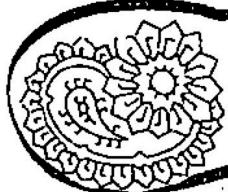


Sahaja Newsletter



Friday 8.5.92

NEWS From INDIA.

Contributions:

Sue Raggatt:

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Ariane Kaub:

Hm. (02) 7986779

Carole McNEILL

Hm. (02) 560 6921

Dear all.

It has been an eventful time for us all, the country here is fabulous the children are so much happier here. When we arrived they were all a bit grubby but they are all well and happy. We have been for walks up the mountains to the glacier line. It takes a bit of adjusting to India style but I think it is slowly happening, anyway the news is that the school is going to be here now. I have seen Shri Mataji in Delhi and this is what She wants. This place here is very beautiful and isolated but needs a lot of work to bring it up to scratch. Mother wants to build new classrooms and Phillip and I have to do the plans etc for the Yogis to take to Mother. We have also been taking classes ladies are taking sewing, craft classes etc. Phillip art, Allan gardening and myself woodwork and carving. We have a busy schedule, the day here starts at 5.00, dancing for older children and finishes at 8.00 with Dinner. It is a very full day. Saturday and Sunday we go mountain hiking.

So in this design of the school includes kitchen and toilet etc and it would be good to incorporate in the new septic tank into a bio chamber to make gas to heat the water for shower, cooking, heating etc.

This place has so much potential to become not only a school but a beautiful place to live and incorporate many permaculture ideas. This is a big project and will need a lot of our help.

I was wondering if anyone could possibly find some information on building a Biogas Digestor for converting sewerage into usable gas, also storage facilities and any relevant information.

If it is possible could you send such information over as soon as possible we will be here a few days before the 12th June.

Much Love to you all Jai Shri Mataji
Paul and family



If anyone can help Paul the address to send information is:

SAHAJA YOGA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
TALNOO
DARAHMSALA CANTT
H.P.
INDIA

The Czechoslovakian Yogis send greetings to all the Australian collective.
From Radim.

News FROM INDIA cont...

2.

"Hello to all, We arrived here one week ago and had a beautiful reunion with Luke and Leela. They are really well. It is a very busy place I have been roped into teaching about art - Paul is teaching carpentry Martin - singing. It is a most remarkable place - the scenery is very grand and strong. The school is perched high and surrounded by high mountains and hills. We are living down the road from the school in a newly built 2 story house - a real little community.

We are or have been experiencing the trots and colds - it is a bit like a hospital. We will be here for the next 2 months. The trip here went really well. Enjoyed the hospitality of the Tans in Kuala Lumpur. We came through customs with 8 large boxes for Shri Mataji with no search, no excess baggage ! We met Shri Mataji in the new Temple in Delhi. She asked us to look after the children and teach them manners and respect.

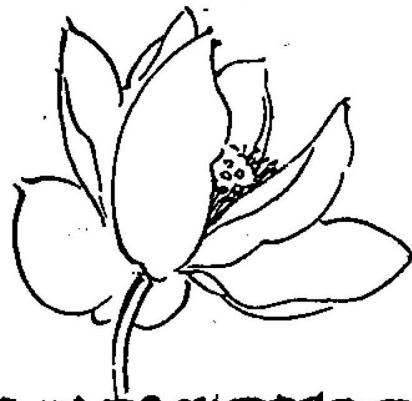
She was a little concerned about their behavior. It is certainly a riot at meal time. We have calmed them down somewhat, but they are a real joy to be with, some are real little angels just full of joy and very cuddly.

Love Phillip and Sarah.



SAHASRARA PUJA

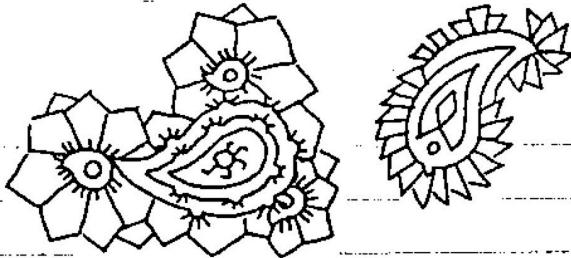
Sahasrara Puja is being held at Burwood at 2.00 pm on Sunday 10th of May - Mother's Day.



CHRISTCHURCH

Brian and Pam are holding regular programmes and have a great group of people coming along. Programmes are held on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday morning and evening and Thursday, so they are busy. Brian particularly so, as he is directing a Ngaio Marsh play "Sweet Mr Shakespeare" opening soon. We wish you well Brian!

