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Journal of the Bahá'í Community of the United
Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Volume 19, No.1 – May, 2002 / 159BE

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Letters to the Editor

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Dear Editor,

RECITATION OF THE GREATEST NAME

I enjoyed reading “This Worshipful Meditation” by Paul Profeska in your January issue and found it very useful, informative and encouraging to improve on my methods of meditation. However, I have to express my concern that the daily recital of the Greatest Name has been considered merely as a form of mantra rather than an invocation in this article as well as by others, even by eminent writers in their books and articles.

I have not found anywhere in the Bahá'í Writings the word mantra to have been applied directly or indirectly to this special law. The fact that this recital is ordained to be one of the special spiritual obligations equal to Obligatory Prayers with the same requirement of ablution before turning to God, is in itself an evidence that we should not regard this simply as an ordinary prayer, meditation or mantra.

Daryoush Mazloum

Dear Editor,

WETLANDS 5

Imagine being so tired that you can't see properly. Imagine also being so bored you wished you were dead. Imagine having to sit for hours on end in a cold depressing hall surrounded by the kind of pasty, unsmiling people that work as extras on “The Bill”. Imagine living on nothing but Mars Bars and cans of Fanta because the alternative is too grim to even consider. And finally, imagine being forced to sleep in uncomfortably close proximity to a sweaty, snoring, hairy half-Persian friend of yours. Wetlands 5 was nothing like this – I am of course describing the 20 hour bus journey Niaz Maguire and I took from Glasgow to Carmarthen...

Wetlands 5 was the kind of conference that I will tell my grandchildren about, and other people's grandchildren as well if I get half a chance. As I sit by the fire with my pipe and a fistful of Werthers' Originals to keep them interested, I'll regale them with stories of the varied and interesting workshops, the discussions which steamed on late into the night, the high quality of the artistic presentations and the way in which they were seamlessly integrated into the programme, and of course the infamous rounds of karaoke on the last night.

No amount of description, however, can faithfully portray the spirit of unity at Wetlands 5, created by the coming together of so many luminaries from all over the world, and kept together by the sheer effort and sacrifice put into the organisation of the conference in November and December by the organising team and Youth Committees. Anyway, if you were there then you'll know what I'm talking about. If not then don't miss the next one, this December in Belgium.

T e i o h R v r n e

Dear Editor,

ADOPT A MINEFIELD

We were interested to see the recent article describing the Stockport community support for “Adopt-a-Minefield”. For the Edinburgh Maxwell Bahá’í Community School canalside tree-planting* a grandfather (yet to be Bahá’í), of two of the many planters, sponsored the tree-planting to raise money for “Adopt-a-Minefield”. We would really commend this. Sponsoring their planting means that in some other part of the world there is a start on mineclearing, which will allow planting of trees and crops there, a tangible contribution to the Lesser Peace!

Ned and Janet Cundall

*for National Tree Week, last week of November 2001

<p>BJUK welcomes letters on any topic of general interest, which may be printed at the Editor’s discretion. Letters may be edited for brevity or clarity. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the National Assembly or the Editor. Editor: Patrick Morrissey, e-mail: p.morrissey@ntlworld.com, fax: 0870 136 3730</p>
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