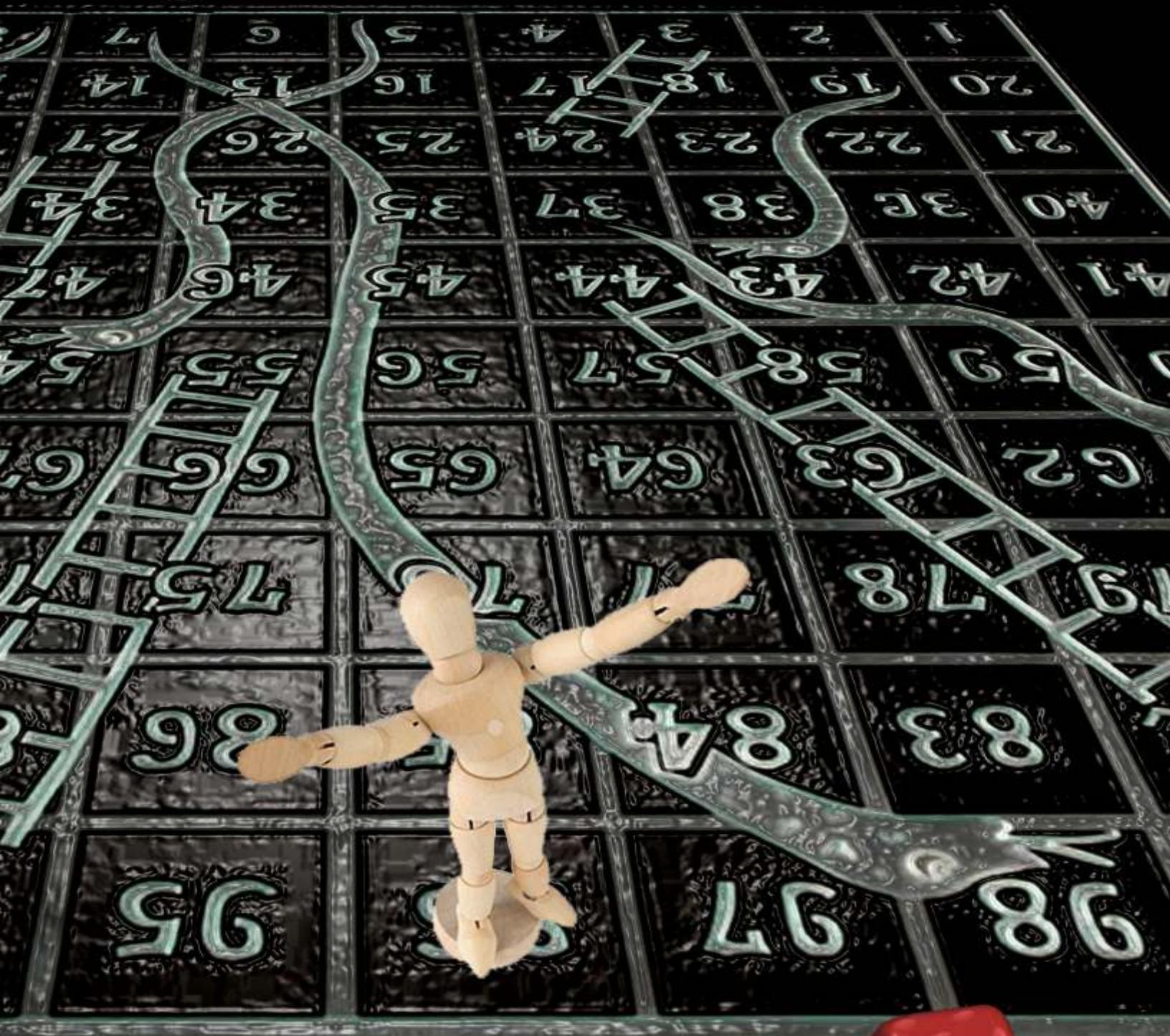


WATCH OUT

Students' News Magazine, IIT Roorkee



there and BACK again

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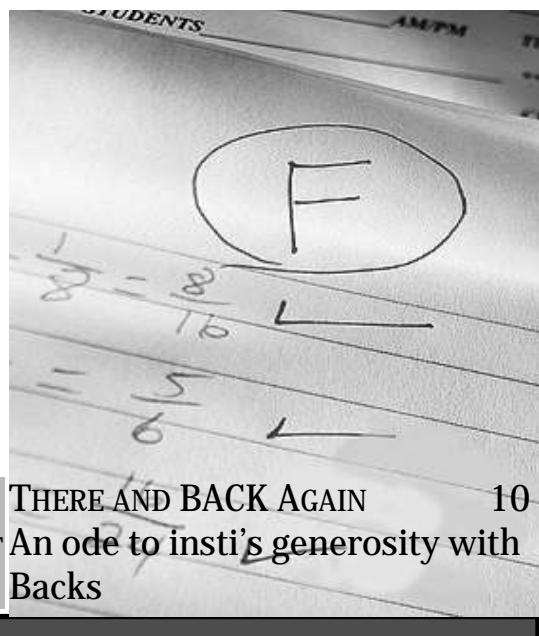
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Regular Features

Rank	2
Verbatim	2
Special Economic Zone	3
Face-Off	3
News Notes	4
Tech-ila Shots	7
WORC	13
G-Talk	14
Almost Famous	14
Mostly Harmless	15
Editorial	15
Purple Cow	16
Cartoon Strip	17



WHEN THINGS GO WRONG

.A life was lost to mere negligence in IIT Kgp. How prepared are we?

8 THERE AND BACK AGAIN

An ode to insti's generosity with Backs

THE LAST PHANTASMAGORIA

It's that time of the year again. The to-do list I pasted on my walls a week ago condescendingly reminds me that I should have hit the books five days ago. It took a few forgettable hours of wheedling to convince my prof that 47.4% wasn't worlds away from the magical tally of 75. Unless something goes horribly wrong, I should be out of this place exactly a year from now. In the meantime, near and dear ones are off on the hunt for a no-dues certificate from all and sundry, before heading away in their respective directions to different corners of the world map. Amidst all this commotion, every department and section worth its salt is busy dishing out goodies to its departing warriors in an attempt to ensure that their time in the *insti* isn't lost in the frayed pages of fading memory- a *chapo*, a memento, a slam-book, a framed photograph- anything to set us off on a sojourn down memory lane years after we're out of this sleepy hamlet we call home.

Watch Out organized a farewell of its own last week- a bittersweet affair where we old folks were politely shown the door. Six different versions of the following two paragraphs now sit side by side on my recycle bin- one maudlin, one callow, one plain morose and yet, all hopelessly inadequate. As my last contribution to the magazine that has given me so much, the burden of expectation carried by this editorial, though largely self-imposed, was immense. I wanted it to tell the world how a magazine turned a cynic who made faces during his School-Leaving Photo Session struggle to fake a smile during a similar ritual three years later. I wanted it to be a long thank-you note to the five batches of people who made something as mundane as bringing out a 20-page news magazine the most cherished moments of my life. Most of all, I wanted it to be a souvenir I'd look back on sitting under a chestnut tree decades from now, in my attempt to relive those three painfully-short years. Even as I inch closer to the impending finale, there are so many more stories I'd hoped to share, so many names to be acknowledged, so many fond memories to be relived; and yet, as I exchange blank stares with CorelDraw's chameleon one last time, my inability to express in words how much I will miss all this leaves me with nothing more than a lump in the throat to show for all my efforts.

The journey that began three years ago with the story of Purple Cow getting rejected during the auditions for Vogue (bearing no resemblance to any person dead or alive, I had then claimed) has reached its climax. I will be riding off into the proverbial sunset to ultimately throw my energies into heaven-knows-what. Though it will take me a while to come to terms with the finality of it all and reconcile myself to a lifetime in the great hall of '*has-beens*', I find solace in the knowledge that I'm making way for a bunch of kids who will take this magazine to heights greater than I'd ever foreseen. The baton has been passed, the last bow taken and the goodbyes exchanged. I take my place in the audience as younger and brighter minds take their respective places at the helm. The great man was right when he said, "*The show must go on...*" Enjoy it with me. Cheers!

-Ed



It is too late now... The end seems have come and gone and all that remains is a shattered dream of a brilliant CGPA. Peaceful though you are, at the bottom of your class; your folks at home may not rejoice at such prospects. Here are five sure shot ways to escape that inevitable clobbering and ensure a carefree summer.

Mom, I shrunk my CG!

1. Winter Fog: Poor visibility due to the winter fog has been known to wreck airplanes and cars before. Well, it can ruin your exam as well! Between you and the *Ghissu's* answer sheet lies nothing but a few feet and a cold, thick, impregnable wall of fog. Trapped within the walls, all you do is curse yourself for not giving the weather report its due.

2. eXhaustion of the eXalted X-machine: You barely attended classes. Many proxies, a 'Bond' status and many sessions-which-stress-your-convincing-skills later, you are allowed to appear for the exam with 69% attendance. But you are left helpless when your resilient saviour, the Xerox machine, which had copied notes after notes all these years, decides to desert you. *If everything seems to be going well, you have obviously overlooked something* – Murphy.

3. Gaming: After twelve hours of gunning down terrorists and razing down empires you reached a "beyond God-like" streak last night. Invincible, you stride into the hall, smirking at the panic on the faces of ordinary mortals. Convinced of your superpowers, you decide to renew your energy levels by taking a short nap. You wake up to realize that the skies have darkened and another exam stands ruined.