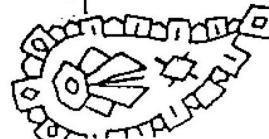
With love to all our brother and sisters in Australia from us all in New Zealand. JAI SHRI MATAJI!!!!



Auckland:

Firstly a big thank you to all the Yogis and Yognis who came to Auckland during our Divine Mother's visit. Your help was much appreciated. Follow-up programmes went well initially but have dwindled a little, so we have started some new ones and received a good response from some very deep seekers. The quality of the new people is so much higher & they seem to enjoy the programmes so much & are so appreciative. It's very uplifting yet humbling, & so joyous. They are ready to invite to the ashram very early. We recently had a dinner party for all the newcomers, trying our hand at Indian cooking - it was a big success. Hugh & Janie have sold their house and move into the ashram beginning of May. Everyone loves the ^{beautiful} new ashram at Epsom. One new person thought we had a million dollar place! But it is the atmosphere of Mother's House that is so beautiful as well as its superb setting and spaciousness. We are starting to build a lounge room under the ashram ... to hold meditation classes during the week. We also have plans to convert the three garages alongside as bedrooms & bathroom. As a matter of fact there are vacancies, if anyone would like to come over and live here - families or single yogis! - short or long term. We have plenty of room, have lots of fun & would love to have you (Contact: Hugh Frith, 24 Pukenui Rd, Epsom, Auckland). We had a beautiful Easter Puja, Sunday. The atmosphere was just so pure & auspicious, just astounding. All the lamps and candles were burning almost white and so still. There were such deep and special vibrations. A new era is certainly dawning in New Zealand. Thank you, Shri Mataji for making this house a possibility and a reality. Thank you for your visit to these shores and for all your blessings.

David - Auckland!





4.

Group singing lessons are now occurring on Monday and Wednesday nights at the Australian Institute of Indian Music. A very enjoyable time is had by all as we discover more about the Indian system of music. Enquiries welcome John Smiley Ph: 449-2644 or David Withers Ph:745-2393

Rajashree Smiley is available as a teacher of various handcrafts including Painting, Embossing, Etching and Flower making. She is also very skilled in making saree blouses and other cloths. Please contact John or Rajashree at Turramurra ashram on Ph: 449-2644.

There will be an evening of Bhajans at Killara Ashram on Saturday 9th May 7.30pm. Everyone welcome.



CROYDON ASHRAM

Croydon Ashram would like to welcome their two newest members: Ramesh Manocha and David Withers. We have begun programmes on Wednesday Night and would like to extend our warm welcome to all.

The ladies of Croydon Ashram are interested in holding a daytime programme in an outside venue, like a community hall. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please phone on (02) 745 2393

JAI SHRI MATAJI!!!!!!

Public Programme is now on every Tuesday 7.30 p.m. at Kensington Ashram, 17 Boronia Street. Phone (02) 662 4670.

ALL WELCOME.



Luis-Laxshman would like to compose a list of all the Sahaja Yogis and Yoginis who have received a name by Shri Mataji. Please contact Laxshman at Kensington Ashram (02) 662 4670.

The following items are for sale via Dr Amjad in Melbourne. Mary O'Neill is taking orders. (02) 799-2257.

- | | |
|---|--------|
| 1. Jabakasum Taich (good for hair loss) | \$5.00 |
| 2. Moove (good for back agnya) | \$4.00 |
| 3. Rose petal jam gulcan (Indian jam which is good for liver) | \$5.00 |

If anyone is driving to Melbourne during the next few weeks please contact Mary O'Neil.

BLAND STREET ASHRAM

Bland Street Ashram will hold programmes every Monday Night starting at 7.30pm, 149 Bland Street, Haberfield. Look forward to seeing you there.

Goulburn Programmes

Sydney yogis have been busy co-ordinating venue, advertising and Mother Earth exhibition for public programmes in Goulburn (196 km SW of Sydney.)

A room in the old council chambers building - recently refurbished - has been booked to hold the meetings. (Jo, the community centre co-ordinator, has been extremely helpful in guiding us to the right people to talk to in town. Her enthusiasm led us to taking the Mother Earth Exhibition for display. Jo also introduced us to the news editor at Radio 2GN.)

The deputy librarian, Marie, went out of her way to provide the display boards and floor space for the Mother Earth photographs. Our exhibition will be on display at Goulburn library for 3 weeks.

Both radio stations have invited us for interviews next week to promote the programmes. Stephan Taylor has agreed to be interviewed.

Staff at the local paper have also been helpful & we are confident of some favourable editorial coverage to compliment the ads we have placed.

