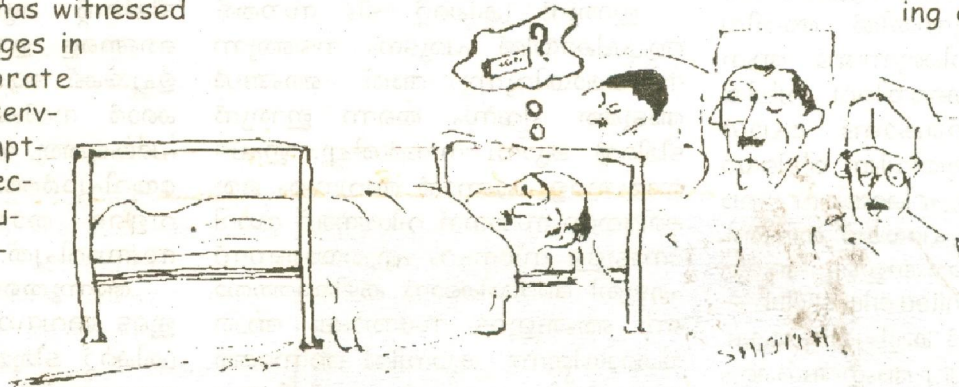


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'Economy Grows At Night While the Government Sleeps'

The past has witnessed such sweeping changes in the private corporate scene that many observers have found it tempting to label their collective impact as revolutionary. Yet this revolution is far from the complete and the real challenges lie ahead in the next decade. By any quantitative yardstick, the private corporate sector has grown considerably during the eighties. The number of companies, sales, market capitalisation, capital formation, the size of public issues all show a manifold rise more significantly for the share of the private sector, in total investments outlays expanded considerably during the Seventh Plan. And given the poor resource generation of the public sector and the severe crunch on government finances, this reversal in favor of private investment is likely to gain momentum in the year ahead. But number alone cannot tell the whole story of growth and change. Everyone in business today agrees that the hallmark of eighties was the qualitative change in business psychology brought about by liberalisation of controls. Ever since 1951 when the Industrial development and Regulation Act was put in place the corporate sector has functioned in an extremely restrictive environment

Virtually every facet of business in operation what where and how much to produce the selling price, who should collaborate, be what and how much to import or export - became subject to one government approval or the other. Despite the extreme rigidity of such a comprehensive regulatory framework and the incredible red tapism it involves, the corporate sector grew significantly prov-



ing once again the Latin American joke that the 'Economy grows at night - while the government is sleeping.

During the seventies it became

clear to the policy makers that irregularity was proving counter productive. Many senior government officials and economists began to realise that by restricting productive activity in the organised corporate sector rather than promoting in the country was in effect following an anti industrial development policy. The concomitant failure of the public sector, not only drove the point further home but also left few other choices process in the seventies which fanned critical mass in the eighties. But still it and quantity controls and not of the basic structure of the industrial development Act [ID Act]. Thus the exclusive preserves of the public sector are by and large intact and potentially most productive core of organised business.

Yet even this partial and some what halting relaxation has done wonders, business man no longer considers the License as a passport to profits which what they did earlier when these were hard to come by and the few licences in each business could nearly carve up markets among themselves. Easier availability of licences had led to many more players upstarts who managed to outbid the other. So much so that for the first time Indian business has seriously began to think about cost quality and market share.

FARCE

As one looks at one's own life, country and countrymen, one is forced to think that it's all part of the game. But can the contrary ever happen? For me it's possible to a certain extent and partly impossible.

If we look at the present day politics, its professional aspects still remain untold and unheard of in the same sense and in the same way, the only question is are you inside or are you outside its parameters? I ask myself what will happen if these political species go extinct? But then I feel questions of this sort are of no relevance or importance to me as a person.

Inevitably each one of us has our own experiences of the sweet and sour tastes of life. For me student life has been a mixed bag full of the good and the bad. Every person in his life at one stage or other finds different situations to face and follow up.

As a kid I dreamt of growing up into a person of sense rather than a person of illusions. But then at times illusions take control rather than reality. In school I always wanted to go to college, but when in college, I think of joining the mainstream of life, but after that where do I go?

Human life is a distinct happening, but how far is it distinct? First, it all starts with birth. Then it's all about growth. This growth takes place in different forms for different people. But one thing is common for all, the ultimate goal.

