



WIAAN '08

FALL '08

Alumni Experiences

An IITian's appeal
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EDITOR'S NOTE

The winter has started setting in Mandi with the mercury dropping fast. And we are on the threshold of releasing the second edition of Vivaan. Vivaan means "The first rays of the Sun" symbolizing fresh energy and power. We present this edition with the same vigour and energy.

The year 2013 witnessed the crossing of a major milestone by IIT Mandi with the first batch graduating in June. We wish them a very best of their life ahead and have dedicated a few pages to glimpse into their days at IIT Mandi.

We after striving so hard have reached IIT. We were fortunate enough to get the facilities to work to get here. There are some who cannot avail even that. It seems they are lost with no one to guide them through the darkness that engulfs them. There are not far from us. But we are ignorant of their ignorance! Just a few metres away in that 'senior secondary' school few of the brightest minds of the country may get lost in it. Do stop once to read an IITian's appeal to all of us (the 'IITians') to do something for those children who do not even know what education means and what it can give to them!

Well, I would like to say that Vivaan is still young. And there is a long road that it has to cover. The magazine is an upshot of the hard work and a quality time spent by all the members. Nevertheless, being a novice, we are all ears to any criticism and critique that comes our way to improve Vivaan to make it reach the heights we all dream it to achieve. Hope you enjoy reading the magazine as much as we enjoyed the making of it!

-- Apoorva Bhatia



The Nostalgic Truth

I remember my farewell dinner at Kamand. Before the dinner, there were some speeches and even I went up to the stage to express my feelings about my four year journey. But, instead of blabbering non-stop for which I am well known, I choked. Now, it could be seen as some silly stage fear but those who know me, know that I never had such apprehensions. Hence, the question does arise, what made me choke that day?

I choked because I realized something, I saw all of my friends sitting there in one corner, and I realized that this is it. The journey I started four years ago is coming to an end. The comforting bubble that we were all living in, is about to burst and drop us in the gigantic and humongous ocean of world where there are predators at every depth, where there will be no friends but competitors, all living with the motto of 'survival of the fittest'. And in a split second, all of it struck me so strong, that I could not find words from the deepest trenches of my heart to bring those emotions which would defy the battle that was raging in my mind.

Almost three months after that incident, I can tell you my thoughts haven't changed. It is not that working life is reality version of the movie 'Saw' but the college life is so intoxicating and exotic in itself that those comforts, those moments, that rush sets itself so high that it becomes like reaching out to stars for the rest of your life.

Now, do I want to scare you off? Well, firstly I don't think so, IIT Mandi has 'grilled' all of us so deftly that on-job stress becomes a myth for you. Maybe, then you would be appreciating the tough time various courses gave you. Secondly, if anyhow, I just brought back your own fear of after-college life, don't just stop studying so that you can be here for the rest of the life, you know there's a limit to that. You could always do Masters, Doctoral and get a job here and eventually you might get married too here by the grace of our college. Yeah, I know you got that. If not, get a dose of some IIT Mandi gossip.

So what's the point of sharing this with you all? The point is that I want you all to realize the wealth you have accumulated here, of happy and sad memories, of friends, of backstabbers, of struggles, of success and of failures. Get aware of them; spend each second of your college life making the best out of it. I mean if you are a 'ghissu', go ahead it's for you too mate! Everything what you will do will imprint an everlasting mark on your life and these memories will be the first to be cherished always. Break all hell loose, have a blast with your friends, try new things ;), fall in love with a person, or a hobby, or yourself. It's never early to realize how important you are in this cycle. Make every second count because remember this time won't come back, so dance with all your might till the music stops.

-Devang Moyal



Times of yore

Writing about my college life, I'm gripped with a feeling of nostalgia. A variety of emotions sweep through me as I chronically picture my 4 years spent at IIT Mandi. As I revisit all the special moments, which I feel privileged to be a part of, I nearly tear up everytime.

From the day that my parents and I visited IIT Bombay for the admission and counselling procedure, till the time when I had to bid adieu to all those I held dear at IIT mandi, that is to say the supportive faculty, wonderful friends and everyone with whom I shared something

special, the journey has been a delight and worthwhile. While ruminating over the influences my college life had on me, I realise how strikingly it has shaped me from what I was when I went there as a nerdy 17 year old from Jabalpur. These

experiences which encompass both success and failures were as a result of several right and wrong decisions as I went through a rollercoaster of extreme happiness and sorrow.

Some milestones in this journey involved organizing our very first cult-tech program at IIT Roorkee aptly named "Naissance", being a part of the Program Management Group that was instrumental in setting up the annual 'EXUBERANCE'. I was a part of various technical clubs i.e. Energy & Robotics and represented the college in Table Tennis and Cricket in the Inter-IIT sports competitions. But the high spot of my time here was when I became the Chief Coordinator of IIT Mandi's first tech-cult festival "Exodia-12' ". It not only broadened my vision but also opened new avenues to understanding. Nothing could have shaped my personality better.

I was also privileged to be a part of the IIT Mandi's entrepreneurial venture, GearedOX which has already organized a successful national-scale workshop and is spreading its wings slowly but steadily. All these activities have helped add to my personality, to my confidence level and mindset. Most importantly, this variety of genres has helped me explore myself, my capabilities, my likes/dislikes. They have given me a sense of direction, a path so that I could differentiate right from the wrong decisions; they have helped me grow as a person. I feel overwhelmed with gratitude for all the opportunities that IIT Mandi has provided me with. Apart from getting into a good college with proper facilities, being a part of IIT fraternity attaches a brand to your life; I hence feel honoured to be a part of IIT Mandi. I also feel blessed to have been taught by some of the finest teachers in Mr B.N Banerjee, Dr Kale, whose hindsight and forethought have helped make me the man I am today.

I have experienced true friendship and it gives me a lot of courage to know that whatever happens in my life, there are always people somewhere who care for me and love me. I feel obliged to have such friends and even thinking about them, the things we have shared, makes this world around a happy place.

I wish IIT Mandi goes from strength to strength in shaping the future of its students for the better. I am also hopeful that I will be able to make full use of all the lessons that I have learnt and make IIT Mandi proud. Every single moment spent in college was special and I am sure I am going to cherish it all my life.

-Saksham Grover
Mechanical Engineering Batch 2013
(Presently working as Associate at Cognizant Technology Solutions)



A walk down the Memory Lane

It all began on 22nd July, 2009 - A memorable day! I arrived at IIT Roorkee with my father. Held by nostalgia to think about the first year spent at IIT Roorkee! Those days were more than just awesome. Time flew and after first year we were shifted to the Mandi Campus. This was the starting of a whole new era where four people shared a room; We had a really messy mess where there was no water and no internet connection in the hostels! Really a tough time I remember, but we managed.

We were shifted to the Nako Hostel in the third year. I personally found it the best because of the restaurants and other places for "necessary stuff" nearby (If you know what I mean). Oh! Water problems still persisted.

Exodia was an important landmark. I was made the Publicity and Design Coordinator of Exodia, 2012, the First Tech-cum-Cult Fest. A whole new experience! Calling as many colleges as possible, getting posters designed, running for them and getting them printed and the payments of course; Those were the many sleepless nights of hard work and real awesomeness! Instead of all the disappointments in the process and hard work, it was an ecstatic experience to see the fest happening in front of us. I was lucky to make good friends during this duration. But happy times live short and then came the Internship time.

The first company to come for Internship was MS IT. I, like a baboon, with no idea of anything, went to give the internship test hoping that cracking a coding interview would not be rocket science. But I was wrong. The shock! When I could not even make it to the interviews! I realized where I went wrong and worked hard and made it to Nucleus Software Ltd. for internship. But I had to achieve greater.

Now came the most critical time of my college life - The PLACEMENTS! These were dark times and there is no denial! Hell! I can't forget the fear and letdowns I had to go through in this phase. There was immense tension and all of our fun ended with the preparation of so called ultimate aim of our lives! The peer and family pressure just worsened it. But still the support from both sides also made me strong. First company to come for placements was Google. I had learnt from my past mistake and prepared day and night, but still could not make it because of my lack of knowledge. I kept working hard and then came MS IDC. I qualified for the interviews this time but missed the opportunity again. The lack of confidence was a hurdle this time. I didn't give up and increased the time spent for preparation. Maybe it was my hard work or luck or blessings, I made it to Cisco! As time passed all my friends got placed and then started the partying phase with lots of booze.

This was the last semester and the most important thing that happened with me happened now! The Amazon test. I never expected to clear the test itself with so many talented people competing for it. But as has been aptly said - 'God is there', he was there for me too. I cleared the test. I presumed that I won't qualify. After all, an average student like me is not expected to get through The Amazon Interviews. But to my surprise, I cleared it. When I read the selection mail from the Placement Cell, I started crying! Really! Did I actually do it? Really this was the greatest that I could achieve in my college life. I was finally happy that I chose IIT Mandi in spite of lots of denials from parents and friends.

Any advice I would like to give - Umm.. I would say study hard from beginning. Now this does not mean missing out on all the fun. It means keeping your goals defined and your priorities set and keep working hard. "Mountaintops inspire leaders but valleys mature them". So, even if you are not able to clear or get through something, it is not the end of it!

What will I miss? I can't explain it in words. There are a lot of things going on in my mind while writing this, but some of them would be of course the friends, the college life, the procrastinating behavior with less negative effects, the scenic beauty of Mandi, the Himachali "Bhaiji" tone... and what not!

