

**UNIQUE LOVE AFFAIR**

Under the cloudless sky  
The sun beamed on his body  
He saw her out there  
And amazed at her beauty

As he whispered sweet nothings  
Blushing red she did  
As his rough fingers caressed her  
The exotic perfume she wore  
Tickled the sensory nerves  
To sent him in a frenzy

He couldn't resist any longer  
Cupped her face in his hands  
Lovingly kissed her gently  
He knew well & truly  
That he had earned  
The rights for this privilege

Yes.... yes.... yes!  
After all...  
It is the very first bloom  
Of his tenderly cared  
Exotic Red Rose Bush

Lakshmi Gunaratna



**School days**

Those carefree days  
Have flown on by  
My school girl ways  
Are running dry

Coming home, on the bus  
Dragging my bag behind  
Early morning, what a fuss  
My homework I just can't find

Lunch and recess I await  
To talk and waste some time  
Walking into Chem class late  
As if I've committed a crime

Free periods we used to wag  
Sitting outside in the sun  
Silly teachers we used to bag  
Wishing school was done

Im missing those long hard days  
When I saw my friends  
I really miss our lazy ways  
But now we must transcend

School is a thing of the past  
Never to return again  
If I'd known it wouldn't last  
I could've handled this pain

I miss my friends, my teachers too  
Who I may never see again  
During this year they guided me through  
And stopped me going insane

Im really going to miss my school  
Those familiar sights and sounds  
I was just an utter fool  
For my daily moods and frowns

Shanali Edirisinghe

**"Justice"**

I lifted up my pen and began to write. "Justice," I thought. I stared at the picture, above my untouched writing as long as ever puzzled and at a complete loss. Innocent children at all ages, smiling at me. It's as if they want to tell me something, send a message but I can't seem to understand. The colour in their eyes the shine in their lips, am I missing something? Is there more to this picture than I thought. Though what is it? What is it that my doctor wants me to write about? This is all so confusing. Am I unhappy that all

**No one should be treated differently and no one should feel left out from the world. Everyone needs to smile and show peace to one another.**

these children are all fulfilled and happy whilst I am not? Is she trying to make me feel like I don't deserve to be apart in this picture? Of all content children that have no difficulties in their lives and have someone to care for them? Why, why me? Is it because I am different, I am away from the world and can't face the possibilities on my own.

Though this picture it's strange, something



I can't express, it almost reminds me of happiness. Freedom. My head gently rose and I peered through the windows. Why the windows are always shut. No light. No sunshine, just pure darkness and sadness. Wheeling in my wheel chair still with the picture in my hands, I headed for the bathroom. I shut the door behind me. Silence awoke the room. I went closer to the sink. I placed the picture on the mirror and glanced sideward's constantly at myself and back at the picture. My red swollen eye bags and cracked lips ruined my face. This isn't right. I should look like them, being happy and with friends. People that love me. People that will accompany me. Though this is all too soon this can't be the end of my life. It's just begun. Why is this stupid wreckless picture treating me so bad? It's just kids, why is this such a big deal? My body feels so empty and hollow. No blood, no heart just loneliness.

The young youths smiling like there's nothing wrong. Nothing wrong to worry about, nothing will ever torment

their lives and haunt them forever. Dressed in fine clothes, and here I am in white robes every single day. Wheeling back and forth through the wards seeing people suffer and die in agony. I went back to my table and sat miserably glaring at the blank piece of paper doubtfully.

I guess life isn't easy at it seems. Though we should do and say in what we believe in. Children should have the rights in shouting out and say what they accept is true. Even if some doesn't have the ability of doing something every person does they should still get a chance. A chance of smiling. A chance of walking again or not being blinded by the sunlight. Every single mankind needs to experience their milestones and accomplish what they started. No one should be treated differently and no one should feel left out from the world. Everyone needs to smile and show peace to one another. And I think I finally found out what the picture was trying to expose. That's what the little boy showing the symbol of peace was trying to show all along. We can't always get what we want we get what we need. Isn't that true?

