



A Free World

for you, and for me, and for the entire human race

Team Speak

We all talk about the idea of a free press. But what we really need is a free world, free from restrictions, free from inhibitions and free from stereotypes. This world is for you, for me and for the entire human race. This newsletter is a compilation of pieces from different walks of life: latest mobile technology to human relationships, realism and surrealism, passivism and activism,...

There are a lot of articles in this edition that aim to make this world a better place. The article, 'Himalayan Mission' talks of one person's efforts in eradicating child sexual abuse, whereas 'Earth Hour' brings to our attention the immediate needs of the planet. Whether we like it or not, these are problems which we face in this world. There is a good mix of humour and literature that espouse a lot of aspects of life in general. The poems in particular discuss human nature in an interesting light.

The layout has been kept simple and is hopefully pleasing to the eye. Thanks are due to everyone who contributed to this. We enjoyed putting this together for you. We hope you enjoy reading it. Let us all, as the article, 'Carpe Diem' suggests, "Go sieze the day".

--The Team:

- Arun I*
- Prabhu P*
- Suresh Kannan M*
- Hari Prasad Gokul R*

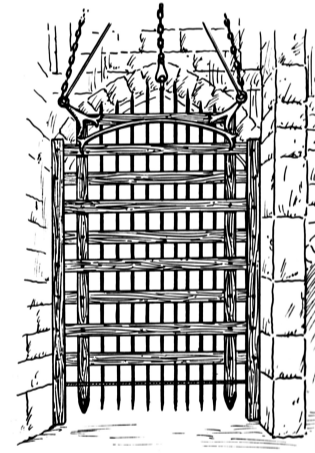
Linux' immunity to virus and self sufficiency in terms of software give it several key advantages over Windows... Unlike Windows, from day one to day infinity, your system boots fast and is robust...

The modern PC is a limitless ocean of power. Most people, I find, use it only to watch movies, play a few games or at the most do a little browsing and email. And as far as I am concerned, restricting the use of a device of such great power for something as frivolous as entertainment is crime. It is doing injustice to the multitudes of transistors switching on and off every few microseconds.

But, then again, it would be unfair to entirely blame people for this. The popular operating systems that most people commonly use do not provide too much scope for this kind of experimentation with and manipulation of the machine. For these purposes, I feel that the Unix/Linux class of operating systems is beyond compare. They provide you with a certain degree of flexibility and adaptability that I find lacking with the Windows class of operating systems. If you want something done in Windows, you most likely have to download some software from the Internet. And not all software are reliable. Some might even contain malware in them. But, when you want the same thing done in Linux, you can just do a little manipulation of the terminal commands built into the OS to get your task done. Of course, that would require a little bit of knowledge on the part of the user, but such knowledge can be acquired quite easily with a little bit of googling. Moreover, Linux comes with what is known as a repository of packages to customize and add extra features to your operating system. This is similar to the idea of software in Windows, but since packages are well tested and reviewed by the Linux user community, they tend to be safer and more reliable than third-party software.

Another important advantage of using Linux is the security that it provides. Any Windows user who has an Internet connection and frequently moves data on removable media (such as pen drives and memory cards) know what a nuisance viruses can be. And as a once large time Windows user, I know how I spent (or rather wasted) much of my time tracking down and hunting viruses. Linux, on the other hand,...

Continued on page 5...



Indoors

Linux -- 1

*Carpe Diem -- 2
Sieve the day*

*Youth in India -- 3
Realizing reality and beyond*

Numbers and Numerals -- 4

*3G -- 6
A Generation Ahead*

*Himalayan Mission -- 7
Attitude with Altitude*

Movie Review -- 8

*Earth Hour -- 9
Showtime*

Creation -- 10

*System Failure -- 11
Is it education?*

Carpe Diem

It has always been a mystery to me as to why people spend so much time, worrying about the future. Well, what if there is no future? What if the 2012 drama comes real? What if Armageddon plays spoilsport? Alright, I'm getting a bit pessimistic here. Let me come to the things that are in our hands. The future that we dream of is definitely, not for sure. And that is where the Latin phrase – "Carpe diem" comes into play!

Carpe diem, in pop culture, means "Seize the day". In a country such as France, that has had a dramatic history behind it, people in huge numbers, today, worship and preach Carpe diem. And, on a personal note, I was totally inspired and filled with tremendous awe by Professor John Keating – Dead Poets Society, who urged his students to seize every single moment in their lives and make them count dearly!

People, sometimes, spend too much time thinking about the past and the future. Well, I'm not telling you that one has to totally quit thinking about the past. That's not the point. It is indeed, very essential that one learns from his or her mistakes in the past. But at the same

time, there is no point in relishing one's success and other fruitful memories time and again. Mind you, they are history now!

Now, coming back to The Future, yes, one must have an idea or rather plan to make his future, a better one than what it is today. But that does not necessarily mean that he or she should make the present a living hell, in the name of sacrifice and patience. The fact is that, The Present is the most important thing in everyone's life. I mean, if it weren't for the present, there ain't going to be no future. Live life for the Day and live it king size! Just make sure that you live life for you. You don't have any point to prove to the others. Life shouldn't be lived that way. And hit the damn iron when it is red, steaming hot, I say!

After all, you exist for yourself and you are your own proof. You are the witness to your life. You are the judge, the jury and holder of the scale. Remember, you live life for you. And to conclude, as James Alan Hetfield says, "Go take this world and shake it, Go squeeze and suck the day, Go Carpe Diem!"

- Siddarth S
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If only, we'd known sooner...

When I was a teenager ,there had been a lot of stupid things I and my friends did that makes me wish we had already known not to do them.

Some are funny,some are serious and all are very true.

- * Don't drink coffee while wearing a white dress and walking to some place hurriedly.
- * Pressing the keys of your cellular phone's keypad (W350i in particular) continuously kinda makes the keypad come out of your phone.
- * If it hurts, DON'T DO IT AGAIN.
- * Always stay after class because that is where connections are made.
- * While getting your bike out through the gate, always, ALWAYS make sure that the gate is open.
- * Sometimes smart people can do very very stupid things.
- * Don't take GRE twice if you already have a good score in the first place.
- * If your conscience tells you not to do something, then don't.Your conscience is not stupid.
- * Your mom will find out if you cut your hair and then keep asking her if there is anything different about the way you look.
- * Siblings are incredibly precious and if you don't know this now, you will...trust me!
- * Life moves fast, but not so fast that you can't slow down to enjoy it.
- * Do not try to show off your balancing skills in front of everyone unless you are very VERY good.
- * Never try to run away from your mom while she's scolding you. She'd start screaming and everybody will know.
- * When someone flirts with you endlessly, it doesn't always mean that he/she likes you.
- * The heart does heal.
- * If they do not respect you, then they are not worth any of your time.
- * While chewing gum (especially Boomer!) during classes, never blow a bubble.
- * Ten years from now most of what we freak out about would seem like nothing.

