வந்து, மாணவாரிகள் குருக்களிடம் "காவல் தினசரி" எனப் போன்று கூறினார்கள்.

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சீனத்தில் குற்று பாடல்பெட்டியில் குற்று பாடல்பெட்டியில் "காவல் தினசரி" என்றுடன். மாணவாரிகள் குற்றுப் பாடல்பெட்டியில் "காவல் தினசரி" என்றுடன். எனவே குற்றுக்குருக்கள் குற்றுப் பாடல்பெட்டியில் குற்று பாடல்பெட்டியில் "காவல் தினசரி" என்றுடன். குற்று பாடல்பெட்டியில் குற்று பாடல்பெட்டியில் "காவல் தினசரி" என்றுடன்.
Project Impact

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காலமுடன் சுருக்க இறக்கிய பொறுப்பு

காலமுடன் சுருக்க இறக்கிய பொறுப்பு மீண்டும் காட்டிய வரும்போல பொழிவு போன்ற பொழிவு பொல்கன்.
November 10, 2001 was the night of CanTYD's third annual Awards of Excellence and the Royal Ontario Museum was the venue of choice. As usual, it failed to disappoint. The night provided an opportunity to recognize Tamil youth for their achievements in various fields. Twenty-one awards were given out for achievements in academics, athletics, community service, perseverance and overall excellence. It is CanTYD's goal to uphold these winners as role models to other youth, while showcasing the positive aspects of our community to the media and the community at large.

The Awards of Excellence are geared towards high school youth in Grades 9 to 13. Award winners came from the Greater Toronto Area and were selected by a panel of independent judges from the many applicants who filled out applications made available in schools earlier in the year. The judges themselves were comprised of school principals, lawyers, doctors, business entrepreneurs and other leaders from within and without the Tamil community. In addition, the same independent judges based on nominations received by CanTYD, selected a Professional Achievement award winner and a Lifetime Achievement award winner. The Professional Achievement award was presented to Dr. Sudarshan Devanesen, an outstanding physician and the first Tamil Canadian appointed to the Order of Canada. The Lifetime Achievement award was presented to the late Dr. Christie Jayaratnam Eliezer, a member of the Order of Australia, and an accomplished academic and humanitarian.

An audience estimated at 600 strong was in attendance. Amongst those in the audience were directors of various school boards, politicians, community leaders, police superintendents, corporate sponsors, supporters, the proud families of award winners and of course CanTYD's own corps of volunteers. The generous support of corporate sponsors such as Scotiabank, Royal Bank, Sunflowers Furniture and Teknon, enabled CanTYD to provide award winners in grade 13 with entrance scholarships for post-secondary education.

The night started off with a reception that provided an opportunity for the winners to meet various leaders of the community. The main program was kicked off with an excellent rendition of the Canadian national anthem and the Tamil Thai Vanakam. The emcees for the night were Dwight Drummond from CityTV and Lakshmi Kugathasan, a student at the University of Toronto. The duo were excellent hosts throughout the night and complemented each other very well.

While the main purpose of the night was to present awards to the many winners, the night also featured performances and presentations that further highlighted the various talents of the Tamil youth of today. The showing of a documentary, created by CanTYD's own Medai Konal team, on Tamil youth violence, the views of the community, and CanTYD's role in these issues was meet with astonishment at the high quality of the video. The context of the documentary itself moved a few in the audience to tears. A bharathanatyam provided guests from outside the Tamil community a glimpse into the majestic and ancient dance form. Agni, a band of young Tamil musicians provided a mix of Western and Tamil music, much to the delight of the audience.

The second edition of "Akka Thamizha" was released during the night. Barbara Hall, a longtime supporter of CanTYD and Chair of the National Strategy on Community Safety and Crime Prevention received the first copy. The booklet featured a compilation of the artistic expressions of Canadian Tamil high school youth.

The night was also filled with speeches from such luminaries as Dr. Ethirveerasingham, a previous award winner himself, Dr. Devanesen, the professional achievement award winner, and Hon. Ujjal Dosanjh, the chief guest and former premier of British Columbia. The speeches were both inspiring and thought provoking.

The celebration was heart-warming and portended of a bright future for the Canadian Tamil community. But alas this night, like all nights, had to come to an end. The fourth annual CanTYD Awards of Excellence will no doubt continue in the fine tradition of previous years.
Masters of Ceremony

+ Graduated from Humber Radio Program
+ Host of Ishtyle TV, KISS92 FM DJ, and Comedian
+ Some of his interests includes playing golf, basketball and soccer
+ His future plans would be to host an International Talk Show
+ Always wanted to pursue a career in Television
+ His role models: His Parents
+ Words of wisdom to the youth:

"Don't let anyone tell you can't do something that you believe in...follow your dreams and do what makes you happy"

Sharalla Satkunarajah

+ Attends Erindale Secondary School
+ Would like to pursue a field in medicine
+ Currently volunteers at Trillium Mississauga Hospital where she enjoys helping the staff and doctors
+ She is presently taking piano lessons (Grade 3)
+ Some of her interests includes reading novels, watching TV and music.
Kavichandran Alexander was born in Batticaloa, Sri Lanka in 1949 and was educated in St. Thomas's College, Mount Lavinia. He has always had a passion for music and poetry which was instilled in him by his highly gifted mother Lily, after whom his company Water Lily Acoustics is named. He moved to Paris, France in 1968 with the intention of studying cinematography. He performed in the French production of the rock musical Hair in Paris as well as in some French films. Kavi auditioned and was accepted into Maurice Bejart's highly innovative creative arts school "Mudra" in Brussels, Belgium. Between 1973 and 1974 he travelled widely in Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India. He moved to Sweden in 1976 and began working as a freelance producer for an independent Swedish record company, for whom he produced and recorded American jazz artists such as Art Blakey, Thad Jones, Wynton Marsalis and Bobby Watson.

He then moved to the United States in 1981 with the goal of starting his own record company to preserve the classical music of Asia by recording it with the highest fidelity and artistic integrity. His first recording for his own Water Lily Acoustics was of the legendary virtuoso Dr Ustad Ali Akbar Khan in 1985. Since the inception of Water Lily Acoustics in 1985, Kavi has produced and recorded master musicians from Iran, India, China, Sudan, Morocco, Tibet, Turkey, The Gambia and Korea. Master musicians of the East he has produced and recorded include Ustad Imart Khan, Professor V.G. Jog, Ustad Zia Fariduddin Dagar, Pandit Jasraj, Dr N.Ramani, N. Ravikiran, Lalgudi Krishnan, Dr L. Subramaniam, Hossein Alizadeh, Simone Shaheen, Ustad Salamat Ali Khan, Jie-Bing Chen, Wu Man, Hamza El Din and Dong Seok Kim.

Music from numerous recordings produced by Kavi have been featured in Hollywood movies such as "Dead Man Walking", "Two Days in the Valley", "Primary Colours", "Angel Eyes" and "One Hour Photo". He has also produced and recorded numerous Grammy winning American artists such as Ry Cooder, Taj Mahal, Bela Fleck, Jerry Douglas, Edgar Meyer, James Newton, Larry Coryell, Jon Hassell and David Hidalgo.

In 1993, he produced and recorded "Meeting by the River" with Vishwa Mohan Bhatt and Ry Cooder, which won a Grammy award for Best World Music Album. In 1996, he produced and recorded "Tabula" Rasa with Bela Fleck, Vishwa Mohan Bhatt and Jie-Bing Chen which was nominated for a Grammy in the World Music category. In 2000 he produced and recorded "Nature's Realm" with The Philadelphia Orchestra, which is the first all analog recording of a major symphony orchestra in over 20 years and which garnered much critical acclaim.

Kavi's recordings for his Water Lily Acoustics and for numerous other labels are considered by music lovers and audiophiles alike, to be the very finest available and are held in the highest esteem. His unique blending of eastern and western musicians have helped create a new genre which will certainly impact and shape the music of the future, while his recordings of purely eastern classical music help to archive and preserve these ancient art forms that are most important for the well being of humanity.
One of the most basic concepts in sociology is that of culture, which may be defined as the sum total of all distinctively human activities that can be transmitted from one generation to another. Various groups practice culture differently because it gives them an identity, and this makes people's lives easier by providing them rules and guidance by which they can conduct their lives. Through culture, we see order and co-operation. To get a better understanding of culture, look at the Tamil culture. It is a unique and exciting one. To many, the Tamil culture is known as one of the most disciplined and respected cultures. Let's start with the issue of arranged marriages. At first you must understand Tamil families worship and give more respect to their prestige than many other things in life. In western society, dating, falling in love and getting married is a normal part of life. On the other hand, our Tamil tradition forbids for a man and a woman to fall in love, especially if you are a female. It is known to bring great embarrassment to the whole family. Thus, an arranged marriage is more respectful and does not ruin the family’s prestige.