Divya Subasinghe  
Gr 8



**Kodak retires Kodachrome film**

More than 35 years after Paul Simon immortalised the colour film in song, the company announced on Monday that it would be ending production of Kodachrome.

Eastman Kodak said sales of Kodachrome represent less than one percent of Kodak's total sales of still-picture film and that it would stop making it this year. Kodachrome was launched in 1935, becoming one of the most successful colour films of all time, known for its rich colours and durability. But sales have fallen dramatically, Kodak said, with the advent of digital imaging technology.

**Domain names get an international flavour**

This time next year, you may be able to register your online business domain name in another language, thanks to a concept called Internationalisation of Domain Names (IDNs).

When the online domain name system was established about 30 years ago, it was written in Roman characters. Now it's going to be opened up to any character from any language. Domain names are the web addresses you type in your browser and the IDN move means non-Romanised characters can be used. IDNs will incorporate languages from across Asia, India, the Middle East and Europe, allowing millions of people around the world who do not use the English language to go online.

**Record number of Australians visit NZ**

More than a million Australians arrived in New Zealand last year, breaking a tourism record and justifying spending on tourism

marketing across the Tasman, NZ Prime Minister John Key says.

To celebrate the Australian numbers, Tourism New Zealand is running an online competition offering Australians the chance to win a "millionaire's holiday" in New Zealand.

In the year to May, 1,001,880 visitors arrived from Australia -- the first time the number has topped a million, Statistics New Zealand reported.

In contrast, the 2.42m visitor arrivals from all countries during the year were down 64,200 or three per cent from the May 2008 year.

**Wash clothes with just a cup of water**

Water conservation usually takes a back-seat while doing laundry, but not anymore, for now a new environmentally friendly washing machine, which uses use only one cup of water and leaves clothes virtually dry, is all set to hit showrooms in 2010.

Developed at the University of Leeds, the technology aims save up to 90 per cent of water used by conventional machines, use 30 per cent less energy, and thus can have the environmental impact of taking two million cars off the road.

The washing machine works by replacing most of the water with thousands of tiny, reusable nylon polymer beads, which attract and absorb dirt under humid conditions.

Only a small amount of water and detergent is needed to dampen the clothes, loosen stains and create the water vapour that allows the beads to work. And after the cycle is finished, the beads fall through a mesh in the machine's drum, and can be re-used up to a hundred times.

The company behind the technology, Xeros, is initially aiming at the commercial washing market, including hotels and dry cleaners.

Bill Westwater, Xeros chief executive, said that growing pressure on companies and consumers to cut water usage and carbon emissions might boost demand for the system.

"We've got an eye on the consumer but it will take time and we hope commercial success could act as a springboard to move into the consumer market," Times

Online quoted Mr Westwater as saying. Stephen Burkinshaw from Leeds developed the technology over the past 30 years.

**Former Indian royal Gayatri Devi dies**



Maharani Gayatri Devi in her youth. Published in Roli Books Family Pride series.

The former queen of the western Indian desert kingdom of Jaipur, GayatriDevi, who was often described as one of the most beautiful women in the world, died in Jaipur. She was 90.

Gayatri Devi, who also

served three times as a national lawmaker, washospitalized for about 10 days with stomach and respiratory problems before she died, her doctor S.C. Kala said. Gayatri Devi's classical good looks ensured that photographs of her inelegant chiffon saris and diamonds and pearls were splashed across fashionand lifestyle magazines.

She was also known for her love of horses and polo. She was born into the royal family of Cooch Behar in what is now easternIndia on May 23, 1919, decades before the partition of the subcontinent thatheralded the demise of Indian royalty. She became the third wife of SawaiMan Singh, the "maharaja" or ruler of Jaipur, in 1939. Gayatri Devi was the "maharani." More than 500 such royal families ruled parts of India and received "privy purses" or payments from British colonial rulers.

When India became independent in 1947 royal titles were abolished and payments cut off. Several royal households slipped into penury but the former Jaipur royalfamily remained wealthy, converting some former palaces into luxury hotels.