How are the infrastructural preparations for Inter IIT coming along? Is there an institute PT policy that we need to adhere to? What about the wide-spread rumours of the TA stipend being increased in other institutes? What is this new Convention Centre we keep hearing about?

These and a lot of other questions are currently being raised by students over cups of coffee and in the confines of their hostels. In this edition, InsIghT decided to put these questions to the authorities, the respective Deans based on inputs from the elected student representatives, the respective General Secretaries.

Construction & Planning Issues

We approached Prof. Malik, Dean Planning and Prof. Rao, Assoc. Dean Planning with our barrage of questions. To begin with, we were curious to know the status of the various construction projects in the pipeline. Refer to the table for full details.

1. Issue: Design of H12/H13 annex.
Background: After the recent spate of suicides, a lot of discussion took place on iitb.general and many people seemed to link the design of H12 and H13 as latent causes of the suicide incidents.
Deans Planning say: Dean SA, based on feedback from H12 and H13 inmates, proposed some structural changes for constructions of the annexes. These include well lit corridors among others. The idea of fixed beds was implemented after an incident of rowdy behaviour of some passing out students who, in a fit of excitement, had

Questioning the Administration

InsIghT attempts to seek answers to all student related issues of vital importance from the respective Deans.

Major Upcoming Construction Projects

Structure	Status	Location	Expected Deadline	Other Details
Convention Center	All permission obtained; Cosntruction started	In the place of old Civil Annexe	Dec '08	Dedicated to Victor Menezes; 17 lecture halls and 2 conference rooms (Total capacity 1660)
Gymkhana Project	Phase I: Contractor in place, work about to start; Phase II : In planning stage	Open grounds next to SAC, near H2	Phase I will be completed in 12 months	Phase I includes Multi-purpose indoor stadium, Olympic sized swimming pool and Paddle Pool. Project originally conceived in 2001, complications led to long delay.
Extension of girls' hostel	Entrusted to DCSEM; Tender will be floated shortly		Will begin Jan '08, Complete in 15 months	Capacity of about 300 inmates with double occupancy rooms
Comp Sc. Building + CC	Awaiting documents for sanction	At the location of original CC	Will begin early '08, Complete in 15 months	G+5 structure + basement; CS – 50,000 sq ft; CC – 20,000 sq ft; CC will get 1st two floors
Extension (annexes) of H12/H13	Site survey-done and tree clearance approved	Next to current H12/H13	15 months from beginning of construction	Two blocks each; Total capacity of 800 with single occupancy

destroyed their cots. However, we also feel that fixed beds should be done away with. Other suggestions can be considered if routed through the right channel.

2. Issue: Renovation of the H7 mess.
Background: Construction work started in the H7 mess a year ago and has still not finished.

Deans Planning say: Initially, Hostel 7 reported only a drainage problem and was going to be treated with a minor repair. But later, we learned that there were additional problems and that a complete overhaul was needed. A committee was set up including the G. Sec of H7 and it decided to rebuild the mess in Dec '06. However the cost estimate was exorbitant and we had to justify them given that the hostel had undergone renovation only 3 years ago. This and the paperwork involved added to the delay before we finally got the permissions from Buildings and Works Commission (BWC).
Our original deadline for construction, Dec '07 has extended to Feb '08. It will then take a little longer for the electrical fittings and other equipments to be set up before the mess becomes fully functional.

In response to the "Space Crunch" article in Volume X Issue I, Dean Planning informs that, given the expected deadlines of the construction of extension to girls' hostel and annexes to H12 and H13 (refer to table), the accommodation problem will persist in 2008 and will be overcome only by spring 2009.

Academic Issues
What follows are the queries we posed to Professor A.K. Singh, Dean AP and his response. For the necessary background we had interviewed Rohan Pradhan, GSAA and Amey Karkare, PG Nominee for Academic Affairs.

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1. Issue: Lighting of sports ground before Inter IIT.
Background: IIT Bombay is hosting Inter IIT this year as a part of our Golden Jubilee Celebrations. We expect the infrastructural arrangements to be at their best.
Deans Planning say: We received an application from the students' gymkhana for the lighting of the SAC grounds, basketball and tennis courts. Their initial estimate of 91 lakhs was approved. But when we gave the task to the contractors, they presented a budget of a whopping 2.19 crores. Moreover, they estimated that the entire procedure, including procurement of material etc, would take over 90 days. These were the reasons why we had to put the project on hold.

However, Dean SA, based on requests from students, pressed for at least the football ground to be lit up. So, we gave our go ahead to that and the football ground will be lit up by the first week of December.

Dean SA Says: The gymkhana had forwarded an initial estimate of 91 lakhs in

Are we prepared for Inter IIT?

Dec '06 after consulting Bajaj Electricals. This amount being comparable to the 75 lakh budget of IIT Guwahati, was approved by the Dean Planning office. However when Shahi Prabhu Associates - the contractors - were employed, they made a quotation of 2.19 crores with an endorsement from Bajaj Electricals again. Not so surprisingly, Bajaj Electricals denied having given an estimate of 91 lakh to the gymkhana in the first place. Since the entire project became a distant dream, we insisted on having the football grounds lit up as soon as possible.

Conclusion: GS Sports's hopes of having longer practice hours next semester will remain a dream for a little longer.

2. Issue: The never-ending repair work in Badminton Court.
Background: The lucky ones must have noticed how the playing area in the Badminton court had risen by nearly an

inch over the surrounding region. And now, painting and repair has recommenced. We wish to know what's plaguing it so badly.
Deans Planning say: There was a communication gap in this case. The gymkhana went ahead and employed contractors to do the flooring, who in the process raised the level of the playing area by an inch. Now, the estate office has taken over. At the moment, the court is being painted and then the floor level mismatch is being rectified. The court will not be ready for use for another two weeks at least.

3. Issue: Conspicuous cracks on Basketball Court and other visible wear and tear.
Background: The Basketball court is in serious need of attention as inch wide cracks are visible on the second court and one net is missing. When will the repairs begin?
Deans Planning say: When we visited

the site, we suggested repair work for the court. But students wanted a synthetic surface. So, the procedure for the same has begun and the court will be ready by early December.

Estate Office says: In April, Mr. Mamdapur and Prof. Rao went and had a look. Initial idea was to use concrete. Prof. Rao suggested another material, "mastic asphalt". But coach Edwin insisted that they must either have a special imported synthetic flooring or do nothing at all. Tenders will be released on 8th Oct; the agency will then begin work and take at least 2 months to complete.

Conclusion: No training can happen on the court during this period. The team might have to make do with the campus school's concrete court. Moreover, playing on a synthetic court is supposed to be very different from playing on a concrete court. The team will get very little time, if at all, to get acclimatised to the synthetic court, if and when it is ready.

Job life

(Vinod Bollini was a Dual Degree student of the Metallurgy and Materials Science Department and passed out in 2006. He is currently employed as a field engineer with Schlumberger Group in Doha, Qatar)

Reasons then and reasons now:

I would be lying if I said that I was sure what I would do after five years in IIT Bombay. I did not have the most flattering academic record, which can be a bother, both with higher studies or a job. I had a fair bit of extra curricular activities on my résumé. As the placement season approached, my priorities were in place - try to get a job with one of a few select companies, try to go to one of the IIMs, apply to a University, and pursue another Masters (maybe in the Social Sciences). As far as the companies were concerned, I picked out Transocean, Yahoo! and Schlumberger.

As compared to further studies, looking for a job gives one more options. As with most other people, the placement process was a series of applying to companies, and getting rejected. In my case, I made it a fair distance a couple of times, and then realized that I did not want to end with a job that did not meet my requirements. I also did not want a regular sedentary job. With some hassle I finally managed to get

> *"I would never want to belong to any club that would have someone like me for a member."*
>
> *- Woody Allen paraphrasing Groucho Marx*

shortlisted for the Schlumberger interview process. After a candid interview with 3 people first, I faced another one with 13 people, all looking to grill me. In retrospect the biggest issue when hiring someone for a job like this is whether the person would

Career Perspectives

One year into their respective career paths, Vinod Bollini and Priyanka Lahiri write on their experiences.

stick with the company for a reasonable period of time. I guess I stood the test.

