

Insight wishes all its readers a very **Happy New Year!**

\*Volume V Issue IV

Students' Gymkhana

IIT Bombay

A lot of construction activity has been going on in IIT since the last couple of years. The projects that have been completed in the recent past include Ramesh Wadhvani and L R Gadre Wireless Lab (Elec. Dept.) and Hostel Renovation Phase I (H4, H7, H10). The ongoing projects include H12, H13, and Lecture Theatre Complex beside Elec Dept. A faculty housing complex, Innovation Centre at the Civil Dept. annex and School of Bio-Technology are in the pipeline.

However, there has been unrest amongst the students, faculty as well as alumni with regards to the amount of funds spent and the quality entailed during this construction activity. Prof. Alok Goyal of Civil Engg. had certain very critical points to make regarding the construction that has been going on in IIT. For instance, the Institute Classrooms (IC1, IC2, IC3 and IC4) have been constructed with very little headroom for the back benches. The CSE dept building has cracks. The IRCC building leaks. The newly renovated messes of H7 and H10 leak. About 40 structural faults were identified in the upcoming Lecture Theatre Complex by students of Civil Engg. during their work visit!

### Hostels 12, 13

Hostel 12/13 has been a huge project with an estimated cost of a whopping Rs. 34 Crores! These hostels have been designed by architect Hafeez Contractor (of Hiranandani fame) and the contract for construction has been awarded to L&T. The hostels have 3 wings each that stand as tall as ground + 6 floors' and have

stair-cases supplemented with elevators. Amongst the other features are the single-room accommodation for 1064 students, a cafeteria, a

perception of the planning committee only. Apart from Internet connection, geysers, aqua-guards, the International Standards could include

not have been fancy. A place like IIT could have done without them". The major factor against provision of larger rooms seems the escalation of the project cost. However, to the authorities, the cost escalation due to the "very appealing" and "highly aesthetic" air-bridges doesn't seem to be a major concern.

The concrete beds and tables in the upcoming Hostels 12 and 13 have been a major put off. Most of the Professors Insight met during this issue said that concrete beds and tables might not be a great idea. Nevertheless, the planning committee, very indifferently, passed the decision to have fixed concrete beds. Prof. Prakash Gopalan said, "The criticism is not unjustified. Although a lot of back and forth took place during the meetings on this issue of concrete beds, it was ultimately decided to go ahead with them because of their low cost of maintenance". He also pointed out that a lot of hostel furniture gets broken during the PAFs and he receives as many as 30 requests for new beds each year from each hostel. But, is fixed concrete beds the solution to this problem? The new iron beds that are being presently provided in the existing hostels are so heavy that it is difficult to move them, leave alone break them! The planning committee could have come up with similar sturdier cots for H12 and H13. Moreover, from this year onwards, most of the infrastructure required for the PAFs will be provided by the institute. In such a case, are fixed concrete beds a worthwhile idea? A fixed bed, fixed table and fixed cupboard in a small 8'x10' room leaves you with extremely limited freedom of movement. If a hostel is being planned for, say, the next 80-100 years, don't we need to have better options?

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The present construction going on in the campus has left many disappointed. Some feel that the resources have been squandered and some that quality has been compromised with. Zishaan M Hayath, Saumya Gupta, Karthik Ramkumar and Ankur Gupta talk more about it.

central dining hall with a seating capacity to accommodate 1500 students at a single go, facilities that meet international standards, eye catching aesthetics and 2 sky-bridges! "They are different", says Prof P Banerji of Civil Engg. "The rate of construction has been phenomenal! The project entered its construction phase in early 2002 and will all be done by 31 March 2003".

Some additional features worth a mention are the concrete slabs that will take over the conventional wooden plank beds, and rooms on either side of the corridors. About Hostels 12 and 13, Prof. Goyal said that the so called "International Standards" of these hostels might

western style toilets, telephone connections, spacious and well furnished rooms, balconies and maybe television and refrigerator. These hostels hardly cater to these needs. The room size of 8' x 10', for example, is the bare minimum conforming to single-seaters! The emphasis is more on the outer looks of the hostel than on the feel-good quality from within. He said, "H12 and H13 look fancy but are not necessarily comfortable. The students should have been allowed to make a choice between a larger room of, say, 10' x 12' and other fanciful features like indoor basket-ball court and sky-bridges". Dean Planning, Prof. Tarun Kant also shares similar views. He said, "The designs should

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# Security Review!



Security system in IIT is of concern to everyone here. No wonder that some issue always crops up giving everyone (and us!) lots to debate about. Using the hackneyed phrase one can say "Like it or not, you definitely can't ignore it." There was this buzz about major revamping in the security system and in true journalistic fashion, we ran to cover what was up with the security scene.

It all began some five months back when a decision was made to hand over the security of all the hostels and a few other places to a private security concern, TRIG, on a 6 months trial basis (refer to article - "Men in Black", Insight, Volume 5, Issue 1). The initial response was good. These men were more efficient, physically competent, and most important of all, the pot-bellied man often caught napping was gone. But now, in what can be seen as a major step in this dynamic ongoing process, the authorities have decided to remove TRIG's services from the campus by the end of February. Some of the reasons cited follow.

According to Major Dhankar, head of security on campus, there have been instances where appropriate action was not taken against students involved with indiscipline in the hostels by these watchmen. More importantly, there has been no significant decline in the number of thefts in hostels. The theft rate has dropped by a mere 10% since TRIG has taken over the hostel security. Such facts clearly show their incompetence. The thought process involved in this decision though was gradual. Since their arrival on campus, the

A new private security agency, security cameras at entry points, another leopard caught - a lot is happening on the security front. Amrit Kallar and Anand Mathur provide an update.

security committee was engaged in a careful process of evaluating their work. "We monitored and evaluated their work quite extensively and came to the conclusion that they were not meeting the standards we expected them to meet" says Prof. G.K. Sharma, head of Security Advisory Committee. TRIG has been given a two month notice, after which a new security agency shall take its place to man the hostels.

The concept of private security for hostels originated when the benefits of employing one were weighed against that of having a permanent one. Engaging a private concern to man security posts ensures better performance and improved efficiency as compared to the negligent and careless attitude of the permanent staffers. Permanent staffers are state employees and

therefore have the concept of job security working in their favour which makes it almost impossible to make the system effective. Further, the arrangement (private security) comes with no added perks like housing and other benefits which the state employees are to be provided for.

### So, what went wrong in TRIG's case?

We spoke to the security nominee, Gaurav Khandelwal. He told us that although the TRIG security men have carried out their duties in a text book manner, they have failed to secure the hostel as a whole, which is a major lapse on their part. This can, however, also be attributed to the fact that they were not given clear cut instructions regarding their duties. To take care of that, IIT has brought out separate manuals for the guards which have step by step instruction of the lines of action. Similar manuals have also been provided to watchmen at different posts like the main gate, Y point, department buildings, etc.

In another development, the security office plans to put video cameras in the near future at vantage points in the campus. These cameras will be connected to the LAN and the information will be monitored at the different security posts. In the words of Prof. N K Khosla, Meta Dept., "The idea behind connecting cameras to the LAN is to provide a good means of monitoring the infrastructure at hand. The need is felt given that some entrances to the campus are guarded by only one security

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## Letter to the editor

### Is the cream getting thinner?

In the context of the article carried in the last issue of Insight - "Quality Check - Are We Creme Enough?", there are a few observations and comments that we would like to put forward. There has been tremendous apprehension and concern among the students regarding the campus placements status which has been affected by the continued slowdown. As the Student Placement Coordinators, we have had the opportunity to interact with recruiters from a variety of industries and have received feedback which we would like to put forth.

The feedback that we have received has, in numerous instances, indicated that there does seem to be a gap between the expectations of the companies and the actual calibre, skill and overall ability of an IITian. The concerns that have been expressed have been on a variety of fronts. Broadly speaking, these can be demarcated into two categories - (1) those which essentially stem from candidates being inadequately prepared to face interviews or the placement process; and (2) concerns which are centric to the basic skill-set and abilities that IITians are reputed for.

In a large number of cases, recruiters have stressed on skills and abilities that students have fallen short on - especially with regard to the ability of students to communicate effectively. In addition, articulation during an interview is of utmost importance, which is another dimension that can be improved upon.

There have been a number of cases wherein the company representatives were shocked by the performance of the students on the written tests. One executive, who has been on the recruiting team for IITs for a few years now, went to the

extent of saying - "Either people here are not taking placements seriously, or there is a serious problem with the JEE". A recruiter from one of the most reputed companies on campus, himself an alumnus of IIT Bombay, was disturbed by what he termed as "a reduction in the number of highly motivated, exceptional all-rounders", as compared to the time when he was here.

The most serious complaint of this nature came from the Associated Capsules Group. A senior executive (also an alumnus of IIT Bombay) was shocked by the utter inability of students to respond to simple questions based on the basics of their subject.

While it is easy to attribute these instances as too few in number to warrant worry, it is prudent to consider that a large number of job offers, across departments, are in areas which are not relevant to basic engineering. In our opinion, a serious thought should also be given to the possibility of reviewing academic programmes to educate students in engineering skills which are applicable to industry per se. Most departments do not provide this all-round exposure to students in aspects related to design, implementation and management as relevant to expertise in engineering.

