

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT FOR 1994-95
(Read on Prize Day - 10 March 1995)

Your Excellency, Trustees & Governors of La Martiniere College, Lucknow, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is a unique privilege for the city of Lucknow and La Martiniere to welcome your Excellency this evening. It is our cherished hope that you will retain fond and lasting memories of your visit to our city and particularly to La Martiniere College, Lucknow, which was founded by a Frenchman, Claude Martin. The institutions which he established at Lyons, Calcutta and Lucknow share a common tradition. La Martiniere, Lucknow, is in the one hundred and fiftieth year of its existence and it is most fitting to have as our Chief Guest, Your Excellency, the Ambassador of France in India, an honour of which we are most proud and of which we are deeply sensible. It gives me immense pleasure this afternoon to exercise the privilege of extending to you a warm and hearty welcome on behalf of all here present. May we demonstrate this to you by presenting a very small token from our rose garden. (a boutonniere presented by Dulare and pinned to His Excellency's lapel by the Headmistress, Mrs S. Simlai.)

No Prize Day would be complete without a commentary on the affairs of the College over the recently concluded academic year, so I trust you will bear with me while I present the report today.

TRUSTEES AND GOVERNORS

The year witnessed a change in both the Trustees of the College. Mr Brijendra Sahay, Chief Secretary to Govt. U.P. took over charge as Senior Trustee of the Lucknow Martin Charities from Mr T.S.R. Subramanian on the latter's transfer. Following the elevation of Mr A.K. Srivastava to the Bench, Mr Ikramul Bari, Legal Remembrancer to Govt. U.P., took charge as a Trustee of the College. We were pleased to welcome the new Trustees and to wish them a happy tenure.

We also greatly appreciate the interest of Mr T.S.R. Subramanian and Mr A.K. Srivastava in the well-being of La Martiniere and wish them success in their new posts.

There were also some changes on the Local Committee of Governors. Mr R S Mathur, was succeeded by Mr H. C. Gupta who in turn was succeeded by Mr Pritam Singh as Commissioner, Lucknow Division. Mr J S Misra was succeeded by Mr Rajeev Kher on his appointment as District Magistrate, Lucknow. Mr Justice S.N. Sahay was co-opted on to the Committee in place of Mr A.C. Grice, who died in March, 1994. We were pleased to welcome the new members of the Committee and are grateful for the contribution of each member who has served on it and for their continued interest and co-operation in the functioning of the College.

BEREAVEMENTS

It is with sorrow that I record the passing of Dr J B Charles on 5 January, 1995. He was the College Doctor for over three decades. His attachment to the College and concern for the welfare of the boys will always be remembered.

Kalim, a night watchman of the College was tragically killed in an accident while on his way home on leave. We are deeply appreciative of the concern shown by the Staff, students of the College, parents and guardians who donated generously towards establishing a fund for the welfare of his family. It is acts like these which unite us especially in such times of grief. Ganga Ram, who was employed as a sweeper of the College, suddenly passed away in August last year following an epileptic fit. La Martiniere mourns their loss.

STAFF

I am happy to report the appointment of Mr Trevor Savaille, Senior Teacher of English, as Vice-Principal of the College with effect from 1 July 1994. This was a long felt need and the College stands to benefit greatly from his multifarious talents.

Mr Russell Carville was appointed House Master of Cornwallis House in July 1994. His long experience in and association with the College, dating from the days when he studied here as

a boy, can only serve to enhance the traditions on which we pride ourselves.

Lt.Col. Frank Rozario, the College Bursar, retired in January 1995. He was an Old Boy of the College and his contribution during his tenure is much appreciated.

Mrs Mary Ann Macfarland, Senior Teacher of English resigned in December, 1994, to settle in Pune after eight and a half years of valuable service. She was associated with nearly all the literary co-curricular activities in the College and is greatly missed.

Mr B. D'Mello was appointed Bursar in January 1995. He brings to the College the richness of his experience and we wish him a long and happy tenure here.

The Local Committee of Governors sanctioned two additional posts for teachers of Economics and Structure of Modern Governments respectively, for the I.S.C. Section. Mrs Ranjana Chakravarti, a teacher who had been appointed in the Junior School, was inducted to teach Economics in Class XI. In spite of having to deal with an enormous class and shuttling back and forth between the Senior and Junior School, she has managed extremely well. In the new academic year she will be absorbed wholly into the Senior School.

Miss Namita Rai was appointed to teach Structure of Modern Governments to Class XI in a part-time capacity. She has handled her responsibility well and will be working in a regular appointment from the new academic year.

Dr (Mrs) Eleanor Charles took charge as the College Doctor in January 1995. Her experience in the medical field ensures the continued good health of the boys.

We wish all the new members of the Staff a long and happy association with the College.

When members of the Staff complete twenty-five years of service at the College, in recognition of the same, the Local Committee of Governors awards them two advance increments and

makes them a token presentation in appreciation of their service. There are many members of the Staff who have completed more than twenty years of service at La Martiniere and some who have served for more than twenty-five. In fact, Mr B.B. Agnihotri has almost completed thirty-eight years of service, an achievement of which few can boast. It is difficult to recompense such achievements but I would be failing in my duty if I were not to pay a tribute, however inadequate, to all those members of the Staff, both past and present, who have devoted their lives to this Institution.

On 5 January, 1995, Mr Aushit Simlai completed twenty-five years of service. His contribution to the College is valued. He will receive an award this afternoon in recognition of his service.

On 1 March, 1995, Mrs Sheila Simlai, Headmistress of the Junior School, also completed twenty-five years of service. She has been completely identified with that section of the College. It would not be an exaggeration to state that the Junior School is the 'jewel in the crown' of La Martiniere. Mrs Simlai has virtually reigned as a benevolent despot in this department for the entire span of her career in this school. Generations of boys, who have studied here, will have cause to be grateful for her contribution to their education. She will receive an award this afternoon in recognition of her service.

FINANCES

The finances of the College were severely strained when for the first time in its existence of 150 years, the Income Tax Department suddenly levied a demand on the College for nearly Rupees six lakhs. This is in spite of the fact that it is a non-profit making Institution being run exclusively for the purpose of education. We have appealed against this demand before the Income Tax Tribunal at Allahabad but in the meantime we have had to comply with the demand. This has caused us much distress and great embarrassment.

The Trustees and the Local Committee of Governors of the College were pleased to sanction an increase of fifteen percent in Dearness Allowance applicable to all categories of the Staff and servants of the College w.e.f. 1 April, 1994. This was done despite the fact that there was no increase in the tuition fees. However, owing to the rise in the cost of foodstuffs, the boarding fee was increased by Rs. 75/- per month. The maintenance of Constantia takes a great toll and we have had to spend much of our limited resources on repair to the terraces. However, this was absolutely essential and will protect the ceilings from further damage owing to the seepage of water during the monsoon, for a long time to come. In this respect we are immensely grateful to Architect Austin Lobo, who has devoted much of his valuable time to supervising the work.

ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT

In order to cater to a long-felt academic need the Local Committee of Governors of the College gave permission to establish new posts in Economics and Structure of Modern Governments. With the introduction of these subjects, students preparing for the I.S.C. Examination now have wider options. We now have four distinct Streams - the Humanities, Commerce, Physical Sciences and Life Sciences.

ENROLMENT

In March 1994 the College session commenced with 1693 students on roll. Of this 185 were boarders which included 33 Foundationers and 14 Demi-Foundationers in keeping with the provisions of Maj. Gen. Claude Martin's Will. At the close of the session the enrolment stood at 1785 of which 195 were boarders including 22 Foundationers and 16 Demi-Foundationers.

HEALTH

In general the health of the resident scholars continued to be good. As a result of the recent epidemic of chicken-pox and measles in the city, some resident scholars had to be isolated in

the College hospital. There were also some day scholars who were unable to appear for their Final Examinations. We are grateful to the Medical Staff of the College as well as to the Steward and House Keeper for the care of the boarders.

EXAMINATIONS

In March 1994, the College presented 119 candidates for the ICSE Examination. Of these 109 were awarded pass certificates. Sudeep Malik came first in order of merit scoring 5 points in the five compulsory subjects. He scored an aggregate of 94.8%. Vaibhav Vaish was a close second scoring an aggregate of 94.2%. In all 22 boys scored over eighty percent, six of whom scored over 90% on the aggregate of the five best subjects.

105 candidates were presented for the I.S.C. (Year 12) Examination, of whom 104 were awarded pass certificates. Aditeshwar Dayal Seth stood First with an aggregate of 89.75%. In all 18 boys scored over 80% on the aggregate of the four best subjects.

ANNUAL COLLEGE EVENTS

The Annual Prize Distribution was held on 19 March, 1994. His Excellency Sri Motilal Vora, Governor of U.P. was Chief Guest. The traditional Guard of Honour was presented by the N.C.C. Cadets of the Senior Division Army Wing.

The Annual Inter-Martiniere Meet was held at Lucknow at the end of August 1994. I am pleased to report that La Martiniere, Lucknow, won the Debate. Rohan Bhargava was adjudged Best Speaker. The Football Match was also won by La Martiniere, Lucknow. The two winning goals were scored by Kenneth Wheeler and Amit Rana. Our Swimming team improved their overall score over the previous year though the Calcutta team won the trophy. In their Division the Colts performed very well and set a new record in the 4 x 25 freestyle relay. Imran Hussain set a new record in the 25 metres Breast Stroke. This augurs extremely well for the future. For the improved

standard in Debating, Football and Swimming, we appreciate the efforts of Mr T Savaille, Mr P Collins & Mr B P Pant respectively.

The Commemoration Service was held on Founder's Day, 13 September, 1994. The Rev. J.W. Adams, Pastor, Epiphany Church, Lucknow, preached the sermon.

At the Annual Inter-House Swimming Competition, Vaibhav Wahal, Chanakya Agnihotre and Imran Hussain were declared Champions in the Senior, Junior and Colts Divisions respectively. Six new records were set by Imran Hussain, two by Sanket Shetty and one by Abhishek Gupta.

The Annual English Play "The King's English" by Herbert Bates was held on 12 November 1994. The play was produced and directed by Mr T.Savaille, Mrs M. MacFarland and Mrs B. Bobb. We are grateful for their combined efforts. The Metro-Goldwyn Mayor Award for Histrionics is to be presented jointly this evening to Rahul Koorichh and Kunal Pradhan who played the roles of Mr Ripley O'Rannigan and Kawa Koo respectively.

The Annual Inter-House Athletic Meet and P.T. Display were held on 26 November, 1994. Mr S. Rizvi, I.P.S., Special Secretary (Home), and an Old Boy of the College was the Chief Guest. Mrs Rizvi graciously gave away the prizes. The Senior Championship was won by Gaurav Bhatia while the Junior and Colts Championships were won by Ajay Misra and Amit Tripathi respectively. La Martiniere won the Inter-School 4 x 100 metres relay at the Annual Athletic Meet and was also successful at the Sports Meet held by the Army Public School, Lucknow. The College team on both occasions was represented by Gaurav Bhatia, Dharmendra Gupta, G.K. Gupta and Amit Roberts.

We appreciate the efforts of all the members of the staff who helped with the organisation of the Meet, particularly Mr R Robinson, Master in-charge of Athletics and who was in

overall charge. We are also grateful to Mr D D Singh and Mr B. P. Pant for organising the P.T. and the Gymnastics Displays.

The Annual Play in Hindi "Bande Saste Bikte Hai" was performed on 13 December, 1994. It was directed and produced jointly by Mr K.B. Lyall and Mrs Lily Parel to whom we are most thankful. Somit Walia has been awarded the prize for Histrionics in Hindi which he will receive this evening.

The Annual Junior School Sports and P.T. Display were held on 10 December, 1994. Mrs J. Misra, Principal, Children's Academy, Lucknow, was the Chief Guest and distributed the prizes. The College is greatly appreciative of the efforts of the Headmistress and Staff of the Junior School for the exceptionally entertaining and innovative items.

The Annual Carol Service was held in the College Chapel on Sunday, 11 December, 1994. The singing, readings and recitations were much appreciated. We are grateful in this respect to the Choir Mistress, Mrs M. Whittaker.