-Vaibhav Agrawal

LETTER TO MY FRESHMAN SELF

Dear me,

Aah! Finally I am in the second year. Three years more and my college life will end. But everything from the day the JEE results were declared still seems fresh.

A whole bunch of thoughts of how my college life would turn out circled my mind as it came to me that I will be going to IIT MANDI. Even the slightest thought of spending my college life in a place like Mandi which has such immense scenic beauty gave me goose bumps. Many plans weaved in my mind about how I will try to make every moment fun and worth living for. I had almost laid out a game plan of what my preferences would be and what fields I would be active in for the coming 8 semesters. My gigantic urge to master the games I loved pushed my mind into believing that I could invest a whole lot of time in them. But, early enough I realized that the part of my life involving studying would claim a whole lot of my time.

IIT Mandi's website proudly claims about the exotic hiking trips almost every Sunday which later turned out to be nothing more than a silly exaggeration of the dull trips which took place once in a blue moon. The untempting hiking and trekking club was balanced out by the better parts like NSO, epic professors and various technical clubs. Something which I was really looking forward to was the celebration of various diverse festivals in college as they'd be students from different parts of the world. Although we did celebrate some festivals and had some fun events but it was disappointing to see no contribution of the college in these. It was the work of dedicated seniors that caused the events to be awesome sauce. The complete ban on ragging did kill some fun but did create a comparatively more comfort zone. The hostels were a disappointment and the promise of completion of the main campus within few months now seems complete bollocks.

Apart from all the miseries, the best part of my college life are the loving friends I've made who are always there to comfort me at times of need and the helpful and inspiring seniors who always lend a helping hand. As I look back to what I had expected of my college, I realize most of it is granted.

Yours Forever

Kisna

(Kisna Mahajan 1st year)

LETTER FROM MY FRESHMAM SELF

Dear ME,

Having spent one and a half months in IIT Mandi, and having enjoyed the madness(ok, at least partially) of the college life, I feel I have garnered enough to leave you with something you may cherish when you happen to be reading it years later.

The bright sunny morning of August 7... when I arrived here in Mandi, I knew as much of it as you know of quantum entanglement (just nothing!); there were apprehensions, and justifiably so, because you never know what awaits. There was absolute frenzy in the last week before the lead up to the institute, and the excitement unbearable.

Well, as it has turned out, the apprehensions would surely come back again, but after the first month mania, things are moving slowly and seem a lot more settled.

Did I enjoy it? Who knows better than you that I did! Participating in almost everything that interest me, because I believe that in this phase of life, knowledge is more about self-exploration than learning through a medium which has its own limitations, its boundaries, and knowledge should not have one.

The Climate is pleasant, the place beautiful and so many new friends! I wish all is still the same when you are reading this.

Coming to academics now, you might be wishing I had studied more! But I did, dude! Though I have sometimes been banging my head on the table just to understand why I am supposed to know the biotech stuff I am clueless! You would know better!

Time Management is a critical necessity. It seems impossible to survive here with a disorganised way of living. (Hopefully you understand, do you??)

While I write this in Suvalsar with the colourful insects and an empty stomach, I hope that you are reading it with a coffee mug sitting in your cabin in a multi-storeyed building!

Cannot wait for your reply!

Love,

Abhishek

(Abhishek Pandey 1st year)





a time gone

A small "me"
I used to look in the mirror
Eyes full of dreams
A bright face
and perhaps an innocent heart too
Anything that appears trivial today
Triggered a smile
"a smile" I forgot when I grew up
Small incidents
Worthless to many
But worth another life to me
Made me grow up
Walking on the streets
With friends by my side
With no big expectations from this
big wide world
No evil in my then "pure heart"

But now I have lost
In the mist of time
My heart ,no longer innocent
My feelings perhaps contaminated
Even Tears not pure

I walk
I walk in a style
A fashion
I didn' t know
When I was small
I no longer walk for myself
I walk
Because I want to show this world
That I can walk and keep pace with it

Thinking of my past
I cry
I cry because I want to be a child again
I want to have a hearty smile again
I want to be innocent again
I want to live my life again
I wish I never grew up

I will try to be a child again
To live a carefree life as myself,
I will definitely give it a shot
I would try to bend time
If possible, You try it too

--Prateek Gauba

coffee break

The most
upvoted answer
on quora

Quora



Search

Anonymous's answer to:

* Stupidity: What are some dumb questions you have been asked?

I was asked recently if my family celebrated Thanksgiving in the UK (I'm neither American nor Canadian)

[View All 1403 Answers](#)

Anonymous

2036 Votes by Pranav Singh, Himanshu Dewan, Neha Gupta, Bala Vineeth, and 20270 more.

My girlfriend and I went to watch Avatar when it was released. Apparently, it was her first 3D movie experience and God she was excited.

When she came out of the theater, visibly overwhelmed, she asked me, "Don't you think the world would be much more beautiful if we could see it in 3D?"?

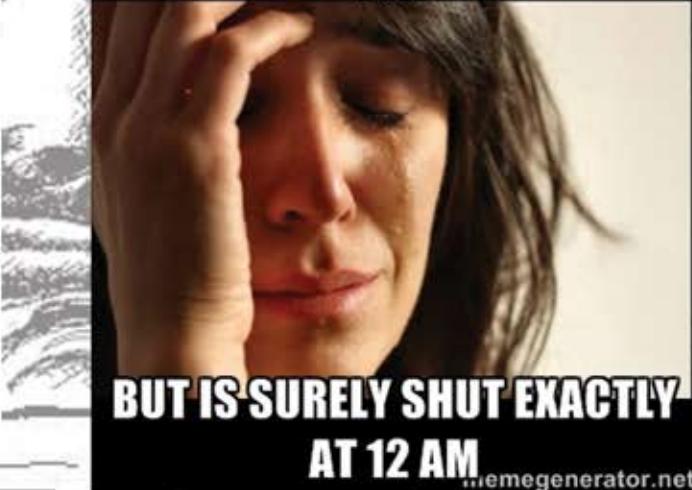
I drank myself to death that night.

EDIT : This is now the most upvoted answer on Quora. Thank you guys, my girlfriend will be so proud.

119+ Comments · Share (76) · Thank · Report · 26 Jun

Meanwhile in Kamand

NET DOESN'T WORK RIGHT ALL DAY



...memegenerator.net

Dedicated to the
swimming n tennis guys

YUNO



LET US GO TO INTER IIT

Don't even think
about forgetting

LETS GO FOR DINNER TONIGHT! TAKE PRIOR PERMISSION



SERIAL KILLERS

There are ways to be famous, and some people have hacked and slashed their way to history. I bring to you a select list of the serial killers who have made history in the most gruesome way. The following is a specific critique rating.

Warning!! Not for the weak hearted.

DISCLAIMER (by team Vivaan)*we hold no responsibility for these two pages*

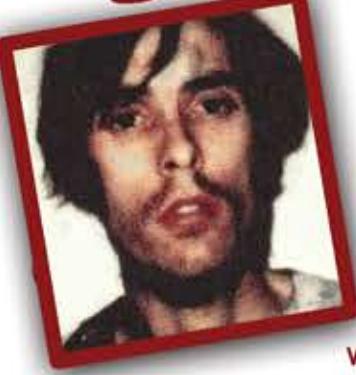
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RICHARD TRENTON CHASE

(The Vampire of Sacramento)

Richard Trenton Chase
May 23, 1950 –
December 26, 1980)

was an American serial killer
who killed six people in the span
of a month in California. He earned the nickname The
Vampire of Sacramento due to his drinking of his vic-
tims' blood and his cannibalism. He did this as part of
a delusion that he needed to prevent Nazis from
turning his blood into powder via poison they had
planted beneath his soap dish.



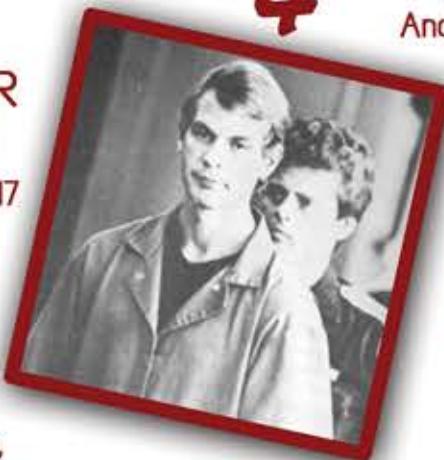
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ANDREI CHIKATILO

(Murder Orgasmist)

Andrei Chikatilo was a Ukrainian serial killer,
nicknamed the Butcher of Rostov and
'The Red Ripper'. He was convicted of
the murder of 53 women and children
between 1978 and 1990. He ejaculated
in the process of knifing his first child, and
from then on he was only able to achieve
sexual arousal and orgasm through stabbing
and slashing women and children to death.



JEFFREY DAHMER

(Mass rapist and Necrophilia)

Dahmer murdered at least 17
men and boys between
1978 and 1991, with the
majority of the murders
occurring between 1989
and 1991. His murders
were particularly gruesome,
involving acts of forced sodomy, necrophilia, dis-
memberment, and cannibalism. Dahmer committed
his first murder when he was 18, killing Steven Hicks,
a 19 year-old hitchhiker. Dahmer invited Hicks to his
house, and killed him because he "didn't want him to
leave."