"Life offers many paths to choose from. You must always choose the one that is right. One where you don't have to be. Where you don't fall. Never take a step in life that will bring. Shame to your family name or prestige. Anyone can make money, but earning Respect is not everyone's cup of tea!"
- Kabhi Khushi Kabhi Gham

Furthermore let's look at the many customs in the Tamil culture and why we follow them. Starting with why a woman wears, what's called, a pottu on her forehead. This type of practice was pronounced in the early ages. For young girls, wearing a pottu is for beauty's sake. However, when a woman wears a red-colored pottu after her marriage, it warns off other men signifying the fact that she's already taken. It also serves to protect her husband from danger. In addition to wearing the red pottu, a thali represents a vow that the couple has taken together during their wedding. The first knot symbolizes their union, the second, love and the third, permanence, thus making their married life complete. Another marriage symbol is the metti, a silver ring that the wife wears on a toe. This indicates that the man she is going to wed touches her feet for the first and last time, while putting the precious ring on her toe. When he does so, he says "I place my dignity, pride and prestige at your feet, and I ask you to maintain and protect it." Last but not least, the issue of dowry. Although dowry was not originally part of the tradition, it became one after many years of practice whereby the parents of the bride gave away gifts and money to their daughter to help her prosper in her new role as wife.

Trust each other
Giving each other respect
And treating each other’s soul as their own
Makes every marriage
A wonderful, and dignified marriage

Jeevitha is a grade 11 student at Albert Campbell C.I
World Youth Day

By: Annette Selvanayagam

Downtown Toronto is always on the move. However, within a huge crowd, a person can still feel isolated, as we are all withdrawn into our individual lives. However, during the last week of July, Toronto was awakened. Thousands of energetic young men and women poured into the streets, spreading their youthful spirits. It was World Youth Day 2002.

From over 150 countries, more than 200,000 pilgrims gathered in the heart of Toronto. On the street corners and in the trains, they were united in song and dance to celebrate the gift of life. With such brotherly love emanating everywhere, it felt to be in the company of family other than strangers. Everyone was trying to get to know each other and about their cultures despite the language barriers and many political and social issues.

From Sri Lanka, sixteen young adults accompanied by three priests participated in the weeklong celebrations. From Manaar to Negombo, they were joined under one flag and one nation. At a crucial point in Sri Lankan history, this national unity is symbolic of the spirit of World Youth Day.

Pope John Paul II addressed all the youth as, "The salt of the earth. The light of the world." Salt provides flavor to food and helps preserve it. Thus, Papa John Paul is calling us to change and improve the "taste of human history." He urges us to humanize the world with love and compassion. "The world you are inheriting is a world which desperately needs a new sense of brotherhood and human solidarity." He also explains that the light from a single candle is lost in darkness, however the unity of many candles will bring a world out of darkness.

I remember distinctly at one of the events, when Pope John Paul II appeared on the jumbo screen, someone exclaimed in breathless awe, "Now, that's power!" He was right. In his frail, weakening body, all I saw was his strength and defiance. He believes in us. In his determination and inspirational acts, he urges the youth of the world to push forward in our hopes.

Apart from the pilgrims, amongst the crowds at the World Youth Day events, there were also volunteers. From the Tamil Community, nearly a hundred volunteers, both young and old assisted in all sectors of the events. From food distribution to choir participation to VIP assistance, we were there to lend a hand. Though it was a Catholic event, there were Hindus and Christians who were part of the group; helping out for the good of Toronto and the Tamil Community. The volunteer directors of Our Lady of Good Health Mission and World Youth Day greatly appreciate all the volunteers for their service and dedication. THANK YOU!
On July 18, 2002 professionals, established businesses and up and coming entrepreneurs along with their friends and associates from the mainstream community gathered to participate in the Tamil community's first annual golf tournament fundraiser hosted by CanTYD at the immaculate Silver Lakes Golf and Country club.

Proceeds from this tournament were directed in its entirety towards scholarships in recognition of the outstanding achievements of youth in a broad range of categories from community service, to academia, to the arts and athleticism. Awards not only acknowledge outstanding achievement, but also recognize those who have overcome extraordinary circumstances and have demonstrated steadfast dedication in pursuit of their dreams. These scholarships are to be presented at CanTYD's Awards of Excellence celebration.

On behalf of all of us at CanTYD, to all participants, sponsors, and prize donors, we extend to you our sincerest thanks for your support in acknowledging and empowering youth to brave all obstacles and embark on a journey in pursuit of their goals. We eagerly anticipate the continuation and progression of this partnership and hope that you are just as enthused.

CanTYD would also like to extend their appreciation to its members on the sponsorship team; Uma Sivaram, Easan Sri, Umesh Vallipuram, Tharshini Kumarasamy and Jay Kumarasamy for their pioneering spirit, outstanding efforts, sacrifice and unwavering dedication towards organizing this momentous event. Further, we would like to thank Kanish Thevarasa, Dr. Pon Sivaji and Mohan Markandaier for their counsel, support and motivation.

To Mr. Siva Balasingham and his prodigious son, Gajan, we thank you for your extraordinary support and motivation.

Thank you to all and a hearty congratulation to V.S. Lamba and his team for their sportsmanship and sweeping victory at CanTYD Open 2002.
Congratulations to the winners of CanTYD Open 2002

(L-R) B. Basra, V.S. Lamba, D.S. Lamba, S. Ahluwalia
and the trophy presented by Babara hall

and to our generous sponsors....Thank you!
Echoes of "CanTYD! CanTYD!" are heard on the Lakeshore waters, when 20 Tamil youths from different schools get together to practice for CanTYD's second annual dragon boat race. These youths practice for an hour every Sunday, for a whole month. With each practice, their strokes get stronger, their echoes get louder, and their excitement for the race sky rockets.

Rain or shine, these practices are crucial for the preparation for the race. There were times when two practices were booked back to back, where the weather was not kind, and rain would greet them on the water. But regardless of the circumstances, these youth will continue practicing. And with each powerful stroke, the canoe pushes itself forward with more force, with the ripples of water receding faster away. At the end of practice these tired souls crawl back to shore with sweat dripping down their face, and a bright beaming smile of pride radiating from their faces.

This year, CanTYD came in 16th place in the first race, and the 6th place in the second race. Although these places do not reflect the amount of hardwork and the amount of energy put into practicing for this race, the participants were not disappointed!! The second race was where people had the most fun, not caring about placing, but rather giving the race the best they had and not looking back.

The race ended with mixed emotions. Sad because it was done, and happy because the youths came this far. Everyone left, anxious for next year's race.

Thanu is an OAC student at Albert Campbell C.I
குரல் தொன்று

மற்ற பண்டைக்கால மாற்றங்கள்

கால் கொண் பற்றிகள்? பற்றிய பண்டையக்கால கொண்டார்? என்று மாற்றக் கொண்டார் கொண்டார் மற்ற பண்டைக்கால? என்று மாற்றக் கொண்டார் கொண்டார் மற்ற பண்டைக்கால? என்று மாற்றக் கொண்டார் கொண்டார் மற்ற பண்டைக்கால? என்று மாற்றக் கொண்டார் கொண்டார் மற்ற பண்டைக்கால? 

தவறு, பாதுகாக்க வேண்டும் கேள்வியும் என்று பற்றிய வேண்டும் கேள்வியும் என்று பற்றிய வேண்டும் கேள்வியும் என்று பற்றிய வேண்டும் கேள்வியும் என்று பற்றிய வேண்டும் கேள்வியும் என்று பற்றிய வேண்டும் கேள்வியும் என்று பற்றிய வேண்டும் கேள்வியும் 

குறந்த பண்டைக்கால விளக்கங்கள் என்று குறந்த பண்டைக்கால விளக்கங்கள் என்று குறந்த பண்டைக்கால விளக்கங்கள் என்று குறந்த பண்டைக்கால விளக்கங்கள் 

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McMaster University Graduates

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cantyd.org
MANIMARAN SWAMINATHAR
GRADE: 10

Manimaran Swaminathar's love of writing poetry has already resulted in two published works. "... These are my biggest and most meaningful achievements because [it has] proved to the public, that if a person tries his/her hardest they can achieve anything in this world." This grade 10 winner of the Unique Distinguished Effort Award praises his family, teachers and school guidance counselor for his accomplishments. He is grateful for their guidance and support in fostering his academic successes and overcoming his physical barriers. This aspiring diplomat or computer engineer is currently attending Woodland School.

YATHAVAN SIVARAJAH
GRADE: OAC

Yathavan's love of children has led him to volunteer his time to enhance their lives. Community service is important to this individual, who counts his Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Award as his most meaningful accomplishment to date. Yathavan attributes his success to his mother "who has carried me across the quicksand. Anyone who knows me knows my mother. She is the wind that pushes me to soar towards success." Yathavan draws his inspiration from his late grandfather and is constantly working towards measuring up to his standards "He was my mentor and guided me through the maze of life ... he was a man of integrity, wisdom, courage, commitment and perseverance." This OAC recipient of the Unique Distinguished Effort Award is currently attending McMaster University, pursuing a degree in Computer Engineering.

