



# NEWSLETTER

Issue No.7

## ASSOCIATION OF PAST EMPLOYEES OF SINGER

320, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Colombo 2

July 2004

Dear Members,

It is time once again to give you an update on the activities of the Association. In view of the poor response received from members with regard to contributions to the Newsletter, we regret we are reluctantly compelled to restrict this issue just to four pages. It is most disheartening to note that we have not received any contributions from the members, which shows the lack of interest. The One Million Dollar question now is whether it is worthwhile spending over Rs.2,000/- just to put out a four page Newsletter. Anyway, the Newsletter & Publicity Committee leaves it to the Executive Committee to decide. The sixth issue of the Newsletter was published and circularized amongst the members. We hope the reading material was of interest and entertaining. The Newsletter and Publicity Committee will appreciate very much any suggestions for the improvement of the publication. We earnestly encourage all members to give a little of their time in making a small contribution by way of articles towards the Newsletter to help make this effort a success.

### GET-TOGETHER

The Cricket Match/Get-together held on 14<sup>th</sup> March was a great success culminating in a Raffle Draw organized by the Ladies of the Executive Committee. It was an enjoyable day of sport, fun and frolic.

### BENEVOLENT FUND

The Benevolent Fund launched to raise funds to help needy members now stands as Rs.362,002.51 as at end June 2004 – still short of our target of Rs.500,000/-. We earnestly request the General Membership to contribute generously towards this fund which is for a worthy cause.

### MEMBERSHIP

As at end April, we had on roll a membership of 132. Subsequently, Mr. R.A.C. Goonethileke was enrolled as a Life Member bringing the total to 133.

## Forthcoming Event

A day's outing has been planned for Members and their families on **Sunday, 15th August 2004**. Details of venue and other arrangements will be notified shortly.

<b>OTHER EVENTS PLANNED FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR</b>
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**Oct/Nov:** Get-together & Dinner  
(Date/Venue to be decided)

**Dec. 12:** Annual General Meeting  
(Venue to be fixed in due  
course –  
**Member please keep the  
date free)**

***Date to Remember!***

Whatever else happens this year, 2002 will be numerologically notable. The month of February contains one of only two double-palindrome eight-digit dates occurring during this millennium, namely 20/02/2002. The only other eight-digit double-palindrome date this millennium is 21/12/2112. In the next millennium, of course, there will be only one such date, namely 30/03/3003.

Any new parent reading this letter whose child was born on 21 December 2001 might wish to keep this letter for posterity – particularly if the birth took place at 9.12 p.m. on that day. There is surely a chance that the newcomer will still be around to re-read the letter when celebrating his or her 111<sup>th</sup> birth day exactly at the 12 digit triple-palindrome anniversary moment of 21:12 21/12/2112.

Source: This letter appeared in the February issue of Physics World Magazine.

Well, it makes sense! Glad somebody finally figured it out!!

***FORGONE CONCLUSION!?!***

- (a) The Japanese eat very little fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans.
- (b) One the other hand, the French eat a lot of fat and also suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans

- (c) The Chinese drink very little red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans
- (d) The Italians drink excessive amounts of red wine and also suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans.

**Conclusion:** Eat and drink what you like. It is speaking English that kills you!!!

***Health Watch***

Amazing Brain !.....

The brain is truly an amazing organ in our body. Let us know more about it .....

- A nerve can send up to 1000 impulses per second
- The brain operates on the same amount of electricity as a 10-watt light bulb
- The adult brain has 14 billion nerve cells and weighs only 3 pounds
- The brain is 85% of water
- The brain uses 25% of all the body's oxygen
- The longest nerve is located in the leg and extending from the large toe to the spinal cord
- The pineal gland located in the center of the brain tells the body the time of day and season of the year.

**COY OLD BOY**

(With apologies to Thomas Gray (1716-1771))

When I was a young and ardent swain  
Full many a kiss I sought in vain.  
And many a girl, I blush to say,  
As I advanced, would slip away.

In darkened hallway, parlor, cab,  
I'd make my fierce but futile grab.  
Rebuffed my lonely way I'd go  
With pulses high but head hung low.



Today, as time has passed, I've found  
 There's been a sexual turn-around.  
 It's female lips that now seek me,  
 While I now back off warily,  
 In later life the kiss, you see,  
 Becomes a mere amenity.

An empty rite, a shake of hands,  
 Having naught to do with glands  
 And girl who wouldn't osculate  
 As matrons now are profligate.  
 They kiss at parties, cocktails, brunch,  
 Kiss friend or foe, the whole damn bunch.  
 Approached, I now avert my face  
 And shun perfunctory embrace.  
 I'm rude? I'm chilly? That may be,  
 But their pecking order's not for me.  
 So women, though you take offence,  
 There's cause for my indifference.  
 When I was shy and twenty-two,  
 Where were you when I needed you?