4

ELIZABETH BATORY

Countess Elizabeth Báthory de Ecsed was a countess from the renowned Báthory family of nobility in the Kingdom of Hungary. She has been labeled the most prolific female serial killer in history and is remembered as the "Blood Countess." Born of nobility, after the death of her parents she started her criminal rampage which involved hacking virgin girls and I quote "Bathe in their blood" as a part of her ritual to stay young. Though it is still debatable whether that actually happens. Do get back to us if it works out.

2



TED BUNDY



1

JACK THE RIPPER

Jack the Ripper is the best-known name given to an unidentified serial killer who was active in the largely impoverished areas in and around the Whitechapel district of London in 1888. The name originated in a letter, written by someone claiming to be the murderer that was disseminated in the media. The letter is widely believed to have been a hoax, and may have been written by a journalist in a deliberate attempt to heighten interest in the story. Within the crime case files as well as journalistic accounts the killer was known as "the Whitechapel Murderer" as well as "Leather Apron". A large number of confirmed kills.



-KSHITIJ BANSAL

Inception Explained

All those of you who have fretted upon the ending of inception can start fretting more because that happens to you too, at least sometimes, but you don't remember it and it is easy to tell it is a dream any ways, So relax. Although most people dismissed Inception as work of pure fiction there is a significant part of it that lingers over reality.

Even if you can't enter someone else's dream you can ,at least at a considerable degree, "control" your own dreams through lucid dream. Lucid dreaming is any dream in which the dreamer knows he is dreaming and depending upon his prowess and experience can direct his dreams.



lucid dreaming

Lucid dreaming is performed by either through carrying the knowledge that you are going to dream from the time before sleep to the dreams(Wake initiated lucid dreaming) or(Dream initiated lucid dreaming) by logically deducing that you are dreaming by observing unnatural phenomenons or making habit of pinching yourself and ask whether you are dreaming which when done in dream can make you realize that you are dream, all done during REM(Random Eye Movement) cycle because it the part of sleep when we dream. While learning to lucid dream can be uncomfortable and inconvenient, to say the least (like waking up in middle of your sleep or maintaining sleep journals), and the learning curve may be sloppy and slow it is worth the effort because when you do lucid dream, your imagination is your limit.

False Awakening is a Phenomenon often experienced after lucid dream in which the dreamer wakes up from one dream into another dream without know that he is still dreaming and can happen many time one after the other, some Lucid dreamers even claims to have experienced it upto 11 times! One theory about dreams is that it is a form of a of unfavourable conditions based upon the events of the day to find out possible solutions to problems while the frontal lobe(consciousness controlling part) of our brain remains inactive. So when you Lucid Dreaming and start doing some thing crazy which provides no solution to problems in dreams your brain uses False Awakening multiple times to make you believe that you are not in a dream.

Some studies have shown that time perception in dreams is same as reality, so you don't have to worry about being trapped in your dream for an eternity if get into the loop of False Awakening.

Lucid Dreaming can be used as treatment of nightmare and analyzing psychological condition of one self, but most Lucid dreamers do it out of curiosity and interest. Although it is considered as "weird" and abnormal in the past or even a lie but scientific studies have show increased frontal lobe activity during dreams with test subjects performing pre-determined physical response during lucid dreaming.

In rare cases it can induce Sleep paralysis, out of body experience and hallucinations but their cases have been observed without Lucid Dreaming too, one present even among us in the first year.

By SANJEEV KHARE
B.TECH 1st YEAR

Come Back !!!



Sitting alone under the moonlight,
I saw a dew shining bright,
I ducked down to find it out,
Perhaps, a fresh tear I found.

And swiftly did my mind go back,
To a little dream place my life does lack,
A place where I can see just you and me,
A place where there is a ray of hope and we're happy.

Storms came and hit us again and again and again,
I tried to hold things, preventing them from falling but
in vain,
You found that things are getting difficult for us to
deal,
Though I ignored, deep inside I too did feel!

Then you said, you never saw such a dream for us,
And my jaw dropped down to hear such a crux,
For hours I was asking myself,
Why didn't he tell me that, though he knew I loved
him like hell?



No-no, I've no complaints against you,
I've just the complaints against my fate,
For how it made things so difficult through and
through,
And filled my life with a wait, wait, and wait?

Yes, I've a dream for a better tomorrow.
Still when I see your eyes and the smile,
I still don't wanna move on in my life,
Cuz I tried 100 times but came back to your isle.

You talk, you laugh, you laugh, you talk,
I can see a road where hand in hand we walk,
Everyone screams that you're guilty,
But I say it was my fault; I'd been so silly!

I've tried more than once to get over you,
But from inside, my heart always says "no".
So, I stand here and wait for you,
Having a dream of a better tomorrow where I can see
just me and you.

Oh baby! I know I am difficult to handle,
But truly I am not that bad!
Though not good enough as to deserve you,
But I promise, You can never find a heart more filled
with eternal love for you!

The only thing that dreads me now,
Is that I don't think I can love again,
If you don't come back, and the memories I possess,
Living alone forever is the price which's gonna make
me lame...

Oh come back for the sake of friendship we'd,
Come back for the times we'd,
Come back if your heart's making it hard
Come back if your heart too pleads...

--Deepika Kalyan

An IITian's appeal to his fellow IITians

As a new IIT is coming to life here at Kamand, with all its dreams and ambitions, not far from this technological, highly competitive environment, in a small building with just a small open piece of land in the name of playground and no barricading, children from the Government Senior Secondary School here at Kamand are learning to dream

"But their dreams won't last long. Most of the boys will struggle in life with some managing to loan a vehicle, becoming drivers and the rest will probably land up being smugglers or daily wage workers" The principal has no hesitation in telling us that. But what about the girls? I asked. "Most of them will never go to college. They will never be allowed" She, the principal, seemed to have accepted the harsh realities of this remote village school. But to me, it was shocking. It was sad. But what was more sad, was our indifference. The indifference of nearly 500 IITians residing nearly 100 metres away, priding on their degrees and planning to change the world. But Charity, as they say, begins at home.

In her book, Behind the beautiful forevers, Pulitzer Prize winning author and journalist Katherine Boo of Washington Post wrote about Annawadi, a slum dwelling in Mumbai with hundred odd residents in the immediate neighbourhood of the international airport and 5-star hotels in close proximity. She, with great sensitivity and insight, created an account of the struggle of the lowest strata of society at same time baring naked the indifference of the 'elite' class of society.



I could not help but draw parallels from the story. On one hand you have one of the best technological institute coming up with some of the most competitive students around and just few metres away, each and every batch of students, a valuable human resource, are suffering the same fate and still, we couldn't care less.

The problem starts right from Primary Education. A single teacher for children from Grade I to Grade V, all sitting on ground, together, reading (trying to read) out words loudly from their respective textbooks doesn't seem the best of the ways to acquaint your child with the world of education for the very first time. Yes, that is the reality here. When a student enters Grade VI to start his middle school, he/she has already gone through five founding years of his life through a broken system under a teacher who is often uninterested and more often than not ill informed about child education only find himself/herself in an equally unhealthy environment.

Another major problem with the children is the lack of a motivating environment at home mainly due to poor financial background. With most of the children coming from the families where both their Mom and Dad are daily wage workers they see life from a very different frame of reference than from where we see it. And you can't blame them. As JK Rowling very aptly put it in her Harvard Commencement speech "Poverty entails fear, and stress, and sometimes depression; it means a thousand petty humiliations and hardships. Climbing out of poverty by your own efforts, that is indeed something on which to pride yourself, but poverty itself is romanticised only by fools."

In addition to this, with generations and generations of students suffering same fate with the absence of any role models and the lack of awareness about the world leaves them with no distinct vision of themselves for future . "Main toh inhe seedha kehti hu, ke tum woh log ho jo bus mein toh chadh gaye ho, par jinhe pata nahi ticket kaha ka lena hai" tells us the principal as she depicted incidents, one after the other, from school here at Kamand and from a remote school in Drang where she was earlier posted about how lack of awareness affects the lives of boys and girls in remote mountains. Her eyes looked concerned, and why wouldn't they, for those eyes have seen so many of its promising students losing their way in the middle of their life.



But it can be changed. We can show them a new world, a world full of opportunities and empower them to reach for those opportunities. Having an institute like ours at such proximity can be of great advantage but the opportunity isn't explored up until now. And we have a lot of guys who are much more aware and capable of coming up with much better solutions than myself, I am pretty sure, and hence I humbly appeal all of you, who want to make a mark in the life of these children, please step forward, join hands and ensure a better future for these children. For educating a child would mean pulling an entire family out of poverty and setting them on a path which leads to a life free of hardships and full of opportunities.