WORDS TO LIVE BY... 
"A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove... but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a CHILD..." - Anon
NIMALAN THAVANDIRAN
GRADE: 9

Nimal Thavandiran's academic improvement and enrichment, which have been fostered by his excellent teachers, has resulted in his receiving the grade 9 Overall Achievement Award. He recognizes his parents as the ones who have helped him succeed in and out of school, and admires their hard work and perseverance. Nimal hopes "to become a computer programmer and perhaps even start my own business similar to Bill Gates." The recipient of the Grade 9 Academic Award is currently attending Birchmount Park Collegiate.

SALINI KANESU
GRADE: 10

Salini Kanesu's most meaningful achievement to date is, among other things, coming out on top in the Future Horizons 2002 Engineering Competition. Salini attributes her success to her family and teachers, as well as her own commitment and determination to be the best she can be. She is inspired by her family, who "drive me to work hard because I am so amazed by their many accomplishments . . . I learned perseverance and wisdom from my family and I say that every individual needs both of these characteristics to attain success anywhere!" Salini's interest in math and science has encouraged her to set goals to pursue a career in the Medical field in the future. This winner of the Grade 10 Academic Achievement Award is currently attending Nelson A. Boylen Collegiate.
ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

SENTHURAN VETTIVELLUPILLAI
GRADE: 11

Senthran Vettivelupillai is thrilled and honoured to be the recipient of CanTYD's Grade 11 Academic Achievement Award and counts it as one of his greatest accomplishments. This gifted math whiz attributes his successes to "persistence, hard work and my inherent inquisitive nature, for I am constantly seeking knowledge and understanding of the world around me. This combined with hard work and diligence, has enabled me to attain academic excellence." Senthran's greatest influences are his parents, who motivate him to strive for excellence in all aspects of life. Currently a grade 12 student at R.H. King Academy, Senthran is working towards contributing to the betterment of humanity. "I want to contribute in some way to the greater good of the world."

WORD TO LIVE BY...
"You can observe a lot by watching"

JANANI SIVARAJAH
GRADE: 12

Janani Sivarajah's many successes include her thriving academic career and her volunteer work for various causes. She is especially devoted to working with kids to help enhance their academic abilities, and is also proud of her work with various hospitals. This recipient of the grade 12 Academic Achievement Award owes all of her success to her parents. "They are as ambitious about my education as much as I am, if not more." Janani draw inspiration from her father. "It is inspiring to see how much people respect him and come to him for any help. I look up to him a great deal and wish to be as strong as he is." Janani aims to become a doctor and is currently working towards this dream as a student at Don Mills Collegiate Institute.

WORD TO LIVE BY...
"Every country is my country and every man is my kinsman." - Swami Vivekananda
THULASI SHANMUKANATHAN
GRADE: 12

One of Thulasi Shanmukanathan's many accomplishments includes completing a six-year bilingual certificate, making her fluent in English, Tamil and French. Despite her busy academic career, she has also found time to volunteer and maintain a part-time job during the school year. Thulasi attributes her success in school and life to her father, "... who was always there for me. He was the one who stayed up all night to help me with work. He always pushed me to do my best even when I didn't think that I couldn't do it myself." Thulasi's outstanding performance has won her both the grade 12 Academic and Overall Achievement Awards. An aspiring doctor, Thulasi is currently completing her final year at Agincourt Collegiate.

GOPY ARUMUGAM
GRADE: OAC

Among Gopy Arumugam's many accomplishments, he regards his volunteer work in various hospitals and other worthy causes as his most meaningful and self-fulfilling achievement. A dedicated musician who plays multiple instruments, he credits his success to his parents and teachers who "have been an enormous support and encouragement throughout the years in helping me to get to where I am now ... I especially want to acknowledge my parents for their persistence on achieving my best." This winner of the OAC Academic Achievement Award hopes to become a doctor, and devote time to research so that he can contribute in the effort to develop efficient, accessible treatments to combat the world's deadliest diseases.
ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENT

RECOGNIZING STUDENTS WHO HAVE EXCELLED IN ATHLETICS AND HAVE EXHIBITED TRUE SPORTSMANSHIP

PRATHIPAN RATNAM
GRADE: 10

Prathipan Ratnam's most meaningful achievements to date include earning recognition from his school and community for his outstanding efforts in athleticism. This grade 10 recipient of the Athletic Achievement Award attributes his success to his parents. He draws his inspiration from a friend who "is a great leader and an excellent role model. He influenced me to do my best in everything." This athlete eventually aspires to become either an engineer or pursue a career in medicine. Prathipan is currently working towards this goal at Kipling Collegiate Institute.

SHAKTHI SIVAKUMAR
GRADE: 12

Shakthi Sivakumar has been able to participate in numerous sports teams both at school and in the community, while maintaining high academic standards; and considers this as one of her most meaningful accomplishments. In spite of her busy schedule, this recipient of the Grade 12 Athletic Achievement Award has also found time to tutor other students as well as volunteer. Shakhti attributes her success to her parents who have always supported her, and her older brother, who "sparked my first interest in athletics when I was young. He has played an important role in why I am involved in a variety of activities today." This aspiring doctor who would like to practice pediatrics or sports medicine one day is currently attending David and Mary Thompson Collegiate Institute.

"Greatness is not where we stand, but in the position we are moving." -- Anon
ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENT

GRACE THARMARAJAH
Grade: OAC

Grace Tharmarajah’s hard work was rewarded when she received the Senior Athlete of the Year Award in her final year of high school. She is grateful to her parents, teachers, coaches and friends who have supported and encouraged her athletic abilities and desire to succeed. She is especially influenced by one of her coaches who taught her that “winning is important, but sportsmanship and attitude are foremost . . . she trained me to be a better athlete, but more importantly, she trained me in developing as a person.” In the future, Grace hopes to become a medical researcher and help those who are suffering from incurable diseases. This OAC recipient of the Athletic Achievement Award is currently attending Queen’s University, pursuing a Bachelor of Science Degree.

PERFORMING ARTS

RECOGNIZING STUDENTS WHO HAVE EXCELLED IN PERFORMING ARTS

KARTHIGA DHARMANANDA
Grade: OAC

Karthiga Dharmananda has achieved excellence both in and out of school. An honor roll student for five consecutive years, this student devotes much of her time away from school to her dance and community service. Karthiga, the recipient of the Artistic Achievement Award, attributes all of her Bharathanatyam successes to her Guru, who “helped bring out my full potential, making me push myself harder when I thought I had reached my limits.” She is grateful to her parents for their encouragement. “My parents are the true definition of love and support, i owe everything that I have accomplished to them.” Currently a first-year student at University of Toronto, Karthiga aspires to eventually pursue a Master’s degree in Business.

WORDS TO LIVE BY . . .
"Nothing worth doing in life is easy."
Denesh Balaraveindiran has made remarkable strides in the past year. The recipient of the Most Improved Student Award states that his biggest and most meaningful achievement to date has been increasing his average by more than 40%, thus earning himself a coveted place on the honor roll. Denesh accomplished this astonishing feat by "encouraging and engaging myself towards success to show my family, relatives and friends that I am as good as others." This motivated student hopes to become a professional in a career that lies in-between technology and biology. Denesh is currently attending grade 12 at Agincourt Collegiate.
OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION

RECOGNIZING STUDENTS WHO HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS IMPROVING THE COMMUNITY AND SCHOOL LIFE.

KAUSIKI SHANMUKANATHAN
GRADE: 9

Kausiki Shanmukanathan's biggest accomplishment to date has been her increasing determination to succeed in everything she tries her hand at. She credits her success to her parents, who have always been there for her, and to her own growing ambitions, which were the "reasons to my doing so well. I knew that if I wanted to make myself be important and make a positive difference in this world, I would have to do well and have goals to look forward to." One of Kausiki's long-term goals is to become a psychiatrist, and make a difference in the lives of others. Kausiki draws her inspiration from her sister, who "was always behind me in all my decision-making and my shoulder to lean on whenever I needed her." The recipient of the Grade 9 Community Achievement Award is currently attending Victoria Park.

PAMILA NAVARAJAH
GRADE: 10

One of Pamila Navarajah's greatest accomplishments to date would be her acceptance into the "Steps to University" program which makes her a part-time university student while still in high school. Pamila attributes her success in life to her mother, who she describes as her "pillar of strength." This recipient of the Grade 10 Community Achievement Award for grade 10 draws inspiration from one of her teachers, who "encouraged me to follow my heart, listen to advice, and basically supported my decisions." Pamila currently attends Emery Collegiate Institute and aspires to a career in the medical field.

Words to live by... "The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not of knowledge, but rather a lack of will." - Vincent T. Lambardi
OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION

JEEVANA PREMACHANDRAN
GRADE: 11

Jeevana Premachandran counts meeting Adrienne Clarkson at a Youth Forum in Ottawa, and her involvement as a secretary with the TDSB SuperCouncil among her many accomplishments. Jeevana, who is the recipient of both the Grade 11 Community Achievement Award and the Grade 11 Overall Achievement Award credits her family, teachers and guidance counselors for her success. She is inspired by her two older sisters and has "always looked up to them and have always wanted to achieve the same things that they have achieved. This way I have always had a challenge to face and this has pushed me to my success and to the place where I am right now." This talented student who believes that happiness is everything is currently attending Rosedale Heights Secondary School.

