



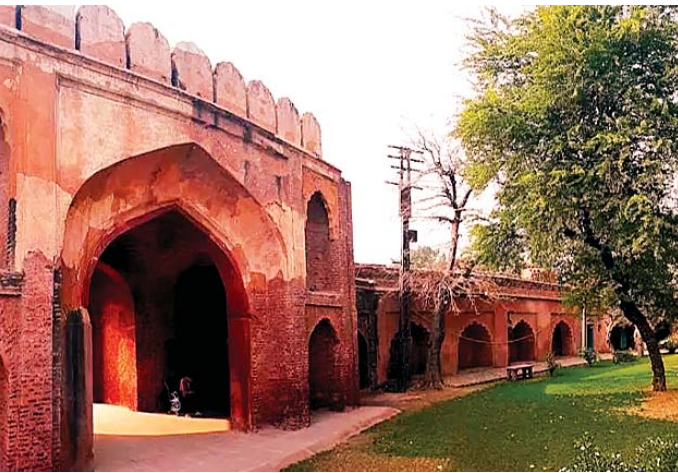
Oceans Oceans Everywhere!

66% of the world is covered in a blanket of rich, vibrant blue, from its depths once came all life on the Earth, and it continues to house an immense amount of life. This blanket is the world's oceans, and they serve as one of the most popular vacation spots in the world and play a vital role in the economy of countries worldwide. Across the briny deep, massive amounts of cargo cross each year, and it still serves as the primary thoroughfare for trade. World Oceans Day celebrates the ocean and the important role it plays in our lives!

#HISTORY

Kashmiri Gate From Dara Shikoh To Thomas Metcalfe

The gate was so named because it faced north, towards the road to Kashmir.



During 1857 Mutiny, Kashmiri Gate was site of pitched battles between rebel sepoy and British troops entrenched to the north of the walled city. The double gate was finally breached and Delhi recaptured by British troops, ending the Mutiny, but scars of the event has left its indelible mark on the surviving monuments in the region. Kashmiri Gate was one of the original gates of Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan's mid-17th century imperial capital, Shahjahanabad. The gate was so named because it faced north, towards the road to Kashmir, then a part of the Mughal Empire. The gate was located close to the river Yamuna and the region around it became a site of pleasure gardens and country houses built by the members of the royal family and courtiers. Qudsia Begum, mother of Emperor Ahmed Shah, built Qudsia Bagh, a charbagh mughal garden outside Kashmiri Gate, and Dara Shikoh, eldest son of Emperor Shah Jahan, built his palace just inside Kashmiri Gate. The Fakhri-ul-nasid was built by Kaniz-Fatima in memory of her husband Shujaat Khan, a nobleman in Aurangzeb's court. Later, after the East India Company captured Delhi from the Marathas in 1803, British Residents like David Ochterlony, William Fraser and Thomas Metcalfe built their houses here. The famous Anglo-Indian soldier Colonel James Skinner built Delhi's oldest church, St. James, in this area in 1836. The Magazine, a large compound of buildings storing gunpowder and ammunition, was also located here along with the Old Customs House, which

All That Is Good About CP

PART:4

My elder sister and I would visit 'Panditji's' bookshop on Irwin Road in the early '50s to borrow books. Later on, the shop moved to Shankar Market where it still operates from. The rate was four annas a book, returnable in a week! Panditji's real name was Ram Gopal Sharma and he was a short rotund man who wore a Gandhi topi. He had a quick turn of phrase and would suffer no fools! I continued borrowing books from him till the early '60s and my younger siblings followed the tradition.