Doors opened so easily in Goulburn. It feels right to be there - taking Sahaja Yoga to the "villages".

JAI SHRI MATAJI IN GOULBURN

Goulburn Programmes:

2pm Saturday 16, 23, 30 May
6 June

McDermott Centre
163 Auburn St (Hume Hwy)
- Next to Post Office -

All yogis welcome!



6.

Prince launches spirit of building

PRINCE CHARLES has launched his own Institute of Architecture to fight modern man's success "in creating an age without spirit".

The prince said the venture was to restore "spirit" to its rightful position in the overall balance needed in the education of the architect.

Spirit was "that overwhelming experience or awareness of a oneness with the natural world... it stirs upon you and floods your whole being despite your best logical intentions."

Prince Charles is renowned for his outspoken attacks on "soul-

less" architecture and other social problems. He says he knows the risk of being deemed "at best eccentric, at worst as a dotty crank".

He had to struggle against the temptation to conform and to develop his own philosophy of architecture and life, he said..

The prince challenged the "uncompromising starkness of purely functional buildings" and outlined how his views evolved.

During his childhood in post-war Britain, he said, he had been disturbed by trends "which seemed to be directed, like a well-orchestrated artillery barrage, at destroying the traditional foundations on which so many human

values had been based for thousands of years".

He remembered the centres of old towns being ripped apart in the interests of progress, derelict bomb sites in London being redeveloped in a way alien to the urban fabric of the city and hedgerows being uprooted.

"This feverish revolution", he said, was a result of being persuaded to see the cosmos as a "gigantic machine which could be examined, experimented with and manipulated by man for his own exclusive use".

He had "not been seduced by this conveniently logical but utterly soulless philosophical approach" but admitted that the pressures to yield had been enormous. The temptation to conform could be powerful but he had resisted, for reasons he still wondered about.

"What is it that produces this feeling in my heart that the whole universe is based on the most profound principles which in themselves represent a giant paradox but which for me inspire a continual sense of awe and reverence?"

Part of the answer lay in architecture and landscaping, the attempt of those of past millennia to create a harmonious synergy with their surroundings rather than imposing themselves upon it, as modern technology made all too possible.

The architecture he hopes to see taught and explored in the institute "is not so much a traditional architecture, which resembles or apes the past, but rather a kind of architecture whose forms, plans and materials are based on human feeling".

He hoped it might become "a



• Prince Charles: forging architecture of 21st century

crucible where the architecture of the 21st century could be forged".

The institute opens in October with up to 100 students and will occupy two 19th century houses overlooking Regent's Park in London.

Dr Brian Hanson, architectural adviser to the prince and the institute's director of studies, said it would promote the sense of building as a common activity. Engineers, builders and craftsmen would also be welcomed.

Christopher Lockwood

A courageous pilgrimage into an interior world

NOBODY NOWHERE

By Donna Williams
Doubleday, \$29.95, 196pp
ISBN 0 385 40298 8

Reviewed by ANNE DEVESON

WELOCOME to my world," writes Donna Williams, in the introduction to her autobiography, *Nobody Nowhere*.

Donna Williams is autistic and her world is strange and remote. The very nature of autism means that autistic people cannot process information correctly. They are unable to make sense of communications from the outside world, and they cannot tell us about the terrors of their world.

Often people with autism find security in losing all sense of self. Donna Williams writes that she eventually learned to lose herself in anything she desired: "The patterns on the wallpaper or the carpet, the sound of something over and over again, the repetitive hollow sound I'd get from tapping my chin. Even people became no problem ... I could look through them until I wasn't there, and then, later, felt that I had lost myself in them."

Donna Williams was often dismissed as moronic, mad, stupid, a weirdo or a "retard". Yet, as with other major conditions affecting the brain, seemingly strange behaviour becomes quite logical within the framework of their disturbance. If you have a broken ankle, you limp; if you have a mind that is receiving confusing messages, you give confusing responses.

For example, many children with autism are echolalic — they echo things that are said to them. Donna Williams describes the annoyance of hearing a voice asking, "What do you think you're doing?" and sensing a need to respond without knowing how or why. So she repeats the question, "What do you think you're doing?"

She would seek refuge in personalities she invented to help her deal with a seemingly hostile world. Willie was a pair of green eyes under the bed who threatened her, but who also kept the enemy at bay. Carol was a girl she had once met in a park — Donna became Carol when she wanted to behave the way she thought ordinary girls might behave.