Tat is all !!

- Uttam Kumar E
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Phone Call to God

An American decided to write a book about famous churches around the World. So he bought a plane ticket and took a trip to China. On his first day he was inside a church taking photographs when he noticed a golden telephone mounted on the wall with a sign that read '\$10,000 per call'. The American, being intrigued, asked a priest who was strolling by what the telephone was used for. The priest replied that it was a direct line to heaven and that for \$10,000 you could talk to God. The American thanked the priest and went along his way. Next stop was in Japan. There, at a very large cathedral, he saw the same golden telephone with the same sign under it. He wondered if this was the same kind of telephone he saw in China and he asked a nearby nun what its purpose was. She told him that it was a direct line to heaven and that for \$10,000 he could talk to God. "O.K., thank you," said the American.

He then traveled to Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Russia, Germany and France.. In every church he saw the same golden telephone with the same '\$10,000 per call' sign under it. The American, upon leaving Vermont decided to travel to up to India to see if Indians had the same phone. He arrived in India, and again, in the first church he entered, there was the same golden telephone, but this time the sign under it read 'One Rupee per call.'

The American was surprised so he asked the priest about the sign.

"Father, I've traveled all over World and I've seen this same golden telephone in many churches. I'm told that it is a direct line to Heaven, but in the US the price was \$10,000 per call.

Why is it so cheap here?"

The priest smiled and answered, "You're in India now, Son - it's a Local Call".

This is the only heaven on the Earth.

Realizing the Reality, Looking Beyond and Moving Ahead

We are living in the early part of the 21st century blessed with all kinds of opportunities and challenges. The forces of globalization and the technological innovations bring the world closer day by day and obviously we are moving towards a "World Without Walls". Of course, India as a young Republic is moving ahead for we are blessed with a very hopeful and better future. At present we are proud to proclaim that we have the maximum number of youth and our average age is forty five. At present we are the number one in gold consumption, and it is a well known fact that by possessing so much gold, our women are richer than the Indian government. The participation of Indians in the share market is more than that of any other country including the United States and the Western European nations. We are the largest producer of cotton. We are the toppers in IT and the second most populous state. We have the 4th largest army, 5th largest air force, 6th Nuclear power and we are the 7th largest in size and above all the largest democracy in the world. Further our Nation is the most diversified and has the maximum number of political parties and the maximum number of people participating in every election after our first election in 1952. In this way, election after election, we are breaking our own records. We can proudly proclaim that we are the most populous multi-party democracy.

However, as young Indians, we should prepare ourselves to look beyond this

positive side of our nation. We should know that the other side of India depicts a gloomy picture. Even after sixty years of our nation building experience, India is home to a very high number of illiterates and poor in the world. India holds the record for the highest number of TB, Leprosy, diabetic, BP and mental patients. Moreover, we have the maximum number of school drop out children. Further, our nation is beset with all forms of negative features like corruption (at all levels), crime, communalism, casteism, terrorism, growing number of suicides and rising divorce rates. Even well educated and decently employed youth are tired of living and scared of dying in many parts of the urban areas.

While realizing the two sides of Indian society, we educated youth should come forward with problem solving strategies to address the challenges. One scholar said that the greatest crisis India is facing in the 21st century is the leadership crisis and the others are moral or spiritual crisis. To meet the challenge the youth should come forward to face every challenge as an opportunity and every opportunity as a challenge to build a great, well developed, poverty free India in the near future. Let us dedicate ourselves to build a great nation by leading a moral and self disciplined life with determination and farsightedness.

- Mrs. Shantilin Lazarus, Principal, Dr. Anbu College of Education, Pondicherry University, Thuthipet, Puducherry

Presence of Mind

In a shop a man asked for 1/2 kg of butter. The salesperson, a young boy, said that only 1kg packs were available in the shop, but the man insisted on buying only 1/2 kg.

So the boy went inside to the manager's room and said "An idiot outside Wants to buy only 1/2 kg of butter".

To his surprise, the customer was standing behind him. So the boy added immediately, "And this gentleman wants to buy the other half!!!!!!".

After the customer left, the manager said "You have saved your position by being clever enough at the right time. Where do you come from?"

To this the boy said, "I come from Mexico. The place consists of only prostitutes and football players!!!!!!" The manager replied coldly, "My wife is also from Mexico".

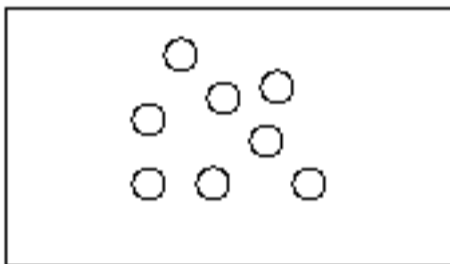
To this the boy asked excitedly, "Oh yeah? Which team does she play for?"

Presence of mind helps, never panic!!!!!!!

Numbers and Numerals

We have always counted 1, 2, 3 and so on. But why? Who made it so? Did some divine being deem it to be so? Why can't we count "differently"? How do we count "differently"? That's what this article aims to explain.

Natural numbers or counting numbers are a sequence of unique elements always written in a specific order. When we wish to count something (such as the group of circles as shown in the figure), we point at each in turn and call names in a certain specific sequence. In our conventional number system (one, two, three, four,...), we would say there are 'eight' number of circles. In the number system – close, watch, glow, kind, term, power, vouch, lecture, fling, dynamic, final – we would say that there are 'lecture' number of circles. In the number system – delete, need, café, divine, omit, lose, edge, bliss, booty –



we would say that there are 'bliss' number of circles and so on.

The examples I have cited use words as numbers. But numbers need not necessarily be words. They can be a sequence of sounds, pictures, memories or just about anything. Hence, in the definition, I have used the general term 'elements'.

Properties of a Number System

(i) Uniqueness of Elements

If the elements are not unique, it becomes impossible to distinguish between two or more numbers. Hence to avoid ambiguity, the elements of a number system should always be unique

(ii) Sequential Property of Elements

If the elements are not arranged in a specific sequential order, their value gets 'distorted'. Hence the sequential position of elements is an integral property of any number system.

Numbers and Numerals

The terms, 'numbers' and 'numerals' are often confused and used interchangeably. But there exists a subtle shade of difference in meaning between the two words. Numbers are abstract

concepts whereas numerals are the actual physical representations of the abstract concept of numbers. 'One, two, three,...' and '1,2,3,...' are numerals which represent their respective abstract number concepts. As such, in actuality, the examples we have discussed are not numbers and number systems but numerals and numeration systems.