Perspective:

On the 5th of January 2006, I landed a job as a Field Engineer with the Wireline segment. My job is a technical field job in an international environment with a good deal of traveling involved. I have visited 5 different countries in a year - including a trip to the the Pyramids at Giza.

A year into the job, you begin to see the things you hear about in the news and otherwise - the value of good engineers, the value of technology, the value of the IIT process, the value of good leaders and communicators. I deal on a daily basis with high-tech tools worth millions of dollars, work under pressing timelines, acquire petrophysical data worth millions of dollars and lead multi-ethnic crews in harsh environments. In the end I still live in a thriving city (Doha, Qatar's capital), with a lot of avenues for recreation and entertainment.

The Big picture:

I have to say all is not as rosy. In a job, one is expected to keep his motivation levels high all the time - or at least not let it affect your efficiency and proficiency. Although you deal with high-end technology, you seldom have an explicit choice in doing things that interest you. In dealing with valuable services, you are under a lot of pressure and it can be stressful sometimes. Being on call 24x7 can also sometimes be a problem. But I believe that it can all be dealt with, if there is some part of what you do that you really love.

All in all, a year out in the real world

has been a rewarding and enriching experience. Work keeps me busy and offers the prospect of an adventurous life. For a trekking enthusiast and language lover, who was an insomniac member of hostel seven, there could hardly be a better way to earn his living and a little more. And I wouldn't have it any other way.

Research Life

(Priyanka Lahiri was a student of the Integrated M.Sc. (5 years) programme and passed out in 2006. She is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in Yale University, USA)

Reasons then and reasons now:

Looking back on the hows, whys and wherefores of coming to graduate school, the two basic reasons seemed to be -

1) The grandiose/noble/diplomatic one (or in simpler terms, what you write in your SOP to wow all the admissions' committees) - to wipe out all disease/resolve the energy crisis/ end global warming - I'm running out of ideas but you get the drift. The honest version is "I want to do research".

> **"...it's sometimes disconcerting to see that anything new that happens to me, PhD comics (www.phdcomics.com) have been there, done that and made a comic strip out of it..."**

2) The candid answer – seems better than getting a real job and being thrown into the big, bad world out there so soon.

The real answer is actually a little bit of both.

Perspective:

I love being a student and I'm enjoying doing research though it's sometimes disconcerting to see that anything new that happens to me, PhD comics (www.phdcomics.com) have been there, done that and made a comic strip out of it- be it the fact that I work in a lab in a basement and crave sunlight or that one of the best ways to lure grad students to any event is by offering them free food. Sure, I'm still a student, but life is now different (read busier) from my carefree days in insti *<sniff, sniff>*.

During one of our first orientations in the department, the Director of Graduate Studies told us, *"Being a graduate student involves juggling myriad duties, those of a student, a researcher and a TA."* That is something that rings true for grad students across all disciplines and ensures that I have my nose to the grindstone (When I need a break, which is every so often, Facebook comes to the rescue :P).

The Big picture:

 As for the research, no equipment works the first time around (or the second, or the third…but I'll try not to be too cynical) unless it's a toaster and that unfortunately isn't something I can use to solve the mysteries of the universe. The tasks that I have been set have varied from soldering circuits to fixing pumps to draining solvent from a bath using a 2 ml pipette, drop by drop. I'm definitely developing a varied skill-set. All dedicated to the cause of chemistry. There's never a dull moment. It's all 'character-building', a term my advisor is wont to use every so often.

So far, so good. Where I'm heading at the end of this is hard to say. In grad school life, it's early days yet. There's much more stuff that needs to be coaxed into working before I'll be able to get out of the basement and get a glimpse of the real world outside.

Questioning the Administration

1. *Issue:* PT Policy.
Background: Departments seem to differ on their rules and regulations with regards to the third year PT. Sometime ago, it also seemed there would be an institute PT policy.
Dean AP says: I believe any practical training should be in accordance with the Senate's approval. The clause in the academic rule book clearly states the objectives and the procedure of a PT. Students and departments should follow it in letter and spirit. According to this clause, the DUGC and the PT coordinator should decide the PT rules as per the department requirements and not be restricted by a common policy.
I personally feel that PT should be in an industry, where the student can get hands on experience. This should preferably be in India since a period of 6-8 weeks is too short for a student to do justice to a research internship in a foreign country.

2. *Issue:* Rescheduling of re-exams for 3rd year students who received FF grades but were unable to appear because of being abroad for internship.
Background: The last summer break saw quite a few such cases. Rescheduling was done in the Mechanical Dept. but it wasn't the same in the others, and students were consequently awarded an FR grade.
Dean AP says: Here the onus lies on the student to inform the concerned authority about her/his plight well in advance. If

during a semester, a student committed to an internship feels that there is a possibility of failing she/he should immediately inform the academic office and DUGC (through the FacAd or HOD). The unfortunate incidents during last summer were because of the lack of any intimation by students in due time.

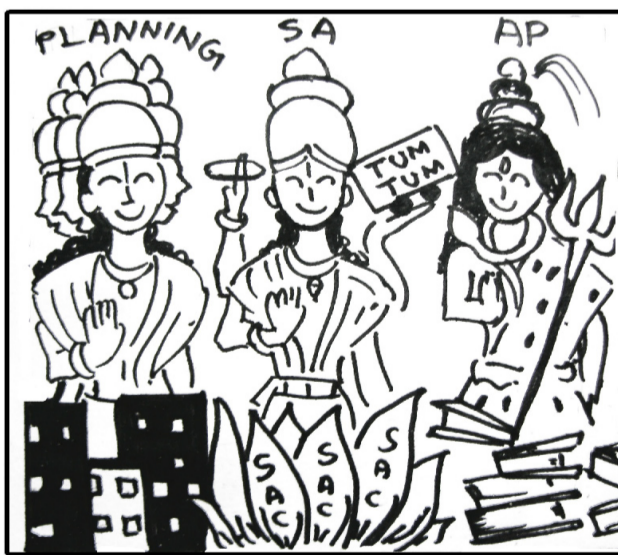**3. *Issue:* Rumours that CSIR has increased stipend for TAs.**
Background: Amey informed us that they have confirmed news about stipend increase in quite a few other institutes such as the IISc. The students wish to know by when they can expect the same here in IITB.
Dean AP says: CSIR may have increased stipend for the students on its payroll and the step might have been taken in other institutes but the information hasn't reached my desk yet. I can assure you that there won't be any delay in increasing the MHRD stipend in IITB once we receive the official notification.

4. *Issue:* Barrier of 7.5 CPI disallowing B.Tech students from opting for PG courses in their own department.
Background: This semester, particularly in the CS department, there were quite a

few cases of students with CPI marginally lesser than 7.5 not being permitted to take PG courses (even those pertinent to their BTP topics) nor did they have enough UG courses to register for.

Dean AP says: In this case the departments should offer more courses and provide more options to the students. Indeed, CPI is just a number and shouldn't be the sole determinant. But we need to draw the line somewhere; hence the figure of 7.5, which is reasonable. The DUGC should look into borderline cases, take a holistic view and then recommend them for approval.

5. *Issue:* Delays in the stipend payment of PG students.
Background: There were long delays

in the PG stipends without any prior notification twice this year. There have been cases in the past where the stipend has been cancelled for the entire batch due to actions against a select few.
Dean AP says: In each of these cases there have been some genuine reason behind the delay and was completely unavoidable. I understand that this can put the PG students to inconvenience and the administration must inform the students beforehand to help them prepare for such delays. I request students to let me know if a similar situation arises so that I can look into it.

6. *Issue:* Uneven load in the two years for M.Tech students.
Background: The first year is heavily loaded for M. Tech students, some of whom find it difficult coping up. Moreover, the second year is left completely free for MTP. Why can't the load be balanced?
Dean AP says: If a student finds it difficult to cope up with the course load in the first semester, she/he can approach his FacAd and through him, the DPGC which is empowered with the right to make alterations to her/his academic load. After maintaining a bare minimum course load for that semester, the DPGC can suggest a possible course distribution to help ease the pressure on the student.

(Arunabh Sinha (fifth year, MEMS), Archana Raja (second year, M.Sc. Chem), Sudarshan Bhatija (second year, EP) and Vivek Upadhyay (fourth year, CS))

Institute

As students move from secondary schools to colleges, their perspective, for most things in life, changes. In our case ironically, it is retrogressing towards an indolent and thankless attitude towards academic pursuits.