By: An Old Boy, Young at Heart

### *Great Lessons*

#### **Lesson 1 – Cleaning Lady**

During my second month of college, our professor gave us a pop quiz. I was a conscientious student and had breezed through the questions, until I read the last one: "What is the first name of the woman who cleans the school?" Surely this was some kind of joke. I had seen the cleaning woman several times. She was tall, dark-haired and in her 50s, but how would I know her name? I handed in my paper, leaving the last question blank. Just before class ended, one student asked if the last question would count toward our quiz grade "absolutely," said the professor. "In your careers, you will meet many people. All are significant. They deserve your attention and care, even if all you do is smile and say hello." I've never forgotten that lesson. I also learned her name was Dorothy.

#### **Lesson 2 – Pick-up in the Rain**

One night at 11.30 p.m. an older African American woman was stand on the side of an Alabama highway trying to endure a

lashing rainstorm. Her car had broken down and she desperately needed a ride. Soaking wet, she decided to flag down the next car. A young white man stopped to help her, generally unheard of in those conflict-filled 1960s. The man took her to safety, helped her get assistance and put her into a taxicab. She seemed to be in a big hurry, but wrote down his address and thanked him. Seven days went by and a knock came on the man's door. To his surprise, a giant console colour TV was delivered to his home. A special note was attached. It read "Thank you so much for assisting me on the highway the other night. The rain drenched not only my clothes, but also my spirits. Then you came along, because of you, I was able to make it to my dying husband's bedside just before he passed away. God bless you for helping me and unselfishly serving others.

Sincerely, Mrs. Nat King Cole

#### **Lesson 3 – Always remember those who serve**

In the days when an ice cream sundae cost much less, a 10-year-old boy entered a hotel coffee shop and sat at a table. A waitress put a glass of water in front of him. "How much is an ice cream sundae?" He asked. "Fifty cents," replied the waitress. The little boy pulled his hand out of his pocket and studied the coins in it. "Well how much is a plain dish of ice cream?" he inquired. By now more people were waiting for a table and the waitress was growing impatient. "Thirty-five cents," she brusquely replied. The little boy again counted his coins. "I'll have the plain ice cream," he said. The waitress brought the ice cream, put the bill on the table and walked away. The boy finished the ice cream, paid the cashier and left. When the waitress came back, she began to cry as she wiped down the table. There, placed neatly beside the empty dish, were two nickels and five pennies, You see, he couldn't have the sundae because he had to have enough left to leave her a tip.

#### Lesson 4 – The Obstacle in our Path

In ancient times, a King had a boulder placed on a roadway. Then he hid himself and watched to see if anyone would remove the huge rock. Some of the king's wealthiest merchants and courtiers came by and simply walked around it. Many loudly blamed the King for not keeping the roads clear, but none did anything about getting the stone out of the way. Then a peasant came along carrying a load of vegetables. Upon approaching the boulder, the peasant laid down his burden and tried to move the stone to the side of the road. After much pushing and straining, he finally succeeded. After the peasant picked up his load of vegetables, he noticed a purse lying in the road where the boulder had been. The purse contained many gold coins and a note from the King indicating that the gold was for the person who removed the boulder from the roadway. The peasant learned what many of us never understand. Every obstacle presents an opportunity to improve our condition.

#### Lesson 5 – Giving when it Counts

Many years ago, when I worked as a volunteer at a hospital, I got to know a little girl named Liz who was suffering from a rare and serious disease. Her only chance of recovery appeared to be a blood transfusion from her 5-year old brother, who had miraculously survived the same disease and

had developed the antibodies needed to combat the illness. The doctor explained her situation to her little brother and asked the little boy if he would be willing to give his blood to his sister. I saw him hesitate for only a moment before taking a deep breath and saying, "yes, I'll do it if it will save her." As the transfusion progressed, he lay in bed next to his sister and smiled, as we all did, seeing the colour returning to her cheek. Then his face grew pale and his smile faded. He looked up at the doctor and asked with a trembling voice, "will I start to die right away?"! Being young, the little boy had misunderstood the doctor; he thought he was going to have to give his sister all of his blood in order to save her. Yet he was willing.

#### REMEMBER

"Work like you don't need the money,  
love like you've never been hurt, and  
dance like you do when nobody's  
watching."

<p>Please send in your contributions by 30 October, 2004 for the next Newsletter to be published in December 2004, to The Newsletter, Calendar &amp; Publicity Committee, C/o. Mr. G.C. Wasalathanthri, 6, 6<sup>th</sup> Lane, Pagoda Road, Nugegoda</p>
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