Numeration Systems

There are different types of numeration systems (additive, multiplicative and positional) of which this article deals with only the positional or place value system. Some of the commonly used place value systems are the binary system, the decimal system, the duodecimal system and the hexadecimal system. Each place value system uses a specific number of symbols known as its base. The binary system uses two symbols 0 and 1. The decimal system uses ten symbols 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9. The duodecimal system uses twelve symbols 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, T and E. The hexadecimal system uses sixteen symbols 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, A, B, C, D, E, F.

Consider the decimal system. That the decimal system employs an ones place, a tens place, a hundreds place,... is well known and I shall not go into that. That is not the subject matter of this article.

The decimal system uses ten symbols – 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9. In order to generate the first number, we use the first symbol alone. Thus, we get '0'. In order to generate the next number, we replace the first symbol with the next symbol. Thus, we get '1'. Likewise we work our way down to '9'. Now we have run out of symbols. So we revert back to the first symbol and insert the second symbol before it. Thus, we get '10'. Now, we once again repeat the process to get 11, 12, 13,....., 19. Once again we have run out of symbols in the ones place. So, in the ones places, we revert back to the first symbols and we replace the symbol in the tens place with the next symbol. Thus, we get '20'. This process goes on and on till infinity.

The process described above may appear complex but it is better understood if it is considered analogous to the operation of a counter (the sort used in petrol bunks and automobile mile-o-meters).

Lingua Pura

It is of interest to note that since the English alphabet is after all a set of

0	0	0
0	0	1
0	0	2
0	0	3

0	1	1
0	1	2
0	1	3

0	0	9
0	1	0

0	1	9
0	2	0

twenty six symbols, it may also be considered as a numeration system. But in order to ensure proper conversion of English words into numbers, we need to include a zero. For the purpose of our discussion, we shall use the Greek letter, omega (ω) as our zero. That makes English a base twenty seven numeration system. The English numeration system has an ones place, a twenty sixes place, a six hundred and seventy sixes place and so on. Hence the first few "numerals" of the English alphabet are A, B, C, D, E,....,Z, A\$, AA, AB, AC,...

In a similar fashion, the script of any language may be adopted as a numeration system. Hence all languages can be expressed in the language of mathematics which I rightly call the lingua pura – the pure language.

Applications

***The lingua pura concept can be used as a means to transcript between different languages. Naturally, it would tend to provide meaningless results but if you are interested, have fun.

***On a more serious note, this new approach to numerals can be used in constructing electronic counting machines.

***While programming brute force hackers, which operate by generating all possible passwords, the programming script would be much easier to handle, if the generated passwords are treated as numerals.

***Though it is unlikely, the lingua pura concept may have applications in data processing and compression.

"God made the integers, all else is the work of man."

Exhibition Matches : Boon or Bane for Indian Football?

We have all dreamed of the world's most skillful football players coming to our shores and displaying skills not known to us and now that dream is coming true but frankly are these matches worth it ?

If we look at the financial side of the story, it is extremely expensive for the organizers to organize even one friendly. Recently Tottenham Hotspur expressed an interest to play a friendly at the Salt Lake Stadium against East Bengal. That deal is as good as blown as nobody was willing to foot the bill.

What came to light was that the price demanded by a relatively second rung team like the Spurs was around 500,000 Pounds (plus The cost of Accommodation and Travel) which by no stretch of imagination is a small amount. The other friendly was the much hyped Bayern Munich-Mohun Bagan game which set Bengal Peerless back by a hefty amount. While it's true that it gives us an opportunity to see our heroes live and that there is a sudden spurt in the popularity of football but then the question is : How do these games help the overall image of football in our country.

This money could have been put to better use. It could help organize international friendlies where our national team gets a chance to test themselves against a slightly stronger opposition. It will also give our team a chance to improve it's rankings. We all know how our U-16 team defeated Asian giants away from home to qualify for the AFC U-16 Championship.

This money could have been used to help them prepare for that tournament by organizing friendlies and training stints etc.

Boon or Bane ??? You decide.

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Linux...

Continued from page 1...

Linux, on the other hand, is as good as immune to viruses. This is because viruses are all self executing EXE files and Linux supports no EXE files! Other factors are that Linux demands the administrator password for modifying or accessing key system features. So, even if the virus starts executing, it cannot do much harm without the administrator password. And away from the virus arena, Linux also has superior data security in that your local hard disks cannot be accessed (or, in more technical terms, mounted) without the administrator password. From my perspective, this feature is a teeny weeny bit irritating, but, trust me, it is very handy in keeping your data secure in public computers and servers.

Linux' immunity to virus and self sufficiency in terms of software give it several key advantages over Windows. First of all, Linux needs no anti-virus software. Anti-virus software are usually prowling your disks for viruses and malware and hence consume quite a lot of CPU cycles and disk usage. And since Linux needs no anti-virus, you get to save all those valuable system resources. Thus, unlike Windows, from day one to day infinity, your system boots fast and is robust. This is specially important when you are running heavy programs like Matlab.

And, now coming to the all time superstar of Linux – the one thing which adds the versatility edge to the Linux OS – the Linux terminal! This positively fantastic component of the OS is what keeps me totally addicted to it. You think of anything you want to do and you can do it with the terminal. True it requires some understanding of the commands, but then again that isn't all that difficult. The arguments or parameters that you can pass to the commands can be subtly varied to create the exact nuances that you want in your task. So, you get exactly what you want done, not compromise yourself with the limited features of some third party GUI software. But before you get too excited, a word of caution – the terminal gets as close to the raw energies of the machine as you can get. And raw energies need to be very carefully controlled and directed. Else, what you get is BOOM! If you find yourself unable to imagine what “BOOM” could mean, just think of the difference between the commands 'rm *~' and 'rm * ~' - the only difference is a space between '*' and '~'. While, the first command deletes all the files ending with ~ in the working directory, the second command deletes your entire working directory, (and as though that wasn't enough damage), your entire home folder! Well, if you

still don't understand the seriousness of this, trust me – I know how it feels to have all that you had done in 4 years deleted by a simple typo...

And before I sign off, did I miss something? Ah, yes...! I told you how flexible linux commands were and how they can be used to exactly meet your requirements, but what if there were a long list of commands you needed to input and you wished you could just automate them? Linux has an answer – shell scripts!! Just type in the list of commands to be executed into an ordinary file and then execute the file. And voila, you have your shell script! Well, that was a very simple straight forward shell script. The more sophisticated shell scripts (believe me, even the sophisticated ones are easier to program than C) actually support condition checking, loops, functions, pipes, user input and more! And given the vastness and diversity of Linux commands, shell scripting is truly a programming language of its own right.