4. Addiction: Life seemed rosy and perfect just a few weeks ago, as it always does when one is deep in love. But all hell breaks loose, when betrayal rears its ugly visage. Consumed by pain, the only desire you have left is to embrace Death; when one night you meet the 'vice' Old Monk. From then on, life turns into one grand orgy, and even the approaching exams cannot worry you out of your elation.

5. Jack of all trades: Anxious to prove your versatility and many talents, you end up as part of half the sections on the campus. Chapos, 'bonding' sessions, weekly fests, I M G(EEK) lab projects eat up into your time, and the only time you get to sleep is during the classes. Exams arrive, and you are left wonderstruck at the extent to which mankind has seemed to explore science and technology, and you wind up with an all-time low CG.

Verbatim



With the recession rearing its head, the placement season was sure to look bleak. The placement statistics are on a low and insecurity regarding their future prevails in the students' minds. In addition of this, the package being offered by the companies have decreased substantially

During these desperate times, WONA interviewed Prof P.K. Jain, Professor in charge of Placement Cell, to find out the exact placement figures and the forecasts for the coming year.

How many students have got placed so far in terms of percentage?

So far, there has been a 74% placement in Undergraduates, 78% in IDD, 37% in M.Tech, 48% in MCA and 54% in MSc courses. The placement season will be continuing till May end. The current market is down and recruitment has certainly decreased.

How has the recession in the markets affected the number of companies that came for the placements this year and their student intake?

Due to the current market situation, the number of companies that have come to the campus have decreased by about 20% and the student intake per company has also decreased drastically.

How do you forecast next year's placements?

We are hoping next year the placement scenario will be better, once the global markets improve after bouncing back from recession.

What is the average package and highest package that has been offered so far?

The average package is 6.31 lacs for UG, 6.64 lacs for IDD and 6.02 for PGs. The highest package is of 36 lacs and is offered by Schlumberger.

What options are the remaining 26% UGs trying to explore?

Some students have initiated their own start-ups. The recession is said to be an ideal time to start a company. Higher education is another alternative that is being pursued by the students.

Special Economic Zone

Eurozone

Walking down an ancient Roman road, you stop at a nearby restaurant to purchase a Pizza even as you continue staring at the Colloseum standing majestically just across the road. You then produce a Rs. 500 note to pay it off and the man gladly accepts... Back into reality; Rupee is only valid in India and there is no 'World Currency'. But let me have the pleasure of introducing you to Eurozone, where the Euro comes to your rescue....

Eurozone is the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) of 16 European countries wherein they have a common currency, viz. € (Euro) along with common international trade policies and free internal trading. Born out of the Maastricht Treaty '93, Eurozone has brought economic integration and stability to the European Union.

The benefits of the euro are varied and can be felt by both individuals and large businesses. Before the euro, exchanging currencies meant extra costs, risks and a lack of transparency. But now, doing business in the euro area is more cost-effective and less risky. Consumers get more choices and stable prices. Most importantly it ensures economic stability and growth for the country as a whole. Take the example of Slovakia whose economy has grown by 50% since 2003, when it joined the Eurozone. That means the Bratislava we saw in eurotrip has transformed completely for the good. No longer will you get an 'Absinth' for just a few cents.

Countries must meet tough economic criteria to enter the Eurozone, often a painful process. Only three other EU newcomers have succeeded in recent years: Slovenia in 2007 and Cyprus and Malta, a year ago. The Euro is also expected to help small European countries weather the global economic crisis. Just in case you might be wondering who is it that issues all the notes and the coins? Well, the responsibility lies with the European central bank which also formulates the monetary policy of the Eurozone as a whole.

So, whether it's those Italian cuisines, or those glam German cars, or a snapshot beneath the giant Eiffel, it's Euro for all. And who won't make hay while the sun shines???

Blue Chip vs. Startups

In today's scenario, it would come as a surprise to no one that "job security" is one factor that weighs on top of everyone's mind. Clearly, startups with their low success rates (while we are aware of the few which manage to grab the limelight, the remaining thousands perish into nothingness) do not appeal as being the safest of options. This is one reason why jobs in well-established firms are still in demand. A basic undergrad degree while equipping you with bookish knowledge comes nowhere close to providing the experience the real world demands. I am not entirely against the concept but perhaps one can handle tight situations better after a few years of working in a structured organization. Good Mentorship and finances, the prerequisites of any startup are the privilege of a mere handful. Aspiring entrepreneurs live with the constant fear that if things don't work out smoothly, they may be forced to start from scratch. Despite the pots of gold the startup rainbow promises, it remains that startups can never guarantee the same brand value as compared to a job in an established company. All said and done, whatever path we choose, the end remains the same bread and butter and it boils down to whether or not a person is willing to stick out his neck in such troubled times.

It is not possible to objectively generalize 'the better', yet the experience provided by being your own boss can never be matched by working under someone. Self Dependency leads to a steep learning curve which definitely helps in the long run. The unconventional exposure that a start-ups guarantees,

leads to all round development. A common myth in people's minds is that start-ups always require heavy finances. The reality however, is that finances are not as important in the initial stages as are planning and groundwork. Contrary to popular belief, not all sectors have been hit by the recession. In fact, certain segments like education and healthcare are experiencing a boom. The flipside of recession is that abundant cheap labour

FACE OFF



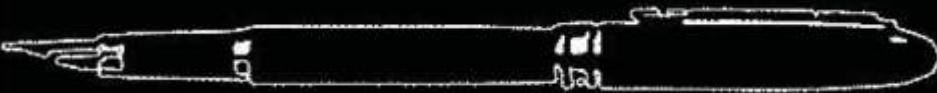
Shwaitang
IV Year, Elec



Gaurav Singh
IV Year, Chem

has resulted in lower operational costs. Of course, there is always the risk of failure but being IIT'ians procuring a job is not that difficult. Moreover, this is the appropriate age to pursue your passions, something which may not be possible once you hit "mid-life crisis". But a strong word of caution to aspiring entrepreneurs: don't take the plunge unless you have done your homework and have a strong backup in case things don't work out.

NEWS NOTES



Sangram : IIT-R glorified!



After persistent efforts from the passing out batch this year, our own sports fest 'Sangram' was held from 27th to 29th of March. The event turned out to be a great success, courtesy the organizing team consisting of Gaurang Shah (Arch.V yr), Abhishek Nagar (Mech IV yr), Mayank Aggarwal (Bio III yr), Shweta Vasishtha(CSE IV yr) and all the secretaries and joint secretaries of all the sports being a part of the team. Mountain Dew was the official title sponsor. The event saw an overwhelming participation with quite a few colleges like NIT-Jalandhar, IIT-Kanpur, IIT-D, SRM, PEC, Graphics era and HBTI coming over. IIT-R performed astonishingly well in most of the sports, right from winning gold in Football, gold in badminton girls to winning gold in Volleyball. Basketball Boys Event witnessed an interesting final between IIT-R and IIT-K, where IIT-R stood victorious in the end with 53-52 on the scoreboard. The IITR athletics team also stood high on the podium in most events. Ashish Arpit(Meta III), Apurva Sharma(Meta III), Varinder Singh(Elec II), Gargi Singh(Civ IV) and Ruchira Gaur(Arch II), all struck gold in most of the throw events. Yamuna Phal(Elec II) won the Gold medals in the 200,400 and 800 meters races. Abhimanyu Parmar from PEC, Chandigarh was declared the best male athlete. Other honours included silver in Table-Tennis, silver in Badminton and silver in Basketball (girls). Overall, the sports fest was well organised and we hope that it will continue to promote the sports culture and enthusiasm on campus.

Dhun : On the wrong note...

The music section brought out its last ensemble performance of the semester, Dhun, on the 29th of March. Held in the convocation hall, the show was predominantly based on Rock.

The event however, clashed with the last day of Sangram and as a result a small crowd turned up which dwindled to still smaller numbers as the event proceeded, owing to the performances. The first song of the night, Vande Mataram failed to strike the right note with the audience with its uncanny rendition in rock style. What followed was a mix of several popular numbers by Nth Degree, the Sculptors of Symphony and members of the rookie band Endopyrox.

Commendable performances included a solo guitar lead by Shon whose original composition 'Lost in Light' was well received by all, a rap by Padmini, Teja and Indraneel, and a solo lead in November Rain by Hardik. Towards the end, the convocation hall was nearly empty with only a handful of enthusiasts left, most of them comprising of the sections' contingent. With Dhun intended to be a farewell performance, the fact that it couldn't turn out to be a success it was primed for, was disappointing for the performers.



SPIC MACAY:

Odissi Performance by
Ms. Ranjana Gauhar

Dramatics :

Pass Out Play

EDC :

E-Summit '09

A Night of Odissi extravaganza

Spicmacay held its last event for the academic year on 22nd April with an Odissi performance by Ms. Ranjana Gauhar - a leading exponent in this field. Though the event started about an hour late, it was worth the wait, something made obvious by the fully occupied Civil Auditorium. Ms. Ranjana Gauhar has been honoured with the prestigious Padam Shree in 2003 and Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 2007 by the president of India. She is the founder of UTSAV – an Odissi training institute. Apart from performing in India, she has also taken the dance form to countries like USA, UK and Germany.

She began the evening by performing a mythological ballet on the life of Lord Shiva depicting various aspects of his life. She next presented a dance on Meera bai where she portrayed Meera hallucinating of a black cloud as Lord Krishna. It was followed by Geet Govind which she performed on audience's request. The highlight of the event was her responsive interaction with the audience wherein she asked two girls and a boy to perform kathak and bharatnatyam while she herself performed odissi, thus demonstrating the difference between the three art forms.

