



Friday's girl

Worshipping the wheel

LEAVE alone living beings, non-living things too have a deity of their own. This is especially so in the case of vehicles. The 200 year old Anjaneyaswamy temple in Machavaram which is dedicated to the vehicle God, is usually surrounded by vehicles of all shapes and sizes on Saturdays and Tuesdays, the two days considered auspicious for the blessings of the temple God. On these days a special *pooja* is conducted inside the temple and another one is performed based on the number of the vehicles and the owner's name. *Pooja*'s are also performed whenever the vehicle changes hands or before the owner plans to take a long journey someplace.

It only goes to show that with every object man makes, he also creates a being to protect it. The only problem is that man becomes so obsessed with his creations that he ends up worshipping it!

Fit-ting example

YOU saw them on television, Veena Merchant's Keep Fit gang, with their beautiful bodies and their enviable levels of fitness. Now here's your chance to be part of Body Shape Incorporated and get that flab off, or gain some if you need it. "Come on, work at it, it's your body," shouts the slim and pretty instructor, Preeti Brown, as over a score of people of all shapes and sizes join her in time to an

invigorating beat.

The venue is St. Thomas Church, opposite Safdarjung, the time 6.30 to 7.30 a.m. -- a great way to start a busy day. Preeti, who was trained and encouraged to start the class by Merchant herself, feels the workouts have made a tremendous difference to her life. She's shed a lot of unguainly fat, and looks incredibly young to be a mother of two. But what is special about her is not her great figure or the way she smiles while she conducts her very enjoyable class and urges you to strive for results. Though at first, it's impossible to believe, her lovely brown eyes cannot see. "I hope more handicapped people like me will be encouraged to do something meaningful with their time," she says earnestly.

From Pepsi to papers for perestroika

IN THE spirit of *glasnost*, Soviet citizens will soon be flicking the pages of glossy — and until now, decadent-western publications. After smacking their lips from Pepsi and licking their fingers of Kentucky Fried Chicken, they can get a taste of other capitalist products.

The *Financial Times of London*, *The International Herald Tribune* and a number of US magazines will soon make their appearance on Soviet newstands.

Unless, of course, the Soviets ask for reciprocity, and insist that *Pravada* be available at every American newstand.

Hip hip Hodori

HIP hip Hodori! The 15th of every month has been declared Hodori Day in Korea, to encourage public participation in the Seoul Olympics. Hodori is the tiger that serves as the official mascot for the 24th Summer Olympics scheduled for September 17 onwards.

Hodori Day was so designed so as to