Falling over backwards? :

Why is it that students who once spent 5 hours a day preparing for the JEE now devote less than 5 hours a week to academics? Is the IIT lifestyle not conducive for study? Or is that the courses don't offer a challenge worthy of our time? Why

> "Managers, CGs, Club Conveners and OCs have become the demi-gods of the campus."

does last minute 'mugging' work? These questions, no doubt have crossed each and every mind on campus. But addressing them requires resolve and honesty which, in today's time are the virtues of an idiot.

We complain that our academic system

Where have those pre-JEE days gone?

In this institute of "excellence", how important is academics to an average student? Asgerali and Rohit comment.

is pathetic and that we should follow US universities where evaluation is largely based on assignments and projects. But then again, what is our attitude towards assignments? "*Arre XYZ ne kiya hoga na, usse copy maar lenge.*" Maybe our attitude is such because copied assignments are not only accepted but even graded! So then, is it the academic system that is to blame?

Purpose and Perception:

Extra-curricular activities top the list of our priorities so much that it is time we rename them as 'super-curricular'. Managers, CGs, Club Conveners and OCs have become the demigods of the campus; the professor is a villain and any poor soul who has a remote academic inclination is labeled and ridiculed (with an exception during assignment submissions and quizzes).

It is only reasonable that the degree of academic excitement would differ from person to person across the spectrum. But isn't it surprising that we systematically find a section of people who have developed a complete abhorrence for academics and who are just waiting spiritlessly to grab that degree and get away?

The IITs were conceived to produce engineers who would lead and initiate. The fact is that almost every IITian possesses fairly competent quantitative and analytical abilities. The entire purpose of IIT was to amplify these skills to channel them into the service of innovation, creation and

> "..the prevailing notion that recruiters look for *babugiri* skills on our resumes naturally pushes academics into the backseat."

leadership in science and technology. But the service sector boom has produced a great demand for white collar *babus* in the back end bureaucracies of many MNCs. Clearly the technology or the academic sector can never pay as much as the service sector can. And the prevailing notion that recruiters look for *babugiri* skills on our resumes naturally pushes academics into the backseat.

The Leaky Cauldron:

With the Biswas committee report being implemented with the aim of a reduced-load-broad-base curriculum, can we hope that at least some of the next generation IITians would rekindle the academic spark? What happened in the 70s and 80s should probably be rephrased as 'brain attrition'. What you see around, my dear colleagues, is 'brain drain' in the true sense of the phrase.

(Asgerali is a second year student of Aerospace Engineering Department and Rohit Vadera is a third year student of Mechanical Engineering Department)

The English Patient:

That the IIT-JEE is conducted in both English and Hindi is a known fact. But the medium of instruction in the institute is exclusively English and so are the prescribed textbooks. It is expected that students from a vernacular background will adapt to this change over the course of time with minimal assistance. However, a scrape on the surface was enough to convince us that this is not the case. There exist among us, a few students who face language as the primary barrier to academic performance.

Remedial Classes:

The institute has taken some taken some initiatives to address this problem. Remedial classes are held in the HSS department once a week. The response to these classes, however, has been very poor with no more than five students per class, most of who are unable to make it regularly. These classes don't carry credits and the attendance is voluntary.

Language as a Barrier

Is the Institute taking sufficient measures to help students deficient in English? Mohit Sharma observes.

The timetable has not been drafted to avoid clashes with labs and NSO sessions. Plus, the necessary awareness among the students is also lacking.

> "The response to these classes, however, has been very poor with no more than five students per class, most of who are unable to make it regularly. "

The institute's attitude towards this problem has been one that has been well-meaning but finally ineffectual. Ten minutes with Prof. Sharmila of the HSS Department are enough to convince one that the department is more than willing to help. But they are helpless when it comes to the extraneous factors we mentioned earlier.

Prof. Sharmila goes on the record to say, "*The course never really took off. It has been a failed course so far.*" After all, no one would come forward and admit such a problem according to Prof H. Narayanan of the EE department. He believes that the Student Mentor Program is the best way to identify such students, rather than expecting them to approach the concerned people. Prof. Sharmila agrees and feels that we need an environment where one is allowed to make mistakes freely and where language deficiency is not perceived as a congenital problem. But one hurdle in this scheme is the mentors' lack of experience on handling such situations. The mentors have to be sensitive enough to understand the nature of the problem and approach the student accordingly, or the whole purpose gets defeated.

The need for action:

As for the other institutes, IIT Delhi has a written English test before the start of the first semester, wherein the students performing unsatisfactorily are made to

> "The institute's attitude towards this problem has been one that has been well-meaning but finally ineffectual."

go through an extra course in English. IIT Roorkee has English language as a credit course in the first semester. Universities in other countries have special bridge courses to help the students ease into college life. "*The need for bridge courses definitely exists*", says Prof. Sharmila. And not just for language courses, but other problems like computer literacy as well. Nonetheless, any initiative has to come in the form of a formal mechanism and not just isolated voluntary efforts.

(Mohit Sharma is a second year student of the Civil Engineering Department.)

Bulletin Board

Updates on TumTum

Dean SA, acting on students' feedback and demand, has submitted a proposal to the Director for three more Tum tums, 2 small and 1 big. According to feedback, the sale of coupons is proving to be a bother as the permanent employees entrusted with this task are complaining about this additional duty. Hence, Dean SA encourages the pass system and mentions the possibility of decreasing monthly pass amount to Rs 50 in the near future.

Updates on Lan Ban

In response to the recently conducted 'Lan Ban Feedback' (http://10.5.11.3/), 900 responses have been collected which have voted for the removal of the evening ban followed by the weekend ban and decreasing midnight ban by an hour respectively as top choices. The LAN ban committee is discussing the possibility of procuring programmable switches to make these possible. The student representatives and MLC will present the case to the committee for revoking some of the stringent measures as the authorities have not provided extra computers in the hostels as promised. Prof Anurag

Mehra, Head CC has clearly said that CC will not provide additional computers in comp rooms unless these rooms are made completely dust free.
The representatives have also strengthened their case by collecting data from hostel general secretaries and sports coordinators to argue that the evening ban is not having the desired effect on students.

Wi-fi in IIT Bombay

We asked Prof. Mehra, Head CC about the possibility of making the IITB campus wi-fi enabled. Personally of the opinion that there is currently no pressing need to implement wi-fi on campus, Prof. Mehra responded as follows:

1) Some departments like KReSIT and SOM have implemented *ad hoc* networks for themselves. Other departments may follow suit if they wish to and may approach the CC for technical assistance. However, Prof. Mehra warns that such networks, being unsecured may pose bombardment threats. He said that CC will try to keep a check on these problems but is many-a-time limited by a small workforce.

2) In special cases, CC has provided wireless networks at specific locations on campus. These include the guest house and the Main Building area which are closely monitored

Message from Placement Team

The Placement team would like to encourage all final year students, who have registered for placements this academic year, to spend time and effort in preparation. According to the feedback collected last year, many companies are of the opinion that students from IITB are less prepared as compared to other IITs.
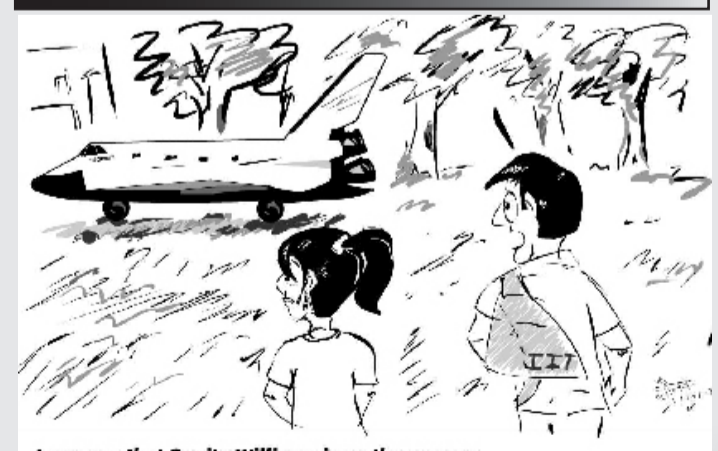
For this purpose, "Be Prepared", an NGO and the placement team together present www.beprepared.in. "*'Be Prepared' is a collection of interviews and job experiences which provide key insight into the recruitment procedure and also the experiences of employees in these firms, thus helping students make a good career choice.*"

Please contact your department placement coordinator for further information and previous years' material.