The condition of autism is rare, but troubling. Once — like schizophrenia — it was considered to be caused by bad parenting, and grieving and distraught mothers were made wretched on the altar ofatology. Now we know it is due to some abnormality of brain development, occurring for a variety of reasons either before birth or early in childhood. About four children out of every 10,000 develop autism and most of these are male.

Autism is believed to be unrelated to schizophrenia, and it is also far less common (one 25th as common), but for me, with my memories of living with someone with schizophrenia, there are similarities in some of the behaviours — such as the rocking, the ritualised movements, the self-destructive actions. Yet these behaviours can be the consequence of dreadful terror, and this is something we often fail to understand. Allowing privacy and space and respecting another person's world can bring its own healing but there are other times when, as Donna Williams says, "people must love you enough to declare war".

I made a documentary about autism in the days when little was known of the condition and almost no help was available. We filmed a seven-year-old child, Anne, who was locked into her own world, as if behind an impenetrable steel wall. I have thought of this child many times since then, as well as the desperation of her parents in trying to reach her.

Now, in Australia, our understanding and capacity to help people with autism has increased remarkably. To some extent, we can cross the chasm into their strange and isolated worlds. But the reason why Donna Williams's story is so remarkable is because she uses her intelligence, persistence and formidable courage to enter our world. She writes: "The jump itself, through the darkness to the other side, was something I had to find the courage and ability to do on my own. As much as one might want to, one cannot save another's spirit. One can only inspire it to fight to save itself."

For me, some of the most brilliant shifts that are occurring in the lives of

people with disabilities are those that stem from their own courage and bloody-minded persistence. It's as if those who were the most shunned, the most rejected, are moving in a strange and wondrous pilgrimage, knocking on our doors in a way that we can no longer ignore. Perhaps there is some meaning in this that extends beyond the diagnosed disability of those whom we have always regarded as less fortunate.

Each of us has our own interior worlds that can never be seen, never be touched. As with Donna, our behaviour is a manifestation of personhood, that mysterious meeting of the mind and brain. Would that we were all more courageous and persistent in our willingness to understand one another. We have just as much to learn as those whom we try to help.

There is something mythic about Donna Williams's story, even more because it is beautifully written. It left me with a sense of wonder at the resilience and grace of the human spirit.

Anne Deveson's book on schizophrenia *Tell Me I'm Here*, was published November by Penguin.



LATEST NEWS FROM OVERSEAS

Shri Mataji is due to leave Europe for the USA on the 15th of May. She will be doing programmes in California and New York and will also hold a Puja in New York.

Whilst on the subject of Pujas etc, Shri Mother said at the Havan for Sahasrara Day that the names must be sung (said) by everyone attending the Havan....otherwise they are not effective!! So it's not proper for someone to read out the names and everyone to say "Om Swa Ha!" Which meanswe've all got to get familiar with Sanskrit words.

Stephan.



Blessed are the prepared

An unholy row surrounds the proposed beatification of the founder of the Catholic Church's Opus Dei, writes ADELA GOOCH in Madrid and ELIZABETH NASH in London.

WHETHER Monsignor Josemaria Escrivá de Balaguer, the founder of Opus Dei, deserves to be canonised is debatable. That he wanted to be is not. "Make careful notes on all the details of my life; lest the same thing happened to you as to the Jesuits who now regret not doing so with Saint Ignatius of Loyola," he told his followers. He gathered relics of himself and arranged for Opus Dei to buy the house where he was born and the font at which he was baptised.

"He was a man preparing his own canonisation," says Michael Walsh, the author of a book on the movement which has organised the fastest beatification process in the history of the Church. When the Pope declares Monsignor Escrivá "the Blessed Josemaria", making him an object of veneration for all Catholics on May 17, he will be beating the previous record of 21 years since the person's death by four years.

"Unseemly haste", the term used by a former head of the Catholic Church in Spain, Monsignor Tarancón, is not the only accusation brought against Opus Dei's activities. A former Opus Dei member, Vladimir Feltsman, has suggested that Monsignor Escrivá defended Hitler. "He told me that Hitler had been unjustly accused of killing six million Jews. In fact he had killed only four million," Father Feltsman is quoted as saying in this week's Newsweek. Father Feltsman also recalled that Monsignor Escrivá said that Nazis were always badly treated in films and could not have been as bad as they were painted.

Opus Dei says Father Feltsman's view is "absolutely false as well as deeply offensive and directly contradicted unanimously by all the witnesses". It adds: "The decision reached by the Holy See on the saintly nature of the Venerable Escrivá's life and on the proper composition of the procedure by which it has been proved is not just an opinion but certainly founded on irrefutable proof."