And being an open source operating system under the GNU licence, Linux is totally free to download and use. You are not restricted by any EULA to be selfish and install it only on your machine. So, what are you waiting for? Go on, give it a try... :-)

- Arun I
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"In a world with no walls or fences, we don't need Windows or Gates".

- Lines on a Linux Page



3G, A Generation Ahead

Imagine a world where you can do everything with just one device and still be able to carry it around? That's 3G for you. The next generation of mobile phones can do almost everything you need for a fast paced life. You can make the regular phone calls and apart from it, there's more. Like watching IPL on your mobile phone, having super-fast Internet everywhere you go and seeing the face of the caller? Do read on! The mobile phones that we now use belong to the second generation or 2G. We already enjoy talking with people on the move or sending forwarded SMS to our friends. A considerable section likes to use mobile phones for Internet connectivity. For people staying in university boarding, this is the only option for private Internet connection. Now, 2G has brought us more mobility in our lives, but it is time for more. 3G offers us wide ways to suit our needs.

First come the calls. 3G can handle voice calls much better than regular 2G phones. Clarity is better, plus it can handle greater amount of calls, so the cost reduces. Even now, BSNL the only company offering 3G has very less call rates compared to 2G. With video calls, we can see the faces of the one whom we are talking with! Imagine showing off to your friends something while being miles away! Or showing your boss or professor the current status of your project work through mobile phone. 3G makes it all possible. Video calls are less jerky when compared to the ones done in Yahoo, as the connection is dedicated.

3G's Internet capabilities are superior compared to 2G. Earlier we had the slow GPRS for Internet (2.5G) and later the faster EGPRS (2.75G). Basic 3G comes with 384kbps connection speed, that can serve most of our Internet needs! Additionally a enhanced 3.5G enabled phone and tower can boost the download speed up to 14Mbps. Fast Internet connectivity is necessary as we grow more and more dependent on technology. Music and movies can be downloaded much, much faster using 3G. Or, you can stream it online to watch it! As of now, in the introductory phase, most 3G users have experienced speeds of 2 Mbps using 3G internet. A movie will take only 1 hour to

download at this rate!

Mobile TV can be truly useful. Suppose you're travelling and a cricket match is going on between India and Pakistan? Or IPL? You wouldn't want to miss it, would you? Mobile TV comes to your rescue. With a wider band operation, 3G can stream video so that you can watch local TV channels. This one can also be used in travelling buses to stream local channels instead of boring and repetitive songs.

Web conferencing is another application of 3G. There's much more about 3G, but this much is enough for an introduction. Currently, the telecom body DoT (Department of Telecommunications), Indian government and the Finance Ministry is in chaos regarding various issues. This has resulted in a delay of 3G services that should have been launched late 2008. As for now, the date of auction is said to be around April 2010. But, BSNL and MTNL has been given the privilege of giving 3G services. It has been launched in 300 cities over India and 38 cities in Tamil Nadu.

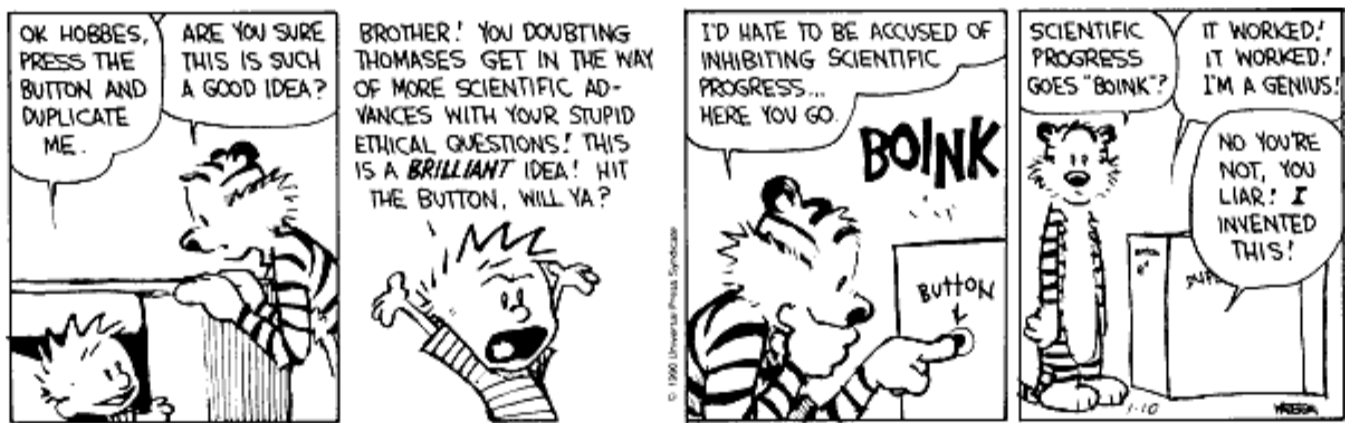
Hopefully this article gave you an insight into the third generation of cellular technology.

- **Anand I**
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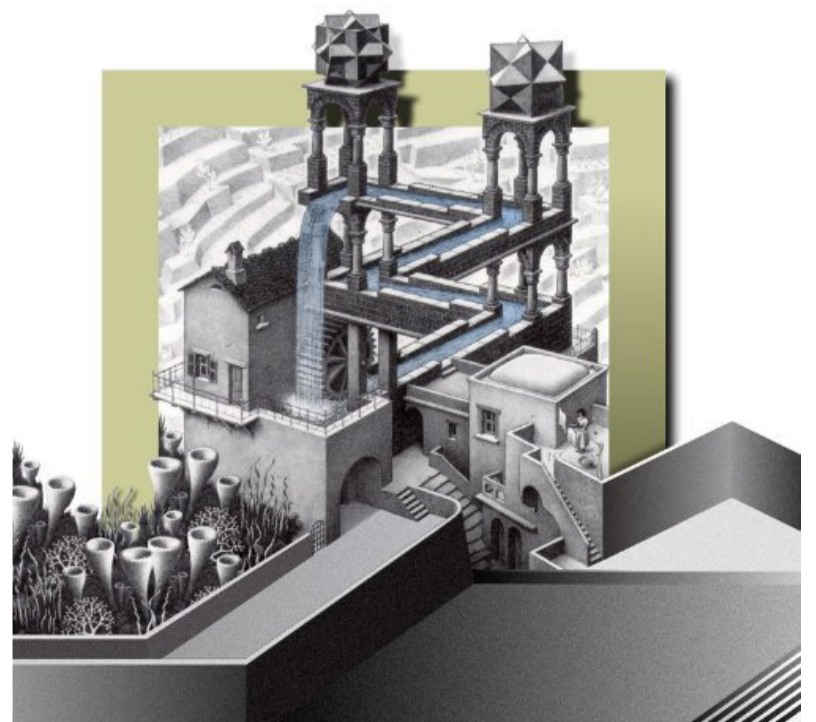
Fun with Letter F