The Insti-gator — by Shaunak

I can see that Sunita Williams is on the campus.

Institute

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TECHFEST 1998: A RETROSPECTIVE

Team Member, Techfest '98, S.P. Arun narrates the making of the first chapter

"I would not sit waiting for some vague tomorrow, nor for something to happen. One could wait a lifetime, and find nothing at the end of the waiting. I would begin here, I would make something happen."

- (Louis L'Amour; signature theme for Techfest 1998)

The Genesis:

Techfest began as an idea in the minds of Vivek Singhal and Mayank Goel (EE batch of 1999), when they attended IIT Kanpur's technology festival in 1997. At the time, the only festival of note on campus was Mood Indigo, and a festival celebrating technology was glaringly missing.

Vivek and Mayank inspired others to join and we all deliberated on the details. Finally, we submitted the proposal for *Techfest* consisting of a lecture series, workshops, competitions and an industrial exhibition to the Dean. The institute liked it and gave us seed money, but they were understandably skeptical. But we were also encouraged by professors such as Dr. A.N. Chandorkar and Dr. D.B. Phatak. The real turning point was when AMD (Advanced Micro Devices) gave $20,000 to become our chief sponsor. After that, support kept pouring in - and we kept working harder and harder.

Thinking Big:

We had always been dreaming big. We wanted to get the best people for our lectures. No one had attempted a videoconference before (BSNL would setup a broadband line exclusively for that day). We invited many colleges but we had no idea how many people would participate, or how many we could accommodate. We had no idea how it would all come together. Perhaps the hardest and most exciting part was the lack of any precedent.

By the evening of the 23rd (TF98 was 24-25 January), most of us were living near the Lecture theater, with one exception: the Assistance team lived at Dadar, bringing participants to campus! We had walkie-talkies among us, and we had the omnipresent Raju to answer every time someone said *"kaun hai?"*. Most of the events went as planned. The Sam Pitroda videoconference in a packed LT was a truly memorable ending. The post-TF euphoria of bumps, parties and nostalgia was tempered when we realized we had been lazy in tying up loose ends. Stuff like this went forward as lessons for the next Techfest team.

Miles to go:

Before long, it was time to think about the future of Techfest. Should we have a constitution? How should the next year's OC and managers be chosen? We were clear that only the current organizing team should decide. We wanted no place for the dirty insti politics we saw outside TF. To paraphrase Thoreau, we were only here for one thing: **to build castles in the air - and then put foundations under them.**

(S.P. Arun can be contacted at sparun@gmail.com)

REMINISCES FROM MOOD INDIGO '73, '75, '76, '77

Harshvardhan Gupta, batch of 1976, recounts the beginning of the cultural festival that is today.

"Memories, memories, wilt thou be mine? I am nowadays getting much too much forgetful only no?"

"What did the cow say when she drank ink? She *Mood Indigo*!" That was Atul Kanagat, the perpetual prankster among us in 1973. According to him, read in a mirror, it was *Ogidni Doom*, and read upside down, it was *Odipui Poow*!

The Genesis:

The idea of a cultural festival was germinated among others by V. V. Ramesh and Colin Gonsalves – the then GS and now a Supreme Court lawyer! I think Ramesh Advani named it *Mood Indigo*. I was the Fine-Arts secretary then.

The '73 affair was rather tame and small, as we were still finding our feet. In '74, we gave it a go-by and revived the then defunct students' magazine *Pragati*. In '75, Harsh Koppula, the General Secretary got it going again, and MI '75 was a huge affair. Jairam *'Jerry'* Ramesh handled debate. The '76 and '77 chapters followed the same pattern. I think Nandan Nilekani was the General Secretary in '76 or '77. Other stars were Kirat Patel, Pradeep Anand (author of *'An Indian in Cowboy Country'*), Utsav *'Utsie'* Kapadia, Madhav *'Patsie'* Patwardhan (both males) etc.

A Remembrance:

The festivals took place not during the vacations, but in January after the institute opened for the second semester. The focus in those days was entirely on participation, interaction and competitions, with a few professional programs thrown in for the evenings. We didn't even think of how MI would look on our résumés. Though we went around and sold ads in a nice peppy souvenir, the concept of sponsorship was not even invented then. Money came from the ads and from Institute's Gymkhana Funds. The notables who performed live for us were Zakir Hussain, Shiv Kumar Sharma, Hemant Kumar, Talat Mehmood, Mukesh, Usha Uthup, Remo Fernandes and Vijay Raghav Rao. In addition, the great photographer Suresh Sheth showed us India's first automated slide show about India with three slide projectors and got a standing ovation, and an encore – the very first demand for an encore in IIT Bombay's history (fact), and again got a standing ovation! There were no PCs then, remember?

Many love affairs budded among well-behaved (female) participants from other colleges, and the uncouth and rough IITians. Compared to you people, we were absolute barbarians in those days, and any decent guy among us was ragged endlessly until he lost all his decency! A 'punter' taking a bath before meeting a female was envied and respectably called an *"Eeman-daar aadmi"*! Ah, to be young again, you only have to repeat your follies!

(Harshwardhan Gupta can be contacted at harsh@neubauplan.com)

Editorial Column

While interviewing a professor recently, one topic lead to another and I realised that it was time I started answering some questions that I have been evading for long. It is high time we all did the same.

As a student:
1. Why do we, as a community, lack integrity? Why do we copy assignments or allow others to copy from ours?
2. Why is an attendance sheet the only reason most of us go to lectures?
3. Why are finance and consulting the top choices for jobs in a technical institute?
4. How many of us genuinely oppose the LAN ban for academic reasons? Among the ones who say yes, how many have requested the department to make more computers available?

As figures of authority:
1. What steps have been taken after the recent spate of suicides? And why are we so mum about it?
2. Why are bikes, ridden by students, still on campus despite the ban?
3. Do we acknowledge that some students (PG) are genuinely affected by the LAN ban? If so, when will we take steps to help them?

As either of the two:
Why, for every problem, do we instantaneously blame the other party?

Just decided to share some pangs of guilt with everyone.
Best,
Vivek.

(Faculty members and students, we urge you to use the Editorial Column as a medium to express your opinion. Mail us at insight@iitb.ac.in.)

Hostel 13 begins Inter wing Cultural GC

Gurveen Bedi takes a look at an innovative idea that deserves to be a lesson to every hostel eyeing the Cult GC.

The events in the Cultural GC are no doubt held in high importance across hostels. But similar events at the hostel level never receive much enthusiasm. Now, for the first time ever, an inter-wing cultural GC is being held in Hostel 13.

The idea:

Sports championships at the hostel level have always been held. In fact almost every hostel has a football or cricket league which are responded to with great enthusiasm. But such a thing has never been carried out in the cultural scene, probably because it is assumed that cultural events need more preparation time. So, events like impromptu, spoof making etc are being introduced in the GC, which do not need much prior preparation.

"The intelligence of the idea is in capitalizing on the strong wing honor feeling. The incentive has risen from small treats to bringing home a trophy."

The method:

The points system has been structured very well. Every event has been allotted a different number of points with more importance given to group events as compared to solo events. For example, the solo impromptu carried 50 points while the spoof making was worth 100. The winning

"This is greatly benefiting the hostel as it is providing a bank of people to chose from for any inter hostel event."

wing gets 100% points, the first runners up get 75% and the second runners up get 50% of the points. There are participation points as well for non winning entries. In case the entry consists of people from different wings, the points are allotted according to the percentage of people from every wing.

The real masterstroke of this GC has been allotment of 15% bonus points for senior participation from the wing (third, fourth or fifth year students). This has increased senior participation and facilitated interaction across batches.

Eventually, the winning wing will be awarded a trophy or a shield which will be passed on from one wing to another over the years. The intelligence of the idea is in capitalizing on the strong wing honor feeling. The incentive has risen from small treats to bringing home a trophy.

The response:

The events that have been held till now are solo dance impromptu, spoof making and potpourri. All of them have received great response from the residents.

As Kiran Rathore, Cultural Councilor of Hostel 13 says, *"We are working a lot on increasing participation. For example we conducted a dance workshop just before a solo dance impromptu competition. This helped people lose their inhibitions just before the competition and ensured more entries"*. This is greatly benefiting the hostel as apart from giving it a bank of people to chose from for any inter hostel event, it is encouraging people who may otherwise be dormant to come forward and participate.

