



**Smt. Parvatibai
Chowgule College
Of Arts & Science**
Grade 'A'-CGPA score of 3.29 on 4 point scale

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YOUR CRY, OUR CALL



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The 25th of July saw a gloomy dawn, maybe due to the constant rains that Goa was experiencing. All the students went on with their classes. We left class early to get to Sir Travassos' office, to ask him for permission to interview Mr. Alexyz. No sooner we got to speak to Sir Travassos, than Mr. Alexyz walked in. Our hearts skipped a beat. Frankly, we even panicked a bit. We penned down a few questions and were soon ushered in to Mr. Travassos office. Now time was very precious (as we were constantly reminded), so we put forth as many questions as we could. Luckily, Mr. Alexyz was more than happy to tell us all that we wanted to know.

Danika: What inspired you to take up cartooning?

Alexyz: I am, what I would like to say, a Bombay boy – I was born there, bred there; I guess I will be buried in Goa. But I want to donate my body for medical studies, so I guess there will not be any opportunity for burial. I studied in St. Xavier's College, Mumbai. We had these

break in the field?

Alexyz: I began

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working by giving my cartoons to newspapers in Bombay. When I came to Goa, I went to the papers here and my cartoons were published here.

Jolene: What inspired you to draw 'Sportoons'?

Alexyz: I always wanted to be a footballer but I really got kicked badly- quite literally, as I got my leg injured. But I got the attention that I sought on the field, through my drawings. So my love for sports got me to create Sportoons. My first book was titled 'Sportoons'. It was done during the Asian Games in '82, and my second book was pub-

lished over the world. Art has become very popular. People now have at least one work of art displayed in their homes. But yes, some youngsters want fast money and that does not happen in the field.

Jolene : What advice would you give to aspiring artists today?

Alexyz : I would say, focus and go for it. Keep at it till the last. I'm not a trained artist. I began drawing cartoons at the age of 40! But I would say that if you are interested, then keep going. Many young people today, are money oriented and it depends on how fast you want to move. Art is not a field of fast money. The key to achieving success is in learning to market your work. This is very important, because colleges will teach you the technique to produce, but not to market your work.

Jolene: What do you suggest young artists to do in terms of marketing their work?

Alexyz: I'd say, study a

good artist. See the way he/she markets their work and learn the technique. Observe and find your way through it.

TÊTE-À-TÊTE WITH MR. ALEXYZ, CARTOONIST EXTRAORDINAIRE



**Mr. Alexys Fernandes speaks
at the Honours Function**

social work camps held, I made it a point to attend these. For these camps, we were taken to the interiors of India, so I have seen a lot of the suffering and misery around. I then even considered being a social worker. But there were financial restraints. I worked in the advertising field as a copy writer. But I was not there for long. I realized that advertising was a big con-game. I would have to lie to many people in order to market a product. I wanted to make a difference and so I left the advertising industry. I then moved from Bombay to Goa. Here I taught in an art school that we set up in Calangute. We taught all forms of art for 7 years. We were like the first NGO's in Goa.

Danika: What gave you your

lished at the time of the Reliance World Cup '87. It was based on cricket cartoons, titled 'Howzatt'.

Jolene: Tell us something about your exhibits around the world.

Alexyz: I have had many exhibitions around the world, to name a few; Portugal, Canada, America and even England. My exhibit in England has been very special because I got an opportunity to go to the House of Commons, and attend the session. This was made possible by my close friend; Keith Vaz. Apart from these exhibitions, I have done several shows.

Danika: If you were not an artist, what would you be?

Alexyz: A musician. I do not play any instrument. Back then we did not have the kind of opportunities that are offered today. But I would love to sing.

Danika: What genre of music would you sing?

Alexyz: Popular music - The kind of music that young people would listen to today. I would even compose and write my own songs.

Danika : why music? Why would you want to sing?

Alexyz : I feel that music reaches out to the masses better than cartoons do. Sometimes you have to be up to some intellectual level to understand a cartoon. Songs appeal and are understood by everyone, so it works better to get the message across.

Jolene: Do you think that art is an upcoming field?

Alexyz : Yes, very much. During the recession people sold paintings and other artwork, all



**Sportoon Exhibition at
Smt. Parvatibai Chowgule Hall**

Danika: What plans do you have for the future?

Alexyz : I have just completed the illustrations of a book for friend. I'm also updating my book, 'Goa, Goan, Going, Gone', the first issue came out in 2008.

Mr. Alexyz was very co-operative and sensing our nervousness, made us feel at ease during the interview. We saw him to be a very down to-earth person. He did not brag about his achievements, (as maybe seen in many persons who share similar status and popularity...), instead, he spoke from the heart. We saw that he is grateful for all that he has accomplished and that he does not hesitate to share his knowledge and experience. We would like to thank Mr. Alexyz for his time and valuable advice.

**By Danika Fernandes and
Jolene Rene Fernandes**