--Aditya Paliya

DIRGE OF THE FALLEN



Standing at the gates of my place
A ruin stares at my face
Old bliss now haunts me
Shattered lays my land
Demise so forlorn
Blowing wind howls my mourn

And then shall we rise
The children moulded in fire
Wielding the swords of vengeance with thunder
The amour of darkness shall split asunder
Scattered men shall form
When the oath will be sworn

Walking the embers of memory
Heart impaled by black sorcery
A broken barn, a wrecked palisade
Burnt fires, men dead betrayed
Smoke of sorrow lasts
Smothering Cinders of the past

And then shall we rise
The children moulded in fire
Wielding the swords of vengeance with thunder
The amour of darkness shall split asunder
Scattered men shall form
When the oath will be sworn

Falling onto my knees
Black grass concocted misery
Breaching my fortress of sanity
A red dirk hungry pillory
A broken being vicegerent of agony

And then shall we rise
The children moulded in fire
Wielding the swords of vengeance with thunder
The amour of darkness shall split asunder
Scattered men shall form
When the oath will be sworn

---Syed Akbar Rizvi



to my daughter

Dear _____

I am writing this letter to you at twenty. I am nowhere close to having you. I don't know what you look like. I don't know whether your hair is naturally curly like mine. I don't know if you'll be as conscious about it as I was growing up. I don't know what you sound like. Whether you like to sing as much as I do, or if you are as shy doing so in front of other people.. I don't know whether you love me as much as I do my mother, or whether we are in that stage every mother and daughter go through where they are in constant conflict. And I am talking raging cannons and psychological Kalashnikovs here. Incidentally, did we name the dog Kovu? Do we even have one?

Anyhow. There is a reason I am writing this to you. Because I am at a stage of my life where for the first time, I don't feel the uncertainty that plagues every adolescent while growing up. In fact, I feel like an adult now. Strangely enough. How does it feel to feel like an adult? Well, it's surprising, in a nice way. You don't feel the need to constantly prove yourself to anybody. You have a very good idea of who you are and what makes you who you are. You are finally at peace with yourself and you learn to appreciate every aspect of your past, no matter how tough times might have been at any given point.

There are so many things I want to tell you about the world. There are many that you must find out yourself and experience firsthand. But there are some things you must start of knowing and that you never ever forget. But there are some things you must start of knowing and that you never ever forget.

Read voraciously. Never read for someone else. Never read anything that bores you. Treat books like people. Understand that everybody has their own preferences and only befriend the ones you think you like spending time with and that you can be yourself with. Be open to suggestions, be open to new genres and authors. Books are just like people; you need to give them a chance.

When I was growing up, my role models were fictitious characters from the novels I loved. I wanted to be like Alicia from Mallory Towers; strong, brave, witty and mischievous. I wanted to be like Matilda, consuming knowledge and thriving off it. I wanted to be like Hermione Granger; unafraid of being the one always buried in books and working hard. Look for your own role models. They don't even have to be real people. One day, perhaps you will read The Fountainhead, and you will find yourself looking up to a man called Howard Roarke who will be everything that you wish you could be, but is at the end of the day, an idealistic character from a book. Run. Play with children your age. You will never learn a better lesson about surviving in this world than from the sandpit in your kindergarten.

Have principles. Even lofty ones that are hard to maintain. Human beings require constant challenge to motivate them at every stage in life. Let your self-made morals be your catalyst. Never be ashamed of having these. There will be people who will come along and try to make you budge from them. Its even tougher when these people are the ones you love and respect.

But never forget that if they are worth sticking by, they will respect the rules you make for yourself. They needn't follow them, never try to impinge your principles on other people. But if you are lucky, the people you love will always support you in this regard.

Love the fact that you are a woman. Don't be dejected by the way the world works, and most importantly, don't become a cynic. There is always room for improvement. If something bothers you, spend your energy and time in speaking up about it and bringing about change. Never settle for being just another number, just another victim. We are all born equal. Do not think of yourself as superior OR inferior by birth.

You are born with freedom, nobody gives it to you. And this is something I have learnt from my parents. You will gain the trust you earn, but you are always free to make your own choices. Learn to appreciate the fact that your parents are new to this whole bringing-up-a-child thing. Cut them some slack when they mess up too because its bound to happen. And never forget that they are the two people who will forever be on your team. For life. Don't take that for granted.

For every one bad person, there are ten good persons in this world. If you don't believe this, you have probably been looking in the wrong places.

You might have a hundred friends or you might be like me, content with only a select few. Neither is better or worse than the other. Just be true to anyone that you consider your friend. Do not hesitate in going to the other end of the earth to support them and help them out. There is nothing more rewarding than being a good human being. At the end of the day, that will be the barometer with which you will judge yourself. It won't be money or grades.

Have the courage to dream. It is the one thing nobody can take away from you. Dream with abandon and don't let anybody ever tell you you cannot achieve something. Life will reward you for hard and smart work. So as far as you are willing to deliver on your share of the deal, nothing is impossible.

Never be afraid to try new food. The Chai Latte is excellent.

Be kind to animals. They will love you selflessly. They will love you without expectations or agendas. They will trust you without reason. Be kind to animals and you will find yourself loving life a lot more. Cuddle a puppy or tickle a kitten's tummy while it is asleep if you don't believe me.

Go to Rome.

Be yourself.

Don't be afraid. No matter how bad the present feels, believe in your own resilience. You are a survivor and a warrior. You can make it past literally anything as long as you refuse to give up on hope. Don't be afraid to have faith.

I love you always

Your Mother.

--Sanjana Govindrajan

The Unturned Stone

That unturned stone on that sedate island,
That lonely traveller, its unsilent sole companion.
It could see the stone, the side turned up
Memories rolled, reflected he his lives' present and first

He couldn't see beyond the stone..
The stone was so opaque and dusty on the upper side
The traveller was lonely and so tired
that he could not touch the dusty side.

The grayish stone with whitish flakes illusioned the man
The reality he couldn't think nor he imagine can.
He looked for a company in that stone since he was lonely,
Gave a meek smile to overcome that he was gloomy.

He saw the stone was strong and rough,
had survived ages alone here, was still so tough
But the traveller found his heart breaking slowly
He wished to take courage from the lonely stone's story.

He felt his dreams crushing beneath the sky.
Trapped was he on that island, couldn't fly.
Was lost with no friends, a friend to trust,
Only that stone with his mute company left.

The traveller relied on the stone so much.
Knew atleast it won't leave him, a better friend couldn't be search
The unfaded dust reminded him ever
The stone is strong and exceptionally trustable forever.

The storm came once again, the unturned stone Turned.
The lonely traveller only watched, the undusted part framed.
The stone rolled and rolled away, not once did it see
the lonely traveller. His heart broke and flushed, nothing could he feel.

He saw the stone and the forceful frothy water.
The stone it rolled away. All the promises and trust faltered.
That gloomy cloud engulfed the traveller again.
The unturned stone turned like his other friends. All pain.

The stone's dust that seemed so perfect.
Withered in seconds, not a tinge now left.
The stone didn't stay a moment to show gratitude.
Nor did it ask the traveller, how he'll survive the gray solitude.

That frothy, foamy water, the ringed pearls,
Carried the stone so far away in the water curls.
Lonely was left the Lonely Traveller.
His eyes shed, the heart and hopes shattered.

Sat he on the coast of that vast lonely island,
Waiting for the unsilent murmers to end,
The evening's sun to set, next morn to come
He hoped to rise once again, That vast Sail to come!!



--Apoorva Bhatia



few moments before MS-IDC

October 2012 - The buzz of MS-IDC visiting our campus was widespread all around. Students were both excited and nervous because a big MNC was about to come to our campus (not for the first time though, but, in IIT Mandi, that's a rare occurrence). I was quite nervous; some knew tons of languages, some were experts at web development, some just had a passion for networking and there were some who have made programming their better half.

We had an online examination conducted in October a month after which people from MS-IDC came to our campus. They selected some candidates based on that examination and called us up one by one for personal interviews.

I was called for my first interview and a technical question was shot at me. There it was, first round, first question and I had no idea about it. I thought 'That's it, it's all over. Its better I wrap up and leave without making a joke of myself. There is no point in sitting there idle and giving the interview like a written test. (I had nothing to lose!)' I went ahead and bluntly told the interviewer that I had no clue about the question. To my surprise, he seemed quite pleased by the fact that I had the courage to admit. He started giving me hints and little tips here and there. The result was that, in the next 15 minutes, I was able to crack the question.

I was quite puzzled after the interview. I couldn't judge my performance and just waited as I was called for my second interview. With the satisfying feeling that I had cleared the first round, I was more confident now.



The second round went quite smoothly. I just didn't stop speaking. I spoke out the whole thought process, all the little things going through my mind and finally arrived at the solution. The interviewer seemed pleased by the expression of the thoughts that went into solving the problem.

I was pretty confident after my second round and knew I would make it through to the final round. The person who took my final interview has been working in Microsoft for more than 20 years. He looked like a big shot and seemed to intensify the surrounding just by his mere presence! Unlike the last interviews, I dint even shook hands with him. He just seemed too strict for something like a friendly handshake. We first had a small discussion regarding my last interviews and IIT Mandi in general. Just when I started to feel a bit relaxed, he threw a question at me.

I literally struggled with the question for 25 minutes. I knew I won't be able to solve it. I was just clueless. I was then asked to shift to the next room when suddenly it struck!

I was so excited that I literally ran a couple of steps, went ahead of him to sit in the next room and quickly jotted down the solution. He seemed quite puzzled by my reaction but I was too focused at that time to pen down my solution. He went through the solution and was so pleased by it that then came the words from him which I shall never forget:

Okay Sanchit, it all seems good! We would like to see you next summer at our campus, Congratulations!"

I just smiled, shook hands with him (finally) and came out. Really! It was done! I still remember that moment. There was my best friend, Saksham, standing there right outside. I went ahead and hugged him, ran all around the campus with joy.
That's it ! I did it! I had made it to Microsoft IDC as an intern!

- Sanchit Khatry

as an intern at Edmonton

As it's said, patience is a "virtue", this story will appositely personify it!

