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Living the SECONDS.....

Swetha Kannan

Well it's yet another fresh start of a Gregorian calendar year.....Something that dawns in our mind along with the birth of a year are New Year resolutions. Billions of people and their zillions of desires egress in the name of resolutions. While there are a lot of those for whom resolutions might have proven to be a watershed of their lifetime, yet, personally this isn't one of my favourite words of the dictionary. And I'll tell you why!!! Now let's not take up things like trying to quit smoking or drinking, there are already enough organisations to take care of that. Those are serious problems that you have to address in order to attain a stable life, but what about those who already do have a stable life and are far from recognising it? What about the common man whose face lit up when the Sensex hit 19600 as the US Senate passed a budget deal?? What about the teenager who dreams of flaunting with the new Apple iPhone 5? What about the corner street girl who couldn't make it on time for her first audition? Or what about the couple who are celebrating their 60th anniversary? These are moments that either shoot up your cortisol levels or lower them.

A human mind always seeks something or the other. Ranging from a little kid who keeps bugging his parents for a PlayStation to an 80-year-old man of affairs who dreams of a new franchise, we endlessly seek. We always keep dreaming of the time that never comes. From tomorrow I'll be on a new fat-free diet...let me not fight with my girlfriend on her next phone call....from Monday I would not be late to office.....from next month on let me cut down my leisure time.....let me start studying from next semester.....five years from now I start working on my new house plans.....on and on, these not-today resolutions extend to the power of infinity. We always find an excuse to elude this second, this minute or the word "today".

Have you realised the value of each and every second that you have been gifted with? One second is what it takes for the sun to generate 400 trillion watts of energy!! One second is what it takes for our brain to perform 10^{16} synaptic operations, for a meteor entering earth's atmosphere to travel 71 kilometres. Three seconds is what it takes for an F-22 Raptor fighter jet to travel a mile at its top cruising speed!! And in one minute there are almost 695,000+ Facebook status updates! Now I'm not gonna tell you the same old stories that time is running and you run along with it as fast as you could, only to lose your mind at half the way!! But just to remind you of how you are losing this second that's right there in your hands, by worrying about your 'present-n' seconds and lost in the dreams of 'present+n' seconds.

We have already been endowed with all the marvellous things that life has got to offer. The marvel of living this moment in itself is one of them. There are thousands of people out there devoid of even the basic amenities required for human survival. When we are equipped with the ability to spend so much on parties and celebrations on a New Year....will our thoughts drift towards those who are dying without even water in Somalia? Obviously NO! Our moral sense is buried deep within and it is a pity that every time it calls for a tsunami or a Delhi-gang rape to awaken it! On the big picture, we are just a tiny element of this universe, hardly making any significant contribution. But to each such tiny element it's a big world out there with so much to relish. Instead of craving for more and more let's just learn to exploit the more-than-enough joys that you've been entitled to enjoy.

Taking up resolutions is a delightful task after all. We tend to follow them in the beginning, but with time our determination falls apart and what's left in the end? Not surprisingly, the wait for the next New Year is all that remains, together totter regret and guilt and plans on another set of resolutions! We aren't electronic gadgets! We haven't been programmed to execute instructions without getting diverted. After all "to err is human". Take a strong hold of this very second and just live it. Live it with all your heart and all your satisfaction. And there you will realise that you don't require a new year to take resolutions. You begin to celebrate the birth of every new second. And that's the way to live your life! And yes a very happy New Year!!

THE BEGINNING OF A NEW DREAM

Our college from Akila Raghavan's view

Springs of dreams, fantasies of bounties, joy and chimeras had I dreamt about a brand new beginning; the new phase of life "college". Advice that poured in from all sides for college life though it did not enlighten me with awesome wisdom, before getting into college. for instance getting into a college like MIT.