Hats off to a great idea being implemented well! Hope the idea permeates into other hostels as well.

(Gurveen Bedi is a third year student of the Civil Engineering Department.)

It was both the best of times and the worst of times. During the 70s and 80s, although research and development - the vision with which IIT was started - became frustratingly slow, the students of this period were the harbingers of the IIT brand name.

Leaving the early years behind, we move over to the seventies and eighties – the 'happening' times for the IITians. As we searched through more dusty books and old memories, pictures of those times emerged steadily. Tremendous things were happening in the world outside as India was still discovering the joys of independence. A new generation which knew nothing about living under a foreign yoke was emerging.

> *"IIT Bombay at that time was not at all known as a research institute; it was primarily a teaching institute."*
>
> *- Prof. Dipan Ghosh, former Deputy Director.*

Crests and Troughs

The Indian Institute of Technology Bombay was intended to provide technologists of the highest calibre who would engage in research and development to help build the

50 years of IIT Bombay

Nithya, Aishwarya and Tarun give you a second glimpse of the memory lane as IIT Bombay gears itself up for its 50th anniversary.

extremely detrimental to IIT's own R&D work, but it is a trend that is hardly likely to stop anytime soon.

Restless energy

In an age when there was no LAN, HN or a revised curriculum giving them ample free time, the then IITians found plenty to keep themselves occupied. The origins of our now burgeoning club culture can be found in this period. The Film club was never more active and hundreds of students would flock to the LT on a Friday evening to watch famous Hungarian and Italian films of the time. An abortive Radio broadcasting station was also set up at the height of Indo-Pak tensions and promptly nipped in the bud by suspicious local police.

Rock and roll music had found its way into hostel radio sets and Elvis ruled. Amitabh Bachchan's questionable fashion choices passed on unquestioned on the streets of IIT Bombay. Bell bottoms and sideburns were almost a student uniform for quite a while.

A new boat jetty was completed in '82 and three sail boats were to be purchased. Inter-hostel boating competitions were held. A hang gliding club was also proposed in 1981, but the reasons for it not becoming a reality are lost in the mists of time. The 19th Inter IIT, held in '82 boasted proudly of a floodlit basky court.

> *"Some (of the students) must have studied for the sake of studying but I think, quite a few must have studied just to kill the boredom. There was no other entertainment available. I don't think it was a very good idea, but that's what we ended up doing."*
>
> *- Prof. U.N.Gaitonde*

Technofair, the precursor to Techfest was held in '85-'86. The student magazine *Technik* prospered, dutifully reporting campus happenings and voicing student opinions.

Initiatives of UTSAV for the Golden Jubilee Year of IITB

Apart from the academic, cultural and technological initiatives, an effort is being made by UTSAV to unite all the residents of IIT Bombay in a noble endeavor to create a "zero waste campus" within a year. Some steps planned to achieve this are:-

- Segregation of garbage into dry and wet waste by providing separate dustbins all over the institute.

Culture

5

nation towards self-reliance. In the 1970s and 80s however, the Institute found that reality was always a few steps behind its vision.

Former Director, Prof. Sukhatme comments, "*In 1965, the teaching programs at IIT Bombay were already probably the best in India. The course-work and course content were fairly up to date but research wise, IIT Bombay was nowhere.*" Neatly side-stepping all existing norms of technical education, a holistic curriculum was designed to produce engineers with enduring skills. A shortage of R&D funds put in to the institute resulted in limited research output. This prompted the professors to concentrate on their courses; and hence IIT Bombay's reputation as a teaching institute grew. Alumni confess to have studied to kill boredom, solving books like Kreyszig and Resnick from cover to cover!

Prof Rohit Manchanda, who is writing a book on the history of IITB, observes that for a 'higher technical institute', it is the research that generally earns the reputation. The alumni benefit from the existing reputation. Interestingly, it was only after its alumni became famous that the world came to recognize the IITs as potential store-houses of unmatched human resource and sound research.

As early as 1965, Director Bose remarked, "*A tendency has been noticed in the students to go abroad for master's degree courses, particularly to the USA in preference to the two-year program at this institute.*" This phenomenon, better known to us as 'brain drain' extended to jobs abroad as well, nearing the late 80s. This craze to go abroad has certainly been

> ### FOLKLORE
>
> - Nearly bored to death from studying, one IITian's idea of a break couldn't have been more imaginative. He 'roped' in an enterprising and possibly equally bored bull into the lawns of Hostel 5 and staged a conventional matador fight, complete with a cheering crowd and a red towel. Predictably enough, this high-adrenaline Spanish siesta substitute was a recreational interlude between the endsems.
>
> - The famous Academy Award streaking incident of 1974 had its own share of publicity on campus. IITians, as usual, realized that actual practice is better than theory and imagination. The institute witnessed three streakers running all the way from Hostel 8 to Main Building and back. Quite understandably, people were in shock.
>
> - A considerable number of foreign students thronged the campus since their admission was extremely relaxed. They had difficulties in a majority of their courses and had a CPI of less than 4. These students were asked to leave, reportedly on short notice. Some of them were extremely influential and popular. In solidarity against this injustice students formed flash mobs and circled the Director - '*gheraoing*' him - as the newspapers called it. Protests assumed gigantic proportions, and when they finally got out of hand, the Director shut the Institute down indefinitely. All communication, inflow/outflow of people was banned. Although this melt-down lasted a week, the incident remained inscribed in the minds of alumni, as narrated by our own Professor Sharat Chandran.
>
> - The 'preparatory year' concept for reserved candidates was initiated immediately after the aforementioned incident.

The eighties were the end of an era in IITB's history. By the start of the nineties, the institute was poised on the edge of a tremendous transformation. In our third and final part of this series we'll explore this most recent history of IITB, and all the fascinating things that happened, that no one now remembers.

We would especially like to thank Prof. Rohit Manchanda of the School of Biosciences for his invaluable help. He is writing the book on the History

- Recycling, reuse and recovery of garbage. Example: Processing of wet waste by revival of the Bio Gas plant behind Staff Canteen and the Compost Plant behind H4

- Development of a bird information park, based in the new boat club area.

of IIT Bombay, which is to be released as part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations.

(Nithya and Tarun are third year students of the Engineering Physics and the Mechanical Engineering Departments and Aishwarya is a second year student of the MEMS Department)

MD 101 : MAD-e-MAD-ics

CELEBRITY CAUSES OF DEATH

Mood Indigo OC Trampled in stampede that ensues after the LiveWire main act starts covering Himesh Reshamiya

InsIghT Editor Old age, waiting for articles to come in

Student Mentor Programme Head Shot by indignant freshies who claim that they "don't need no thought control"

