

The monetary reward is only a token honorarium to the person (usually a security guard) called upon at odd hours to do the risky job of removing a snake from vague places - nobody roams about the campus thirsting for snake blood! I submit that this is just an administrative measure implemented to ensure the well-being of the campus community.

JUDGE HUMANEIX: This case is a classic example of the recurring conflict between those who care sincerely for the natural environment and its members about us and those who are trying equally sincerely to do the difficult job of ensuring the development of the human community - a conflict not easy to resolve! But in this particular case, I feel that as leaders of science in the country, it is the duty of the powers that be in the Institute

to look beyond purely administrative measures (no doubt justifiable in a narrow sense) and provide some lasting solution. If a school in rural Karnataka could teach its students to handle even poisonous snakes and learn about them in order to remove their fear (born of ignorance and fostered by myth), surely the Institute can devote some funds for training a few guards to catch the snakes live and let them out in the open (as a short term step) and for educating the campus community as a whole in the long run? Instead of creating a drab, artificial and fragile environment insulated from the surrounding variety and beauty of Nature, can we not learn to coexist in harmony?

SHARAD LELE

LATE FOR THE CLASS ?