Without doubt, these are serious issues which affect the perception and esteem that has been built over the years. A lot of thought and introspection is required from the student community as well as the authorities to identify and rectify problems and fault lines that may have crept in to ensure that the "cream of the country" tag is maintained and upheld ■

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(contd. from page 1. The Two Towers...)

On the issue of air-bridges, the authorities have a mixed opinion. Although the air-bridges might add to the appeal and the aesthetics of the building, they have been an extremely expensive proposition. Prof Gopalan said, "It is unfair to judge them at this stage. Only time will tell if they help their cause. They are a welcome change, including the aesthetics."

This project has been an expensive venture essentially because of the construction of a new sub-station near H7 to ensure that the voltage drops in the hostels 12, 13 and other along the line are avoided. The other reason has been that initially the site for the mess was wrongly selected and had to be shifted later. The plans for the older site along the lake were already in place and construction started when it was realised that the building would occupy some part of the lake. The new site taken thereafter was lined with trees which could not be cut off because of a time delaying process. The authorities decided to plan the mess around the trees and ended up with a highly curvilinear mess. The cost escalation is also attributed to the fanciful sky-bridge that is coming up.

Regarding the allotment of the students to the new hostels, Prof Gopalan said that no decision has been taken so far. "In all

L&T is a firm that constructs nuclear power plants for India. At the same time, 400 out of 600 schools constructed by L&T collapsed in the Gujarat earthquake! Proper supervision of the construction that is being done is, therefore, required.

probability, one hostel is going to be a UG hostel and the other a PG hostel. It would be better if the student body comes up with sensible suggestions and inputs." With hostels of such huge size, life is certainly going to be different in all aspects from the existing ones. It would be difficult to have the entire hostel as a single unit. The PAFs, the GC, the Institute elections are all going to have a new flavour. A new life awaits you buddy!

### Hostel Renovation

Phase I of renovations (H4, H7 and H10) has been completed and presently Phase II (H5, H6 and H9) is in progress. This will be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2003. Prof Chattopadhyaya who is in-charge for the hostel renovation said that there was a need for renovation of messes because the kitchen area in the old messes was too small and needed to be increased. The messes in certain hostels had lounges that shared dining area. The new messes would use maximum area for kitchen and dining purposes.

The Phase I contract was completely given to Hafeez Contractor, right from the architectural designs to construction to the interiors and furnishing. The job, however, has not been up to the mark. On being asked if they were satisfied with the construction job in Phase I, he said, "We learn from our past mistakes. But we are optimistic this time". The second phase has designs by Hafeez Contractor but the construction work is being looked after by L&T. "L&T has constructed SOM, KRRESIT, Gulmohar building, H12 and H13 and we are optimistic that they will do a good job this time too". He said that the construction comes at a higher price when you hire a firm like L&T. "One

enter the...

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## Science Edge

The huge turnout at Science Club lectures and presentations corroborates the fact that an IITian's interest in science can never die. The recent revamping of the Science Club has played a major role in achieving this. Aditya Mittal writes...

A fresher coming to IIT believes that he/she will come across many avenues to learn and apply science and technology, apart from the academic assignments. Opportunities are available, but hardly do they ever arouse student interest. This is where the Science Club comes in. Over the past few months, one of the major changes that the Students' Gymkhana has witnessed has been the revival of the Science Club. It has covered varied areas, appealing to a large number of people on campus, through its lectures and presentations; from "Water Harvesting" to "Theory of Relativity"; from "Magnetic Levitation" to "Electric Guitars".

The club was almost dead previously and the only activities were a few lectures from some senior students, but thanks to the enthusiasm and the efforts of some members, the club activities have shot up over the last semester. Within a short span of past three months the club membership has increased phenomenally and it now boasts of being the largest student club in IIT with a membership of more than eighty.

### KRITTIKA: Diamonds in the sky

The Astronomy Club is also a part of the Science Club now, under the name "Krittika". It has recently organised a few star-gazing sessions with huge turnouts. There are plans to have lectures on astronomy in the near future. People interested in joining the astronomy club can contact: [surhudm@yahoo.com](mailto:surhudm@yahoo.com)

### Soaring in the blue sky

The Aeromodelling Club has also geared up its activities and is now working as a part of the

Science Club. Many flying sessions, aircraft building sessions, discussions have been conducted and there is much more being planned. People interested in the aeromodelling club can contact: [nitin@aero.iitb.ac.in](mailto:nitin@aero.iitb.ac.in)

### Plans for the future

"The SAC library has been updated with many new books - from science fiction to technical ones, and there are many other activities being thought about", says Kshitiz Gupta, the science club secretary. "We are planning to have a lecture series on astronomy as a prelude to the Astronomy Workshop coming up in TechFest; then we are planning to have a place where students can actually build and test control-line models. Finally, trips to INS Vikrant (the Indian Navy warship) and Ayuka, Pune are also under consideration." A few more advanced projects are also in the planning stage. One of them is to actually build a launching pad and launch our own rocket while the other one considers building of commercially useful products.

With so much coming up, the science club is certainly proving to be an excellent platform where the students can partake in technical activities of their interest apart from the academics. People interested in joining the Science Club can contact: [kshitiz@cse.iitb.ac.in](mailto:kshitiz@cse.iitb.ac.in) ■

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About 40 structural faults were identified in the upcoming Lecture Theatre Complex by students of Civil Engg. during their work visit!

cannot expect L&T to work at government rates". He also mentioned that due to the long association of L&T with IIT, L&T has agreed to work on the rates/quotations submitted 3 years ago. Each phase of renovation costs approximately Rs. 3.5 Crores.

Despite the modish new messes the hostels will have, it still remains to be seen if the quality of service gets any better.

### Designs and Contracts

Regarding the designs, Prof. Goyal was of the opinion that IIT needs to know its requirements exactly and need not take all that is submitted by the architect. For institutions like IIT, we do not need fancy and expensive designs. "We could probably survey a few international universities and copy designs if need be!" He said that rather than opting for popular names in the architecture world, we should be looking to hire architects who have some experience in constructing institutional buildings. Prof. Ravi Hazra, HoD, IDC, said that Hafeez's designs had some of the less efficient carpet space to constructed space ratios.

About the contractors L&T, he said that work has to be extracted. L&T is a firm that constructs nuclear power plants for India. At the same time, 400 out of 600 schools constructed by L&T collapsed in the Gujarat earthquake. Proper supervision of the construction that is being done is, therefore, required. Prof. Goyal suggested that IIT can have consultants for "Value Engineering" of a project. The job of a value engineer is to evaluate, without bias, the work being done and submit periodic reports to the client - in this case IIT. This idea, however, was rejected.

We need a system that works, is accountable, transparent and more efficient. Written petitions and suggestions against contractors have been ignored in the past, therefore, people tend to lose interest. On being asked if Civil Engg. Professors are asked for opinions in any of the construction that is taking place, one of them said, "Oh yes, they are asked. Just that they aren't listened to".

### Unanswered Questions

The new hostels have a parking space above the mess area which naturally added to the costs. If student vehicles are going to be banned, such an expensive proposition is yet to be comprehended. As with any other product, the end user is of prime importance and must be carefully considered in the decision-making. But the problem is that the architect decides what is required for us rather than we being clear about our requirements. Will something be done about it? ■

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Change is a familiar concept in management; resistance to change, even more. Over the years, our very own institute has gone through this process of change to evolve as the best technological institute in the country. The curriculum is revised every few years after taking inputs from students, alumni, et al. This and many more steps are taken to improve the quality of "academic inputs" to the students and to increase their worthiness or to put it in a business context - "the market value" of an individual. Though the authorities have done and are doing their bit to improve course structures and systems at IITB, there still exists, as we would put it "the resistance to change". At numerous occasions proposals have been submitted which have gone through rounds and rounds of senate meetings without being realized in the end. This article is another one of those efforts to help the academic system at IITB, change for better.

The word "market value", mentioned earlier in this article, in IITB context, would refer to the worthiness of the student as a researcher, an engineer, a manager or an entrepreneur among others. As far as the first two are concerned (researcher and engineer), there has been a considerable amount of effort put in by the students and the authorities, some of which has been fruitful. The Entrepreneurship Cell at IITB or Ecell, as it is popularly known, is an effort towards the latter. What about a combination of the first and the third or the second and the third or even the fourth and the third. Well, as many would argue, this is a technological institute and an effort in this direction would neither help the institute achieve its objectives nor would it help it in realizing its vision. Fair enough! We would like to ask a question here. What are MIT, Stanford and UCB (University of California, Berkeley)? Well... these are nothing but the best technological institutes in world that also happen to have the best business schools in the world. We here at IITB are also fortunate to have a top class B-school in the campus. The difference is that we are not being able to realize its full

potential while MIT and others are doing it. The following are some of the programmes that these institutes offer to their students.

#### MIT: Management of Technology Program

The Management of Technology Program provides technologists with the management expertise to drive successful ventures in a hyper-competitive market.

