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THE THREAD CEREMONY

Religions tend to have their similarities in some of their ceremonies and Hinduism is no exception. Like confirmation or a Bar-Mitzvah, every Hindu male of the outdated "upper caste" has to go through the Jenoy, or thread ceremony. The kid has to be between 10 and 20 years old, which is considered the general period of transition from child to adult. The ceremony itself is a colorful one. Every relative is invited, and brings along a present. The boy, or man-to-be, has to get up early in the morning, dress up in a scantily orange-coloured loin-cloth, and present himself to a group of Brahmin priests. He is then accommodated on a wooden plank in front of a big bonfire, where he will sit for 3 or 4 hours, as the priests recite holy sayings in an ancient tongue, thus introducing to the responsibilities of manhood. The constant monotonous voice of the priests is only broken by their instructions to periodically throw some rice or oil into the fire, symbolizing the sacrifice of material goods.
Tufts University
International Newsletter

November, 1977
Volume 7, #2

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This ritual is followed by a haircut, in which the boy is left with no hair except a pigtail. He is then presented with a holy thread around his shoulders and torso. If this may seem tedious, the poor kid has then to run away from the scene of the ceremony, loin-cloth and all, until all his uncles catch him and carry him back. As you may have guessed, the running away symbolizes the detachment of the new adult from his family. Traditionally, the new adult would literally leave his home and travel around the country, helping people in need by words of wisdom and advice. Even today in India, one can see on occasion these Brahmins in orange, (the color of purity) and in bare feet, who have sacrificed material goods to help others. Unfortunately, this concept has been westernized by the "Hare Krishna's" today, which is a big blow to a beautiful tradition. In modern India, not many people choose to lead the life of purity and sacrifice, especially in the cities, and the thread ceremony has become a religious tradition. The thread, however, is a constant reminder to the person of this ceremony, because the man may never take it off his body, except annually to replace it with a new one.

Pradeep Kapadia, India Engineering '78

This article is not your typical essay of "What did I do over summer vacation!" In effect, last summer, I traveled through Central America - Mexico, Belize, and Guatemala. My friend and I just packed our back packs and took off. We got around primarily via the internal bus systems of the countries. Most of the buses were ex-American school buses. In a typical ride, there were 8 people squeezed into a row of seats; the people in the middle were literally suspended in mid-air.

It was an amazing trip, as I had never been south of the border or even traveled this way before. You have to be careful and precise with your plans. Moreover, you learn very quickly what to do, what not to do, and what to look for! Throughout the trip, we visited almost all the Aztec and Mayan ruins. These Indian tribes built magnificent cities, tombs, and pyramids. Their cultures were civilized with elaborate religious procedures. When we first came upon the archaeological site of Teotihuacan, outside of Mexico city, I felt as if I was in a King Kong movie. It was a very awesome, overwhelming feeling.

In Belize and Guatemala, we also traveled through many other ruins, as well as modern day Indian villages. These are very colorful people who work hard all their lives. The average family perhaps makes $30 annually. This is a proportional figure, but still imagine the living conditions. You subside on corn, rice, and tortillas. Many of these people also practice a form of Pagan Christianity. In other words, they pray to Jesus with incense and sometimes idol forms. They are a very handsome, exotic people.

Belize is a unique Latin American country because the population is predominately Black, and the people speak a creole-English. The capital city is very alive with a mixture of Reggae music, British soldiers, Anado, Chinese, black beans and rice, etc. The town has no sewage system, or rather the canal, which runs throughout the city, is the sewer. At times in Belize city, felt as if I was reliving an old Tennessee Williams play about the old South with a touch of Jamaican flavor.

Anyway, if you are interested in hearing more about my Central America trip or would like to more about the ins and outs of this type of traveling, I would love to talk to you. Betsy Gold, Davies House, 625-2074 or x759.

Betsy Gold, United States Jackson '80

SOUTH AFRICA - BOTSWANA

A need for Career Counseling.

Several people I have come into contact with have asked me how I managed to come to America and how I knew about Tufts. The first question, though not really accurate, is legitimately due to the publicity that the black South African experience has been given recently. I am a S. African citizen.