Ex-Insight Editor + SMP Head He hath attained immortality

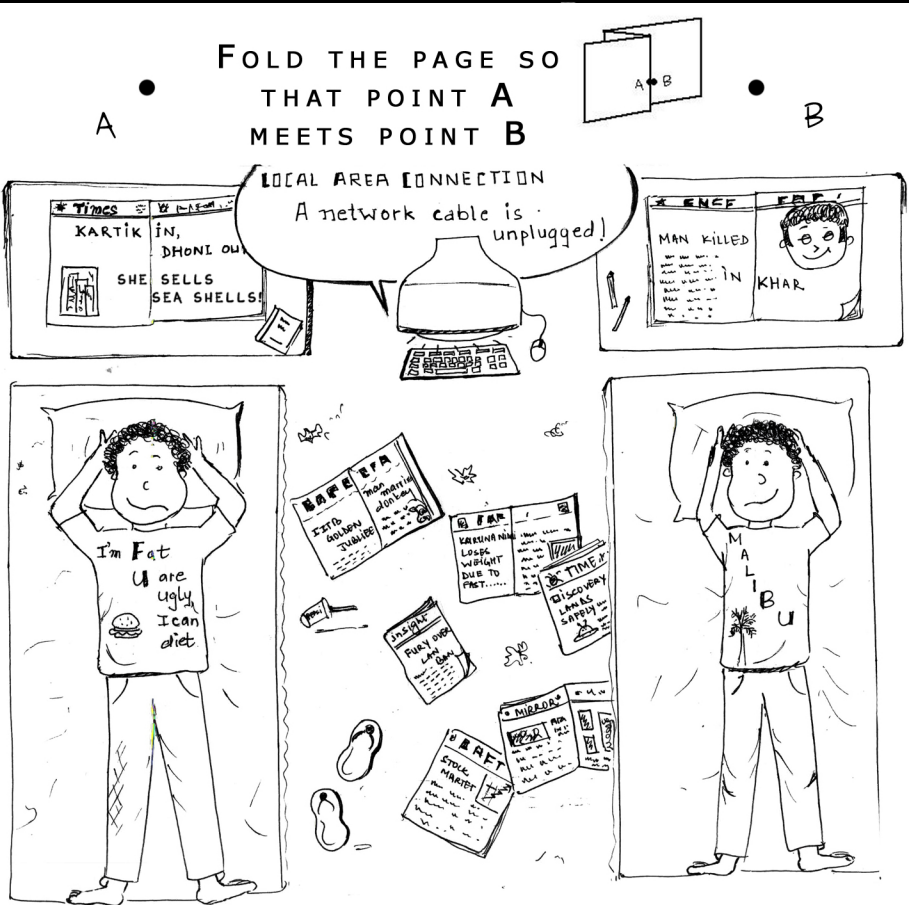## NOT-YET-CELEBRITY CAUSES OF DEATH

Random Freshie Lays down life for the country as part of the weekly NCC parade

Random Sophie Heart Failure after discovering that his roommate and he have the same girlfriend

Random Thirdie Heart Failure after discovering that his neighbour and he have the same boyfriend

Random Fourthie Heart Failure after discovering that

Random Fifthie Heart Failure after discovering that his chat boy/girlfriend (hotpink_lovr2007 or coolhunk_brainz18)

his neighbour IS his boyfriend

Random M.Tech Student Utter disgust at the levels to which InsIghT writers must stoop to fill up a weenie bit of newspaper space

FOLD THE PAGE SO THAT POINT A MEETS POINT B

A

B

A ● B

LOCAL AREA CONNECTION
A network cable is unplugged!

* Times * ☐ ☐ +
KARTIK IN,
DHONI OUT
SHE SELLS
SEA SHELLS!

* ENCF * FBF !
MAN KILLED
IN KHAR

I'm Fat
U are
ugly
I can
diet

MALIBU

Insomnia in the middle of the night has generally caused us to wish for one more stupid newspaper to read

✂ cut along this line

Gift a subscription

Insight announces a never-before offer: gift a subscription²⁺ to a f(r)iend or foe outside the IIT campus

Complementary Gift Options (✓ one)
☐ Red rose with 13 thorns
☐ Pastries hollow on the inside
☐ Country liqueur chocolates
☐ Parker pen with disappearing ink
☐ One-way ticket to Timbuktu
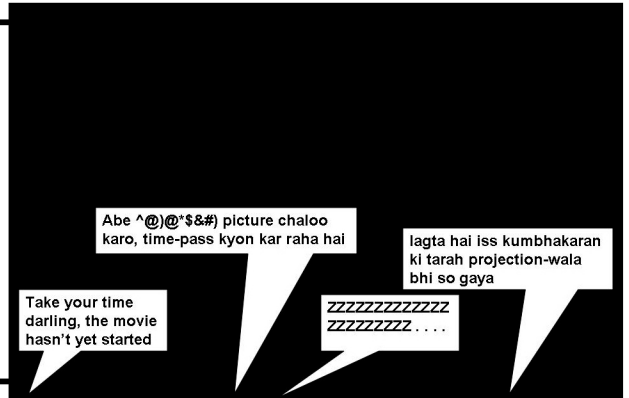** Additional kisses/bumps can also be sent

Special Discount for a Special Person
➤ College girl who wears jeans & t-shirt . . . . 50% off
➤ College girl who wears salwar kameez . . . . -25% off
➤ College girl who wears spaghetti tops and mini skirts . . 97% off
➤ College guy who wears spaghetti tops and mini skirts . 99.9% off

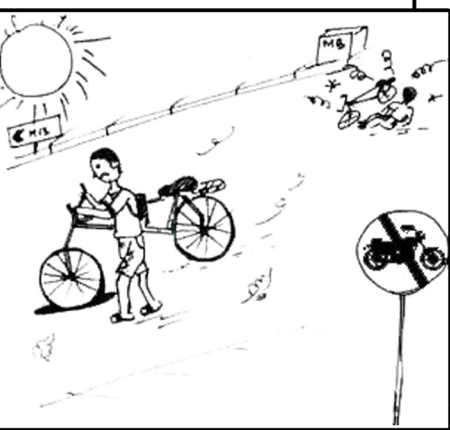Send a wacky message along with the subscription: _____

Details of fiend/foe:
Name: _____
Address: _____
E-mail: _____
Passwd: _____

All you have to do is fill this form in any personal red/yellow pigment and drop it into any of the green drop boxes on the campus roads. *Hurry, unlimited offers available!!!*

Mad About Movies

NOW SHOWING
on
gymkhana.iitb.ac.in/~insight

Sneak Preview >

Abe ^@)@*$&#) picture chaloo karo, time-pass kyon kar raha hai

lagta hai iss kumbhakaran ki tarah projection-wala bhi so gaya

Take your time darling, the movie hasn't yet started

ZZZZZZZZZZZZZ
ZZZZZZZZZZ....

Zippy Hippy's

SHOW-LATE

Wheeeeeee!

Seeeee-teeeeee!

Yooooo! Hoooo!

Triling-triing!

Abe, mobile band kar!

The Lighter Side of BUFFALOES

no coupon
no entry !!

No coupons.
No punctures.
Completely stress-free. Eco-friendly

Now he even complains to police when senior asks him to bring bottle of water from mess. We trained him to bring, not just bottle, but two whole buckets of water for the village cricket team (because he was not fit for batting, bowling, fielding, umpiring or also scoring).
What is this all happening in your good institution? We sent him to be an engineer and you have made him fit not even to be a employed in call centre! You better pull up your socks and start to teaching our boys how to be brave like Bhagat Singh and daring like Jhansi ki Rani.
Myself, Ghanshyamdas Kanhaiyalal (Father)

Dear Sir,
My son, Radheshyam Kanhaiyalal, is student of your institution. For 17 long years to become, I have raised him to become. All the village gundas even those thrice his size are afraid of his daily kicks and bites and scratches.
Now you have taught him to give important works to other people. Like he makes a machine to wash his clothes. He reports to you whenever a senior asks him name, instead of fighting back. He complains to mentor whenever his room-mate refuses to let him play bhajans at 4 in the morning.

110001

Ghaza, Eeshan Malhotra, Vaibhav Devanathan, Radhika Gupta, Tanny, Jose

Dear Sir,

6th June 2006

I write this letter in appreciation and gratitude for the great service you and your fellow students in IITB are doing me. My impeccable sources of information (in my movies, I frequently know what the villain is doing before he himself does) tell me that, every year, a new batch of freshmen is introduced to the masterpiece that is Gunda.

Since the viewership of most of my 1990s movies is rather limited (outside IITB only talking monkeys – a rather rare breed – and coolies still watch them), you are ensuring that the torch is passed on to the next generation, that the Indians of tomorrow will still dream of triumphing in a fight with a hundred rickshaws thundering towards them.

Words fail me.

Thanking you,

Mera naam hai Mithunda.
Dekhte rahiye apun ka Gunda

PS I have many other excellent movies like Loha, Military Raaj, Diya aur Toofan and Bhrashtachaar. If you could popularize these as well...
PS2 Gunda is at 96 on the IMDB charts but, strangely, some movie called 'The Godfather' (a paltry 91) is on top of the rankings. Please lobby for the greatest movie of all time to be recognized as such.

Barren Island Project

Who: Professor D.Chandrasekharam, Department of Earth Sciences.

What: Prof. Chandrasekharam is heading the National Integrated Project under the auspices of the Department of Science and Technology on Barren Island, the only active volcano in the Indian Subcontinent. The institutes involved in this project are: IIT Bombay, Physical Research Laboratory (Ahmedabad), Indian Institute of Geomagnetism and the National Geophysical Research Institute.

