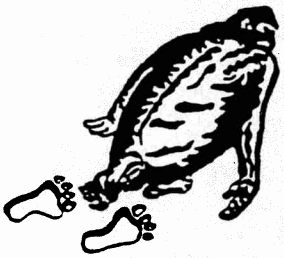
YETI VIEWS



NEWSLETTER OF THE NEPALESE ASSOCIATION IN SOUTHEASTERN AMERICA

Vol. 6 No. 1 Quarterly Jan./March 1997

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF NASA

Dear Friends:

How soon time flies! It's time again for our large annual get-together--this time in Oxford, MS. Nepalese Families in Oxford and other parts of Mississippi are working hard to welcome us this Labor day week-end Aug 30-31. Invitation letter and tentative program schedule is out in this issue, if anybody has any suggestions please let us know so that we can finalize the program accordingly.

One of the heartening developments that has transpired this year is that Suman Silwal has accepted our invitation to join the NASA executive committee as the student representative. His designation will be student Vice-President. Congratulations to him and our young student friends! I have been talking with our student friends informally, and at the risk of being repetitive, would like to appeal to them once again-- that we have heard you loud and clear. Without your energetic and vigorous participation, our annual get-together will be devoid of dynamism, liveliness and vitality. We need you there. If you want to change NASA, please do so by participation rather than absenteeism.

Another heartening development that has occurred this year is about external funding for NASA. We have already received checks of $124 and $164 from AT&T Association Loyalty Program for the last two quarters with only 20 members participating. I would like to thank all the friends who have joined this program. Once again, I appeal to all our NASA friends to join this program and help us tap this external funding source. If you are using AT&T and join this program NASA gets 3 percent of your long distance bill. If you switch from MCI to AT&T, NASA gets 5 percent of your long distance bill. There are no extra charges, no hidden costs or any other catches. This is AT&T 's marketing strategy pure and simple, resulting from fierce competition in this industry. I know personally that some Indian Associations and Nepal Literary Association (Washington, D.C.) have raised thousands of dollars through this loyalty program. Please join this program, it won't cost you anything.

It is fun and soothing psychologically to have a large get-together at least once a year. We all have local get-together from time to time, because we are social beings and social interaction is necessary for our spiritual health. So, let us make it a practice to get together in a large group at least once a year; the larger the group the merrier. We will dance, sing, eat and laugh--and have a good time. So, please plan your other activities either before or after the Labor -day week-end and march on to Oxford on Aug. 30-31.

Sincerely,
Samanta Thapa
■

INSIDE HIGHLIGHTS

NASA's Annual Meeting	2
Local News	2
Kid's Corner	3
Eastern Heritage Foundation	3
Welfare and Immigrants	3
News from Nepal	4
ANMF	5
Announcements	6
Hydropower in Nepal	6

OXFORD, MISSISSIPPI WELCOMES YOU !!!

Dear Friends:

Namaste and Happy New Year ! It is that time of the year again - Spring has arrived and Nepalis in the Southeast are buzzing with excitement for another NASA *Bhoj*, I mean convention! As you know, this year we will gather in Oxford, MS - home town to Ole Miss, Nobel Prize winning writer William Faulkner, best-selling author John Grisham, a historic town square that boasts charming shops and restaurants and a majestic court-house, recently famous for being the site of the taping of the block-buster movie "The People vs. Larry Flint", and of course the world-famous annual Elvis Presley Conference. Oxford is also home to 18 Nepalis and Nepali-Americans who are involved in the community as students, teachers, workers, and home-makers.

This year, we the Nepalis in Oxford are adding our own bit to our hometown's rich cultural history by hosting NASA's annual convention on Labor Day weekend (August 30-31). We, along with our neighbors from other parts of the Magnolia State, are very honored and proud to be the hosts of the 1997 convention. We have been working hard in the preparation for this exciting event by meeting twice already, forming a nine-member Annual Convention Preparation Committee, and also working with NASA's representatives in adopting a tentative schedule. Although plans are under way, in no way are they settled, so please feel free to contact us with your ideas on modifying the proposed schedule. We welcome your input and will try our best to accommodate your comments.