I was a teacher for four years in Botswana, an African independent state and I realized the growing need for counseling
and guidance services there.

With the growth and development of the country comes the complexity of modern life, affording the student a few more career options. They need guidance as to what is available in the job market and what it takes to reach their goals.

The Botswana are by and large still a traditional people and the foreign cultural concepts adopted by the curricula, more often than not, create some adjustment problems, hence giving birth to a fertile ground for guidance.

The same problem occurs in South Africa, even though the motivating factors are far different from these in Botswana, South Africa is highly industrialized by African standards (as much as France).

The above is really just one manifestation of a greater essential need.

I began talking with some of my colleagues, American teachers on contract in Botswana, and they told me of the counseling programs in the different colleges they knew. I applied, and I was accepted here at Tufts.

Incidentally, my colleagues are back in New York.

Neo. R. Mathabe, South Africa Graduate - Education

All these factors make Tehran an attractive metropolitan area, not only for the rural, but for other city populations as well. Immigrants come from all over the country, and from every social, economic, and cultural stock. They can be divided into different groups, such as job seekers, not only from various regions of Iran, but also from different parts of the world. Among the foreigners are Americans, Europeans, East and South Asians, especially South Koreans. I noticed this while I was visiting Tehran last summer. College students, professionals and traders are other groups. However, the high population density (about five million people) is making it difficult to provide such services as water, electricity, and in particular, transportation for an ever-growing number of residents. The resulting imbalance, through heavy immigration, has put a strain on urban services, and causes a shortage of water and electricity, deficiencies in housing, education, and cultural facilities. In fact, Tehran suffers from many of the problems of today's large expanding cities.

The Iranian lifestyle cannot be described with exactness because of the variety of climatic, regional, traditional, and foreign influences. In general as the level of education and income rises, lifestyle becomes more modern or "westernized."

Tehran is the best example of this changing pattern in Iran. In fact the influence of Western culture, coupled with higher personal income, has brought about the increase of "nuclear" families particularly among the middle class groups. The government policy of encouraging apartment living by providing facilities for nuclear families is another strong factor in altering the traditional family lifestyle. In the traditional family lifestyle, to which the lower income groups adhere, the home is the scene of most social life, and normally houses several generations at any time. One or more sons will support their own families in the parents' home and then assume the running of the house and care of the parents as they become old and feeble. Thus, a household will continue unbroken through several generations. Having so many people in one household is also a form of security. Invariably, there is at least one person at home at any given time so that neither visitors nor burglars find an empty house.

Issa Yamin, Iran E '79
in and out of Tufts

INTERNATIONAL CLUB

The International Club had its first general meeting on the 18th of September. Many people showed up with exciting ideas for future activities. This year we plan to have several International nights, including a Third World Dance, and Dinner, as well as an International Folk Dance. Our first meeting was an all American hoe-down Square Dance on the 21st of October. Also, on the 25th of October, we had some movies in honor of Halloween. Look for the exact time and place of future meetings in the Observer.

The Club is very interested in establishing liaisons with other cultural and ethnic organizations on campus. We wish to have a good social year, and we could all benefit by working together. Please get in touch with a club officer, for ideas and information. Soon.

Our Orientation Program for the incoming foreign students was hopefully successful. During that week, we sponsored a couple of parties, showed the students the Boston-Cambridge Area, and gave them some insights on life at Tufts University and in the U.S. I hope we helped make the transition from their native home to Tufts a little easier.

**Latin - American Society**

First of all, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all new and returning students, from the Latin American Society. Hopefully this influx of new life will prove a boon to all campus organizations.

Although we have suffered a drastic cut in our budget, this seems like a year of a lot of activities for the Latin American Society. Activities already planned range from co-sponsoring a lecture by the well known author, Julio Cortazar to the traditional Sangrias.

The year also begins with a new administration. Juan Carrizosa and Harvey Barrios are our co-chairman, Arturo Roa is the vice-president, Carlos Isales is the treasurer and Maria Oguendo is the secretary.