The day had come, the first day of college, hinting at a promising future. Life seemed to be smiling and feeding me with great opportunities. It changed me from a shy, awkward teen just out of school into a bold person catching hold of a dream. My first visit to MIT instantly gave me a feeling of home and reassurance. Loads of hopes, prayers and anxiety pumped the first day of college. Completely new faces filled the aura, giving heebie-jeebies and a sense of nervousness, but still a feeling of warmth to make a bond with new friends prevailed. It all started with awkward "hi"s and gawky smiles, which eventually evolved into beautiful bonds of friendship and affection.

Initially though the tough competition and petrifying, complicated names of subjects made me miss schooling, the environment at college gave a totality of ease and comfort. All the numerous events and state-of-the-art facilities gave a sense of pride about my college.

Inspite of being a hosteller, the fun, enjoyment, care and share among friends enshrouded and shadowed all the difficulties of staying away from home. Friendly faculty and lively environment made me connect and nestle in MIT.

College, as everybody says, is the moulding period in one's life. MIT definitely moulds freshers into better individuals. It teaches much more for life. College life has absolutely turned out like the one I dreamt it to be, thus fulfilling and making my dreams come true.

So like every fresher, with loads of wishes ,hopes, serious ambition, ardent passion, expectations, I wish this well begun dream makes the rest of my college life a sweet fantasy and makes me realize my destiny.

WHY FEEL LOW

Akash Lakshmanan gives you hopes with his words

Talents of young minds are wealth to any institution. It is fortunate that our institution has laid platforms for students to exhibit their talent in their respective fields. But, does every student make use of this opportunity?

Fear covers the faces of many talented students. They have the fear of losing or facing sarcasm. But one can only achieve greatness by facing these consequences and overcoming them. Every participation must be encouraged and welcomed into competition. This will help everyone in facing day-to-day problems. Students must come out of their cage and face the real world. Although there might be few criticisms, one must not forget that there are people who also support and back you up.

Our college has one the finest recreational groups for students to represent their talents. Whether you are a senior or junior, you are always welcome to be part of any of the groups that enhance talent, develop confidence and introduce healthy competition.

Winning and losing don't matter. What matters is your effort to achieve what you have not achieved. In every step you rise, you not only exhibit yourself, but also the people who support you. Ultimately, every win adds-up to the honour of our great institution.

ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE!

Nikhil Kanakamedala opens his heart, watch out girls!

The recent developments in kollywood have turned boys into soup boys and girls into hmm....wait....what were they before?.....does it matter?

Anyways let's switch to a safer topic. Today, Love has got various definitions, with only one being vulnerable among them all. Whenever someone says 'love' the first thing that comes to our mind is the interpersonal love, where our affection, attraction and fascination are restricted to the found or yet-to-be-found partner. In one way this is good because we still love someone. But did you ever think why only this form of love is being tested constantly day to day? Why aren't there any kollywood songs criticizing mother's love or love between siblings? Simply to say, such atrocities are forbidden!

Then why criticize one particular form of love? Kolaveri song is nice to listen to, but just not good enough to live with. Deep thought needs to be given to this, taking into consideration the genuineness and longevity factors.

That, however, is not my point of interest this new year. In this article, I just ask you to love.

Love your mom, Love your dad, Love your sibling, Love your aunt, Love your uncle, Love your neighbor, Love your friend, Love your pet, Just love someone with one and only one condition to be followed- Do not expect returns!

Love is not what people show out of self curiosity. It's an act of philanthropy. The path of love helps us achieve great heights, which would otherwise produce shudder in us. Love is the strongest force the world possesses and is the only reason why people coexist across boundaries. Hatred can be overcome only by love. To love someone is as enchanting as to be loved by someone' is more in the tone of the article. Love breaks unrealistic barriers, enhancing human life. John Lennon, clever man, he knew it long back! Love someone today and feel the difference.

When I despair, I recollect that all through history, the way of truth and love has always won. There have been tyrants and murderers who seem invincible. But in the end, they always fall.....Think of it ALWAYS....