On behalf of the Annual Convention Preparation Committee and residents of *(Continued on page 2, column 1)*

(Continued from page 1, column 3)
Mississippi, I would like to extend our hearty invitation to you for NASA's annual convention in Oxford. Please mark your calendars and reserve the weekend of August 30-31 for NASA's birthday. Won't you accept our invitation and bring your friends and family to our own Nepali celebration with a down home flavor of Mississippi hospitality?

We look forward to having y'all in our home-town!

Dharmendra Dhakal
For Nepalese Families in MS State
■

TENTATIVE PROGRAM FOR NASA'S ANNUAL MEETING IN OXFORD, MS

[This is just the tentative outline which will be finalized after receiving feedback from all our friends. Please, send your suggestions as soon as possible.]

August 30, Saturday

1. Check in (Oxford Inn) Best Western 2:00 PM
2. Registration 4:00 PM
3. Reception by host (Residents of Oxford)
4. Visit to Casino (Optional)

August 31, Sunday

1. Registration 8:00 AM
2. Opening ceremony 9:00 AM
   Royal Nepalese Ambassador
   Mayor of Oxford
   Chancellor of University of Mississippi
3. Sessions (10:00 AM to noon)
   Religion and life
   Meditation
   Visa and work permit
   Recent development in Nepal
   My recent travel experience in Nepal/ Video/Pictures
   Women and development in Nepal
   Topics related to students and youths
4. Children's Program
5. Lunch Break 12:00 - 2:00 PM
6. City tour of Oxford in double decker bus
7. Social Hour 4:00 to 5:00 PM
8. Diner 5:00 to 6:00
9. Social Hour and NASA's Business Meeting 6:00 to 7:00
10. Cultural Program 7:30 to 9:30
11. Dance with DJ 10:00PM to Midnight

September 1, Monday

Soccer game 8:00 to 10:00 (Adult)
Soccer game 8:00 to 10:00 (Youth)
Basketball game
Badminton
Musical Chairs
Social Hour and Lunch 11:00 to 1:00 PM

The following individuals have agreed to take charge in coordinating the activities:
-Dr. Ram Chandra Baral and Mr. Pramin Rajbhandari - Develop NASA's Home page
-Dr. Gobinda Lohani - Cultural Coordinator
-Mr. Suman Silwal - Student Representative and Cultural Coordinator (Alabama)
-Mr. Shakti Aryal - Coordinate Casino Trip
-Mr. Pradeep Ghimire - Convention Hall Decoration
-Mr. Jay Dhakal (Coordinator) and Mr. Sravan Thapa (Assistant Coordinator) - Dance with DJ

Thanks to all of you for taking charge in making the upcoming meeting a very exciting event.
■

LOCAL NEWS

Congratulations!

Tara Dhungana will be graduating from high school on June 6, 1997. She is in Beta Club and the National Honor society and is in the top 4 percent of her class. She plans to attend Berry College in Rome, GA, in the Fall. Well done, Tara and Congratulations from NASA.

Mr. Nirmal Siwakoti finished his Masters in Economics from Vanderbilt University. Mr. Siwakoti and wife Bafa left for Kathmandu after finishing his degree. Congratulations Nirmal and Bafa on behalf of NASA.

Aryal Family's Business Venture

Mr. Shakti Aryal has bought a gas station and a Convenience Store in Oxford, MS recently. The name of the business is AIRPORT QUICK MART. He also has plans to expand the operation in the future. NASA members, please visit his store during NASA's annual convention, wish him success in his business venture, and please don't forget to fill up your gas tank there. Congratulations and good luck to the Aryal family!

NASA's Meeting at Oxford, MS

On March 15,1997, residents of Oxford MS and NASA's representatives had a joint meeting. The meeting of about 50 participants from MS, AL, GA, and TN was very successful and constructive. Dr. Samanta Thapa, President of NASA presided over the Meeting and informed the group that Mr. Suman Silwal of AL had accepted our offer to join NASA executive committee as the student Vice President representing all our young student friends. Earlier in the meeting, Mr. Shakti Aryal welcomed the guests and Dr. Dharmendra Dhakal thanked the participants from Oxford who helped in organizing this joint meeting. Finally, NASA representatives visited the proposed site of the upcoming meeting and adopted a tentative program.

