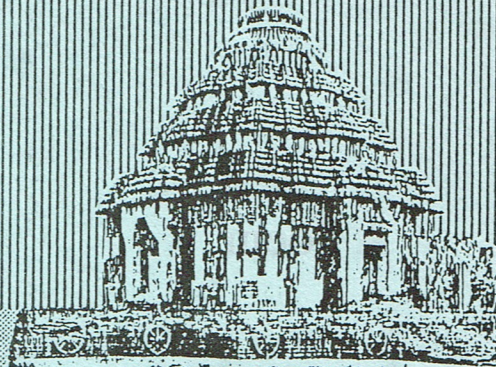
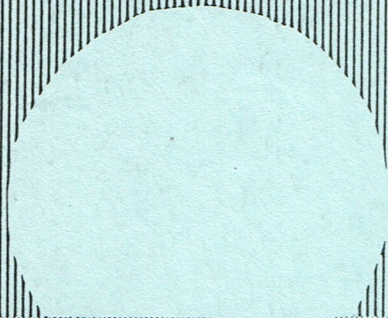


JOURNAL



of the
ORISSA SOCIETY

of
AMERICA


Fall 1988

A Poem

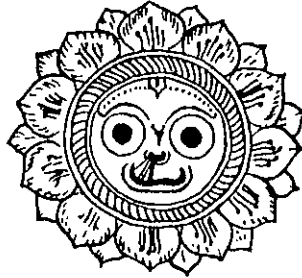
Sucharita Mishra

*The beauty of color
The wonders of grace,
Soft as satin,
Placed like lace.
They shine like diamonds,
Representing peace,
Love in all countries,
From Chile to Greece.
Roses like rubies,
Tiger lillies like fire,
Placed everywhere,
For people to admire.*

*Sucharita (Lira) is a 7th grader and lives with her parents
Satyabrata and Bijaylaxmi Mishra in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts.*



JOURNAL
of the
ORISSA SOCIETY OF AMERICA



କୃପାପାରାଧାରୀ ସକଳଜଳଦଶ୍ରେଣୀ ରୁଚିବୋ
ରମାବାଣୀରାମଃ ସ୍ଵରୂପନଳପଦ୍ମାକ୍ଷୟମୁଖିଃ
ସୁରେନ୍ଦ୍ରୋରାଧ୍ୟାୟଃ ଶ୍ରୁତିଗଣଗିତା ଗୀତ ବରିତୋ
ଜଗନ୍ନାଥଃ ସ୍ଵାମୀ ନୟନପଥଗାମୀ ଭବତୁ ମେ ।

Oh Lord Jagannatha! Lord of the Universe!

Show me the true path!

Fall 1988

Journal of the Orissa Society of America

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JOURNAL OF THE ORISSA SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Fall 1988

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Pranab Panda An Eulogy

Bijoy Mohan Misra

I saw Pranab at Dallas in the summer of '86. He was graduating from the University of Texas at Arlington and was in the midst of a select group of young men, all Computer Scientists - dedicated to the cause of team work and friendship. They all came from the same college and have the good fortune of studying together at this far away country. I was extremely pleased with the sense of bondage that had kept the group together. I had one of my most pleasant evenings in their company.

Pranab moved to Massachusetts in the fall of '86 and immediately showed his strength as an organizer and a person of conviction. Unassuming and extremely industrious, he started his career not for himself, but to promote the very ideal that had kept him going, i.e. "to help another individual is a duty and not a privilege." Some of his friends from Texas also moved to the New England area and the team of friendship

continued with new aspirations and great hopes for the future.

By working through the organizations of Oriyas in the United States and Canada, Pranab was not impressed. He believed that the services of the Society was minimal and was not directed towards all age groups. He wanted a more dynamic Society with resources allocated for new young men entering this continent.

A tragic accident fell on him on Sunday, June 19, '88 when he was returning home from Pawtucket, Rhode Island. He was rushed to the hospital and the most modern medical techniques were tried to break his coma, but to no success. Pranab passed away for heavenly abode on Wednesday, June 22, '88.

The small life that Pranab lived was echoed with the feelings of certainty and compassion. A message that can summarize his life can be eloquently stated as "Be a Helping Hand."

A Day in the Mohave Desert

Sitakanta Mahapatra

*They too walked here
seeking pinyon nuts, acorns
a cactus fruit and the occasional gold
crafting paintings on stubborn rocks
leaving behind pottery ollas
and time-scarred legends.*

*The desert waits patiently
its fragile infinity recorded
in the frantic sweep of the lizard's tongue
the slow unfolding of the bud in April
and the harsh layers of the ancient rocks
caressed by the wind.*

*In the blue slate of the sky
only some tiny lines of chalk,
worlds away the jets tear through space
as the dancing deaf cholla cactus
sticks to your dress
begging a small free ride.*

*The rocks are ocean waves
humping their backs.
Under the night stars
the flimsy moisture from the sky
plays the symphony of creation
reminding that life is
what happens briefly
at the edge of the fading light.*

Sitakanta Mahapatra is a well known poet in Orissa. During the past year he was a Visiting Fellow at the Center for International Affairs, Harvard University. He has now returned to Bhubaneswar.

Your Silence

Chandra Misra

*I am afraid of your silence
because of what it could mean.
I suspect your silence of meaning you
are getting bored or losing interest or making
up your mind about me without my guidance.
I believe that as long as I keep you talking I can
know what you are thinking.*

*But silence can also mean confidence.
And mutual respect. Silence can mean live and let live:
the appreciation that I am I and you are you. This silence is
an affirmation that we are already together - as two people.
Words can mean that I want to make you into a friend and
silence can mean that I accept your already being one.*

Chandra Misra is a frequent contributor to this journal. She is the mother of Bobby Misra, whose short story appears elsewhere in this issue.

River

Manorama Mohapatra

*Running without restraint
Ceaselessly flowing,
You are a river,
I cannot hold you back
I can only wash out the fire within me,
The cool waters of your love
Shall drench my burning life.*

*You will go running over
Hills and dales
Fields and forests
Tearing the surrounding darkness
Who can hold you back?*

*You, who can clasp and caress
You unruly river?
Moment by moment, you are running
Towards the sea
To merge yourself with it.*

Manorama Mahapatra is currently the Editor of Samaj, the influential newspaper in Orissa.



Surprise!

by

Suvankar Mohanty

Liton (Suvankar) and sisters Jini and Rini organised a surprise 25th Wedding Anniversary Party for Shanti and SriGopal Mohanty. This sketch of Mom and Dad was drawn for the occasion. Many friends and relatives were present to convey their greetings and best wishes.

OSA Youth Report

Leena Mansinha and Tani Purohit

The 19th Annual OSA Convention held in Saginaw was an overall success with some qualifications. The good aspects of the meeting were food catering, leaving people with more free time, adequate rooms, and a pool on the premises. The less satisfactory aspects could possibly improved in the future, like the presence of a lifeguard at the pool, a recreation center within walking distance, the announcement of rooms reserved for group activities (children's television room), and more adjoining rooms to allow more socializing. A major complaint from the youth embers was about the cancellation of the older youths' sporting event -- a major disappointment that could have been rectified by proper scheduling. A suggestion for later conventions was the reservation of three rooms specifically for age groups 8 - 11, 12 - 15, and 16 up, and the announcement to the members involved. This would improve the likelihood of meeting new people from other OSA chapters.