LALIT NIRULA

Block, Connaught Place, located in the inner circle, was a fascinating place to grow up in. Our neighbours included Odeon cinema, Snowwhite dry cleaners, S.M.G. Beatty, Ramchander and Sons and Bata, among other well-known shops of the time. One of our favourite treats was to go to Bengali Market to Bhin Sain's shop and stand next to an opening on the side to eat gol gappas, except during the monsoon when we were forbidden to have any street food. After Shankar Market came up, the best alu tikis were available from a vendor who made them fresh, sitting in the verandah. From a very young age, Hanuman Mandir was a popular place to go on Tuesdays when there was also a weekly bazaar there. My elder sister would buy bangles and parandis and I would look at the interesting shops and people, including the fortune-teller, who used sparrows to select cards which answered your questions. The market had no electric lighting and all the luminescence came from smoky kerosene lamps. It was a magical place with hustle and bustle, lot of colour and textures and glittering products. Another popular place to visit was Jantar Mantar with its astronomy instruments, made out of large brick structures set in a park which provided great places for playing hide and seek! My elder sister and I would visit 'Panditji's' bookshop on Irwin Road in the early '50s to borrow books. Later on, the shop moved to Shankar Market where it still operates from. The rate was four annas a book, returnable in a week! Panditji's real name was Ram Gopal Sharma and he was a short rotund man who wore a Gandhi topi. He had a quick turn of phrase and would suffer no fools! I continued borrowing books from him till the early '60s and my younger siblings followed the tradition.



#GROWING UP IN CP

The three main bookshops in CP that I visited were B.D. Galsotia, Rama Krishna and Sons and New Book Depot, located next to each other in B-Block. Rama Krishna had books not only on shelves but in stacks on the floor. It dealt with more serious stuff, which, at the time, I was not interested in. I had little money and preferred the other two shops as I could read their hard bound comics till I was shooed away by the staff. In my college days, I started visiting another interesting bookshop in Shankar Market called Piccadilly, which had fascinating books on sociology, religion and spiritual subjects and was, in the late '60s and '70s, frequented by hippies who were looking to give a new meaning to their lives. The best movie halls in Delhi were in CP and the favourite recreational activity of many at a time when there was no TV and very few options for entertainment. There were four movie halls, Odeon (right around the corner from my home), Plaza, Regal and Rivoli. As a teenager, my desired quota was one movie a week and that depended on my pocket money. Tickets ranged from



a low of 12 annas to a high of three rupees and 12 annas. One of the earliest movies I remember seeing was 'Bud Abbott and Lou Costello meet Frankenstein.' All I remember of it is that I spent half the time (which was whenever Frankenstein appeared on the screen) hiding my face on the seat! The best dance schools in New Delhi were in the CP area, including one for ballroom dancing. As a little child, I would reluctantly accompany my sister to her school, Sangeet Bharati on the first floor of G-Block, where she learned kathak and I vividly remember the sound of bells on the anklets of the girls. There were three well-known shops for

Harnarain Gopinath, on the side of B-Block, sold a large variety of good quality acharas (pickles) and morabbas (preserves). Next to it was Keventers which sold sweet bottled milk and other dairy products, including butter. M.R. Stores, on the corner of G-Block, was an unusual shop as it sold two very different items, hardware and knitting wool. Shops selling musical instruments were located on the outer circle on G-Block below Marina Hotel as well as on Parliament Street (Godin & Co).

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By the time the '50s and '60s came around, CP was the best commercial and retail centre of Delhi

with all the new offices of the multinational and airlines. Later on, when the new high-rise buildings on the connecting roads like Barakhamba Road and Curzon Road (now Kasturba Gandhi Marg) came up, its position as the commercial centre strengthened. In those days, most senior managers working in the CP area who had personal transport, would generally go back home for lunch and a quick siesta and CP would be empty with no one walking around as all shops closed for lunch. Walking in Connaught Place recently was a strange feeling as I have rarely visited it after I stopped working there just over five years ago. CP now is so changed from the magical world of my childhood and youth, it is like stepping into unknown territory. Instead of the relaxed shopping centre it was until the '70s, it has changed as has Delhi. By the 1980s, a large number of multistorey office buildings had come up both on Barakhamba Road and Curzon Road (K.G. Marg) and as life had got more competitive, all shops now remain open in the afternoons. The state emporiums have been given their own section on Baba Kharak Singh Marg (Irwin Road) and are popular with tourists. With the coming of the metro, CP is now charged with a very different energy, and like the city of Delhi, not very sure of what the future holds. Many old restaurants have disappeared, even as more new ones have opened. Most of the movie houses have long gone and the best shops are no longer in CP. The traffic is horrendous as it has become a transit point for people travelling to different parts of Delhi. The metro has also contributed to the crowds, and eventually, I see CP becoming the biggest and best market for the growing middle class in India, compared to my childhood years when it was the exclusive shopping ground.