Famous Franklin of France has a faded Ferrari and drove the Ferrari fast for fun. Franklin overtook a Ford as Franklin was not fond of following any Ford. Franklin found Florentyna forfeited from Finland with her father Francis who was a faithful but ferocious Fascist and also a feminist. Francis had also fought for fellowship even for felons. But fate let them find only a farm for shelter. Franklin was fascinated at first sight by Florentyna and fell in love with her. Franklin found a flaming flamboyant flint and with a frenzied look and frantic thought, gave it to Florentyna in that frigid frosty night. Foolish Florentyna with a fizzle got the flamboyant flint. Florentyna who had a fragile heart fainted due to rise in 100 Fahrenheit, and was flabbergasted when she found Franklin, instead of giving first aid, following another Ford in which there were four females!

What a fuzzy end???
- **Naresh R**



This enigmatic sketch is an example of the works of M.C. Escher, a Dutch graphic artist known for his often mathematically inspired woodcuts, lithographs, and mezzotints. These feature impossible constructions, explorations of infinity, architecture, and tessellations. His well known works are Relativity, Waterfall, Hand with Reflecting Sphere. He was influenced by Islamic architecture and Giovanni Battista Piranesi. He was honoured by the Knighthood of the Order of Orange-Nassau.



Himalayan Mission

On March 29, 2010, SANDHOSH KUMAR will embark on a 65-day journey to climb the world's tallest mountain in order to raise awareness on the problem of Child Sexual Abuse in India

Child Sexual Abuse is a rampant problem, creating social havoc for the children, adult survivors, and society at large. Studies indicate that world-wide, one out of every three girls and one out of every six boys are abused. According to a recent survey, over 53% of children in India are victims of sexual abuse. Not enough has been done to prevent this menace in a country where the population of children exceeds 400 million.

In India, the root of the problem lies at the lack of knowledge and acceptance about the problem of Child Sexual Abuse. Thus, the first step to uproot this problem is to understand what Child Sexual Abuse is and to acknowledge its presence in our society.

2007 Survey by Indian Ministry of Women and Child development:

53% of children in India face one or more forms of sexual abuse

50% of the offenders are usually known to the victims (family, friends or people in positions of trust)

Boys are equally at risk as girls

Climb Everest With Me is working with 'We are Children', a campaign to urge people to take preventive action on Child Sexual Abuse. The campaign strives to create a network of individuals and corporates to understand the need to support organisations that address Child Sexual Abuse. More info at www.wearechildren.org. As part of raising awareness and assisting the campaign, Climb Everest With Me has launched www.millionpledges.com, an initiative to get a million pledges to break the silence against Child Sexual Abuse. .

Please visit the website of the organizations supported to better understand the problem of Child Sexual Abuse in India as well as the work they do. Climb Everest With Me will be donating part of the funds raised towards organisation/s

addressing Child Sexual Abuse in India. You are also welcome to make donations directly to these organizations.

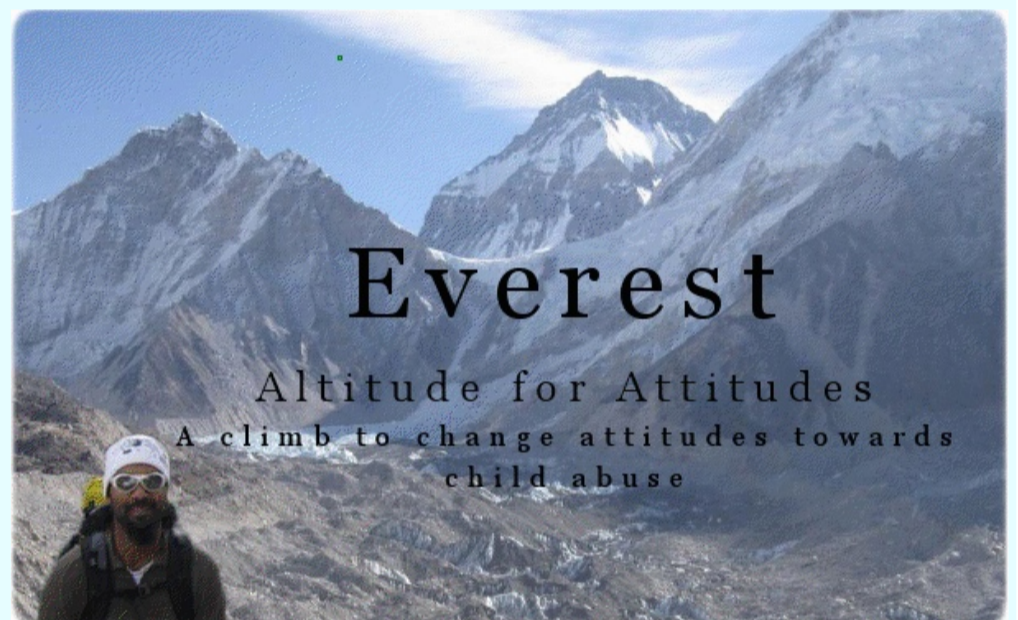
This mission of Sandhosh's is going to take him to the top of the world. For him it is something enjoyable. For him, mountains are great teachers who have taught him much. And here he is, attempting the Himalayan Task literally, for a cause. Yet it is also clear that all of us who want to make a change need not climb Mt. Everest. He has brought us one step closer to the goal through his campaign.

He may be the one scaling the mountain, but we all have to together face this problem which is of the same proportions. And it is high time we Act, as individuals, corporates, as humanity.

This may be one step, but it is nevertheless one big step. All the best Sandhosh.

For more information, please visit www.climbeverestwithme.com and www.millionpledges.com

- **Hari Prasad Gokul R**
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Bagan is an ancient city in the Mandalay Division of Burma. Formally titled Arimaddanapura or Arimaddana (the City of the Enemy Crusher) and also known as Tambadipa (the Land of Copper) or Tassadessa (the Parched Land), it was the ancient capital of several ancient kingdoms in Burma. Bagan was submitted to become a UNESCO heritage site[1] but many speculate of politics as partly the reason for the exclusion. UNESCO does not designate Bagan as a World Heritage Site. The main reason given is that the military junta (SPDC) has haphazardly restored ancient stupas, temples and buildings, ignoring original architectural styles and using modern materials which bear little or no resemblance to the original designs. Nevertheless, this is still a must-see wonder of the world.