A youth forum was held in Saginaw, with a good turnout of approximately 40 members, to voice ideas, suggestions and complaints and feelings about the OSA and the role of youth members. Introductions were made by all in attendance. Deb Patnaik was the adult observer. Attendance was the greatest in the 16 years and older category. We hope to have more of the younger members participate in future forums. A major benefit of the open discussions was that it was held without parental intervention, which allowed freedom to speak freely about the youth's role in society. Problems that were discussed involved the lack of youth events (recreational and social), the lack of representation of youth on OSA executive, and some members complained of not being recognised during the general body meeting. More cultural education is wanted by the second generation

Oriyas, as it is necessary to maintain cultural identity. The relationship between North American raised youth and their Indian born parents was a major topic of discussion, regarding communication problems with respect to dating, parties, drinking, education and career choices. An interesting role-playing situation seemed effective, with older youth contributing suggestions on handling parents to younger members.

Four members in attendance at the forum were nominated to serve as the OSA Youth Council:

Tani Purohit, London, Ontario
Lena (Pepi) Mansinha, London, Ontario
Anoo Mishra, Blacksburg, Virginia
Ranjan Choudhury, Cincinnati, Ohio.

All youth members should feel free to contact the Youth Council with suggestions or complaints at any time.

A motion was raised to hold an independent **Youth Convention** in addition to the General OSA Convention. A tentative date proposed is **December 30, 1988 to January 2, 1989 in London**. Response to this proposal will determine if the Youth Convention will be held at this time. Please reply by phone or in writing by **November 15, 1988** to either Leena or Tani. A tentative agenda would possibly include an informal reception, use of UWO recreational facilities, shopping, sightseeing, cultural discussions, a home cooked meal, a night on the town and a New Year's Party. Please remember that apathy will keep the OSA youth stagnant and segregated, and darken the future of the OSA when we become adults.

Pepi and Tani
OSA Youth Council

Mr. Robinson's Birthday Present

Robert Misra

" Hello "

" Hi Jerry, " replied Mr. Robinson over the phone, "are you free today?"

" Yeah, why ? "

" Well, today is my wife's birthday, and you know how she always wanted another tree. So, I thought maybe with your help and two others, we could plant a maple in the backyard for her. "

" Why do you need four people to plant a three foot tree ? "

" Oh sorry, you don't understand. We're going to plant a full grown tree so that my wife doesn't have to tend to it everyday. She can just enjoy it !"

I sighed with disbelief. Mr. Robinson actually wanted to plant a full grown tree ! This was not the first time he had attempted a crazy stunt. During last Christmas, he tried to deliver Christmas presents to every child in the neighborhood - which was a great idea. However, he wanted to be Santa Claus. He dressed up like Santa, rented a sleigh and reindeer, and tried climbing down chimneys. On Christmas Eve, though, his reindeer refused to go outside in the cold, and Mr. Robinson ended up delivering the presents by hand on Christmas Day.

" Come over to my house in two hours.", Mr. Robinson told me.

Shortly after I arrived at Mr. Robinson's house, I saw a truck rumble up the street with a thirty- foot maple lying in the back. Mr. Robinson got out of the driver's seat, introduced me to our two helpers, and told us the tree could be moved to the backyard now. Struggling, the four of us slowly moved the tree to the backyard. When the tree was in the backyard, Mr. Robinson

gave us a short break. Each of us dropped the tree.

CRACK !!!

" Oh no", exclaimed Mr. Robinson, horrified, " the tree's cracked. I'll go get some tape."

He went in the house, returned with a roll of duck tape, and, to my amazement, started taping together the severed pieces of the tree. Intently, Mr. Robinson taped up the tree while telling us how a little duck tape would more than make up for the crack. I wished Mr. Robinson could have seen how silly he actually looked. Even he would have laughed at this crackpot idea.

" Now, let's plant this tree", ordered Mr. Robinson. We dug a hole, constantly being guided by Mr. Robinson's judgements of how wide, how long, and how deep, the hole should be with no room for error. When the hole was dug, we lifted the tree to an upright position. Immediately, to Mr. Robinson's horror, the tree buckled at the point of the crack, and thudded to the ground while breaking into six smaller pieces. Mr. Robinson did not say anything. He was on his knees, and his head was nearly in his lap.

Slowly looking up, he said, " I guess the Forces were against us at this time, huh Jerry. Just like last Christmas. "

" Hi Bill, what are you doing ? " said the woman, now making an appearance.

" Hi honey. I didn't know you were coming now. This is your birthday present. But, it's kind of wrecked. " explained Mr. Robinson.

" All this trouble just for a birthday present. Oh, I love you Bill. "

A smile lighted up Mr. Robinson's face. Somehow his birthday present had been everything he wanted it to be.

Robert (Bobby) Misra is in high school in Lansdale, Pennsylvania.

The Myth of Creation

Sonia Hota

[Editors Note: Every human tribe, every civilisation, every religion has its own unique story of the Creation. Blessed by an imaginative and inquisitive mind, we all reflect upon our roots; how the earth, the sun and the moon came about and human beings and all other living things arose. The astrophysicists tell us about the 'Big Bang', the creation of the present universe from a state in which there was no time and no space and in which all matter and energy was contained in about a pinhead. The geologists and the geophysicists tell us about the formation of the earth about 5 billion years ago, and the biologists about the origin of life some 2 billion years ago and the slow evolution into all the forms of life we find now. But the scientific stories are not as imaginative as those that come directly from the mind, a sort of mental 'Big Bang', from a state where too much dry knowledge has not contaminated the poet in us. Such is the story of creation by Sonia Hota. It is as imaginative and as poetic, as any of the tribal myths of creation. We present below some excerpts; which necessarily reads disjointed, but the vividness shines through.]

A long time ago, there existed only a giant cloud of darkness. From this cloud of darkness sprung a flower, with some light petals and some dark petals. Two of the opposite petals broke apart from the stem and separated into two different regions of the cloud. The light petal held many different seeds from which sprang the gods and goddesses. The light region was called Exiquest and the dark region Davarkom.

The gods and goddesses had not been appointed positions yet, and so wished to settle this themselves. However, all gods and goddesses wished to have the highest position, and this caused unhappiness and strife among them. Therefore, it was decided that the god who could bring the remaining flower of creation to Exiquest would become the chief god of Exiquest.

* * * * *

After filling it with a special mixture, he raised his goblet and chanted

Soul of darkness, over light
I seek thine aid to solve my plight
Flash across the vast terrain
To where the wounded god is lain

Mist of gray, that kills the air
Seek the one who lies in the lair
Lit his visage and his form
Mask and hide that of mine own.

Once he drank the mixture, he took the form of the perishing god.

* * * * *

Then the members of the Tarnist lightly hauled the sleeping Stirlm out of his hammock and threw him into the Sea of Stars. Stirlm, in a half dazed sleep, fell for a long time down the Sea of Stars. Finally, he landed on a star. There he lay for so long that he eventually grew onto the star and became the earth. His beard became the forests, and the saliva that he drooled became the waters of the world. His teeth became the mountains and since he always slept with his eyes open, the red eye became the sun, and the pale yellow eye became the moon. When his red eye was closed and the yellow eye open, it was the night. When the yellow eye was closed and the red eye open, it was the day. His snores became the great earthquakes that shook the earth, and his voice, when he mumbled in his sleep, became thunder.

* * * * *

Once he had looked into his magic glass, Josve discovered what had happened to Stirlm. He became very upset with the gods of the Tarnist, and told them that they were not worthy to be gods and goddesses. Josve decided to punish them, by sending them to be the creatures of the earth. He broke each one of them into pieces and bade the Yurlish to fly through the Sea of Stars and place the pieces on the earth. The Yurlish did as he bade, and when the pieces had been placed on earth, they became man and the animals of the earth.

At first, these creatures had no real shape or form. However, after a long discussion, the gods and goddesses decided to give man the image of themselves. This was done; the animals had yet to be dealt with. The gods and goddesses gave many different forms to the animals. Finally, they proposed that man should worship the gods and goddesses of Exiquet and this would be man's sole form of communication with them.

Sonia Hota is in a Gifted Student Program in Grade 10 in Brossard, Quebec. She is thirteen years old.

Plan to attend the
TWENTIETH ANNUAL CONVENTION
of
The Orissa Society of America
Nashville Tennessee
Radhakanta Mishra
(615)889-0645

ଏକ ସମାଲୋଚନା ମୂଳକ କବିତା:

ଆମେ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଜାତି

ଯୋଗେଶ ଚନ୍ଦ୍ର ପଣ୍ଡା
ମିନିଆପଲିସ୍

ଆମେ ସେହି ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଜାତିରେ, ଆମେ ସେହି ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଜାତି
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ଆମେ ସେହି ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଜାତିରେ

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this poem, I would be glad to answer them. My address: Dept. of Civil & Min. Eng., Univ. of Minnesota, 500 Pillsbury Dr. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455.

ଏ ମୋର ଦୁନିଆ

ଅଲେଖ ଦାଶ
ମିନିଆଁ ପଲିସ୍

ଏ ଦୁନିଆ ସାହାରାରେ ଚାଲିଛି ମୁଁ ଏକା ଏକା
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ଦୁଃଖ ବାଲୁକା ରାଶୀରୁ ନିର୍ଜାତକାର ଉତ୍ତାପ
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ଚାରିପାଶେ ଯେଉଁ ଅଛି ଦାରିଦ୍ର୍ୟର ଅନ୍ଧକାର
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ଏଠି ନାହିଁ କେହି ମୋର ଦେବାପାଇଁ ମନବଳ ।
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ହିଂସା ଦୈଷେ ପରିପୁଣ୍ଣ ଏଠା ଆକାଶ ବତାସ ।
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ଆଶାର ସକାଳ ଲୁଚେ ନିରାଶାର ସଂନ୍ଧ୍ୟା ହୋଇ
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ପଥ ଭ୍ରଷ୍ଟ ପଥକ ମୁଁ ଅମାବାସ୍ୟାର ଅନ୍ଧାରେ
ଶୋକି ପାଉ ନାହିଁ ଏଠି ଧୂରତାରା କେଉଁଠାରେ ।୮

*An invitation to participate in the philanthropic activities
of*

The Orissa Foundation

On September 2, 1988, there was a social gathering at the Vishnu Temple in Toronto. Several of us started talking about what we can do for Orissa. We all agreed that after some nineteen years of the formation of the Orissa Society of America, we have not really contributed substantially to the life and culture of Orissa. After a short discussion we agreed on the setting up of an endowment fund named 'The Orissa Foundation'. A spirited discussion ensued on the manner and amount of raising funds.

Our initial goal was to collect a modest \$25,000. However, many disagreed on the small goal and, to our surprise, within a few minutes we had firm pledges of \$7500. We were sufficiently moved and inspired by this turn of events to raise the goal to \$100,000. as a starter. We dream that within a few years we should have an endowment of \$1,000,000. and use the annual investment income of about \$100,000 for a broad range of philanthropic activities in Orissa.

From the outset, we all agreed that the Orissa Foundation must be a fund supported by all of us with bonds with Orissa at all income levels. We anticipate of course that the well to do among us will not only be generous, but generous repeatedly. However, we also hope that, somewhat like the UNESCO fund raising on Halloween, even children will send us nickels and dimes. Every dollar is multiplied by at least ten into rupees, and every nickel can have a significant effect on somebody's life in Orissa.

In the same vein we invite everyone to send us ideas on the formation and structure of the Orissa Foundation. We would like this to be a total community effort. Our tentative ideas are given below. If you agree, or disagree, please phone or write.

Projects: There is no shortage of

worthwhile projects in Orissa. The most important criteria for support will be for those projects which have insufficient local sources of funds and where the contribution of the Orissa Foundation will make a substantial difference. Our contribution would only be in funds, or in the donation of books, medicine or equipment. Thus medical services and schools in the poorest of villages are our prime targets at present. Later on, with more funds at our disposal we intend to broaden our scope. The beneficiary institutions will of course be required to agree to reasonable accountability.

Structure: As tentatively envisaged now, there will be a small Board of Trustees. The first constituted Board will then set up the mechanism for election of future members, selection of projects, conditions of accountability etc.. It is expected that the Orissa Foundation will be operational, ie. ready to receive the pledged donation late 1988 or early 1989. The directed donations (see below) will be disbursed right away. The Foundation Projects will depend on the rate and level of income from the endowment funds.

As a tax- exempt organisation the Orissa Foundation will of course be governed by existing US and Canadian laws and regulations. An annual financial statement as well as a list of supported projects will be issued.

Funding: 1. *Direct Fund Raising Campaigns:* Initially this is how we expect to raise the \$100,000. Perhaps we can convince many donors to give us an annual contribution so that we can plan on fulfilling our hope of \$1,000,000 in the endowment in a few years.

2. *Taking Over of Existing Personal Projects:* (Directed donations) Many of us already support, through personal donations, schools,

temples and hospitals in Orissa. Please consider channeling the funds through the Orissa Foundation. In this way you can take advantage of the tax status and donate about a third more, which can be used by the foundation for other worthwhile causes. Your personal project will be adopted as a Orissa Foundation project; the beneficiaries of your personal donation should see no difference. Our only condition is that the project must be of benefit to the entire local population.

3. *Bequests:* Perhaps when you are revising your will, you may consider leaving some

liquid assets to the Orissa Foundation.

Pledges: It is important that we receive as many pledges as possible, so that no time is lost in setting up the endowment and getting the projects on stream. As soon as formal organisation is finalised, we will be approaching the donors to fulfil the pledges. At press time we have a total of \$40,000. in pledges, some 40% of the goal of this first campaign. Please help us to achieve the goal. Thank you for your support.

Nitin Doshi
Chairman, Orissa Foundation
2440 Chalet Drive
Rochester MI 48309 USA
313/375-1010 (Home)

Lalu Mansinha
Secretary, Orissa Foundation
Department of Geophysics, U.W.O.
London Ont N6A 5B7 Canada
519/667-3034 (Home)
519/661-3292 (FAX)

Orissa Foundation

FIRST CAMPAIGN

Goal: \$100,000.

Already Pledged: \$40,000.