—Mahatma Gandhiji

Love pannunga.....life nalla irukum...
Wishing all a prosperous and lovely 2013,



GOD BLESS OUR MEMORY!!

Rajarajan Velumani

A sharp memory and the ability to recollect incidents are vital traits that make you stand out in areas like Anchoring and Commentary.

But we Indians fail when it comes to remembering the things that take our country by storm. This is one important aspect that is stopping our country from growing into a superpower.

How many of us can recollect about the 2G spectrum and the Olympics scandal? Does anyone remember who Ramalinga Raju is??

Only about 1% of the entire population would recognize these issues while the remaining 99% would jump to Google. Whatever we may say about our politicians, we cannot deny the fact that they do have a fine memory. They remember everything clearly and play it very safe by not talking about it even in an indirect way – and this is where their victory starts

Anna Hazare kindles the sparks of a revolution but, now he is nowhere. Probably he lost interest in his movements as people started to forget him.

While some politicians drag sensitive issues beyond a point where even the beneficiaries lose interest in the issue, others make disgusting comments to gain popularity.

“Dented and Painted” – What was that guy thinking when he made such a comment on an issue about the Life of a Girl!

Some so called Netas forget to see the issue as “A CRIME COMMITTED BY FOUR INDIANS”. They somehow try to knot it with state conflicts. Politicians are still following the “Divide and Rule” concept and we too fall prey to the strategy and fight with neighboring state people even for water.

Media is also of little help as they aid the government in making a fool of us. It is saddening to see the media fooling around, christening fancy names for rape victims!

When many criminals who were behind most of the major scams are let out free after a short jail term, what would stop a common man from committing small crimes?

If people become aware of the fact that our judicial system is in disarray, they'll continue to commit crimes and roam around freely until getting caught.

They live their life king sized!!

Everybody is calling for a change in the government. But, once we start REMEMBERING the importance of sensitive issues, the Government would automatically change!!

GOD BLESS INDIA till our memory is in this state.....

RIP Jyoti Singh Pandey, you will always remain in our hearts as a BRAVEHEART!

EDITORIAL

“You are a bunch of kids. I don't know what to tell. I have a lot to tell you. But I have to go.” The old man said in his feeble voice to the bunch of friends in the group.

“But I will tell you this. There is something that you need to know. As long as you are here, you need to remember this. And make sure you pass it on. Will you?”

The silent nod was more than enough for the old man, as he continued. “This is a forest. The place where you are. It is bad, if you think it is. It is good, if you don't give too much of a thought about it. But, it will make you who you are, when you finally decide to leave this place. Hunt, or be the hunted. Hunting is why you are here. But it is not the only thing that you should do, while you are here.”

A long pause and a cough. He continued to give the last speech.

“Commit.

Fit yourself into a group. A group of people who are crazy enough to think the same way as you do. People who will not be scared to slap you on your face to tell you that you are delusional. And once you find the group, commit to it. Commitment is not when you do something because you have nothing else to do, it is when you understand your part in the big picture and give your best at something that you love doing. Honour the commitment and your words. It is the only honour that you will get here.

Initiate.

Be the change you want to see. If, in this wide forest, you don't fit anywhere, begin a group for people like you. You will be surprised by the amount of support that you get. When I started this hunting group, of all the emotions, surprise was definitely a dominant one. I have been constantly surprised to find more and more crazy people just like me. And so will you be, if you are willing to look out.

Participate.

Be a part of anything that bothers you. Even more so, if that thing means something to you. Albeit for the cause, or against. Debate and evaluate, most importantly, observe.

And finally, Let go.

You must know the right time to let go. Keep looking for the next best thing that you should pursue. The hardest hunt is the one that gives you the maximum food. It is hard for a reason- not everyone can go and pursue it. You can. To pursue something new, you have to let go of something that you already have. It is the way it works. And it is time for me to let go.” The old man ended his speech and moved on.

And it is time for me to let go. The forest that the Madras Institute of Technology is, I am sure that there are a lot more hunts that this group of writers will take down, in the future.