He led the very first international scientific expedition in the world to camp on the island in February 2003. Barren Island is part of the Andaman Nicobar Islands and the northern-most of the chain of Indonesian volcanoes. The last major volcanic activity occurred in 1994-95. Renewed activity was reported in January 2000. The activity resumed in 2005, immediately after the 2004 Sumatra earthquake and tsunami, and the volcano is still fuming.

Technically speaking: As one tectonic plate moves over another, the rocks along the contact zone melt due to friction. As the melt builds up, it makes its way through the solid crust and onto the surface as lava along with noxious gases. Broadly speaking, this is how Barren and its fellow beasts operate.

In 2008, the National Integrated Project team will repeat Prof.Chandrasekharam's historical landing there, with only a rubber boat separating them from the over 2000 metres deep ocean. Among the many studies that will be undertaken, here's a glimpse of a few -
1) Using electromagnetic waves, the size and depth of the magma chambers that feed the volcano will be determined.
2) Rocks will be examined for melt inclusions because they will provide insight into the original composition of the materials that have come out of the Earth.
3) The mechanism of subduction (or plate movement) and the presently dormant Norcondum volcano further , of the island, are also objects of study.

Fast forward: This project hopes to eventually establish a permanent station at Barren Island to constantly monitor its activities. Being located on the same fault line as that of Sumatra, it will have enormous implications for India, especially the tsunami scarred eastern coast.

Research@IITB: Alive & Kicking

Archana Raja and Miheer Desai present a glimpse of some exciting research being carried out in the institute.

Leadership and Groups

Who: Led by Prof. Pooja Purang of the HSS dept.

> "Healthy rapport between a leader and the entire team, with the leader playing the role of an impartial motivator is a must."

What: Industrial/Organizational psychology is a nascent branch of psychology dealing with workplace dynamics. Prof. Purang and her team are studying the nature of the professional relationship of a leader with his team members and its consequences on the company's performance.

Technically speaking: It is observed that in any given team, the leader forms a closer association with a few of his subordinates, called the 'ingroup' (mostly by virtue of sharing similar interests) than with others, called the 'outgroup'. This entails more interaction with some members than with others. The problem arises when this leads to biases in the leader or in the subordinates. Those in the 'outgroup' may feel inferior or left out from the scheme of things. The leader on his part may be relatively less transparent, trusting and cordial with them even if they are professionally as or more competent than the 'ingroup'. This naturally creates resentment and factionalism among the workforce. 'Distributive justice' that is evident in salary, bonus, rewards and appreciation can be facilitated only by 'Procedural justice' which tells whether the judgment criteria were fair.

Fast Forward : As seen with nations throughout history, groupism deeply affects functional efficiency in an organization. An equally pressing concern for companies is the high attrition rate (especially the software sector). Healthy rapport between a leader and the entire team, with the leader playing the role of an impartial motivator is a must. Prof. Purang's team endeavours to study, survey and find solutions.

(Archana Raja is a second year student of the Integradted 5 years M.Sc. Course and Miheer Desai is a second year student of the Mechanical Engineering Department)

07

To prepare you for the coming Inter IIT sports meet, we give you a low down on the who's who of the institute's sports scene.

Badminton
Pratik Mittal: Standing over 6', this future electrical engineer stands tall amongst sportsmen across all IITs and not just because of his height. Pratik won every match in Inter-IIT Guwahati convincingly, and made them seem rather one-sided. He can also play most shots with his wrong hand. At the junior level of the national circuit he had a national ranking of 6. He loves playing card games and going on treats. His team mates say that he's forever ready to go on treats even if he has to pay for them.
Claim to fame: Pratik has a 100% record at Inter IIT and was part of the gold winning badminton team last year. He was awarded the institute's highest honour for sports, the "Best Sportsperson of the year" in his very first year.

Basketball
Anchit Desai: This third year Elec Engg *ghati* is by all accounts a reticent person. But you put a ball in his hands, and he becomes a monster; and an artist. When in full flow, the ball is a toy and he can do just about anything he wants with it. He can shoot lay-ups with his left hand, right hand, reverse left, reverse right - you get the picture. He makes a mockery of defenders by often changing his shot midway. And when he is really in the mood, he just pulls up half-court and shoots it. For all his

Know your sportsmen - Part I

Siddhartha Das and Krishna Ramkumar showcase a few sportsmen to look out for during Inter IIT this year.

scoring abilities, he is also an ace passer and that's what makes him truly special.
Claim to fame: Anchit led the team to Gold in his first year and won the institute's 'Best Sportsperson' award for it. In the semi-final match against Kanpur, he scored in excess of 30 points. In the third quarter, he ignored the coach's repeated cries to pass the ball and drained 3 after 3 after 3.

Farooq Adam: The longest standing member of the team, Captain Adam is one pocket-sized dynamo. He can blitz his way past any defense, and specializes in the good ol' fast break. He has a wonderful gift of finishing around the basket, and his stylish left-handed dribble adds a little spice to his play. Known for his tendency to fight fire with fire, his energy levels on court ensure that the team wards off complacency no matter what the match situation is.
Claim to fame: In the Inter IIT 05 finals, Farooq scored 23 points against Kharagpur. On a lighter note, one of the funniest sights witnessed on a basketball match was in Roorkee, when little Farooq partnered the team's four 6+ footers in the third quarter against Guwahati.

Cricket
Rajesh Behara: Captain Behara is said to be the all-rounder of the team. His passion for cricket is unmatched and he has been playing for IITB for the past 5 years. On becoming the captain, he has ensured a lot of focus on discipline. This senior player still gives his complete effort and also makes sure that every other player puts in at least as much effort if not more.
Claim to fame: Behara was selected for the India under-15 camp.

Kartik Dalal: Currently in his second year, Kartik Dalal is the vice-captain of the cricket team. Adept at both batting and bowling, he is an indispensible all rounder. His batting can best be described as elegant. He comes in at one down and can be trusted to stay at the crease. His reliability with the bat has earned him the nick name 'the Dravid of IITB'.
Claim to fame: Kartik was IITB's highest run scorer in last year's Inter-IIT. Among many invaluable performances, he scored a crucial 42 against Kharagpur.

Football
Sumeet Malik: The captain of the football team. Off the field, he is known for his generous treats at Natural's ice cream and for his stand-up comedy acts whose punch lines he delivers with an expressionless straight face. On the field, his pin point passes can wreak havoc to any defense line.
Claim to fame: Besides being the captain, Malik is also GS Sports. A major force in the midfield, he is known for his long range shots and his ability to steal the ball from his opponents. He can be seen encouraging and motivating his team mates from the first minute of the game to the full time whistle.

Siddhartha Ghosh: The vice-captain is known to be an extremely silent person at the dinner table can be seen enjoying his meal be it in the mess or in a five star restaurant. Ghosh plays central defense and is known for his high clearance of the ball. In fact, these very clearances are the prime reason his studs never last for more than a month.
Claim to fame: Ghosh can be seen in nearly every match clearing the ball from his penalty area to that of the opponent. He is often the last man between the goal keeper and the opponent striker.

(Siddhartha Das is a seoncd year student of Civil Engineering Department and a member of Inter IIT football team. Krishna Ramkumar is a fifth year student of the Integrated 5 years M.Sc. Course and also a member of the Inter IIT basketball team.)

Inter IIT Aquatics Meet

Men's Results (Swimming) - Overall Gold		
Event	**Medal**	**Person**
50m Freestyle	Gold	Sarwesh Paradkar
50m Butterfly	Gold	Sarwesh Paradkar
100m Butterfly	Gold	Sarwesh Paradkar
100m Freestyle	Gold	Sarwesh Paradkar
100m Breaststroke	Gold	Sarwesh Paradkar
100m Backstroke	Gold	Sarwesh Paradkar
200m Backstroke	Gold	Sarwesh Paradkar
200m Freestyle	Silver	Sarwesh Paradkar
200m Individual Medley	Gold	Sarwesh Paradkar

Event	Medal	Person
200m Breaststroke	Gold	Sarwesh Paradkar
400m Freestyle	Silver	Sarwesh Paradkar
1500m Freestyle	Silver	Vivardhan Kanoria
4x100m Freestyle	Bronze	
4x100m Medley Rally	Gold	
Women's Results (Swimming) - Overall Bronze		
50m Backstroke	Silver	Hutokshi Sethna
50m Freestyle	Silver	Hutokshi Sethna
50m Butterfly	Silver	Hutokshi Sethna
100m Freestyle	Silver	Hutokshi Sethna
4x50m Freestyle Relay	Silver	

Source: http://gymkhana.iitb.ac.in/~sports

Engineering and art - To a layman, these may seem two ends of a rope, completely unrelated. But that is not so. In the words of Steve Wozniak (co-founder of APPLE) in his autobiography iWoz:

"We build upon and build upon and build upon, just like a painter would with colors on a paintbrush, or a composer would with musical notes. And it's this reach for perfection — this striving to put everything together so perfectly in a way no one has done before, that makes an engineer or anyone else a true artist."