All Latins or other persons are eligible for membership to the society. We have had some problems contacting the Latin freshmen, so we would appreciate it if you dropped by the Latin House, located at 10 Whitfield Rd.(Milne House) and gave us your name and address. We would like the Latin House to be your home away from home.

An organizational meeting is planned for the near future. Posters will be placed around campus announcing it. We could really use help to make this the best year for the Latin American Society. Pa'Lante!

**Southern African Conference**

November 11, & 12, 1977

The African American Society is sponsoring a Southern African Conference on Friday, November 11, and Saturday, November 12, 1977, at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. The Conference will feature speakers, films, and workshops and is open to anyone in the greater Boston area. There is no fee for attending the Conference, for more information, contact Roger Watkins at Ext. 6626.

**NEW YORK TRIP**

Jessica Sporn, International House resident and renowned expert on New York City (She's from there!) is interested in organizing a trip to "THE CITY". If interested in visiting New York, please call the International Office Ext. 545 or 549 and leave your name.
FLETCHER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy sponsors activities of international interest. For more information, drop by and look for the calendar, ("This Week at Fletcher") available at the front door inside the Fletcher Library.

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OPENINGS

There will be a female and male opening in the International House for spring semester.

The International House located at 13 Sawyer Avenue, is a student residence, in which half the students are from the United States and half are from other countries. The House has international activities throughout the year. This semester "International Snack Nights" have been featured. So far these residents have sampled snacks from Japan and Jamaica on their study breaks.

Anyone interested in living in the International House should contact the International Office X545.

ACTIVITIES

This year the International Office plans to have several get-togethers for wives. We want to get to know you better and also give you the opportunity to meet new people. Some of the tentative activities planned are: a visit to the Tufts Eliot Pearson Children’s School where you will be able to observe the children in class, a visit to MIT to meet other wives, Museum of Fine Arts, Whole World Celebration (see page 6) and a holiday international luncheon.

We have had one get-together on Friday, October 21. Parveen Gulshan, Bangladesh, demonstrated how to make paper flowers. After the demonstration everyone tried to make the flowers and had a good time, so please try to join us on future activities.

If you have any suggestions about the kind of activities that would interest you, call Judy Cornetta, 628-5000 X545. All ideas are welcomed.

TUFTS WOMEN'S CLUB

The Tufts Women's Club is open to all women of the Tufts Community. Interest groups include:

BOOK REVIEW which meets on the third Monday evening of each month. Meetings are held at the member's homes. Call Barbara Hobbie (396-7831)

BRIDGE meets on the second Monday of each month at Alumnae House. Players of all ability are welcome. Contact Kay Dempster (628-5000 X400)

INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALITY PROGRAM which offers occasional hospitality to International Students. If you are interested in a host family, contact Audrey Hale 861-0514 or Beverly Goldstein 395-3245.

JUMBO FAIR held yearly to raise funds for Tufts University Scholarship. This year the Fair was held on November 4, at Mugar Hall and the evening auction at Jackson Gym.

If you are interested in the other activities held during the year or would like to become a member, mail a check for $2.00 to Mrs. Louise Choate, Treasurer, 24 Tesla Avenue, Medford, Ma. 02155

ENGLISH CLASSES

The international Office offers FREE English classes to all wives of foreign students and wives of faculty members. The class, taught by Theresa Catino, meet on Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9:00 - 10:30 AM in Brown House, 38 Professors Row. In addition to classroom tutoring, Theresa takes the students to the Audio Laboratory in Eaton Hall in order to improve their English pronunciation. There are still openings if anyone is interested. Please call Judy Cornetta, 628-5000X545.
INTERNATIONAL & CROSS-CULTURAL CLUBS AT TUFTS

Below is a listing of organizations sponsoring international or cross-cultural activities. For information, you may leave a message in their mailboxes in Eaton Lounge or for residences, call at the extensions listed below.