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Will America Actually Look For Peace In Ukraine?

Mitch McConnell (an eminent US personality), was asked, can we really afford to spend \$10 to \$13 billion in Ukraine? And he said don't worry, it's going to American defense contractors. It's a loan. Raise your hand if you think that that loan is never getting paid back, of course, it's not, so, why do they call it a loan? It is that they call it a loan they can impose on loan conditions and what are the loan conditions that we have to impose on the anti-Russian alliance. The unwritten message is that: "If you support Ukraine, you're going to be poor forever."



Maroof Raza

The war over Ukraine has entered its third year and there are many versions as to why it started and why it won't easily end, unless US can make a tidy profit from it. The recent showdown of Ukraine's President Zelensky and the US leadership in the White House was unprecedented and shocking. The end result was that America is going to stall its financial and military support for Ukraine. Having spoiled Ukraine for choice, the Biden-Trump regime now says that Kyiv must do what the US says! And if it doesn't, then the Europeans would have to pay for Ukraine's defence. This has led to the London meeting of European heads of government, who have vowed to raise their defence spending substantially. Apparently, their fear of Russia is bigger than bankruptcy! Many of us know that having taken the Gulf countries to war in Iraq in 1990, the US made a profit from arms sales while the smaller economies are still repaying their debts. The US knows how to drag even its allies into a war and get them to pay for it! An eminent political scientist in the US, Prof John J Mearshimer says that the US pushed Russia into a conflict in Ukraine. Why? Because more countries would join NATO (fearing Russia), and here are the reasons why the US wanted the war to drag on. The US is a military industrial complex and wants wars to service its arms industry. Much of America's influence across the world, since the world wars, is because of the wars it fought for democracies and that made a fortune by promising military aid and arms sales. Senator Robert F Kennedy (of the Kennedy clan)

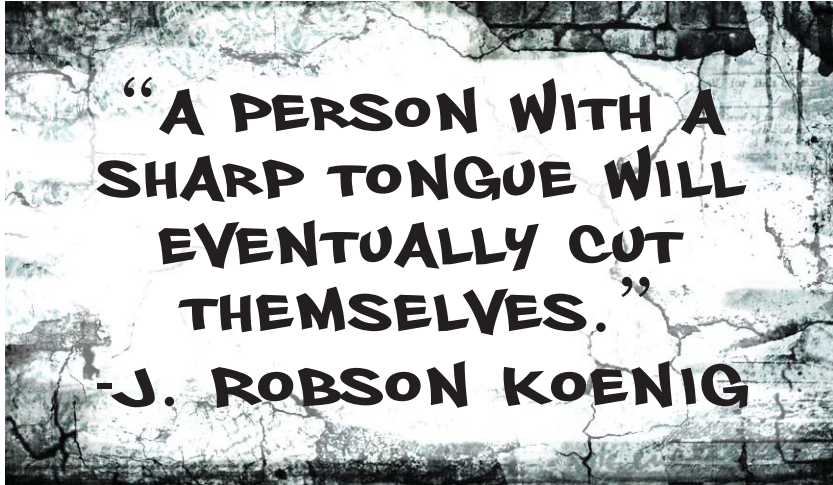
has now said that Russia tried repeatedly to settle their differences on terms that were very beneficial to the US, even granted the US a major thing the US wanted, i.e. to keep the big military contractors to add new countries to NATO all the time, why doesn't that country hasn't conformance military purchases and they don't meet weapons specifications which means certain companies like Northrup

Grumman and General Dynamics and Lockheed Martin all want to supply more arms to those in the NATO gravy train. This was \$113 billion dollars of arms purchases. That's enough to create housing for all of the people in the US, and then we've committed another \$24 billion since that 2 months ago, and now with the present violence, President Biden had asked for another 60 billion dollars to hand over to