The Annual N.C.C. Inter-Platoon Junior Division Competition was held on 16 December, 1994. The Air Wing was awarded the Hashman Memorial Shield. The Intermediate Trophy for the Best NCC Troop was won by Platoon No. 1 comprising of XII. In the Inter-Wing competition the Air Wing was adjudged the best and will be awarded the Boardman Trophy this afternoon. Best cadet awards were won by Rupinder Singh Chandok in the Senior Division and Amit Rana in the Junior Division. Umang Sethi was adjudged the Best Scout.

The Annual Hindi Declamation Contest was held on 13 August 1994.

The Annual English Elocution Contest was held on 4 February 1995.

The prize winners of both contests will receive their awards this afternoon.

Special parades were held on Independence Day and Republic Day in which the Scouts and cadets in all three wings of the N.C.C. participated. Lt. Col. H.K. Kashyap was the Chief Guest on Independence Day. and Mr Satish Bhatnagar, presided over the function on Republic Day.

Twenty cadets of the Naval Wing attended the pre- Nau Sainik camp at Allahabad from 23 September, 1994 to 2 October, 1994. Amit Rana was adjudged the Best Cadet of the Junior Division in the camp while Anant Nautiyal and Udai Singh Sidhu were awarded 'A' Certificates.

Forty cadets of the Senior Division, Army Wing attended the combined annual training camp during September 1994 at the Army parade ground, Lucknow. Senior Under Officer, Vimlendra Chaudhary had the privilege of being appointed B.H.M. of the Camp. Eight students of the College were also chosen for a special Guard of Honour.

Career Counselling was conducted in November 1994 for students of Classes X to XII. We are thankful to Dr Amrita Das and her Faculty from the Institute of Career Studies, Lucknow for professional guidance. Students were assisted in making choices to suit their abilities and personality. This has now become a regular feature at the College.

OTHER EVENTS

I am pleased to record that our boys participated enthusiastically in several competitions during the year and emerged successful.

At a Computer Fair & Seminar organised by the City Montessori School, Station Road Branch, Sudeep Malik and Anant Nautiyal won individual prizes for standing first in the Debate, speaking for and against the motion respectively. They were also responsible for the College winning the team shield. In the School Section Akash Banerjee stood first in the Speech Contest and Anupam Yog placed second. The College was also awarded the Phoolchand Memorial Trophy for being the overall champions.

In the Sumitra Nandan Pant Inter-College Debate Akash Banerjee and Anupam Yog stood first and second respectively in the school section while Raja Pawha won third prize in the College Section. At the Annual CROSSROADS Competition organised by the Old Boys of St Francis' College Raja Pawha and Kunal Pradhan were awarded the Team Prize in the English Debate. The College also won First Prize for producing the Best Team in the 'What's the Good Word' contest. The team comprised of Siddhartha Banerjee and Aditya Agarwal. Mark Daniel Palmer was awarded First Prize in the Solo Western Music Vocal Section and the College was also awarded the Vinay Agha Trophy for rendering the Best Western Music Group song. The boys also won Third Prize in the Hindi Group Singing competition.

In a Quiz conducted by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research the College represented by Dheeraj Rai and Vaibhav Vaish emerged as the Best Team.

At an English Debate organised by the Rotary Club, the College won the shield for the Best Team represented by Raja Pawha and Siddharth Banerjee. At a Hindi Debate organised by the same Club the College, represented by Nitin Shukla and Anubhav Tripathi, was awarded the Championship Trophy.

The Mathematics students of the College won First Prize at a Mathematics Quiz organised by the City Montessori School, Mahanagar Branch. The team comprised of Nikhil Garg, Sharad Chandra and Vaibhav Vaish. Nikhil Garg and Vaibhav Vaish were also awarded Second Prize in a Mathematics Quiz organised by Springdale College, Lucknow.

Vaibhav Vaish appeared for the Indian National Mathematical Olympiad conducted by the National Board for Higher Mathematics under the Department of Atomic Energy and was one of the 34 students selected to attend a training camp at the Indian Institute of Sciences, Bangalore during the summer. Of these only six will be selected to represent India at the International Mathematical

Olympiad, 1995, in Canada. However, should he opt for Mathematics as a subject for his graduation he will be entitled to a scholarship of Rs 9,400 per year. We congratulate him on his achievement.