- **Nardhini S**

Ancient City of Bagan Shining in Divine Light

Vinnaihaandi Varuvaaya

This Tamil romancer has been released on 26th February. In this movie, Silambarasan Rajendar plays a main role 'Karthick' & Trisha Krishnan casts her roles as 'Jessie'. The Oscar award winner A R Rahman is scoring this movie music. Vinnaihaandi Varuvaaya is a long flow of emotions, events and romance. In the movie, Karthick (Simbu) is a 22 year old guy who wants to become a film maker and spends much of his time to get the chance for the same. Jessie (Trisha), a 23 year old girl is fresh, intelligent and in fact beautiful. Though Karthick is younger, he is ready to face family and social responsibility but Jessie is indecisive about making such decisions. Does this young couple finally make it together for a blissful relationship? That's really the suspense.

A R Rahman's instrumental has added extra flowers to the already enchanting bouquet. Director of photography, Manoj has prettified Trish and in fact she looks prettier than in her previous appearances. The next thing worthy of praise in the film is the screenplay and

dialogue by G V Menon. The dialogue makes you giggle at times and sometimes makes us feel how can one be so romantic. A faster screenplay will spoil the romantic mood of the audience. Editor Antony has done a decent job but might have instructed his men to chop off a few reels.

Many of the scenes in the film are shot in foreign countries like USA, Italy, Malta Islands and Pennsylvania. The major part of the budget was spent on such travel. Songs 'Hossana' and 'Mannipaya' at the right time puts the audience comfortable in their seat and pat their hands on their laps.

On the whole, it is a romantic bird for all those who love Gautam's film making.

Rating: ***

* - not so interesting
** - not bad

*** - good

**** - excellent

- Balaji V

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Just before giving a lavish party at his estate, a tycoon had his swimming pool filled with poisonous snakes. He called the guests together and announced, "To anyone brave enough to swim across this pool, I will give the choice of a 1000 hectares of my fields, 10,000 herd of cattle or my daughter's hand in marriage". No sooner were his words spoken than a young man plunged in, swam across the pool and climbed out unscathed but breathless.

"Congratulations!", the tycoon greeted him.

"Do you want my oil fields?"

"No!", gasped the guest.

"The 10,000 herd of cattle?"

"No!", the young man shouted.

"Well, how about my daughter's..."

"No!"

"You must want something", said the puzzled host.

"I just want to know the name of the guy who pushed me in!"

F.R.I.E.N.D.S

Tell me something friends can't do,
They are always by your side,
Always doing everything you do,
Being a friend, philosopher and guide.

They stay with you in hardships and joy,
Every moment of your life,
They help you out with every problem,
They are the reason to be alive.

With their lovely soothing words,
They can heal the deepest pricks,
Or if that doesn't work,
A warm hug should do the trick.

Even when you are sick in bed,
They come to you and say,
"Get well soon, my dear friend,
Then come over so we can play."

They are the best to share your secrets,
You can trust them forever,
They will never let you down,
And insulting you?? Never!

- Neetha Susy Thomas

Earth Hour

Earth Hour is a global event organized by, also WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature known as World Wildlife Fund) and is held on the last Saturday of March annually, asking households and businesses to turn off their non-essential lights and other electrical appliances for one hour to raise awareness towards the need to take action on climate change. Earth hour was conceived by WWF and The Sydney Morning Herald in 2007, when 2.2 million residents of Sydney participated by turning off all non-essential lights. Following Sydney's lead, many other cities around the world adopted the event in 2008. Earth Hour 2010 will take place on March 27, 2010 from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., local time.

EARTH HOUR 2008:

Earth Hour 2008 was held internationally on March 28, 2008 from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. local time, marking the first anniversary of the event. With 35 countries around the world participating as official flagship cities and over 400 cities also supporting, Earth Hour 2008 was celebrated on all seven continents. Iconic landmarks all around the world turned off their non-essential lighting for Earth Hour, including the Sydney Opera House (Sydney, Australia), Empire State Building (New York City, USA), Sears Tower (now Willis Tower, Chicago, USA), Golden Gate Bridge (San Francisco, USA), Bank of America Plaza (Atlanta, USA), Space Needle (Seattle, USA), Table Mountain (Cape Town, South Africa), the Colosseum (Rome, Italy), Royal Castle (Stockholm, Sweden), London's City Hall (United Kingdom), the CN Tower (Toronto, Canada), SM Mall of Asia, SM Science Discovery Center (Manila, Philippines), Suva (Fiji), Nidaros Cathedral (Trondheim, Norway), The Royal Liver Building (Liverpool, United Kingdom), Petronas Twin Towers (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia), KL Tower (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia), Wat Arun Buddhist Temple (Bangkok, Thailand) and the Azrieli Center (Tel Aviv, Israel).

The official website for the event, earthhour.org, received over 6.7 million unique visitors in the week leading up to Earth Hour. Other websites took part in the event, with Google's homepage going "dark" on the day Earth Hour took place.

According to a Zogby International

online survey, 36 million people participated in Earth Hour 2008. The survey also showed there was a 4 percentage point increase in awareness of environmental issues such as climate change, directly after the event.

EARTH HOUR-2009:

Earth Hour 2009 was from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm time, March 28, 2009. 88 countries and 4,088 cities participated in Earth Hour 2009, ten times more cities than Earth Hour 2008 had (2008 saw 400 cities participate). One billion "votes" was the stated aim for Earth Hour 2009, in the context of the pivotal 2009 United Nations Climate Change Conference.

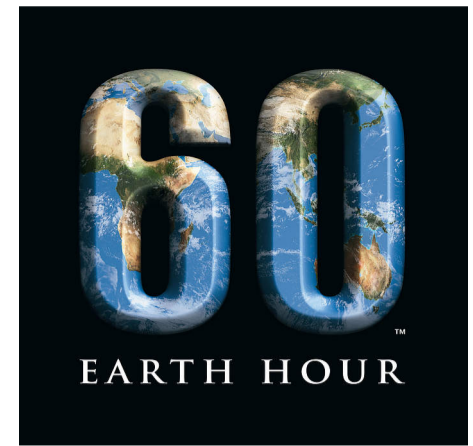
Among the participants in 2009 was, for the first time, the United Nations headquarters in New York City. The U.N. conservatively estimates that its participation will save \$102 in energy. Reports show that the United States topped the Earth Hour participation with an estimated 80,000,000 people, 318 cities and 8 states participating. The Philippines saw participation from 647 cities and towns or over 15 million Filipinos were estimated to have joined in the hour-long lights-off at 8:30 - 9:30 PM local time. This was followed by Greece with 484 cities and towns participating, and Australia with 309.