- African-American Center, x732
- African-American Society, x6626
- Armenian Club
- Asian Club
- Asian House, x772
- Concerned Students for Israel
- French Circle
- French House, x768
- German Club
- German House, x770
- Hebrew-Yiddish Cultural House, x734
- Hellenic Society
- Hillel
- History Department Student Committee
- International Club, x759
- International House, x759
- Irish-American Society
- Israeli Students Society
- Italian Club
- Latin-American House, x765
- Latin-American Society
- Political Action Group
- Russian Circle
- Russian House, x756
- Spanish Club
- Tufts Council on International Affairs

United States educational system, please call Judy Cornetta, International Office (X545, X549). Transportation is provided, and participation is arranged according to your schedule. It will take about an hour and half of your time.

INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION CLASS!

This semester a workshop in Intercultural Communication is being taught at the Experimental College. What is Intercultural Communication? As the world becomes more like Marshall McLuhan's "global village", the ability to communicate effectively with individuals or groups of individuals from different cultural (national, ethnic, racial) backgrounds becomes a necessity as well as an enriching experience. This course will examine the various factors involved in intercultural communication, such as perception, language and values. Field experiences, simulations, case studies, films and readings will provide an opportunity to look at the impact of culture on our own behavior, and develop practical skills in intercultural communication.

Meg Little and Andrea Ruelius coordinate the International Student Program of the Boston World Affairs Council. Meg has an M.Ed. degree in Intercultural Education from Boston University. Andrea holds a M.A. in International Management from the School for International Training in Brattleboro, Vermont. The course is underway but some sessions are open. If interested call Meg or Andrea at 267-6674.

WHOLE WORLD CELEBRATION

The International Institutes' eighth annual fun-filled fair and bazaar of music, dance, customs, food, drink, art, and crafts from around the globe.

Will be held at the Hynes Auditorium, Prudential Center, Boston, on the following days:

- Friday, November 18, 1977 at 3 p.m. - 11 p.m.
- Saturday, November 19, 1977 at 10 a.m. - 11 p.m.
- Sunday, November 20, 1977 at 12 noon - 8 p.m.

Admission is $3.00 for adults at Hynes, ($2.50 in advance); $1.75 for students (with I.D.) at Hynes, ($1.25 in advance.)

All are welcome.
LUNCHEON for AMBASSADOR ELLSWORTH BUNKER, one of the co-negotiators of the Panama Canal Treaty. Ambassador Bunker will be making a major address on the Canal Issue and explaining the Carter Administration position on this very important treaty. Mr. Bunker was also our Ambassador to Vietnam, Italy, Argentina, India, Special Representative at the Paris Peace Talks and is currently Ambassador at Large.

Park Plaza Hotel
Students LECTURE ONLY $3

SYMPOSIUM On "Current Issues of Arms Control," with PROFESSOR ADAM YARMOLINSKY of the University of Massachusetts, Professor Michael Nacht of Harvard University's Program in Science and International Affairs, and Professor Robert L. Pfaltzgraff of the Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy and Director, Institute of Foreign Policy Analysis.

John Hancock Institute
40 Trinity Place
(Attendance is limited, please call for information.)

INTERNATIONAL POTLUCK DINNER AND GET TOGETHER To conclude and commemorate World Day of Fasting (Nov. 17) join us for an informal gathering. Bring your friends and your favorite dish! (enough for 5)

Call Steve or Andrea to make meal arrangements.

SEMINAR ON INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT: UNITED NATIONS

Purpose: To introduce the United Nations and the various specialized agencies and programs within the U.N. concerned with international development; to provide contact with agency representatives responsible for policy making and operation of development programs.

Seminar includes Orientation and Planning Meetings at Council Headquarters during December; Trip to U.N. headquarters first week of January.

APPLICATION DEADLINE Nov. 18

Call Andrea Ruelius or Steve Schuit for further information and application.

INTERNATIONAL I.D. CARDS

The International Office issues International Student I.D. Cards which are good for discounts in over 60 countries. The cost is $2.50 (cash) and you will need a small picture 1 1/4 " x 1 1/4 ". Cards are issued on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. in Brown House.