It was mid-December. I was in Kolkata managing IIT Mandi's stall at the PAN-IIT meet. While packing up to leave, I leafed through my E-mail and realised I was shortlisted for Mitacs Globalink Scholarship 2012. Now, for those who don't know what it is; Mitacs is a Canadian funding organization which scintillates young talent from around the world to carry on effective research in Canada for which I had applied in October and as it turned out, got shortlisted in December (patience pays). 'But wait!' It was just getting shortlisted. Not getting selected. They said they would inform me in about the selection in 2-3 months! Now, to jump ahead; at last, in March I received the confirmation. I then took a deep breath of relief, thinking to myself 'patience pays!' (again). Filled with alacrity and confidence, I thought that now, I shall have a chance to show the Canadians my potential!

Now, first things first, I finalized my dates with the Canadian professor and our so affable institute and applied for visa! (at Chandigarh). Booked my flight and anxiously waited for things to go right! All sounds so perfectly linear, but yet the hill drops steep! My visa got delayed; Flights were rescheduled and after giving 3 end-semester exams a month before the scheduled date and, after broaching the Chandigarh consulate many time over, at the verge of cancelling my whole internship, I got my visa a week late.

And finally, I flew to the 'Land of Maple Syrup'. The glamorous city of Edmonton. My internship at the University of Alberta started out well (May sound skeptical though!). Wonderful City, lavish accommodation and great people. I made friends with people from all over the world. We were ready with our "gyarah number" bus to explore Canada's most festive city, and explored the city and its culture. I felt like a bird which was let out to enjoy gorgeous world around! Altogether, I made sure that the bird came home and worked hard on its research project! (Ha! Ha!). I still cherish those days of frolic and will remember forever! So, doing well in the project whilst having fun, roaming and stuffing around the city, I passed my first two months!

I would also like to mention, that Canada is not so 'punjabi' as we all might have thought! Au contrair, In Edmonton, 20% of the populace might be Indian. But, nevertheless, everyone I came across was really outgoing, cheerful and making merry with life! After participating in two workshops, one on effective presentation and other on project management; volunteering for a cultural heritage festival and spending time with small kids and enjoying bucolic festivals; I would say that Canada, especially Edmonton is the best place to stay in! People there believe in one funda, "work hard, party harder" which really enticed me!

Meanwhile, I even planned to participate in a conference to present one of my research proceedings, worked out with Dr. Sarita Azad at Toronto (Delhi/Punjab of Canada). And, for the first time I patted myself for this opportunistic move! So, time being copiously consumed, I was ready to come back to India after an awesome 9 weeks! But, as always, something uneven needs to compensate for all this fun!

I was later asked by my professor to delay my departure by a week, to which I responded with zeal and postponed my tickets with. This prompt decision was not well greeted by Mitacs as they were late to be informed about it and therefore, left me literally homeless on the scheduled date of departure with no clue over my last night's stay! My professor and I tried hard and finally got some accommodation by evening though and that whole day ended with flight changes, some visa issues and a 'happy ending'. I had worked for about 50 hours in those 5 days to gain great funds from our partner company and finally, made everyone happy...finally, ready to come back!

-Deepak Sharma



the super phone saga

We are in a time where companies are rolling out new phones faster than Java popping updates on our laptops! The cell phone industry is in a phase of the so-called smart phone boom. The market is being attacked by companies, who are battling amongst themselves to make the "smartest" phone. Every month we see leaks of bigger, slimmer and meaner phones getting ready to enter the arena. This battle is not only present in the super-phone league but also is prevalent throughout the other categories. This gruesome battle is leading all of the companies astray and has had some serious consequences on many of them.

Due to the sheer abundance and demand of the consumers, the silicon giants are made to come up with more and more phones to satiate all pallets. They claim to sell new phones by adding incremental features to their existing ones and luring their customers into being excited about them; when in principle the newer ones aren't really that different. There is an apparent trend where new phones are created by making minor changes just in screen size, processor and RAM in the existing ones. This has led to them being bland and repetitive.

This is not entirely wrong by the companies. After all they are hungry wolves who can and will bite into any market share they can see that is open to them. In terms of marketing strategy, it is amazing. Many companies like Samsung and Sony have made phenomenal revenue and eaten a chunk of the market share whilst also ousting many companies. But amidst this marketing conflict, innovation seems to have subsided. Companies seem to be making new products just to satisfy their customers and keep their share of market from being snatched by their competitors. In this process they seem to be lost; fighting each other in this petty battle which is leading them nowhere in terms of getting themselves recognized as 'tech trailblazers.'

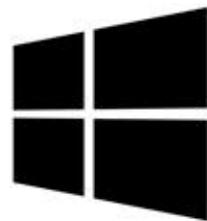
For example, in the past year Samsung has been making so many identical phones just in different sizes, and it seems that its design team is printing out new phones after just enlarging or shrinking the same piece in paint!

Lately, Sony and HTC (two companies I revered for their creativity in design), followed Samsung (into the pit) by entering into a size war with it by introducing more sizes in existing models. Newer companies like Micromax, Xolo, etc. have quietly observed the market and timed their entry into the same battle to grab their own share. Even though they have lesser resources and not nominal product quality, they have ticked all the boxes to customer satisfaction and have earned their stay here.

Anyways, Tech is a field in which never has innovation promised so much in so short a time. There have been major breakthroughs in tech and it is still apparent that companies are still working hard to create newer and better features to make their device exclusive to them. This adds a huge selling factor to their devices. But lately when I hear words like Ultrapixel I have started to wonder if this actually a product of some dedicated research in laboratories or just some marketing shenanigan by black suit idiots in a boardroom? After all Apple's Retina Display is just a hi-resolution LCD with 300ppi rating at close range and Nokia's ClearBlack Display is just an extra added polarization filter—much like antiglare sunglasses. Why can't companies just call things the way they are? Why hide behind invented terms? It's because they want you to buy and you will if you are dazzled by their little gimmicks.

Well, this is not always the case. Innovation is not completely dead. There are still a handful of people in the marketing giants who still believe in creation than reproduction. People like Jony Ive, Drew Houston, have withheld this belief and have made wonders in the field of tech. It is their persistence, belief and influence that has led to creation of some brilliant technologies that consumers actually enjoy.

In the end, it isn't only the companies but also the mindset of the consumers that has led to this state. With time, hopefully, lesser people will fall into these traps and get swayed with jargon like the rest of sheep out there. We can then look forward to an exciting time on this journey through technology.



Ballmer and Jobs: a story of two Steves

AND HOW IT SHAPED THE POST
PC WORLD

When Steve Ballmer announced that he will be stepping down as the CEO of Microsoft Corporation in a year, there was shock as well as surprise among the Silicon Valley enthusiasts. Ballmer was never known to be a quitter. Having displaced Bill Gates from Gates' own Microsoft, he was known to be a fighter. He inherited a company which had the largest market capitalization ever, and was the one which controlled the world with an iron fist. Microsoft was called the "Evil Empire", and it was widely believed that the sun would never set on the Microsoft Empire. But in the high of the dotcom boom, Ballmer is leaving Microsoft at an all-time low, at a point when Google has surpassed its Market Cap, and the company lacks any solid direction.



Contrast this with Jobs, who was ousted from his beloved Apple, the work of his life, and then agreed to lead it when it was at an all-time low stock price of \$13, with sales declining steeply, and the likes of Dell and Sun had refused to buy it. The Macintosh was driven to extinction on the desktop by the Windows-PC, and most importantly, innovation had all but seized. But Jobs brought Apple back from the brink of death to become the largest company in the world.

Both Ballmer and Jobs had a lot in common. They both had a tech savvy friend with whom they created groundbreaking companies. Both were tough competitors and hard negotiators. None of them would praise a rival's product regardless of how good it was. Also, both of



them had an amazing degree of persistence with the products they backed. So what on earth went differently? Well, seems like a lot.

Windows had virtual monopoly on the desktop, and it was thought that as the computer was not going anywhere, so was Windows, and Microsoft was destined to dominate. But it seems like the PC is not immortal after all. Tablets and Smart phones are quickly catching up with the PC.

The computer industry looks similar to the Automobile industry in its growth. In the beginning, powerful trucks were popular as they were required for food transportation. But they were slowly replaced by smaller, less powerful, less functional, but better looking and easier to use cars. Perhaps everyone did not need a truck. The same is happening with the PC. Everyone does not need it. Most people need a device for content consumption, and so the focus is now on consumer electronics.

Microsoft was too late on the mobile bandwagon. Ballmer, being a Marketing guy, could not see the future. He simply lost the opening decade of the 21st century for Microsoft. Jobs' passion for electronics imparted him the vision to see what people needed, and won the decade for Apple. Never before a company has generated so much buzz for its yearly releases than Apple does.

As the obvious industry leader, Microsoft has had the keynote rights to CES from 2001-2012. But when it was announced that it won't make an appearance at CES 2013, it was apparent that the dominance was over. The future belongs to portable devices, and it is more open than ever.

-Abhishek Pandey



encounter with the 'other' sex

Trains are never safe especially express trains from Secunderabad to Hyderabad. The compartment is mostly empty and prone to notoriety and obdurate people patrol along the vacant corridors. I generally boarded my train at Hyderabad but that day I took the train from Secunderabad. Although it was just a twenty minutes journey from Secunderabad to Hyderabad it never seemed short, even today. TC never patrolled in this twenty minute ride. Even after all the horrific things that happened when I look back at it today it was one of my hilarious experiences of life. Pawan (it is an alias) and I boarded the train at Secunderabad. I don't wish to expose his name because if some day he tries to run for an MP or some president it could risk his candidature. We sat in our compartment. The whole compartment was empty and we were the only passengers. Then the train departed and the echoes of the train's whistle haunted the cabin, raising Goosebumps. It felt like two salvagers were travelling in a damned and haunted train.