#### Stanford University: Management and Science Engineering

The MS&E Department provides education and research opportunities associated with the

These are, to quote, just a few of the various programmes being offered. The program at UCB is offered by their B-school, Haas. However, very few of them are offered to undergraduate students. We can take a step ahead and offer such programs to students at IITB and this can be realized without impairing the current academic system. These programs would, for one, make the current system more flexible and also help students shape and educate themselves better in terms of the type of career they are planning to pursue after IIT. The current market needs people who are not only adept in the technological sense but also possess general management skills and familiarity with

barring the one HS course in our first year, we have four HS/Institute electives during our undergraduate degree, which together amount to 24 credits. A quick calculation would show that this is equivalent to six courses at SOM (7-8, if we include the first year course too). Six to eight courses at SOM in one or two fields of specialization would give the student sufficient amount of exposure. These Minors can be in the area of Finance, HR, Marketing, you name it. This is where the option lies. People would argue, what about the sociological, psychological or the overall development of the individual, which is one of the prime reasons of having HS/Institute electives. Well, shouldn't we just let the individual decide that? The number of students taking HS/Institute electives would decrease, but the quality would go up. The reason is simple to see. Students would opt for something that they are passionate about and is relevant to them. An extension of this kind of a programme would be the Minors at the engineering departments, which again is a proposal that has been under consideration for long.

It would require not only initiative but also tenacity to put such a system in place. The more important thing is for the students, faculty and authorities to realize the need for such a system. There then needs to be a strong coordination with the authorities and faculty at SOM. All this together would help in bringing nothing short of a revolution at IITB.

P.S: This proposal is right now in a very crude form. Suggestions/Comments and of course brickbats are welcome. People who wish to pursue this may either contact InSight or the appropriate authorities who will take up the proposal and discuss it further (and hopefully implement it) ■

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## A Minor Issue

Academic flexibility is something students have been yearning for in IIT Bombay since long. Maninder Gulati talks about a system that can provide the latitude desired by students and also churn out engineers better equipped with skills required to pursue a career of their choice.

development of the knowledge, tools, and methods required to make decisions and to shape policies, to configure organizational structures, to design engineering systems, and to solve operational problems associated with the information-intensive, technology-based economy.

#### University of California Berkeley: Haas School of Business Undergraduate Program

Students earn a Bachelor of Science degree that takes a general management perspective. Course work is fully integrated with the university's liberal arts curriculum, allowing students to gain a broad perspective on business management and its environment.

specific areas of business management like Finance, HRD/HRM, Marketing et al. So rather than having loads and loads of students auditing courses at SOM or crediting them in their final year, why not offer Minors at SOM as an option. For the uninformed, Minor is a kind of a specialization in addition to the Major which is the bachelors' degree at a department. The question arises: An option to what and how? Here's a proposal for implementation of the same.

Since the current system assumes that an individual is prudent enough to choose a branch of engineering after clearing JEE, we can assume that after one year at IIT, he/she is wise enough to choose what electives he/she should opt for. Now,

Until the academic year 2002-2003, NRI and other foreign students were admitted into various IIT's under the scheme called DASA (Direct Admission for Students Abroad). However this scheme has been discontinued from the academic year 2003-2004.

Although the official reasons for the discontinuation have not been stated, some unconfirmed and unofficial reasons for this step being taken are known. One reason could be that DASA students, in general, do not perform as well in IIT as compared to those who have got in through JEE. A few others speculate that IIT no longer needs the foreign currency for its development programme, due to the very generous contributions by its alumni.

This is a major setback for students abroad in the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> standards who have ambitions of coming here. Many students choose to enter IIT through the DASA scheme and thereby decide to stay abroad. This is vis-a-vis coming to India for their higher secondary education so that they can avail of much better coaching facilities present in

## DASAs Endangered Species?

The next freshmen batch might not have any of those ultra-pseud species called DASAs, considering that the scheme has been abolished. Anasua Chatterjee and Karthik Narayanswamy write about the possible reasons for that and find out the general feeling of the DASA's present on campus.

India. This radical decision has left such students in limbo. Had they been informed of this decision earlier, perhaps most of them would have chosen to pursue their studies in India or have made alternative plans. In fact, there is a petition being brought out by the NRIs in the Gulf requesting IIT to revoke its decision and reinstating the DASA scheme. A better option would have been to phase out the scheme rather than abruptly terminate it.

The discontinuation has evoked mixed responses among students who are presently studying under this scheme here. While a few wholeheartedly welcome the decision, others believe that the step is too rash and hasty - instead of total abolishment of the scheme, a few minor changes could have been

made to help the DASA students to perform better in academics.

Among those who agree with the discontinuation, most believe that the scheme was highly unfair to both the student joining through the JEE as well as the student joining in through the DASA scheme. The preparation for entrance through the DASA scheme is no match to the rigorous preparation undertaken by those who clear the JEE. Preparation for JEE ensures that the student has covered at least 50% of the first year course. Thus, they are better prepared to handle the pressure of the course. On the other hand, the DASA students are totally unprepared for the courses that are quite a few levels higher than what they are used to. Also, more often than not, the seats not filled (but reserved for

the DASA scheme), would go empty, thus depriving a deserving candidate from taking the course

On the other hand, those who do not agree with the new policy of IIT, feel that a short preparatory course for DASA freshmen would be highly beneficial to their overall academic performance in the first year. The course would help them cope with the courses with greater ease and confidence.

There are many questions that arise in the mind after the removal of this scheme. Why was the fees increased from the original three thousand dollars per semester to the present six thousand dollars? Why was the number of seats available under the scheme doubled just the year before its abolishment? These questions are yet to be answered. However, one thing is certain, the DASAs will surely be missed ■

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The foremost among a plethora of events gracing Chemsplash this year is the Chem-E-Car Contest, inspired from a similar competition organised by AIChE in USA. The objective of this unique competition is to design and construct a car that is powered with a chemical energy source travelling a given distance and stop by exhausting the power source or cutting of the power without the application of brakes or electronic mechanism (your chance to see if those moles & energy balances you made hold on the race track!!!). The car will be judged based on the combination of completion

## Chem-E-Car Are You Making One?!!

of a defined task and a judging of the most creative design. There are two levels of increasing difficulty, for Chem-E-Car this year. The Level 1 is where your car runs the distance of 10 feet in minimum possible



time, doesn't matter if it overshoots the distance. While in the Level 2, you have to come as close to 15 feet as possible. You can participate in both the levels with the same car or use two different cars. The event has to be pre-registered for both the levels and the response hitherto has been great. If you think that whimsical chemicals and their crazy reactions are not for you, we have just the right catalyst to get you going, to the Chem-E-Car

cheats page on the Techfest Site to see possibilities opening up for you. The price tag attached to the winning car is incentive enough to have a traffic jam in the game arena! GET GEARED..... ■

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The vehicle ban is seen in a bad light by the students (both owners and non-owners of vehicles). The most common reasons cited to justify the ban are increase in the number of accidents on campus caused due to rash riding by students and increase in the pollution levels. Somehow the increase in the number of accidents refuses to sink into the minds of the students. On the contrary, many perceive this as an attempt to follow other IIT's and make it move an inch closer to the "perfect" academic status the authorities have been talking about for quite some time. While there are some students who are concerned and complain against pollution, the number is very small. Whatever the reasons be, the bottom line is, "most of the students are not happy with the decision".

Till date, in this discussion, students have been on the receiving end and bear the blame

# ...VROOOOOM!!

Things will be very different from the next academic year, if the authorities have their way and the student vehicle ban is enforced. While most students find it difficult to understand why such a step is required, the authorities believe that student vehicles are just a nuisance causing luxury, far from being a necessity. **C Sushant** and **Shamiroh Tikoo** try to find the common students' perception of this matter.

There is a popular opinion that it would have been better to phase out the vehicles (as done in IITM) over a period of time, allowing the people to slowly come to terms with the situation, without causing any inconvenience to the students owning vehicles presently.

Coming to alternative transport in the case of a ban, there have been some suggestions



**A ban on students' vehicles on one hand; Discount sale of vehicles for IIT staff on the other. Who's being taken for a ride?!!**

of rash and irresponsible riding, but it would completely defy logic if we turn our backs to the state of roads in the campus. What more, on the road from hostels 1-11, excluding 10, there is no footpath laid. As a result, people walk on the road, making them susceptible to accidents. Also, there is more nuisance and pollution caused by the construction trucks currently plying on campus night and day. Moreover, how can one ever ignore the bovine creatures that have a great time munching food right in the middle of the road? One interesting point worth mentioning is that the ban is only confined to the students' domain while the campusites can zoom around on their bikes.

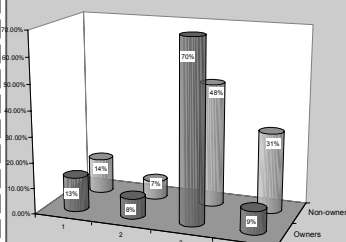
But things are not as bad as they seem, says Prof. S. L. Dhingra, head of the transport committee, "There is a proposal to widen the existing road with a proper footpath and a bicycle lane and we are working on it."