**Highest Placement Offer :**

Hemant Chhabra (Mech IV) (36 lacs in Schlumberger)

IIM Call Convertors :

Sumedh Chaudhary(Meta IV): All IIMs

Harsh Gupta (Elec IV) : IIM A,C,K

Saagar Sinha(Meta IV): IIM C,K,I

Devabasu Mallick (Chem IV) - IIM B

Rishabh Goel (Elec IV) : IIM C

Harsh Chaudhary (Chem V) : IIM C

Other Achievements :

Abhishek Sundar (Elec III) and Prateek Agrawal (P&I III) won the Tata Crucible Zonal finals at Chandigarh.

Venkatesh Nandakumar(CSE IV) is selected for the Google 'Summer of Code' Programme.

It's All Biz at the E-Summit '09 !

Entrepreneurship development cell, IIT Roorkee hosted its flagship event E summit 2009 from 15th to the 19th of April. This event was spread over four days and had plethora of event ranging from B-quizzes to B-plan competitions. The event successfully managed to bring into the domains of the campus, corporate honchos and big names in the business world like Mr Rajdeep Sarahwat(Vice President, NASSCOM) and Sanjay Bhasin (IAN).

On Day 1, a case study competition was held which witnessed a decent participation majority of whom were I year students. The preliminary round was followed by the presentation competition. Day 2 had the business quiz. The majority of the participants were again IITR students. Day 3 witnessed the interesting elevator pitch for those teams who had not been short-listed for the final round of Arth'09. Each team was given a 2 minutes' pitch to present about their B-Plans. It was an interesting event where people got to hear many innovative ideas without being bored by their technical details. The 4th day was scheduled for the E-conference. It consisted of a guest lecture on start up conclave and a panel discussion on investor demands, followed by a mentor clinic. It was joyous sight to see IITR alumnus Mr Pulkit Jain as one of the panelists in the start up conclave. The final day of the event showcased Arth 2009 finals where top selected B plans and the wild card entry participants gave their final presentations in front of the judges. The team from CABM, Pantnagar and Welingkar Institute, Mumbai came first and second respectively.

Overall, the E-summit was well organised. The presence of famous personages and intellectual ambience almost made the event a success but a bit of publicity wouldn't have harmed at all. The participation in the event was evidently less than what the organisers had expected. Inspite of what could have been a crowd-puller, the E-summit was unable to attract much audience and students failed to capitalise on what would have been a good learning experience.

DoMS Events

The Department of Management Studies organized 'Jigyasa: A quest for knowledge', a National Level Paper Presentation Competition. Its final round was held on the 28th of March. The event was presided over by Dean of Alumni Affairs, Professor Harsh Sinvhal. Dr. Ratin Roy, currently Economic Advisor to the Thirteenth Finance Commission, Government of India, was the guest of honour. The Chief Judge was Mr. Sumit K. Kapoor who is presently Vice President in Ernest & Young. Other judges were the alumni of the department itself. The competition was based on the theme of 'Nature and Global Warming'. The two teams from DoMS, each comprising of two students of the first year, won the first and third positions, taking home cash prizes of Rs. 40,000 and Rs. 10,000 respectively.

The Department of Management Studies also organized an Art Competition on the 18th of April for encouraging, motivating and helping the children of Roorkee School for Deaf, located in the IIT Roorkee campus.

POP goes the play!

The dramatics section performed their Passing out play titled 'Arey! Sharif Log' on the 16th, 17th and 18th of April. People turned up in large numbers to applaud the efforts of the dramatics section's passing out batch. In spite of all the seasoned actors in the dramatics section, the play did not turn out as well as expected. The script tried to cash in on the well established Girl Next Door theme. With all the double entendre, the supposedly humourous leching of the desperate middle aged men on a young beautiful neighbour failed to extract bouts of laughter from the audience as intended. As the play progressed, the humour turned out to be too repetitive. The audience found the shadow plays during the intermittent scene changes much more amusing than the repetitive humour of the play.



SAC UPDATE: Neeraj Agrawal Speaks...

The new Dean Of Students Welfare has been very helpful. He is constantly in touch with us and insists that even basic issues like provision of washing machines in the bhawans, should be forwarded to him. Having been a chief warden, he is well aware of the problems faced by students.

Recently, a meeting of the student senate was held where the Director and Deans were also invited. Among the major decisions we have agreed on is the construction of a Students' Activities Centre. This centre shall have a cafeteria, indoor games and areas allotted for the different sections and clubs. We have also proposed an indoor basketball court, a multipurpose hall and several other facilities. The plan hasn't been finalised yet but a team has already been appointed and they are working under the DOSW to come up with a course of action taking into account the facilities in other institutes.

The privatisation of the mess has been discussed and approved. It will start with the new hostels and will slowly be extended to the existing Bhawans depending on the results obtained from these pilot projects. The concept of a food court has also been approved but its construction shall take time as the location of it hasn't been decided. We cannot destroy our old buildings and we need a centralised location for the food court so we are keeping our options open.

Another major decision reached by us is the issue of medical insurance. Last year ICICI covered the insurance but we weren't happy with their service. This year we changed to Reliance but unfortunately the feedback has been worse. We had given a total of Rs. 8 lakhs to the company for the year. Until now a total of 2 lakhs has been claimed, out of which only Rs. 20000 has actually been refunded to the students. In view of this problem we have decided to bring out our own administrative medical insurance so that there is no fight for complete and unbiased medical cover.

The SAC has also decided to bring out an online intranet discussion forum which will provide the students with a direct link to the SAC and hence the DOSW. The site shall be SAC controlled and the IMG has agreed on providing us with this facility. We also intend to upload the details of our meetings so that everyone can know what all is going on.



TECH-ILA SHOTS

Never again will we hear a cry of dissent from a sportsman for human eyes have now been replaced by a more reliable digital vision. The dawn of the new millennium saw the introduction of several new technologies into sports, promising to be effective in terminating erroneous decisions but scathed by traditionalists nevertheless.

Hawk Eye was adopted into Cricket and Tennis after prolonged complaints of players against LBW and close line decisions. High speed video cameras placed at different locations around the playing area obtain visual images which are then processed using a video processor and ball tracker. The 3D position of the ball is calculated using its positions from each camera, and hence its current and future trajectory can be estimated, using the fundamental laws of mechanics.

Hot Spot is another technique that was invented to resolve the eternal bat-pad paradox in Cricket. Infra red cameras on either end of the ground sense the heat of friction generated by the collision of the ball with the bat or pad. The precise location of the ball's point of contact can be obtained on a computer screen, thus enabling umpires to judge accordingly.

A third technology that works on the principle of sound detection is Snickometer. The recorded sound wave is used to determine whether the ball has touched the bat on its way to the keeper. If the sound occurs in synchrony to the ball passing by, the batsman is adjudged out.

Several other technologies have been around for some time – like the sports radar gun, used for measuring the speeds of balls in Cricket and Tennis. Modern medical advancements have contributed towards players' physical and mental well-being, and checked doping. There is no denying the fact that sports would have been crippled had it not been for technology. Yet, this excessive dependence on technology has been debated upon quite a lot in sporting circles. These techniques still leave enough room for doubt. Moreover, the wastage of time and energy and the lack of spontaneity add to the frustration of the spectator; the sheer joy of watching and enjoying sports is lost amidst this quest for perfection



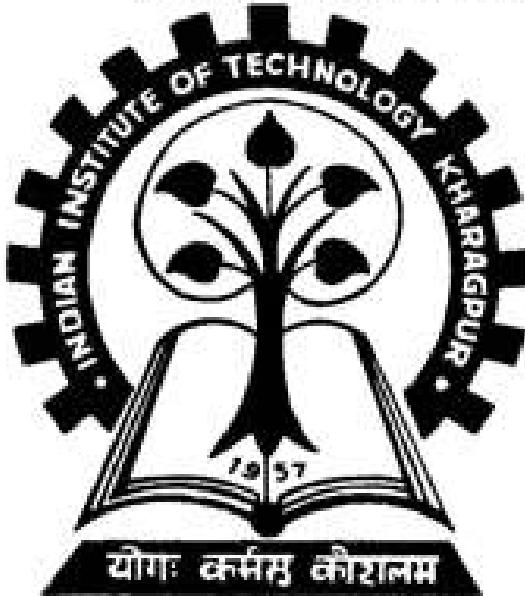
Ultimate
Bite

*ideal place to freak out
after a hard day's work*

19, Civil lines,
Near Centenary gate IIT Roorkee

STUDENT DIES DUE TO MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE

ANGRY STUDENTS ATTACK DIRECTOR'S RESIDENCE



Special Correspondent

KOLKATA, 23 March, 2009: students claimed.

Angry students at IIT-Kharagpur on Sunday forced the institute's director to resign after a third-year student of electrical engineering died of medical neglect.

Rohit Kumar was left unattended for three hours at the premier institute's BC Roy Hospital after he sustained head injuries from a fall during a basketball game, the

A profusely bleeding Rohit was finally referred to SSKM Hospital in Kolkata - a three-hour drive away - but he died on the way.

The institute director, Damodar Acharya, resigned after angry students ransacked his house and refused to lift the siege till he took responsibility for the death.

When Things Go Wrong...

It is no longer just the story of 'Combiflam for one and all.' It is more than just laziness; not mere medical neglect. So far they have gotten away with everything... This time around, their ignorance wasn't forgiven. There exists a thin line called 'luck' which separates blissful ignorance and callous treatment from serious mistakes, wrong diagnosis and death.

So while KGP seems to have crossed that very boundary, we seem to be clinging on to dear life, hanging on precariously on the other side, where the false sense of safety still lingers on.