"... they prevised their arrival by their distinct clapping..."

Five minutes have passed since the train left, their came howling of a group of eunuchs along the end of the corridor. We knew what was to come since they prevised their arrival by their distinct clapping. We hunched in one corner and waited their arrival and prayed to the God to silently pass the tempest. I was carrying three thousand rupees with me. I didn't want to give it away. Eunuchs in that part of the world are like legalized thieves they come around and snatch your money. It wouldn't be much of a problem if there was a crowd. They gaggled through the corridor of the empty compartment like hungry maggots and pandering stooges. They arrived to our seats and set their eyes upon us there were three of them. Two moved toward us as if they would devour us live if given a chance. The other one moved on and left the compartment. They came to us and demanded "blessing". This is their civilized way of stealing, they don't call it money they call it a blessing. It ain't one of those blessings that you give a poor and he merrily takes it.

"and her hands slowly moved up ..
tension peaked up"

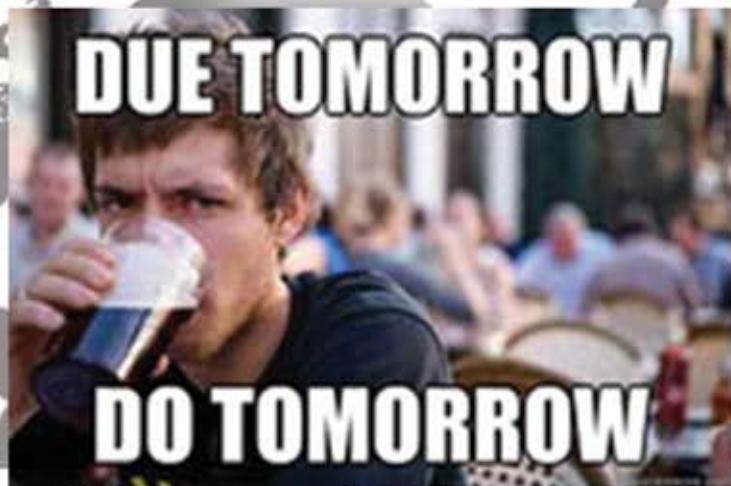
Now that we were alone and endangered it meant we had to give them all that we had. Now that was an option we weren't willing to choose. We had to work out some there or they would immaculate us of our wealth. Fighting them was never thought of since their imperative attire abated our physical abilities making us more vulnerable. It was a banal act for them but for us it was an unseeingly unfortunate day. We tried to beguile them and tried to make our way out and survive for the next ten minutes. I was fortunate and could somehow charm them, but Pawan lacked luck. At some places he got harsh I had to suppress him. The other eunuch was mad at him. She or he....whatever, placed her hands at her gown and threatened to lift the curtains of eternal world and drown him in dark waters of filth and dirt. I knew what was to come as one of my friends Rahul has gone down that path. His roller coaster ride was over before his mind came back to conscience. Concussion is all that occurred to him since then. I didn't want the same fate for Pawan. There was this strange sort of tension in the atmosphere. I had to avert him from what was to come. Then I went on to negotiate with the other eunuch. As her or his ...not again.... Whatever, hands gripped up her gown and her hands slowly moved up tension peaked up. Finally we succeeded in assuaging her and made them realize how we

in assuaging her and made them realize how we were gripped into the poverty of time. They left without making us open our valets. It felt like a tremendous victory. We felt like imperial rulers returning from a gruesome, victorious battle. Then came another eunuch and asked, "Blessings!!"

-Moiz

coffee break 2

Assignments time..!



**A 4th yearite
says..**

YES I AM PLACED

Proudly !

I MAY BE SLOW



**BUT I AM FASTER THAN DASHIR'S
INTERNET**

memegenerator.net



India: Through Her Eyes

I arrived nearly two months ago, with the students joining two weeks later on September 1. I can say that we have all had the most remarkable experience so far. Having visited the campus last October, I was immediately struck that in less than a year, there were already new hostels in place, new office buildings, a medical clinic, guesthouses, and faculty houses in place.... what a feat. Arriving at the end of the monsoon, I wrote back to the students that they should be prepared for downpours and mud - but of course the day that they landed the weather suddenly cleared and it transformed into a beautiful autumn. We are a group that already enjoys hiking, biking, and trekking, photography, and nature - so we were well-matched for the surroundings in Kamand. WPI is located in a big city, and most WPI students never venture off campus at all. We all enjoy the freedom we have these last few weeks to take the bus to Mandi or to stay and enjoy some hiking nearby. We have taken some trips on the weekends to see some of the amazing places nearby. So far, we have hiked around beautiful Dhuma Devi and Parashar Lake, last weekend we visited Dharamsala, and this weekend we will try to see some mountains near Manali.

In other dimensions, many things are alike between our two schools. WPI is largely an engineering

school, with all the same pressures and anxieties about grades and placements, graduate school, and future work opportunities. Sometimes our lives become entirely about internet, Facebook, and our studies. I think the best aspect of these projects is that it has given us all a chance to step back a little and engage with people: both our IIT colleagues here on campus and the individuals that we meet while conducting fieldwork. Every team has told me the same thing after a day of collecting data: "The people are SO nice and welcoming and generous with their time." We are not used to this level of generosity coming from the US. The idea that someone participating in a survey would invite us into their home, make tea, and give some fresh vegetables to take home is an experience that has touched every one of the WPI students. In our meetings, we talk about this warmth of communities and the connections we have made here. We feel incredibly welcome.

A lot of people ask us how we like the food. And ... most of us really like the food! For a few it is still too spicy, but interestingly, others have said that they will try to continue to eat this way at home - and even a few will continue to be vegetarian when they return.

For IIT and WPI students to collaborate in a team in just 7 weeks to research and write a report is not easy under any circumstances. There are language issues, team dynamics issues, research challenges and so forth. We have learned that as a mixed group of 3rd and 4th year students, we are alike and we are also different - and that we cannot always predict how that will feel while working together. Usually humour and patience and compromise will solve any problem, but we will leave with a deep appreciation of what it really means to work across disciplines and across cultures. One thing that is clear is that it is hard and it is incredibly rewarding. I always like this quote: "Obstacles in the path are not obstacles. They are the path." We have all truly enjoyed this path, our new friends, our time in India.

-Ingrid Shockey
Assistant Teaching Professor
Interdisciplinary and Global Studies

Ingrid Shockey



(An American
Professor's Perspective)

lets go exploring



Trip cost: 15500 per person.

Duration: 8 days

Firstly, we reached Manali by bus and spent the night there.

Next morning, we left for Leh. You need to look for Jammu and Kashmir taxis to go to Leh. (Though J & K taxis aren't officially allowed to pick passengers from Manali for Leh, bargaining personally helps in getting a taxi for about Rs.10, 000. Manali taxis would cost around Rs 16,000).

Later in the day, we stopped at Sarchu for night camping, which is en route. There are tents of 2 occupancies which cost about Rs 2000 each. Next morning we headed for Leh. A tiring route! We finally reached and relaxed that night!

Now it was time to do some sight-seeing in Ladakh. Book a taxi for the same (fixed price). Places you can explore in Ladakh are many like Pangong, Zanskar, Khardungla, Nubra valley, etc. You can also hire bikes but it is suggested not to take a pillion rider as it is difficult to climb those mountains with a pillion.

To explore Leh, we again hired bikes to go to places like Gurudwara, Pathar, Sahib, Sangam, etc. It is suggested to cycle roll down from Khardungla pass.

We followed the same route while coming back to Manali with a halt at Keylong instead of Sarchu.

A longer stay in Ladakh reduces the strain.

Carry small portable oxygen cylinders in case somebody has a headache or acute mountain sickness.

Take some more days if you really want to feel the real Leh Ladakh without getting too exhausted!

Uday Mittal

Leh- Ladakh

vivaan
fall 13

dalhousie

Trip Details: Mandi > Pong Wetlands > Dalhousie > Khajiar > Dharamshala and Mcleodganj > Mandi

Cost of the Trip: Rs. 2500

Time: 4 days (End of March but the best time to visit Pong Wetlands would be Dec-Jan)

Trip Experience: The First trip of our "Lets go Exploring"! We left in the morning for Pong Wetlands (a bird sanctuary; A huge wetland amidst the Kangra Valley.) We had booked the forest Rest House , Nagrota Surain which can give you the real feel of a sanctuary. That whole day was spent in collecting logs of wood for the Bonefire , arranging our lunch and dinner and exploring the place... And because the rest house was entirely ours, we had an awesome time at night with the bonefire, songs, ghost stories and yeah not to forget.. 'The self cooked food'. Don't miss it if you plan to go there. The next day we took a boat to the Rancer Island. Though the initial climb was steep, the island is a beauty. But I would say 'Beware of the Peacock in the rest house!' We all had a shuddering experience! Well, the migratory birds had already flown away so we dint have much luck with the birds. After Lunch, we left for Dalhousie. We got the youth hostels where the dormitories are far too comfortable and cheap for a night stay. Next morning we planned to go for a trek from Dain Kund to Jyot. A tiring but an awesome trek of 4 hours! We straight headed for Khajiar after Jyot. The best part ☺ we did a lot of horse riding! And then finally some good food! While returning from Khajiar, we saw some spotlights of Dalhousie and roamed the Dalhousie market. The spicy 'pani-pooris', the hot 'Jalebis' and the still intact ancient British architecture made the walk down the streets even more memorable. Next morning we left for Mcleodganj and then finally came back to Mandi via Dharamshala. A trip that the 14 of us can never forget!