A section of the student population is not completely averse to the ban on vehicles, but feels that it is being enforced in the wrong manner.

which surely would bring cheer to your face. Some students feel that the bovine creatures and panthers can serve better - a jolly ride from hostel to the MB (panther costs higher than a cow!). On a serious note, increasing the number of the existing Tum-Tums is seen as the best alternative, though a majority of students feels that a public transport system isn't a feasible possibility. Says Prof. Dhingra, who was the chief architect in bringing Tum-Tums to IIT, "At present, Tum-Tums are used mostly for non-academic visits, but in the case of a ban, we would require roughly around 50 Tum-Tums to cater to students' needs at peak hours". Where we go from here is a big question to be asked but if all the promises are fulfilled there would be nothing much we could ask for ■

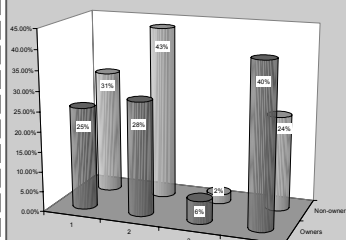
*C Sushant is a second year Mech. Engg. B.Tech student. Shamiroh Tikoo is a second year Mech. Engg. B.Tech student. They can be contacted at: sushant@me.iitb.ac.in tikoo@me.iitb.ac.in*

### What according to you is the most important issue to be dealt with on campus right now?



- Carelessness on part of staff at IIT hospital
- Nuisance due to motorized vehicles
- Mess food in hostels
- Other

### What according to you is the most important cause of increase in the number of accidents over the last few months?



- Too many trucks due to construction work
- Rash riding by students
- The electric autos
- Pedestrians walking in the middle of the road

## Insight Survey on Vehicle Ban

**550** people surveyed.  
**15%** of those surveyed own vehicles.

**47%** of these use vehicles as a convenience to go to class.

**32%** of these use vehicles because of non-availability of good public transport in IIT.

**69%** of those who own vehicles feel that vehicles should not be banned.

**15%** of those who do not own vehicles feel that vehicles should be banned for students only.

**44%** of those who own vehicles feel that the ban is being implemented to follow the other IITs.

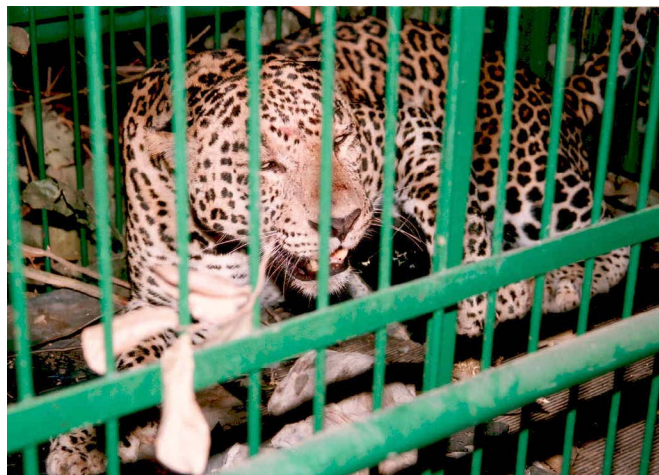
**77%** of those who own vehicles and **64%** of those who do not own vehicles feel that it is not possible to provide an efficient alternative transport system.

**40%** of vehicle owners feel that the increase in number of accidents over the last few months is due to pedestrians walking in the middle of the road.

(contd. from page 1. Security Check...)

personnel at a time. These are easy entry points for outsiders. Presently a video camera is placed at the main gate and in due time more will be put up at the Powai lake gate and in the Sameer area. Improved camera speeds and zoom facilities will be incorporated in the cameras to monitor people and vehicles moving in and out of the campus". So the next time you are passing the main gate - Achtung! You are being watched!

We thought that this security update was almost complete but then felt that something was missing - something grave, terrifying, but real for sure. No security update is complete without a mention of the good ol' leopard. So in our fact finding mission we inquired about it too. Recently a leopard was captured (fortuitously) near the Sameer area. This one is reported to be one of the biggest in recent times. In the recent past there have been reports of leopard attack on people and about it frequenting the hostel areas. Living with a wild and ferocious beast around is no laughing matter, unless some animal behaviour expert can convince us otherwise; convince us that it's normal to have a leopard pass by without reacting if you don't do it



**Whaaat! A ban on us Leopards as well... ?!!**

any harm. There are realistic fears of the animal turning a man-eater. Who is to take responsibility if someone is attacked by the beast? A boundary wall is mooted as a solution to reduce the leopard menace by members of the security committee. This will also prevent outsiders from encroaching on IIT area. As a temporary solution, there is a proposal of putting up a ten feet (or more) high barbed wire fence around IIT. Another boundary wall covering a smaller area can be built surrounding the hostels. According to Gaurav Khandelwal, "A boundary wall is a viable solution to security problems in IIT; it should be put up as soon as possible before something untoward happens". Despite the seriousness of the problem no concrete steps appear to have been taken in this regard. With this update we just hope that someone is listening! ■

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## .retrospect in

## Indigo Mood

Mood Indigo happened. Finally, the freshies know what the *baap* of Cult Fests is all about. With its share of highs and lows and hullah and without its ballroom dance (for a change!), Mood Indigo was a blast for everyone who was a part of it.

Prof. Amarnath, the DOSA had asked us IITians to prove what we were capable of, not only as hosts but also as a competition and the IIT Bombay contingent did that and more. Led by Contingent Leader, Nishant Vats, IIT lifted the Mood Indigo Overall trophy in style winning the Lit, Debating and of course, the Dram trophy. Lit and Debating have always been nerdy IITians' strongholds, but Dram!! How, you ask? Every member of the dram team would insist that naming individuals is pointless. They would give you only one word - BONDA.

The dram revival started off as a bunch of people meeting at the shack (eating Bondas, one of the reasons for the name). After the initial hiccups, they have since been meeting regularly every Saturday afternoon for the last 4 months or so. BONDA (or the Beginning Of a New Dramatics Age) aimed at a top-class performance at MI as a first step to revamping the Dram scene at IITB. The newborn has taken its first steps and they were earth-shaking. To place in all 5 dram events (and win the Radio Play and Improptu) in a year where the level of competition in Dram was by far the best for the past few years is quite an achievement. The enthu is here now. Let's hope it stays. By the way, those unlucky few among you who missed the IIT performances, do not despair. There will be a staging of the MI productions on the 18th in the LT. Keep your ears open for timings.

This year's Mood Indigo will also be remembered for the gutsy display of our Fashion Team. Not many people would have expected them to place 6th (it missed out a place in the final 5 by a slender margin of 6 points!). "No-one thought we'd do this well! We had to put up with a lot of sneers. But it feels nice, in the end, to have proved our mettle", points out Abhijeet Kumar, one of the initiators of the drive. And, for sure, it might not be a big surprise

Sandhya Hegde, Aditya Mittal, Zishaan M. Hayath and Karthik Ramkumar (phew!) take a look at what was hot and what was not at the MI that was...

if the team makes it to the finals next year. Kudus!

With the mind-blowing crowds, the Pronites were, as always, Mood-I's face to Bombay. The Classical night, *Samanvaya*, held in the convocation hall was a smashing success with the crowd enthralled and in their seats till 3:00 am in the morning! Renowned *Odissi* dancer Smt. Sonal Mansingh opened *Samanvaya* 2002 with her elegant performance followed by the truly amazing *Santoovadan* by 29-year old Rahul Sharma, son of the maestro Pt. Shivkumar Sharma. The night ended with a percussion drama *Taalakatha* presented by Shri. Aneesh Pradhan.

The Popular night on the 27th had the bands Indian Ocean and Orange Street. Since last year's PAFS, Indian Ocean has had a huge following at IIT. The band members of Indian Ocean insist that the feeling is quite mutual and that they love coming to IIT. Orange Street was supposed to play popular songs by Beatles et al. But it ended up playing Pearl Jam, Megadeth and Oasis - rather ordinarily. One thing which could not be comprehended was why two bands with such totally different styles of music were asked to perform together.

The Fusion Night followed by the *Kavi Sammelan* is almost universally acknowledged as the high point of Mood-I '02. The Fusion Nite started with a performance by Amaan and Ayaan Ali, accompanied by renowned percussionist Taufiq Qureshi. What followed next was a treat for the ears. Shankar Mahadevan, Sivamani, Karl Peters, Sridhar and Louis Banks gave us SILK! The antics of Sivamani (how DOES he do all that?!), accompanied by some great guitaring and vocals kept the 9000 strong crowd on its feet.

Yes, the entire OAT (even those on the steps) were on their feet. Shankar Mahadevan ended the night with the crowd favourite *Breathless* and while people were wowing the *Breathless* fundas, he promptly continued the song into a repeat!

The real biggy with the crowds was without doubt the *Hasya Kavi Sammelan*. Following the momentum of the Fusion Nite, Surendra Sharma and his friends had the packed OAT in splits. All worries of the organising team as to whether people would turn up for an event starting at 11:30 seemed almost stupid when we look at it now.