It is not just the hospital which has clearly failed its purpose time and again. With such incidents, the very status of students' welfare stands questioned. With a security system that fails to protect, and non-existent counsellors; our fate too lies in the hands of Lord Admin. So how can we tackle this situation? And is there any way out?

To answer these, we first attempt to answer the quintessential question – Can any one party be singled out on whom the blame can be placed in its entirety? 'The administration is clearly the cause. Though this (the KGP incident) happened because the hospital facilities were pathetic (both in Roorkee and KGP), ultimately it is the responsibility of the parent institute to look after our needs,' says Sekhar Rathish, II Year MSc. Chemistry.

Clearly the KGP 'mobs' felt the same way when they brutalized their director's car in protest! But were they justified in doing so? Many still feel that no single person or organization could be held responsible for the fiasco. On being questioned about whether the students were justified in their actions, Karan Chabra II Elec said, "The students' aggression is definitely not justified! In such times, people should keep their senses even though it may be difficult. The director obviously can't be held responsible for this, at least not directly. There are a lot of authorities who can be blamed, but it will only become a senseless blame game."

But clearly, whosoever was responsible didn't definitely do his/her due that time. Someone slept on their job and someone else paid for it with his life. The very thought is

alarming and we ask ourselves – How realistic is it to expect a similar situation in Roorkee? Anshul Nasa, II Year P&I says, "Roorkee as a place and as an insti is more or less similar in nature to KGP. The facilities are equally bad here, if not worse. Our hospital has terrible docs but proper facilities like beds, toilets and medicines. So in that way we are slightly better off." Most people on campus seemed to agree with the above lines regarding the facilities at the IIT Roorkee hospital. Prateek Sharma BTech II Year Meta says, "During a hockey match in Sangram, I had an accident and my eardrum got punctured. But luckily, a specialist was summoned immediately and a minor surgical procedure was performed. All this may be due to the fact that my injury came directly under the jurisdiction of the Sports Council, but the fact remains that their response was quick and fast."

A prompt reaction is definitely the need of the hour – be it medical aid or campus security. With eve-teasing spreading real fast, thefts thriving and reckless driving at an all time high, the laxity of the security lies shamelessly exposed. We live in the post – 26/11 era of urban warfare, a world where a single gunman can so easily hold a campus hostage... Did we not see the massacres at Virginia Tech. and more recently, in Germany (on 11th of March)? But do we worry about such situations? Obviously not! Not with a security system which struggles to cope with petty thieves; one which is left astounded, while rogues on motorcycles speed through our gates, create mayhem and leave unchecked.

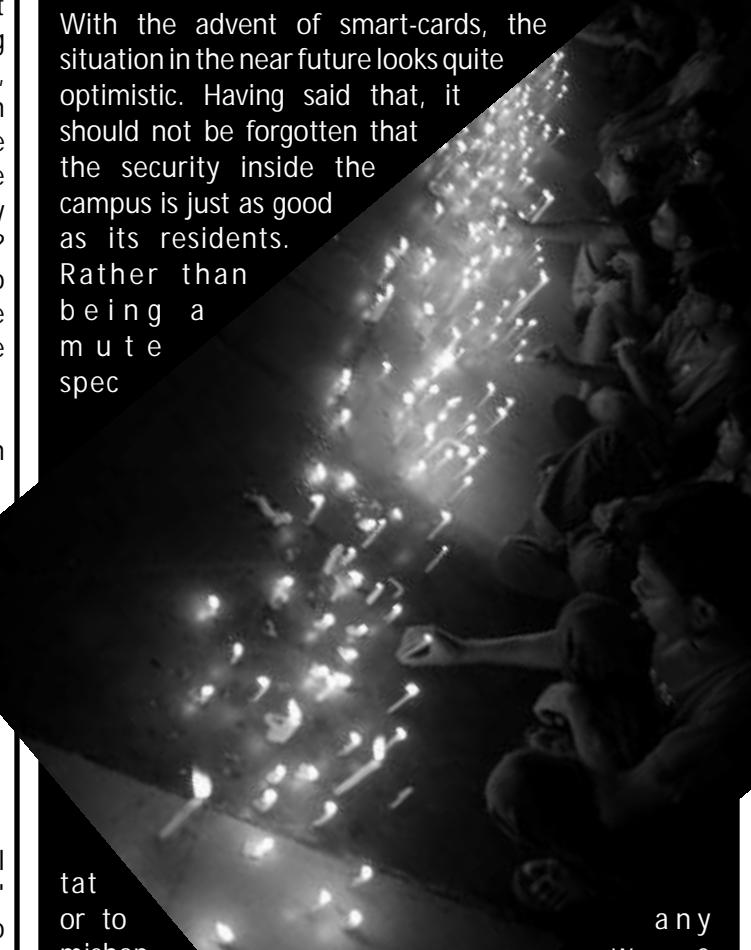
Worse still was the shameful Thomson Marg incident, when the drunken defenders pounced upon an unsuspecting girl on her way back to the hostel. Thankfully, she was saved by some passer-byes (Time to give some credit to those Lover Lane's inhabitants!). The scenario got uglier when the administration, instead of coming out in open about this and trying to restore back our faith in our security system, chose to act with utmost secrecy. Instead of tackling the problems and treating the malady, we have chosen the easier, spineless path of covering those festering wounds and hiding them from public view!

When such people guard our gates, smuggling in illegal material is only too easy. In fact, these so called 'prohibited' objects are no longer concealed when they are brought into the campus premises! With students now in possession of Air Coolers and mini Refrigerators, one wonders how they got in, in the first place. "The checking at the gates itself is not that proper. Almost anyone can get in! When students apparently smuggle in drugs, booze etc, guns seem like the next logical step and it doesn't seem that difficult!" says Ankit Shah III Year Biotech.

The thought of IIT Roorkee being a target for armed bandits,

who can so easily hold a campus hostage, or even terrorists; especially in the light of the IISc terrorist attack in December, 2005 is not a joke. Today, even such a threat is a real possibility. What will we do if, heaven forbid, such a situation arises? Definitely, our security is not equipped to deal with the situation. Fortunately for us, Roorkee is a powerful garrison for the Indian army and thus, it is only expected that forces from Roorkee Cantonment would be deployed in the dire consequence of any mishap. But how fast and efficient will the response be – this remains the all important question. A similar issue that rears its head is the institute's Emergency Response in case of a natural calamity. Far-fetched, though it may seem, it is always better to be safe than sorry.

With the advent of smart-cards, the situation in the near future looks quite optimistic. Having said that, it should not be forgotten that the security inside the campus is just as good as its residents. Rather than being a mute spec



tat
or to
mishap,
must learn
to tackle
thinking goes a
mitigating the ill-
catastrophe. Fixing clear guidelines and
reducing the amount of red-tape involved in such
circumstances can avoid unnecessary delays and ensure
that precious lives are not lost to sheer negligence.



There and BACK again

It's time for those drooping shoulders to rise again, for the glitter to return to those sunken eyes... It's, at last, time to catch that lost breath. The exams are finally over and those horrific subjects are a thing of the past now. It's time to chuck out those books and Shift+Delete the Ppt(x)s. But then again, is it?

Neither is the game won until the final whistle nor is the semester over until the grades are displayed. For there will be amongst us, the unlucky few (?) who shall remain in that very muck which tormented us over the past four and a half months. The very thought of a back strikes fear in our hearts! "Even the dishing out of backs maybe justified, but the way they are managed adds to the misery," says Teja, Chemical IIInd Year.

Like most things in this world, Backs were introduced for a noble cause. Its purpose – To ensure that every person who passes through the hallowed portals of this institute is qualified enough to uphold the insti's reputation; to certify, not only, that the quality of a JEE qualifier isn't compromised, but also that there is a constant value addition (*what?*) over the years. However with the course of time, this very aim stands forgotten and backs are now nothing more than an endless pit with no escape. A student, who is unfortunate enough to encounter this trap once, is forever doomed to this vicious circle, pulled endlessly into its darkest abyss.

With a bare minimum of 6 courses every sem (8 for those lucky enough), one knows that he has hit the jackpot when he manages to weasel in a couple more! It is not repeating the course which poses the problem here. In fact, according to Ketan Saraf, III Year Biotech, "Clearing a course the second time is much easier because one has already studied the course once before." This should then mean that clearing an arrear not only serves its purpose (to aid the students' better understanding of a subject) but also makes life a lot easier as it fetches you better grades.... Nothing however can be farther from the truth.

As Karan Chhabra, II Year Elec puts it, "It's more difficult to clear a back as compared to the original course. Students get a mental block and find it hard to overcome. Moreover, their arrear is always at the back of their mind, which in turn affects their performance." The scenario is darker than is evident in the first glimpse. For one who has had the misfortune of receiving multiple backs, the going gets a lot tougher. One loses his focus and eventually, his interest in academics as a whole gets extinguished. Sometimes, they may suffer from bouts of depression, further jeopardizing their academic life. Needless to say, these ill-effects spill over to other aspects of their lives, worsening the situation. Cynicism creeps in, which gradually develops into a growing dislike towards batch-mates. This results in a complete alienation of oneself from one's fellow-mates. Soon the world of intoxication may begin appearing more and more enticing.

But taking a broader viewpoint and looking at the system honestly, one knows that the administration has a point in dishing out as many backs as they do. As Dr. A. K. Jain puts it, "Our purpose is not to harass and halt the students but to ensure their proper growth. We want to make sure that they work hard and are clear on all the fundamentals so that they face no problems in their professional lives. In fact, the current system for clearing backs is much more lenient than what existed 10-15 years back. Students were required to repeat an entire year if they got a back even in one subject and failed to clear the supplementary held in the month of June." Then, one wonders, if all is so fair and lovely, why all this hue and cry? Why so much ado about nothing?

