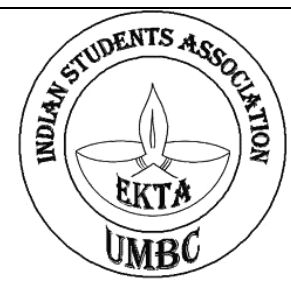




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Desi Chronicles

## “Plagiarism and Copyright issues”

KARTHIK GURUMURTHY

This time I would like to address a serious issue in this Srishti edition. Back in India, most of us have not been taught well about citing a reference or quoting a line from a textbook. When I came to US, we were exposed to this in detail in the orientation where they discussed about the honor code. I happened to notice more cases of academic dishonesty and thus decided to address this topic this time.

I currently teach Bio-informatics at California State University, Fullerton. With the proliferation of special sites and search engines that offer thousands of research papers, students can plagiarize with ease. Web sites such [cheatouse.com](http://cheatouse.com), [SchoolSucks.com](http://SchoolSucks.com), and [FreeA-LevelEssays.com](http://FreeA-LevelEssays.com), offer thousands of research papers, ready for students to copy.

However, as a faculty, I have to inform you that there are new Web sites available that can counter attack these free "cheat" sites. One of them is [TurnItIn.com](http://TurnItIn.com). This Web site takes thousands of essays from the cheat sites into their own databases. The Web site automatically compares students' essays against papers on file. This tool reviews

the file word-for-word and generates a warning for every match of eight consecutive words or more.

Students are required to submit their files in Microsoft Word or ASCII format to [TurnItIn.com](http://TurnItIn.com) before submitting a copy to the teachers. The paper is compared with existing files available in the database and within 24 hours; an annotated version of each student's paper is placed on a Web page accessible only to the teacher. Many schools have already subscribed in [TurnItIn.com](http://TurnItIn.com) to detect cases of plagiarism.

Eve2, designed by Canexus is another Web tool available to teachers. It consists of a software program that is installed on the teacher's computer. Teachers have to submit the papers and send them over an Internet connection to the company's computer server where they are compared against papers compiled from the cheat sites. Eve2 generates warnings when at least three consecutive sentences show a high degree of similarity, even if they are not exact matches.

There is a new concern with the new tools that can stop plagiarism. Serious copyright issues raise questions about using student work. Canexus does not store students' papers to avoid unresolved copyright issues.

Not all teachers believe high-tech tools are needed to detect plagiarism. Some experienced teachers feel that when a teacher is attentive to students' writing styles should notice copying.

In the next issue of Srishti, I will be addressing about copyright issues and the digital copyright act. Best wishes for you upcoming exams.

### I Shall Walk Among Untrodden ways

I shall walk among untrodden ways,  
I shall walk until the skies do rise.  
Thinking, as I walk the day  
Is what I am doing wise?  
For seldom what we like to do  
Is not a heaven-bid taboo.

Each blade would cut my skin, but me  
Unperturbed by the dying sky  
Determined not to die dull and dry  
Would march ahead, march ahead!

Hells will rain, heavens quiver,  
Eternals shrug, mortals shiver,  
Love will go rare, lovers still fewer.  
Yet, would march ahead, march ahead!

I shall, for what I call love, live,  
It may take many by surprise.  
Perhaps this struggle will take more than  
I can give,  
Then I may wonder, am I wise?  
For some live heart, others brain,  
However, I lived both as the same.

Utkarsh Ayachit



### An Unknown Land

Far away in the distant land  
The Earth is a cradle filled with sand  
Where the nights are starry  
And the canaries are blue  
The skies are painted with a crimson hue

Where the morning dawn casts a spell  
And lingers on the misty dale  
There is a tranquil sea  
Where the swans are dancing in elated  
glee

Where the gray dawn is breaking  
Amongst the stars that still are twinkling  
The sunrise that sets the lone heart free  
And spreads its warmth on you and me

And as I stand there mesmerized,  
The longing that fills me cannot be  
denied  
The sea gulls are beckoning me....  
To break free all ties and  
Unfurl a new life .....

Sheetal Bagde



**FRIENDSHIP**  
**Kajal Ghumman**

*"Each friend represents a world in us, a world possibly not born until they arrive, and it is only by this meeting that a new world is born." -- Anais Nin*

Right from the time we are born, we start making friends. Some of them become mere acquaintances ...they just come into our lives and go, and there are others who walk into our hearts and stay there forever.

When I was at undergrad school at SPCE I felt that the friends I had in school were the best and that this fact would never change. However, very soon when it was time to pack my bags and come to UMBC, I realized that there might be many new people, whom I would consider as my dear friends. I have often heard people say that you are going to meet new people all your life. However, what I have realized now is that you have to keep your hearts open to new friends, to new relationships, because if you are closed to these you might miss befriending some of the most beautiful people.

I came to UMBC, as a very nervous individual, without too many friends, and not knowing what to expect. At first, the whole concept of sharing my room and my life with a total stranger seemed a bit overwhelming to me, but now I can confidently say that Poonam is more than a friend to me, she has become a family. And then there is Poorva who makes all bad times pass by offering her patent "feel-good hug", Uttara with her

approachable attitude and intelligent advice, Snehal with her great jokes (which we sometimes don't understand but still laugh), and Vihang who is always there to make me see between right and wrong .

Life as an MS student here in USA has brought a whole new meaning to the word "friendship" .We have all taken the role of family for each other. I guess it is so needed here, where everyday is a question of facing some new tension, whether it is completing the OS project or worrying about being funded or then generally just missing home. Just being around each other makes us miss home a lot less than we would have otherwise.

It is not just about the new friends that I have made, but in more ways than one this entire experience has shown me the worth of all my old friends too, whom I miss sharing my life with, but I guess its all a part of growing up. At the end of it, I would just like to add one thing -

*"Side by side or miles apart, dear friends are always close to the heart."*



**ICC Cricket World Cup  
2003**  
**Kunal Punwani**

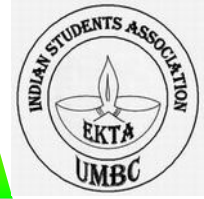
At UMBC, there are many cricket lovers. Unbelievably, we have not missed a single match that involved India since the time we have been here. Of course, we were not to miss the World Cup.

Firstly, I tried to arrange the telecast of the World Cup at UMBC on campus. I had arranged a room tentatively (Game Room or the Cabaret) for one and a half

month and made other arrangements too. But unfortunately, I got an email from the Dish Network people and they said it would cost \$4000 to telecast it at UMBC, as it would be a commercial event. This was way too expensive. In addition, the timings of the matches were not that feasible as the daytime match would start at 3am and the day and night at 7.30am, with most of the matches being day matches. Hence, these couple of factors restricted me from telecasting the World Cup at UMBC and finally had to telecast it at two houses in Westland Gardens.

It all started somewhere in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of January that I started sending emails on the mailing lists, trying to see how many people would be interested in watching the World Cup. Also, I had to look for two houses where we could show the series. Members of 1018 Courtney Road and 4815 Gateway terrace were ready to telecast it at their place – a special thanks to them. We had limited seats available for it (24 seats at each house) and so it was on a first come first serve basis for the first 48 people. I kept on sending reminder emails every 3<sup>rd</sup> day and in around 10 days 48 people were in for it and we finally decided to buy the series at two places. The cost of the so- called season pass for the World Cup was \$20 per person.

Finally, a special thanks to Amit J, Aniket, my roomies Vipul and Ripin, and all others who helped me make this event a success.



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DJ CHAMP

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