In Britain Opus Dei has been criticised for adopting authoritarian recruitment and indoctrination methods comparable to those of cults like the Scientologists or the Moonies. Cardinal Basil Hume, the Archbishop of Westminster and Catholic Primate of England, was sufficiently alarmed by mounting complaints of Opus Dei abuses of individual liberty and family unity to issue a number of pastoral guidelines.

The allegations included taking people as young as 16 without parental consent for religious indoctrination and denying young people access to confessors and counsellors outside the movement, according to George Leonard, who worked with Cardinal Hume on the matter. "People wrote to the cardinal with their criticisms," Monsignor Leonard said last week. The cardinal's guidelines, issued on December 2, 1981, recommended that no-one under 18 should be admitted to Opus Dei, that their families be thoroughly consulted, that members should have access to spiritual guides outside the order and that all Opus initiatives be clearly identified.

There are claims that unfavourable witnesses have not been allowed to testify before the tribunals which examined Monsignor Escrivá's suitability for sainthood, and that Opus Dei had orchestrated the proceedings, using its own doctors to ratify the necessary miracle. This speedy canonisation — beatification is the first step towards sainthood for which a further miracle is required — is the latest feat of an organisation that combines reactionary doctrine with ruthless efficiency to great effect.

Opus Dei ("the Work of God") was founded in Spain in 1928 by a group of young men led by Monsignor Escrivá to fight what they considered a wave of "godless" anarchism and socialism. In the Civil War, Monsignor Escrivá's book *El Camino (The Road)* encouraged those who saw Franco as the champion of a threatened Church. His doctrine of flagellation harked back to the Middle Ages. Members are encouraged to wear spiked thigh bracelets and whip themselves regularly, and Monsignor Escrivá revered for having had a blood-spattered bathroom as a result of his zeal. Franco's regime created a climate in which Opus Dei's elite of clerics and prominent lay people was to flourish. Five of Franco's Cabinet ministers were Opus members. Mr Walsh says Opus's extreme conservatism and militaristic style ran counter to the liberalising tendency in the Church that led to the reforms of the Second Vatican Council, but Opus continues to run universities and schools.

Opus Dei strongly counters criticism of the beatification process: Monsignor Escrivá is the first person to be considered under a new streamlined procedure. It says it put forward the names of hostile witnesses and their writings to the tribunals.

One hostile witness is Alberto Moncada, a Spanish sociologist critical of Opus Dei. "I think it was called simply to readjust the balance a bit but none of them seemed terribly interested in what I was saying," he says. Mr Walsh is more blunt: "In books written by members of Opus he [Escrivá] comes across as an extraordinarily arrogant, egotistical, unpleasant character. His views were dangerous and potentially psychologically damaging."

After his death in 1975 thousands of letters called for his canonisation. It is supported by much of the Catholic hierarchy and, of course, the Pope who is unlikely between now and May to change his mind.

The Independent, London

Mike Steketee is on leave.

SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

Tuesday, January 14, 1992

Lakshmi Puja at Croydon Ashram
Saturday 16th May, 7.30pm
Croydon Ashram will be having their Lakshmi Puja.
2 Monash Parade, Croydon Ph.: (02) 745-2393

Snub to China as PM agrees to see Dalai Lama

CANBERRA: The Prime Minister will ignore official Chinese displeasure and will hold a private meeting on Friday with the leader-in-exile of the Tibetan people, the Dalai Lama.

Organisers of the Dalai Lama's Australian tour greeted the announcement yesterday as "very exciting".

"It's another indication that the world is looking at Tibet and the situation facing the Tibetans," said Ms Lyn Russell, federal liaison officer with the tour of the 14th Dalai Lama and national director of the Australian Campaign for Tibet.

The Chinese Embassy warned last month that any meeting between Australian representatives and the Dalai Lama "will surely bring damage to the relations between our two countries".

Mr Keating, announcing that the meeting would take place, said it was "in recognition of the Dalai Lama's position as a prominent religious figure and distinguished Nobel laureate".

The embassy made no comment yesterday about Mr Keating's announcement. A receptionist said all officials were attending a function outside the embassy and could not be contacted.

But the embassy, in a message to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade on April 7, said the Dalai Lama was not simply a religious figure. He was "engaged in activities aimed at splitting China and undermining its national unity under the guise of religious activities".

TONY WRIGHT

Sydney Morning Herald 6.5.92

Earth 2000-Feb 92

NATUROPATH & HERBALIST



Susi Hutchings is a Naturopath and Herbalist. She can be contacted on 560 4357.