The giving out of backs is definitely not an issue. In fact, in order

to preserve the value of the relative grading, awarding of backs to the under-performers becomes vital.

The major problem lies with the way these backs are handled. Apart from the golden rule stating the criteria for awarding a back, the rule book is severely lacking in guidelines on how to manage such cases. The problems a student faces while attempting to clear a back are endless.

Far from taking the responsibility of ensuring that a student is able to clear the backlog, the administration pitches in with as many roadblocks as possible.

The hurdles begin when a student has to squeeze in those extra subjects in his other semesters. The concept of clearing such

A student from Bhutan had a back in a mathematics course due to which he ended up studying for seven years before ultimately having to leave without a degree! Can't there be exceptions in such cases?

Admin: If the rules are in place, making exceptions becomes difficult. Standards will be diluted if we start taking steps like this.

A student of Civil IIIrd year had an academic back in the course MA-102 which was subsequently scrapped. Thus he was required to take up another course from the Math department (however irrelevant it may be with regard to the original course) in order to make up for those lost credits. The Back woes don't end here. Since the original course was floated during the odd (Spring) semester, the compensatory course must also be a Spring sem course, he was instructed!

INTERVIEW WITH PROF G S SRIVASTAVA

Should there be some leniency in the 75% attendance rule?

There is no reason for that to happen. The students come to the insti to study. Their attendance should be 100%. However, taking into account various situations, the 75% rule has been thought of and I think that is adequate. We have reduced the contact hours and credits so that students can have ample time to develop their skills in other areas and for recreation.

But don't you think having seven subjects is far more than what is required?

If you count the other IITs, then that is true. We assign credits according to hours allotted. No subject is irrelevant. There are many aspects to the education of an individual. We would like to give our students a firm and wide base to build on.

Why does a student with a back have to fulfil the 75% attendance criterion?

The course, according to the rules, is to be repeated as if it were to be the first attempt. Earlier, in the UoR system we had the concept of supplementary exams. If a student couldn't pass that, then he would have to repeat the entire year. To reduce the burden on the students, the present system was adopted.

Shouldn't there be a relaxation when there is a clash in the timings of the two courses?

This is not the fault of the system. We want the student to finish the course at a rate where he doesn't feel overburdened.

courses during the summer break does exist but as Achuth, elec 2nd year states, "With many professors either unavailable or refusing to undertake summer courses, most people end up overloading their already hectic schedules." As though this was not enough, attempting to fit in those extra courses in your regular schedule is a task in itself. Our institutes' administration works like a well oiled machine which starts groaning and creaking when anything even slightly out of the ordinary is fed to it. It matters not whether it is the minor issue of getting the grade sheet corrected or the problem of clearing a back. One has to face indifferent officials at each

and every corner. At first, those imploring eyes seek a sympathetic soul – a professor willing to accommodate them in his batch.

Someone reasonable enough in matters pertaining to attendance, in case his classes coincide with others. Dozens of different officials have to be begged to change the various schedules as there are hardly any guidelines dictating the 'procedure' to be followed in such cases. And those lucky enough to reach this stage now have to

suffer from the additional academic load for the rest of the semester. The unlucky ones will in all probability receive another attendance back. Mrityunjay Hiremath, Meta 2nd year very aptly states, "Our schedules are as it is loaded with extra, undue credits. If some students get a back and are unable to attend all the classes, then they shouldn't be troubled for attendance. The system should realize that it has to get a little less demanding in this case".

Questions can also be raised on the basis on which backs are dished out. It is generally agreed that in spite of all the problems one may have to face, academic backs are thoroughly and truly justified. And as regards attendance backs, questions have often been raised on the very concept of taking attendance at all. "Attendance backs are much worse, as students are debarred even without knowing their capability, at least in the case of academic backs; a student is made to repeat because of poor performance". An exception to the 75% rule should at least be considered in case of students suffering from chronic illness, as is the trend in other IITs.

Professors, on the other hand, openly deny the fact that attendance backs are simply given by the dozen. They say, "It's wrong to say that we are harsh in dishing out backs to students. If you look at the records, students who get them are the ones with their attendance in 50-60% range. We challenge anyone to prove that we are unfair

students, either in attendance backs or academic back." However, plenty of students feel that there are plenty of discrepancies when it comes to giving out Backs. Much depends on the professors' attitude towards you, they can either choose to forgive you or punish you for having a 74.6% attendance. Administrative lapses have also led to plenty of truly bizarre cases which have been listed alongside. A case in point being the mass-backs awarded in the maths and Java courses, last year. Apart from proving to be an ordeal for the students, they eventually become an unnecessary hassle for the administration too. and done, how do we plan to deal with this ever growing problem. People have had to give up IIM calls all thanks to that attendance back they received right at the end of the fourth year. The best solution perhaps

is to "allow all courses to be taken in summer especially as clearing first year courses is of utmost importance before entering the third year. Timetable should be flexible and professors should go the extra mile in order to help such cases" – Mohit Gupta, P&I 2nd year.

Most people share this view about allowing all courses to be cleared in the summer instead of burdening the forthcoming semesters. Some even suggest that the 'Compartmental Exam' be reintroduced in the case of an academic back. This will aid students greatly as it gives them one more shot at clearing the course without having to repeat the course altogether.

Isn't it the institute's duty to help the student clear his back?

Students should realize their weakness in a course in which they have failed. We don't want them to overload their schedules. They may take more than 4 years. It is not worthwhile to try and do several courses simultaneously as it would lead to low CGPA.

Why aren't departmental courses provided in the summer?

From a particular department, there are only a handful of students with a back. It's difficult to provide faculty to these students. The faculty members might want to pursue their research abroad. In the case of institute courses however, this can be arranged.

There was recently a proposal to bring back the supplementary exams with the modification that the student would have to repeat the course only if he failed it. However, this proposal was rejected thrice in the senate. Why?

The present system is working very well with some minor hiccups. We have recently introduced a new rule which states that a student has to clear all his backlog before being registered for the next year. For example, a person can go to his 3rd year only after clearing all his backs of the first year.

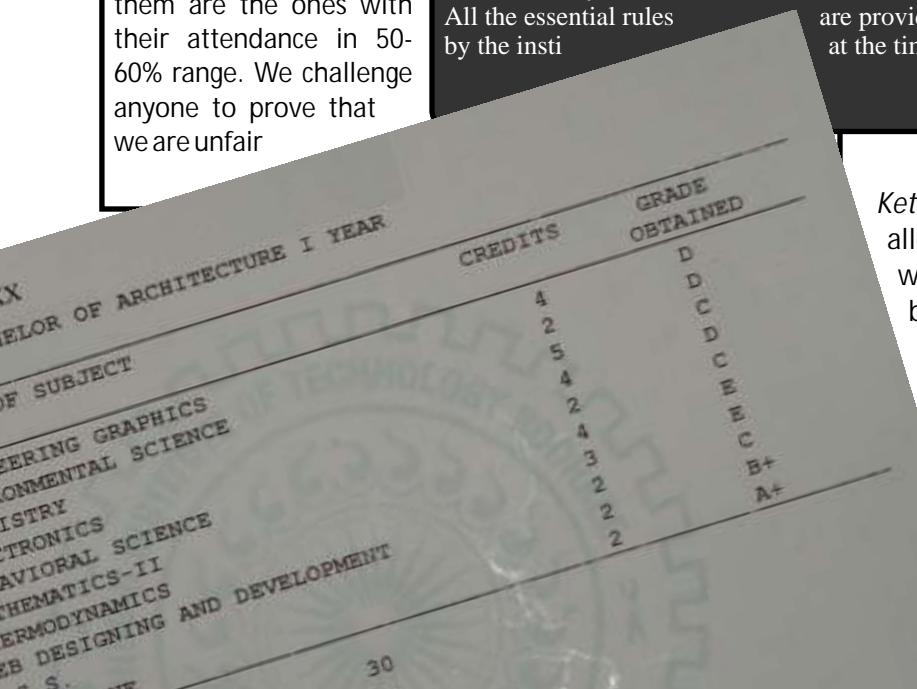
Often, the students aren't aware of the rules pertaining to backs. How can they know more?

All the essential rules by the insti

are provided in the bulletin given at the time of registration.

Ketan Saraf, III Year Biotech, says, "Students should be allowed to drop courses, if in the end it gets in the way of their future. But this might result in students becoming lax."

The solutions are numerous and once adopted, they will go a long way in addressing many of the students' problems as well as administrative ones. But as of now, the most important thing is for the students and the admin to understand and sympathize with the grievances of one another.





Prof G.S Srivastava

Dean of Undergraduate Studies

On the Course Structure:

I think the present system, by and large is fine. Our course structure takes into care all the expectations from an Under Graduate in Engineering. Most of the supposedly irrelevant courses form a compulsory part of the curriculum devised by the Ministry of HRD. Also, a basic knowledge of important subjects apart from one's own discipline is the need of the hour, owing to the diverse fields our engineers are going into.

On Institute Electives:

We have provided the students with a large number of electives to help them build a wider base of knowledge. But, due to lack of resources (Faculty etc.), some departments, mainly engineering ones, float only a few electives. Though, we are constantly making efforts to improve on the present course structure and to float new courses for the students' benefit.