The Canadian province of Ontario, excluding the city of Toronto, saw a decrease of 6% of electricity while Toronto saw a decrease of 15.1% (nearly doubled from 8.7% the previous year) as many businesses darkened, including the landmark CN Tower. Swedish electricity operator Svenska Kraftnät recorded 2.1% decrease in power consumption from its projected figure between 8 p.m. and 9 p.m. The following hour, the corresponding number was 5%. This equals the consumption of approximately half a million households out of the total 4.5 million households in Sweden.

According to Vietnam Electricity Company, Vietnam electricity demand fell 140,000 kWh during Earth Hour. The Philippines was able to save 611 MWh of electricity during the time period, and is said to be equivalent to shutting down a dozen coal-fired power plants for an hour.

Turn out your light, show support...

In 2009 hundreds of millions of people



around the world showed their support by turning off their lights for one hour. Earth Hour 2010 will continue to be a global call to action to every individual, every business and every community. A call to stand up, to show leadership and be responsible for our future. Pledge your support here and turn off your lights for one hour, Earth Hour, 8.30pm, Saturday 27th March 2010.

It's showtime! Show what can be done!

- Siddarth S



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- The Editor

The Unsolved Mystery in History!! - "Creation of the Universe"

Who would have ever thought that the answer to this difficult question, lies hidden, in a small story?!! Let the secret be unleashed this very moment! Cling on to your seats... Here we go...!

God stepped out on space, and he looked around and said, "I am lonely... I'll make me a world". As far as the eye of God could see, darkness covered everything... blacker than a hundred midnights down in a cypress-swamp. Then, God smiled and light broke out, the darkness rolling up on one side!! The light stood shining on the other, and God said, "That's good".

Then, God reached out and took the light in His hands and God rolled the light around in His hands, until He made the SUN!! He set that sun ablazing in the Heavens. And the light that was left from making the sun, God gathered it up in a shining ball and flung it against the darkness... spangling the night with the MOON and the STARS!! Then, down between the darkness and the light, He held the world and God said, "That's good".

Then, God Himself stepped down, and the sun was on His right hand, and the moon, was on His left. The stars were clustered about His head and the earth was under His feet! Then, God walked, and where He trod, His footsteps hollowed the valleys out and bulged the mountains up!

God stopped and saw that the earth was hot and barren. So, He stepped over to the edge of the world and He spat out the seven seas! He batted his eyes and lightning flashed... He clapped His hands and thunder rolled!

The waters above the earth came down... the cooling waters came down. Then, the green grass sprouted and the little red flower blossomed! The pine tree pointed its finger to the sky and the oak spread out its arms. The lakes cuddled down in the hollows of the ground and the rivers ran down to the sea.

Amazed by His own creation, God smiled again... And the rainbow appeared and curled itself around His shoulder!! Then, God raised His arm and waved His hand over the sea and over the land, and he said, "Bring forth... Bring forth..."

And quicker than God could drop His

hand, fishes, fowls, beasts and birds, swam the rivers and the seas; roamed the forests and the woods; split the air with their wings... and God said, "That's good". Then, God walked around and looked around on all that he had made. He looked at His sun, He looked at His moon, He looked at His little stars! He looked on His world, with all its living things and said, "I am lonely still". Then, God sat down, by the side of a hill, where he could think.

By a deep, wide river, He sat down, with His head in His hands, and said, "Hmm... I'll make me a MAN". Up from the bed of the river, God scooped the clay, and by the bank of the river, God knelt him down and there, the great God, who lit the stars and fixed it to the sky; who flung the stars to the farthest corners of the night; who rounded the earth in the middle of His hand... This great God like a mother, bending over her baby, knelt down in the dust, toiling over a lump of clay, till He shaped it in His own image, and into it, He blew the breath of life, "Phooo...!"

And, man became a living soul...!! And, at last, God had made his master piece!

- Blessie A Winsha

Hope

Like a solitary craft on the seven seas,
Like a lonely traveler amidst jungle trees,

On destiny's sea, our course we plot;
On fate's winding labyrinth, our route we jot.

We do not know where the winds will take us,
Nor when the jungle will break us.

Our bodies, time may batter.
But our souls, it cannot shatter.

Words of despair, our lips will not phrase.
Any tempest, with courage, we shall face.

Our hearts will ever be bold,
And our feet never cold.

Now, in gloomy darkness, we may grope.
But there is always the bright white light of hope.

- Arun I
(theroarofthedragon@gmail.com)



A Hopeful Ray of Sunshine

"We are all in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars"

- Oscar Wilde

System Failure

On the first day of my college in a boring quantum physics class, the lecturer has just told that a state function is a mathematical function which contains all information about the state of a physical system and the state depends on the environment in which the physical system is kept. Suddenly, a guy just stood up and asked the lecturer, "So, why can't we derive a state function which has the information about the state of the human mind, a physical system? And why can't we have differential operators which when operated on that state function gives the value of the dynamical variables (which changes with environment and time) called happiness, love, sadness, etc.?" I was startled by the brilliant idea. It is possible as quantum theory can deal with any physical system in the universe. The same guy asked another question in Linear Algebra class, "Why can our eyes only perceive three dimensions?" And from the next day, he

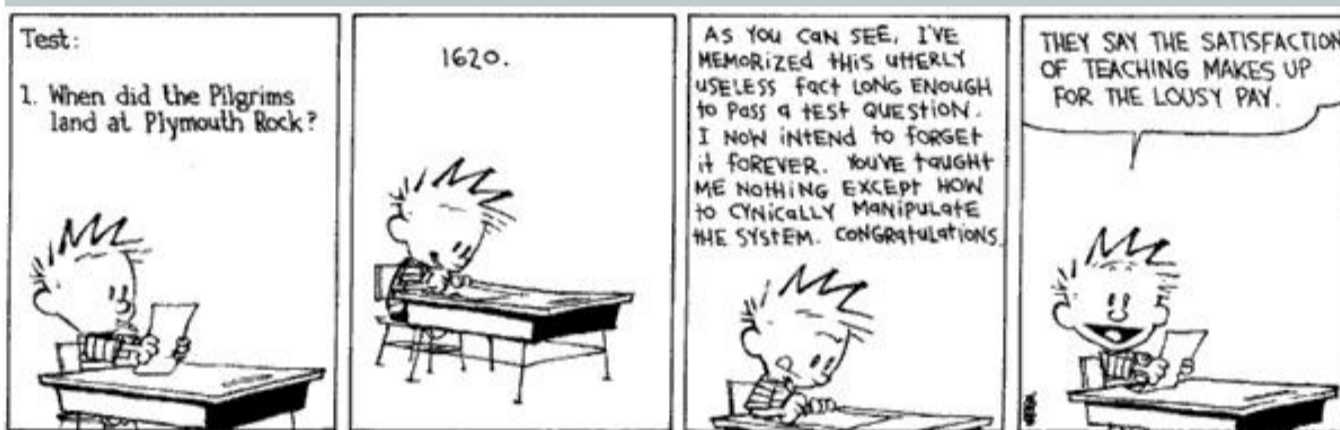
started studying the physiology of eye and books on neurology.