NY Plea Bargain in Nepalese Student's Death

Two fraternity brothers pleaded guilty to charges stemming from a hazing incident in which a 17 year old student from Nepal was forced to drink so much liquor that he threw up and died in his own vomit. The two students are among 12 members of the Theta Chi Fraternity facing charges in the death of Clakson University freshman Binay Oja at the February 8 hazing in upstate New York. Three of the other defendants have filed to dismiss the charges and prosecutors are waiting to hear whether the other seven will accept a plea agreement or stand trial. Postdam Village justice Thomas Wheeler ordered a pre-sentencing investigation and set sentencing for may 29. Prosecutor Gary Dawson said 18 of the 21 people in the initiation were forced to drink alcohol until they vomited. "It is amazing that people do this recreationally," said Dawson. "This was supposed to be fun for them." Oja, whose father is a modern languages professor at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, and whose mother lives in their native Nepal, was then left in a room of the fraternity house where he choked on his own vomit and died. His body was found the next morning. Prosecutors were planning to charge the fraternity in Oja's death, but Theta Chi's national directors stepped in and agreed to disband Clarkson
(Continued on page 3, column 2)

YOUTH'S CORNER

This column awaits your contributions. Send to: NASA, c/o Damber K. Gurung, 274 Barre Hall, Clemson University, Clemson, SC 29634-0355. *-Editor*

■

(Continued from page 6, column 3

development, regional trade and liberalization in the bilateral and multi-lateral talks, sidelining the usually heard issues of national pride, terrorism, releasing border tension, and sovereignty at least for a while. The emergence of India and China as giant economic forces has also made them some of the major power (energy) hungry countries in Asia. This opportunity, if properly utilized, could drastically changed the development pace of Nepal which has been virtually trivial until now.

4. However, dealing in such huge projects, some are more than eight times the annual GDP of the country, Kathmandu also needs to take enough precautionary measures -- such measures as maintaining of transparency, particularly in dealing with such huge projects, doing adequate home work and building national consensus before going to the agreement table. These were almost neglected subjects in such agreement in the past starting from Koshi agreements in the early fifties to the Mahakali agreements in the early nineties. Moreover, any mistake or negligence by the politicians and bureaucrats dealing with such huge projects now could also submerge the country in the foreign debt and obligations from which even our future generations would have to bear the burden. Any one interested in these events can learn lessons from the events in the Philippines in the recent past. Therefore, the development of proper political institutions (which is comprised of many sectors) and the procedure are also some of the crucial issues here.

5. When the Singh Darbar (Prime Minister's Office in Kathmandu) starts to set the standard of "first come, first served basis" as the major criteria for granting the projects to interested multinational parties, then of course every Nepali has to be concerned about it and should be apprehensive about such recent developments in Kathmandu.

■

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

NEPALI-AMERICAN PERSPECTIVE

Identity at any level -- individual, family, group (ethnic or non-ethnic), nation, region, etc. -- is valuable, I believe, because diversity is an integral part of the existence. I fact, I could not imagine anything without diversity. It appears, therefore, reasonable that most of us like to be identified as an individual or belonging to a family, group, nationality, socio-culture, etc. At each level, each unit has its own perspective -- the relative importance of facts or matters from any special point of view and also, the ability to discern this relative importance.

Concepts of social harmony, unity in diversity or melting pot remain ideals. I believe, only mutual respect and tolerance can bring about a reasonable level of harmony and unity at each level. Despite all the talk about the global village and information age, people in today's world are diverse in numerous ways, and thus, have very diverse perspectives. I believe, all perspectives are valuable because there is no known ultimate truth. Values, therefore, usually appear subjective. Indeed, it is also critical to understand that perspectives determine values based on which we weigh costs and benefits of our action or inaction.