*Help us reach and exceed the goal.
Please phone or mail pledges to the Chairman or the Secretary.*

A Message from the President

Asoka Das

Those of our members who attended the convention in Saginaw already know that it was a very successful and happy meeting. Although we know that it was arranged at very short notice, the feeling we had was as if the host committee had a whole year to prepare for the occasion. I take this opportunity to thank Mr. Natabara Khuntia and all the other members of the Local Organising Committee who worked so hard to make the meeting a success.

I am happy to inform the members that the 20th Annual Convention will be held at Nashville, Tennessee during the July 4th weekend. The Chairman of the Local Organising Committee is Radhakanta Misra. It is expected to be a three day convention, giving sufficient time for members to see and visit the various tourist attractions of the region.

By the time this issue of the Journal is in your hands, three OSA sponsored artists will have arrived in our midst. They are Pranab Patnaik, Bhubaneswari Misra and Umesh Kar. They will be arriving in the last week of October and begin an eight week tour, entertaining Oriyas in various parts of North America. The first recital will be presented on the occasion of the annual cultural function of the New York Chapter on October 29th. Concerts in other cities are being arranged and a program schedule has been organised. Because of the possibility of last minute changes it is not listed here. Please get in touch with your local chapter president to find out the performance date in your area. Anil Pattanayak, as Secretary-Treasurer, has undertaken the responsibility of the financial aspect of the tour; Promod Pattanaik, Chairman of the Cultural Committee, is the programme coordinator.

As a result of discussions at the 19th Annual Convention, a sub-committee has been formed to make recommendations to the President on certain aspects of the constitution

as well as the question of a logo for the OSA. The sub-committee is to submit the recommendations by Decemeber 31, 1988. The emebers of the Sub-committee are:

*Amiya Mohanty, Richmond, Kentucky
Digamabr Misra, Birmingham, Alabama
Bijoy Das, Charleston, South Carolina
Promode Pattanaik, Huntsville, Alabama
Biju Misra, Blacksburg, Virginia
Madhab Dash, East Meadow, New York
Shanti Mishra, Newburgh, New York*

The Chairman of the Sub-Committee is Amiya Mohanty; Madhab Dash is the Co-Chairman.

As we all know, the 'Brataghara' ceremony is an occasion when a Brahmin boy becomes a man, and said to undergo a rebirth. It is for this reason that a brahmin is called 'Dwija', the twice born. Well the birth of a brilliant idea occurred during the Brataghara ceremony of Robin Purohit at the Vishnu Mandir in Toronto. In a discussion initiated by Nitin Doshi, in which I and several others took part, the idea of the Orissa Foundation was born. On behalf of the members of the Orissa Society of America, I have offered the fullest cooperation to the Orissa Foundation. Their cause is very noble and worthy. I have suggested that they operate as a division of the Orissa Society of America. I am impressed by the fact that ina very short time they have received pledges of \$40,000. Their goal is to raise \$100,000 this year. Whatever form the Orissa Foundation takes, I am sure that there will be very close cooperation with the OSA. We are all part of the same community of American Oriyas, and any worthy cause that benefits Orissa is a project that needs participation by all of us.

With winter fast approaching, I wish all of you happy dreams of the warmer climes of Orissa.

Orissa Society of America

NINETEENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

July 2, 1988

SAGINAW, Michigan.

Executive Committee Meeting

Report of the Secretary

Present:

Annapurna Biswal, Washington DC

Haralal Choudhury Ohio

Asoka Das, President, OSA

Sitakantha Dash, Minnesota

Bishnu Joshi, Southern Chapter

Kalpataru Kanungo, New York

Natabar Khuntia, Michigan

Saradindu Misra, Editor in Chief

Subarnalata Misra New England

Surya K. Misra Chicago

Sanatan Mahanto, Utkal Samaj

Pratap Pattanaik, Vice-President OSA

Anil Pattanayak, Secretary Treasurer

Asoka Das welcomed all members to the 19th annual convention. He opened the meeting by requesting a moment of silence for the departed souls of Nalini Hota of Montreal and Pranab Panda of Rhode Island.

Anil Pattanayak presented the revenues and expenses for the year 1987-1988. (See Attachment 1). H. Choudhury moved and Surya Misra seconded to accept the expense report as stated. The motion passes unanimously.

Anil Pattanayak then presented the budget for 1988-1989. After discussion and revision, the budget was accepted. (See Revised Budget, Attachment 2). Surya Misra moved and K. Kanungo seconded to approve the modified budget. The vote was unanimous.

Anil Pattanayak, Secretary- Treasurer, proposed that OSA acquire a free Personal Computer (PC) by investing in a long term (10 yr) Certificate of Deposit (CD). He pointed out that many banks in the Chicago area offer free

gifts when long term CD's are opened. Discussion followed and it was agreed that most OSA funds should remain in short term (1 - 2 year term) CD's. S.K. Dash motioned and H. Choudhury seconded that Anil Pattanayak should open a CD account with Pathway Financial in Chicago. The 10 year CD should be for \$4500.00 with an annual interest rate of 8.25% and should offer a free Personal Computer for opening the account. The motion was passed unanimously based on the above criteria.

Donations to the Orissa Drought Relief Fund was discussed. The members decided that local chapters should collect funds and turn them over to the secretary- treasurer who should consolidate and donate the funds to the appropriate relief agencies.

The Southern Chapter expressed a desire to host the 20th Annual Convention in Nashville. K. Kanungo moved and H. Choudhury seconded that the Southern Chapter be given until September 15th to inform the President of

OSA their firm commitment to hold the convention. If Nashville is unable, The Chicago chapter will host the 20th annual convention. The motion was carried.

The question of cash advances for future convention was discussed. Surya Misra moved that the President, in consultation with the Secretary-Treasurer, should decide if any cash advances can be given to the host chapter as a loan. The motion was seconded and was seconded by S.K. Dash and was passed unanimously.

The issue of the proposed constitutional amendments was discussed. It was agreed that the President be authorised to form a subcommittee to look into this issue. A recommendation to the President should be presented by December 31, 1988. Saradindu Misra moved and B. Joshi seconded the motion, which was carried.

The issue of accepting the recommendations of the Logo Committee of 1984 was discussed. K. Kanungo moved and Saradindu Misra seconded that the constitutional subcommittee also look into the logo issue and provide the President with its recommendation also by December 31, 1988. The motion passed with 10 (ten) for, 1 (one) against and 1 (one) abstaining.

The Election Committee was formed for the forthcoming election of the OSA. It was also decided that the President, in consultation with the Secretary-Treasurer, explore the possibility of retaining an

independent accounting firm to conduct the election if the costs are reasonable. The following were proposed for the election committee:

Anup K. Behera, Naperville, Il.

Mihir K. Dash, Naperville, Il.; Chairperson

Kamal K. Khuntia, Frankfort, Il.

B. Joshi moved and Subarna Misra seconded that the Election Committee be approved. The motion was carried.

The formalisation of the election of members to the Executive Committee from local chapters was discussed. It was agreed that the local chapters inform the Secretary-Treasurer in writing of the name of their representative to the Executive Committee. For the convenience of the local chapters and for maintaining uniformity, Anil Pattanayak was authorised to create a standard form for this purpose. The motion to accept this proposal was made by Surya Misra and seconded by K. Kanungo. The motion was carried.

The meeting was adjourned by the President.