SINTHIYA BALASUNDARAM
GRADE: OAC

Sinthiya Balasundaram is especially proud of the fact that she has obtained enough scholarships, bursaries, and earnings to pay her tuition for her studies at Ryerson University. This recipient of the Grade 13 Community Achievement Award attributes her success to her parents and guidance counsellor, and is aware of the importance of dreaming and setting goals for herself. Sinthiya has been influenced by her Art Teacher, who taught her to "live life and take every opportunity to thrive and succeed . . . 'See, Hear, Think, Act, Reflect, Improve: Evolvement'". Sinthiya is looking forward to pursuing a career in B-Comm Telecommunications and hopes to eventually travel around the world.

THANU NANDARAJAH
GRADE: OAC

Thanu Nadarajah is an avid volunteer who has committed numerous hours to serving others. As an active participant in many worthy causes, she strongly believes that "a community is built on the basis of service and volunteerism." Thanu attributes her success to her parents, who have taught her the importance of perseverance and hard work, and "whose support and encouragement has made all the difference." She draws her inspiration from Nelson Mandela and admires his work in eradicating racial division and oppression. This recipient of the OAC Community Achievement Award is currently attending the University of Guelph, and pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree.

Words to live by...
"Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm" - Ralph Waldo Emerson

Words to live by...
"Hold on to your dreams, for if dreams die, life is like a broken-winged bird that cannot fly -- Langston Hughes"
OVERALL ACHIEVEMENT

RECOGNIZING STUDENTS WHO ARE WELL-ROUNDED BOTH IN ACADEMIC AND NON-ACADEMIC ENDEAVOURS.

MAHINTHAN THAYAPARAJAH
GRADE: 9

As the recipient of the Overall Achievement Award for Grade 9, one of Mahinthan Thayaparajah's most meaningful accomplishments to date has been helping the less fortunate through his work with the food drive. This winner credits his success to his parents, siblings, and "teachers who are indisputably dedicated professionals who make the learning process a valuable part of my life." In the future, Mahinthan hopes to become an Aeronautics Engineer and serve Canada through his services at the Canadian Space Agency. His personal goals include working to make Canada "a better place for the coexistence of many cultures." Mahinthan is currently attending grade 10 at Westview Centennial.

PRIATHARSHY THAVANATHAN
GRADE: 10

Priatharshy Thavanathan's busy academic career is balanced by her love of music and dance. This winner of the Grade 10 Overall Achievement Award owes her success to her parents, whose "support and encouragement motivated me to succeed... If every child has such supportive parents, all children would succeed. Priatharshy draws her inspiration from her mother: "She influences me by talking to me about her life, her hardships, her successes and her failures. Her admirable personality makes me want to be like her in every way." This winner is aiming for a career in the medical field, which will enable her to loyally serve both Canada and Sri Lanka. Currently, she attends Worburn Collegiate Institute.
OVERALL ACHIEVEMENT

JEEVANA PREMACHANDRAN
GRADE: 11

Jeevana Premachandran counts meeting Adrienne Clarkson at a Youth Forum in Ottawa, and her involvement as a secretary with the TDSB SuperCouncil among her many accomplishments. Jeevana, who is the recipient of both the Grade 11 Community Achievement Award and the Grade 11 Achievement Award credits her family, teachers and guidance counselors for her success. She is inspired by her two older sisters and has "always looked up to them and have always wanted to achieve the same things that they have achieved. This way I have always had a challenge to face and this has pushed me to my success and to the place where I am right now." This talented student who believes that happiness is everything is currently attending Rosedale Heights Secondary School.

THULASI SHANMUKANATHAN
GRADE: 12

One of Thulasi Shanmukanathan's many accomplishments includes completing a six-year bilingual certificate, making her fluent in English, Tamil and French. Despite her busy academic career, she has also found time to volunteer and maintain a part-time job during the school year. Thulasi attributes her success in school and life to her father, "... who was always there for me. He was the one who stayed up all night to help me with work. He always pushed me to do my best even when I didn't think that I couldn't do it myself." Thulasi's outstanding performance has won her both the grade 12 Academic and Overall Achievement Awards. An aspiring doctor, Thulasi is currently completing her final year at Agincourt Collegiate.

ASHWIN BALAMOHAN
GRADE: OAC

One of Ashwin Balamohan's many meaningful achievements includes organizing various charity events as his school's Tamil Students Association co-president. The fruits of his labour "convinced me that a vision can become a reality with a little hard work and a lot of planning." He attributes his successes in life to his parents who "gave me confidence in myself [and] revealed to me my potential and helped me to bring it out." This talented musician hopes to one-day make a meaningful contribution to society while doing something he loves. Ashwin is the recipient of the OAC Overall Achievement Award. He is currently attending University of Toronto, pursuing studies in Engineering.
Dr. Ambalavanar Sivanandan is a renowned social activist in England. For the last twenty six years, he has been Director of the Institute of Race Relations, which he helped to transform from an organization divorced from the experience and needs of Britain's black community into a vital think-tank accessible to all those committed to combating racism. He has lectured throughout the world on racism and issues relating to the Third World and pioneered the history of black working-class struggle in this country. His concepts and ideas on institutional racism, cultural politics, anti-racist education and the economics of immigration have passed into common usage.

Dr. Sivanandan was born in Sri Lanka but left for Britain in 1958. In 1964, he joined the Institute of Race Relations as a librarian. Later on as he became Director of the same institution, he was the founding editor of the "Race and Class" magazine. However, he is best known for his own writings, which include "A Different Hunger" (1982) and "Communities of Resistance" (1990). "When Memory Dies," a novel set in Sri Lanka, won the Commonwealth Writers Prize and the Sagittarius Prize in 1998.

Among his other accomplishments, he has acted as consultant to a number of organizations, including the World Council of Churches, the Transnational Institute, Amsterdam, the Greater London Council, the Central Council for Education and Training in Social Work and the UN Commission on Human Rights. He chaired the inquiry into racism at the Greater London Arts Association in 1986. He has become the most influential black political thinker in Britain. His writings have shaped the outlook of a whole layer of black activists.

"By writing I am fighting injustice. My way of fighting is through my writing. Relations between humans are being divided into race, class and religion by writing I am fighting for better relations between humans."

- Dr. Ambalavanar Sivanandan, Directions Spring 2002 issue.
Dr Parvathy Kandasamy's outstanding performance for the upliftment and for the Rights of the Tamil community in Canada is quite extraordinary. She is a very dedicated, hardworking and sincere community worker who has been working for the Tamil Community in Canada on Prevention of Violence, Elimination of Racism and Safety for the various groups of the Tamil Community. She holds a B.A in Tamil and Linguistics from the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka. She pursued her B.Phil in Linguistics in 1973. In 1981 she obtained her PH.D in Linguistics from Monash University in Australia. In addition to these degrees she holds a certificate in Cross Cultural skills for Human Service Professionals, Centre for Addiction and Mental and the Faculty of Social Work from University of Toronto.

She has received numerous awards and scholarships. Some of them includes the Mayor's Community Safety Award, the prestigious Senior Fulbright Fellowship from Stanford University, California and the Monash Graduate Scholarship to do her PhD. She has received various professional training in her field that have contributed to her success. Some of the training includes Mental Health Reforms, Women Abuse, Case Management, Child Abuse Prevention, Addiction and much more. She has also held academic positions such as Lecturer and Head of the Department, Language and Cultural Studies at the University of Jaffna. She was a key part of the Editorial Board of Cintanai - a magazine of the Faculty of Arts in University of Jaffna. She has also been a visiting professor in Tamil at Stanford University.

Her community involvement includes Community Theatre Work, Elimination of Racism through Etho racial Seniors Project (University of Toronto) and much more. She has used theatre methods to educate the public on various issues such as Prevention of Abuse among Women, Youth, Children and Seniors. Dr Parvathy has also written a number of awareness articles on Prevention of Women Abuse, Seniors abuse and Youth Violence. She is also a founding member of Vasanatham.
A Walk Down Memory Lane...

Part 6 - Movie Moguls

S.S. Vasan a magazine publisher-turned-film distributor came into films in a big way when he took over a sinking studio in Madras and calling it 'Gemini'.

He firmly believed that a motion picture was, and should be a vehicle of pure entertainment for the viewers, and little else! It was not the duty of the filmmaker to educate or lift the masses nor should a cinema house be converted into a class room. His first production 'Madan Kamarajan' (1941) based on a popular folk tale created in such fashion was a box office success, and set the trend for his future productions.

The Gemini Symbol was the twins blowing a bugle and the slogan had it when the bugs blew there was a good show! "Mangamma Sabatham" (1943) based on a Pan Indian folk tale was a major box office success directed by the lawyer-turned-film make T.G. Raghavachari (Acharya).

A.V. Meyyappan was another successful South Indian movie Mogul. Hailing from a business community known as Nattukottai Nagarathars. Meyyappan was earlier in the business of distribution and production of gramophone records.