LiveWire was death metal all the way. Hard core rockers had their fun with Metakix playing Megadeth and Sepultura. The student crowd, unfortunately, didn't really appreciate a band as heavy as Metakix. They were followed by Pentagonagram who, to be brutally honest, were disappointing. They did not get the huge crowd response which Livewire pro bands are accustomed to. In fact, the crowds seemed to enjoy the amateur bands which did surpass themselves more than the pro bands. The Livewire competitor (and 50,000 Bucks) this year was won comprehensively by the band AFS, Acquired Funk Syndrome, who have been improving by leaps and bounds over the past year.

The success of Horizons in this year's Mood Indigo has been phenomenal. A very important factor that contributed to this success was the intense in-house publicity done for every event, which ensured that even the events that were added to the schedule at the last moment did not go unattended or under-attended. An example of this was *Gufgogo*, which, having been

confirmed at the eleventh hour, still attracted a huge crowd. Besides, of course, the name of Javed Akhtar, it was the huge number of posters covering the entire Coffee Shack area that attracted a lot of attention. Before this, similar efforts had been made to publicise the play *I'm Not Bajirao* and the result was for all to see. The theatre workshop immediately after the play saw so many registrations that there were people literally begging to get in. One person even went to the extent of falling at Rajat Kapoor's feet! Similar enthusiasm was seen for the dance workshops, the dessert-making workshop and the lateral thinking workshop which actually managed to hold people for 7 hours, even as more "glamorous" events went on elsewhere.

Crowds running around the institute collecting long leaves and high heels for Scavenger hunt!!! Dressing themselves up wildly for Mock-rock!!! Performing dares to win their dream date!!! Or proving their talents to win the personality contest!!! It was simply wild-wild fun and it was all a part of the Informals and Aquagames at Mood Indigo 2002. Whether it be poolside games or Couple games, whether it be Snakes and Ladders or Serendipity, the crowd enjoyed every bit of it. The biggest event was the coveted Mr. and Ms. Mood Indigo crown, which ended in LT on the last day of MI after four rounds of extensive competition between the participants.

This year's Mood I was, for a change, covered extensively by the media. From a front page splash in the Bombay Times to episodes of Channel V being shot on campus to articles in Inslght ;-), MI made its presence felt in the news.

MI 2002 is over and gone and the hangover too is slowly disappearing. Next up on the Cultural Calendar are the PAFs. Just can't wait... ■

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Erewhay artway outhay? Well! If you collude to believe that the author is harebrained, you're not very far from the truth! But, for those who are naïve enough to believe me, it means 'Where art thou?', albeit it's in one spoof of a language called *Pig Latin*. *Pig Latin* is a twist of English for people who want to be silly, or for guys and gals who don't want their parents to know what they're talking about. And the silliest part is that there are different ways in which people speak *Pig Latin*.

Now advancing to important matters, the *objet d'art* that we are mentioning is the 'pseud' piece of plastic card that was to grace our wallets. Yes! Smart Card...but what happened to it? The revolutionary Smart Card project that was speculated to be implemented a few months back apparently never saw the light of the day. Is it going to be for real? Or will it remain an idea that just 'bamboozles and mesmerizes' (to quote Navjot Sidhu)? An update of the status of the same is certainly due.

If we care to muse over the possible reasons for delay, we'd imagine that delay in the procurement of related equipment would be a possible reason. "All the equipments that are required - cards,

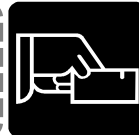
photographic equipments, signature detecting devices, card readers, printing accessories have

though more of an anti-climax! The sole reason for the delay in the effectuation of the use of

essential requisites like wiring, installation of devices, etc.

## Smart Card: Erewhay... artway... outhay...?

Talks about the ultramodern smart card have been going on for quite some time, but the card still seems to be in its mould. Suraj Ravindran finds out more about it.



all been procured", says Prof. N. K. Khosla (nkk@met.iitb.ac.in), one of the people behind the revolutionary undertaking. What then...could it be security reasons? With a campus teeming with brilliant students whose psyche stop at nothing, that's always a possibility. But, 'no' is the answer! The use of Smart Cards in the campus would only be for access control, authentication and authorization; thereby leaving no room for fraudulent misuse. Well! Not much, anyway!

Then what is it that is keeping us from getting our hands on the ultramodern gadget? Our search finally does zero in on an answer, which

Smart Card in the campus turns out to be the unavailability of space for the Security Office to continue the work. "The design and data are all ready. The programming of the chips is also in the final stages. The only requisite that is lacking is space to carry out the remaining activity", says Mr Vijay Kumar, Deputy Security Officer (vijay@admin). Even that problem seems to be solved, what with the HCU (Hostel Co-ordination Unit) being shifted to their new office and the Security Office being given access to space in their old office. According to Mr. Vijay Kumar, the entire process would not take more than a couple of weeks once adequate space is spruced up with

All said and done, the Smart Card indeed seems to be on its way to your wallets and in quick time too. Till then, let us savour the ecstatic idea.

PS: If you are entranced by *Pig Latin*, check out <http://www.idioma-software.com/pig/home.htm> and <http://www.snowcrest.net/donnely/piglatin.html> okayway! ■

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## INTER- IIT Meet '02

.sports

**Kislay Thakur presents a report on the performance of IIT Bombay contingent at the 38<sup>th</sup> Inter-IIT Meet in Delhi.**

If two words be used to describe the performance by our contingent at the 38<sup>th</sup> Inter IIT meet held at IIT Delhi from 14<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> December 2002, they would be disappointment and let-down. IIT Delhi won the Men's GC by bagging 82 points, the runners up, IIT Madras had 76 points and IIT Bombay was a distant third with 34 points. From coming close to winning the general championship at IIT Kharagpur in '01 to a dismal third place performance, it was a very disheartening climb-down. There was an occasional bad decision against us, or the avoidable walkover we gave in the badminton semifinal, but the underlying truth is that we lost because we were not the best.

Coming to the medals' tally, we got a Bronze in Cricket, Tennis and Table Tennis, Silver in Athletics, Basketball (women), Table Tennis (women) and Volleyball, and Gold in Hockey and Athletics (women). The biggest upset was Badminton which we had been winning for the last couple of years. Also, we lost the Gold in Volleyball after nearly 10 years. The football team couldn't make it to the second round for the second year in a row. The Athletics team lost its hard earned supremacy on the track and the field.

Ever since the camp started in early December, the morale of the contingent seemed down. The excitement and the zeal, so essential to make a winning contingent were missing. It was hoped that as the camp would progress, the morale would rise and by the time of the Inter IIT meet, we would all be high in spirits. But if the results are an indication, the hopes did not come true.

By the end of Day 1, the results were:

Badminton:	Bombay beat Kharagpur	3-1
Basketball:	Bombay beat Guwahati	55-16
Basketball(W)	Bombay beat Kanpur	22-5
Cricket:	Bombay beat Kharagpur	Won by 4 wickets.
Hockey:	Madras beat Bombay	1-0
Table Tennis:	Bombay beat Delhi	3-0
Volley Ball:	Bombay beat Madras	3-0

The start was terrific; the margins by which we had beaten all the other teams were good and this was surely a great beginning for us.

Day 2 was a day of mixed results. In Volleyball and Basketball, we had won two matches in a row which almost ensured a semifinal berth. Losing Badminton came as a surprise; this was one team we had thought was invincible.

Badminton:	Delhi beat Bombay	3-2
Badminton(W)	Bombay beat Madras	2-1
Basketball:	Bombay beat Kanpur	66-54
Football:	Bombay draw Kharagpur	1-1
Tennis:	Delhi beat Bombay	3-0
Table Tennis:	Bombay beat Delhi	3-0
Table Tennis (W)	Kharagpur beat Bombay	3-1
Volley Ball:	Bombay beat Roorkee	3-0

On Day 3, the pressure began to surface, and cracks started to show. The hockey and the football team were in a must win situation - either they win their matches and reach semifinals or pack their bags and head for home.

Badminton (W)	Bombay beat Kanpur	2-0
Basketball:	Bombay beat Kharagpur	47-35
Basketball (W)	Bombay beat Kharagpur	21-17
Cricket:	Bombay beat Guwahati	Won by 5 wickets.
Football:	Roorkee beat Bombay	2-0
Hockey:	Bombay beat Kharagpur	2-1
Tennis:	Bombay beat Guwahati	3-1
Table Tennis:	Bombay beat Roorkee	3-1
Table Tennis (W)	Bombay beat Madras	3-0
Volley Ball:	Bombay beat Roorkee	3-0

So, by the end of Day 3 we had managed to reach the semifinals of badminton (both men and women), basketball (both men and women), hockey, cricket, tennis, table tennis (women) and volleyball. Our football team had to pack their boots.

Day 4 was the clash of nerves; there were some very crucial matches. It was semifinals time in some of the sports.