Anil Pattanayak
Secretary-Treasurer

Note: The 10 year CD was opened at Pathway Financial on July 15, 1988. The Personal Computer was delivered to Anil Pattanayak via UPS on August 24, 1988.

EXPENSE STATEMENT: 1987-1988

Advance to New England Chapter for 1988 OSA Convention-----	\$ 1000.00
Payment to Stanford University for Unpaid Balance from 1987 Convention-----	35.80
OSA Newsletter--Fall Issue-----	762.91
OSA Newsletter--Spring Issue (Advance)-----	500.00
Printing and Telephone Expenses (Reimbursement to A.K. Das)-----	550.91
Reimbursement to B.M. Misra of New England Chapter for Toronto-Boston Airfare-----	<u>222.70</u>
Total	\$ 3072.32

INCOME STATEMENT: 1987-1988

Check Received from S. Misra, Ex-Secre- tary-Treasurer OSA-----	\$ 2327.00
Check from S. Ray, Ex-Chairperson, Election Committee-----	53.65
New Membership Dues for 38 Life Members----	3800.00
New Membership Dues for 9 Yearly Members---	135.00
Income from Advertisements from 1987 Convention Newsletter-----	900.00
Income from Advertisements from OSA Fall and Spring Newsletters-----	375.00
Return of Advance from New England Chapter for Convention-----	989.59
Contribution to Orissa Draught Relief Fund-	25.00
Interest Income from Deposits-----	<u>145.99</u>
Total	\$ 8751.23

BALANCE SHEET FOR 1987-1988

Total Incomes-----	\$ 8751.23
Total Expenses-----	<u>3072.32</u>
Balance	\$ 5678.91

Attachment 1

Page 3 of 3

DETAILS OF TOTAL ASSETS OF OSA

Balance from 1987-1988-----	\$ 5678.91
C.D.'s at Coast Savings Cashed Out-----	1142.50 2978.29
C.D.'s at State Bank of India (Per S. Misra, Ex-Secretary-Treasurer, OSA)-----	5869.46 <u>2890.59</u>
Net Assets	\$ 18559.75

Attachment 2

BUDGET For 1988-89 Fiscal Year

1. Newsletter (Journal)-----\$ 500.00/Issue
Four/Year Mailing Cost 75.00
2. Miscellaneous Expenses----- 200.00
(Printing, Stationary, & Postage)
3. Telephone Expenses----- 250.00
4. Loan Advance for OSA Sponsored Artists 4500.00
(To Be Paid Off With Interest)
5. Anticipated Income----- 5000.00
(Membership and Interest)

A Report on the 1988 OSA Convention

Natabar Khuntia

I am taking this opportunity of reporting to you the proceedings of the 19th annual OSA Convention. About 350 Convention participants from USA and Canada escaped the oppressive heat of July 4th weekend in the air-conditioned and indoor swimming facilities of Florentine Inn at Saginaw, Michigan, located 90 miles north of Detroit. With some distant visitors arriving the evening of Friday, July 1st, the lobby of Florentine Inn reverberated with greetings between friends and relatives during Saturday afternoon. After brief registration formalities, all attendees were invited to a nearby amphitheatre where Mr. Govinda Senapati, the former Director General of Police of Orissa, and a distinguished scholar of Orissa Temple architecture, gave a slide presentation of the development of Orissa architecture starting with Buddha and Jain days till its zenith with construction of Puri, Bhubaneswar and Konarak temples. It made us proud of our lofty cultural heritage and raised the question in our minds "how and when did we get off the track?"

Later that evening, the members sat down for a catered authentic Indian cuisine, served leisurely in a street cafe environment. As darkness fell, all returned to the amphitheatre for an evening of Mehfil filled with melodious impromptu songs, artistic dances, music and fun. The performances ended at 1 A.M. with nightcap of sweets and refreshments.

Sunday morning, the Executive body met at 7 A.M. after coffee and donuts to discuss and decide an next year's OSA Budget, next Election Overseeing Committee, 1989 Convention locations, Orissa drought relief fund and Constitutional amendments. Nashville and Chicago were proposed as possible 1989 OSA Convention sites.

The General body met at 10 A.M. and was informed of the Executive Body recommendations. As in previous years, free expression of diverse points of views on many vital issues indicated a strong democratic process in action.

The OSA Convention was formally inaugurated at 1 P.M. by the Honorable Mayor Delbert Schrems of Saginaw. In his welcome address, he reminded us of Saginaw's tradition as a home of many new immigrants and appreciated Saginaw being chosen as our convention site. Mr. Sarat Chandra Mishra, a Minister at Indian Embassy, gave the keynote address. He talked about Orissa as the birth place of many generations of immigrants starting with sea-farers to East Asian peninsula and islands (Java, Sumatra, Bali etc.) till the recent migration to West. He emphasized the need to retain and pass on to the next generation the unique Oriya cultural and moral values, while fully participating in the political and social processes of our adopted country. He also described the various services offered by the Embassy for the Indian community.

The Sunday afternoon was busy with many simultaneous programs, such as, youth sports (soccer, baseball), youth forum and parent's panel discussion. The youth forum was organized by Prof. Deba Patnaik. About thirty participants discussed about the pressures and challenges of growing up within the interaction of two sets of social values, cultures and expectations. Deba Babu has surveyed the views of the participating youths on certain issues for publication in a future newsletter. His pioneering effort to organize the youth and initiate dialogue is really appreciated. We look forward to his continued support of this activity. The Parents panel discussion, moderated by Subhendu Mahanti, focussed

on many contemporary issues facing the Indian parents, such as, raising children within traditional Indian customs and social expectations, education, dating, marriage, career etc. Although there is no "right" or "wrong" answers to these issues, the discussions brought out various ways to address them.

Around 4 P.M., all conventioners drove to the nearby Saginaw Valley State College auditorium in preparation for the evening's gala cultural events. After snacks, sweets and refreshments, the members settled down for the entertainment program, with youth members serving as master of ceremonies. High point of the program was the youth fashion parade in flashy American dresses as well as in traditional Indian costumes. This was directed by Lalat (Pupun) Patnaik who is now attending the University of Michigan as a freshman. Kali Mishra's (Saskatchewan) talented children wowed the audience with Oriya and Hindi songs and dances. A drama depicting an Oriya family from U.S. vacationing in an Orissa village rekindled many memories of back home. The skit was written by Sabita (Lily) Patnaik and directed by Hemanta Senapati. A colorful dance and a group song by Michigan ladies brought applause from the audience. In addition, many dances and songs by accomplished as well as developing artists such as Sushree Sangeeta Kar, Subrina Biswal, Lora Mishra, Melissa Nayak, Meena Mohanty and Rosy Choudhury charmed the audience.

At the end, the stage got glittered with shining recognition trophies and merit certificates awarded to youth for participation in cultural and sports activities. These were distributed by Nitin Doshi and guest of honor, Mr. Sarat Mishra.

The evening ended with a delicious Oriya dinner in Florentine Inn's banquet room. After the days busy schedule, the members enjoyed poolside chat well into the night. Some children, however, were seen awake for the better part of the night exchanging information to make up for one year's lost time.

Next morning, after breakfast of coffee, donut and fruits, came the sad moment to depart for a long drive back home. Many youth were seen bidding tearful farewell to friends indicating the strong bond of friendship they had reestablished and promising to meet again at the next convention.