On Student Participation in deciding Course Structure:

It will be wrong to say that the students do not have a say in formulation of the curriculum. As per the regulations we have two student bodies: The Board of Studies and the Board of Research. Each has two student representatives as its members whom we hardly see coming for the meetings. They may feel that their opinions will not be given weight amongst the professors and senior staff but that is not true. These members should give their opinions and push for changes.

On the number of Contact Hours:

As far as the number of contact hours is concerned, we have already reduced them substantially and the present structure leaves ample time for recreation. A student is expected to invest at least a minimum amount of time in studying. As such we see a large majority of students not making any productive use of the free time available to them. Given such excellent sports facilities, the turnout of students in the fields is really poor. For example, in our athletics meet there are more faculty members present than the students themselves.

Every year, the students are faced with subjects that they find completely irrelevant to their field of study and the choices of inter-departmental courses are so limited that students end up taking electives that are not really their choice or interest. Is the academic course structure really student friendly, or is it just a rigid system that is in urgent need of a change?

WONA investigates....



Q: Are you happy with course structure?



Q: Are you forced to take a lot of unwanted courses?



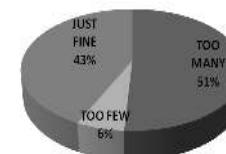
Q: Are you satisfied with choice of electives?



Q: Would you like to take courses from other departments?



Q: Do you think you have a say in course structure?



Q: What do you feel about your contact hours?



g(R)eekgod: greetings techbuddy, wat are u up to?

not much... just downloading the delta version of notepad. wat abt u?

g(R)eekgod: i'm afraid my aquisition of the same predates urs by lightyrs... Whilst ur wasting precious time, im developing an algorithm to solve the Rubik's cube in under 15 moves.

15moves is old fish... a simple application of Pink Panther Principle and the Nesci-Alpi Rememberance renders the solution in a single move.

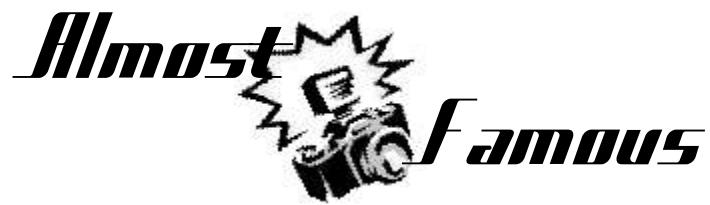
g(R)eekgod: I insist you elucidate those complex correlations by breaking them down into the simple 1s and 0s. Maybe we could organize a rendezvous wherein I can attempt to comprehend ur amazing mind?

It is indeed an inviting proposition. But I'm confident that I can demonstrate the solution through e-media without any loss of elegance.

g(R)eekgod: NO! I wish to meet thy tangible self :) ... suppose we could plan a fruitful association between the two of us which shall promote the perpetuation of the human race through the sacrosanct process of integration....

Did u mean _|_ _|_? *blushes* I suppose that could be arranged. Meet me at 0420 hrs, 32°54" North from the EC tower on the nearest Equinox. Remember to account for daylight savings! :D

g(R)eekgod: Even though it would be impossible to determine ur position and momentum simultaneously, I hope to find u stationary at the aforementioned point. PEACE OUT!



The "almost" has started to loose its zing. Presenting Mr. Prasoon Gupta, Ex- convenor, Thomso, founder-CEO Tech-Buddy Consulting, in an exhaustive (*and exhausting*) interview, where he dares to bare it all....Read on this "censored" disclosure.

WONA: We have our priorities clear...crushes on campus?
 Gab-2-soon: There have been quite a few. It started with a third year Archi senior. But eventually, a batch mate caught my fancy (*talk about accepting one's limitations*). I wouldn't dare naming her!
(Or she might try assaulting you again?)

WONA: Uneasy lies the head that wears the crown "Thomso Convenor". Care to enlighten us about thy regal life?
 Gab-2-soon: With great power, comes great responsibility (Watch out Spiderman!). I met the 'ex-con' and was told that organizing a good Thomso is impossible and was advised to just make my selfish ends meet. I dared to defy these clichés, and am proud to say that I organised a clean (*conditions applied*), yet successful Thomso.

WONA: What's your take on the much-hyped SU-JI scandal?
 Gab-2-soon: The actual events had been exaggerated, but I do admit that things got a bit too ugly for my liking. But a year down the line, I think it was kinda fun!
(Long-term Memory loss, anyone?)

WONA: From Prasoon Gupta, Technocrat, to Prasoon Gupta, Budding Entrepreneur. What inspired this transition?
 Gab-2-soon: Well, I think it was my seniors, whom I consider my mentors. EDC played a pivotal role too.
(Enter EDC, the Enigmatic Disoriented Crusaders of IIT-R.)

WONA: These four years must've been a glorious and eventful journey... any regrets?
 Gab-2-soon: Well (*dejectedly*), I've lost a few friends. I also wanted to be a part of WONA but too much *poli* was involved in the selection.
(Sour Grapes eh? But you see, we have our standards!)

WONA: A few words on what you think of WONA....
 Gab-2-soon: You guys are pretty good, but better watch out for competition.
(Competition? Nice one dude!)



MOSTLY HARMLESS

Tuesday – 31st March, 11:00 p.m. COLOURS

A quest for greenery was only magnified some hundred fold after an abysmal dinner and that 'Crescendo' of cacophony.... As our trained eyes scanned terra-firma for evolved organisms, the expected disappointment was replaced by a feeling of joy and elation – as greenery presented itself in hues of Red (and Black) and White! Enamoured and attracted, as a fly is – to the Bug Zappers on the walls of a restaurant, we had no option but to follow. *Wherever Mary went, the Lambs were sure to go....* Only later we realized that other people had similar ideas too. A brawl soon followed... The details of the fight already seem like a distant reality because I woke up only a while later – my eyes ranging from blue to black. Green, red, white, blue, black... so many colours! Ouch.

Friday – 24th April, 8:00 p.m. SURREAL

Today was another one of those Will-I-ever-see-another-such-day days. We were seated doing the usual stuff... *Bond* was on CS, *Ghissu* was busy doing what he does best – *ghissing*, and we were busy doing our usual nothing. Actually, we were deciding if *he* should ask *her* out or not. But then Mr. Purple walks in – in his most enticing walk punctuated with those periodic pelvic thrusts. And then, something happened! He predicted our future... our lives.

And since he claimed that he had considerable success in this trade, we let him go on. Why, we actually encouraged him! I even asked him to start with me! After all, I've always imagined myself with this lovely young lady about the same age as me, smart, intelligent, fun to hang out with... But then Purple speaks – "At 210 pounds (*Big Show?*), your fiancée will be a nagging – progressive yet conservative girl (*WHY?*), who believes in having her way with most things... (*That ought to be easy considering our mass ratio*). You shall repeatedly be accused of cheating! (*Well...*); and 8 to 10 years older than you!" I faint.

Gossips Galore

One fine day you find some of your friends discussing the exponential rate at which the commitments on campus have increased of late. You resolve not to join them and sit aloof in one corner. But their happy, chuckling, crackling voices reach your ears. You too eventually fall into the trap and join the gang. 'It' spares none and you are no exception. 'It' is the most prodigious, prominent and tempting phenomena of the institute. 'It' is the BAKAR. Heaven alone knows when, where and how it started but today it's an inseparable part of our lives. Be it lecture rooms, library, nesci, senate steps or your own room, bakar is omnipresent. Be it a ghissu, a 6 pointer, a lover, a geek or a nerd everyone has been stung by the this bee.

Bakar maniacs can discuss issues ranging from serious ones like Paris Hilton's newly found love to the not so significant recession in the country. Such bakar sessions often expose you to a variety of viewpoints broadening your mental horizon and honing your Group Discussion skills. No wonder that the maximum number of selections into IIMs are from the IITs! As far as gossip mongers are concerned, it is their obligation towards a newly floated rumour to give it due consideration in their bakar sessions. But beware you might end up revealing your own deep, dark secrets while scrutinizing someone else.

Bakar has always been associated with words like thoughtless, useless, and worthless and often considered to be a waste of time. But picture this: A group of friends enjoying a long bakar session come up with an idea of starting a company and are now earning whopping sums of money. Two people who wanted the rumour mills in the campus grinding came up with a newsletter and lo behold, WONAS was born.

Think of the nights when your mind was saturated with the pressure of impending midsems, endsems or the fear of a back and it was bakar that came to your rescue. The relief that you get by ripping apart the most loathed course with your razor sharp tongue is incomparable. When you are just on the verge of dozing off while reading those thick, monotonous volumes, a short crisp bakar does no harm. Bakar renders you with a long lasting, unbreakable friendship, unforgettable happy moments with your friends and at times can also lead to productive outputs as well. As a matter of fact, this article too was a result of a bakar!

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They say that all things bad must come to an end. This however did not seem to be happening in PC's case.

With a year-back in hand and another four issues, glorifying

his not-so-coveted title of a loser to look forward to, PC definitely was not in his best of spirits as he scanned the notice boards. He was looking for a section or maybe another start up to render his services to.

As fate would have it, it seemed as though every place had had its fill. His quest came to an unexpected halt as a notice caught his attention. He saw in it opportunity to give vent to his disgruntlement at the injustice meted out to him in the past five years by the sadistically relentless WONAN; who always chose to blow to magnanimous proportions his petty misadventures, while turning a blind eye towards his innate brilliance.

So, it was with a renewed hope, that PC made his way to the *Agony Uncle* in the main building. The Agony Uncle though, was put in a dilemma at being confronted by a problem which rather seemed like PC's destiny to him. But eager at not disappointing his first visitor, he behaved with utmost indulgence as PC poured his heart out to him. He sent him back with an assurance of formulating a strategy to restore back his pride and sat contemplating.