The first generation of Nepali immigrants to the U.S. (Nepali-American) tend to place high value on Nepali perspective, and desire to share their Nepali values especially with their children. This tendency may be resulting from a logic as follows. Needless to say, within a family, values must be somewhat consistent. If children's perspectives and values do not match, at least to some extent, with parents', conflicts are likely to arise because when parents values justify an action, children's values may not and vice versa. Such conflicts can be painful in many ways. With the sacrifice you may have made to be a Nepali-American, you would want your children to have at least a flavor of Nepali perspective. I, therefore, speculate that a goal in most Nepali-American parents' mind is to induce a level of Nepali perspective in their children so that there exists a common sub-set of values. Of course, human values and perspective must be common in all "reasonable" perspectives. Your actions associated with Nepali values at home or in your communities are direct consequences of the goal that you have set for yourself.

Moving forward with this goal, I would not be surprised if you wondered what a Nepali perspective is. From Mechi to Mahakali and from Tarai to Himalayas, we Nepali are people with diverse perspectives that are much more deep rooted than what may be called Nepali perspective. However, you may find your own family and/or group values much stronger than Nepali values. Of course, your immediate values form an integral part of Nepali values.

It appears best and practical to work with the most local (family, tribal, geographic, etc.) perspective and then move towards higher levels -- national, regional, human. Indeed, it is almost impossible to bring up children in America so that they attain a Nepali perspective. Their identity and perspective will be at best Nepali-American -- an invaluable perspective indeed.

■

NASA Executive Committee (1996-97)

President:
Dr. Samanta Bhadra Thapa

Vice President:
Mr. Bala Ram Pant

Student Vice President:
Mr. Suman Silwal

Treasurer:
Mr. Shaubhagya L. Shrestha

Secretary:
Mr. Tek Thapa

Members:

Dr. Bishwa Acharya	GA
Mr. Ram Acharya	AL
Mrs. Renu Acharya	GA
Dr. Kanai Das	MS
Dr. Dharmendra Dhakal	MS
Mr. Hari Dhungana	GA
Mr. Chet Nath Ghimire	GA
Dr. Damber K. Gurung	SC
Mr. Shailendra K. C.	AL
Mr. Prakash Mahat	IL
Mr. Dhananjaya Mudbhary	GA
Mrs. Usha Paudel	NC
Mr. Suman Silwal	AL
Mr. Umesh Upadhyay	GA
Mr. Sushil Thapa	AL
Mr. Jay Shrestha	AL

YOUTH'S CORNER

This column awaits your contributions. Send to: NASA, c/o Damber K. Gurung, 274 Barre Hall, Clemson University, Clemson, SC 29634-0355. *-Editor*

■

(Continued from page 6, column 3

development, regional trade and liberalization in the bilateral and multi-lateral talks, sidelining the usually heard issues of national pride, terrorism, releasing border tension, and sovereignty at least for a while. The emergence of India and China as giant economic forces has also made them some of the major power (energy) hungry countries in Asia. This opportunity, if properly utilized, could drastically changed the development pace of Nepal which has been virtually trivial until now.

4. However, dealing in such huge projects, some are more than eight times the annual GDP of the country, Kathmandu also needs to take enough precautionary measures -- such measures as maintaining of transparency, particularly in dealing with such huge projects, doing adequate home work and building national consensus before going to the agreement table. These were almost neglected subjects in such agreement in the past starting from Koshi agreements in the early fifties to the Mahakali agreements in the early nineties. Moreover, any mistake or negligence by the politicians and bureaucrats dealing with such huge projects now could also submerge the country in the foreign debt and obligations from which even our future generations would have to bear the burden. Any one interested in these events can learn lessons from the events in the Philippines in the recent past. Therefore, the development of proper political institutions (which is comprised of many sectors) and the procedure are also some of the crucial issues here.

5. When the Singh Darbar (Prime Minister's Office in Kathmandu) starts to set the standard of "first come, first served basis" as the major criteria for granting the projects to interested multinational parties, then of course every Nepali has to be concerned about it and should be apprehensive about such recent developments in Kathmandu.

■

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

NEPALI-AMERICAN PERSPECTIVE

Identity at any level -- individual, family, group (ethnic or non-ethnic), nation, region, etc. -- is valuable, I believe, because diversity is an integral part of the existence. I fact, I could not imagine anything without diversity. It appears, therefore, reasonable that most of us like to be identified as an individual or belonging to a family, group, nationality, socio-culture, etc. At each level, each unit has its own perspective -- the relative importance of facts or matters from any special point of view and also, the ability to discern this relative importance.