Apoorva

Trek route : Mandi > Manikaran > barshaini > nathan

rudranag > kheerganga

Time : 23rd -24th March 2013

Expenditures: Cost of the trip- 2000rs per cab for 2 days one night ; Food: rs200 each

We reached Manikaran in about 2 hours and left for Bars-haini after breakfast. We dint have any idea that there won't be any ATM's available later. Finally we reached Barshaini after an hour's drive and found that there were no shops in the village to rent tenting gears! We decided to go without them and do a home stay somewhere. So close to noon, we started our hike with full determinism to complete the 11km trek in less than 3 hours. But it started raining. We had no plans to return then. After an hour we realized that we had taken the wrong way. One of us got worried and decided to return. Rest 15 of us kept moving and finally found the way after an hour. We trekked down to reach a small village called Nathan to rest and eat. It was already around 4 PM and we had covered only 1/3rd of our trek. We spent our night at Rudranag which was en route. After a lot of efforts we finally had the bonfire, our only lifeline at that time. We had Maggi and spent that night with the horror stories. The morning made us gape to see the thick cover of the snow. It was high time now. 8 of the group members were afraid to carry on with the trek and decided to return back to the base camp, but 7 of us were determined and started the steep climb. No sign of trail anymore! Everything was covered with fresh snow. I made some random decisions about the correct route and we kept moving. We had a really grave experience! But we finally reached our destination and had to leave early because we sensed the coming of the storm.

All in all it was a very rich and life changing experience. YEAH!! It was really awesome!

Author : Ankur Bhatt

kheerganga

mcloedganj

Trip Details: Mandi > Palampur (Dhauladhar park) > Dharamshala > Mcloedganj (Bhagsunag Waterfalls, St John Church, Monastery)

Cost of the Trip: Travelling: Rs 500 (including food)

Duration: One day

Trip Experience: The trip was to get our minds off the stressful placements, B.tech project and other academic commitments .The weather did not disappoint us. We set off early in the morning, and the first rays of the Sun through the dark hills left us gaped.

Our first stop was near a connecting bridge where the cool breeze filled us with the energy for the rest of the day. We halted at Palampur for breakfast. Ironically the place was called "Café London". We could not find any good food joints on the way. Dhauladhar Nature park is not far from here if you would like to visit once. Next, we saw the magnificent Dharamshala cricket ground. The snow-capped mountains on either side of the road was adding to the placidity of the place. After around 5 hours, we reached Mcloedganj.

We first went to the Bhagsunag Waterfalls. The water was cold and we enjoyed swimming, singing and clicking photographs. We ate our lunch at a nearby restaurant "HotSpot" (not recommended). We next visited the St John Church. The traditional church—paintings, trees, candles, and a Graveyard. Don't forget to read the commemorations on the wall. We next visited the famous Buddhist monastery, and took seven rounds of the temple and rotated the wheels of fortune. They say if we do that, our wish gets fulfilled! That was our last stop, and we finally left for Mandi. We had carried a guitar along. It helped us kill time. Always helps when you are travelling with musicians! One day is more than enough for exploring Mcleodganj and Dharamsha-la.

Saksham Grover

why we should not do vivaan

Notes by the editor:

What follows is a byproduct of LSD hallucinations, or so we'd like to say. In reality, this is one of the member of magsec requesting that the whole magsec be shut down since it serves no purpose. Heresy, I say. But we put it out here in its entirety to gauge general sentiment. Please note that, for reasons unknown, he seems to remember some events not the way we remember them.

To,
The Editor
Vivaan or Vivan or something
IIT Mandi

Subject: Shut it down

Hi,
Paliya tells me there is to be another issue. An issue, not in the sense of a problem, which we have plenty of in the magazine section, but that you are planning to put another edition out this semester. I have some issues myself with this decision on the new issue.

Quite unlike the way your section, of which I am a humble member of, works; today I would like to present a fairly dense and logical argument as to why instead of putting out a new issue, we should close this section and do something useful with our collective time.

Since I'm not sure if this is the same editor or the last one, I must present you with some history about the section.

Enter Bansal, Kshitij Bansal. Around May'12, he became the institute's first "literary secretary" *chuckle*. This did not mean an awful lot to anyone, least of all him, but we now had a problem. Up until now, the EDLS did things of their own accord. Now we had a literary society, which had under it, just one club. That's the EDLS.

Since societies receive funds for activities, Bansal had to do something or he wouldn't get it the next time. What followed were endless trips, parties and gladiator fights with Ruskin Bond. Kidding! But after practices, organising debates and brainstorming sessions, we still had money left over. Failing to use the money for anything creative, the magazine section was formed.

It was a genius idea. The section would do plain old nothing, maybe run a run-of-the-mill blog and call it a day. And we would keep on with the fun and games. Little did we know that someone had different plans for the section.

Enter Paliya, Aditya Paliya. Paliya was in his blues around that time. His confidant, Bansal, made Paliya the guy behind the magsec and all hell broke loose. He had plans for the section, big plans, exactly opposite of what was intended of the section and began serious work to do what the section was supposed to do... put a magazine out. Any person in the literary section putting in honest work was unheard of. Paliya was set to change it. Needless to say, I opposed him vehemently.

They spent a good portion of the semester last year in coming up with the name. Eventually, they settled with Vivaan or Vivan or Dewan or something. By the way, coming up with good names seems harder than writing JEE. For all I know, we could've had "Z-Axis" instead of Exodia.

In the end, he did put out a magazine and thanks to Mahesh Kumawat, people read it. Which brings us to tonight. The members met to dicuss the future of the section, which prompts this response.

What we must realise is that in all honesty, we must go back to how it was before Paliya and his nonsense. Why work when we cannot work?

It is understandable that as litsoc members, we have an unsatiable and idiotic need to comment upon the littlest of things at IIT Mandi. We have a perpetual need to analyse and decipher the most meaningless things going on here. That gets no one interested other than concern a few psychologists.

Magazine section is a noble but ridiculous idea. It is time to not work on the magazine and do something important. I hear they've cancelled the graduation dinner for the seniors. Why not redirect the budget to this cause?

Cordially,
Saket Panwar



"This whole magazine is a rebuttal to his letter"

ACM

Members of the programming club , Saurabh Jain and Shoubik Debnath went on behalf of IIT Mandi to Compute-2013: The 6th ACM India Computing Conference . ACM Compute series of conventions was launched in the year 2008. Since then, these conventions have been held annually attracting delegates and resource persons from India and abroad. This year's theme was Next Generation Information, Computing and Security . It was held on the 22-24 August 2013, hosted by VIT University, Vellore . We were lucky to get the opportunity to attend the conference and meet talented people from all over the country .

We also got the opportunity to attend Dr Vint Cerf's, (Turing Award Winner and Google chief scientist) keynote speech. .

Looking forward to more such opportunities.

Manthan

It's the work of the enlightened minds to solve the difficult problems of the world and nation and being in an institute like IIT it is more of a responsibility to do so. Recently an event called MANTHAN, organized by a NGO Citizens for Accountable Governance (CAG), was aimed at involving the youth for solving the critical problems of the nation in a manner as they feel would be best for the country. The purpose of involving the youth was because they have the demographic dividend in the near future when 60% of population is constituted by youth. It was also aimed at providing the agenda for the general elections of 2014.

Students from the premier institutes of the country including IITs, IIMs and NLUs presented their solutions to the CAG judging panel which adjudged the top 30 teams and eventually the winners. It gives us immense pleasure that three teams of IIT-Mandi were selected in top-30 of their respective themes and what was matter of even greater pride was that one of our team ended up being the 2nd runner up in their theme "Boosting Skillsets: Increasing the employability of youth" and was the only new IIT standing next to the older ones.

The members of our winning team, Team ADVAITA, which includes Prateek Gauba, Devang Bachawar, Jyoti Singh, Rahul Bhujade and Ayush Yadav were felicitated in New Delhi by Shri. Narendra Modi in presence of other eminent national leaders.

We also wish to thank our Manthan college ambassador Mr. Kunal Joshi for his support and enthusiasm in bringing this event to our college giving us the opportunity to showcase our talent. Finally to conclude with the following lines of Rabindranath Tagore in our mind and to work upon this thereby

Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high;
Where knowledge is free;.....

Where words come out from the depth of truth;.....

Where the mind is led forward by thee into ever-widening thought and action;
Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake.