### Semifinals

Badminton:	Roorkee beat Bombay	Walkover
Badminton (W)	Bombay beat Kanpur	2-0
Basketball:	Delhi beat Bombay	65-57
Basketball(W)	Bombay beat Madras	16-14
Hockey:	Bombay beat Delhi	4-2
Table Tennis:	Madras beat Bombay	3-2

We had won three semifinals and lost three, but the most disappointing result was in Badminton. The Women's basketball match came really close, with Bombay winning by a margin of 2 points. Nothing however could beat the performance of the hockey team, the match was tied by the end of regulation time and fate of the match hung on penalty strokes, meaning that each team had 5 shots at the goal and the one which scored the most, squeezed its way through to the finals. The pressure was tremendous, but the guys lived to the expectation, none of our players missed any chance, whereas Delhi had a tough time scoring. In the end our boys walked to the finals, with the immense pleasure of beating Delhi at its home ground.

Day 5 was the time of finals for basketball (women) and hockey, some third place clashes.

### Finals

Basketball (W)	Delhi beat Bombay	35-13
Hockey	Bombay beat Madras	3-1

### Semifinals

Badminton (W)	Delhi beat Bombay	Walkover
Cricket:	Delhi beat Bombay	Lost by 11 runs.
Tennis:	Madras beat Bombay	3-0
Volleyball:	Bombay beat Kharagpur	3-0
Table Tennis (W)	Bombay beat Delhi	3-2

### 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> place

Badminton	Madras beat Bombay	Walkover
Table Tennis:	Bombay beat Kanpur	3-1

Finally, by the end of day 5, we had won Gold in hockey defeating Madras; it was a great victory for the team, given that they had lost to Madras in their first match. We got Silver in Basketball (women). The girls gave a good fight to Delhi. We had made it to the finals of two more sports. By this time it was clear that we had lost the GC and were nowhere in the contest for the top spot.

On the final day, we had two finals and also the fight was on to get a couple of Bronzes.

### Final

Volleyball:	Delhi beat Bombay	3-0
Table Tennis (W)	Kharagpur beat Bombay	3-1

### 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> place

Badminton (W)	Kharagpur beat Bombay	Walkover
Cricket:	Bombay beat Kharagpur	Won by 24 runs.
Tennis	Bombay beat Kharagpur	3-0

The Athletics team gave a good fight; we won lots of individual medals. The performances by Manjari Mehrotra and T. Ravikanth got them the Individual Championships in Athletics. Ravinder Singh Soam was judged to have the best physique.

If the guys choked in their performance, the girls did well; they managed to be the runners up in the Women's GC. This has been the worst performance of IIT Bombay in the last 5 years. Earlier we had won the GC in 1998 and 2000. Also, we were the runners up in 2001. After this Inter IIT meet, there needs to be lot of thinking by the various teams, the shortfalls should be worked upon and we should be ready to take one and all, come December. The 39<sup>th</sup> Inter IIT meet will be held in our own IIT this December and if we have to maintain the trend of the home IIT winning the GC it would require tremendous effort from all the teams and most importantly the zeal and will to win ■

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The Institute Alumni Day was celebrated on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of December to mark the Silver Jubilee function of Batch of 1977. The first day, which was exclusively for the '77 batch, was attended by an absolutely enthusiastic and nostalgic group of over 80 alumni.

The day started with registration and the get-together of alumni at Gulmohar building. Things started from where they were left - nicknames were howled in greetings, the bantering ranged from cheerful to distinctly rowdy. After lunch and hostel visits the alumni went on a campus tour including H-12, H-13 and Vihar Lake with student volunteers. The alumni enjoyed climbing over the pipes to reach Vihar Lake and refreshed their memories of swimming everyday at the lake when they were students here - something no IITian can even dream of doing now! A startled alumnus asked an equally startled volunteer in his 4<sup>th</sup> year, "Are you actually telling me that this is only the second time during your stay here that you have come to Vihar lake? I can't believe this!" And this came from the only lady in the 1977 batch!

'Pagal Gymkhana' - the most popular event at the SAC then, was held in the Gymkhana grounds that evening with alumni divided in four teams. The teams were made to perform various dances like Bhangra, Ball Dance, Kathak, etc. There were fun-filled, wacky events in Pagal Gymkhana, which made it a memorable one. In one particular event, the alumni were supposed to take cue from their wives and drape a saree around themselves as quickly as they could, followed by their wives putting make-up on their faces, after which they had

to catwalk on an imaginary ramp! Another event saw the alumni wearing Velcro-attached pants and trying to stick similar Velcro-attached soft toys lying on the Gymkhana tracks without using their hands in 10 minutes! The event was a huge success with the alumni, their family members and the students enjoying it to the fullest.

## Alumni Day - 2002

The evening started on a more serious note with the Pledge Ceremony where the batch of '77 pledged to raise a sum of twelve crore rupees for faculty housing in the Institute. The PCAA, Prof. P Banerji, made a presentation on faculty housing and the various options that have been explored in this regard. As of now, five crore rupees have already been raised and the class of '77 expects to raise the remaining amount soon. A small presentation on Mood Indigo and Techfest was also made where alumni were made familiar with the present form of these events and how they have evolved over time. The alumni found these presentations pretty interesting since Mood Indigo had started as a small inter-collegiate competition during their stay sometime in 1973-74.

Day 2, 22<sup>nd</sup> December, was the official alumni day for all batches. IITB Alumni Association held elections to elect the new Directors on its board. There were events like campus tour, Shishu Vihar visit, short films on IIT, library visit, Kresit visit and magic show spread over the whole day.

The official programme in the afternoon started with the Director's Address. Prof Ashok Misra emphasized the need for having a world-class faculty-housing infrastructure to meet the shortage of good houses for existing faculty. After this, the Director gave Distinguished Service Awards to the alumni. A cultural programme by IIT students brought the function at the P.C. Saxena Auditorium to an end.

The evening programme started with dinner at the Director's bungalow for the class of '77. Experiences of the years gone by and memories of the wonderful five years spent at IIT were shared. The star attraction of the night was the dance troupe from Goa - Goan Carnival. The alumni were down on the dance floor dancing without a care in the world. The tunes of the troupe were interspersed with some indigenous tunes of IIT in those days. One of the popular ones ran thus, "Mera dil ka... Mere dil ka quarter kar lo occupy... lalala lalala... Mat dena Rani rent single pai!"

As the evening drew to an end, the alumni reminded themselves once again of the amount they had pledged to raise for their Alma Mater and thanked the student volunteers in whom they saw their selves 25 years younger ■

Pankaj Kandhari is the Institute Alumni Secretary and can be contacted at [pankaj@che.iitb.ac.in](mailto:pankaj@che.iitb.ac.in)

## Worked Out!

Even the most level headed of men gets suicidal sometime in his life. I didn't go to gymnasiums, never did like them. I prided myself on belonging to the class of sane men inhabiting the planet who believed that if you were supposed to bend over and touch your toes, they would be further up the human body. Not that the urge to exercise never occurred, but I would take it easy and chill till the urge was gone. Why don't people get into their heads that speeding up your heart cannot make you live longer, ever heard of extending a car's life by driving it faster? One can preach only so many men that all exercise will ever do for them is help them die healthier.

However it soon occurred to me that sane men are fast becoming a rare species. Even my skinny -2.5 specked wingie whines every day to lift metal more than his weight. Posters of Arnold Schwarzenegger stare from his walls which he sees in awe, stroking the skin covering his bones. How does a body bulging everywhere appeal to the fair sex beats me no end. What historically made the bulge on arms and chest more fashionable than your belly or thighs has never been documented.

But even the bravest of men falls prey to fate and one very cloudy evening I found myself peeping into the Institute gym wearing sports shoes and shorts I had dug out. The sight sent shivers through me, men uttering battle cries, roaring, groaning... everyone lifting weights from where the poor metal pieces would rather stay. Thankfully I didn't get carried away to arrive

sleeveless, my male pride thus remaining uncashed I walked in and decided to warm up before the heavy metal training. Push-ups first! No big deal. OOOOOOMPPH!!! ONE...WHOOooooohhh!!! two...I nearly broke my nose. Jogging harmlessly for a while, I stood up to challenge the rack of weights and stood for quite a while... suddenly conscious of some

## Memoirs of an eve long forgot but for the pain in the wrist



eyes staring at me, I walked up and casually lifted one of the bigger lumps. It didn't take me too long to find a stool to crash down upon... even with every atom of my body revolting, I started giving elevation to the load. It takes such energy to lift the "dumb" bell (by now I was feeling very dumb too!) and so little to get it down, so much for the

## .freelance

conservation of energy principle. I am sure that calculations (Mgh \* no. of insanes per day \* days in the year) would return an energy figure huge enough to provide all energy we and our children would ever need. Ministry of Energy, Government of India, should act fast to make gymnasiums illegal. Between frantic calculations, I felt more eyes glaring at me and I hit upon an idea. I lifted the weight with the most agonizing expression on my face (no act that one!) followed by a faraway look in my eyes, clutching my shoulder or some muscle elsewhere giving an impression that I was recovering from some grave injury. A truck of a man came over and offered me to help me with my triceps, I surrendered meekly while he groped for a while only to discover that I had no triceps. After struggling with one of the more sinister looking machines and pulling metal enough to build an ambulance I decided to call it a day.