> *"Art without engineering is dreaming; engineering without art is calculating."*
>
> **- Anonymous**

Indeed, engineering is an art, and every engineer, an artist. In fact, great engineering occurs when these two seemingly very different fields collaborate together and lead to stunning creations. An example of a genius who does this is Theo Jansen. Theo Jansen is an artist and kinetic sculptor (A kinetic sculpture is a human-powered machine engineered to cover long distances, ford rivers and cross sandy beaches) living and working in Holland. He has studied physics at the University of Delft, Holland. He builds large works which resemble skeletons of animals that are able to walk using the wind on the beaches of the Netherlands. For the past fifteen years, he has been creating (or rather growing) these "beach animals" from commonly available tools like plastic tubing, cardboard boxes, plastic bottles, hose, tape, and all sorts of other stuff.
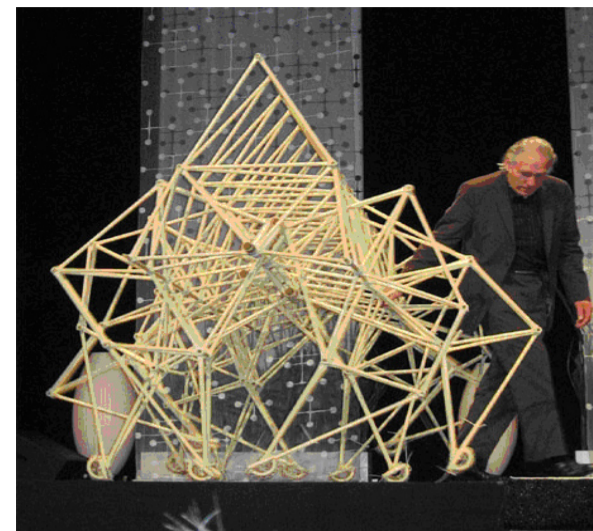
You may think that it is similar to robots, but here the animals work on no external force apart from wind. An amazing energy saving alternative for windy areas for transport! In fact Jansen has also built a gigantic sculpture called *Animaris Rhinoceros Transport*. It is a type of beach animal with a steel skeleton and a polyester skin. It weighs 2 tons and stands 4.70 meters, but can be set into motion

8

Engineering - An art

Gurveen Bedi writes about Theo Jansen, the artist and his remarkable works of art.

by one person. Because of its height it catches enough wind to start moving. It is equipped with passenger seating and can be used for transport. It is meant for crossing the tundra, but due to the fact that one must wait until strong

> *"It's pretty rare to make your engineering an art, but that's how it should be done."*
>
> **– Steve Wozniak**

wind comes from the right direction, living quarters must be made in the animal to make travel agreeable.

Jansen worked out the initial designs using evolutionary genetic algorithms on a computer but now prefers to race his animals on the beach and "breed" the most successful ones together, taking the best bits from each to make their offspring better. Survival of the fittest indeed! His animals have legs, muscles (pneumatic pistons within the plastic tubing), stomachs (plastic bottles for storing air), and nerves (collections of on/off valves that work pretty much

like logic gates). Eventually, he wants to provide his beasts with nerves, muscles, advanced sensing capabilities and even rudimentary decision makers that mimic the

function of the brain. Ultimately, he envisions his animals possessing "life" in a sense, evolving on their own without his intervention.

In the words of this genius himself: "*A part of me is an engineer who wants to map the progress of mobility; another part is an artist who wants to sculpt the earth that surrounds us and give it shape. The walls between art and engineering exist only in our minds.*"
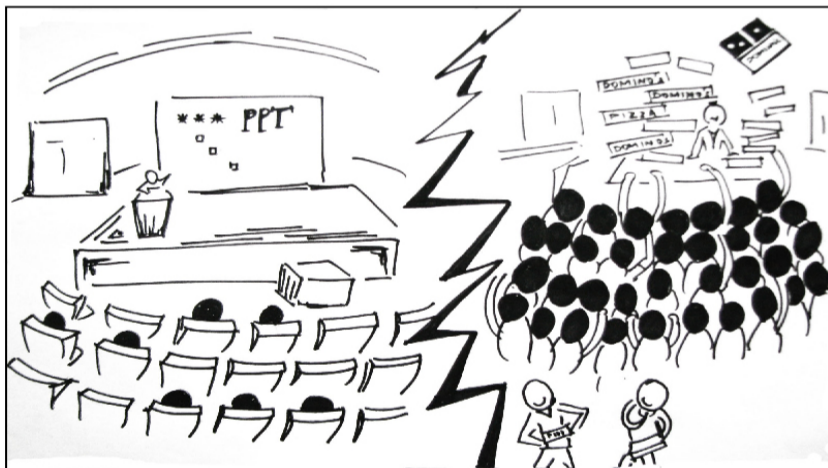And indeed, he has done all he could have to break these walls.

(Gurveen Bedi is a third year student of the Civil Engineering Department.)

Contests and Results

1) Caption Writing Contest - Suggest a caption for the cartoon on the left and mail it to insight@iitb.ac.in with "Caption" as the subject. All final year students must be just too familiar with the situation.

2) Logo Design Contest - All photoshop dabblers and experts, design a new logo for InsIghT and mail it to us at insight@iitb.ac.in. Crossword gift vouchers to be won.

3) Find a Typo Contest - Mail us at insight@iitb.ac.in with the typographical errors that you find in this edition. More the errors you find, greater the cash prize you earn.

Winner of both Questech and Word Games in last edition - Swapnil Sachdev, H13. Congratulations!

Full details of the prizes will be up on website soon. Coming up next: Blog Writing Contest.

InsIghT team

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If you would like to join the InsIghT team and/or give feedback, feel free to mail us at insight@iitb.ac.in or visit our website http://gymkhana.iitb.ac.in/~insight.

Questech

In the age of no computers

Long time ago when there were no computers, some lukkha but intelligent IITian actually calculated 37!. However, certain digits were lost. All we need to find out are the digits a, b, c, d, e, f, g, and h in 13763753091226345046315979581abcdefgh0000000. And of course, no calculators or computers allowed! Provide explanation.

Some sums
$$3826 + 2768 = 6594$$

In the sum shown above (3826 + 2768 = 6594), the top row added to the middle row gives the bottom one. Working from top to bottom, remove one digit from each row, from any columns (closing the gaps as you proceed) to leave three columns of digits, then a second digit from each row to leave two columns, and finally a third to leave one column so that a valid sum remains each time. What are the three sets of digits removed?

(Mail the answers to onkardalal@iitb.ac.in or dale86@gmail.com with "Questech" as the subject. The early bird gets its worms at coffee shack.)

Word Games

Hidden words with a twist

Words can be hidden forwards as well as backwards. An example:
The sentence: "Hal**f or d**ouble? Something should be done to **aid ni**ght revellers in their bets at the casino" contains the name of a car company (Ford) reading forwards. It contains a country (India) when read backwards.

In the following passage, you can find the hidden names of eight animals reading forwards, and of eight countries reading backwards:-

Triumphant, I read an actor's name on the visiting card. He came lazily in. A minor attempt on my part to mention that I had seen four episodes of his latest TV series was sidelined. 'Hail, O gnome!' he thundered. On key, I stood up. 'No need to be so altitude specific, Attila', I sniffed.
He sat on a sofa. "I, Reginald Dwight, master of the TV tube, aver that your sofa is surely third hand. My Latin is not good, so the quote above your desk makes no sense to me - no scholar."
"Hi, Nora!" he said, as my secretary walked in. As I grappled with this strange intimacy, I felt that I needed a nap. "A jiffy", I announced as I left.

(Mail the answers to vaibhavdevanathan@iitb.ac.in with "Word Games" as the subject. Likewise.)