The Michigan Chapter members have been heartened with positive feedbacks in terms of letters and phone calls on the success of this convention. I wish to congratulate each Michigan Chapter member who rose to the occasion and put many hours of hard work to plan and implement the convention programs within a very short time. In addition, the Michigan Chapter members thank all convention participants and the officers of OSA for allowing us the opportunity to host the convention of a wonderful group of distinguished Oriya families.

News of the Chapters

Minneapolis

Sita Kantha Dash

Film and radio artist Prafulla Kar visited Minneapolis recently. He was on a US tour with music programmes at Chicago, Nashville, New York, Washington, Detroit and Charleston.

Mrs Prabhavati Rao, wife of Pippalla Rao, has arrived in Minneapolis to join her husband. He is a Ph.D. student in Pharmacy at the University of Minnesota.

Sunil Mohanty has accepted a teaching position in Business at Mankato State University.

Bhabani Misra has joined the staff at St. Thomas University, St. Paul.

Saroj Mohanty and family moved to Minneapolis from Ohio.

The statue of Lord Jagannatha is to be installed in the Hindu Mandir at Minneapolis. S.K. Dash, a trustee of the Mandir, has taken the responsibility of bringing the statue from Orissa. Dr. Dash would like to have inputs from OSA members in this project. Please call him at 612/881-1915 (Office) or 612/888-9644 (Home).

New England

Susan Tripathy

Highlights of our activities for the past few months include a poetry reading in May held at the home of Chandrasekhar and Rita Mohanty. Poems were read by OSNE members as well as by Sitakanta Mahapatra, who was in Boston area for the 1987-88 academic year as a Visiting Fellow at the Center for International Affairs, Harvard University. As you know, Dr. Mahapatra is an accomplished poet who has published several books of Oriya poems.

During the summer, the India Society of New England held an India Night Celebration in Worcester, Massachusetts.

Three of our members: Gitanjali Rath, Shanti Pattnaik and Bijoylaxmi Mishra sang a modern Oriya song.

In August, OSNE held its annual summer picnic in Hopkinton State Park, Massachusetts. It was a pleasant break from an unusually hot summer, as everyone enjoyed the swimming, shaded picnic area, and good food.

Postscript

Ganesh Puja was celebrated by OSNE members in the residence of Sukumar Patnaik in Manchester, NH on September 24. Election of OSNE office bearers for the year was held and the following were elected:

Chandra Sekhar Mohanty President
Nityananda Misra Vice President
Jayashree Mahapatra Secretary
Sumita Mallick Treasurer

New Jersey

Brajendra Sahoo

Visuba Milan, April, 1988

The Visuba Milan was held at Spring Valley, New York on Saturday, April 16, 1988. The celebration provided a variety of cultural programs that included a debate competition for children in two age groups, an Odissi dance by Lony Nanda and a group song by children conducted by Kavita Patnaik, followed by a talk by Prof. Jiten Mohanty. The second half of the evening was music hour. The AIR and TV artist, Sushree Sangeeta was specially invited from Michigan to participate in our program. The other participants of the evening were our member artists, the AIR performer Leena Nanda, Satya Mohanty and Kavita Patnaik. The winners in the debate and all other participants were presented with prizes.

Picnic, 1988

The OSANJ members with their families and friends held a picnic party at Monmouth Battle Field State Park in Freehold Township, New Jersey on June 18, 1988. A volleyball game was conducted between the parents and the children and competition were held in 100 feet three- leg race as Husband-Wife pairs and 50 feet and 100 feet race among the children. Cash prizes were distributed to the winners.

Group Odissi Recital

The OSANJ has once again sponsored the Group Odissi Recital presented by Chitralekha Dance Academy of Burlington, Canada. The program was held on September 17 at 7.30 PM in the Memorial School in Whippany, New Jersey. The artists are Guru Gangadhar Pradhan who is widely acknowledged as the most outstanding Odissi teacher of his generation, Chitralekha, one of the foremost exponents of Odissi dancing worldwide, Sarba and Ellora, and Devraj, the first male Odissi dancer in North America.

The program was started with slide presentation to show the American audiences, how many of the beautiful poses of Odissi dance are patterned after the ancient drawing and relics of sculptures found in the famous temples that once nourished the arts. The program was highly praised by the American audiences and the Star- Ledger, Daily Records, the New Jersey papers and almost all the local news papers wrote special articles on Odissi dance in that day's edition. OSANJ honored Guru Gangadhar with a plaque for his outstanding contributions to the Odissi dance.

New York

Saradindu Misra

Maha Visuba Sankranti

OSANY celebrated Maha Visuba Sankranti on Saturday, April 23, 1988 at the Hindu Temple in Flushing, New York. A large number of members participated in this function. The function was opened by a welcome address by OSANY President, Dr. Kalpataru Kanungo. Dr. Sitakanta Mahapatra was the keynote speaker and he spoke about the significance of Visuba Sankranti. The audience, including non- OSANY members from the Hindu Temple were charmed with Dr. Mahapatra's scholarly discourse on the subject.

There followed an evening of cultural program, led by a bhajan, beautifully sung by our young artists Anita and Asit Patnaik. Bidhu Patnaik and Rama Ballava Mishra also charmed the audience by rendering melodious bhajans.

The evening ended with a gala non-vegetarian dinner, deliciously prepared by the members.

OSANY PICNIC

OSANY Annual Picnic was held on Saturday, June 11, 1988 in the Bear Mountain State Park, New York. Members started arriving from 10 AM and continued to drop by until 4 PM. There were plenty of barbecued chicken and assortment of soft drinks, provided by the chapter. Sudhansu Misra and Mana Ranjan Pattanayak were in charge of frying chicken, a job they did superbly from 10 AM to 3 PM, continuously! Additional food items and sweets were provided by Anu Kanungo, Sudha Patnaik, Pirco Pattanayak, Sukla Mishra and Lata Misra. There were

diverse activities: swimming, hiking, boating, ball playing, chatting, singing, and sundry. The weather was just gorgeous for an outdoor picnic and members stayed on till 8 PM, until the twilight forced them to bid goodbye to each other.

OSA Convention, 1988

OSANY sent the largest number of delegates to the OSA Convention, held in Saginaw, Michigan during the July 4th weekend. Fifteen families from OSANY drove to the convention in mini-van. The round-trip driving time was something like 34 hours and Mana Ranjan Pattanayak was in the driving seat throughout! The trip was a memorable one, as the passengers did not have to worry about driving such a long distance.

Annual Camp, 1988

The celebrated camp, which OSANY has been holding for the past 11 years at the East Creek Lodge in the Bellplain State Forest, New Jersey, was again booked for July 22,23 and 24 - three days of continuous non-stop fun for OSANY members. The loyals of East Creek Lodge were there - so also a lot of new members and out of towners, together with their visiting parents and relatives. The three days were loaded with activities, and, with sumptuous food (chicken, mutton, fish, crab - you name it!). The mornings were utilized for swimming. Both adults and children spent the better part of the morning to noon in the nearby lake with pristine water. The afternoon was spent in volley ball games. Parents and children played against each other and the children's side won. Prizes were distributed to the winners.