I whined, groaned, moaned through the night. My experience set me to think upon more basic, philosophical questions about life, "Why do I exist?" and the like. Next morning the only way I could brush was swaying my head to and fro over the brush I asked my friend to hold for me. Now, with my sanity restored I don't venture within a safe distance from that gymnasium. One exercise I decided to never do is push my luck again.

Harsh Roy is a third year Chem. Engg DD student. He can be contacted at: harsh\_roy@iitb.ac.in

## .Questech

By Jatin Mamtani

Hello there fellas! Time to get that cup of hot coffee, a rocking chair, a pen, paper, few grey cells to spare, and of course, your favourite column on the last but one page of Insight, and aloha! There's your winner among 1001 ways of killing time on a perfectly leisurely Saturday afternoon! And if you still have time to spare, you could make Questech more interactive, by sending interesting questions as well as interesting answers to the printed questions, maybe some mathematical anecdotes to share and see your name in print, to show to mommy, perhaps! Here goes Questech for this time...

## 1. Put on Your Thinking Hats!

Three men on a safari are captured by cannibals (clichéd, eh?). The men are given one chance to escape with their lives (yawn). The men are lined up such that the last man in the line can see the backs of the other two, the middle man can see the back of the front man, and the front man can't see anybody (had a feeling you would be familiar with the concept). Anyway, the men are shown five hats, three of which are black and two are white. The men are then blindfolded, and one hat is placed on each man's head. The remaining two hats are hidden away. The blindfolds are removed. The men are told that if just one of the men can guess what hat he's wearing, they may all go free. (These cannibals sure have time on their hands!). Time passes. Finally, the front man, who can't see anyone, correctly guesses the color of his hat. What color was it, and how did he guess correctly?

## 2. Dacey Situation?

I dropped a few (standard) dice on the floor blindfolded and with some quick addition was told that I had thrown a 35. Numbers of dice were not known to me. I figured (smart that I am!) that I can arrange the dice in two groups, still blindfolded, such that both groups show the same total. How do I intend to arrange the dice?

Hint: The numbers on any two opposite sides of a standard die add to 7.

## 3. Contem-plate!

My brother and I play a game in which we take turns placing plates on a clean table. All the plates must be the same size, lie flat on the table, and no plate may overlap another. The first person who is unable to place another plate on the table without it falling off or moving another place must wash the dishes for the next week. The table is a perfect circle, with a five feet diameter. Each plate is also a perfect circle with a ten inch diameter. If I am given the choice of going first or second, which do I choose, and what will my strategy be?

Hint: If I go first, I might think of placing the plate in the center of the table.

## 4. A Bridge Too Long?

I was once a part of the UN peacekeeping force in Bosnia in 1993 (The regular reader won't be surprised by this, I'm sure; maybe you'll know all that is to me one day). We were on a round of the capital when Bosnian Serbs attacked. We were three peacekeepers in all - Annan, Barrichello and I. All three of us were stranded. Since we were in the region dominated by Bosnian Muslims, we were subject to some heavy shelling by the Serbs. We realized that we could get to the UN Peace Zone if we crossed a vital bridge. Annan being elderly would take 10 minutes to cross the bridge, Barrichello could cross it in 5 minutes and I could cross it in 2 minutes. We also had a bicycle with us which would take any of us 1 minute to cross the bridge. The bike could carry only one person at a time. The three of us start together. How long would it take us to cross the bridge? Each man travels at his own constant rate. Well, the answer's < 3 minutes for sure! Figure out how.

Send your solutions to jam@ee.iitb.ac.in

## The sound of Music

Do you know what is believed to be the oldest form of North Indian Classical Music? It's called Dhrupad. It can also be called the Sanskrit of music, the one out of which other forms of Indian music evolved. Tansen was one of its greatest exponents and Dhrupad saw its heyday while he lived. The nature of Dhrupad is spiritual- its purpose is aradhana (worship), seeking not to entertain, but to induce deep feelings of peace and contemplation in the listener.

With Dhrupad is synonymous one more name, that of the Dagaras. The Dagar family is the oldest of its proponents, having kept this tradition alive for 20 generations. Few know that Tansen was in fact a Dhrupadiya and that his guru Swami Haridas Dagar is an ancestor of the present day Dagaras! Ustad Zia Fariduddin Dagar represents the musical tradition of this great family. Ustadji is responsible to a great extent for

popularizing Dhrupad music by his numerous concerts and workshops. He has traveled and performed widely in India and abroad. In recognition of his immense contribution to the classical music of India, Ustadji has been bestowed with many prestigious awards.

Now what if we tell you that you can get a chance to learn Dhrupad, or learn to appreciate it, in the least? And by none other than Ustadji himself! Dhrupad Sansar along with Cell for Human Values is organizing a 15 day workshop on Dhrupad from 15<sup>th</sup> January to 30<sup>th</sup> January at Dhrupad Sansar, Guest House Annex, First Floor. Those who would like to learn Dhrupad may contact Prof.A.K. Suresh at aksuresh@che.iitb.ac.in or Nikita at internal # 8470.

For those who cannot commit themselves to the schedule or those who cringe at the very sound of the word "classical" or those who

cannot decide what on earth this is all about, here is a deal. You can go to the evening sessions (5:45 pm to 7:45 pm) anytime you want. Sit there and simply listen. Ask Ustadji any questions you want. Come out early if you have a class or need to go somewhere else. There are absolutely no strings attached. Try this for three days. We can bet you won't even need to try the fourth day. You will go there out of your own desire to listen and to learn!

This might be your chance to get addicted to something that has no side effects and that lasts a lifetime. Besides, it gets you high, on peace and tranquility. Moreover, an opportunity to listen and to learn from the great Ustad himself rarely knocks a door, if at all. Would you still let it slip by? Think about it.

Insight, as a newspaper of the people, by the people and for the people, understands the need for an organized platform for cribbing. We see cribbing as an expression of the deepest feelings of the living, a call that something somewhere in this wonderful universe of ours has gone terribly wrong. All of us have an almost infinite capacity to crib, it's an art which can be practiced to perfection. So, the next time things look like they couldn't be worse and there is nothing you can do about it, don't panic! JUST CRIB...

## CRIBZONE

## Whaz Huck gotcha do wid it!!!

- Hakim Raja (hakim@ee.iitb.ac.in)

The cat next door piss'd on ya fence or the crook hook'd ur gurl on his benz Mug...and u still get that dudd!! Hug...yet she thinks hez "the stud" ...but Whaz Huck gotcha do wid it!

Hiz farts ain't no better than pig shit Fundaman! yet they think thou art the misfit Kick'd ur butt!! when u asked her outta Roda's While all that jackass fed her was maggi bondas! ...but Whaz Huck gotcha do wid it!

Along comes fire'n'ice and you say gee Why ain't there no "couples only" at JEE If so wisheth, let the crib floweth from thee but why! why! why! do ya pain the helpless me! ...cuz Whaz the poor Huck gotcha do wid it!

—The pain'd Huckyuieme!

## Why Didn't Noah Just Swat Those Two Mosquitoes?

- Varun Singh (varuns@cse.iitb.ac.in)

Why, in the name of God, do we have mosquitos??? I mean, frogs would have managed on flies or something else. Or let them die also, who needs them anyway! Just look at the price we pay to let them stay in our ecosystem. We buy diseases, we buy the irritation caused by them, we buy those sleepless nights... and what do we get?? Food for toad ?? And how much do we spend on them! Hazzar items from the market to repel them - mats, liquids, machardanis, and what not! And all this when people are dying of hunger and cold: I say "Nuke those ba\*tards!!". Phataaak..... I just started THE war, do join in!!

Pein pein pein pein.... It was the worst torture in German concentration camps.

— Major Major Major Major, WWII Hero.

## If Music Be the food... I'm Full!

- Sachin Kulkarni (sachin@ee.iitb.ac.in)

Some people need to understand that playing music/movies in hostel rooms is a privilege and not a right!!

## Mesa Cribbs...

- Abhishek Thakkar (thakkar@iitb.ac.in)

Mesa crib on the rise in fees of re-exams...Has been heard that IIT Senate or something decided that raising the fees will deter the aalasan of the students... Is IIT trying to put Fear! Do they think those who flunk, flunk because they want to flunk? Intentionally??? 1000 buckz is an atrocious amount to charge a person whose already in pain.

# Sopper's SOP

To,  
Graduate Admissions Office,  
Biomedical Engineering Dept.,  
Hopping John University.

Dear Sir,  
Please find attached my Statement of Purpose for admission to the therein mentioned field.

Yours sincerely,  
Jyoti Gyanprasad Dwivedi

Attachment:

I, Jyoti Gyanprasad Dwivedi, am solicitous of admission to the renowned Biomedical Engineering Dept of the esteemed Hopping John University for the sole purpose of pursuing a Master's Program that eventually leads to a Ph.D.

Of all the problems faced by the human race, the one of thermal oscillations in optical waveguides in presence of subcutaneous magnetic fields is unarguably the most vexed and tenacious one. Can we ever understand and tame this beast? I shall like to enlist myself as a soldier in this crusade. I seek to begin my hallowed task by pursuing a masters/doctoral program in Biomedical Engineering at your esteemed University.