For one last time,
THE (CURRENT) EDITOR.

“NO MEANS NO”!!!! (A new law against rape)

Divya Vasudevan voices her opinion
on the need for change

It is time to be ashamed.

The debacle of a 23-year-old girl who was brutally beaten and gang-raped, is something we all must contemplate. We need a discussion that is part of a reflective and thoughtful action rather than a knee-jerk response triggered by the horror of the recent event

SO WHAT HAVE WE DONE???

We might take to the streets to protest...have candle light vigils ...protest on facebook and twitter... face water cannons from the police... sing ballads against government... breakdown and cry??
What else??

But how does one account for the strange contrast between our outrage about rape and our remarkable unwillingness as a society to actually do anything about it? This must compel us to reflect upon who we are as a “society”.

The reflection then should be on why due process is painstaking, why the state and courts are unable to quell these crimes, why the police whose job is to ensure safety fail miserably and why convictions are negligible?

We must also reflect upon the attitudes of policemen who blame the victim singularly.

“INDIA IS DEMOCRATIC”, agreed! But I feel it is way too democratic that Citizens here can't really trust the courts and laws. There are countless number of cases pending in the courts. This is a country where a kid who robbed Rs. 200 was put behind bars for 2 years 'without any trial in the court' whereas someone who robs 200 Crores can roam freely. But it would be ludicrous to suggest enforcing Arab laws, policing and legal processes to punish these crimes as a fringe solution.

A change of mindset in policing is indispensable in this regard but it hardly arises due to the brand “insecurity”. But let us hope for a phenomenal change. A change we all believe in and also a change we all should believe in.

All we want to tell the brave 23-year-old fighter is that

“When your heart weeps for what you have lost
Allow your spirit to laugh for what you have achieved
You are a fighter...a winner

Step on the ledge with faith in your heart and you will see that
Hidden beneath your fears is fresh pair of wings waiting for you to take flight”
You live in our hearts!

THE SPARROWS AND THE CITY

Abisheik Ganesh's Sparrows

I was travelling by car just the other day,
Counting goats and the cows that passed my way.
As I stared at the pleasing village scenery,
A flock of sparrows just flew by me.
I thought to myself with a raised eyebrow,
"Why can't we see these lovely birds in the city now?
They were chirping "chit-chit" just a decade ago.
Now they're vanishing, since humans are their biggest foe."
We've made this place unfit for a once common bird.
Now its chirps and sounds can never be heard.
Today it's the poor innocent sparrow,
In a decade, all the birds would be gone before we know.
Man who boasts of his recent revolution,
Is also destroying the world with enormous pollution.
He cuts those huge trees for making cricket bats,
Unaware of the horrors he'll be seeing next.
The birds are dying of thirst and due to chemical waste.
(The trees) Their homes are being cleared off in such huge pace.
Are the cell phone towers killing them? That's still a question.
But a birdless city is most definitely not part of our vision.
Man should stop boasting about his inventions.
This is an issue which needs great care and attention.
Let's do little things to make a change.
Build small wooden nests for birds within your range.
Place water during summer, so they won't die in thirst.
Plant trees every birthday, so we don't see the worst.
Let's turn these deeds into habits while we're strong and young,
And hope we'll see the sparrows back in the days to come.

DISCOVER THYSELF

15 signs that you are an Artful Dodger

Classic Signs

*You look for loopholes in everything.

*Your friends get caught a lot for things you do.

For some reason, you avoid eye contact with police officials.

You get sick each time you have to stay and wait for association meetings.

*Your favorite phrase in online chats is "GTG" and "power cut in a few minutes".

You are the one who never asks "May I come in" when you are late to class and instead waits for someone to arrive later.

*You are single and very often thank your lucky stars for it.

The Vanishing act

You tend to walk in the center of a crowd in certain areas – the college gate so that the guard doesn't catch you, at the library so that book entry guy doesn't notice you and so on.