He could see no way out of it. He could not curtail the freedom of press. Nor could he blame them. They had done what any wise, reader oriented magazine would do! (It surely had been great fun reading about PC, he thought, quietly chuckling to himself.) But then he was reminded of the various instances of students going berserk, each mistaking PC's tale to be his own story; chagrined at being exposed. Things will have to change. He will have to set an example of his exemplary problem solving skills.... The summons was sent.

PC's wishes were soon granted. His hopes had not been unfounded. With a smile on his face and a spring in his step, thinking of Agony Uncle with a kind of fondness he had never experienced for another *Homo Sapien*, PC made his way, yet again, to the abode of awesomeness. The sight of WONAN reps moving out of Agony Uncle's office with their necks and spirits down cheered him up further. Their loathsome looks in his direction made him shiver with anticipation; and a beaming Agony Uncle with open arms made up for whatever little was lacking in his moment of exaltation!

One hour later he emerged from the office with a newly found confidence and a packet tucked under his arm. Never again would anyone look down upon him, never again would he be thought of as failure personified. The winds of change were blowing strong. His time for reincarnation had arrived.

To be continued...

the PURPLE cow



THOMSO ORGANIZING COMMITTEE-09



Shall We Dance?



**Making full use
of my assets....**



mere paas ma-ma hai



RUN!! TOC RUN!!



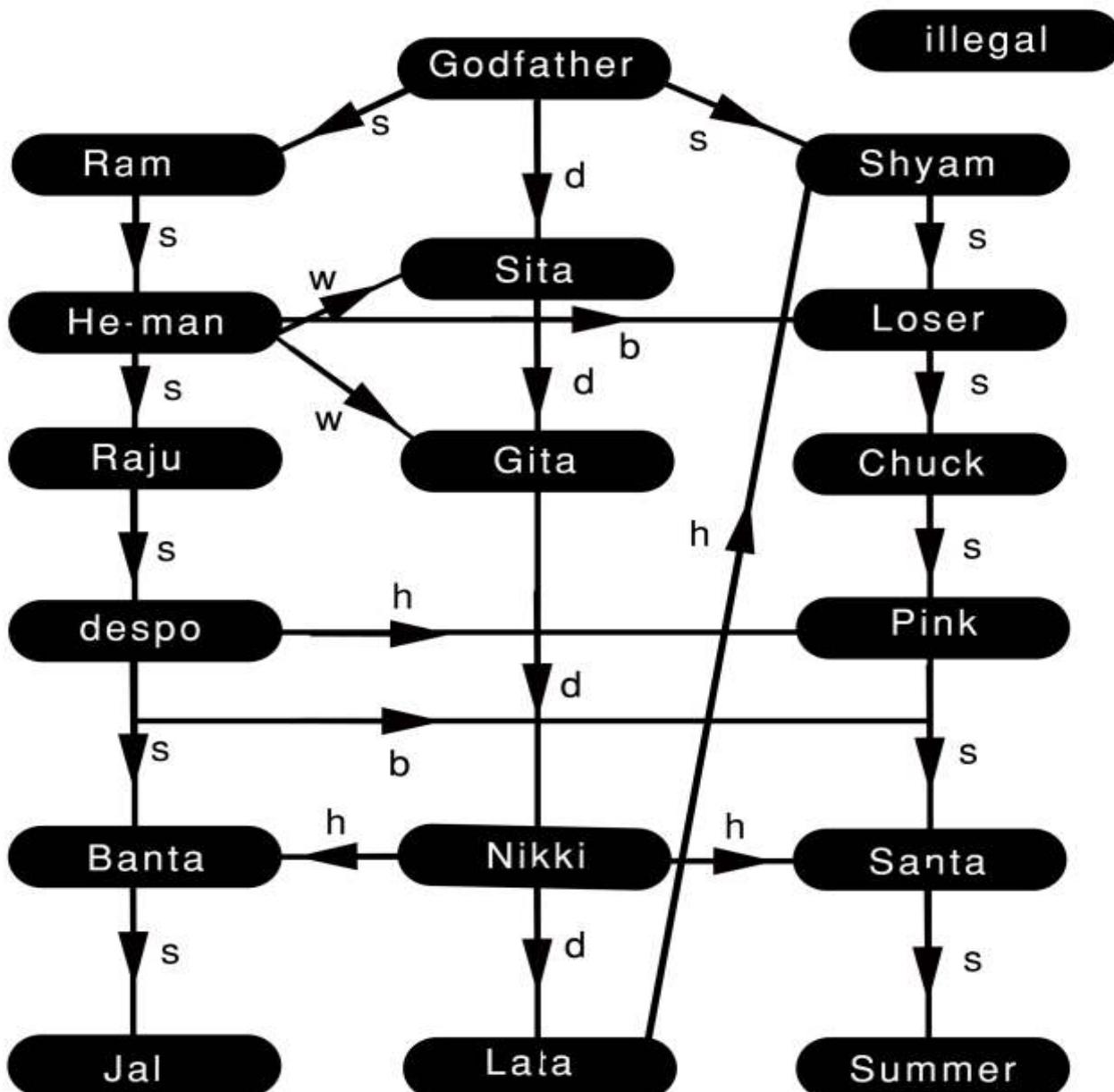
**TOC guy
always on a high**

WHO ?????



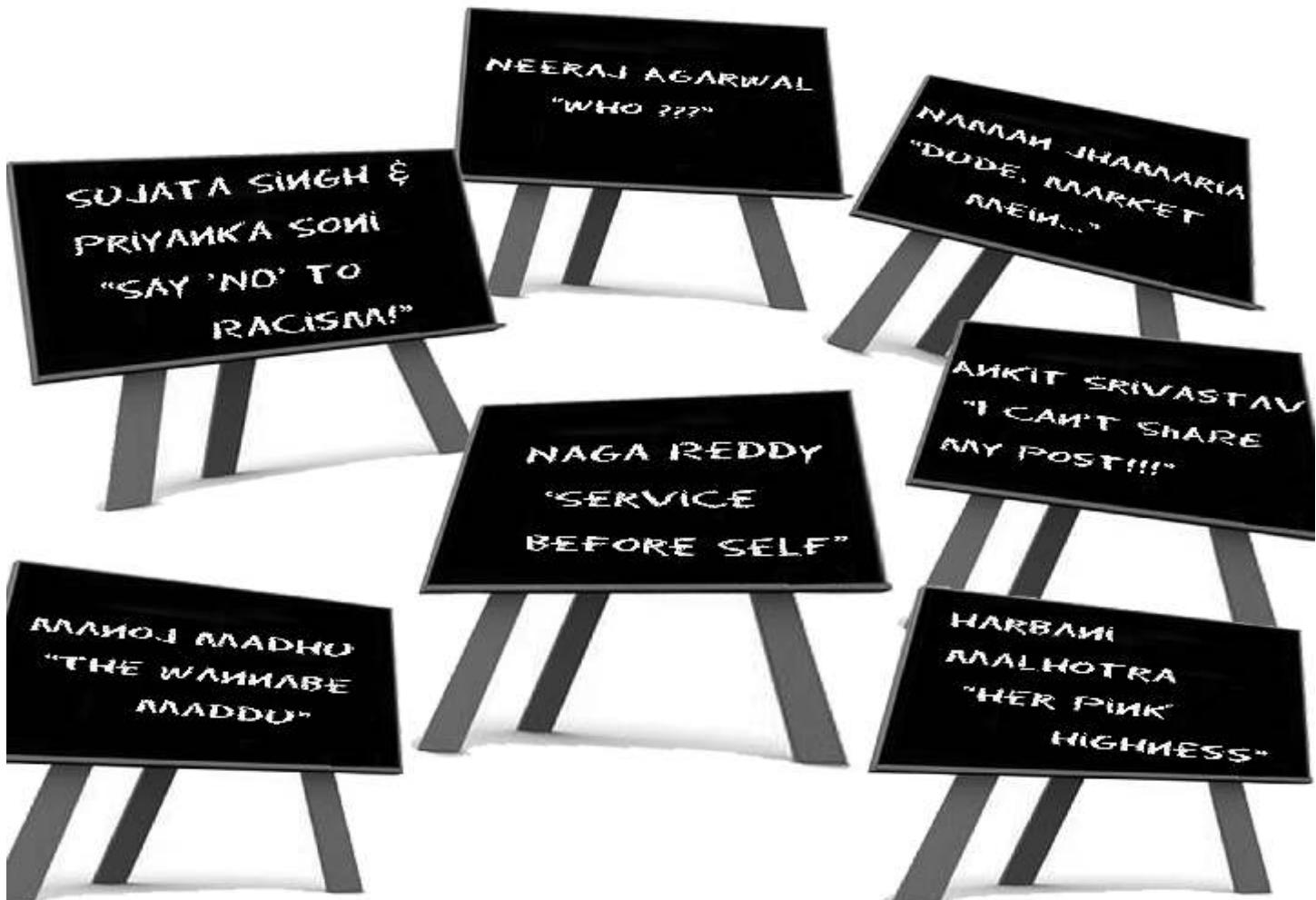
It is All in the Family Architecture

In a world where fidelity is given two cents and relationships mean next to nothing, here comes the Archi - where families, born out of necessity, revolutionize love and brotherhood.



s-son d-daughter w-wife b-brother h-husband

"This is a work of fiction and any resemblance between the characters and persons living or dead is purely coincidental."