The guy I mentioned above is a fellow who saw no distinction between the world and subject and who thinks beyond the limits of human logic. These are the guys who think differently and will ultimately make the difference. Just think. What makes them different from us? What makes people like John Nash, who saw mathematics in every part of his life, Albert Einstein, whose creative imagination knows no bounds, great? Because they don't think of marks in their internals which come every two months as we do. They don't worry about GPs in their semesters. They don't think of completing their observations for the hopeless lab classes or the unimaginative assignments which our lecturers give. They appreciate the beauty of nature in its crude original form without being dissected.

But the system today is in such a way

that instead of appreciating them, we criticize them. We study more about devices and less about principles, but a device is something that works on a principle. We worry about mathematical derivations, not of mathematical modelling. This is what our inefficient present educational system is. As Albert Einstein has said, a rational mind is like a servant, but a intuitive mind is like a gift. But we have created a society that appreciates the servant and completely forgets the sacred gift. A small correction in the sentence – Here, I refer to the people who are confined to their curriculum and worry more about their marks than beauty as servants and the boundless creative imagination as a sacred gift. Similar examples exist in other fields also, for instance, people like Bobby Fischer, who dare to plan for a sacrificial analysis in the final round of the World Chess Championship (imagine the pressure!) and persons like Virendar Sehwal, who dare to hit a six at an individual score of 199. These courageous people, who saw no distinction between a win and a loss, applause and criticism, and who care for the beauty of their work definitely deserve greatness.

- **Gedela Uday Kiran**
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Worms World Party

Worms World Party (WWP) features the slambanging action of tiny wiggly harmless looking worms, but don't be fooled by its childish appearance. You get involved in the gameplay and you don't feel like stopping.

As the game goes, you get to lead a bunch of worms and your only goal is to eliminate everyone else in the game to win. The vast variety of ways to finish off a worm is what really makes the game interesting. You can shoot it, punch it, blast it, drown it, trap it, burn it, hit it and so on the list goes.

The game also comes with lots of variants in game modes and so one can try different combinations of scenarios. As can be expected, a few of such combinations turn out to be pathetic with the game going completely in favour of one team. But the undeniable truth is that luck plays quite some role in winning, as the game provides random starting positions for the

worms, which might not always turn out to be fair competition.

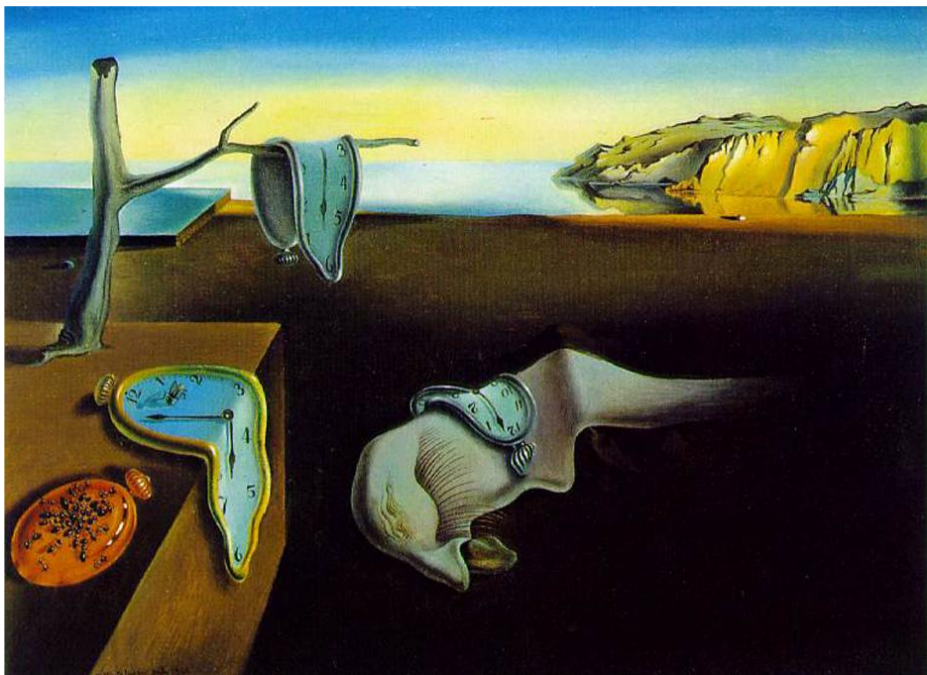
A few scenarios give a very good playing experience and the transportation modes used in the games, such as ninja rope, parachute, bungee, etc. need to be mastered before you can start playing really quick.

The chain of events caused by an explosion (Worm is shot, falls on a mine, which explodes near an oil drum, hurting all nearby worms, finally one drowning, ...) are fun to watch especially with massive weapons that usually come in the randomly appearing (!) crates (keep an eye out for 'em).

One missing feature is the lack of preview for the scenario you are about to play. The game runs smoothly and is not overly demanding on system resources. Graphics is very childish yet very appealing and the sound track is excellent. The violence in the game is made really funny and this is the game for you if you don't like shooting real soldiers in serious war games. Try your hand shooting the little wormies. ;-)

- **Sudhakar M K**
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Where time and space meld into one another

Dreamland

I lived in a beautiful castle of dreams,
castle of dreams, castle of dreams,
Where flowers of hope blossomed around,
And spread the fragrance of love..
My dreamland, my dreamland,
Where God dwelled in every human,
It was a land where happiness was valued more than jewels,
A land where no demons of selfishness can step in,
Its my dreamland, its your dreamland,
Its a dreamland of every human,
So lets brings hands together,
And build our dreamland today.

- Thanesa Iyer



60
EARTH HOUR

Time to join the revolution

Global warming is now the greatest threat we have ever faced. But we can make a difference if we act together.

Join Earth Hour. Switch off your lights for 60 minutes on 29 March and stop global warming before it's too late.

8pm Saturday March 29, 2008
See your world in a whole new light.

www.earthhour.org



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Once again, we'd like to thank everyone involved in the making of this newsletter.

A Free World
W L L G G M O L I A

for you, and for me, and for the entire human race