As soon as your relatives gang up in family occasions and talk about upcoming weddings, "poof"- there's only a speck of dust left where you were standing.

Your mom asks you to go to the grocery shop and you decide to take a long bath.

*The Strategist

You can sense sticky situations coming up like a dog can sense fear. You often plan in advance for tricky scenarios, the "What if's" and test out excuses. When the going gets tough, you make yourself scarce.

The Nerd when Needed

When guests are about to visit, you are always found with your nose immersed in a fat book titled "Engineering Mathematics" and you CANNOT be disturbed.

Your answers in the exam paper imply both true and false. You smirk when you see explanatory questions! Oh yeah! Bring it on buddy!

Job Descriptions matter:

You don't accept a job unless there is an easy way out. The first question you ask on getting a job is "Will I be fired if I slack off?" Boss replies "No" and you say "Too bad".

And last, definitely not the least,

Anonymity - No one knows you are an artful dodger.

If you experience 7 or more of the above symptoms, then welcome to the club! We dodgers are smart! We are the ones who keep the world spinning. We make others live up to their potential. We climb to the top of the hierarchy. We are the philosophers and dreamers; detectives and escape artists, sometimes even criminals. Dodging that last point, we become managers, supervisors and heck! even diplomats and politicians. And this is because we are not just dodgers but we are ARTFUL ones. And to use a clichéd but apt phrase, "we rule"!

*Starred points carry more weight.

- Swetha Sankar


CARTOON CORNER





What's for Popcorn?

SIVAJI – 3D

Our Rating _(3.5/5) 

IMDB Rating _(6.9/10) 

When all the television channels decided to air the best faces of Thalaivar all through 12-12-12, AVM production took a step ahead and found a thriving way to celebrate Happy Rajinikanth to Birthday, releasing Sivaji in 3D, as a gift and tribute to 'The Greatness'. Anyone even faintly associated with Tamil cinemas wouldn't have missed Sivaji- The Boss. The 3D movie is all about picking the best scenes, the choicest humour, the most powerful dialogues, and the acoustic brilliance of ARR.

Sivaji (3D) is the story of a charismatic man with the altruistic motive of giving his society and motherland the amenities and developments they require from his lucre. Being a man of principles, he willingly faces the fatiguing civil processes and corrupt political policies till he is thrown to the streets, bankrupt. The second half of the film manifests his shift from a "poo paadhai" to "singa paadhai", with a coin toss. Swindling black-money from corrupted big-shots, implementing strategies to chasten illegal gravy, marrying a lady of his traditional appetite and fighting the inherent jeopardy in classic Rajinism ensures a quick-paced second-half.

To those who crib about the poor implementation of 3D technology in Indian movies, Sivaji (3D) is not the movie that makes your eyes sore or head ache, as are some stereoscopic films inadvertently capable of. The effects at par with Hollywood standards begin right from the explosive title intro of 'Superstar' and the title sequences are set up to demonstrate what you can expect. Thankfully, there is no 3D bloating and there are just enough scenes throughout the movie to remind you of your 3D experience. They are, however, vividly implemented in action and dance sequences out of which the 'coin toss' scene and the 'slow motion bullet' scene earned the most whistles. Prettier than in 2D and real-D, Nayanthara and Shriya in 3D are nothing short of a visual treat. Tharani's sets come alive in 3D and KV Anand's 4k scan cinematography garnished the film in the converted version.

Finally, watching this film in Dolby Atmos atmosphere is sure to give audience a life-like, sensory experience with all the loud shattering, thumping and thundering. Since the film was made with so much grandeur, it doesn't suffer from looking dated.

In case you particularly did not enjoy Sivaji in 2D, there is not much chance of a change of opinion in 3D. But Thalaivar fans, as a majority of us are, are sure to lap it up due to the delay of Kochadaiyan. Besides, who wants to miss seeing his style in 3D anyway?

P.S. As a film we rate it at 3.5, but please understand that no one in this universe has the right to rate THALAIVAR – Demi God!