Art Geeks

'Life beats down and crushes the soul, art reminds that you still have one'. Thus was found the fine arts club of IIT Mandi; we proudly call ourselves the 'Art Geeks'. Our aim is to develop and promote the artistic roots in the students of IIT Mandi. There are many students who love to paint, design and practice crafts, make movies etc. There are many students who want to learn these things. Through this club Art Geeks will provide a platform where like-minded people can learn, create, share and even teach the various artistic ideas and techniques which are present in today's world and evolve together. 'Art Geeks' essentially has three sections: Fine Arts, Designing and Movie Club. Since its inception, a lot of events have been conducted. Painting stage backgrounds or flexes has become our trademark activity. 'The doodle Project' was an instant hit attracting a large number of participants. This semester Art Geeks will be conducting a workshop on Adobe Photoshop for people who love designing. By next year we hope to stage a full-fledged Art Exhibition which will be matching the professional level, as well as release the first short-film made by the students of IIT Mandi. We are a team that is dedicated to project our work through myriad events of our college and to increasing student awareness of the right understanding of art. Eminent art gives people great pleasure and impression. Considering these circumstances, we feel that our mission is a heavy one. We hope to get the club official by this semester. To keep in touch with our activities and events, like and keep track of the updates on our Facebook page 'ART GEEKS IIT MANDI'

Aakarshan

Continuing the tradition, the cultural society gave a blistering introduction to the freshers as Aakarshan, the inaugural event of the academic year went on to be a roaring success. Making its debut on the event was Arts and Geek joined by the usual stalwarts Music club, Dance club, Drama club and the behind the scenes deliverer, guardians of the D Day, the Programme Management Club. The evening kicked off with speeches by the cultural secretary Aakash Pathak and advisor to students Professor Rajeshwari Dutt. The speeches were preceded by screening of small movie clips having the alumni of IIT Mandi recounting their experiences of working in the Cultural Society. After this, the wagon sped off the rails as the anchors for the evening took centre stage. Omair Azmi and Syed Jafar worked in tandem to strafe the crowd with humour bullets with the highlight being their sporty chaffs with Professor Venkat Krishnan.

The evening was orchestrated with a dynamic mix of dance, drama and musical performances. The first to step in was the Music club with the band The Tapered Screw and other performers delivering a dynamic mix of love ballads, alternative rock, heavy metal, punk rock and classical performances. The dance club entranced the audience with two feet tapping numbers of their own and the Drama club topped it all off with a little sitcom. The art geeks took care of the aesthetics, designing huge flexes and posters with intricate designs. The behind scene members of PM worked their socks off with the logistics to make the event a toast. The evening became a rad show it was due to the enthusiastic bunch the crowd was, a fact to which all the performers took a bow to.

MAD

20th century people have seen the revolution in the evolution of Desktop systems from very large size main frames to Laptops. Now, in 21st century we are experiencing the revolution of personal computing in the form of smart phones and tablets. The computing power these devices have is incredible; thanks to the Morse law and the various technologies. What we see now that these tiny devices not only have incredible computing power but have smart displays as well. Having a profound impact on the lives of the people, these devices are worthy enough to have. People across the globe are adopting these devices which in turn is encouraging mobile hardware and software vendors .Nokia ,Blackberry ,Apple (IPhone) etc. are allowing developers to develop apps for their platforms. In 2005 Android came into the market getting open standards to the personal computing world and encouraged innovation in an entirely new way both at developer and hardware manufacturer level. Millions of people across the globe adopted these devices and are finding it incredibly awesome.

MAD(mobile app development) club of IIT Mandi is an attempt to create amazing new experiences on these personal computing platforms allowing ,helping ,encouraging newbies to involve themselves in this personal computing revolution. MAD club will be conducting MAD talks where various technologies and technical stuff involving App development will be discussed which involves programming languages like C , C++ ,java, C#, objective C etc., various SDK's (including Android , IOS, Windows), various frameworks ,operating systems and other platform features, handling graphics, networking API's, sensors, Image and voice recognition API's. Monetizing apps, building enterprise apps, internals of Android software stack, knowing the guts of various platforms etc. MAD talks bring incredibly awesome exciting tech stuff to IIT Mandi students making them aware about latest technology with lots of opportunities to learn and earn.

RANN-NEETI' 2013

IIT Mandi recently organized its first ever-Invitational sports event Rann-Neeti-2013 from 20th to 21st of September in Mandi. The event was to bring various prestigious colleges of the neighboring states to this serene valley amidst the holy Beas in the 'Kashi of mountains'. The event witnessed the participation of various prestigious colleges like DTU, ITM Gurgaon, NIT-Jalandhar Hamirpur and Kurukshetra, JAYPEE Solan, Baddi University, Thapar University etc.

Various sports like Cricket, Football, Table Tennis, Basketball, Badminton and Volleyball were organized during the course of 3 days, which witnessed the enthusiastic participation of sports personnel from the aforesaid colleges. The events were action packed and so was the management of the events. Exhilarating performances by teams was worth the entertainment and fun.

All events were organized in Paddal Ground in Mandi with the exception of Badminton, which was organized in Town Hall Mandi.

We are also happy to tell that our team of IIT-Mandi played well and secured a gold medal both in Football, in a action packed penalty shootout finale and in Table Tennis(Girls), which appeared to be a one way affair. We also secured silver medal in cricket in a no less exciting manner. The event culminated with the prize distribution ceremony in the august presence of the Mr. Devesh Kumar, Deputy Commissioner of Mandi and Mr. Rajeev Nayyar, Former Captain of Himachal Ranji team. They were the Chief Guest and special Guest of Honor respectively.

The event was organized under the guidance of Sports Secretary, Mohit Rawat, who was helped by his colleagues and juniors to make this event a grand success.

We hope to carry this legacy forward in the coming years and increase the appeal of this event making it more magnanimous and grand.

Raptor Racing Presents "Eagle"

It all began with the Mechanical batch of 2010. Each one of us was passionate and filled with energy to do something. What other than the idea of building one's own car can get the nerves of a budding mechanical engineer? With this motivation in the students of the batch, the first step was taken by starting the SAE Collegiate club, the only gateway to our dream. The first step being the most difficult, we had to satisfy the criteria of the international society SAE and get a place for the same in institute's developing S&TC. After two years of patience and background study, the SAE Collegiate club was finally started in the odd semester of 2012.

After this, began the process of laying the foundation work for participating in SUPRA'14. A project of this size needed students from all batches. Hence began the process of initial guidance to the subsequent batches, so when the real work begins each one of us is equipped with the necessary tools. With the students ready, it was time for finalizing the team for the event and none other than our "Sardar" Gurbir Singh could have managed the team; so was the opine of then SAE Collegiate club student chairperson and faculty advisers.

Now, with the team in place, we began the first step towards a yearlong journey with "Virtual SUPRA SAE'14". Every member of the team is now making enormous contribution; some to the design of the vehicle, some honing their skills of Solidworks and managing reports. The Design team, lead by our "Drummer" Sumit Kant, did a fabulous job by incorporating every design suggestion poured in. Not to forget the efforts poured in by each and every member, the team was in high spirits with its predicted success in the virtual round to be held from 19th -21st September at KIIT, Bhubaneswar. With the design ready, a group of five students went and presented the design. They did an excellent job by placing the team at 58th spot out of 168 teams and paving way for qualification of "Raptor Racing" IIT Mandi by placing IIT Mandi in top hundred and pushing it to the second stage of building the vehicle.

The enormous amount of support drawn to us from our faculty advisers Dr. Vishal Chauhan and Dr. Rajeev Kumar and not to forget Dean Students for providing initial funds for the project is an excellent example of how an amalgamation of motivation and patience can lead us from once an impossible task towards a path of possibility? Last but not the least it is the team as a unit and student leadership which has accomplished the initial task of IIT Mandi's first formula car "EAGLE".

Team Details:

1. Aarjav Malhotra
2. Abhishek Chaudhary
3. Akshay Ajay Deshinge
4. Aneesh Monga (Student Chairperson'13-14)
5. Ankit Agarwal
6. Ashish Kumar
7. Bijon Paul
8. Diler Savla
9. Gourav Panwar
10. Gurbir Singh (Team Captain)
11. Harshit Singhal
12. Hemant Kumar
13. Jayesh Chandra Gupta (Student Chairperson' 12-13)
14. Kunal Joshi
15. Kushal Mundle
16. Mandar Karpe
17. Prateek Gauba
18. Pritish Seth
19. Sohil Savla
20. Sumit Kant (Design Head)
21. Vinit Pardhi



team vivaan



Chief Editors: Apoorva Bhatia, Aditya Paliya

Editorial Board: Kshitij Bansal, Ram Garg, Vishal Raheja, Nidhi Makhijani, Harika Garimella

Chief Designers: Akshay Ramteke, Manish Bhaurya, Sumit Kant

Design Team: Ahmed Abdul, Chandan Purbia, Samridhi Jain, Farah Anjum

Team Vivaan: Saket Panwar, Devang Gupta, Sohil Savla, Ayush Yadav, Sanjeev Khare, Abhishek Pandey, Kisna Mahajan, Paawan Mukker, Himanshu Singal, Kanzul Mahrifa, Deepika Kalyan

Team Vivaan extends special thanks to Dr. Suman Sigroha for her support and encouragement. We would like to thank Prof. Ingrid Shockley for sharing her as well her students' experience during their stay at IIT Mandi. We are thankful to the faculty at IIT Mandi for their honest opinion and able guidance. We are grateful to Sanjana Govindaranjan for contributing her writing to Vivaan. We would also like to extend our gratitude to Devang Moyal, Saksham Grover and Vaibhav Agarwal for sharing their experience at IIT Mandi with us.

Vivaan has come out as a result of the inputs and contribution of many others. We acknowledge the wonderful support of everyone who contributed towards the success of the Magazine. Deep thanks and appreciation!





Pens Down..

Please do give us your feedback at
editorial.iitmandi@gmail.com