Concepts of social harmony, unity in diversity or melting pot remain ideals. I believe, only mutual respect and tolerance can bring about a reasonable level of harmony and unity at each level. Despite all the talk about the global village and information age, people in today's world are diverse in numerous ways, and thus, have very diverse perspectives. I believe, all perspectives are valuable because there is no known ultimate truth. Values, therefore, usually appear subjective. Indeed, it is also critical to understand that perspectives determine values based on which we weigh costs and benefits of our action or inaction.

The first generation of Nepali immigrants to the U.S. (Nepali-American) tend to place high value on Nepali perspective, and desire to share their Nepali values especially with their children. This tendency may be resulting from a logic as follows. Needless to say, within a family, values must be somewhat consistent. If children's perspectives and values do not match, at least to some extent, with parents', conflicts are likely to arise because when parents values justify an action, children's values may not and vice versa. Such conflicts can be painful in many ways. With the sacrifice you may have made to be a Nepali-American, you would want your children to have at least a flavor of Nepali perspective. I, therefore, speculate that a goal in most Nepali-American parents' mind is to induce a level of Nepali perspective in their children so that there exists a common sub-set of values. Of course, human values and perspective must be common in all "reasonable" perspectives. Your actions associated with Nepali values at home or in your communities are direct consequences of the goal that you have set for yourself.

Moving forward with this goal, I would not be surprised if you wondered what a Nepali perspective is. From Mechi to Mahakali and from Tarai to Himalayas, we Nepali are people with diverse perspectives that are much more deep rooted than what may be called Nepali perspective. However, you may find your own family and/or group values much stronger than Nepali values. Of course, your immediate values form an integral part of Nepali values.

It appears best and practical to work with the most local (family, tribal, geographic, etc.) perspective and then move towards higher levels -- national, regional, human. Indeed, it is almost impossible to bring up children in America so that they attain a Nepali perspective. Their identity and perspective will be at best Nepali-American -- an invaluable perspective indeed.

■

NASA Executive Committee (1996-97)

President:
Dr. Samanta Bhadra Thapa

Vice President:
Mr. Bala Ram Pant

Student Vice President:
Mr. Suman Silwal

Treasurer:
Mr. Shaubhagya L. Shrestha

Secretary:
Mr. Tek Thapa

Members:

Dr. Bishwa Acharya	GA
Mr. Ram Acharya	AL
Mrs. Renu Acharya	GA
Dr. Kanai Das	MS
Dr. Dharmendra Dhakal	MS
Mr. Hari Dhungana	GA
Mr. Chet Nath Ghimire	GA
Dr. Damber K. Gurung	SC
Mr. Shailendra K. C.	AL
Mr. Prakash Mahat	IL
Mr. Dhananjaya Mudbhary	GA
Mrs. Usha Paudel	NC
Mr. Suman Silwal	AL
Mr. Umesh Upadhyay	GA
Mr. Sushil Thapa	AL
Mr. Jay Shrestha	AL

PLEASE JOIN NASA

Please join NASA (Nepalese Association in Southeastern America) and support our activities. NASA is a non-profit organization and its membership is open to all Nepalese and friends of Nepal.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____ Spouse _____ Children _____

Address: _____ _____

_____ _____

Phone: _____

Membership Category *(Check One)*:

Student: $ 7.00 _____ Individual $ 15.00 _____
Family: $20.00 _____ Benefactor: ($ 100.00 or more) _____
Life: $200.00 _____ Other: _____
Newsletter Subscription ($5.00) _____

Please Mail the form and check Payable to NASA to:
Mr. Saubhagya L. Shrestha
1403 Tender Trail
Powdersprings, GA 30073

YETI VIEWS
Dr. Damber K. Gurung, Editor

Contributors (this issue):
Madhusudan Bhattarai
Dharmendra Dhakal
C. N. Ghimire
Arjun Karki
Pratima Nepal
Angie Wei and Sasha Khokha
Printing & Distribution:
Tek Thapa

If not delivered please return to:
NASA
c/o Damber K. Gurung
274 Barre Hall
Clemson University
Clemson, SC 29634-0355

Address Correction Requested