As a child, as a student, as a person of the society, as the person of a country, as a person of this world, different people have different expectations, but does the expected ever happen, if so how far? The modern man as we call ourselves, has never given up till his last breath his ambitions, his beliefs, his ideas, his logical calculations, and all other things that have been dear to him.

The concept of happy life is one of the greatest drives for every human being. But what really makes life happy is a big question or a bigger answer. Happy life for different people is different. For some it's big money, hi-flying lifestyle, big cars, women, recognition and so on. But for some it's peace of mind, simplicity, small happening on ever a means of livelihood.

All of us search for happiness in different ways and succeed to a certain extent. But where is the ultimate happiness available? On earth or ever beyond. Then the question that's quite familiar is what's happiness? What are the criteria for being happy.

Slowly when the need arises one is forced to make changes in one's own lifestyles. But where is the real motivation in human being lying hidden? Though the definiteness of motivation on the essence of motivation may vary from person to person its existence can never be denied.

From the point of existence to the point of extinction the

distance may be negligible, but what really matters is the distance whether close or remote does not have much importance in this case. In the same way there is not much difference between illusion and reality because both stand side by side do not join hands.

From birth till death one has to go through many stages such as infant stage, adolescence, teenage, youth, middle age, old age and the final countdown comes to an end. In different stages the overall psychology of human beings varies widely. So do the requirements and aspirations. But at all levels there is something that is common that's the need for emotional backing and help. All of us are generally attached to something or someone emotionally at some stage of our lives.

It doesn't matter how we live? or how we die, what really matters is what will be a good retreat for all of us, but how long can we escape the big reality of life.

Whether we are alone or amidst a big crowd, the only fact is that we are living and breathing, till we do so. However life will continue but then nobody can stop the inevitable that's always staring at us... DEATH. Let me conclude these reflections on life and death with the words of a great thinker, Rebelais, "Ring down the curtains, the farce is over".

FIGHTING BATTLES ON THE WEB INTERNET AS A WEAPON OF WAR

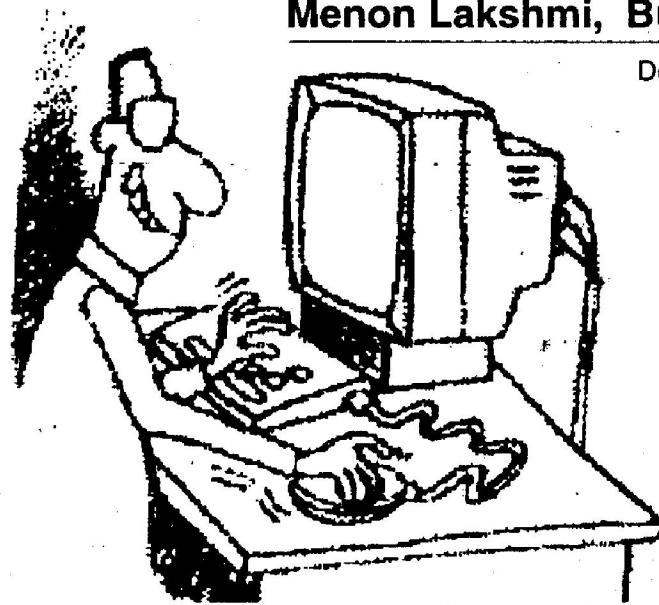
In the modern world, internet has become an extension of the battle arena as warring nations utilise the web to project their version of the events. We know that this medium has a tremendous potential to reach and influence global audiences within a short span of time.

If we turn back the pages of history, we can see the pivotal role played by different media in the course of major conflicts around the world.

World war II was radio's finest hour. It kept people glued to their radio sets as it brought news of far-away battles into their drawing rooms. Churchill's stirring speeches to the British nation set hearts on fire with patriotic sentiments.

Later during the vietnam war Television was the medium of the day. This medium often referred to as "The window to the world" pricked the American conscience by bringing home the full horror of this conflict. consequently the V.S people were very uncomfortable about their role in this conflict.

Satellite broadcasting came into the limelight during the Gulf war with



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people around the world timing into watch & CNN live coverage.

Now in recent weeks it appears that the internet has ushered in a fourth wave of information revolution as the Kosovo Conflict spills over to the world wide web. Infact it has become one of the important sources of information about the conflict. Every major player in the internal war be it the yugoslavian Govt, or The KOSOVO Liberation Army, The NATO, The U.S, U.K. Govt. and humanitarian organisations like amnesty international and Red Cross - all have web sites where they project their views. So we can get a cross section of opinion on the conflict. Thus we are aware of different viewpoints.

Another change triggered by new technologies of communication is that for the first time in the history of armed conflict, Govt's today have no control over the flow of info from within their boundaries.

In the Indian Context internet is catching on and growing in popularity, though at present it is beyond the reach of the common man. But the Scenario is found to change in the next couple of years as prices fall and the media becomes more accessible to all.

There is no doubt that internet has vastly increased the quantity of info that can reach us even from remote and inaccessible credibility, accuracy and truth are not compromised.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND YOUTH

Human rights in simple words means all those rights which should be equally enjoyable to all in humanity. The struggle for human rights dates as back as the Indus Valley civilization in India. When the new group of conquerors namely the Aryans entered the sub-continent they first enslaved the then settlers known as Dasans. In India this was the earliest known evidence of 'snatching' of human rights. The Aryans brutally exploited the helpless Dasans by making them earn very hard for their bread.

In the modern world human rights have been made necessary for all. The Universal Declaration of Human rights was passed by the United Nations General Assembly on December 10, 1948. It merges the civil, religious and political liberties for which man has struggled for so long. This Declaration charter also contains new economic and social rights which are slowly recognised today. But still as usual when every law is made some loop holes are also created. It remains only a moral declaration as it imposes no legal obligation on the states that the rights contained there in must be enforced.

A major Fact is that a large number of states, still do not guarantee many of these rights to the citizens.

The Universal declaration of stresses the dignity and worth of human being as a person. The rights and freedoms contained in the Declaration apply to everyone, everywhere without

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any distinction of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or status. It is a long declaration containing a number of rights which ought to be secured for all human beings. Some of the important rights contained in the Declaration are:-

- (i) Right to life, liberty and security of person
- ii) Equality before law

The Declaration declares slavery, torture and cruel punishments illegal. It proclaims the right of every individual to seek asylum from persecution in other countries, right of every person to marry and have a family, right to freedom of thought, religion and expression. It includes the right to work including free choice of employment.

Rights denied to different sections of the society:

Rights denied to women is a major problem in our country. According to Indian Culture woman is considered as a goddess. But today a woman doesn't even get her basic rights Gandhiji was in favour of giving equality to women in all spheres of life. One should love his or her sons and daughters equally. Women possess the spirit of self-sacrifice in much great measure They are also much more tolerant and courageous, The much important fact is that there can be no man without woman. The purdah system, child marriage, bride-burning are glowing examples of denial of rights to woman.

The Indian constitution guarantees all persons the right of religious freedom. The minorities having distinct language, script or culture their own. The largest group of mi-

minorities in our country are the Muslims followed by Christians, Buddhists, Sikhs etc. Recently a very shameful incident took place in Gujarat. A group of religious fanatics attacked the Christian community and destroyed their properties. This incident very well describes how much rights the minorities enjoy even today in a democratic country.

Another section of the society where human rights are denied are the scheduled castes and tribes. Although the constitution makes provision for the protection and safe guard of these groups they still do not enjoy their rights completely like others in the society. Untouchability has been prohibited although it is still practised in remote areas of the country.

By mentioning all these sections of the society, we can guess the tremendous challenge on our youth in the next millennium to overcome these problems. Rabindranath Tagore was an advocate of individual and national rights. He set many examples for today's youth to overcome these problems. According to him denial of human rights is a surrender to untruth and injustice.

Apartheid in South Africa

Apartheid is one of the worst form of denying of human rights. It literally means separation or a state of separation. South Africa is one of the trouble spots in the world which can explode into a racial war in Africa. Apartheid is complete segregation- social and political- of white and non-white people. Now to some extent this has been abolished by the Mandela government. But still today minor incidents take place. The Union of South Africa has 26 lakh Europeans, 85 lakh Africans and the rest 20 consists of Indians and others. Even though the whites namely Europeans are in minority they once controlled the political, economic and social spheres. The

policy of racial segregation was laid down by Fiedls Marshal smots in the Imperial Conference of 1921. Since then the Govt of South Africa has pursued this policy in its extreme and ugliest form. Finally it came to an end after Nelson Mandela took over the power. While all these were taking place a strange fact was that the black as well as the white youths joined together and decided to fight against it. This show much the youth were against such inhuman practices

Rights of Youth

By talking in a general way youth should enjoy all the rights which are enjoyed by others in the society. The most important of them is the right to freedom which still lacks in some youth. Some youth are barred from seeing the outside world. This is how they learn. By leaning on to the parents point of view we can understand that bad things get into the mind of youth. But if they have the mental power and will to resist them they can come out in flying colours. Another important one in today's world is the right to employment literally it doesn't make sense that is a person cannot force somebody to give him a job. But now adays the continuing corruption and fraud makes youth feel that getting a job reasonably is a right. In many govt institutions bribe should be offered for getting even a post of low pay. Discrimination is made on the basis of caste, religion, region and sex. Some govt officers favour their relative candidates for vacant posts. His nearest candidate may be much more intelligent and capable than him but its unfortunate. This is the sad plight of our nation.

Besides these there have also been occasions of exploiting our youth. For a long time political parties have been playing the role of a silent killer in students. Many political parties have their students wing in campuses. Under the name of spreading party ideology into the youths mind they have been really

exploiting them for political gains. These parties use students for staging demonstrations, forcing hartals and bandhs and even serial killing. At last the students find their place behind iron bars. Isn't this an exploitation? Where are the rights of youth?

Ragging is another area where youth exploits youth. Many students enter college campus with high ambitions and unfulfilled dreams. Due to this campus evil known as ragging junior students have no alternative. Sometimes seniors brutally harras them. There have also been many cases of suicide and even murder. Unless this is removed by its roots college campuses are a hell for junior students.

Another, Common incident which takes place in our college is denial of rights by buses. They often disallow students from entering their buses by giving some false reasons. Is this because we give concession fare? Isn't this a denial of our youth rights?

How Youth can help

There have been many evidences in the past where youth have strongly opposed the denial of human rights. One such occasion is in the earlier mentioned South Africa. In America the Youth were opposed to their countrys war with Vietnam. The Vietnamese were stripped of their basic rights. So the youth of America were against their elders & mad craze for worldly pleasures. Similarly in Poland the Polish youth rose against the attack of Russia.

We are all entering a new millennium. The challenges today's youth faces are numerous. There is an urgent need for the eradication of corruption and bribery. In the past our country have been successful in eradicating malaria and small pox but more dangerous diseases like corruption and bribery needs to be wipped





off from the face our earth. This will ensure the restoration of human rights. The best way for youth to help in this cause is staying away from politics. Just like Drinks and drugs they too can harm the youth. This doesn't mean that politics plays no part in one's life. But for youth it is always better to stay away from it. Social organizations of youths such

as NCC and NSS volunteers can help a great deal in this humanitarian effort. Social services like conducting health camps, environment cleaning, and adult education can bring extraordinary results. Worldwide organizations like UNESCO and UNICEF are doing a very good job.

In short youth should set the example for the elders on tack-



ling problems relating to human rights. This is possible only by youths. Elders often stick to their old ideas. But often advanced concepts win over old ones. Always a Herculean task should be met collectively. As the famous American Mark Yost says; "History although sometimes made up of the few acts of the great, is more often shaped by the many acts of the small. ●

TEACHING LANGUAGE THROUGH NEWSPAPERS

C.K. Ahmad

A news paper can be used more effectively in the class room as a teaching material. The text books are often tedious and look heavy while the news papers can arouse the students interest and bring a breath of Fresh air into the class room, since news papers provide a valuable source of variety.

Listening and speaking

A news paper can provide a good deal of material for practice in listening comprehension. In choosing a news paper article as a listening-comprehension passage, the teacher must-as with any material be sure that it is suitable for the language of his students. A good way to begin is to read the article aloud, a paragraph at a time, not going on to the next paragraph until the students have grasped the central idea of the one just read. At this early stage the teacher can verify understanding (a) by asking some general comprehension questions; and (b) by having the pupils give a summary of the paragraph.

To ensure the pupils attention the teacher might have then do a chain drill. A chain drill consists in asking one pupil to make a summary and then a second pupil to repeat, in shortened form what the pupil has just said. This can continue until the pupils have a very condensed outline of the paragraph, which might be used as an alternative head line. If the students know that they may be asked to repeat at any moment what they have just heard, they will listen more carefully. If the meaning is

not clear to the student, it is better to give them a brief outline in their native language than to provide a word for word translation. Another useful exercise makes use of the photograph in the newspaper. After allowing the students to look at these for a while, the teacher can ask them to tell which article they think a given photograph goes with, giving reasons for their answers.

Reading and writing

Reading for information is undoubtedly the most common use of a news paper. Skimming for this purpose can be a useful exercise, but students may find it rather difficult at first. They may need a great deal of help, until they learn how to apply flexible reading. A good way to start is to allow the students a limited time, just enough for skimming, to browse through the news paper. Then the teacher can either ask the students to give a sort of news broadcast on the most important news of the day, or prepare a set of questions for them to answer on the main topic. Some practical tasks have also proved to be effective exercises. For instance, finding their way through a train time table, finding out which film is being shown of a given cinema etc.

In order to develop an ability to read critically, the teacher can present a further analysis of newspaper style. Students

should be aware, at least, of simple devices in writing such as sentence length and the different types of sentences. It is also useful to notice whether there are sentences with finite verbs or not, whether there are adverbial clauses, whether the passive voice is more used than the active voice, whether there are a great number of interrogative and imperative structures, etc.

From this analysis, it should become clear to the students that there are different news paper styles, ranging from the specific language of a report of a Football match to the formal speech of government policy statement. This will be realised not only by comparing articles from different sections of the same newspaper but also by contrasting, when possible, articles from various papers.

Teaching writing.

There are many types of exercises to practice writing, ranging from the habit of note taking to writing summaries and guided or free compositions.

The teacher should ask the students to keep a newspaper notebook, in which they jot down notes on the various articles. Later they might expand their notes into summaries. In addition to the summary

they should also be required to keep a list of specific new words found in the article in question. They might write the new vocabulary on the page facing the summary page, for quick consultation the students should also be asked to buy a good dictionary. The newspaper class is a good change to learn how to make profitable use of a dictionary. Topics for composition can be taken from the articles discussed and given for home assignments. It is advisable to check the students' notebooks periodically, in order to make sure they fulfil their tasks.

Teaching grammatical structures.

Structures can also be effectively taught through newspapers. Structures can be chosen from among those that occur most frequently in newspaper language. Relative clauses, nominal groups, opposition's and phrasal verbs are some of the structures to look for in a newspaper. Because it deals with the reporting of news, the newspaper makes frequent use of the past and past perfect tenses in reported speech and only occasional use of the present perfect.

Other hints for written work arising from the newspaper might be: (a) changing the headlines into full sentences, adding all the words that are implied but have been omitted

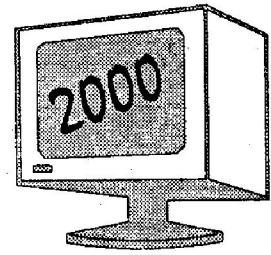
(b) writing letters to the editor (c) writing a reply to a letter to the editor (d) writing a news broadcast, covering the most important items of a given newspaper and (p) writing letters in reply to advertisements (a bike for sale, a type writer to be sold, a job that a student is likely to apply for in the near future).

Group work.

News papers can also be used for group work. A Teacher can divide the class into groups. Give each group an article to be divided among its members for comprehension, analysis, and final reporting. If a teacher is lucky enough to find articles in his native language newspaper on the same topics as in an English newspaper, he can do a kind of contrastive exercise which will enliven his language class. Thus a newspaper section might well provide a way to avoid the dullness of routine work.

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THE FINAL COUNTDOWN

10

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8

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The year 2000 problem-known better as the Y2K bug-will affect all in some way or the other. You may wonder "How serious the problem is?" Suppose you were born on December 31, 1980. If a "faculty" computer were to calculate your age on January 1, 2000, you would be 80 years old, and not 20. So if the computer-decided "age" were trusted and every college and organisation insisted on it, you would be in trouble. The problem in your case may be sorted out, but not all disasters may be avoided.

The date field comprising month-day-year in most computers look like this: mm-dd-yy, where mm is for month (digits from 01 to 12), dd for the day of the month (from 01 to 31) and yy for the year (00 to 99). No problem till 1999, but shattering effects is possible thereafter.

You can trace the cause of this to the fifties and Sixties when the first computers were assembled. Storage space was scarce and expensive. So two digits were struck off the date field. The six-digit date field became the norm and the millennium bug was born.

Every computer has an internal clock and a date field. Each time you switch on your PC, the internal clock is switched on. It involves the BIOS (Basic Input Output System). If the

clock errs because of a date field that makes no sense to it it is not the computer's fault but the manufacturers. It is said that there are trillions of embedded systems in use worldwide. The internal clocks, which measure real time, in almost all the embedded systems' use the six-digit date field. So you can imagine how these systems falter a millionth of a second after midnight of December 31, 1999 unless they are corrected before this deadline. As each system will have to be revalidated, there is a need for massive manpower to do this job. The cost of this correction has been \$900 billions and is increasing day by day.