At a festival of Science - Quanta 94, organised by the City Montessori School, Chowk Branch, Rahul Koorichh was awarded First Prize for proficiency in Computer Games while Rohan Bhargava won the second prize in the Debate.

At the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the St. Teresa's Day School, Tushar Garg was awarded second prize in the Instrumental Solo Section.

SPORTS

Students of the College performed well in competitions organised in the city. The swimming team performed particularly well and won a number of prizes. At the fourth Poonam Misra Inter-College Swimming Meet the College was awarded the Championship Trophy in all the groups. In the Senior Division, Vaibhav Wahal, Vimlendra Chaudhury, R.K. Lal, Deepak Budholia and G. Chaturvedi were outstanding. In the Junior Section R. Gupta, A.A. Qadir, A. Khandelwal, S. Das, A. Gupta, U. Sethi and C. Agnihotre won prizes in their respective events. In groups 3, 4 & 5 I. Hussain, S.V. Shetty, R. Jawarani, R. Shahriyar, R. Dhillon and V. Chandra were outstanding.

In the third Inter-School Swimming Competition organised by the Gomtinagar branch of the City Montessori School, the boys representing the College were won prizes in all the events in which they participated. The Overall Championship Shield was also won by the College. At the inauguration of the Swimming Pool at St Francis College Vimlendra Chaudhary stood first while Kabir Das stood second in their respective events. The College team also emerged as the Overall Champion.

The College Hockey team participated in the Anant Toko Memorial Tournament. Two students of the College, Dharmendra Gupta and Kaushik Majumdar, were selected to represent

the city for the State-level tournament.

The College is proud to recognise the achievement of Raghav Jaggi, a student of Class IX, who excelled in Golf tournaments in 1994. He won the Army Commander's Cup in a Golf Tournament organised by the Lucknow Golf Club. He also won laurels in the Second Nehru Cup Golf Tournament. He was selected to represent the country at Seoul in May 1994 for the Asia Pacific Junior Tournament. The team placed third.

JUNIOR SCHOOL EVENTS

The Annual Elocution Contest was held on 27 September, 1994. The winners will receive their prizes this afternoon.

A Project Display was held on 11 November, 1994, at which the Preparatory exhibited Birds and Animals, Class I took up the theme of Fruit and Vegetables and Class II opted for Festivals. Class III exhibited Plants, Class IV depicted the Earth and Class V interested and enlightened everyone with knowledge of dinosaurs.

A Maggi Quiz Competition was held on 8 September, 1994 in which several children participated.

A Workshop on Teaching Aids was held on 1 and 2 November, 1994. It was conducted by Mr James Jolly and was most interesting.

A Magic show was held for the students of the Junior School on Children's Day at which the internationally renowned Madan Kundu held the children spellbound.

A friendly cricket match between the teachers and boys of Class V was held in on 14 December 1994. The boys won despite the bad example set by the Staff who cheated outrageously. This just goes to prove that virtue does still triumph. Bal Melas were held on the 21 and 23 February, 1995, by different classes, the proceeds of which were gathered for the Junior School

Welfare and Development Fund.

The children of the Junior School were treated to a picnic at the Zoo on 25 February 1995 which they thoroughly enjoyed.

Ricky Sareen of Class IIA won Second Prize for Floor exercises in Gymnastics at the District Schools and Colleges Championship held on 11 February, 1995.

Abhishek Bose of Class IA won First Prize in an Art Competition held at the Bengali Club, Lucknow, on 9 May, 1994. In addition he won a consolation prize in the Science Painting Competition held by the Regional Science Centre, Aliganj, Lucknow during the Space Week on 18 July 1994. He also won First Prize at another art competition organised by the Rajya Suchana Kendra, held at the Daya Nidhi Park, Lalbagh, Lucknow on 14 November 1994.

Karamnisht Sareen of Class IIIB is a talented swimmer. He won two First prizes and one Second prize at the Poonam Misra Memorial Championship held on 1 & 2 September, 1994.

Regular monthly visits have been organised for the Junior School students to Prem Niwas run by the Missionaries of Charity. The children take clothes and toilet articles for the inmates. This encourages an awareness among the students of the tremendous need to care for others in society who are deprived or less privileged.

INSTITUTION OF AWARDS

The Local Committee of Governors was pleased to accept with thanks the proposal of Mr Bhushan Thapar, an Old Boy of the College, on behalf of the R.B. SALIGRAM CHHETTRA TRUST for instituting two annual scholarships of Rs 2000/- and 1,500/- for the students who stand first and second respectively in the I.C.S.E. Examination. They will be awarded for the first time this afternoon. Sudeep Malik will receive the Sardar Bahadur Gurbux Singh Thapar Memorial Merit Scholarship and Vaibhav Vaish will receive the Harsaran Singh Thapar Memorial Merit Scholarship.

The Local Committee of Governors was also pleased to accept with thanks the offer of Mr Ashok Kapoor, an Old Boy of the College, for instituting an annual award to be called the Kamla Kapoor Memorial Medal and also a scholarship for a student in need of financial assistance. It has been decided to award the medal for the best essay written in the Middle School. The first recipient of the medal, Varun Chatterjee, will receive it this afternoon.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful for the support and guidance of the Trustees and Governors of the College in all matters concerning the welfare of La Martiniere.

I am also grateful for the cooperation of Mrs F Keelor, Lady Principal of La Martiniere Girls' College in matters which concern us jointly and for her advice and help at all times.

I am especially grateful to the House Masters and to the Headmistress of the Junior School for their contribution towards the smooth functioning of the College.

It would be impossible to run the academic programme of the College without the creative contribution of each member of the teaching Staff. Each student has a special relationship with the teachers who instruct him. It is my privilege to have a cooperative group of colleagues, whose values and abilities contribute so much towards building the character of Martinians. On this occasion the workers behind the scenes deserve a special word of thanks. It is because of the coordinated efforts of the Estate staff, medical and domestic staff, Office staff and Class IV employees that the College functions in an atmosphere conducive to learning and development.

A final word of appreciation must go to the boys of La Martiniere. Claude Martin's dream of establishing an Institution in which youth might grow and develop is well realised by the boys whom we have the privilege to instruct in this College. Each in his own way contributes to creating the qualities by which Martinians are recognised everywhere. One cannot help but have

great respect for their individual talents and personalities. The parents and guardians of our students play a great role in the training and instruction of our children. Working together we can, perhaps, build a generation which is conscious of the tradition and the values they have inherited.

CONCLUSION

As the College approaches its one hundred and fiftieth birthday on 1 October, 1995, it is a time to take stock. La Martiniere, undoubtedly has a glorious past. History bears testament to this. It is a time of rejoicing, for few schools in India have this distinction. It is also a time to identify our present needs if we are to meet the challenges of the present and the future and if we are to serve the cause of education in its purest sense. To maintain what we have and to plan for the future would, therefore, epitomise our goals.

The restoration and conservation of Constantia is of prime importance as it is the symbol upon which our tradition is built.

Together with this the expansion and improvement of existing facilities of the College must be undertaken. This would be an ideal way of safeguarding our property which is extensive and would encompass the construction of additional classrooms, an auditorium, a gymnasium, a swimming pool, staff and servants' quarters and all the necessary adjuncts that go to make up a good school. It would also entail colossal expenditure.

All this is only possible through the generous contributions of Martinians and well-wishers. If this could be achieved it would be the greatest tribute to the Founder and will go towards fulfilling a social cause in keeping with the provisions of the Founder's Will. I am happy to report that contributions and fund-raising schemes have already begun, with the permission of the Trustees of the College.

Today I make a special appeal for your valuable contributions in this regard.

An anniversary such as a sesquicentenary becomes more significant when we remember the person responsible for the celebration. On this first major event of the sesquicentennial year I am sure Martinians everywhere will join me in saluting the memory of Major General Claude Martin, through whose munificence these institutions of learning and renown were established.

Vive La Martiniere !