The highlight of the 23rd evening was an one-act play *Dui Sautuni Kali*, hilariously acted by Chandra Misra, Sipra Rath and Rama Ballava Mishra. The skit was penned by Bijoy

Mohan Misra. The audience was roaring with laughter for the entire duration of the skit. Children had their share in the evening activities too - lot of jokes, one-man caricature, songs, and instrument playing. Participants were Asit, Anita, Rekha, Sidhartha, Anjan, Sombit, Iris, Prakash and Deepak.

OSANY is grateful to Anu Kanungo, Prabasini Sahoo, Chandra Misra, Sanjukta (Ruby) Das, Basanta Das (Basi Apa), Pirco Pattanayak, Sudha Patnaik, Shanti Mishra, Sipra Rath, Nani Pattanayak (Canada) and Lata Misra for cooking the delicious meals. Thanks are also due to Krushna M. Das, Mana Ranjan Pattanayak, Dhyana Ranjan Pattanayak, Jnana Ranjan Pattanayak (Canada) and Sudhansu Misra for taking care of the outdoor cooking. They all made the camping a memorable event.

Updates on OSANY Scholarship

The Registrar of Berhampur University has just informed us that Mr. Sanjay Kumar Rath of Khallikote College has received the OSANY scholarship, for the year 1987, amounting to Rs.3,000/-. Mr. Rath secured the highest percentage of marks in B.Sc.(Hons) examination. His subject was Geology. OSANY congratulates Mr. Rath for this achievement.

Kumar Utsab, 1988

OSANY will celebrate Kumar Utsab - and the celebration will coincide with its annual day - on October 29, 1988 at the Carey Gardens Community Center, Brooklyn, New York. Pranab Patnaik and Bhubaneswari Misra, noted vocalists of Orissa, together with Umesh Kar, the noted tabla player, are scheduled to perform on that evening. OSANY has extended an invitation to the members of OSANJ to participate in the celebration and to make it a combined event. We look forward to a gala evening of entertainment.

Southern Chapter

Digambar Mishra

Dr. Asit Patnaik and his wife Runu Patnaik have moved to Birmingham, Alabama. Asit has joined the University of Alabama at Birmingham's Medical School.

Dr. Sitakanta Mahapatra, Ford Foundation Senior Fellow at Harvard, visited Birmingham, Alabama in December 1987 and May 1988. In addition to speaking at the UAB Anthropology Dept., Sitakanta Babu also participated in a proposed project planning session with Sura Prasad Rath and Digambar Mishra concerning a volume of authoritative work on Orissan Society, politics, art and culture.

Mr. G.C. Senapati and his wife Geeta visited their son Kiron in Tampa, Florida. They also visited Memphis and Birmingham on their way to the OSA Convention in Michigan.

Mrs. Basanti (Sheli) Shaw received her degree in Optometry. Her husband Satyabrata, who planned this academic packet for Sheli, organized a grand party in Memphis, Tennessee. Congratulations are due to both - Sheli for working hard all these years and Satyabrata for inspiring Sheli. Well, a financial planner and a tax practitioner also can do academic planning quite successfully!

Sucheta (Meena) Mohanty enters the University of Cincinnati as a Freshman in Fall, 1988. She has been awarded the prestigious Voorheis scholarship. Meena served as president of her school science club and was elected as president of Kentucky Junior Academy of Science. Meena was the third runner up in the Junior Miss Pageant of Madison County, Kentucky. Meena is the daughter of Saratkumari and Amiya Mohanty of Richmond, Kentucky. The proud parents held a reception for friends and neighbours.

Amiya K. Mohanty has been elected as Secretary of the Blue Grass Indo American Civic Society.

Susmita, daughter of Radhakanta and Geeta Mishra of Nashville, TN is bound for the

University of Michigan this Fall. Her parents had thrown a grand graduation party at their residence in June of this year.

Anoop Mishra, son of Digambar and Jyotsna Mishra, has won the national championship in the Lincoln -Douglas Debate during the weeklong National Debate and Speech Tournament in Nashville. The tournament included more than 1400 debators nationwide. Anoop will be a senior this Fall.

The annual picnic of the Southern Chapter was held on September 4th in Nashville, Tennessee and was attended by the majority of members. Prafulla Kar was invited to the evening's entertainment program who thrilled the audience with his melodious voice.

Toronto Area

Lalu Mansinha

Residents of the Toronto area were treated to a superbly crafted evening of Odissi Dance by Guru Gangadhar Pradhan, Chitralekha Patnaik, and of course, Ellora, Devraj of the Chitralekha Dance Academy, together with Sarba Das from New Jersey. The function was held at the Lester B. Pearson Theatre in Brampton, a suburb of Toronto on September 10, 1988. Among the notables in the audience were the Mayor of Brampton, the Consul-General of India, and the M.P. for Brampton. It was one of those performances that stirs your heart and reminds you of all the fine things you have missed by staying too long in the west. The dances by Guru Gangadhar and Chitralekha were of course exceptional, but we became absolutely enchanted with Raj and Sarba. Oh to be young and flexible and agile and talented! What a treat for our aging eyes!

Alone among all the Oriya children in North America, Ellora is going back to Bhubaneswar for two years for further studies in Odissi dance, music and culture. She fell in love with Orissa during her trip last year. Lora, we wish you all the best and we are looking forward to seeing you on stage again soon with your new repertoire.

Ten Reasons to Make a Will

Satya B. Shaw

Most of us live at least part-time in a pleasant, relaxing place called Someday Isle - 'Someday I'll get around to it.' But when it comes to making your will, it's never too soon to get started. Your will should be the centerpiece of your overall estate plan to reduce taxes and transfer costs and ensure that your hard-won assets are enjoyed by whom you want, in the way you want. Here are ten important things a will can do:

- * **Take advantage of the marital deduction:** One way to save taxes on your estate is to leave property to your spouse under the estate-tax marital deduction. There is an unlimited deduction for property passing to a surviving spouse. However, keep in mind that if you leave everything to your spouse, his or her estate may subsequently be burdened by a substantial estate tax.
- * **Make most of the unified credit:** There is a unified estate and gift tax credit that permits you to pass up to \$600,000 free of any tax. A will can help derive the maximum benefit from the credit.
- * **Create a trust for your spouse:** A trust can save taxes and ensure prudent management of your assets. Your lawyer can explain the variety of trusts you can setup in your will. And the law authorizes a type of trust - the 'Q-TIP' - that can qualify for the marital deduction.
- * **Create a trust for your children:** Minors may not legally manage large sums, and it's usually wise to provide restraints after the age of majority - 18 may be the worst age for inheritance. A trust can handle the money and also ensure that a child with special needs is taken care of.
- * **Make alternate bequests:** Only by naming contingent beneficiaries in your will can you be sure that the right people will enjoy your property if something happens to the primary beneficiaries.
- * **Make specific bequests:** Only in your will can you direct that certain possessions go to the beneficiaries who will most need or appreciate them. One child may share your passion for rare coins, for example, while another may simply need cash.
- * **Give to charity:** Without a will, you cannot leave anything to your favourite charities.
- * **Administer out-of-state property:** Your estate can encounter extra probate costs and delays if you own property in another state. Special will clauses, however, can help.
- * **Nominate your representatives:** Only by making a will can you decide who will be the executor of your estate, the trustee of your trust, and the guardian of your minor children. Your will can also waive legal bond requirements.
- * **Express your wishes:** In your will you can guide your representatives in administering your estate and raising your children. You can also express preferences as to burial ceremonies, liquidation of assets etc.

Kitchen Korner

How to preserve the HOT in hot green peppers

Sabita Panigrahi and Lalu Mansinha

Let us face it. The world consists of two classes: those who love the tongue, throat and stomach tingling taste of hot, hot pepper and the others who love pabulum. The real pepper lovers consider a meal an opportunity not only to enjoy the food but also to prepare for a sauna. We from Orissa know how to do a sauna on the cheap. Just sit down to your favourite evening meal, with an adequate supply of green pepper and towels. There are some uninitiated hostesses who feel insulted if you supplement their superb cooking with condiments of your own. But we have learnt to live with the angry stares. After a few ritual tasting of all the wonderful dishes, and the accompanying ritual praise of the culinary skills of your hostess (and maybe your host), you take the first bite of the green pepper. In North America, where 'fresh' vegetable is anything but fresh, it is usually a disappointment. Instead of that wonderful feeling of sharp, biting pain on the tongue, you feel as if you are biting on a piece of cucumber or lettuce. Do not worry. The rest of this article has hints that should cure the problem of the pepper that lost its heat in the refrigerator.

But if you are lucky, and hit pay dirt, then eat on. After the second bite major physiological signs of enjoyment of the pain comes. You start sweating -- at first a little moisture appears on the forehead and the back of the neck; then a slight wetness, and finally, if you have bitten into a real high quality pepper, a deluge. The sophisticated hostess learns to provide extra napkins for the selected guests. There may be further enjoyment of pain next morning, but we will leave that to the imagination of the reader.

Theory: (*Neither of us is a botanist; what*

follows is pure, but educated, speculation on our part. So gentle reader, if you are wise in these arts, please send us a line.) The decay in the flavour in an otherwise healthy looking stored fresh vegetable comes from two factors. One is the self destruction of the vegetable by its own enzymes. Enzymes in a living vegetable balance each other, i.e. the destructive enzymes are kept in check by certain inhibiting agents. In a plucked vegetable the balance usually does not exist. Those who do home freezing know the process of blanching. Fresh vegetables are never simply frozen. First the vegetable is immersed for a short time in boiling water. This is to kill the decay causing enzymes. Otherwise the vegetables would selfdestruct even while frozen.

We tried blanching hot peppers and then refrigerating. But the blanching process destroyed the pepper as well as the 'hot'. Then one of us (SP) remembered that mother used to pluck the stems of all green peppers. We tried this and it works. Our suspicion is that the destructive enzyme for the green pepper resides in the stem or in the neighbourhood. Plucking the stem removes the enzyme.

The second factor that affects preservation of the pepper is moisture. If too much moisture is allowed to be in prolonged contact with the vegetable, then fungus rot (the blackening of the vegetable) sets in. If the pepper is kept in too dry an atmosphere, then it shrivels up and dies. An adequate balance of the ambient moisture must be maintained for the continued health of the pepper.

Practice: Here then are the steps for storing of fresh green pepper:

1. Pluck the stems. Wash, drain and dry the peppers.
2. Place in a large jar with a lid. Put in the

refrigerator, with the lid slightly open. For the first few days a lot of moisture will escape from the jar.

3. After four days tighten the lid. Monitor the jar about 12 hours later. If moisture is accumulating, open the lid slightly and keep open for a few days more. Repeat the process, until you are satisfied that moisture is not accumulating anymore.

4. An alternative to the slightly open lid method is to pack one or two paper towels

with the peppers. When they become wet, replace them. After a few days the towels will remain dry.

We have tried our method for over a year. We have been able to store green pepper for over two months, continuously and daily enjoying the 'bite' on our tongue with our meals.

We believe that our moisture control method will also apply to other delicate greenery, like *paan*.

Sabita Panigrahi is a graduate student in Computer Science at the University of Western Ontario.

NEXT ISSUE
of
Journal of the Orissa Society of America

A Reminder

The deadline for articles for the next issue of the journal is November 30, 1988. Please send in your articles early to either of the editors. Addresses are on page 2.

THE ORISSA SOCIETY OF THE AMERICAS, INC.

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CHAPTER NAME: _____

ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE: _____

ELECTION DATE: _____

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For additional members, please attach a separate sheet of paper.

NOTE: Per Article VIII, Section 1 of the OSA Constitution, twenty (20) members are required for an area to have a Chapter and a Representative.

* A Member is defined as any person who has paid his/her yearly dues by July 4 of the election year; any person who has been a life member prior to July 4 of the election year; or any person who has been a patron prior to July 4 of the election year.

ABOUT THE JOURNAL

The Journal of the Orissa Society of America serves the community of those who have some link, however tenuous, with Orissa. Most of us older ones were born in Orissa. The younger members have been born in United States or Canada of parents who hail from Orissa. Yet others may have had the good fortune to reside in Orissa for some length of time. You are welcome even if you have only a reading knowledge or just a passing interest in the people, life and culture of Orissa. However your bond with Orissa formed, you are welcome to form a bond with us.

We have a special soft corner for children and youth of all ages. Much of the writing that we do is aimed at those of us who grew up in America and know Orissa from the anecdotal descriptions from the elders. Our philosophy is that we will publish all contributions, such as articles, poems, sketches etc., from our youthful readers. We particularly welcome critical views of us adults through the eyes of our children. The ultimate aim is to pass on the torch, within a decade or so, to a generation that knows Orissa only as a place to visit every so many years.

We are only marginally more selective for contributions from our older readers. In general we are interested in just about everything that interests you. We do not particularly wish for learned, pedantic articles on any subject. All we request of you, our contributor, is to remember that it should be interesting reading. There are of course limitations of space in JOSA, and of good taste.

We hope to serve also as a vehicle for commercial messages. For members the advertising rates are modest: Full page \$50.; Half page \$25.; rates for non-members are slightly higher. Cover and long term ad rates on request. An alternative to advertisement is a donation or sponsorship; the name of the sponsor will appear over half or full page, together with a message of greetings, without any commercial.

Finally, a request. If you are not already a member, please join. The dues are modest: Individual \$10; Family \$15; Life \$100; Patron \$200. In addition, the Society will gratefully accept donations of any amount. For tax purposes appropriate receipts will be issued.

Please take a few minutes to drop us a line when you move, or if you do not wish to be on our mailing list. The Society loses considerable amounts in producing and mailing material that is not delivered or is undeliverable. If moving, send us both your old and new addresses.

Communication: Correspondence on general interest may be sent to Saradindu Misra, 80 Old Brook Road, Dix Hills NY 11746, Phone 516/243-2869; or to Lalu Mansinha, Department of Geophysics, University of Western Ontario, London Canada N6A 5B7, Home Phone 519/667-3034. Membership dues, change of address etc. should be sent to Anil Pattanayak, 3870 Downer's Drive, Downer's Grove IL 60515, Phone 312/971-8699. The President of the Society, Asoka Das, may be reached at 4020 Dundas Street W. #77, Toronto Ont M6S 4W6 Canada, phone 416/766-8796.

COLOPHON

This journal has been typeset and composed for the most part on an IBM XT clone and printed out on a laser printer. The English text is set in *Zapf Calligraphic*, a digital version of the well known Palatino font. Most of the Oriya language typesetting is in *Odissi*; a font designed by Gagan Panigrahi.

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