Systems have already started to crash especially the companies that enter into long contracts, like insurance, power supply etc. Tiresome efforts are taken by the experts to solve the bug on nuclear reactors and satellites, and if they fail to do so, the after effects would be devastating. Only time could tell. The world has woken up too late to the problem.

Sudden fear of catastrophe and frenzied activity all over the world is because of two simple digit. Computer-linked kingdom remains intact to date. But will they after we step into the third millennium? Let us keep our fingers crossed and wait and watch.

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 Dept. of English



THOSE FLEAS AND FLIES

There was an old man from Peru,
 who dreamed that he was eating his shoe.

He woke in the night
 In a terrible fright
 And found it was perfectly true!

If the peruvian diet doesnot impress you, sample another a non-vegetarian kind:

There was a young lady of Niger,
 who smiled as she rode on a tiger.

They returned from the ride
 with the lady inside

Fun is always funny - that's the fun of it, of course.

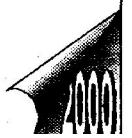
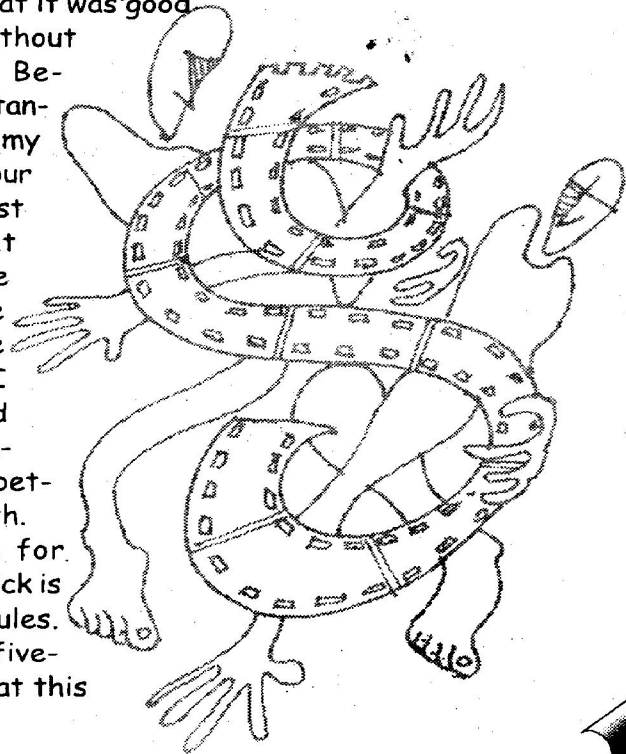
But they say fun is also healthy. That when you smile you're straining only a few muscles on your face, but when angry you exercise a lot of them. Which, too, isn't quite so bad considering there are chewing gums that are marketed exclusively on the strength of the financial muscles they exercise.

Discounting the chewing-gum effect let's take that the equation is : the funnier the healthier. In any case, books of fun do have positive effect on our physical well-being.

Take, for instance, the Book of Humour I bought the other day. A large volume of presumably side-splitting fun, full of

calories and vitamins. I could say with conviction that it was good for my health, without even reading it. Because when a substantial wasp made for my right eye the humour came in handy - just are swish of that fun in A-4 size could destroy the wasp and secure my health. As I said, the larger and the more substantial the fun, the better for your health.

If fun is fine for health, then limerick is the best of capsules. The limerick is a five-line delight. Look at this one, for a sample:



And the smile on the face of the
tiger!

The politician is an easy target for laugh-
ter. Here's is someone examining his own quali-
fications and deciding on a suitable career:

I could hardly count upto six,
Nor did know much of ethics,
But I'd the rare power
of smiling a full hour
That's why I went for politics.

Talking of politics, how much wool would a
woodpecker peck if the wood pecker has been
part of coalition government for six and a half
years? or consider.

A canner excessively canny
One morning remarked to his granny:
"A canner can can anything he can
But a canner can't can a can, can he?"

Come to think of it, that one is not quite a

limerick but and uncanny four-liner. Try another

A tooter tried to teach two young tooters
toot.

Said the two to the tooter:
"Is it harder to toot the flute
Or to tutor two tooters to toot?"

It's time, you might say,
to take to flight. Very confusing
all this canning and tooling

So we'll flee-or shall we fly? A question the
nagged a flea and a fly:

A fly and a flea flew into the flue
"Let's fly," said the flea;
"Let's flee", said the fly
So they flew through a flaw in the flue.

So, before the flea flits and floats and the fl
flecks its feelers at you, better fly - or flee!