Ukraine, to rebuild all the things the war has destroyed. But Mitch McConnell (an eminent US personality), was asked, can we really afford to spend \$10 to \$13 billion in Ukraine? And he said don't worry, it's going to American defense contractors. It's a loan. Raise your hand if you think that that loan is never getting paid back, of course, it's not, so, why do they call it a loan? It is that they call it a loan they can impose on loan conditions and what are the loan conditions that we have to impose on the anti-Russian alliance. The unwritten message is that: "If you support Ukraine, you're going to be poor forever. It is most important to understand that Ukraine has to put a whole of its government's assets up for sale to multinational corporations, including all its agricultural land, the biggest single asset in Europe, which is the world's bread basket in Europe, and then in December, President Biden gave out the contract for Ukraine's assets, which is meant to keep us hating on each other. Thank you to America's republicans and democrats, fighting each other in black, against white and all these divisions that they create." However, the shabby treatment meted out to President Zelensky, whom President Trump called a dictator, should come as a wakeup call to India. Not only will the US abandon its allies, but Washington will overlook a territorial aggression like Russia's in Ukraine (and maybe China's in Leh-Ladakh), if its acclaimed friend doesn't fall in line. Is India aware of what can follow? As it was once said: 'The US, like other big powers, has no permanent friends. Only its permanent interests. Tensions between Russia and China led to a short border war in 1989 until peace prevailed. Today, their story is different.

THE WALL

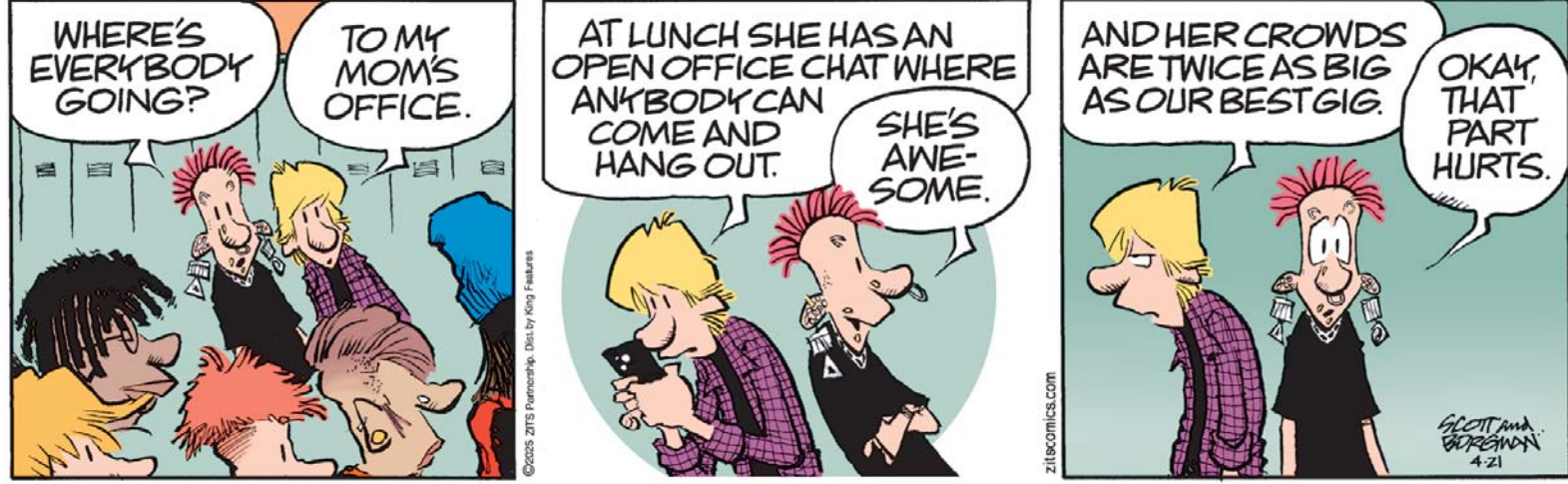


BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman