

July - December 2004

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Thoughts From the Editor

As much as I'm happy that yet another novel venture from X-MEC is slowly taking shape, I sincerely regret the amount of time taken to make this first edition of X-MEC newsletter a reality. Although I can give umpteen number of reasons for us not being able to give our full attention to this newsletter, eventually all what counts is whether we were able to or not. And we were not able to give X-MEC this newsletter on time. And I do, accept the responsibility and apologize for this very long delay.

I do feel that this venture by X-MEC is a particularly laudable one and it is for we, x-MECians, to make this a success. The newsletter should serve as a platform for anything and everything that an X-MECian would want to share or convey. It is up to the X-MECian fraternity to help release this newsletter on a regular basis, so that this would become yet another feather in the illustrious cap of XMEC. Although we couldn't incorporate everything we had hoped to in this newsletter, I feel that if some more of you can come forward and devote a little more time to this small venture, then we can, slowly make this worthwhile. We would sincerely like some more of you to provide a few more articles, which could go a long way in guaranteeing that our newsletter is released on time, with enough quality. Please, please make it a point to devote some time (a few hours will do) every few months, and compile something, which you can contribute to your newsletter. Without your support and cooperation, all this effort will go futile.

I have always been a proud MEC-ian. Right from the day of joining that prestigious institution, till date, I believe that the institution has given me a lot. In a way, I would also say that "MEC made me what I'm today" and my college days were "the best days of my life", for sure. But there's no such thing as free lunch. If each of us could spare some time and write on a sheet of paper the name of persons to whom we are obliged in some way or other, i.e. the name of persons who have helped us in our life, who have helped us develop our personality, our attitude, our skills, our behavior, ourselves, I can assure you (and I've done this), the list would be much much longer than you think. It could go on and on, and it should. Now if you could write on another sheet, the name of persons to whom you have been an inspiration, to whom you've been of worth, to whom you've been of at least some value, believe me, you'll have to think long and hard to get

at least a few names on that sheet. Ok, you guys may not be “worse” like me, and would get quite a few names in the other column, but the point I wanted to make is that all of us, each and every one of us, owe a lot, owe a lot to the society, owe a lot to the individuals who helped develop us, owe a lot to the institution which helped harness our skills. We have received so much from the society and it’s our duty to give back at least a little. How we should do that is for each one of us to decide.

In this fast moving life, its only natural that we lose ourselves in the rapid pace. In fact, the most common word I’ve heard since coming to Bangalore, and of course the one I’ve most often used also, is that “I’m busy, I have no time to spare”. Like it or not, this is how our life is and I believe, would be. But the onus is on us. Think of making a difference in someone else’s life, believe that you can make a difference and you certainly will be remembered. We all can.

Wish you all a Merry Xmas and a very very happy and prosperous 2005.

Joseph J A

CE 1999

News From MEC

Placements

164 out of a total of 216 students from 2005 batch (Present Final Year Students) are already placed in various companies. I think it's a record, thanks to the XMEC for their help, support and advice. With 76 % of its students placed, M E C stands among the Top 3 in the state in Campus Placements.

For more details <http://mec.ac.in/placements.html>

The placement cell 2005 will be hosting a ceremony for handing over the offer letters of WIPRO and CTS probably in January 2005 in the college. HR managers from both the companies and education minister will be present at the occasion

Placement Cell 2006 started activities and they are hoping to visit Bangalore in January 2005 for inviting companies. They will be contacting you for help and advice soon.

Mani Sir, (HOD, EC) bags award

Mani Sir HOD of EC bags award from Microchip a US based firm for his project. the award consist of around Rs1.25 lakhs. The project: automatic watering of fields by sensing the various parameters of soil such as moisture level.

Promotions

Jacob Sir & Suresh Kumar Sir gets promotion as Principals

Jacob Sir, HOD of Biomedical Engg gets promotion as the principal of College of Engineering Kottarakkaka. He was just back in MEC after his Phd @ IIT Madras. It is really a setback to the Biomedical department. Also Suresh Kumar Sir of EC got promotion as principal of College of Engineering Cherthala.

Wi-Fi enabled network in college

Model Engineering College with the aid from WORLD BANK set up the first Wi-Fi enabled network in the state. Almost all the computers in the college are now connected together using Wi Fi system.

Construction of new block

The construction of new block of MEC is complete and is waiting for handing over from PWD. Actually its the completion of the building, not exactly new building. Now all the four sides of the college are of the same height.

A/Cs out of order

The air conditioners of the computer centre(CC) and seminar hall are out of order and students and faculty now rely on table fans and open windows for escaping from the heat.

Students launch magazine

A few students of MEC launched a monthly technical magazine TECHNOFIRST. The magazine also has an online edition <http://www.technofirst.org>

L&T conducts seminar in MEC

L&T, the company having long relations with MEC is conducting a full day seminar in our college on 22nd Dec 2004. It's a full day session. In the morning the talk is about "CDMA 2001X & beyond" and is by Mr. Manjeeth Singh from L&T Infotech. In the afternoon the topic is "Ultrasound Diagnostic Eqpt.- Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow" by Mr. N Ravindran from L&T Medical Equipments Division.

EXCEL 2K5

The annual technical symposium EXCEL 2k5 will be hosted by the IEEE MEC chapter from Feb 3rd 2005 to 5th 2005. This year we are planning some grand things as part of EXCEL 2k5.

Student Commits suicide

Abhishek a third year student of EC committed suicide due to unknown reasons. He was missing from college for the last two weeks. But according to his parents, he returned home from the college only the day on which he committed suicide.

Senate election

Senate 2005- 2006 was elected.The portfolios for senate 2004 are as

follows

Chairman	Nobin Jacob Cherian
General Secretary	Javed Anaz
Vice Chairman	Vikas Sasidharan
Joint Secretary	Robin Mathew
Arts Secretary	Junaid Ramzan
Sports Secretary	Rony Charley
Extramural	Manu Sankardas
Secretary	
Magazine Editor	Rahul TP

College Sports and Games

College sports and games 2004- 05 has started. The sports is named PINNACLE 05. Present sports secretary is Rony Charley. The four houses this year are named BOUNCERS, BEAMERS, YORKERS, GOOGLIES, The house of Thors is named HOWZZAAT.

Courtesy

Manod G C Jose

Room No. 204

MEC MH

Thrikkakkara

Cochin- 21

Phone- 9846232179

America for dummies

Musings, observations and anecdotes from a big country

Sandeep Unni

America is a fascinatingly large country. A cultural kaleidoscope of 280 million people, home to Whites, Blacks, Asian, Indian, Jew, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Mexican, Latino, Hispanic, European, Arabic, Persian and combinations of the above races thereof. (Here Indian denotes the broad envelope of races that include the American- Indian or the Red Indian as we know them, the Indian- American who is American by birth and preference but Indian by skin and descent and of course the regular Indian, by taste and looks.). This is the land of the Statue of Liberty and the Grand Canyon, of Martin Luther King and Mohammed Ali, the land of the best research and the finest universities, of more Nobel Prize winners than the rest of the world put together. Yeh hai America Meri Jaan.

America is the ultimate haven for dreamers. It is a land of the self-made man. It is here that some of the biggest breakthroughs in science unfolded. The country that etched the biggest success stories in the history of all mankind, where college dropouts and psychedelics reached iconic role model statures. America is a curious country. A great land but curious all the same. Here people go to school after attending college; you wouldn't go into the restroom to take rest. A busy signal is not in a traffic junction at rush hour but in a telephone. Gas is not filled in cylinders in the kitchen but in cars. Here you can not only pay your bills by check but also pay your check by cash. A hood is not only in the rhymes of gangsta' rap but also in the front of your car. A flash is by no means an obscene gesture but just a torch. The list goes on. You get the picture.

Sometimes I wonder if the entire nation is built upon the unyielding backbone of attitude and individuality. For an American, there is no further truth than the supreme sense and pride of being an American. Right from when he is born, every human being here is constantly reminded and reinforced by his peers and teachers and parents and friends and the media that the greatest thing he ever accomplished in life was to have been born into this great country. It is a privilege that the lesser mortals of the netherworld were not privy to. Now don't get me

wrong and think that I am an anti-nationalist or xenophobe. Some of my best friends in this country are Americans; they are some of the nicest people around, extremely courteous folks who go out of the way to make you feel at home. But to this day, the curious phenomenon of the fabled American way of life never ceases to perplex me.

Another benchmark crucial to the American dude is 'space'. Not the never-ending continuum of the cosmos, but the sense of personal and physical being akin to a tiger's personal territory; which is uniquely his own and only his own. Everyone is entitled to his 'space'. While it is not uncommon for two people to talk at a spit's throw from each other in India (and giving each other an oral shower in the process) the American always keeps his distance. The one arm distance rule is not just in the military. Only the closest confidante or lover has the right to breach this territory. For the same reason, one can imagine the look on the face of the normal John Doe as two Indian langottiya- yaars walk past him with each other's hands- on- shoulder. Mutual respect of each other's space is what defines cool. Some of my yank buddies would go, "Why are you guys so touchy- feely? " Now, how I convinced them that not every Indian walking hand- on- shoulder with his best friend is a flagrant homosexual is an effort I will spare you the details of.

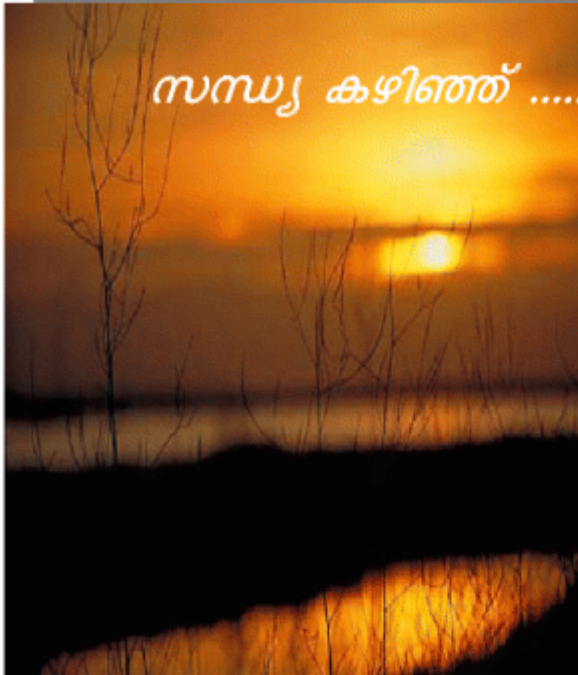
I read this book called the 'Notes from a Big Country', which is probably the funniest book I have read on the American way of life. I highly recommend it for any one who appreciates a hearty laugh. The book is filled with innumerable absolutely meaningless statistics and inane information unique to America and American behavior. And at the end of it, whether it was when you learned that Americans take their car wherever they go; even if it's only a block down the street, or how everyone is happy to sue each other on basically no grounds at all, for no reason or every reason; it provides you countless laugh- out- loud moments.

If you are one for tickling the funny bone, another treasure not to be missed is a title called Bush Aphorisms – a meticulously chronicled essay of President Bush's attempts at speeches while in office. People the world over enjoyed the humor inlaid in the bloopers. Only if Mr. President himself realized they were jokes.

The author graduated from MEC in 1999 with a degree in Biomedical

Engineering. He went on to complete his Master's from Uncle Sam and now works in Washington, DC.

Poetry Corner



കുങ്കുമപ്പൊട്ടണിഞ്ഞ്
മങ്കമാർ വരുന്നേരം
ചെങ്കുളി കുലകൾ പോലും
ശങ്കിച്ചു നില്ക്കുന്നേരം
വിന്ധ്യതൻ കൺതടത്തിൽ
സന്ധ്യകൾ ചായം പുശും

ഇരവിന്റെ മേലാടയിൽ
പരലുകൾ തെളിയുന്നേരം
കരിമുകിലിൻ കൊമ്പത്തങ്ങോ
മാരിപ്പൂ വിരിയുന്നേരം
വിന്ധ്യതൻ കൺതടത്തിൽ
സന്ധ്യതൻ നിറം മങ്ങും

നിദ്രതൻ പീലിക്കാവിൽ
മുദ്രകൾ പതിയുന്നേരം
കനവിന്റെ താഴ്വരയിൽ
നിനവുകൾ കുതിരുന്നേരം
ചെഞ്ചുണ്ടിൻ തീരം തന്നിൽ
പൂഞ്ചിരി തൂവി നിൽക്കും

Anaz K Kabeer (EE - 1996)

വഴി

മുമ്പേ പറന്നവരെനിക്കു
പിമ്പേ പിറപ്പുവർക്കെ
ല്ലാമൊരേ വഴി മാത്രമെ
ന്നോർത്തു ചകിതനായ് ഞാ
നാത്മബോധത്തിൻ പടി
വാതിലിലൂഴറി നിൽക്കവേ

ചിന്ത തൻ നഭോമണ്ഡലത്തി
ലൊരഗ്നി സ്പന്ദലിംഗമായി
യോർമ്മകൾ ചിതറവേ
എന്നുൾക്കണ്ണിൽ തെളിയുമാ
പാത തൻ അന്ത്യത്തി
ലൊരശു രൂപമായി തീരുന്ന
തോർത്തലറിക്കരഞ്ഞെന്റെ
കണ്ണീർ വററിയുണങ്ങിക്കരി
ഞ്ഞെന്റെ ഹൃദയബാഷ്പവു
മെന്നു ഞാനറിയുമ്പോഴേക്കും
വഴിയലിഞ്ഞില്ലാതായിരുന്നെൻ മുന്നിൽ...



Gratitude

As the saying goes, All that ends well is well. As we come closer and closer to the release of this first X-MECian newsletter, this would remain incomplete, if I were not to thank some persons who have been immensely involved in this venture. Without their selfless service, this would never have materialized.

As always, our very own Vyas has been a constant source of inspiration and motivation (to put in his own words, he is the one pincher in the whole of X-MEC). A huge kudos has to go to Prakash Ramachandran (CS 94-98), who single handedly did all the designing work. Next time around, I feel, some of you ought to voluntarily come forward and help him in the designing part. Please contribute your little bit in making this a better newsletter.

Also heartfelt gratitude to Sandeep Unni, Anaz and Manod Jose for providing the much sought after “articles”. I would also like to thank Sanish Suresh and Amal Chandran for the tips and support they provided.