A TLC Magazine – Issue#3

“When Pigs Fly”

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SPECIAL: AUROVILLE FOCUS: ETERNITY, PORCUPINES, FOOD CHOICE AND KALPANA – HOW WEIRD IS THAT?!
EDITORIAP  (Don’t read it rap it)

by Nadir

It’s all about AV

The porcupines and Eternity

Since you’re not a mouse

You might need a new house

So go and check out Kalpana

But there you won’t find a banana

So go check PTDC or PTPS

Where there is lots of deliciousness!

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CONTENT

Back to Life, Back to Eternity..., by Mael  p. 2

Porcupines in Auroville, by Eunsu  p. 3

Auroville Food choice, by Sara  p. 4

Kalpana, by Satyavan  p. 6

Unsolved mysteries and Movie review  p. 7

Fun pages  p. 8
I am eleven and I have just moved back to Eternity. For as long as I can remember I have wondered about the history of Eternity and of my family. We were the only ones living in Eternity at the time of the tsunami. My grandparents, Jonah, my mother, my sister and I, along with three guests, all survived.

We left Eternity then, because my mother was too scared to live there with me and my older sister. Because we were so young. And here I am again, eleven years old, on the east coast road going towards Chennai on a piece of land (24.5 acres) that belongs to Auroville and to nobody at all. I call it E.T.

**But what about that history?**

At the end of 1987 my grandfather Yuval and my eldest uncle Jonah came to Auroville. The rest of the family followed in January 1988. My mother told me she remembers the first time she stepped out of the taxi and had to jump back in because the sand was burning hot. When my family first came, Eternity was a bare land with just some palmyra trees and some other trees. There were only about 100 trees and one could see the sea, as Eternity is next to the beach. Now you cannot see the sea because my family has made Eternity a forest. There are about 100,000 trees now. How they did it was by making tanks, water systems etcetera. Once a year they planted 10,000 trees and in the summer they all helped water them. That brings us to a fight between two rival villages, on the beach.

I was born at Eternity. **On my eight month birthday a tsunami came.**

It was the 26th of December 2004 that a tsunami hit at around eight in the morning. I was just put back to sleep when my mother heard a mysterious noise. She looked and there it was, a three meter high wall of water coming our way. My grandmother shouted “a tidal wave” as they did not actually know the word tsunami yet. My mother ran to save me as I was sleeping far away and my grandmother grabbed my sister and ran to the biggest and safest house in Eternity.

This house was built on pillars in case the water would ever come. My mother says that it was not the water that was scary but all the things coming in the wave, like beds, cupboards, a big wooden trunk, a TV and trees. We lost all our stuff but luckily no one in my family lost their life.

**Room with pillars**

One summer everyone in Eternity was watering when suddenly a fight broke out on the beach. Someone came running, shouting “Rajiv Gandhi was killed.” My grandfather took family and workers up to the roof of the safest house in Eternity, the only house that had a
room that could be locked. Suddenly, in a change of events, the military intervened. By chance they were camping ten minutes away. In the middle of all this fighting there was a ten year old girl running around with a yellow bucket. Her name was Chitra. She became known as “Chitra with the yellow bucket”. How weird is that?

Anyway, that house with the pillars, which helped us during the tsunami, and during that fight, is the one I live in now.

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**PORCUPINES IN AUROVILLE**

*by Eunsu*

This article is based on interviews with Johnny and Jaap and a bit of internet research.

The PORCUPINE is one of the most mysterious animals in the world. I think they are queer animals.

According to Jaap, the porcupines, or thornpigs as in some language, arrived in Auroville, Ravena (past Abri), “probably from the canyons near Ravena”, around year 2002-2003. Adds Jaap, “That’s when I saw my first porcupine quill.

“In Fertile they arrived around year 2004-2005”, says Johnny, which means they only arrived some 10-13 years ago! They are mostly solitary animals and only come together when mating and creating a family, probably. They are also very shy animals so you don't often see them near noisy areas like roads, houses etc...

They like to eat agave, young plants, just sprouted palmyra trees, new bamboo shoots, and, interestingly enough, cashew nuts. The nuts they manage to eat without hurting themselves by the acid inside the shells. This all according to Jaap, who explain that the porcupines enjoy living in quiet places, like forests, canyons and such.”They love to make their den under an upturned tree root, or just to dig a burrow underground.” The burrow I had the opportunity to see had no less than four entrances/exits.

The porcupine mating season is around March-April, I believe. The animal could be potentially endangered by local villagers and Gypsies, says Jaap.
He explains that they hunt them for their meat, which can fetch a price of Rs. 200-400 for a medium sized porcupine. It’s supposed to taste like pork and it might for all I know, my research didn’t stretch that far... But that is probably why it’s called mullumpanri, in Tamil, which translates to thornpig, in English. You can also hear the word pork in (porc)upine.

A Tamil superstition is that porcupine quills are bad luck. I have not found out why. They are mostly nocturnal but you can get a rare sight of them by day, the time I once saw one around 3-4pm. Some people are sceptical about this but others believe, that porcupines can shoot their quills at whatever they feel threatened by, by walking backwards and shooting their quills. How to help the porcupine population grow? 1. Plant more trees 2. Stop cutting trees 3. And if you eat them (though I highly doubt it), STOP EATING THEM!

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**Auroville Food Choice**

*by Sarah*

So it all started when I realised that my mum always shopped in PTDC. After some time it was always the same stuff. So I found PTDC a bit boring, but it was fine. And of course I found PTPS more special
to me, not that PTDC is not, just that there is more stuff in PTPS, stuff that I don’t eat or use in my normal life, but that PTDC is closer. That’s why my mum and dad go to PTDC more often. And because it’s so far, I think we should have it more in the centre so that people can choose where they want to shop. While some people might have a different opinion on this, but this is my opinion. Here I will tell you a little about each one, from my perspective.

PTPS (Pour Tous purchasing service)

PTPS has about 70 Auroville fruits and vegetables and a total of 125 Auroville products, which means there are 55 items of processed food and non-food products. But the total is 2000 to 3000 products in the shop. The most common brand is Amul. Kala, the main person, from Djaima, said that they put no margins (no money earned on the product) on the Auroville products.

For example, chocolate spread (from Natraj) is 170rs and they sell it for 170rs. But for imported products they put margins, partly because of the cooling and the transport, but also to make something in order to fuel expansion. So they get no profit for 125 products. Kala said she wanted a lot of products, because then people can choose what they want to buy. “Not like PTDC. They only have three kinds of pasta”, she said. And they are hardly “for all”.

Kala likes working with accounts and maths. She first worked in financial service and then PTPS was looking for an executive so her husband said yes to the job. Now she is in PTPS for over eight years, happy to have opened store, the day after the cyclone. “Like that people could buy some food, if they were not stuck”, chuckled Kala. At least she is doing something that she likes! Can we all say that?

PTDC (Pour Tous Contribution Centre)

PTDC has about 110 Auroville fruits and vegetables and 250 Auroville products, which means there are 140 items of processed food and non-food products. But the total is 800 to 1000 products in the cooperative. The most common brands are Britannia, Parley and Amul.

Says Stefania: “We put no margin (money earned) on any of the products. For example: hide & seek cookies is 20rs and they sell it for 20rs.” Even for imported products they put no margins.

Stefania thinks they have most of the products needed at PTDC. And they try to get most of the Auroville products. She told me that they also have products from the kitchen like tomato sauce and such.
And one of the purposes of PTDC is also that they try to reduce, reuse and recycle stuff, even being a drop off point for tetrapaks and clothes and all. Stefania likes the community in Auroville and in PTDC.

In Italy Stefania was selling some financial products for a bank. Now she has been around in PTDC for three years, working alongside Spanish Anandi.

Kalpana

*by Satyavan*

**Kalpana, the new community that will arrive in 2018.**

Created by Satyakam and Devasmita, for the empty space between Grace, Arati and Surrender, the plans were ready by October 2015 and construction has now started. Made up of three blocks, two will be two levels plus ground, and one block will be three levels plus ground. With a big garden in the centre.

Satyakam, the project holder, is offering a 40% discount to the first ten Aurovilians to buy an apartment. One where, assures Satyakam, “houses are ventilated so it will not be too hot in the summer.”

He also told me that “we are creating Kalpana because we feel that there are not enough communities in Auroville. And my experience at the housing service has told me that we can build more new houses and build them better”.

The project will be financed, therefore, by Satyakam and the people that will buy an apartment. The price of a studio is 20-21 lakhs, two bedrooms around 25 lakhs, three bedrooms around 35 lakhs, and family apartments 50 lakh. The total cost of Kalpana will be around 13 crores.

My only objection is that the shape of Kalpana is round, so the acoustic will be bad, as is the case with many a kind of failed Auroville community. Oh, and also, Kalpana will be made of cement, and at the moment they don’t know which bricks to use.

*KALPANA HOUSING, AUROVILLE*
UNSOLVED MYSTERIES OF THE WORLD #1

By Eunsu

I've wondered what things are unsolved in the world of ours, so I got together this list of mysteries of the world from the Taos Hum to the Nazca geoglyph. Read on to find out some of the unsolved.

The Taos Hum, named after the town, Taos, New Mexico where it was first heard, is a low sound akin to a humming of a truck while others hear a more steady, a pulsing yet still low sound. It has been the cause of dizziness, insomnia (or sleeping disturbance), pressure on the ears, headaches and even nosebleeds! And scientists have never been able to pick up the sound with electronic equipment and only a few people can hear it.

MOVIE REVIEW: INCEPTION

by Yam

Inception is a mind thrilling epic adventure between reality and dreams, where you ask yourself if planting an original idea into another person’s mind is possible. This movie made me think about what reality actually is, to the point where I spent hours thinking about it, but not enough to make me jump of a cliff to go to ‘reality’.

I loved the way the writer, Christopher Nolan combined a good story-board with the philosophy behind it. The acting is really good, with the main characters are played by Leonardo Dicaprio, Joseph Gordon Levitt, Ellen Page, Tom Hardy and Marion Cotillard. I like two locations especially; a snowy valley between two mountains and a city, crumbling from
the years of the ocean waves crashing into its buildings. When the movie ended I felt like I was waking up from a very long and sophisticated dream. Even if you’re not the sort of person who watches movies twice you might want to watch this one again.

**FUN PAGES**

Find five errors
by Jasmine
Wordsearch
by Jasmine

Find the problem of the illustration by Satyavan
Cartoon
by Jason

Bye, wife, I'm going to work.

At the King road there is a car driving in the opposite direction. Husband, be careful, there is another car driving in the opposite direction on your road! I knew it from the news.

but not only one car... beep beep!

What?!

In the next issue: No flat alike, Singing, The first lands, Eco service, ... and fun pages!