"Life is a lesson. You learn it when you are through."  
- Limp Bizkit M12 (Original Soundtrack)

I was born as a child of knowledge and learning to my parents Gyanprasad and Vidya. Right from my early days, I exhibited an enormous curiosity and a strong inclination to observe. I often got reprimanded for it by my parents and this ultimately led to my deportation to the Doom Public School. My schooling days were marked with an almost preternatural understanding of calculus and a premonitory knowledge of quantum mechanics. I was soon

recognized as a child prodigy and had myself stalked by clandestine human cloning companies for my superior DNA. The lives of Einstein, Rudolph and some other mathematicians had a tremendous impact on me and their work continues to make dents in my academic records. In my adolescence, I was admitted to IIT Bombay, the premier technological Institute in India. Contesting against almost 0.12 million of the brightest and most competitively trained students from Kota and other parts of India, I was placed in the top 1.232 x 10exp -2 % in the brain-wrecking entrance exam. My natural disposition towards Math and Physics accompanied with my desire for all things material, led to an obvious choice of Metallurgical and Material Science Engineering as the program for my Undergraduate Studies.

The intellectually charged atmosphere and the excellent pedagogy at IIT Bombay not only nurtured my innate instincts to conduct research but made them bloom and blossom. The best part though was the laboratory work that I undertook. It would be wrong if I said that I liked every minute of it, for I simply loved it. Tinkering with instruments, reading data, drawing tables, plotting graphs - all these left me as excited as an electron in a ground state that is bombarded by a smashing photon. My sense organs were overwhelmed by the extensive stimuli that they acquired from each new experience. Each session was accompanied with a sense of that rapturous pleasure that left me gasping for more.

I first became acquainted with thermal oscillations in my freshman year when I typed the B.Tech minor report for my senior on this (who since then has been a distinguished student at your esteemed University for over 8 years now) under duress. I was completely taken in by the aesthetic beauty of the problem and immediately devoted myself to its resolution. My exclusive allegiance to this cause is borne witness to by my dismal performance in other courses. Armed with sufficient material, I undertook a seminar on this and subsequently continued it to my minor thesis under the eminent guidance of my guide. He formed a nucleus around which an active research team revolved. I was working as a team with a Ph.D student with whom I cohered like two mesons with equal and opposite half integral spins. During the course of my project work I experienced several moments of divine manifest in which I would see the world clearly and perspicuously. These revelations convinced me beyond any doubt

that research was the sole mission I was sent to this earth to accomplish.

A Ph.D. for me is however only a means to a larger end. I plan to conduct meaningful research leading to publications. I then plan to do my bit for the society by teaching. I would disseminate the fruits of knowledge among the youth of the nation, educate them against the dangers of drug abuse, hazards of pollution, and pitfalls of religious fundamentalism and thus become an important force in the global coalition against terrorism.

I was enamored by your esteemed University's long established credentials as a comfortable place for research. Among other things it affords a convenient proximity to sunny beaches, Hollywood and several picturesque locations making it an ideal location for my pursuits. I was touched by your University efforts like the gay and lesbian parades. I believe it is a sincere expression of social concern. I have been a homosexual activist myself.

The Thermal Research Group of the Biomedical Engineering Department at HJU is not only the only but the best in its area. I find myself eagerly looking forward to work in this charming company, especially that of the vivacious Linda and the petite Amanda. I have accosted Prof. Darewin of my intentions and credentials and I have been encouraged by his mails that had respectively wished me a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and best wishes for the future projects that I endeavour.

To conclude, I think HJU has everything I wish for and it will be a great honour to enroll with the same next fall semester, given the necessary financial support. I am sure your esteemed University will discover a valuable asset in me that will help make this association mutually profitable and repose any faith put in my capabilities ■

**Good News:** Jyoti has, at InSight's request, waived the copyright on his SOP. InSight urges expectant app'ers to benefit from this masterpiece and secure themselves a place in their dream universities.

Premal Shah is a fifth year Elec. Engg. DD student. He can be contacted at: prem@ee.iitb.ac.in

**Zishaan:** I was supposed to do this article on "Girls in IIT from guys' point of view". Now please do not ask me, "Girls in IIT... where?". Whom do you think H10 and H11 are for!!! Alright, back to the article. As I sat down to write, I realised that nothing could be more risky (for the un-fair (?) sex) than to generalize all guys' point of view of the fairer sex. Everybody seemed to think differently about the girls in IIT...

**Mr Dude**  
Girls in IIT are like Pepsi. <Pepsi?? -Ed>  
Yeah, Pepsi?  
You see, Pepsi... Comes in all sizes and appearances but inside it's the same. Has no substance, it's just gas. Just bujhaye pyaas... baaki sab bakwas. Not found anywhere inside IIT. But as soon as you get out of the campus, you find it everywhere.

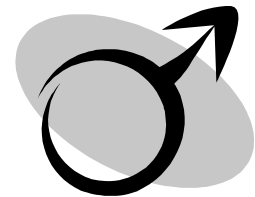
**Mr Cassanova**  
"Hey IIT gal... what's your name? Hey! I had a BEST FRIEND in Kota by the same name!! She was pretty interesting too... You know, why don't the two of us..."  
<thud>  
Wonder why she slapped me? That pick up line worked in "Do Aankhen, Baraah Haath."

**Mr Lover**  
Girls in IIT, so what about them? They are just like all other girls. Infact they are better, because they've got brains. My love? Ah, what do I tell you about her... I love her just as I love... as I love... words fail me. I love her ability just as I love the best, her work just as I love mine. I love her as the best friend I ever had and I love her as I love myself.

**Mr Sour Grapes**  
IIT gals think too highly of themselves. They have blown egos and mighty attitudes. Basically, scarcity of girls in the campus has got into their

heads. You see, it's the Demand - Supply funda... blah blah...  
**Mr Maggu**  
For all epsilon, there exists a delta neighbourhood around me where the set of all girls is null.

## Classified!



**Mr Sadhu**  
Yeh ladki, kanya kya hai? Sab moh hai... maya hai. Inn sab se upar utho.  
Co-author: But have you been able to? I have risen above hazaar such maya.  
Co-author: And each time you rise... <thud>

**Mr Perfect**  
No specimen of this category (except the author) was available for any comments. The author is a smart, handsome, charming guy looking for a cute and lovely girlfriend. To know his views about the girls in IIT, guys can drop a mail to mailer\_daemon@godknows.com and the girls can contact him at... <This guy never stops. Sorry but I had to cut him off in the middle!-. Sandhya, begin with your article, now... - Ed>

**Sandhya:** Finally, phew! Now I have been asked to do an article on 'GUYS in IIT'... which is good, because if it was on 'MEN in IIT', I would have had

precious little to build on! OK, here goes what WE gals think of YOU guys...



## An error-prone attempt to (de)classify the mamallian fauna found in the jungles of IIT Bombay.

**Ms Babe**  
Guys in IIT? What I think about them? I don't think about them. My friend in Xavier's tells me she likes the IIT guys better. They are cleaner, moo in an amusing manner and resemble less of what the cat just dragged in. They are also more conscious of hygiene and dream about a tad bit more exciting stuff than a 9.5 SPI.  
For more flattering comments, contact girls@xaviers.com. After all, guys are outnumbered there. We sympathise.

**Ms Flirt**  
IIT guys are sooooo smart and boy! Do they have money to squander on us! (If not now, maybe some time... apne level ka milega). Plus, they already know a lot about pressure and thrust and... I think I should marry one of them.

**Ms Paro**  
Guys in IIT? I know one well. He is clever, he is charming and is the most sincere person I know... he makes me laugh when I am feeling sad and I begin to believe that all will be right; when he is around...

**Ms Sour Grapes**  
IIT guys think too highly of themselves. They have blown egos and mighty attitudes. You see, they think they are all too smart because more gals don't get in... blah blah...

**Ms I-Swear-I-Never-Mug**  
My views about IIT boys? You caught hold of the wrong person. I am not much experienced. I prefer staying away from them. IIT guys are all so muggoo. I never mug, everybody else does. OK, got to go now... 3 more chapters left.

**Ms Sati Savitri**  
Yeh IIT ke ladke to hamare saath misbehave karte hain <sniff> <read as 'talk to them' -Ed>. They are too presumptuous and flirt all the time <read as 'talk to them' again -Ed> and make fun of us and... See, now don't put bad bad thoughts in my head... Daddy says no thinking about boys.

**Ms Sandhya (wahl nah... perfect!)**  
I suspect the only reason some IIT guys are still being nice to me is that they assume I make notes during lectures and they may get to xerox them. Maybe this will change when they see the crossword folded inside my book. Perfect (and not so perfect, this is IIT after all) guys, except the co-author, all are welcome to mail at sandhya@iitb.ac.in.

**Disclaimer:**  
The views expressed above have been compiled for the sake of this article and the authors do not necessarily agree with all of them. After all, Sandhya has love lives to keep up.

Sandhya Hegde is a first year Electrical Engg. B.Tech student. Zishaan M. Hayath is a third year Civil Engg. B.Tech Student. They can be contacted at sandhya@iitb.ac.in; zishaan@iitb.ac.in