RESOURCE LISTING

The International Office is in the process of compiling a listing of students at Tufts who are considering study/travel abroad. If you would like to talk to another student about your country, please fill out both sides of the enclosed card and return it to: International Office Brown House, 38 Professors Row

We would also appreciate your returning any unused cards.

Americans Abroad Returnees-If you are interested in helping to form a returnees group in conjunction with other universities in the Greater Boston area, please contact Ann Ellingson, X466 or Charlene Fulton, 307 Hodgdon. AFS still needs your continued enthusiasm and support, so let them know who you are!
Employment

NEW REGULATIONS REDUCE PRACTICAL TRAINING TIME

F-1 students graduating from U.S. colleges and universities after Sept. 1, 1977 will be eligible to apply for a maximum of 12 months of practical training under regulations published on May 24 by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. (Under regulations in effect prior to that date, graduating F-1 students were eligible to apply for 18 months of practical training).

Permission for practical training will continue to be granted in 6-month installments. The new regulations contain a number of other changes:

1. An initial practical training application is to be filed not more than 60 days before a student's graduation or completion of studies, and not more than 30 days after graduation or completion of studies. An employer's letter is not required with the initial application.

2. The initial period of practical training will be considered to begin on the date the student's employment begins, or 60 days after completion of his or her course of studies, whichever is earlier.

3. An application to continue in practical training must be accompanied not only by an employer's letter naming the student's occupation and describing his or her duties, but also by a recommendation from the applicant's school giving INS "sufficient detail...to determine whether the position is related to the applicant's field of study."

4. Permission for practical training cannot be granted if the training the student seeks cannot be completed within the training period for which the student is eligible.

Please note that these changes apply only to F-1 students: regulations governing practical training for J-1 students remain unchanged.

(based on an article in the NAFSA Newsletter, Summer, 1977)

Financial Aid

The Free University of Iran is currently accepting applications from Iranian nationals who have completed or who are pursuing graduate degrees in the following fields: education, psychology, economics, sociology, anthropology, health sciences, natural sciences, physical sciences, mathematics and TESL. In addition to employment opportunities a limited number of scholarships are available for those candidates who will be finishing their studies within the near future.

Additional information on the Free University and request forms for applications can be obtained by writing to The Free University of Iran, c/o Dr. Bahman Vahidi, 14103 Donart Drive, Poway, California, 92064.

The International Office has a copy of the publication "LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS THAT ACCEPT APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM FOREIGN STUDENTS ALREADY IN THE UNITED STATES" available for your information.

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If the address or spelling of your name which appears on this newsletter is incorrect or you have not as yet been included on our mailing list, please contact Judy Cornetta X545 in the International Office. Also, be sure to inform the Registrar's office X311 if you change your address during the year.
USEFUL ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS

Immigration and Naturalization Service
Department of Justice
John F. Kennedy Building
Government Center
Boston, MA 02203
Phone: 223-2361
Records Department: 223-2368

Division of Immigration and Americanization of Massachusetts (advises individuals applying for permanent residency)
Room 208 Tremont Building
Phone: 227-0718 (Ms. Sofias is head social worker)

English as a Second Language
(For Foreign Students and Scholars)
Susan Allein - Instructor
Contact International Office
Phone: 628-5000, X545

Foreign Faculty & Student Adviser
Leslie G. Long
International Office
Brown House, 38 Professors Row
Tufts University
Medford, MA 02155
Phone: 628-5000, X545

Internal Revenue Service
Alien Tax Section
John F. Kennedy Building
Room 104D
Government Center
Boston, MA 01103
Phone: 223-3446
State Tax Office, Phone: 727-4289

Canadian Consulate
500 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02116
Phone: 262-3760

Division of Immigration and Americanization of Massachusetts (advises individuals applying for permanent residency)
Room 208 Tremont Building
Phone: 227-0718 (Ms. Sofias is head social worker)

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Kei Kawabata - International House Head Resident
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Beverly Goldstein & Audrey Hale - International Hospitality Program Coordinators
Katie Chase - Furniture Lending Service