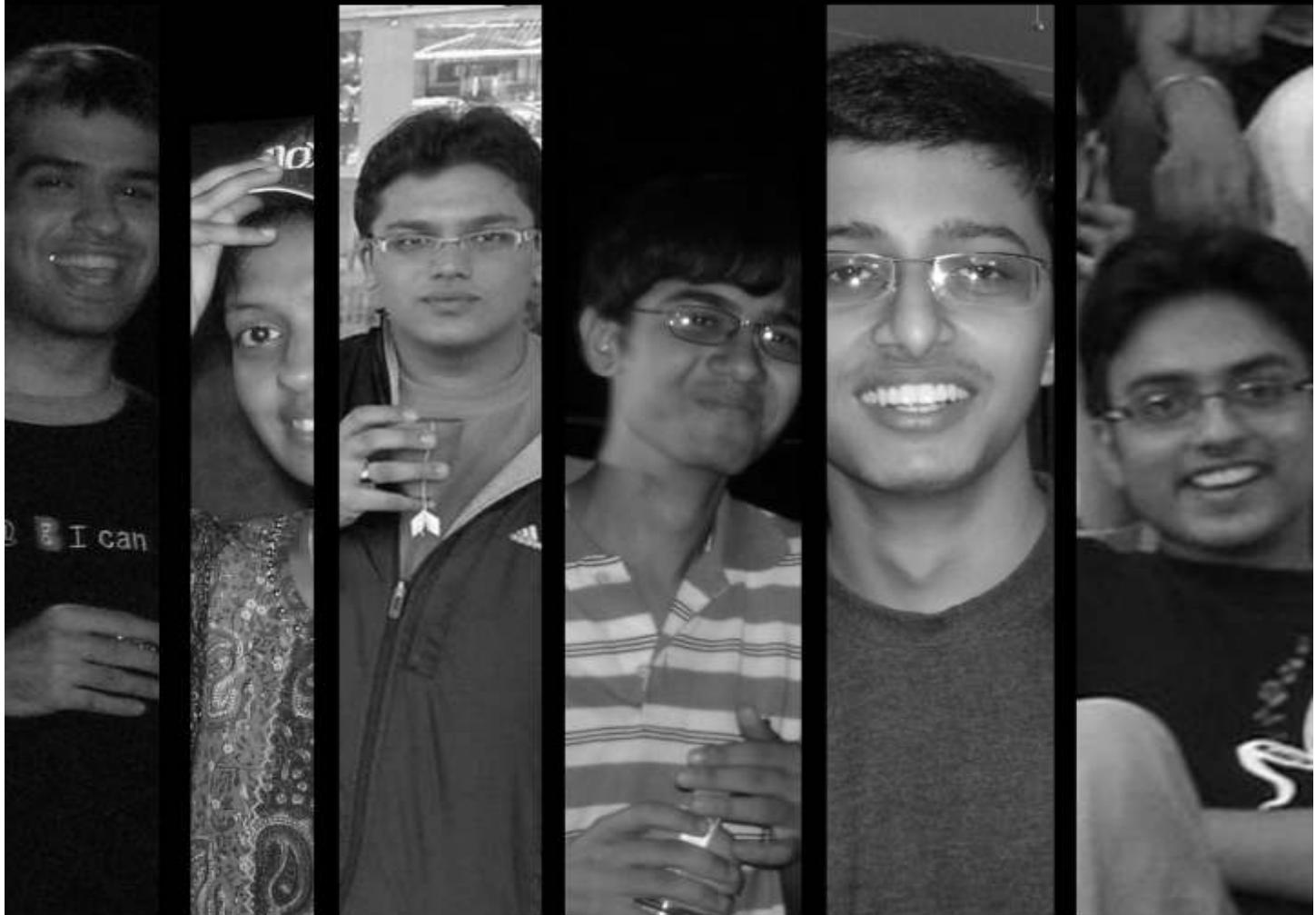


GANGS OF ROORKEE



*Shrek and Fiona sitting on a tree,
Lefty shy, K-II sighs, woe is me.
If you were bi and I were high
We know what could be.
(But don't tell Fiona...)*

Eight means Eight!



REMEMBERING THE TITANS

Oye mallab, mallab oye!
Game, Set and Match

His laughing stalks.
His caricatures rock.
He once had locks.
He's G-duck, folks.

S N A P S H O T S

Anniversaries offer opportunities for retrospection. So, while celebrating 50 years of the IIT brand, the Roorkee alumnus was left gasping at more than 150 years down the lane and wondering at the irony of it all. An irony that perhaps found expression in the compere's acknowledgement of IIT Roorkee's elderly status in the family as opposed to the misconceived (pun intended) infantile position at the pan-IIT 50.

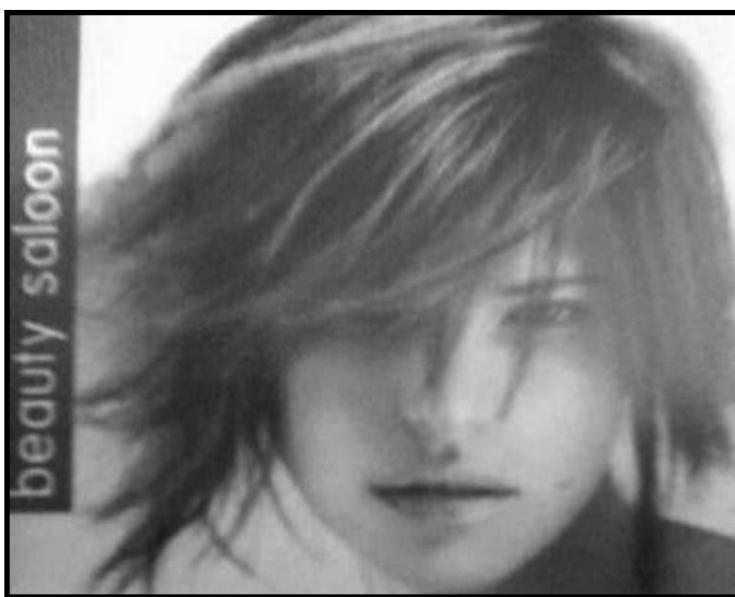
... Must Roorkee struggle to fit into the IIT system after having given birth to the very idea of technical education? Should Roorkee cower with a sense of insignificance when out there the Aswan Dam and the Mekong Valley Project thunder with the ingenuity of Roorkeeites? Most importantly, should a Roorkeeite buckle beneath the weight of the irony of not being a true IITian when the paradox is that he/she is truer than others can claim to be?

What distinguishes Roorkeeites from its other six siblings is privilege of birth. We have proven ourselves good as the other IIT's minus the proverbial silver spoon. And the future is a vast uncharted territory for which we begin our journey as equals. Meanwhile, let's talk about the present- our alumni who have been making a name for themselves and this campus and giving us role models to look up to. Someone's a powerful entrepreneur, someone's a musician and yet another is a sportsman. But this is just the tip of the iceberg. Dig deeper and you'll find tales that can spell inspiration with more panache than the brief stories in newspapers and magazines do.

Roorkee certainly has purified the torch borne by the IIT's.

"The sun never sets in the British Empire and Roorkee was the first engineering college in it"
Dr M.P.Jain.

ON the occasion of 50 years of Pan-IIT.



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TOP ROW: Arun, Shreyas, Sundaresh, Saurabh, Amit, Apurv, Mohit Chitlangia
 SECOND ROW: Akhilesh, Somya, Anunaya, Aditya, Karthik, Vishwa, Rajdeep,

THIRD ROW: Kanishk Mohan, Amandeep, Amogh, Anirudh, Yasin, Piyush,
 Shaifali, Chandini, Shruti, Razak, Vasudha

FOURTH ROW: Atulya, Divye, Khyati, Prachi, Pratap, Prateek, Haaris, Nirupama,
 Prachi Ghatalai, Gursheen, Deeksha

UP FRONT: Abhishek, Puneet, Pranav, Kushal, Vaibhav, Abhishek Chaturvedi,
 Kanishk Tyagi

CAMERA SHY: Akanksha Agarwal, Mayank, Mrigank, Deepika, Richa, Shubham,
 Varun, Aayush, Shallini, Amey, Ipseeta, Ankit, Anupriya, Digvijay,
 Millo, Vikram, Vishant, Vikash, Gibron, Akanksha, Sneha

Chairman's Message

It is ironic that one is often rendered speechless particularly at times when one wishes to say a lot. Add to that the fact that the Ed gets 600 words every issue and the Chair gets about 300 in the last one. But I digress. Watch Out. To say that these three years were the best would be clichéd and a gross understatement. An old wise man once told me that my time at Wona can be judged by the difference between my first and my last issue. From 5 down to 15 up it has been a journey to remember. As a reader you may wonder why there is such a lot of fuss about. Any organisation can pride itself on 'standing the test of time', but imagine an organisation that offers absolutely no material incentives to its members; an organisation that thrives purely on passion, and you get an idea who we have been in another wise man said, during these three years I have seen this mag transform from a 'spice' magazine to a news magazine to a magazine that tries (albeit with its limited resources and readers) to be a instrument of change. IIT Roorkee would not have been what it is for me now without Wona. The opportunity to interact with people of the calibre and creativity of Pratap, Kinky, Jaggi, DK, Atulya, Prondi, Banshi, Sethia and the entire team that you see in the pic above would not have presented itself had it not been for that fateful night at RJB TV room. A random personality test that Dela once made me take, asked me whether I was happy when I was performing a task or when I was done with it and I promptly checked the latter. I am not too sure now. It sounds corny but Wikiquote tells me that a sentence can only be meaningful when there is a full stop.