He entered movies as producer in 1935 with "Alli Arjuna" (1935) and after facing many reverses hurdles and crises he made his way to success as producer, studio owner and director. It is here, a saucer-eyed comedian T.R. Ramachandran became a star with the film. Bearing a remarkable resemblance to the famous Hollywood comedian Eddi Cantor, Ramachandran enfolded long innings as a successful comedian and played here in box-office hits like A.V. Meyyappan's "Vazhakkai" (1949) and K.J. Mahadevan's Chaplinesque film "Rajee En Kanmani" (1954) inspired by Charlee Chaplin's famous classic "City Lights". A new face name V.K. Ramaswami, young man playing an elderly man's role created a fine impression in this film and went on a achieve remarkable and long standing success as a talented character actor with a wide range of histrionic ability. After nearly half a century Ramaswami is still going in Tamil Cinema.

Baby Kamala, a remarkable talented Bharathanatyam dancer playing the hero's sister shot into limelight with her song and dance numbers in this film. Patriotic songs written by the legendary Tamil Poet Subramania Bharathi were used with great impact in this film. Two song and dance numbers in praise of the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi by Baby Kamala poured immensely popular giving "Naam Iruvar" a patriotic tint. A Kannada film "Harichandra" (1943) was under production of his studio in Madras. Acting on the encouraging advice of his brilliant innovative audiographer V.S. Raghavan. Meyyappan launched an experimental production of 'dubbing' a few rolls of the Kannada film into Tamil. (Dubbing is the popular name in India for the changing of sound tracks inclusive of spoken word and songs from language into another) India being a country of many languages this 'translated pictures' called dubbed films is commercially popular. The 'dubbed' version produced by Meyyappan in Tamil from the original Kannada, fared well at the box office as the original Tamil version.

- Courtesy of Inttam

BABA

Starring: Rajnikanth, Manisha Koirala, Ashish Vidyarthi, Shatrujnan Sinha, Sanghavi
Direction: Suresh Krishna
Music: A.R. Rahman

Story:
Baba (Rajnikanth) grows up as a saint and a good Samaritan. His mother is an ancient spinster of 90 who lives in the Himalayas and is supposedly more than 350 years old. Chamundeswari (Manisha Koirala) stays in Baba's neighbourhood, and both of them fall in love.

Soon, however, Baba runs into a conflict with a local politician and his son (Ashish Vidyarthi). Men are hired to kidnap and beat up Baba and his body, assumed lifeless, is thrown down a mountainside. A saint finds him and nurses him back to life. Baba becomes a devotee of this saint, who also has magical powers. He offers Baba two boons. After returning to Chennai, Baba uses a couple of these boons irresponsibly in an effort to see whether they really work. Baba cleans up society of corrupt politicians and installs one of his associates to lead the state. Later he goes back to his peaceful life in his mountain abode.

The only roles of any significance in Baba were those played by Rajnikanth and Ashish Vidyarthi. The notion of this movie is the same as the earlier one. Nobody plays the protagonist against whom the writer should be entertaining an audience. The sound of the story is a little too conventional, with the heavenly interferers having become accustomed to the style. The character of Manisha Koirala, although not given a major role, is quite ornate, and she really does not play much role in the plot of the film. It would be a blockbuster in a film industry, begging for its first blockbuster of the year.
POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS: THE CHOICE IS YOURS

By: Kavitha Ganeshamoorthy

Many youngsters face the tough challenge of choosing the most appropriate institution for their post-secondary education. Most students and parents seem to promote enrolling in the more popular institutions such as University of Waterloo, University of Toronto, York University, Seneca College, etc. They claim that these institutions have a certain prestige that goes with the name. However, there is a wide assortment of Canadian universities and colleges that are also similarly prestigious but are rarely talked about in the South Asian community.

For the purposes of your further education, and information, we have chosen a few universities and colleges to enlighten those students who are heading out into the world of post-secondary education.

UNIVERSITIES

BROCK UNIVERSITY (St. Catherine's, Ontario)

Brock University boasts a friendly educational environment. Its programs have been touted as one of the best in Canada. Brock has a strong program in the Health Sciences, Mathematics, Business, and Social Sciences. All the Social Sciences and Humanities courses all have small seminar discussions, for a better understanding of each course. Brock also has a quality Education program, and allows for concurrent education to those who are interested in pursuing a profession in education. One of the specialties at Brock is that it also has a Pre-medical information course to help future medical students with the information needed for further medical studies. In addition to the academic excellence of this university, the campus is alive with academic and social activities. A former student of Brock, Stephen McAllister declares that his "experience at Brock was an immensely pleasing one. I found that there was great interaction between the professors and myself. They actually took the time to inquire about my welfare. In addition to that, the Work-Study program helped me to earn money, and attend classes at the same time. It made it easier for me to be able to financially support myself."

LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY (Thunder Bay, Ontario)

Although Lakehead University is situated in a rather remote and rustic environment, this mid-sized university offers a range of respected programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels of study. It has average size courses in Business Administration, Engineering, Forestry, Science, Environmental Studies, Social Sciences, Humanities, Nursing and Social Work. For those interested in going on to be educators, Lakehead also provides an excellent Bachelor of Education program. It is also one of the few universities in Canada to have an Aboriginal Studies program. The campus affords a friendly and comfortable environment for all types of students. Sathishkumar Vallipuran, a former graduate of Lakehead, states that "the small program of engineering at the university was a bit of a surprise in the beginning, but later I found that it promotes a camaraderie between colleagues and faculty members. Diversity is welcomed with open arms. I can only speak from my own experience, but I can say that Lakehead has an excellent engineering program, that was extremely challenging, and versatile towards my needs."

WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY (Waterloo, Ontario)

Wilfrid Laurier University is one of Canada's foremost small universities, with a strong sense of community. The university offers undergraduate programs in arts, science, music, music therapy and business. The faculties of arts and science, as well as the school of business and economics, have a cooperative education option that enables students to enhance academic study with employment experience. First-year students are offered weekend programs for students and parents, inter-residence council, registration and orientation week, seminars and workshops on academic topics. "I found the accessibility at the University extremely pleasing. The level of expectation and success, especially in the computer science department, was extremely high. The professors were always willing to give me their time, and patience. Overall, the level of competitiveness pushed me towards doing extremely well. The students and staff there were extremely friendly and welcoming. The co-op education helped me further my contacts, and eventually my career in computer science," claims Anthony Mueller.
QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY (Kingston, Ontario)
Queens' University is one of the top universities in Canada. It ranks right up there with University of Toronto. Queens' has the top program in the Sciences, Mathematics, Business, Education and Law. It has a high level of prestige and success. First year students consistently have the highest average of any Canadian university. In addition to its academic excellence, Queens' also has over forty interuniversity teams, fifty intramural activities, twenty-eight recreational clubs, and eight competitive clubs. Maria Garces explains, "The reputation of Queens' is only one of the things that is great about this university. The level of academic excellence that is emphasized here pushed me to work harder in order to attain the level of success that I have so far. If I had not been pushed, I do not think that I could have gotten to my fourth year in one piece. I appreciate the encouragement I gained from peers and professors. It is an extremely supportive and educative environment. They breed success here."

RYERSON POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY (Toronto, Ontario)
Ryerson is Canada's leader for relevant professional education. Ryerson has the largest undergraduate Faculty of Business in Ontario. There are six unique Ryerson degree programs: Early Childhood Education, Occupational and Public Health (Occupational Health and Safety option), Graphic Communications Management, Image Arts, Radio and Television Arts, and Retail Management. Ryerson recently introduced its new Graduate Studies Faculties, among which are Communication and Culture, Environmental Applied Science and Management, and Spatial Analysis, Engineering - Chemical, Civil, Electrical and Computer, and Mechanical. The physical structure of Ryerson will be soon changing from a high-school type environment to a structure that is more fitting a university. Sanjana Sharma, an alumna of Ryerson, asserts, "The hands-on approach to the program really helped me out. I was part of the Radio and Television Arts Program, and I found that the placements job-relevant field was extremely beneficial for me as a person, and also for expanding the horizons of my career. The environment was exceptionally comfortable for learning, and promotes a variety of experiences."

COLLEGES

GEORGE BROWN COLLEGE (Toronto, Ontario)
George Brown is a college community at the heart of Toronto. With three campuses at the heart of downtown Toronto, George Brown is unique among Canadian colleges. George Brown, students acquire the skills and make the connections that will help them realize their career dreams. The college offers a wide range of programming - Business, Technology, Community Services and Health Sciences, Fashion and Creative Technology, Graphic Communications, Language Training, and Hospitality/Tourism. "It felt to me that they promote a more hands-on type of education. I learnt a lot from my teachers who were always willing to help. The environment was just extremely lively, and made it easier for learning," says Wendy Giberson.

HUMBER COLLEGE (Toronto, Ontario)
Located in the west end of Toronto, Humber College is one of Canada's largest and most respected community colleges. Humber College offers over 150 full-time diploma programs. Some of the more reputed programs include accounting, business, computer studies, hospitality and tourism, mathematics, media arts, technology, and writing. This diversity, coupled with Humber's humanistic, student-oriented philosophy, annually attracts over 12,000 full-time student and 28,000 part-time students. Says Rosie Leung "The transition here from high school wasn't very hard. The environment they create here is almost as community oriented as a high school. I found that everyone from the administration to the teachers to the students displayed an enthusiasm that I think makes this place unique."

ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE (Kingston, Ontario)
If a profession in Law Enforcement or the Military is your goal, then this is the college for you. The Royal Military College aptly trains you for all facets of Military life. It is a very prestigious institution, and is highly respected for the calibre of its education and its graduates. Academically, the Royal Military College offer university level education in the Arts (Humanities, Social Sciences, Military and Strategic Studies, Business Administration), Sciences (Chemistry, Math, Computer Science, Physics, Space) and Engineering (Chemical and Materials, Civil, Computer, Electrical and Mechanical.) "A high academic and physical standard is expected of all its graduates. Initially, I found the life there extremely tough to handle, but with a lot of time and effort I was able to raise my level of physical and academic ability to match the College's expectations," declares Milpreet Singh.
அங்கியினால்

நீர் வாழும் காலத்துக்குள் காலத்துக்கு தொடர்கிறது. மறுசெயலாளர்கள் தன்னிலையில் நீர் பசிகுத்து என் காலத்துக்கு ஏற்பட்டுள்ளது. பவசிக்கும் பாதையில் நீர் பசிகுத்து என் காலத்துக்கு ஏற்பட்டுள்ளது.

நீர் ஆய்வாளர்களுக்கு கூறுகிறது. குரி குற்றும் பாதையில் நீர் பசிகுத்து என் காலத்துக்கு ஏற்பட்டுள்ளது. பவசிக்கும் பாதையில் நீர் பசிகுத்து என் காலத்துக்கு ஏற்பட்டுள்ளது.

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ஆராய்ச்சிகள்... 

ஆண்டவர் காலத்தில் நீண்டு புகழ்? புகழ்பெற்றுள்ளதால் கல்வி கட்டுப்பாட்டில் காலத்தில் புகழ் கருதுபவர் குறைமற்றும். இந்து முருகனின் புனிதத்தையும் கொண்டது போன்றவற்றில் செயல்ச்சியில் கற்று வருவது காலத்தில் இன்னும் நீண்டு புகழ் கருதப்படுகிறது. இது தம்பகாய முருகனின் பல்வேறு வகைகளாகவும் மறுமலர்ச்சிகளும் காலத்தில் இருக்கின்றன. குறைமற்றும் செயல்ச்சியில் குறைவுமடைந்து போன்றது என்பது குறைமற்றும் காலத்தில் இருக்கின்றது. 

"பொன்வரை முற்பான என்கிறோர்..." குறைமற்றும் காலத்தில் புரோஷ்பான பொன்று போற்றுகின்றன. பொன்வரை முற்பான என்றுக் கொண்டால் மேலும் புரோஷ்பான என்று கொண்டு கொண்டாய். பொன்வரை முற்பான என்று கொண்டால் மேலும் பொன்வரை முற்பான என்று கொண்டு கொண்டாய். பொன்வரை முற்பான என்று கொண்டால் மேலும் பொன்வரை முற்பான என்று கொண்டு கொண்டாய். 

"புனிதமான புனிதத்தை போன்று புனிதமான புனிதத்தை போன்று..." குறைமற்றும் காலத்தில் புனிதமான புனிதத்தை போன்று புனிதத்தை போன்று... புனிதமான புனிதத்தை போன்று புனிதத்தை போன்று... புனிதமான புனிதத்தை போன்று புனிதத்தை போன்று... புனிதமான புனிதத்தை போன்று புனிதத்தை போன்று... 

"புனிதமான புனிதத்தை போன்று..." குறைமற்றும் காலத்தில் புனிதமான புனிதத்தை போன்று... புனிதமான புனிதத்தை போன்று... புனிதமான புனிதத்தை போன்று... புனிதமான புனிதத்தை போன்று... புனிதமான புனிதத்தை போன்று...
Many thanks goes to our former co-editors of Directions
Kumaran Nadesalingam & Gobi Kathirgamanathan.

Directions members who are attending post secondary institutions.
Nesha Balasubramaniyam - York University
Rama Selvarajah - University of Waterloo
Annette Selvanayagam - University of Toronto
Vejetha Balasingam - McMaster University
Shiyamini Rajendra - University of Waterloo
Preman Sri Tharan - University of Toronto
Abi Nithiyanandan - University of Toronto
Hema Jegatayagam - McMaster University

Congratulations to all those who are attending universities/colleges
Good luck to you all!
Nectar in a sieve is all about poverty, starvation, and struggle for survival in a primitive village in South India, a post-colonial country under many guises in the late 40s. Unfortunately, this theme of the book is still not out of date almost after fifty years. Its been written, ironically, this book is set in India, major food exporters and milk producers in the world. Statistically there is more food in the world than the number of people needed feeding but not distributed efficiently to reach those needed desperately but rather most powerful rich countries spend billions to drop bombs on the poorest countries ritually and leaves them destitute. Having written this novel Markandaya is giving voice to those voiceless people and makes their cries heard millions of miles away and demands action.

The author in this novel observes the effect of starvation to tell the readers through the heroine Rukmani as follows:

"It happened to me too, but I could not see myself, only what happened to others: saw their flesh melt away and their skin sag and sink between their jutting bones, saw their eyes retreat into their skull, saw their ribs curve out from under the skin: and what withered the young bore doubly hard on the old and they were emaciated twice over."

Rukmani is the heroine of this beautiful poignant novel. What could be so beautiful about poverty and starvation? Without a doubt, Rukmani's courage and bravery and the way she tells her story that touches the very core of the reader.

Rukmani gets married when she's twelve to a tenant farmer, as a child bride. Her husband Nathan was a poor match: her family married her below her. She was the eldest daughter of a head of the village. Who became poor by giving dowry to his three daughters, Rukmani was without beauty and dowry, Nathan was poor in everything but love. Rukmani soon learns to plant seeds and reaps, earn a living, and make a home along with her husband and become the center of the household. She bore her husband Nathan a beautiful baby girl, named her Irawaddy after a river. Wealth of her beauty will not prevent her being a liability therefore they wanted assets to assist them with their farming and care for them when they grow old rather than rob them of everything they have in the name of dowry.

'Nature is like a wild animal that you have trained to work for you. So long as you are vigilant and walk warily with thought and care, so long will it give you its aid: but look away for an instant, be heedless or forgetful, and it has you by the throat.'

This is a passage in the in novel where Rukmani's optimism proclaims her hope and certainty of continuity by keeping nature under her control she believes nothing can beat human effort and challenge.

Markandaya brings the primitive village in south India into live and those people in it by creating unforgettable characters like Kenny, a doctor from the west who chooses to serve poor Indians with whom he has a love hate relationship. He leaves for homeland England when he can't take anymore of their superstitions and believes but he comes back soon after, his relationship with them is complex but mutual understandings and acceptance of the difference is there.

Kunthi is a character Markandaya introduce in this novel for more than one reason. She is Rukmani's friend but later become the enemy and a measure to test Rukmani's marriage that makes the marriage stronger in an ironical way.

With Kenny's help Rukmani bore Nathan five sons. In the mean time she finds a good match for Irawaddy but her husband send her back to her mother when he waited long enough and discovered that she is barren and no use to him if she can't give him sons. Rukmani takes her to Kenny to seek help but she finds out that she is going to become a mother once again. Irawaddy becomes depressed; all she managed was staring at the empty horizon day after day.

When Rukmani's eldest son Kuti was born, Irawaddy's world brightened up and she took him under her wings as if he was her own child.

Industrialization takes sons away from the farms to mush of Nathans' and Rukmanis' dislike. A new tannery in the village promised good wages and jobs, Rukmani's sons Thambi and Arjun make it clear to their parents of their preference to work for the tannery rather than the farm. They earned enough money, which proved Rukmani that she was wrong about the tannery and her sons earned her enough to feed the whole family. It didn't last long. Thambi and Arjun were at loggerheads with their bosses for demanding more money for their work and replaced so they decided to take up jobs in the Island of Ceylon in the tea plantation despite their parents' disapproval and they left their parents and the farm for good.

Kenny helps Rukmani's third son Murugan to find a job in the city to work as a servant to a doctor. He took Selvam the fourth son to work on a new hospital building that he builds to help the poor and Selvam accepted the offer as a blessing but also worked with his father when he could on the farm.
Good Yarns...

Monsoon destroyed their livelihood then the drought followed by famine.
Landowner was constantly pestering them for what they owe them for the land, Rukmani sold pots and pans and garments to pay him. Endeavor begins to thrive on this poor family like any other in their village when there was nothing left to eat.

In this passage below Rukmani describes ultimate pain of hunger.

"Sometimes from sheer rebellion we ate grass, although it always resulted in stomach cramps and violent retching. For hunger is a curious thing: at first it is with you all the time, waking and sleeping and in your dream, and your belly cries out insistently, and there is a gnawing and a pain as if your very vitals were being devoured, and you must stop it at any cost, and you buy a moment's respite even while you know and fear the sequel. Then the pain is no longer sharp but dull, and this too with you always, so that you think of food many times a day and each time a terrible sickness assails you, and because you know this you try to avoid the thought, but you cannot, it is with you. Then that too is gone, all pain, all desire, only a great emptiness is left, like the sky, like a well in drought, and it is now that the strength drains from your limbs, and you try to rise and find you cannot, or to swallow water and your throat is powerless, and both the swallow and the effort of retaining the liquid tax you to the uttermost."

Rukmani's depiction of hunger is not hard to comprehend; we see it often enough on our television's screens. Markandaya is not only making the story more poignant but alert the reader to become more aware of the inconsistencies of this world and she leaves the rest up to the reader's compassion and imagination to change the world. While reading this novel you become Rukmani and a mother whose struggle is beyond limit and you feel a lump in your throat and unable even to cry when you can't save Kuti from starvation and death, suddenly there is light end of the tunnel when Irawaddy becomes a prostitute to earn enough money to feed the infant. You feel a kind of relief when this happens because there is nothing standing in her way of determination and selflessness.

Kunthi is a prostitute unlike Rukmani she would seek the easier option to keep herself and her family alive, she is also a character you end up sympathizing with, and she began her career well before the famine when people had other than hunger on their mind and she confronted Rukmani with her philosophies and defended herself. Nathan steals the last stock of rice Rukmani buried in a secret place to feed Kunthi's children whom he fathered. Rukmani forgives him and she would loose nothing she has at any cost when what she has is so little.

Irawaddy's wages fed Kuti but later she gave birth to a son who was an object of curiosity for the villagers who had pink skin and too different to be accepted as normal. Kuti lost his sight and later died of malnutrition despite his beloved sister's ultimate attempt save him.

This novel is divided into two parts: Book one ends when nature suddenly blessed them with a good harvest everything were well for a while until they were forced to leave their land. Rukmani and Nathan left for the city to live with their son Murugan.

The journey took them forever on a bullock-cart and they got lost and to make matters worse they got robbed. They meet Puli who helped the couple to trace Murugan's whereabouts but they were met with the news that he left the city. They seek shelter at a temple; Nathan gets weak and Rumani care for him continuously. Puli is an orphan with no fingers on his hands to work, but he knew how to negotiate his way through life since he's been in the street from birth, he met enough people and his knowledge and wisdom guide him to earn him enough to eat. Rukmani and Nathan grow fond of Puli, he is their guide and teaches them the strange ways of the city.

Puli took them to a stone quarry where they could get a job of breaking stones to earn enough money to eat and return back to their village. They earned enough money. Nathan fell ill while breaking stones and dies. Rukmani adopts Puli and return to her village where she could be with Selvam and Irawaddy once again.

Gowry completed a HND Computing in 1998 at the University of East London and is presently working in the Art and Theory department at the same institution. She is also Direction's London correspondent.
CanTYD would like to express its sincerest gratitude to its Advisory Board.

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Interview with Dr. A. Sivanandan
continued... Part2

Interview with Dr. A. Sivanandan - Part II
by Gowry Selvaratnam

Ambalavanar Sivanandan came to Britain from Sri Lanka (then Ceylon) in 1958 and became a librarian in the Institute of Race Relations in 1964. Later became the Director of Institute of Race Relations and founder editor of the 'Race and Class' magazine. Since then he had written many books on Third World and Black issues. When Memory Dies is his first novel (1997), won the Sagittarius prize and short listed for the Commonwealth Writers Prize.

Q: In your essay namely 'Liberation of the Black Intellectual' you've explored burdens of representation of black intellectuals when it comes to the sense of belonging and uncertainty. You had written, "On the margin of European culture, and alienated on his own, the 'coloured' intellectual is an artefact of colonial history, marginal man par excellence. He is a creation of two worlds and of none. Torn up by a specific history, he remains stranded on its shores even as it recedes. And he comes into is not so much a twilight world, as a world of false shadows and false light." Then you conclude the essay by saying that black intellectual can only liberate himself by getting in touch with his blackness through his culture and his people. Did this work for you?

A: Absolutely. The 'Liberation of the Black Intellectual' (Sivanandan, 1972), was originally entitled 'Alien Gods' (1974). Alien Gods was very important taking-stock exercise; to see, from my own experience, the place of a black intellectual in the fight against racism. Looking back, in writing that piece, I also came to a consciousness of my role, my immediate role in the struggle. There was my role on the streets with the Black Unity and Freedom Party, but also my role in my job. This led me to consider my role at the Institute of Race Relations. So far, I had found that, as librarian, I could provide the material that ordinary black people required to understand their own lives and how to change them, and to help them find the experiences of other like-minded people all over the world. Now, because that experience was then cast in the light of my own self and who I was, I asked myself: what's my role in this place and what's happening here?

Q: Please tell Directions readers about your work in the early days and your magazine 'Race and Class' and how that changed the world we live in?

A: I was the librarian and the library was only open to members of the Institute and its council. This was a period of political activity on the streets, with grassroots groups such as the Black Panthers, Black Eagles and various other self-help groups emerging. They were asking all sorts of questions and they had nowhere to go, so I opened the library to all these kids from off the streets and people from these groups. They wanted to understand what the hell was going on around them. They wanted to know about the impact of the immigration acts. Why were they being discriminated against in schools and jobs? Why were black children disproportionately receiving educationally subnormal schooling? Where can we read Malcolm X, his writings aren't in the public libraries? They all these questions, so I began to get the journals and newspapers that would answer them. I would get journals from Third world countries, about the war in Vietnam, about Indochina, about the movements in Indonesia and so on. I began to provide this literature in the Institute of Race Relations for the people from these various black groups who would come after the Institute was closed. I would stay on and I, as the librarian, provide the material they wanted and they, as the kids from the streets, gave me information and a new consciousness. It was a two-way process: I was contaminating them with literature and they were contaminating me with their experience.

I already had a politics, the politics of anti-colonialism: the politics of left-wing groups in Sri Lanka, an understanding of the Indian national movement and the National Congress and how that affected Sri Lanka, and of broader Third World struggle for independence. My experience up to then had been the experience of the movement for colonial freedom. Now I was getting an experience, even if only at one step removed, of the fight against racism in the inner cities and the ghettos, in the favelas of this country. These kids were giving me an understanding of what was going on and I began to get involved with the Black Unity and Freedom Party (BUFP). The institute was getting press cuttings about racial incidents from all over the country and those were part of a politicising influence.

The Third World has been lost to view in the last 15 or 20 years - lost a view in the deliberations of the Left because in today's global factories, the low-paid workers who do the dirty jobs are literally not there in the Third World and not here in public view or, if here only as invisible migrant sweatshop and service workers. The Left in the West has failed to understand the changes that are going on in terms of the qualitative leap in the level of productive forces, they failed to see that our standard of living depends upon the exploitation of an international working class. Instead they say 'farewell to the working class', elevate the new social movements of women, blacks, gays, green, etc, as the agents of change and treat the Third World as an object of Western charity.

Look for the rest of the interview in upcoming issues of Directions!
A Child's Wish
by Martine Boudreau

When I sleep is when I dream
You and I, one wonderful team
We're holding hands, walking side-by-side
I know you're near me, but yet you stride

Where do you go?
You're beginning to drift
Like a phantom, moving ever so quick

When will I meet you?
Is it when I die?
Why do you fade from me?
Do you not hear my cries?

Come hither from the heavens
I want to see your face.
Your skin so sweet,
Your soft embrace

I wake up trembling,
Eyes wet with tears
My hands are shaking,
Realizing my fears

Oh, Mother, why has thou forsaken me?
I was but a child of only three
How could I survive without your warmth?
Who shall I turn to, who'll give me support?

On the streets is where I live
Where I beg and where I give
My friends are paupers, my home a road
I have made a life that is much less adored

People walk pass me like they're the stunning elite
But I know in their hearts, they're all full of grief
Seeing a child on the streets is a fear
It is like seeing their own child whom they hold so dear

Sometimes I get money,
Sometimes I get food
I share this with my friends,
Not doing so is crude

I say a prayer for you each night
That you and I shall one day set sight
Until this magical day arrives
I will live and give and miraculously strive

Marine is a 3rd year science student at the University of Toronto at Scarborough.

Shiyamali is a grade 11 student at West Toronto Collegiate
Hard work and determination may be the only necessity for SUCCESS!
Shiyamini Rajendra

Success! Ahh, there is a word that is in every youngster's mind today! But how does one achieve this aspiration? The majority would pronounce that the means to success is an education and further reveal education to be the completion of a college or university degree. Of course this is quite comprehensible. Education never goes to waste. However, the education we are contemplating is something that costs considerably more than a few hundred dollars. On average, a year of university education costs, at least $5,000, and that translates to $20,000 for four years. Who said money grows on trees? Yes, there are government loans, grants, and scholarships, but how about countries where there is little of this to go around, or for those who do not have the top marks required to qualify for a scholarship? So, while not everyone can get a diploma or a degree, this does not necessarily mean the rest are unfortunate. "Where there is a will, there is a way."

One thing you have to keep in mind is that when you receive higher education, you become more knowledgeable and whether you are intelligent or not has little to do with getting a post secondary education. One who is intelligent will remain intelligent, while one who is less knowledgeable can become more knowledgeable through life's experiences and self-learning. Getting ahead in life requires genuine hard work and ample time, but it does not necessarily matter that you be the next Einstein. You will learn on your every attempt, when you learn to recognize what was at fault on the previous attempt.

There are numerous ways to get ahead in life, especially living right here in Canada, where the opportunities are countless. First of all, you must discover what you are good at or even interested in, and what is that motivates you. You may have an artistic talent, have a business instinct, people skills, leadership skills, or are innovative, etc. Keeping this in mind, now decide what you see yourself as in the future. If you're not able to make the decision right away, take your time. Regardless, start planning slowly but surely. When you are planning, make sure your goals are specific, measurable, action-oriented, realistic, and seriously take into account the amount of time you need to spend to achieve your goals.

Getting a part time job revolving around that field of interest may be one of the best ways to begin. Another option is through volunteering. You never know where it will take you. Just keep your goal in mind. Something to remember is when you have plan for your future; you must not leave room for any distractions. These distractions can come in many forms; the objective is to get yourself recognized for the good qualities and special skills you have. You have to possess the eagerness to learn and prove yourself. Take Kavingnar Kannadhasan for example, he only completed 8th standard (grade 7) yet he wrote novels, biographies, religious works, commentaries, poetry and plays and received great recognition. In some cases even if you do not know the A.B.C's of the language, it is quite possible to become literate through voluntary learning.

Once again, make sure you don't have second thoughts and lose confidence in yourself, because no one can guarantee everything will turn out favorably the first time. Even those who graduate from college or university don't have a hundred percent assurance that their degrees or diplomas will secure a decent job. In fact, the unemployment rate after six months of graduation for postsecondary graduates for the current year is 5.5%.

Higher education may lead to success, however it is also possible to earn a decent living or to make your mark in this world when you have a goal and are determined to work hard to reach that goal. As you are on your journey to make your dream a reality, make sure you don't waste too much time because your time is precious. Be WISE (Willpower, Initiative, Stamina, Enthusiasm) and soon you'll be at your destination!
Is higher education the only way to achieve success? Before one can answer this question, one must define success. In today's society, success has become an alternate term for money. An individual's success is rated by how much money he/she earns. This is only half true. Real success is two-fold, half of which is financial success. The other half is social success. For one to be truly successful, both elements must be present in one's life. The best way to accomplish this is through higher education.

Financial success is definitely necessary for one to survive in this world. One needs a continuous flow of income, high enough to meet the standard of living in western society. A higher education will provide this source of income. For example, according to Statistics Canada, the average salary of a person with a university degree is $42,054. Professionals such as engineers, doctors and lawyers have salaries ranging from $60,000 to $300,000 and more. Comparatively, individuals with college education/vocational training earn an average of $25,838, while high school graduates earn an average of $22,846. This is not to say that people without degrees don't earn six figure salaries. Those who do are mostly entrepreneurs, and they are usually a minority. Very few entrepreneurs succeed financially because over 90% of all business start-ups fail within the first five years in Canada. It is even less likely for people without higher education to climb the corporate ladder into middle and upper management positions that have high earning potential. More often than not, management positions require a degree or diploma with significant work experience. Consequently, people who forfeit a higher education are limiting themselves when it comes to career advancement. It is also much easier for an individual with a higher level of education to find a job than an individual without it. Most companies now require employees to have diplomas/degrees for jobs that didn't require them fifteen years ago. Employers realize that workers with a higher level of education are capable of adapting to, and remaining competitive, in a rapidly changing technology-driven market. Financial success is only 50% of true success. The other 50% is social success.

Social success of an individual is rated by how he/she is viewed by society. Status and respect are two entities that are bestowed upon an individual by society. Everyone is part of the social fabric, and whether they like it or not, society labels them. These labels tend to stick with one for his/her lifetime, and can have profound affects on their individual lives. In most societies, Tamil society in particular, higher status is attained by higher education. When one indulges in a conversation with a Tamil elder, one of the first questions that get asked is: "What are you studying?" or "What university do you want to go to?". If you respond with answers such as "Medicine" and "U of T", you get positive reactions. If you say you want to be a "Bus Driver", you're usually going to get a negative reaction. These reactions are actually society passing out judgements on you. Personally, one might think driving a bus is suited for him/her, but Tamil society has been structured in such a way that higher education brings higher status and respect. Similarly, higher education brings social recognition on an international level. For example, If a doctor from a third world country and a millionaire from a third world country came to Canada, how would they be viewed? A doctor will still be a doctor, while the currency exchange rate will determine if the other individual is still a millionaire. A degree/diploma is not affected by economical, political, cultural or religious changes. Higher education has no boundaries. Finally, on an individual level, higher education brings greater personal satisfaction and a sense of accomplishment and pride. This is evident when one writes professional designations, such as Dr, P.Eng, and CA beside one's name. I don't know anyone who writes dollar signs beside his/her name, do you?
As young people, deciding on a career can be extremely difficult and confusing at times. There is a wide range of careers or professions open to the youth of our generation. Many individuals from our community are forging new paths and excelling in their chosen field. They illustrate to us, that our decisions at all times. They always encouraged her and helped her plan what she was good at. "Yes, it was tough," Anusha admits about getting to where she is now but she always managed to keep up to date with her work. She constantly kept herself occupied by getting involved within her school and participating in many extracurricular activities while juggling her schoolwork at the same time. When asked for the reason she went into law, she explained, "It's really important to understand how the system works if you want to work towards social justice. You affect real change in law and social justice with a better understanding of the law itself. I wanted to do good and this is a way I can do that. It's rewarding and it feels right." Anusha now works for the Ministry of Attorney General. Her advice to the youth is:

Anusha Aruliah
Lawyer

Siri Velauthapillai
Development Engineer

Siri Velauthapillai was born in Jaffna, moved to Zambia at the age of 7 and after two years, settled in Canada. He attended school at Western C.I. and is now a Fresh graduate from the University of Waterloo where he completed his Bachelor of Applied Science degree in Computer Engineering. As with many young children, Siri's dream at a young age was to become an astronaut. However, throughout the years he gradually realized the reality that such a career would never suit him. His interest towards computers began to grow when he received his very first computer as a young boy. He began playing many computer games, fiddled about with his device constantly, and was quickly able to adapt to it. Through his high school years he came to realize that he was interested in the computer field. His parents encouraged him at all times and were very proud of the decisions he made. At the moment Siri is working for the Test Canadian Inc., as a Development Engineer. Although he is not yet a professional engineer, one who needs to have at least 4 years of experience, he is on his way to becoming one. When asked what his goal in life was, he stated that he would like to be a part of making the world a fairer and more equitable place for all people. He believes that everyone should have the opportunity to be able to do and grow to the best of their abilities. Siri gave an interesting reply when asked what one can do to take part in making the world fairer. He replied, "From the smallest things we buy, be it materials, food, furniture, we should be well aware of how products are manufactured and where they are made. For example a rug itself we buy may be one that was stitched by a child in a third world country, Hema is a student of the University of McMaster.
HOW WOULD YOU CHANGE THE WORLD???

If you immediately had the power to make a difference in this world, what three things would you do first? Explain what you would say to the world leaders and how you would carry out this change.

Ladies and gentlemen, our mission is to ensure that poverty is eliminated. Poverty is insidious. It destroys aspirations, hopes, and happiness. We can only do this by spreading prosperity in the world. What is prosperity? Prosperity is the ability of an individual to provide shelter, nutrition, and other material goods that enable people to live a ‘good life.’ Our mission is to be the purveyor of freedom and justice and democratic capitalism. No man, woman, or child should be denied their fundamental right of freedom, and security. No family should live in squalor. No child should go to bed hungry. But how must we go about ensuring that prosperity spreads to the rest of the world? I have outlined three proposals.

Our first initiative is to squash the seeds of global terrorism. We must understand that these freedom-haters seek to deny hundreds of millions their unalienable right to freedom and continue the despotism of years past. Only by ensuring that this small but influential network of freedom-haters is destroyed can we go on to pursue nobler ends.

Our second initiative is to bring about democracy to the world. We must in Martin Luther King’s words, ‘Let freedom reign.’ Freedom and democracy go hand-in-hand, and when people are free to pursue their dreams, society benefits as a whole. Furthermore, we must extol the virtues of hard work, dedication, honesty, thrift, trustworthiness, and an instilled respect for education and for cultural values, which play a crucial role in the economic development of a nation.

Our third initiative must be to bring capitalism to the world. We must extol the virtues of capitalism and the infinite riches it has brought to the world. Capitalism has reduced human misery and suffering. Witness East Asia, which has become the envy of the developing world. By embracing capitalism, the once destitute Asian Dragons have, in a few short years, attained a standard of living that rivals any Western nation today.

We must see to the extension of freedom and prosperity to every corner of the globe, and I believe that these three proposals will be instrumental in achieving that end.

Senthuran Vettivelupillai is a grade 11 student at R.H. King Academy.

Jathishnie Jegathiswaran is an O.A.C. student at Wohurn C.I.
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